Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 201-210

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 201-Leanna asked, "Are you sure it happened half a month ago?"

Before the girl could answer, the middle-aged woman said, "That doesn't matter. She got it from you guys, and now we want a refund. You're wasting our time here."

Leanna looked at the ruined necklace. "Do you remember who sold you this?" she asked the girl. "Was it that lady or someone else?"

The girl quickly said, "It was her."

"How much did you buy this for?"

"I-I don't remember."

The middle-aged woman snapped, "What's with all these questions? It's just forty bucks. Just pay up. You own a big store. Not like you need that money anyway. Just give us the money and we'll leave."

Leanna smiled. "I can't give you the money if I don't know how much you paid."

The woman answered, "You're still going to have to pay for wasting my time and energy. Just add it all up. Makes things easier for us."

"How much would you want?"

"Not much. Three, four thousand or so."

Leanna chuckled. "Three, four thousand?"

The woman scoffed, "Not much, don't you think? My daughter's a student. You wasted her day, and she might get left behind in class. She might end up going into a regular college instead of the Ivy League, and that's going to cost her her whole future. Four thousand isn't much compared to my daughter's future."

"Sure." Leanna whipped her phone out.

Just when the woman was going to tell Leanna to Venmo her, she saw Leanna calling the cops.

"Hey!" The woman started getting nervous. "If you think that's too much, we can negotiate. If you tell the cops, I'm going to make sure you pay! I'll ruin your reputation!"

Leanna ignored her and told the cops what happened. After she hung up, she held the necklace up. "One, this necklace was designed ten days ago. It couldn't have been a week since it went on sale. Two, the lady you claimed who sold you this took a few days off and only came back yesterday."

Sh*t. She saw through us. The woman barked, "I don't care! You sold us this necklace, so you're paying for the damages!"

Leanna said, "I'm not in a hurry. We'll talk once the cops are here."

The woman turned around and hurled insults at the girl. "You useless sh*t! You didn't even know when you bought that stuff?" She poked the girl's head. "This is why your grades are trash! You have nothing but sh*t for brains! You better think before you speak when the cops arrive!"

The girl stared at the ground and said nothing as the woman abused her.

Leanna noticed that the girl's uniform was bleached, and she was wearing nothing but a thin shirt inside even though it was winter. Her sneakers were old and unassuming, but they were clean, unlike her fat and gaudily-dressed mother.

Someone like her wouldn't steal from their parents just to sate their ego. If I think about it, there's holes in their testimony. Leanna just didn't know why they tried to scam her and made up a flimsy lie for it.

Zoe came back after a short while. She saw what happened and took Leanna aside. "What's going on, Nana?"

Leanna told her about what happened. "I'm going to the police station for a bit. Close up the shop if there's not much else to take care of, then swing by the hospital to see Tiffany."

"I'll call Louis then. You might need him." Zoe looked at the fat lady and clicked her tongue. "Just in case a fight breaks out."

Leanna laughed. "It's just a testimony record, not a brawl. Nothing's gonna happen. Louis is going through his finals, so keep quiet about it."

Zoe nodded. "Sure. Be careful then. I'll pick you up once things are done on my side."

The cops arrived a while later. Once they got to the station, the fat lady changed her attitude and crafted a sob story of how poor she was. This time, she didn't let the girl say anything. All she did was tell the cops her daughter was shocked.

Leanna told them what happened and the evidence she had gathered. The fat lady shouted, "We're the victims here, not the perpetrators. How long is this gonna take? My daughter is taking her entrance exams soon. Don't waste her time, or there'll be hell to pay!"

The cops told them to negotiate, and since they did buy the necklace from Leanna, she should just pay them. Forty dollars wasn't much anyway. It was a low price for peace and quiet.

Leanna pursed her lips, but she said nothing. Money was not the problem here; ethics were.

However, when she saw the chubby lady abusing and poking the girl's head, she realized that the girl was not at fault. She was just listening to her mother. Nobody would expect their own parents to be a piece of scum. In the end, Leanna gave the lady 140 dollars. "Get your daughter some warm coats with the money."

The girl looked up at Leanna with surprise in her eyes. This was the first time she looked at Leanna directly.

The fat lady grumbled, "That's all? We're not beggars, you know. I said—"

A cop barked, "Enough! I thought your daughter was preparing for her entrance exams. Take her back to school."

The chubby lady became quiet. Before they left the police station, she hissed coldly, "This isn't the end of it. Just you wait, b*tch."

And then they left. Leanna was about to get a ride when a black Porsche stopped in front of her.

Elijah got out of the car looking worried. "How was it? Are you alright? I came as soon as Zoe called me. Was I too late?"

Leanna shook her head. "It's fine. I've settled it."

He looked around. "They're gone?"

"Yep." She said, "I thought you were supposed to be working. Are you sure it's fine to run around?"

"Eh, there's nothing to do anyway, so I came for a stroll."

He coughed. "If you don't mind, can you come with me? There's a place I wanna show you."

He did come all this way for me, and this isn't his first time helping me. No reason to say no. She nodded. "Sure."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 202-He drove her to a holiday home. Elijah got out of the car and went around to open the door for her.

"Thank you," she said.

"No prob. Let's go inside."

Leanna looked at the holiday home. It was lushly decorated, and she thought it felt like a house owned by intellectuals.

A servant came to welcome them. "Mr. Jackson is waiting for you in the tea room, sir."

Elijah nodded. He took Leanna to the tea room. Before they went inside, he whispered, "Just say nothing and watch what happens, Leanna."

Leanna nodded. "Sure."

A man with gray hair sat in front of the table, and he was making tea. This man was Mr. Jackson, and sitting before him was a middle-aged couple.

Leanna was surprised to see the couple here.

Mr. Jackson heard the sounds of footsteps, and he put his teapot down. When he saw Leanna, it caught him by surprise. "And this is?"

Elijah said, "This is Leanna, my friend." He told Leanna, "This is Mr. Jackson, my father's mentor."

Leanna said, "Hello, Mr. Jackson."

Mr. Jackson smiled. "You have a gorgeous friend, Elijah. Come. Sit."

Anna's parents looked at each other. Anna told them Elijah knew Leanna, but they didn't expect him to bring her here.

Mr. Jackson poured a cup of tea for Elijah and Leanna. He said, "This is the first time Elijah brought someone here. You must be really close to him."

Leanna was a little dazed. She had no idea how to answer that.

Elijah smiled. "Sorry, Mr. Jackson. I brought her here for personal and formal reasons. She needs your help."

"Is that so?" Mr. Jackson said, "What happened, girl? Tell me. I'll help as long as I can."

Anna's father said, "It's just a misunderstanding, Mr. Jackson."

Mr. Jackson looked at them and frowned. "You have something to do with this?"

"Miss McKinney has bad blood with my daughter, but it's nothing big. Kids fight all the time. I've apologized to Mr. Parker, so..."

Anna's parents came to talk about the partnership with Constellation Tech.

Ever since Anna got on Elijah's bad side, he canceled the partnership unilaterally. Anna's parents broke their backs just to get this chance, and they wouldn't give the partnership up. Since the cancellation, they've sought Elijah out countless times.

But Elijah refused to see them, so they pinned their hopes on Mr. Jackson. Previously, Elijah only agreed to the partnership thanks to Mr. Jackson's help. They thought Elijah would rekindle the partnership if Mr. Jackson intervened. He was just a young lad after all.

Mr. Jackson said, "Alright, that's confusing. Did you apologize to Elijah or Miss MicKinney?"

Elijah smiled. "Let me explain, Mr. Jackson."

Leanna looked at Elijah, and he nodded at her, telling her to calm down.

Elijah told him about what Anna did at Leanna's workshop. She wasn't the kid like her parents claimed. That woman was a spoiled brat who thought she could do as she pleased just because she was rich.

The Pearson couple looked upset, but they had no argument against that. They knew how spoiled Anna was, but nobody in the family lectured her, since Leanna was just a nobody.

In the end, Anna's mother got upset. She said, "That's our family matter. Don't you think you're overstepping it a little, Mr. Parker?"

Leanna looked at her coolly. "Is it a family matter, really?"

"Why you..." Anna wanted to say something, but her husband pushed her down.

Anna's father said, "Miss McKinney, I know Anna did wrong by you, but it's all in the past now. She's already learnt her lesson. Please, forgive her."

"Yeah. She's still under house arrest. Don't push your luck any further, Miss McKinney."

Leanna smiled. "That's what she deserves. I didn't ask for her to be put under house arrest."

Anna's mother shot up. "Just because Elijah's supporting you doesn't mean you can sh*t on us, wench! You're just used goods Aidan tossed out of the family! You think you're a bigshot now that you hooked up with Elijah? Well, let me tell you something. You're still nothing!"

Anna's father quickly stood up and held her down. "I'm sorry, Mr. Jackson. We..." he apologized.

"Enough! How much longer do you want to bow to them? I'm a proud Zielinski, and I bow to no one!" She picked her bag up and was about to storm off.

He kept bowing at Mr. Jackson. "I'm so sorry, Mr. Jackson. She didn't mean what she said. Don't take it to heart."

Mr. Jackson sipped on his tea. "I can't help you at this point."

Anna's mother looked at Elijah, but he spared her no smiles. She gnashed her teeth and left in frustration.

Once they were gone, Mr. Jackson sighed. "I'm sorry for not vetting them, Elijah."

"It's alright, Mr. Jackson. I just thought I should make things clear for you."

Mr. Jackson said, "It's their fault, girl. Don't take what they said to heart. I never wanted to deal with the Pearsons and Zielinskies' problems, but Winston used to be my student, and I'd like to help his family if I could."

Leanna smiled. "Thank you, Mr. Jackson."

A servant knocked on the door and told them dinner was ready.

Mr. Jackson stood up. "Well, it's time for dinner."

Elijah and Leanna followed behind. Elijah whispered, "Sorry for not telling you earlier, Leanna." He pursed his lips. "I wanted them to apologize to you though."

Leanna said, "It's fine. I never expected their apology." Anna and Sienna could apologize until their tongues fell off, but it wouldn't work on Leanna. She would feel nothing but disgust.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 203-They arrived at the dining room, but another servant came and whispered something to Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson nodded. "Let him in." He looked at Elijah and Leanna. "We have another guest." He smiled. "A minute, please."

One of the servants led the guest in, and Leanna was surprised to see him. "Mr. Morris?"

William looked at her and nodded. "Miss McKinney."

Mr. Jackson asked, "You know each other?"

Leanna wanted to say something, but she had no idea how to answer.

William smiled and stepped in to rescue her. "We've met before."

"I see. Fate works in magical ways." Mr. Jackson introduced William and Elijah to each other.

"Your reputation precedes you, Mr. Parker. As young and successful as I thought you'd be," William said.

Elijah shook his hand. "Hello, Mr. Morris," he said.

Mr. Jackson laughed. "Well, don't just stand there. Sit."

Right after they took their seats, another servant hurried inside and whispered something to Mr. Jackson. This time, the old gentleman looked surprised. "Why is he here?"

William said, "I invited him."

Mr. Jackson nodded and raised his hand, telling the servant to invite the new guest inside.

As they chatted, William suddenly gave Leanna an apologetic look. "I'm so sorry, Miss McKinney. I had no idea you were here."

Elijah frowned, but he said nothing.

Leanna froze. William hadn't told her the identity of the guest he invited, but she could guess who it was. This is some stupid joke. She put on a dry smile. "I-It's alright." That was the best thing she could come up with.

Aidan entered the scene eventually, and he was surprised to see Leanna around, so he stared at her for a few moments.

Leanna was a little uneasy with that stare, so she drank some water to hide her embarrassment.

A simple greeting later, Aidan took the seat across from Leanna. He still looked as inscrutable as ever.

Mr. Jackson said, "This is the first time I have had this many guests here. It's an honor. I see everyone's acquainted. No need for introductions then. Let's dig in." William raised his glass. "I'm sorry for coming uninvited, Mr. Jackson."

"What's with the formality? I told you you can come whenever you want, didn't I? Be at home."

Aidan said, "I didn't know you're acquainted with Mr. Jackson."

William smiled. "We met at a forum abroad."

Mr. Jackson nodded. "Yeah. I thought he felt familiar when we first met. Turns out he's also a Highsider."

William smiled, but he didn't elaborate.

Aidan quipped, "I heard that the Zielinskies are harassing Mr. Parker lately. Even came to see Mr. Jackson for that. So, how'd it go?"

Mr. Jackson's face fell. So he's starting to get to that conversation, huh?

Elijah said, "It's settled, but thanks for your concern."

Aidan sneered. "I see you put in a lot of effort to that end, Mr. Parker."

"Just doing my job."

Mr. Jackson coughed. "Yes, yes. It's settled, so let's brush it aside. It's a family dinner, so let's talk about something else."

Aidan continued, "I see. May I ask a personal question then, Mr. Parker?"

Elijah stared back at him defiantly. "And what will that question be?"

Leanna, William, and even Mr. Jackson noticed the tension in the air. It felt like something would go off and raze everything to the ground in the next moment.

Aidan asked coolly, "You're not getting any younger. Shouldn't you find a partner by now?"

"You first."

Crap. My water's almost gone. But I still have no idea how to defuse this.

Aidan replied, "No, you're in more of a hurry. I don't want you going after someone else's wife."

Leanna choked on the last bit of water.

Elijah noticed that and patted her back right away. "Are you alright, Leanna?"

Leanna shook her head. She said, "I need to use the bathroom."

Elijah got up as well. "This is your first time here, so I'll show you the way."

Just before they could leave, Aidan came with them.

Elijah turned around. "What are you doing, President Pearson?"

"I need to use the bathroom as well. Lead the way please, Mr. Parker."

Weirdo.

After the trio was gone, reality dawned on Mr. Jackson. "Is Aidan dating Miss McKinney?"

William answered, "No. They just got divorced."

Ah, so that's how it is. No wonder Sienna said all that to her back in the tea room. Mr. Jackson waited for a little while longer to make sure that the trio was out of earshot, then he asked solemnly, "I thought he's coming back after Christmas. Why is he here already?"

William poured himself a cup of tea and explained, "The Crossleys are up to something, and this is the perfect chance to execute the plan."

Mr. Jackson knew a little of the feud between the Crossleys and Pearsons. "And that's why you brought him here?"

William smiled. "He's still young. Yes, he's fierce and capable, but the Crossleys are powerful, and their network is complex. He can't tear them down all by himself."

"You want to use him to..." Mr. Jackson didn't finish the sentence, but they both knew what he was trying to say.

Aidan and the Crossleys were at loggerheads. Using him to destroy them was the most inconspicuous way to get involved. That's logical, but... "But why is his ex-wife involved? I've heard about her. She's just a girl whose life was not kind to her."

William poured some tea into his cup. "Honestly, I don't get him either. He's young, but the Pearsons and Crossleys are wary of him. They even formed an alliance just to destroy him."

Mr. Jackson sighed. "He's talented enough to shine wherever he goes, but just because of the Pearsons' stupidity, he's dubbed an illegitimate son. Ever since he was taken back into the fold, the Zielinskies have tried to make his life a living hell. But thanks to that, he managed to climb all the way up here."

He did survive the swamp of despair. Aidan is more capable and cunning than everyone thinks.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 204-The journey to the bathroom was torture for Leanna. She regretted excusing herself.

Just when she was agonizing over her choice, someone suddenly held her wrist and took her into a corner before she could do anything. Leanna was then met with an icy stare, and she took a step back instinctively. "I thought you had to use the bathroom, President Pearson."

Aidan looked at her. "You never believed what I say anyway. Shouldn't this come as a no surprise?" he asked coolly.

Don't change the subject, you arse. She averted her gaze. "I need to use the bathroom, President Pearson, so..."

He put his hand beside her, blocking her way out. "It hasn't been that long since I left."

Why does he sound so miffed? A frown knitted her brows. "What do you mean, President Pearson? Do I have to ask for your permission to have dinner with a friend?"

"You don't only see him as your friend."

"That's still none of your business."

Aidan stared into her eyes and enunciated, "You said you liked me. Of course it's my business."

"I never said that. You're making it up!"

"Doesn't matter who said it. What matters is what you're doing."

Leanna refused to talk to him. This *sshole can twist everything to fit his agenda.

Aidan wasn't planning on letting her go, however. Instead, he narrowed the space around her and growled quietly, "Did you miss me?"

Are you sick in the head?

She answered seriously, "President Pearson, behave yourself. We're in someone else's home."

A few moments later, Aidan said, "I've missed you."

The sudden 'confession' caught Leanna by surprise, and she froze. What is up with him and the conversation enders? I can't even fight with him if he keeps saying stupid sh*t.

Elijah's voice rang in the corridor. "Leanna?"

Leanna snapped out of it. She looked all around her, feeling nervous.

Aidan put his hands in his pockets, and a smile curled his lips. Elijah appeared, but before he could ask, Aidan lied calmly, "She got lost, so I came for her."

Elijah knew that was a lie, but he didn't expose it. "The bathroom's dead ahead. I'll take you guys there."

After he turned around, Leanna stomped on Aidan's foot, and the surprise attack made him grunt.

Elijah heard it. He turned around and was surprised to see Aidan frowning. "Are you alright, President Pearson?"

Leanna smiled at him. "He's probably unwell. It'll be fine. Let's go."

Elijah nodded. Before he left, he said, "President Pearson, you can always ask the servants if you don't know the way to the bathroom." He took Leanna and left.

Aidan's veins popped, and he saw them off with a glare.

A while later, Elijah turned around and stopped in his tracks.

Leanna noticed it, and she stopped as well. "What is it?"

"I've been meaning to tell you something, Leanna." He pursed his lips.

Leanna said, "Me too."

"Me first, then." Elijah was worried he might be unable to confess if he let her speak her mind before him.

Leanna nodded slowly.

Elijah said, "You've probably noticed how I feel, but I just couldn't find the right time to tell you." He laughed. "Maybe it's because I'm afraid of rejection."

"Elijah…"

"Let me finish, Leanna," Elijah said. "I've had a crush on you for years, but you were dating Zayn at that time and you looked so happy. I didn't want to ruin your happiness, but now that I have a chance, I don't want to let it slip."

A moment of silence later, she said, "I'm sorry."

"No need to apologize, Leanna. I'm confessing not because I want your answer feel about you. I know President Pearson is also wooing you, and all I want is a chance to compete."

Leanna smiled. "He's not wooing me. That's just his way of being clingy."

"I can see that he still likes you."

Leanna said nothing.

Elijah said, "Well, that's a weight off my shoulders. Now, what were you going to say?"

Leanna organized her words before she answered, "I'm happy that you like me, but—"

Before she could refuse his confession, he said, "I told you I'm in no hurry for an answer. It doesn't matter even if you don't feel the same way about me now. The future is always uncertain. You might change your mind someday, and I'll work on that."

He continued, "Give me a chance, Leanna. You deserve it."

Leanna slowly raised her head. She opened her mouth but didn't know what to say.

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Aidan was already seated when they came back. He peered at them and remarked coolly, "Did you get lost too, Mr. Parker?"

Elijah smiled. "It's hard to walk in the dark. You don't seem too good, Mr. Parker. Do you need any painkillers?"

"You seem to know Mr. Jackson really well. Do you come here a lot?"

Elijah answered, "Not exactly, but I've known him for a long time. At least longer than you do, Mr. Parker." He was also talking about something else.

Aidan's face fell, and his lips curled downward as a hint of anger welled up in his eyes.

Leanna was miffed that the gentlemen were fighting the moment they saw each other.

Mr. Jackson was confused. He whispered to William, "Are they fighting over who knew me first?"

William smiled and poured some tea into Mr. Jackson's cup. He changed the subject, "I heard you opened up a studio, Miss McKinney. Do I have the honor of visiting it?"

Leanna nodded. "The honor is mine."

William said, "How does tomorrow afternoon sound?"

"Sounds good. You're always welcome, Mr. Morris."

Aidan opened his mouth and said, "I'm free tomorrow afternoon, so I'll go with you, Mr. Morris."

What is this dumb*ss thinking? Leanna thought.

William smiled. "It's a pleasure to have you, President Pearson."

Elijah wanted to say something, but someone shot him a look. He clenched his fists and swallowed his words.

No data found.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 206-Leanna went to brew some tea, and Zoe followed her. "Who's that guy with Aidan, Nana?" she whispered.

As Leanna poured her tea, she answered, "His business partner."

That confused Zoe. "Why did he bring his business partner here?"

It was then that realization struck Leanna.

She's right. William is Aidan's business partner, not mine. But for some reason, when William told her he wanted to see the studio, she wasn't even surprised, nor did she refuse. Leanna gave her permission easily. Nothing felt out of place.

She capped the tin of tea and quickly came up with a response, "Yeah, I know, but I met Mr. Morris once, and we got along, so..."

Oh ho. She's getting nervous. Zoe asked, "You met him thanks to Aidan, right?"

How do you expect me to answer that?

Zoe smiled. "I was just kidding. Go. They're waiting for you."

Leanna was starting to fidget. "Why don't you come with me, Zoe?"

"Nope. I don't wanna die. Every time I see that *ss—President Pearson, it reminds me of my other identity. At this rate, I'm going to develop DID."

Zoe excused herself and scurried off.

Leanna could do nothing but watch, and then she hung her head low.

As she served them tea, William asked, "Are we disturbing you, Miss McKinney?"

Leanna shook her head. "No. Business is slow today, and I can rest for a bit. You gentlemen have fun. I —" Someone held her wrist and pulled her down onto the sofa.

Aidan said, "If you want to rest, then you should sit. Don't run around."

I wouldn't run around if you hadn't come. Leanna wanted to leave, but she couldn't. William was around, and he was her guest. A moment of silence later, she moved away from Aidan.

Aidan shot her a look of complaint and put his hand behind her in an attempt to tell everyone she was his.

William watched as they had their little fight in silence, and he smiled.

Leanna ignored Aidan and started chatting with William. "It's been a while since you returned to Highside, Mr. Morris. Are you getting used to life here?"

"Frankly, I'm like a fish out of water. It's been years since my last stay, but I'm adjusting."

As the chat went on, Leanna couldn't ignore the itch on her back and the slight pain coming from her head anymore. She gnashed her teeth and swiveled around.

That caught Aidan by surprise. His hand was still hanging in midair, and a few strands of hair were wrapped around his fingers.

Just looking at her hair almost made Leanna flinch. She took a deep breath. "You seem to have a lot of free time recently, President Pearson."

Aidan pulled his hand back and adjusted his position. "No, I do not," he answered calmly.

"Is that so? Then why are you-"

"I'm doing business with Mr. Morris. Wherever he goes, I go."

Pfft. A likely story.

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The fat woman tried to go back and make another ruckus after she was thrown out, but every time she tried, someone would show up to stop her. She also noticed that a group of men in black was standing outside the entrance.

She spat into the grass and left the place while holding her lower back.

A while later, one white car stopped before her, and then a beautiful woman got out of it.

The fat woman's eyes shone, and she approached the young woman. "I did what you asked. Now where's my money?"

Georgina turned around and took an envelope from her underling. "Here it is." She whipped out another envelope. "Not bad, but I need you to keep this up. The more chaotic, the better."

"Easy. Those girls are nothing but cowards. They won't even fight back. I can do whatever I want with them."

She tried to take the money, but Georgina moved it away with a smile. "Don't worry. I'll give you this when we're through with them."

"Tell me what to do."

Georgina handed her underling the envelope and took a photo out of her bag. "I want you to remember his face."

"He's handsome. Looks like a student to me."

"No questions from you," Georgina said. "I want his reputation ruined. You know what to do."

The woman pouted. "Yeah, and it's really easy, but you'll have to pay more."

Georgina crossed her arms. "I'll pay you anything you want if you'll do this."

"I see..." The woman gesticulated a number. "I want this much."

"Of course."

Well, that was quick. The woman went back on her word and gestured another number. "Sorry, that was the wrong number. I want this much!"

"Very well."

They reached an agreement, and the woman asked, "So, what about this place? Do you want me to keep this up?"

Georgina looked at the nearby black Rolls-Royce and replied calmly, "Yes. Do it as long as you can keep it up. Don't let it stop."

The woman chuckled. "That's right up my alley. Anyone who crosses me won't know peace!"

Georgina turned around and got back into her car. Before she left, Karen memorized her car plate's number.

. . .

William was about to leave the studio. He said, "Sorry for disturbing you today, Miss McKinney. I was going to treat you to a meal, but work calls."

Leanna said, "It's alright, Mr. Morris." She then looked at Aidan, who seemed reluctant to leave. A smile curled her lips, and she said gently, "I thought you go wherever Mr. Morris goes, President Pearson."

Aidan looked at her quietly, his face inscrutable.

Leanna could guess what was going through his mind. He's calling me a heartless woman again. I don't even need to guess.

A few moments later, he said, "I'm coming over tonight."

And then he left before she could say anything.

William smiled at Leanna. "And that's my cue to leave, Miss McKinney. See you around."

"See you." Leanna nodded.

Once the gentlemen were gone, Zoe appeared seemingly out of nowhere. "Hey, I heard he's coming over tonight. Wonder who's gonna win the big battle? Him, or that b*tch."

Gee, I have a friend in you.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 207-William stood with his back to the car and said, "I'll be taking my leave now. Thank you for today, President Pearson."

Just as William was about to get into the car, Aidan piped up coolly, "What's your motive for approaching Leanna, Mr. Morris?"

The question caught William by surprise. He was startled and took a moment to respond. "I don't understand what you mean, President Pearson."

Aidan's expression was a little cold as he stood there with one hand in his pocket.

William chuckled. "I mean no harm to Miss McKinney. I'm just curious about her, and we seem to get along pretty well."

"She's old enough to be your daughter," Aidan stated icily.

There was silence before Willam cleared his throat and clarified, "You must be mistaken, President Pearson. I didn't mean it quite like that. However, you're right. Miss McKinney is about the same age as my daughter, but—"

"You have a daughter, Mr. Morris?" Aidan asked.

William's smile stiffened as he nodded.

Just then, William's driver approached them. "Mr. Morris, we should be going now."

William nodded to Aidan once more. "Goodbye, President Pearson."

"Goodbye, Mr. Morris."

Once William's car drove off into the distance, Jonathan came forward. "President Pearson."

"Have you gotten to the bottom of the matter yet?" Aidan asked.

"I checked with the nearby establishments. That woman started causing a scene yesterday. It sounds like it was over money."

Aidan side-eyed Jonathan. "She wouldn't have targeted Leanna without any reason. Dig deeper."

"I will."

A few seconds later, Aidan spoke up again. "Any updates from Oscar?"

"I'm afraid not... William Morris seems to have a spotless record. There was nothing out of the ordinary. The only thing that's peculiar is the fact that we can't find any information regarding his past in Highside."

Aidan snorted and started walking. "What's so peculiar about that? He came prepared."

Although William claimed to have made a trip to Highside to conduct business with Pearson Group, it was clearly just an excuse for him to return to the country.

His relationship with Mr. Jackson is undoubtedly not as simple as they claim it is.

However, what William was up to did not concern Aidan, as long as it did not involve his people.

Aidan paused in his footsteps and instructed, "Send a few people to keep an eye on Leanna for the next few days. If anyone looks for her, no matter who it is, I must be informed at once. Today's incident must not be repeated."

Jonathan nodded. "I'll give out the orders right away."

A few moments after settling into the black Rolls-Royce, Jonathan received a call. He turned around and said, "President Pearson, the Zielinski Family have gone to the Pearson Family Estate. They wish to take Miss Anna with them."

"There's no need to relay such things to me. Just do what's supposed to be done," Aidan said languidly and did not look up.

Meanwhile, at the Pearson Family Estate.

Anna's mother announced to the Pearson Family's staff, "This is my daughter! Why can't I take her with me? Are you telling me that Aidan has the right to stop me from taking my own daughter home with me?"

She immediately tried to leave while tugging Anna with her.

However, none of the men moved out of the way for her.

"Do you think you're above the law? Do you think Aidan has the world under his command?" Anna's mother hissed.

One of the men replied, "President Pearson has given his orders. Miss Anna knows very well what she did."

"What gives you the right to get involved, regardless of what she's done? Who do you think you are anyway? I'm taking her with me today. Anyone who tries to hurt her will have to get through me first!"

Anna, who was standing beside her, tugged on her sleeve. "Mom, why don't we forget about it—"

"What do you mean forget about it?" Anna's mother fumed. "He's just a b*stard child. You guys might be scared of him, but I'm not. If he has a problem with this, he can take it up with me!"

Just as both parties were at a stalemate, Sienna came over with Justin.

"Let them leave," Justin said.

The staff nodded at him in greeting before saying, "Mr. Justin, President Pearson gave us an order. I'm afraid we can't go against his word."

Justin chuckled. "I know what Aidan's intentions are, but if Anna goes home, I can promise that she won't cause any more trouble."

The men hesitated without saying anything.

"If you're still unconvinced, I can give Aidan a call right now," Justin added.

"That won't be necessary, Mr. Justin."

The men stepped aside and allowed Anna and her mother through.

They knew that even though Aidan was somewhat estranged from the Pearsons, he had a pretty good relationship with Justin.

Aidan rarely disagreed with anything Justin said.

Anna's mother threw a glance at Justin, but she didn't say anything. She pulled Anna along with her and headed out the door toward the car. Just when Anna was about to sigh in relief on the assumption that everything was over, a black Rolls-Royce pulled up right beside them.

She shrieked and hid behind her mother.

The car door opened and Aidan stepped out.

His cold, intimidating eyes fell upon Anna, who was cowering behind her mother.

Anna's mother immediately wrapped her arms around Anna. "Aidan Pearson, whatever it is, take it up with me. Why are you going after a child?"

"A child?" Aidan sneered icily after hearing that.

Anna was petrified as she clung tightly to her mother's sleeve.

However, he didn't pursue the matter as he merely stated, "You can take Anna with you today, but if I ever see her again, or if I ever find out about where she has gone to, then it won't be as simple as losing a leg."

"Are you threatening me?" Anna's mother retorted disbelievingly.

"It's just a reminder."

"I can't believe you have the audacity to say that, Aidan! You're just a b*stard child! Do you really think everyone's afraid of you? I'm telling you right now in my eyes, you and your mother, that mistress, are deplorable! Well, birds of a feather flock together, huh? It's not surprising you went after an equally despicable woman!"

Everything went eerily silent after her rebuke. All that could be heard was the rustling from the chilly wind.

Aidan was unfazed. He simply stood there quietly and smirked. No one knew what he was thinking.

It was Justin who broke the silence gravely. "Aunty, it's one thing for Anna to be immature. Are you also unaware of what can and cannot be said?"

"Is there anything wrong with what I said? Isn't it the truth? Why did the family insist on bringing this b*stard child back anyway? Look what it has come to now. The b*stard child is the one holding the reins in the family. Justin, if you just had a little more backbone, you wouldn't have ended up being this pathetic and having to grovel at someone else's feet right in your own home—

A forceful slap cut her off before she could finish speaking.

It was Sienna who slapped her.

Anna's mother clutched her cheek and stared at Sienna in disbelief.

Anna jumped in fright. "Aunt Sienna..." she called out weakly.

Sienna's eyes were chilling as she stared at the two of them. "Get lost, and don't ever step foot in the Pearson Family Estate again."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 208-Leanna had been standing out on the balcony for an hour. She rested her arms on the railing and propped her head on her hands.

She watched the flurry of snowflakes increase as time went on.

Zoe came out of the shower and noticed that Leanna was still in the same position with her eyes unmoved as well, so she went over and peered in the same direction. "What's so nice for you to look at?"

Leanna snapped out of her reverie and smiled faintly. "It's nothing."

"You're waiting for someone, aren't you?" Zoe deduced.

Then, she sighed. "What's with that b*stard anyway? He said he would come and look for you tonight, but he hasn't shown up yet. I'd be worried too if I were you."

What?

"That is not what I am thinking," Leanna explained softly.

"I don't believe you," Zoe replied.

Leanna turned her eyes back to the front and took a deep breath. "Elijah confessed to me yesterday."

Zoe perked up at once. "How did he do it? What did he say? Wait, no, hang on. Did you say yes or did you reject him?"

Leanna shook her head before saying slowly, "I should give myself a chance."

"You're right about that. It's true. You don't need to hold out for that sucker anyway."

"...That wasn't the case either. I'm just not ready yet."

"What's there to be ready for? Love often comes when you least expect it," Zoe declared. "Leanna, you worry too much. Life is short. So what if you date someone without getting married to them? All that matters is your happiness."

Leanna pursed her lips and stayed quiet.

Zoe looked at her and said, "Leanna, I know why you're so conflicted over this."

"Why?" Leanna asked without giving it much thought.

"It's because you still like Aidan, right?"

Leanna looked down. She didn't admit it, but she didn't deny it either.

Zoe rested her arms on the railing and sighed. "Life doesn't always go the way you want it to, but Leanna, if that child... was still here, would you remarry Aidan?"

After a while, Leanna replied, "He asked me the same question before."

"How did you answer?"

Leanna had the barest hint of a smile on her face. "It's just like what you said. Life often doesn't go the way you want it to. If there were a way to redo everything, then things wouldn't have come to this." "That's true. Well, if I had a chance to do it all over again, I would stay as far away as possible from that scum, Anthony." Zoe stretched and continued, "However, Elijah has a point too. You should give yourself a chance. After all, life goes on."

Leanna nodded. "I know that."

"I'm going to bed now. You should go back to your room soon as well. Don't catch a cold."

"Alright."

Leanna stood out on the balcony for a few more minutes before heading back she closed the balcony door, her phone started ringing in her pocket.

She heard Aidan's voice coming through the phone. "Are you coming down or am I going up?"

The answer was obvious.

Leanna took her coat and went out.

Downstairs, Aidan was leaning against the car door and staring at the ground. His expression was a little cold as he bit down on his cigarette.

Leanna came over and stood in front of him. "Did you want something, President Pearson?"

Aidan's eyes flitted up. He took the cigarette out of his mouth as he fixed his eyes on her. "Why didn't you tell me about what happened today?"

"You're referring to…" Leanna began, but she figured it out right away. "That's my business. I don't think I need to report it to you, President Pearson."

It was hard to tell what Aidan was feeling from his expression. His tone was also passive as he said, "What were you going to do if I hadn't shown up?"

"As I said, that's my business. Regardless of how I planned to handle it, it still has nothing to do with you, President Pearson."

"Are you saying that I'm being nosy?"

"You're not wrong," Leanna replied.

Aidan continued to stare at her. "Leanna, a person's patience is limited."

Leanna chuckled at that. "Have you used up all your patience, President Pearson?"

"Are you happy or sad about that?"

"Well, if I say I'm happy, you wouldn't be sad about it anyway, so yes, I'm happy."

"Are you that reluctant to see me?" Aidan asked.

Leanna looked away. "It has nothing to do with reluctance. I just don't think we need to see each other."

After a pause, she said, "President Pearson. There's something I feel I need to clarify with you. Elijah has confessed to me, and I—"

"Did you agree to go out with him? You told me before that you don't like him."

"I haven't given him an answer yet, but I've decided to give it a try."

"Leanna McKinney, look at me when you say that," Aidan commanded.

Leanna took a deep breath and turned to look at him. "President Pearson, this, whatever this is, should come to an end now. You've exhausted all your patience, and I don't know what you're thinking, but I really want to have a fresh start and live the life I want."

"What kind of life do you want?"

Leanna's lips parted to respond, but she didn't know what to say.

Aidan flicked his cigarette and replied on her behalf.

"The life you want is one without me in it, isn't that right?"

This b*stard's pretty good at guessing.

Leanna spoke up again. "President Pearson, you know very well that we're two people from vastly different worlds. Back then, it was just—"

"How so?"

Leanna was a little startled by the interruption. "Huh?"

Aidan snorted. "Well, you're right. I'm just a b*stard born out of wedlock. I'm not worthy of you. You're right. We're two people from vastly different worlds."

Leanna was speechless.

Wasn't this a blatant attempt at twisting things around to suit his narrative?

Leanna closed her eyes and said slowly, "President Pearson, that's not what I meant."

"Well, I think that's what you meant."

Leanna felt as if they were just going around in circles.

Every time she wanted to clear things up between them, he would do this and push the issue back on her.

Well, he did manage to prick at her conscience each time.

After a few seconds, Leanna said, "President Pearson, I've said what I wanted to say. You should leave now."

"What's the rush? I haven't said what I wanted to say yet," Aidan replied.

"...Go ahead."

Aidan lit a new cigarette and began slowly, "Anna has left the Pearson Family. She might come looking for you, but it's quite unlikely."

Leanna tilted her head to the side and gave him a quizzical look. The confusion was clear in her pretty eyes. She waited for him to continue.

"I'm guessing that they will choose to send her out of the country. Who knows what kind of accidents happen when a person's abroad?"

Leanna got the hint. "President Pearson..."

"Leanna, I'm telling you this because I'm making it clear to you that I've never been a good person. You can choose to go out with Elijah. That's up to you. However, no one can stop me from doing what I want." Love Change Of Heart Chapter 209-Over the next few days, Karen continued to try and harass Leanna at the studio, but before she could even arrive at the threshold, someone would stop her with all sorts of excuses. She didn't have any clue what was going on.

Even so, she was still motivated by the sum of money Georgina offered.

On Friday afternoon, as soon as Karen's daughter got out of school, she pulled her to the side and instructed her quietly.

Her daughter was terrified. "W-We can't do that... That's a crime..."

Karen yanked her hard and snapped, "You ungrateful girl! I'm the one who's feeding you, but every time I tell you to do something, you keep saying it's not possible. If you were just a little better at getting things done, the two of us would be living in luxury right now!"

"[…"

"I don't want to hear any more nonsense from you. If you can't get this done, then I won't show you any mercy!"

The girl trembled at the sight of the hand that was about to hit her.

Karen grabbed her and hailed a cab. "Take us to Southfork University."

She had spent the last few days arranging everything and identifying the right person. All she needed was to wait for the kid to get out of school.

At the cafe.

"Louis, tomorrow's a weekend. Why don't you come in for a shift or two?" the manager asked.

"I can't tomorrow. I'm going to see my sister."

"I'd rather you don't. The semester holiday is coming up and all the young ladies can't bear to not see you anymore. You should give them a bit more time to admire you."

Louis was speechless.

He set the tablecloth down and said to the manager, "I'm done with cleaning up, so I'll be off now."

The manager stared after him and sighed. Being too attractive came with its own set of problems.

After leaving the cafe, Louis took his phone out and called someone.

"Still no news yet?" he asked with a frown.

"Young man, I think you should just give up. It's a photo from over twenty years ago. Maybe the person you're looking for isn't even alive anymore," the person advised over the phone.

Louis pursed his lips. "I can pay you more."

"This has nothing to do with money, okay? You're asking me to look for a needle in a haystack, and I won't know where to begin even if you paid me more money. Furthermore, you won't get anything out of finding this person anyway, so I think you should just give up."

Louis wanted to respond, but just then, he heard a frail voice crying for help from the side of the road. "Anyone there? Please help me..."

He put his phone away and followed the voice.

Amid the nearby bushes, he spotted a schoolgirl sitting on the ground and hugging her knees. She was wincing in pain.

Louis crouched down beside her. "What happened to you?"

The girl's head was hung low. "I twisted my ankle by accident."

Louis glanced at the leg she was holding. "Can you stand? I'll take you to the hospital."

She tried to stand up but stumbled right away.

Louis immediately reached out to hold her arm. "Take it easy."

The girl tried again and she nearly fell into his arms.

She seemed to be in a lot of pain.

Just as Louis was about to call 911, the girl suddenly tore her uniform open and screamed, "Help! Help me, please! Help!"

It was nighttime, and there were a lot of senior citizens out on a stroll near the university. When they heard the girl screaming, they quickly rushed over.

A kind-hearted, elderly man pulled the girl away from Louis and fumed, "What are you doing?!"

Louis frowned and said gravely, "I didn't do anything. She twisted her ankle so I helped her up. That's all."

The old man didn't listen to him. He turned to the trembling girl and said, "Tell us what happened, miss!"

The girl cried pitifully, "I was just walking when someone pulled me into the bushes and covered my mouth. He even started taking my clothes off..."

One of the bystanders exclaimed, "What?! He's a monster! How could he do that to a high schooler?"

Others began to chime in as well. "That young man looks like a decent fellow. I never would've suspected him to harbor such filthy ideas! You really can't judge a book by its cover, huh?"

"I've seen this young man around. He must be a student here, right? Quick, someone, go and get his teachers and his school dean. Let them see the monster that's enrolled here!"

The crowd began to hurl all manner of criticisms and abuse at him. Soon, the place was full of people, including several students.

One of them muttered, "Isn't that Louis McKinney? What's going on?"

"Apparently, he dragged that schoolgirl into the bushes and wanted to..."

"Oh my goodness! So that's why he doesn't accept any of the girls who confess to him, even though so many of them like him. He's just pretending to be a decent guy while hiding his disgusting true self."

Louis ignored all the insults being hurled at him. He looked at the girl and asked darkly, "Are you sure?"

The girl lowered her head and stammered, "I... I..."

"Look! He's threatening the victim now! Where are the teachers? Why aren't they here yet?" someone in the crowd yelled.

Louis continued, "There are security cameras all around here. The truth will prevail once we take a look at the footage."

However, no one bothered listening to his explanation. The crowd continued to holler and scream all manner of abuse at him. Some of them even came forward to try and take matters into their own hands.

Just then, a woman's voice rang out from among the crowd. "Excuse me, coming through. Please let me through, thank you."

She came over to Louis and glanced at him. "I left for just a moment to get some water. How did you manage to turn this into a spectacle?"

Louis had a slight frown as he stared at her without saying anything.

Daphne's eyes swept across the crowd. "Hi, all of you kind-hearted ladies and gentlemen, you're all mistaken. Things are not what you assume them to be."

She slowly said, "Just now, this handsome... young man and I were walking on the sidewalk when we heard someone calling for help. This young girl here said she twisted her ankle and couldn't walk, so I went to buy some water for her to help her calm down. However, when I came back, I heard all of you claiming a totally different sequence of events. Can anyone tell me what's going on?"

Daphne sounded so convincing that many of the onlookers were taken aback.

Even Louis nearly believed her. He couldn't help but glance at her as she lied right through her teeth.

Suddenly, someone in the crowd yelled out, "That girl said he pulled her into the bushes..."

"Alright. I got the message, but I think I still need to clarify that her claims are false." Daphne turned to the girl with a smile. "Miss, are your exams coming up soon? Did you hallucinate because you're under a lot of pressure?"

The girl shrank back without saying anything.

Daphne continued, "It's alright. This young man here won't hold it against you, as long as you clear things up."

The girl bit down hard on her lip. After a moment of silence, she said, "She's lying... They weren't together... I was just walking on the sidewalk. I didn't twist my ankle. They must be working together..."

Daphne's smile faded. She sighed helplessly and said, "Since you insist on lying, I can't help you anymore."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 210-Leanna came out of the bathroom and sat down on the couch. She took a sip of water and began to scroll through her phone.

Right at that moment, a news update popped up on her screen.

'Daphne Shirley Suspected to Be in a Relationship'

What was going on?

Leanna clicked on the notification to read more about it, but she nearly spat her water out when she saw the photos that had been published by the media.

After double-checking and confirming her suspicions, she quickly gave Louis a call.

"Louis, where are you right now?" Leanna asked tentatively.

"At my dorm. Why?"

"Well... Did you see the news?"

"What news?"

Leanna decided to switch tactics. "What's going on between you and Daphne?"

Louis was quiet for several seconds. "Nothing. I ran into some trouble today and she helped me."

Half an hour ago.

After seeing that the girl was still sticking to her story, Daphne announced that there was a film crew and they had recorded the entire event that occurred earlier.

Now that there were both witnesses and evidence, it was up to the police to handle the matter.

She took her phone out to make a police report.

The girl was scared witless. She instantly cried out, "N -No... Don't call the police..."

The kind-hearted elderly man said, "Don't be scared, miss. The police will help you seek justice..."

But before he could finish his sentence, the girl weaved her way through the crowd and ran off.

Daphne put her phone away and looked out at the stunned crowd. Her tone was cool as she said, "It's clear who's lying now, isn't it? This is a handsome young man with decent grades and a fine character. He's not the kind of person that you claim he is. Those of you who scorned him earlier should be apologizing now, don't you think?"

The spectating crowd exchanged looks. None of them would have predicted this twist.

Those among them who were the rowdiest and hurled the most abuse had fled by now.

Just then, someone called out tentatively, "Is that Daphne?"

"The lights are too dim so I can't see clearly, but it sounds like her."

"Oh my gosh! I saw her face! It's Daphne!"

The crowd became increasingly excited, and Louis, who had been quiet all long, quickly pulled Daphne away from there.

Someone must have taken a photo of this and sent it to the media.

That was why the news was trending.

Louis didn't tell Leanna the whole story. After a pause, he asked, "Did someone take a photo of us?"

"Yeah, but it's not too bad. The photo was quite blurry. There's no clear shot of your face."

"How did you recognize me then?"

"Need you ask? I'm your sister. Shouldn't I at least be able to pick you out?"

Louis pressed his lips together. "Will this affect her badly?"

"I'm not sure about that. I'll ask..."

Leanna came to an abrupt halt.

"What's the matter?" Louis asked.

"It's nothing. Leave this to me. You can just focus on school."

Leanna had faltered when she recalled that Daphne was managed by Pearson Group.

Now that things had gone this far, Daphne's management team would surely get involved. This meant that Aidan would've heard about it as well.

She didn't know if he recognized Louis.

Leanna bit her lip and scratched her head before calling Daphne.

No one picked up no matter how long she waited.

It was probably due to the gossip.

Leanna hesitated for a long time, but in the end, she gave Jonathan a call.

He answered almost immediately.

"Did you need something, Miss McKinney?" Jonathan asked.

Leanna straightened up a little. "I wanted to ask if Daphne's issue is serious."

"Not... Yes, very," Jonathan said gravely. "It will have a negative impact on her career. We've had to halt discussions for several endorsement deals and filming projects."

Oh, really?

Leanna couldn't help but doubt him.

Jonathan continued, "President Pearson has called for a crisis meeting to handle this."

"I -Is President Pearson handling this personally?"

"Yes. President Pearson handles all of Daphne's work matters himself."

Jonathan promised that this wasn't a lie.

After all, President Pearson is in the chat group that consists of Daphne's management team, right?

"I didn't know President Pearson was involved in so many different things," Leanna chuckled dryly.

"As the saying goes, those who can, do, right?"

"Well... If there's anything I need to do, go ahead and let me know. I'll do my best to cooperate."

"Alright."

After ending the call, Leanna looked out the window and sighed.

Why this, why now? She had just drawn the line with Aidan several days ago, but now, she was back in the palm of his hand again.

Leanna started scrolling through her phone again. The news topic regarding Daphne's possible romance topped the trending list.

Numerous factions consisting of her rivals and anti-fans leaped at the chance to dig up the old rumors of her being a mistress and started to spread the gossip once more. Unfortunately, this was just the way things were. Regardless of all the evidence or statements that proved otherwise, people would still choose to believe what they wanted to believe.

Still, it looks like it is indeed affecting her.

. . .

In the meeting room, Daphne sat there quietly and watched as Jonathan spun his tall tale.

Once Jonathan put his phone away, she said, "Mr. Stoll, have you ever considered quitting your job as an assistant and becoming an actor instead?"

Jonathan wiped his brow. "You jest. This is part and parcel of being a good assistant."

Daphne had no reply for that.

A moment later, Aidan's voice rang out. "Was anyone else involved in that incident, apart from the high schooler?"

Daphne nodded. "I don't think it's an accident. I'm sure it was premeditated."

Earlier, she was indeed filming a scene nearby. After spotting Louis across the street, she decided to say hi to him. That was when she witnessed everything.

As she was standing some distance away, she noticed that there were a few men who had been hanging around nearby. As soon as the crowd started gathering, they rushed into the crowd and began to stir them up. They were the ones who hurled the most abuse at Louis.

Aidan tapped his finger on the table absentmindedly. It was unclear what he was thinking about.

Both Leanna and Louis were being targeted, and in both cases, the person's schemes weren't very sophisticated.

It would be a stretch to call it a calculated move.

Jonathan piped up, "President Pearson, although they've resorted to rather crude means, it wasn't totally useless. If Daphne hadn't been around today,

they would have succeeded. Even if evidence came up later on to prove otherwise, the damage would've been done."

Gossip was the easiest weapon to wield—a scandal could easily ruin a person's life.

"Get the PR department to issue a statement and let the rumors settle down."

"I'll go right now."

Daphne stood up. "President Pearson, if there's nothing else, then I'll get going as well."

"Hold on." Aidan looked at her. "You know what you should and shouldn't mention, right?"

"You think too poorly of me, President Pearson. I'm an actress. We're professionals too," Daphne replied.

Aidan waved her off.

After instructing the PR department, Jonathan came up to Aidan and asked, "President Pearson, as for Mrs. Pearson..."

"Tell her to come to my office tomorrow."