

## Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 31

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 31– Do You Think That I’m Here for Money?

“What? Right...” “Thank you for taking care of her.” Zoe laughed awkwardly without knowing what to say.

Back when Leanna told her that she had met up with Zayn to clear things up, Zoe assumed that he had already moved on from the past. However, it seemed to be the opposite case after what she had witnessed. Rather than saying he had let go, it would be more appropriate to conclude that he had sunk deeper than before.

For half an hour, they remained as they were until Zoe took notice of Zayn, who seemed to have no intentions of leaving. “I think you should head back first. I can accompany Nana by myself since the doctor said that it’s nothing major. She just has to rest up after this.”

In actuality, she and Zayn were not really well-acquainted as she had only met him through Leanna a few times. However, it was just too awkward for Zoe to stay in silence with someone whom she had not seen for three years.

Zayn, who wanted to reject her notion, could not find a suitable reason to stay, so he stood up and replied, “Please inform me when Leanna awakes.”

“No problem. I’ll tell you the moment she wakes up.”

Nodding, Zayn was about to leave when Zoe whispered to him, “About that... I think you know about Nana’s circumstances, since she should’ve told you everything. She just escaped from a failed marriage; so if you can’t give her a future, I would suggest you stop contacting her...”

Although Zayn understood her words, how could he just give up on the one he had loved all these years?

He could persuade himself to treat her marriage as something that never happened, but as a man, he could not get over the fact that Leanna was pregnant with Aidan’s child.

Yet, he could not withstand the desire to be by her side.

To that, he replied, “I will compose my thoughts before I come to her again.”

It was after Zayn left that Zoe finally breathed a sigh of relief. At that moment, Harvey’s call came to ask which ward Leanna was in, so she went down to meet up with him.

Two minutes after she exited, the door to the ward was opened once again.

Aidan looked at the pale woman lying on the bed as his gaze was no longer cold like before. Walking over to her, he sat down on the couch beside the bed.

It was after a while before he uttered coldly, "Leanna, were you pleased when you saw my signature on the divorce paper?"

Were you pleased that you have successfully deceived me yet again? Were you pleased to finally be with Zayn this time?

Yet, the person lying on the bed did not respond to him as the whole room was eerily quiet.

He continued, "Is your heart made of rock? How could you still think about him when we were married for three years? Where have I done you wrong?"

Her wardrobe was always filled with the latest fashion items; the chauffeur would always drive her to any where she wanted and she could send anything she bought to his tab.

Aside from giving her money, he did not spare any expenses on her.

At that moment, Aidan's gaze landed on her pale lips which reminded him of the gentle scene where Zayn took care of her. Pursing his lips, he felt a wave of anger washed over him.

Aidan held her chin and was about to press his lips against hers. However, all that came out of his mouth was vexation. "This is all your fault, Leanna!"

After meeting up with Harvey, the wide-eyed Zoe was about to open the door to the ward when she saw this shocking scene. This b\*stard! He's actually taking advantage of her!

Standing behind her was Harvey who also witnessed the scene and managed to cover her mouth before she could make a sound.

Leading her away, Harvey only asked Zoe upon making sure they were a distance away from the ward. "What is the relationship between President Pearson and Mck?"

Unlike before, he was one of the many who thought that Aidan only helped out Lux Jewelry to support Mia.

Yet, after hearing Jonathan's words and what he saw for himself, this all proved that there would always be two sides of a coin.

To this, Zoe could only touch her lips and laugh awkwardly, knowing that the cat was out of the bag as even the blind could detect something was up.

“Uhm... President Pearson is actually the ex-husband of Nana. They divorced about a month ago.”

Harvey was baffled at this. Finally, everything makes sense now.

It makes sense why Pearson Group would send out a PR team after Mck's incident; why they would send gifts to the photographers and designers of Lux and give out an outstanding award at our fashion show...

This all had absolutely nothing to do with Mia.

In the ward.

Aidan, who was still angry after biting her lips, pried it open and bit it even harder until Leanna frowned out of pain; only then did he let go of her and sat back down.

Because of his actions, she woke up soon after.

Opening her eyes, Leanna woke up to find a ceiling before her eyes while still battling with her dizziness. Yet, before she could determine where this was, she saw a cold-gazed Aidan sitting not too far away.

Immediately, she sat up and tried to find her phone.

Since she had promised to return the money to him after the show, she would not delay this even if it was a second.

It's already dark outside. No wonder he's here.

However, Aidan assumed that her immediate action of grabbing the phone upon awakening was to message Zayn, leading him to be instantly furious. “Leanna McKinney, are you ignoring my existence here?”

Of course, I see you. I'm not blind, so I'm returning the money to you as fast as I can.

After inputting her password, the money was then transferred before she raised her phone and showed it to him, motioning that she had already repaid him.

Yet, Aidan took this series of actions as a means to show off her capability and that he should not come between her relationship with Zayn.

With that, Aidan stared back at her coldly.

Seeing that there was no reaction, Leanna was still thinking about how to clear her name when he uttered impatiently, “Talk.”

Due to the excessive puking just now, her throat was too sore for her to speak.

She then opened WhatsApp and wrote him a message, 'I have a sore throat right now. The money has been transferred to you.'

The phone in his pocket vibrated as he took it out to read it, only for his face to turn even more solemn.

At that moment, another message came. 'You've worked hard, President Pearson. If the amount is correct, you should quickly head home and rest.' She then followed up with a 'thank you' emoticon.

"Do you think that I'm here for money?"

The man's icy voice echoed in the ward, which shocked Leanna to raise her head at him.

Isn't he here for that?

I don't buy that he's here for my well-being.

The doubt in her gaze intensified the veins on Aidan's temples as he roared out her name, "Leanna McKinney!"

Helpless, she did not know when and how she offended him. Fortunately though, she managed to escape answering him, thanks to her terrible sore throat.

Just leave. You have your money now. Why are you still hanging around here? What an eyesore.

## **Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 32**

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 32–The Reason for Our Divorce

For the first time in his life, it felt like the hardest task ever for Aidan to communicate with her. The worst thing is... she looks like she doesn't even know what she did wrong!

This had only fueled his anger more. With zero ounce of patience remaining, he stood up and left. Leanna sighed helplessly as she watched his outraged silhouette departing. As expected, I was too late in repaying him...

A short while later, Harvey entered the room with Zoe. Since there was still lots of work pending at the show, he did not stay for long as he merely chatted for a short while and told Leanna to rest up before leaving.

Sitting by her side, Zoe sighed, "You're finally awake, Nana. You scared the life out of me. What happened? Why were you poisoned?"

Unsure of the source of poisoning, Leanna shook her head. After she arrived at the fashion show, she did not ingest anything and her stomach was cleared after puking everything she had for breakfast and lunch.

If she had to take a guess, then it must be the water that she had ingested. But, everybody was drinking from the same source. So, why am I the one with the problem?

Zoe quickly took her phone out to text someone. "Oh right, Zayn told me to inform him once you wake up." Closing her eyes, Leanna knew that if it was not for Zayn, she would have been in big trouble and her baby would be endangered.

After Zoe sent the message, she patted Leanna on the shoulder. "Okay now. You shouldn't carry any burdens too. Regarding the two of you... You should just let fate decide and not force anything. But, don't escape from it either."

In reality, she and Zayn should have been together way back then, yet fate had other plans for them.

Noticing that Leanna had a heavy expression, Zoe added, "The doctor mentioned that the baby is safe. But, they will still observe you closely for the next few days, so just rest up. Do not, and I repeat, do not let this happen again."

The woman in bed slightly nodded and uttered, "Just head back and rest. I'm fine now."

Her voice was rather hoarse.

Although her throat was sore, it did not mean that she could not speak; she just merely did not want to talk with Aidan.

"I'm not going to do that. I'll stay here and keep you company," Zoe replied.

"You don't have to. If I need anything, I can ring the nurses for help. There must still be a lot to deal with at the show. Quickly, go on."

Recently, restlessness did not only catch up to Leanna but Zoe as well. Still, Leanna was able to catch a few winks more than her friend as she had a baby to take care of. On the other hand, Zoe had not gotten some shuteye for quite a long time now.

After thinking it through, she conformed. "Okay, then. I'll come tomorrow. Remember to press the bell if you need anything and don't try to stand up."

Leanna smiled. "Don't worry."

After Zoe left, Leanna absent-mindedly sat on the bed for quite a while.

Some time had passed before her thoughts slowly came back to her as her stomach rumbled loudly.

Hungry...

She was so hungry that she could not sleep.

Since the time was late, Leanna felt embarrassed to ring the bell for this. She sat up cautiously and slowly walked with the help of the wall, thinking that she could seek help at the nurse's station.

However, she had reached the entrance of the ward when the door suddenly opened. Caught off guard, she fell backward in shock.

At that moment, her wrist was grabbed and an upset voice questioned, "Why are you walking around?"

She was speechless at this sight.

Why hasn't he left yet?

After stabilizing herself, she licked her dry lips and stated, "I'm hungry."

Shooting a glance at her, Aidan replied, "Go lie back down."

From his gaze, she could tell that he found her troublesome.

Still, she lacked the strength to argue with him right now, so she could only use the wall and slowly retraced her steps.

"Stay there. I'll be back soon," he reminded before closing the door.

Leanna did not reply to him. God, why is he coming back again!

After the brief interruption, hunger had taken over her body and she had started to feel numb about it. At the thought of Aidan coming by later, she did not even have the mood to eat as she pulled her sheets and decided to sleep instead.

Just as she was entering deep sleep, the blanket covering her was tossed aside. "Eat before you sleep."

Looking up, she was shocked to see the food located beside her.

Did he buy food for me?

“Do you need me to mouth feed you?” he asked sarcastically after receiving no reaction.

Leanna’s mouth twitched as she did not want food given to her out of pity.

“I suddenly remembered that I was poisoned, so I should not be able to eat yet...”

“I’ve already inquired with the doctor. You’re suffering from mild poisoning. If you feel better after waking up, then you can eat solid foods.” He then pursed his lips and continued, “Seeing that you moved around just to find food, that means that you should be fine.”

Gripping the bed sheet involuntarily, she became alert after hearing that he had consulted the doctor. “You consulted the doctor? What... did he tell you?”

“What else is there besides mild poisoning?”

His words relieved her as she laughed awkwardly to disguise her true concern. “It’s nothing. Since my stomach is sick, I thought that the doctor would forbid me from eating.”

Aidan looked at her before retrieving a box of food from the bag and placed it in front of her. “It’s nothing too serious. Eat up.”

Truth was, he went straight to the doctor’s office after he exited angrily from her ward.

It might have been because Zayn was alongside Leanna when she was admitted to the hospital, so the doctor had assumed that he was the husband and father of the baby.

Therefore, when the actual baby’s father had come to ask about her condition, the doctor assumed that he was merely a co-worker who was assigned to visit, based on his cold look. Hence, he only stated about her mild poisoning while withholding the information that she was pregnant.

While staring at the box of food before her, Leanna found her stomach rumbling again. My baby must be famished too.

At that, she stopped hesitating and picked up the spoon to eat.

However, she noticed that not only did Aidan not leave, but he sat back down on the couch and started sifting through documents on his phone.

Confused by his actions, she accidentally choked onto her food.

“Am I affecting your appetite here?” The commotion had him looking up and asking.

“That’s not it. It’s so late now, though... Aren’t you returning home, President Pearson?”

“What home?”

After mocking himself, he then directed his gaze at her. “After your meal, I have something to ask you.”

What he meant was that she should be eating quicker and not waste his time.

In actual fact, Leanna did not catch on to what he said in the former part of his sentence as he was speaking too softly though what she did hear at the end of his sentence had made her lose appetite for her meal.

What is he going to pin on me this time? Did I forget about anything else besides owing him money?

This inherently caused Leanna to eat her food in a sour mood. When she finished, she put the spoon down and asked, “What do you want to ask about, President Pearson?”

“The reason for our divorce.”

Not this again...

After all, this was the last thing that she expected him to ask after all the effort he spent to stay out late and buy food for her.

Still, she was just ready to speak when Aidan interrupted, “I don’t wanna hear any excuses. I’ve known everything.”

## **Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 33**

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 33– How Much Did He Borrow?

Leanna froze. He knows everything...

Peering at her, Aidan lowered his cold and solemn, “In order to marry me, you used every trick possible in the book; when it comes to our divorce, you did the very same. Leanna McKinney, do you feel a sense of accomplishment whenever I fall for your trap... over and over?”

“I’m sorry. I never thought of it like that. I just...” She lowered her head in response. “Just want to be with Zayn now that he’s back?”

“What?” He crossed his legs and continued, “I think you’re dreaming, Leanna. Did you really think that the Barnetts would approve of him marrying a divorced woman?”

Before she could even think of a reply for his last question, she sneered at his verbal attacks, “I don’t really get what you mean, President Pearson. So what if a woman is



divorced? Does that mean she should be looked down upon? If so, how can a divorced man be so shameless as to cheat his wife even before they were divorced?"

"I dare you to repeat that," Aidan answered. Not foolish enough to argue with him, Leanna only blinked innocently. "Of course, I'm not talking about you, President Pearson. That was just a mere example."

He pursed his lips while trying to suppress his anger. "Did you want to ask me about this, President Pearson?" she asked. "What else do you think I wanted to ask?" he questioned.

"Then... Can you leave after your question? I'm a bit sleepy now." Why is this b\*stard asking so many weird questions? We've already divorced for so long now. Does he want to frame me for something else?

He's acting so weird. After Leanna finished, she was taken aback at his emotionless expression. Just as she was about to direct her gaze elsewhere, he held her chin and warned her, "Leanna McKinney, quit thinking so highly of yourself. You should be grateful that I'm not bringing up your past deeds. If you really want to play me for a fool, you're welcome to try."

Without waiting for her reply, he proceeded to let her go and left. Lying back onto the bed, Leanna had zero idea as to what line she had crossed this time.

Good news was, she could not sleep in peace knowing that the two million she owed him had been cleared within the time limit. She took her phone and tapped on Aidan's profile before pressing the delete button with no hesitation.

Since we have settled all our differences, let's consider ourselves even from now on. Setting her phone down, she went back to sleep. The next morning, she opened her eyes to the sight of Louis reading by the window.

"Louis, why are you here?" Leanna asked him. Turning his head, he replied, "Miss Hart told me that you were sick, so I'm here to take care of you."

"It's nothing serious." She sat up and continued, "What about your part-time job? You should get going. You don't need to stay here." "I'm working the night shift today. I'll leave when Miss Hart comes."

Massaging her temples, Leanna knew just how stubborn her brother could be, so she did not persuade him any longer. He then helped her to the toilet to wash up, "I'll be waiting for you outside. Let me know when you're done."

"Okay." After she opened the packaged toothbrush and toothpaste Zoe bought for her yesterday, she looked in the mirror only to notice the corner of her lips to be torn and scabbed.

She finally understood why it hurt when she was having soup last night. Yet, she could not ascertain where she got this wound from, so she dismissed it as an accident.

Since Louis had brought breakfast for her on the way, it was just the right temperature for her when she exited the toilet.

A nurse came for her checkup just as Leanna finished her meal. After the checkup, the nurse reminded her to rest properly for a few days and not leave the bed unless she needed to go to the toilet.

As the nurse was administering IV for Leanna, Louis took a look at her medication and frowned. After the nurse left, it was only the two of them left when he suddenly questioned, "Are you pregnant?"

"How do you..."

She had nearly forgotten that not only was her brother a science major student, he was also extremely smart. Some of the medication that the nurse gave her was meant for pregnancy, which was deciphered by Louis at a glance.

After a few seconds of silence, Leanna nodded. "He divorced you even though you're pregnant? He's going to get a taste of this!"

As soon as he took his first step, she grabbed onto him and uttered, "Louis, it is me who wanted the divorce. I didn't tell Aidan about my pregnancy because I don't want him to know."

"So, you've already decided to keep the baby?" he asked. She nodded. "I'm going to raise the baby by myself." Louis was at a loss for words all of a sudden. It was after a while before he asked, "Did Jethro ask you for money recently?"

"No. Why?" Shaking his head, he stated, "He has been acting strangely." Typically, Jethro would always look drunk and pathetic whenever he appeared in all sorts of casinos or poker events. The debtors would then come knocking every two to three days inevitably.

However this time, he seemed like he had struck gold daily as he stopped drinking and gambling recently. Instead, he slicked his hair back and even carried a briefcase, looking like a professional.

Yesterday, when Louis came back to retrieve some clothes, Jethro threw a pile of money onto the table. "Louis, your father's rich now. Take this and buy some branded clothes for yourself. You better not embarrass me and your sister."

Louis ignored him and left after packing his things.

Then, he continued, "He even bought a car valued over half a million. I asked around and he paid them all upfront."

"Where did he get so much money? Did he borrow it from loan sharks again?" she asked with a frown on her face.

Pursing her lips, Leanna knew that this possibility existed too.

She recalled that before the one million debt incident, Jethro also lavishly spent for a period of time and their home was filled with stuff he purchased. Still, it was not as exaggerated as this time.

How much did he borrow?

Leanna stated, "Louis, you should pack everything away once you head back today. Don't ever return there."

He nodded in agreement as he also had planned to sever his ties with Jethro once he started attending university; for the past two months, he had been slowly moving out his belongings in preparation.

In the afternoon, Zoe arrived.

Before Louis left, he told Leanna that he would visit again after his night shift.

During this period, Jethro had been acting peculiarly, so Louis was afraid that Jethro might go into hiding when the loan sharks came knocking to target Leanna.

On the bright side, Zoe brought some good news to Leanna. After yesterday's show had ended, Mia left silently. Even though it was her own idea to add in a speech for the award, she canceled it without any omen and became the butt of everyone's joke.

At that, Leanna stated, "Since Aidan threw so many resources at her, this show is nothing but a public announcement to show their support. In the end, they'll still provide her with what they have promised."

## **Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 34**

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 34– Leanna Blocked Aidan on Twitter

After hearing that, Zoe recalled the scene she witnessed in the ward by chance last night and she was hesitating whether to tell Leanna about how that b\*stard kissed her while she was fast asleep.

As such, she decided to test the waters first. "I saw Aidan yesterday. Did he say anything to you?" Leanna felt helpless at the mention of him. "It's nothing. He told me to return his money and that Zayn will never marry a divorcée like me."

"Has he lost his mind?" "To be honest, I think he's been acting strange after the divorce." Knock. Knock.

A knock resounded on the door, interrupting the conversation and drawing their attention. Standing by the door was a woman carrying a bouquet while wearing a pair of sunglasses and a mask.

Zoe stared at the unknown woman for a while before recognizing her identity. "Daphne?" Daphne took off the mask before closing the door and waving at them. "Hey guys. I'm here to visit."

She and Zoe had worked together before for a few cover shoots and advertisements. Although they were not that close, they could be considered as acquaintances. Even so, she had nothing to do with Leanna, which confused Zoe as to why she would visit.

Daphne arranged the flowers into the vase while explaining, "I heard that the designer of Lux Jewelry has been hospitalized, so I decided to pay her a visit as I have some free time today. How are you feeling?"

"I'm fine. Thanks." Leanna nodded as she was well-informed of how Daphne had lent a hand for the last two rounds of the runway last night. In actuality, Daphne was only doing someone a favor.

Jonathan spent the whole night racking his brain in order to come up with a solution. Yet, the employees, including Leanna, had totally mistaken that Aidan's feelings were directed to Mia instead of Leanna.

Therefore, Jonathan had to explain the situation to Leanna before leveling with his boss. Otherwise, he might be pushed off the building by a furious Aidan from the president's office.

Thus, Daphne, who was merely roaming around in the company before her vacation, became his last strand of hope.

Given how she would retaliate against Aidan at times, Jonathan reckoned that she and Leanna would manage to get along well. Moreover, Leanna would definitely treat her with courtesy due to her contribution last night.

As for Daphne, Aidan's sudden yet confident statement of how someone was peeking at him in addition to the call for help last night had successfully piqued her interest. Her purpose of stopping by was to simply quench her curiosity.

“Don’t be such a stranger. My schedule is quite lenient today anyway. By the way, I heard that the Pearson Group had chosen the designer as the winner. Did you receive anything?” She grinned.

Leanna and Zoe were equally baffled by the question. Zoe responded first, “Isn’t that bast—President Pearson trying to support Mia with that superficial reason? Why would he give it to the designer?”

“I’m not sure either. I heard it by chance.” “You must’ve got it wrong. That bast—President Pearson has been offering a lot of benefits to Lux Jewelry because of Mia. He’s not that generous.”

“True.” Daphne nodded approvingly before saying implicitly, “But he did help Lux Jewelry through sending the PR team as help. It’s proof that he’s kind-hearted and he knows how to make up for his mistakes.”

Her abrupt assertion had successfully made both Leanna and Zoe speechless.

Still, she could not find a better way to put it into implicit words. It was either Jonathan’s way of expression was confusing or she was not clever enough to read it between lines.

‘Let Leanna know that President Pearson is doing all these for her, but do not flatter her vanity.’ Is this even human language? It’s obvious that Aidan is the one sending the message.

Meanwhile, Leanna kept silent for a moment before veering the subject. “Would you like some grapes?”

No matter what kind of feelings Aidan had for Mia, she was not curious in the slightest as both of them were toxic enough to make a good match for themselves.

Daphne was stunned, but soon comprehended her intentions. “Yes.” She took a seat and after that, the trio no longer mentioned Aidan and Mia.

Even though Daphne’s hands were busy shoving the grapes into her mouth, her brain cells were being fried as she was trying to find a way to bring up that sensitive topic. Yet, she was not a professional negotiator; she did not have the ability to convey the message properly without straining the atmosphere.

Besides, Leanna’s avoidance was not helping at all. Thus, Daphne figured that it would be tactless of her to rub salt to the wound as a mere visitor.

A couple of minutes later, a burdened Daphne was full because of the grapes. “I gotta go now. Wishing you a speedy recovery.”

Leanna smiled. “Thanks for dropping by.”

Zoe rose from her seat. "I'll send you off."

After leaving the room, Daphne could not smother her curiosity any longer. "Does Miss McKinney despise President Pearson that much?"

"Not to that extent, but she doesn't want to have anything to do with him anymore."

"That's understandable, judging by how selfish he can be sometimes. The way he speaks and deals with things is always extreme. Anyone with a fragile heart will surely cry after talking to him for two seconds."

Knowing that Daphne would talk bad about Aidan behind his back, Zoe spoke up for Leanna, "Not only that, he only has his eyes for money. I've never seen someone as thrifty as him. I can't wait to see his son calling another man 'daddy'."

Daphne was surprised by the sudden news. "Huh?"

It was not until then did Zoe realize that she had almost let it slip through her tongue at the spur of the moment. She tried to gloss it over by adding, "It's just an analogy. Anyway, karma will find its way to him and Mia!"

At long last, Daphne's footsteps came to a halt as she attempted to give the last shot to accomplish her mission once again. "I heard that there's nothing going on between President Pearson and Mia. She's not the reason to why he's been favoring Lux Jewelry these days, but—"

"I know. He's trying to drive Leanna out of Lux Jewelry, isn't he? That explains why he's so eager about it." Zoe was serious. Why can't he just let her go even after the divorce? Ridiculous.

At that, Daphne laughed half-heartedly. Is it such a traumatic experience to be with President Pearson? It seems like... the plan of dropping by has backfired, though.

She relayed the disheartening news to Jonathan, who had the urge to jump off the building from the president's office by himself without dirtying Aidan's hands.

After a whole thirty minutes, he mustered the courage to knock on the door to the president's office. He reported today's work before informing very gingerly, "President Pearson, about the Lux Jewelry—"

"Why do you keep bringing up a collaboration from a few years back? If you like that place that much, I'll be glad to receive a resignation letter from you."

Jonathan zipped his lips immediately. President Pearson is in a bad mood today.

When the poor Jonathan left the office with careful steps, Aidan placed the pen down and tore the paper, which had his name wrongly written on, before crumpling and tossing it into the trash bin.

Leanna McKinney, do you think that the score is settled after returning the money? How dare you block me on Twitter!

## Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 35

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 35– Throughout the Three-Year-Marriage With Him

I seriously don't get her. In a cold voice, Aidan spoke over the intercom, "Contact Lux Jewelry to know how much Leanna McKinney's termination fee is."

"Understood." He received a report from Jonathan in no time. "Madam has previously signed the contract with their boss in person, so he's the only one that knows the details."

However, the boss of Lux Jewelry was currently on vacation in Cazkavia. Without hesitation, Aidan grabbed his coat and rose to his feet. "Book the latest flight ticket to Cazkavia." Jonathan did as he was told at the drop of the hat.

The contradicting sight of his boss' impatience reminded him about the person who scolded him for mentioning Lux Jewelry and the so-called collaboration that had ended years ago just ten minutes earlier.

A week later, Leanna was being discharged from the hospital. Although she had almost recovered, Zoe and Louis advised her to rest for a few days longer. Still, she could feel her limbs degenerating after spending days in bed in the hospital.

Besides, she did not expect to see Zayn at the hospital. They were left alone after the sensible Zoe pulled Louis away. Silence filled the atmosphere until Leanna wore a smile. "Thank you for everything that you've done."

"Leanna, you don't have to say those two words to me. Ever," Zayn replied. She sighed as the awkwardness lingered in the air, making her want to flee the scene as soon as possible. "If there's nothing else important, I—"

"Leanna, I have something to tell you. Do you know who was the sponsor for The Emerging Designer Competition three years back?" Before she could even answer, he recounted, "Koyote Group is a subsidiary of Pearson Group."

She paused. "What do you mean?"

“I know that you went to see Mr. Hall with the hope of changing the sponsorship to Aeris into cash. He did help you with the appeal, but it was rejected. In other words, Aidan Pearson was the one who rejected the appeal.”

During the next two minutes of silence, Leanna digested the fact that Aidan, the sponsor, was the very person who commented on her as someone without a dream. She then smiled lightly. “So what if I know now? It’s been three years. What’s done is done. Besides, it’s not like he owes me anything. It’s reasonable for him to reject the appeal.”

Zayn grabbed her shoulders with red-rimmed eyes. “Leanna, if it wasn’t for him, you wouldn’t have to go through these. We could’ve—”

“Zayn, it looks like I haven’t straightened things out with you. Even if I didn’t get married to Aidan, we wouldn’t have lasted till the end anyway.” She removed his hands calmly.

“Why not?” “I was too innocent back then. I failed to see the huge gap between us.” His brows creased tightly. “Leanna, that’s not a problem.”

Still, she insisted. “It is a problem and a very big one. I might still have hope for the future if it wasn’t for him, but after marrying him, I finally learned that a rag-to-riches story ain’t as easy as I thought. I don’t wanna be on everyone’s lips and suffer from pointing fingers anymore.”

“That’s because he doesn’t love you. You wouldn’t be treated that way if he had loved you.”

The truth rendered her speechless. Even if she had come to terms with it, her stomach still churned when someone else pointed it out.

The moment she parted her lips, someone dashed into the scene and slapped her in the face. “Leanna McKinney, you shameless b\*tch!”

The metallic taste spread across Leanna’s mouth as she prodded the bleeding area with her tongue and returned the slap.

Anna, who had not foreseen Leanna’s counterattack, paralyzed in shock before attempting to fight back, only to be stopped by Zayn.

He warned sternly, “Anna Pearson, behave... or else, I don’t know what I’m going to do to you.”

“Zayn, she slapped me. You—”

“Check who barked first, woman,” interrupted Leanna coldly.



Anna snapped, but he pulled her hand, which made her face flushed red. “Leanna McKinney, I told you that Zayn is mine. Only mine! Don’t you dare seduce him!”

He pursed his lips upon hearing that. “Anna, I repeat. There’s nothing going on between you and I.”

“That’s not true! Our families are already planning for our marriage. It’s just a matter of time before we get together.”

His patience was wearing thin as she had been pursuing him round the clock after returning to the country.

It was true that Zayn did not like her parents, but he ended up agreeing with the engagement for reasons that he himself was oblivious of. Resultantly, Anna presumed that they would get married on her own volition, therefore, pestering him more as days passed.

Leanna did not bother her and bid him goodbye, “I’ll go ahead first.”

“Leanna...” After watching her leave, he lowered his head as he was aware that he was in no position to ask her to stay when he failed to settle his own mess.

At the same time, Anna linked arms with him. “Zayn, let’s go shopping. I pre-ordered a bag a few days ago. It should’ve arrived—”

“Anna, you’re a girl and I don’t wanna say nasty things to you. But I don’t like you and have no intention of marrying you either. If you keep acting up like that to Leanna’s face, don’t blame me for not warning you when the time comes.” He shoved her hands in the meantime.

She glared at him in resentment. “It’s because of Leanna, isn’t it? You don’t like me because of her! If it wasn’t for her, you... I should’ve pushed her harder and killed her back then!”

He frowned. “What did you just say you did?”

At that moment, her gaze skittered around frantically upon realizing that she had made a blunder with her words before pushing him away. “Nothing! I did nothing to her. She had it coming! It’s because she got married to Aidan without knowing her place and now even flirting with you. That’s why.”

Having said that, she scurried away, leaving him standing alone with tightly fisted hands.

...

On the way home, Leanna leaned against the window while staring at the view outside. The glint in her eyes simmered, rendering her thoughts undecipherable.

Zoe endeavored to enlighten the mood, but Louis stopped her in figuring that it would be best to leave her alone for the time being.

As Leanna herself had told Zayn, Aidan did not owe her anything. Hence, it was reasonable for her appeal to be dismissed. Still, no matter how much she reminded herself that sometimes life would not work out as one wished, her reasoning would diminish little by little as time passed.

It's not even a hard request. What's wrong with trying to ask for the things I need when I'm the winner? I doubt that it's an unreasonable request. It's not like I don't wanna go to Aeras. Reality doesn't allow me to do so.

Due to that, Leanna's action that was deemed valueless had become the reason to label her as someone lacking a dream. Had it not been the cruel reality, everyone would wish to have the chance to embark the journey to achieve their dreams.

Throughout the three-year-marriage, she had familiarized herself with Aidan's aloof and cruel disposition. Never once had she wished something from him. Not at all.