

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 331-340

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 331-Not long after Leanna left, the rain began pouring down in earnest. The raindrops constantly pelted against the glass in front of her. Considering the lack of her own car prior to Aidan's gift, it was only natural to assume that she did not drive often. Nevertheless, she drove much slower than usual due to the traffic jam caused by the pouring rain. More than an hour had passed by the time she arrived at the Crossley Residence.

When her car slowly drove through the gates of the Crossley Residence, she thought to herself. If Aidan had not given me this car, I might have had to walk along this road in the pouring rain today.

As soon as she stopped the car in front of the main building, a servant immediately came forward with an umbrella and called out, "Miss McKinney."

She smiled. "Thank you."

The servant did not answer and simply backed away without a sound.

As she walked from the entrance to her room upstairs, she could sense the significant change in the attitude of the servants in the entire Crossley Residence. Although she could not say they were being nice, compared to how they turned a blind eye to her when she first arrived in the morning, at least they were now greeting her.

She did not know whether Lloyd and Georgina were not at home or whether they had already gone back to their respective rooms. In any case, she discovered that the items she placed on the table seemed to have been touched when she entered the bedroom. She pursed her lips and carefully checked once more. Once she confirmed that nothing had gone missing, she finally locked the door and entered the bathroom.

It looks like I'm not the only one playing detective. The Crossley Family is also investigating me.

After she took a long, hot shower, she began to flip through the information regarding The Designer Competition.

A short while later, her phone rang. It was a phone call from Zoe.

Leanna answered the call, "What's up, Zoe?"

Zoe replied, "It's nothing. I'm packing right now. But, since I'm taking a break, I wanted to ask how you were doing over there."

"I'm fine." After a pause, Leanna added, "Are you packing so soon?"

"That's right. You might not believe me, but I ran into Daniel at the elevator when I returned in the afternoon. I suddenly understand the twisted fate that you and President Pearson used to share when you constantly encountered each other wherever you went. I've already contacted the moving company. I'm moving out early tomorrow morning. I can't stay here for another moment longer!"

The corners of her mouth twitched at those words. She didn't know what to say, so a long while passed before she finally responded, "Can you ask the moving company to send two extra men to help move my things out as well? Once I... settle things here, I'll get my stuff from you."

Zoe asked puzzledly, "Didn't you already move all your things out?"

Leanna was confused.

"President Pearson sent some men over, and they just left not too long ago. I thought you asked him to do that."

She closed her eyes in frustration and inhaled deeply. That b*stard sure is tight-lipped. I can't believe he didn't even say a word to me just now!

Zoe probed tentatively, "Don't tell me he secretly moved your stuff out behind your back?"

Leanna coughed in embarrassment. "Forget it. I'll just go and get my stuff from him when the time comes."

"Do you not plan to live with him?"

"W-We'll see."

As the saying goes, 'distance makes the heart grow fonder'. If she lived together with Aidan, he would annoy her to death before she could live to a ripe old age. Besides, it would not be as simple and easy as it was now if they

were to live together. Problems that she did not wish to face would inevitably come up.

Zoe chatted with Leanna for some time before she hung up and continued packing.

The doorbell rang just as she finished packing a cardboard box.

She thought the food she had ordered had arrived, so she quickly ran to the door. Yet, it was not until she opened the door that she discovered the person standing outside her door was actually that wicked man she was cursing about earlier.

Daniel keenly noticed the emotions that flashed across her face, from joy to indifference to complete apathy.

He couldn't help but feel wholly bewildered.

She thought to herself, I'm moving out anyway. I should keep the relationship civil for Elijah's sake. Hence, she smiled slightly. "Can I help you?"

He cleared his throat. "I... lent you an umbrella last time. Can I have it back? It's raining outside, and I need to go out."

After she heard those words, she fell silent for a long while. "I think I left that umbrella at home. You can use mine instead."

Then, she handed an umbrella she took from beside the shoe cabinet to him.

He took the umbrella from her but did not leave immediately.

She asked, "Is there something else?"

"That umbrella..." His expression became grave. "It's something my mother left behind for me. Can you bring it back for me when you return home next time?"

She froze in astonishment. "What?"

He looked a little sad as he continued, "That's the last thing my mother used before she passed away. So many years have passed, but I've always brought it along with me no matter where I went. Of course, I don't mean to press you. I just hope that you can help bring the umbrella back to me if you

remember. It's fine even if you forget. My mother is gone, after all. It might be time for me to let go of my obsession."

Everything he said left her feeling completely stunned. Nonetheless, he was certainly untrustworthy. He even went so far as to mention something like religion and superstition. She trusted him as far as she could throw him, which was not that far at all. So wouldn't there be a high chance he was using his dead mother as a tool?

She tried hard to discern the emotions on his face, trying to confirm whether what he said just now was true or false. But, unfortunately, the trace of sorrow in the depths of his eyes did not seem to be fake. I'm doomed!

She laughed, discomfited. "I didn't know that umbrella was so important to you. Why don't I call my mother later and ask if she saw the umbrella? Then, I can also ask her to send them over. I guarantee that the umbrella will not be damaged in any way throughout the journey."

He nodded lightly. "In that case, I'll have to trouble you."

"It's nothing. It's simply what I should do."

After she shut the door, she let out a breath and immediately entered the bedroom to change her clothes. Then, she quietly opened her door, glanced around her surroundings before she closed her door as softly as possible, and hurried into the elevator. She drove directly to the airport and went to the Lost and Found office to ask if the workers had picked up an umbrella in the trash can several days ago.

The worker said, "You're already here. Why don't you look around to see if you can find what you lost?"

She quickly thanked the worker. Regrettably, it seemed her luck had run out as she could not find the umbrella Daniel had given her despite searching several times. As she stood there, entirely dazed and frustrated, she felt a headache pounding in her head.

I shouldn't have been so impulsive back then. So what if he is the King of the Sea? So what if I was regarded as nothing more than a fish? In any case, I brought it upon myself in the first place. No matter what, he had kindly lent his umbrella to me. Not to mention, it was something his mother left behind for him. I can't just throw the umbrella away.

On the way back, she couldn't help being somewhat absent-minded as she blamed herself for her impulsiveness.

She arrived downstairs, parked her car, and walked to the basement in despair. When she entered the elevator, she suddenly noticed the umbrella of the person standing beside her. It was almost identical to the one that Daniel had lent to her before.

She was overjoyed. Is this what people mean when they say 'surprises are often unexpected'? I can't believe I'd have such luck.

She politely spoke up. "Hello, can I buy this umbrella from you? This is similar to the umbrella left behind by my friend's mother before she passed away, so I..."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 332-The man looked at the umbrella in his hand, and then he looked at her again with a baffled expression on his face.

Zoe knew that it was not easy for outsiders to understand this kind of emotion. Therefore, she urgently said, "I'm begging you. I really need this umbrella. Please sell it to me. Name your price. It doesn't matter how much."

The man handed the umbrella to her without a fuss. "You can find umbrellas like these in the convenience store downstairs for ten dollars. I'll give it to you if you need it."

She was speechless, and the corners of her mouth twitched. "Ten dollars a piece at the supermarket downstairs?"

"That's right. There was an event not too long ago where they even gave you an umbrella for free if you bought more than 200 dollars worth of goods."

She suddenly felt as though she was going to asphyxiate on the spot. A few seconds later, she expressionlessly pressed the button for the first floor.

He queried, "Miss, do you want this umbrella?"

Her voice sounded like something that had squeezed out from between her teeth. "No, thanks."

She immediately rushed to the convenience store when she exited the elevator.

After she repeatedly confirmed that the umbrella in this pattern was only sold in their store and that the goods had only just arrived two weeks ago, she immediately bought up all the umbrellas in this pattern.

Daniel was playing the piano inside his apartment when he heard the doorbell ring.

He opened the door to see Zoe standing there with an umbrella in her hand, after which he said, "This is..."

Zoe smiled slightly. "Didn't you say that it's something your mother left behind for you and that it's very important to you? I didn't want to let you wait too long, so I asked my mother to bring it here immediately."

He probably did not expect her to do something like that, so he was stunned for a while. "There's no need to be so rushed..."

"It's only right." She handed the umbrella to him. "Please check if it's this umbrella."

He took the umbrella from her. Since this farce had already gone on for so long, he could only bite the bullet and continue acting. "Yes, it's the one. There are traces left behind when my mother used this umbrella, so I can't be mistaken." After he said that, he glanced at her. "I'm very grateful to Mrs. Hart for personally bringing this umbrella here. Can I thank her in person..."

"No need." She pulled out a bag from behind her and held out a pile of umbrellas in front of him. "If your mother knew what a filial son you were, she would have been thrilled indeed."

Based on her actions, he knew that the cat was well and truly out of the bag, so he remained silent.

So, she tossed the bag to the ground and turned to leave.

Daniel stepped forward and grabbed her wrist with a laugh. "I'm sorry. I was only joking with you."

Zoe shook off his hand with great force and replied expressionlessly, "A joke is something that both parties find funny. It's not something where you repeatedly make a fool out of me."

After she said that, she yanked the door open and entered her apartment without a backward glance.

He was just about to say something when the door slammed shut in front of him with a loud bang. He scratched his nose and looked at the umbrellas scattered around his feet with an unprecedented sense of shame.

...

It had been raining throughout the night. Even when Leanna finally woke up, there was still a light drizzle outside.

She initially thought that she would not be able to fall asleep since it was an unfamiliar place. Regardless, who could have known that she would feel at ease for some reason, even though there were dangers all around her?

Even if she could not quite recall what happened in the past, it did not change the fact that she had lived here for several years.

After a quick wash-up, she changed her clothes and went downstairs.

Lloyd and Georgina were having breakfast in the dining room. The very instant she saw her, her expression twisted so much that 'ugly' was no longer enough to describe the look on her face. She gripped the cutlery in her hand tightly as though wishing that she could cut Leanna into pieces like the food on her plate.

On the contrary, his attitude was pretty mild. "Leanna, would you like to join us for breakfast?"

I wonder when he changed the way he addressed me.

Leanna smiled faintly. "Thank you, but there's no need. I have something to do, so I'll be leaving first."

As soon as Leanna turned to leave, Georgina slammed her cutlery down against the table, which made a loud noise.

Still, Leanna ignored Georgina since she did not know what the latter was trying to do.

Leanna bought breakfast outside the studio. When she went inside, she noticed several young excitedly discussing something. They immediately dispersed as soon as they saw her coming.

Although she couldn't help thinking that their behavior was strange, she didn't bother to inquire further into the matter and simply entered her office.

She had only begun eating her breakfast when Zoe rushed in with the newspaper in her hand. "Nana! Nana!"

Leanna asked, "Aren't you moving out this morning? Why did you come here?"

Zoe exclaimed, "Oh, that's not important. I'll just go back for the move later. Take a look at this!"

While she spoke excitedly, she spread the newspaper out in front of Leanna without forgetting to sigh in amazement. "It's so cool! I would never have thought that a b*stard like Aidan would be so lustful!"

Leanna did not quite understand what Zoe was talking about. Nevertheless, she nearly spat out the mouthful of soy milk in her mouth when her gaze landed on the newspaper.

'Explosive News! President of the Pearson Group Sharing a Passionate Kiss With a Mysterious Woman in the Rain! They Are Inseparable!'

She choked on her soy milk and coughed hard for a long while. In fact, she nearly thought that she would die just like that.

Zoe patted Leanna's back while analyzing the photo published in the newspaper. "Professionally speaking, the angle and clarity of this photo are quite amazing. This photo just so happened to capture your side profiles. If not for the suggestive title, the photo itself is like a piece of art."

Leanna's complexion was still flushed from choking. So, it took a while for her to finally recover, then she couldn't help asking, "Where did this come from?"

"Didn't you know? It's spreading like wildfire everywhere. Oh, right! It's not just in the newspaper. It's already trending as soon as it came out today. The popularity of this topic completely overwhelmed the announcement regarding

Daphne's new drama! With this popularity, you can even become an Internet idol!"

She stared at the newspaper and sank into a long silence.

After a long while, she finally found her voice again and tried to defend herself. "What is this? Which unscrupulous media reported this matter? It was raining, but it was just a light drizzle, okay? It would have dried up when the wind blew. So, how could they claim that it was a passionate kiss in the rain?" As she said that, she clenched her fists tightly in an unusually furious manner. "And, a passionate kiss? It...It was just a peck! How was it passionate?"

Zoe squeezed Leanna's shoulder reassuringly with an understanding expression on her face. "Compared to certain other times, that really can't be considered passionate."

Leanna was rendered speechless, but she couldn't even refute Zoe's words which made it all the more humiliating.

She slumped over the table, and a short whimper came from her throat. She felt too embarrassed to look anybody in the eye now.

Zoe watched for a long time, vaguely feeling that something was wrong. "Hey, Nana, don't you think this photo is too clear? It doesn't look like it was taken in secret. Not to mention the title; they even mentioned the Pearson Group directly. Aren't they worried about losing their jobs or something?"

Although Leanna had regained some strength, her brain had long since lost the ability to think. "Huh?"

Zoe seemed to realize the truth but kept silent as she chuckled to herself. "It's nothing. I was just saying. But this seems to be the first time that b*stard reveals himself publicly. Tch. It really is a lustful era. A group of young ladies has already gathered in the Pearson Group's official Twitter account to claim that they are the person in the picture."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 333-In the big conference room, the Pearson Group's top executives were putting their heads together over how to respond to the news story of Aidan's love affair. While they were arguing heatedly, the man at the center of their discussion was sitting in his chair and reading the newspaper in his hands, his eyes betraying a rare hint of satisfaction.

Just when those in the room were caught in a deadlock, he put down his newspaper and asked nonchalantly, "What's the need to respond to this? Would anyone not kiss while dating? Is it really worth your time to argue over such trifles?"

Everyone was rendered lost for words. This isn't about dating or not! It's about... Wait a minute. Dating? When have you succeeded in getting her to date you?

Leaning back in his chair, Aidan crossed his slender legs, saying, "Well, this is the right opportunity to release a statement and announce to the world that I already have a girlfriend and am not available anymore. Anyone is free to visit the Pearson Group as long as they're not afraid of getting known as a mistress who breaks up couples."

Everyone in the room gasped. That's merciless, President Pearson! You're practically standing up against Old Mr. Pearson in public, no?

Everyone at the Pearson Group knew that Gordon was having blind dates arranged for Aidan every single day these days, not to mention the socialites and rich heiresses who'd been flocking to the company to woo him. Would any of them swallow their pride and do so after the release of such a statement? Even if there were one or two who were brazen enough to give it a try, Aidan's words indicated that he wouldn't easily let them off, which meant they might end up being shamed in public by having their photos taken and posted online.

Although this would put an end to those blind dates for good, most of Highside's bigwigs would be offended by it. Perhaps only President Pearson is capable of doing such a thing.

Aidan's eyes ran over the faces of everyone in the room. He said unhurriedly, "It can't be helped. My girlfriend gets jealous easily and is pretty strict with me." Then, he asked, "Is there anything else? If not, the meeting is over."

Meanwhile, at the Pearson Family Estate, Gordon was trembling all over with rage after reading the newspaper. Upon learning of the meeting at the Pearson Group, he almost had difficulty catching his breath at this very moment. He swore, "Damn that treacherous son!"

Sienna was sitting beside him as indifferently as usual. She said, "If he'd been that obedient, such a situation wouldn't have come about."

Gordon knitted his brows. “Just keep your sarcasm to yourself at such a time. You know full well what you’ve done. If Leanna really is Lloyd’s daughter, you’ll be the first target of her revenge!”

Sienna laughed at his words, though. She said, “You know what? I’m waiting for her to take revenge on me. A person who grew up in slums can rise in society and dress in fine clothes, but they can never hide the lowliness bred in their bones. Let’s see what she’s capable of.” With that, she stood up and returned to her bedroom right away.

A servant followed behind her while muttering something unintelligible.

Gordon’s face darkened even more as he watched her behavior. My voice in the family is diminishing now. Both Aidan and Sienna wouldn’t take me seriously at all! Although the Zielinskis were no longer a threat at present, Sienna still had other resources at her disposal, so he had no alternative but to rely on her to deal with Aidan. His countenance grim, he supported himself with his stick and frowned thoughtfully, his scheming mind at work.

At the same time, the release of the Pearson Group’s statement instantly generated a lot of buzz on the Internet.

Many who fangirled over Aidan’s dashing good looks were still confused as to what was actually going on. One of them commented, ‘WTF?! This is turning my world upside down! Since when is my new husband dating someone? He’d better not be serious about it!’

Another commented, ‘OMG! To think he actually made his relationship public! Well, that’s expected of President Pearson, a handsome, rich, and capable man, unlike some celebrities who do everything possible to hide their relationships.’

‘But wait, who is his girlfriend? Is she a celebrity or a rich heiress or something? She looks quite pretty.’

‘Those who don’t know about President Pearson’s relationship can read the statement posted some time ago on the Pearson Group’s official Twitter account. He was still courting her at the time, but who would’ve thought they’d be dating now? That’s pretty quick of him, eh?’

‘Here I am, sobbing my heart out after learning all about it. Also, I’ve checked out the photo of his girlfriend, who’s so darn gorgeous aside from being hot

and talented. President Pearson, why on earth would you divorce her back then, you jerk? If I got to spend every single day living with such a sweetie pie, I'd slap myself in the face for even raising my voice at her!

'I'm all for this attractive couple. BTW, when will they get remarried?'

'Here's someone who feels the same way. I'd pay for them to get remarried!'

Never in Leanna's wildest dreams did she imagine that the number of followers on her studio's official Twitter account would swell by more than a hundred thousand. Moreover, these new followers were all coming after her, asking her when she'd have her own Twitter account.

Seeing how things had developed to such an extent—plus the fact that the Pearson Group's stance couldn't be more obvious—Leanna thought she had enough reason to suspect it was none other than Aidan who had their photos taken.

Since her studio had yet to open its online store for the time being, many people visited its physical location in the afternoon to check in on social media. However, they didn't get to see Leanna, who'd gone to help Zoe move house.

After living in the apartment with Leanna for several months, Zoe had accumulated a considerable amount of possessions, all of which she decided to take with her to not let anything go to waste.

Each dragging a suitcase, the two waited for the next elevator to arrive after their movers had carried the heavier things downstairs.

Leanna glanced behind her, asking, "Have you taken all the stuff with you?"

Zoe replied, "Yeah, almost. The landlady said she's currently out of town and will come back a couple days later to get the keys."

Leanna nodded. After staying here for quite some time, she'd inevitably grown somewhat attached to this place. Moreover, it'd given her some... fond memories.

Just then, the door to the neighboring unit opened all of a sudden. At the same time, the elevator happened to stop before the two.

After shuddering for a second, Zoe quickly dragged Leanna into the elevator, urging, "Come on, let's get in!" Watching the elevator door close slowly, she finally heaved a sigh of relief. However, there were other people in the elevator, one of whom kindly pressed the button to open the elevator door upon hearing the footsteps outside. As a result, she was rendered speechless.

It was Daniel standing outside the elevator. After pausing for a few seconds, he finally stepped into the elevator and greeted the two, saying, "Hi, Miss McKinney."

Still unaware of what had happened last night, Leanna nodded to him with a smile.

On the other hand, Zoe didn't even bother to be polite with him; she immediately looked away without saying a word.

At the sight of this, Daniel cleverly stood where he was without speaking.

Leanna thought that the air between him and Zoe seemed rather peculiar. What's going on with them? They'd have said hello to each other in the past no matter what.

As the elevator slowly descended, the atmosphere between the pair became increasingly awkward. The instant the elevator reached the first floor, Zoe immediately stepped outside with a scowl on her face, dragging her suitcase in one hand and Leanna by the other.

They had barely walked a few steps when Daniel's voice rang from behind as he called out to Zoe.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 334-Unwilling to talk to him, Zoe hurriedly dragged Leanna forward while keeping her head down.

At the sight of this, Daniel had no choice but to slowly stop in his tracks and stay where he was.

After leaving the neighborhood, Leanna asked, "Did something happen between the two of you... again?"

Zoe let out a sneer before telling her the whole story about the umbrella.

Leanna was utterly speechless. After a long silence, she found herself at a complete loss for words.

Zoe continued, “Now it seems to me that he’s totally out of his head. I think he’s purposely picking on me. I mean, did he really have to do this? I’d only been nice to him a couple of times when he first moved here, no? And yet he’s been holding a grudge against me since then. What the hell is wrong with him?”

Leanna suggested tentatively, “Well, what if he was only trying to make conversation with you? He probably didn’t think you’d actually go to the airport to look for the umbrella.”

Zoe replied, “Making conversation? That’s even worse! Why on earth was he trying to make conversation with me while courting Georgina? Does he think I’m the kind of person who is ready to come and go at his bidding? Well, I can compromise on this depending on how good-looking the person is, but someone like him surely isn’t up for that, no?”

Leanna touched her eyebrows. You paused for quite some time there, lady.

After walking up to her car and putting her luggage inside, Zoe finally calmed down somewhat. “Oh well, I’m not gonna argue with him over that. In any case, we’ll never have the chance to meet again

from today onward.”

Leanna really wanted to tell Zoe from her own experience that the more hastily one jumped to conclusions, the sooner they’d have to eat their words. Usually, the more you don’t want to see a person, the more often you’ll run into them.

After putting in her luggage, Zoe told the movers to just follow her car. Then, she set out for her new place while humming a tune in a cheery mood.

After a 20-minute drive, they arrived at Zoe’s new place, which wasn’t very far away since the studio was nearby. However, in order to avoid Daniel, Zoe had made sure that her new place and his were in completely opposite directions from the studio.

By the time they were done with the move, it was already well past working hours, so Leanna went straight back to Crossley Residence.

Ever since the lesson yesterday, she'd made a point of carrying all the important stuff with her before leaving her room. The things on her desk seemed to be in disarray, but she'd deliberately placed them this way. If any of these things had been moved, she'd definitely notice it at once.

She glanced around her room upon returning. Seeing that everything was normal, she produced from her bag a spy camera that she'd purposefully bought today, placing it in a corner that would allow it to capture the whole room. The camera could be controlled remotely on her cell phone. If anyone were to enter her room, she'd see whatever they did.

After getting everything done, Leanna took a shower in her bathroom. When she came out, she saw her phone vibrating on the head of the bed; Aidan's name was flashing on its screen. Sitting on the edge of her bed, she slowly answered the phone, asking in a businesslike tone, "President Pearson, what can I do for you at such a late hour?"

Aidan asked, "What are you doing?"

"I'm on a date."

Aidan was baffled. The next instant, he asked

Leanna against the head of the bed, Leanna flipped through a you where I am? I'm with a nice-looking young hunk, anyway."

Aidan asked, "How young is he?"

Picking up the note of ridicule in the man's voice, Leanna recalled the screwup last time, which checked the words on the tip of her tongue for a moment. After a long time, she finally retorted, "He's younger than you, anyway."

"Are you saying that I'm too old for your liking?"

"Of course not, President Pearson. You're such

Aidan cut her short, asking, "Are you getting jealous again?"

Leanna was lost for words for a moment. I'm not that insanely jealous as to get jealous over nothing every single day! I just wanted to take a dig at you, that's all.

Aidan replied with a chuckle, "I only have one wife."

Leanna was caught off guard by his untypically sensible reply, and her lips curved up involuntarily at the corners. After a while, she finally asked, "That news story, was it your doing?" She had had it figured out with the benefit of hindsight: Aidan might've come up with this to stop once and for all the endless blind dates arranged by his family, which had been a nuisance to him.

Aidan replied, "That photo was nice."

Leanna was speechless for a moment. "Thanks, but it's not necessary." The photo taken previously on the love lock bridge is still lying in my studio right now, she thought. After a moment's silence, she asked again, "Are you still at your office?"

"Uh-huh," Aidan mumbled, "I've got quite a bit of work to deal with these days."

"Well, in that case..." Leanna bit back the words on the we're no longer busy. She said, "Go ahead with your work then. I'm going to sleep."

Aidan said, "Is that all?"

Leanna was baffled. "Or what?"

"So many girls are calling me 'hubby.' Aren't you gonna call me that, too?"

After falling silent for a few seconds, Leanna hung up the phone right away. What a thick-skinned b*stard!

Leanna and Lloyd appeared to be in harmony during her three-day stay at Crossley Residence, but there was a fierce battle going on between them underneath that peaceful facade. Leanna had found out where Lloyd's study and bedroom were, whereas the latter had been digging into the former's past in secret, trying to find out who was behind her or to find proof that everything she'd claimed was bogus.

While both sides were battling each other in secret, The Designer Competition took place as scheduled. Upon arriving at the venue, Leanna took the seat arranged for her by the competition's organizers. Since she'd made a bit of a name for herself in the country, many instantly came to say hello to her.

She spotted Queenie across the crowd from a distance away. This was The Designer Competition, after all, so it wasn't surprising that the latter would be here to take part in it.

Soon after that, the opening ceremony formally began.

The host of the competition first extended greetings to everyone in French. Cutting right to the chase, he then introduced the rules of the competition without delay, after which his interpreter stepped forward and introduced the rules again in Chiojan.

The competition consisted of three rounds: the preliminaries, the semifinals, and the final. Anyone could take part in the preliminaries, where the organizers would assign a topic on the day before the start of the competition. Of all the designers taking part in the preliminaries, only ten would enter the semifinals, after which the organizers would assign ten topics according to the contestants' strengths and the styles they specialized in. The ten contestants had to draw lots to determine what their topic would be, but they might end up drawing a topic they weren't good at. This time, only three of them would enter the final.

Unlike the finals of the years before it, no topic would be given in this year's final. Designers had to make use of their keen intuition to find out the hidden topic in these rounds of competition and complete their work then and there, and the organizers would announce the results on the spot.

Aside from the judges, the announcement of such a rule provoked much discussion among the designers taking part in the competition. Although they were displeased with such arrangements, they could do nothing about it. Even though the competition had become more difficult, they could tell that the organizers had raised the standards of the competition.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 335-Aside from their acuity, the designers' powers of observation and ability to capture minute details would also be put to the test. This also meant that they'd be provided with an even better platform to display their talents at the end of the competition.

Leanna looked around, but as she withdrew her gaze, her eyes locked on a pair of dark, quiet eyes. Speechless, she asked in a whisper, "Why are you here?"

Aidan placed his arm on the back of her chair while cocking an eyebrow. "Didn't I tell you that the Pearson Group is hosting this year's competition?"

Leanna looked at him with a sneer. "Perhaps you were too busy with other things to tell me about it." This b*stard must've done this on purpose.

Just then, the host's voice rang again from the stage. As a last-minute change to the rules of the competition, a few of Highside's well-known socialites and heiresses were invited to be judges for the competition. The scores they gave would account for 10 out of 100 marks that each designer could receive in the competition.

Having grown up surrounded by all kinds of jewelry, these rich ladies had their own super-high standards when it came to the pursuit of jewelry.

A smile appeared on Leanna's face when she followed the host's gaze. This is great. I'm starting to suspect that the new rule was added on purpose to put a spoke in my wheel. This was because she had first spotted Georgina and Violet among the few rich ladies. So God has opened a window for me while plugging up all the ventholes. How exciting.

Aidan followed her gaze. Knowing what she was worried about, he said impassively, "Your work did earn the organizers' recognition, or they wouldn't have sent you the invitation. Even if they give you a low score out of malice, it won't have much effect on you. And besides, I'm here, no?"

Leanna kept smiling. "In that case, President Pearson, why do you think they'll give me a low score?"

Aidan replied with a nonchalant air, "Because they're envious of your beauty, perhaps?"

Leanna was rendered speechless. You're so good at making excuses for yourself, you b*stard.

The preliminary contest was scheduled for two days later, while the topic of the contest would be sent to all participants in the evening tomorrow.

After the announcement of the rules, there was a small cocktail party, where many designers busied themselves saying hello to the judges to butter them up. Even if they might come back from the competition empty-handed, it wouldn't hurt to get acquainted with these judges, who were all big names in

the jewelry industries. Therefore, nobody knew how many personal interests were intertwined underneath these seemingly polite exchanges of pleasantries.

Leanna had wanted to go home immediately, but on second thought, she thought it improper to do so, considering the invitation the organizers had sent her. Subsequently, she stood up, intending to say thank you to the organizers.

The person in charge of this year's competition was named Lewis. When Leanna found him, he was chatting with the other judges of the competition. She had barely stood before him, but before she could even speak, he turned to look in her direction and greeted her in French with a smile. "You must be McK. You look as pretty as in the photos."

Leanna was surprised that he still remembered her. After giving him a smile, she replied in French, "Thank you very much for inviting me to take part in this year's competition. I'm honored."

"Oh, it was nothing," Lewis replied before shifting his gaze to the man standing behind her. "If President Pearson hadn't shown me your work, I wouldn't have known that such an outstanding and gifted designer was almost overlooked. I'm looking forward to seeing your work this time," he said with a slight nod to Aidan.

Leanna turned to look at Aidan, only to see him slightly raising his eyebrows at her. After exchanging a few simple greetings with Lewis, she dragged Aidan aside, asking, "Was it thanks to you that I received the invitation to this year's competition?"

Aidan casually picked up two glasses of champagne before handing one of them to her. "All I did was show him your work. It was his decision to invite you to the competition."

Even though he didn't say much about it, Leanna knew that Aidan actually blamed himself for her losing her title as winner of the Emerging Designer Competition. Otherwise, he wouldn't have tried to make it up to her indirectly on the excuse of supporting Lux Jewelry while she was still working at the company, though everyone—including her—had thought at the time that he was doing so for Mia's sake. After pondering for a moment, she asked tentatively, "Don't tell me this is your third wedding anniversary gift to me?"

Aidan let out a soft chuckle. Throwing his head back, he downed the champagne in his glass and slowly replied, "Of course not." Then, after pausing for a moment, he looked at her again, raising his eyebrows for a moment with a burning, intense look in his seductive black eyes. "Are you looking forward to it?"

As if she'd been burned by his gaze, Leanna quickly looked away and coughed. "N-Not really. I'm just curious." You said it yourself that you'd make it up to me with a gift for each year of our marriage. Now I've received the gifts for the first and second year, but the third one is long-overdue, no?

Aidan said to her, "There's no hurry. I'm still in the process of getting it ready. It'll be a gift that you absolutely love."

Leanna was unconvinced, though. "How much would I love it?"

Aidan bent down and whispered a few words in her ear.

Leanna blushed crimson at once. Subconsciously, she covered his thin lips with her hand, saying, "Shut up!" What the hell is he doing in public?!

The corner of Aidan's thin lips turned up for a moment as he gently kissed the palm of her hand.

Leanna's face turned even redder. She quickly retracted her hand, feeling numb in her entire arm.

Just then, Harvey approached them with a wine glass in his hand. "Hi, President Pearson and McK."

Leanna hadn't seen Harvey for a long time since her departure from Lux Jewelry. After waving to him, she greeted him with a smile, saying, "It's been a while, Mr. Mancini."

Aidan was especially displeased with the smile on her face. He'd seen such a smile on her face many times when she faced Zayn, Elijah, Harvey, and many others, but he'd rarely seen her smiling at him. Thus, before Harvey could even speak, he quietly turned sideways and stepped in front of her, blocking the former's gaze.

Harvey was puzzled by his behavior.

Leanna noticed Aidan's behavior, too. She put down her glass of champagne, taking the opportunity to distance herself from him before proceeding to chat with Harvey. Look how petty this b*stard is. He keeps accusing me of being jealous, but look who's the jealous one here.

Aidan's thin lips pressed together in displeasure. Just then, however, Jonathan came over and said to him, "President Pearson, Lewis would like to discuss with you again the arrangements post the competition."

"Uh-huh," Aidan mumbled before shifting his gaze toward Leanna. "Wait for me here."

As soon as he left, Harvey's face grew grave. "Queenie has also taken part in this competition. Do you know that?"

Leanna nodded slightly. "I saw her just now."

Harvey whispered to her, "I just learned that one of the judges of this year's competition is her mentor."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 336-Although Queenie had told the public that she had voluntarily resigned from Lux Jewelry, everyone knew full well what she had really done. However, Leanna had dropped the lawsuit and stopped holding her accountable at the time, while Lux Jewelry parted with her on good terms without revealing too much about her wrongdoings since they'd had a nice time working together. After leaving Lux Jewelry, she'd kept out of sight for some time. However, given what she'd done before, there was no guarantee that she wouldn't make trouble in this time's competition.

After hearing Harvey's words, Leanna pursed her lips for a moment. Then, she said, "I'll be careful."

Harvey had come to remind her this time. After chatting with her for a bit, he excused himself and left.

Leanna stood in place for a while before checking the time. Why isn't that b*stard back yet? Just when she wanted to go out to wait for him, there came the person she and Harvey had just talked about.

Queenie was no longer as cocky and scornful as she had been in front of Leanna in the past, but she didn't look very pleased either. She said nonchalantly, "At last, we're meeting at the competition. This time, I'll let you

know what a real designer is like, unlike those who have to rely on their backdoor connections to get to where they are today.”

The instant she came over, Leanna knew nothing good would come out of her mouth. She replied with a smile, “Okay. I’ll also show you the skills of The Designer Competition’s real winner.”

Queenie’s face changed color at Leanna’s words. Despite her unwillingness to admit it, she could never change the fact that she had taken the latter’s place and gone to Aeras as the first prize winner of the Emerging Designer Competition back then.

Just then, an unfamiliar man’s sardonic voice rang behind Leanna. “What a bold statement, eh?”

Leanna looked back; the speaker just now was a mixed-race middle-aged man wearing gold-rimmed glasses. At the sight of him, Queenie instantly dropped her head as if she’d been hard done by. Seems like he’s Queenie’s mentor, thought Leanna to herself.

Robert Debauche eyed Leanna frostily. “McK, huh? I’ve seen your previous works. Well, you’re gifted indeed, but there are many more designers in the world who are more talented than you. I’d say you’d better humble yourself.”

Leanna replied unemotionally, “That depends on who I’m humbling myself to. Why should I humble myself to someone unworthy of respect?”

“Do you mean I’m also not worth your respect?”

Leanna wasn’t afraid of offending Robert and Queenie at this very moment. In any case, there was already beef between them. Even if she turned the other cheek today, they wouldn’t refrain from trying to undermine her because of it. So, she replied, “You’re a senior in the design industry, so I should treat you with respect. That being said, don’t you think you should watch your words and actions as a senior?” With that, she gave them a smile, ignoring their response as she turned and left.

Robert looked at her from behind with a frown of displeasure. He said to Queenie, “Why would you lose to such a person? Did I spend the past three years mentoring you for nothing?”

Queenie replied in a whisper, “Mr. Debauche, as

Robert let out a sneer. "Don't worry; the first place in this year's Designer Competition is definitely yours. The rules of this year's competition have been made public, so I don't believe she can still rely on somebody's backing to do whatever she wants," he said before giving her a backward glance full of grumpiness and impatience. "Don't make me look bad again!"

Queenie secretly clenched her teeth while balling her fists. "I won't."

Meanwhile, Leanna stood by the steps after leaving the venue. Just when she took out her phone to call Aidan, she heard the man's voice asking, "Why did you come out? Didn't I tell you to wait for me inside?"

Leanna put her phone away before turning to look at him. "I've got to go back. I still have work to do at my studio."

Aidan replied, "I'll send you back."

It'd been several days since they last saw each other, so Leanna didn't turn him down. She merely asked, "What about my car, then?"

Aidan shot a backward glance at Jonathan, who immediately took the cue. McKinney." Ha! Another little game between lovebirds. How boring.

The couple had set out in Aidan's car for a while when Leanna realized that they weren't heading back to her studio. She instantly turned to look at him, asking, "Where are we going?"

"Lunch."

Leanna couldn't help but curl her lips. This b*stard probably skipped his lunch again. She asked, "Have you got a lot of work to do at the Pearson Group lately?"

Aidan raised an eyebrow. "Not really."

"Then why did you skip your meal again?"

"I didn't feel like eating it. The meal wasn't as delicious as the ones you made."

Leanna was lost for words, though she couldn't help blushing for a moment. After falling silent for a long time, she finally asked, "President Pearson, have you... joined some workshop lately?"

Aidan asked, "What?"

"I mean... the kind that teaches one how to say pickup lines," Leanna explained. After a moment's pause, she added, "If you really have joined one, you'd better quit it instead of wasting your money. If you can't do that, I can give you two barrels of oil instead."

Aidan was puzzled. What does she mean by that?

...

Aidan drove Leanna back to her studio after lunch before leaving. It was true that he'd been busy with work at the Pearson Group lately. Otherwise, he wouldn't have not come to her for quite a few days.

Even though the b*stard had left, Leanna didn't have an easy time either. Not only that, but she paid very dearly for her thoughtless remark in the car just now.

As soon as she arrived at the studio, Zoe came over and gave her her car keys. Making faces at the former, she asked, "Where did you go on a date this time? You even let that lowlife's assistant drive your car back here."

Leanna avoided her gaze. She hemmed and hawed, saying, "H-How could I have time for a date? I-I just had lunch with him, that's all..." As she spoke, she tried to make a beeline for her office.

However, Zoe noticed something with her sharp eyes. "What's the matter with your lower lip? It's hurt."

Leanna was lost for words. That b*stard! Not only is my lip hurt, but I'm feeling a dull ache... up there. She replied vaguely, "I accidentally bit into my lip during lunch. Uh, I have two design drafts to work on this afternoon, so I can't chat with you anymore. I gotta go!" With that, she hurriedly fled.

After returning to her office, she didn't have time to think about the competition either. She had to finish the work at hand first in order to have enough time to make preparations for the competition next.

She returned to Crossley Residence that evening and was going upstairs when Lloyd stopped her. He took the initiative to speak to her, which was

pretty rare. “Leanna, I’ve heard from Gina that you’re taking part in The Designer Competition, no?”

Leanna knew nothing good would come out of his sudden care for her. She replied with a faint smile, “Yeah, I am.”

Lloyd said, “I’ve seen your design before. I’m sure you’ll win a prize in this time’s competition.”

“Thanks.”

Just as Leanna was about to go upstairs, Lloyd said, “If you have time tomorrow, can you go somewhere with me?” Then, without waiting for her reply, he continued, “In any case, you should go there and take a look.” The first part of his sentence sounded like a request, but the second part of it made it clear that he was pressuring her.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 337-Since he’d said so already, Leanna didn’t turn him down. She merely said, “Okay.” After a moment’s pause, she asked, “At what time tomorrow?”

Lloyd replied, “I have to go to my office tomorrow morning, so I’ll pick you up when I’m done. By the way, I’ve never been to your studio before.”

Leanna’s brows furrowed unnoticeably when she heard him mention her studio. Is he threatening me by saying that?

Lloyd stood up. “That’s decided, then. I’m going back to my room first.”

Leanna nodded slightly and waited until he had left before going upstairs. Well, even if that’s a threat, I’ve got no choice but to go along with the situation. Lloyd has never been to my studio before, but it’s not like he doesn’t know where it is.

She was somewhat unable to sleep that night. Not knowing where Lloyd would take her, she couldn’t help having a bad feeling about it.

At 11:00AM the next day, Lloyd showed up at the door to Leanna’s studio as he had promised to. As soon as she came out, he asked, “Can I go in to take a look?” He asked the question in a manner that brooked no refusal.

Leanna replied flatly, "Sure. I'm honored to have you grace the studio with your presence, Mr. Crossley."

Lloyd then stepped into the studio. After looking around the place, he stopped in front of Leanna's office. "And this is?"

Leanna answered, "This is where I usually work."

Lloyd nodded slightly, but he didn't insist on entering her office to take a look. He glanced at his watch, saying, "It's about time. Let's go."

Before leaving the studio, Leanna shot a glance at Zoe to signal her to go out, to which the latter responded by giving her an "OK" sign.

After they left, the few young ladies at the studio immediately gathered around Zoe. One of them asked, "Zoe, who was the man just now? He seemed so rich and refined. Could he be Leanna's father?"

Zoe curled her lips. "Perhaps he was just good at pretending."

The lady said, "Wait, I think he's come to our studio before... No, no, no, it wasn't him, I had the same air about him as that person did. I can't remember who that person was, though."

Hearing the lady's words, Zoe turned to look at her in puzzlement. "The same air?"

The lady replied, "Yeah, I just feel that he and that person had a similar air about them and looked about the same age. But who on earth was that?" She racked her brains, unable to remember who the other man was that had the same air about him as Lloyd and had come to the studio before.

However, Zoe was preoccupied with Leanna's safety at the moment, so she didn't take the lady's words seriously. Instead, she was merely pondering what to do.

Just when she fished out her phone and was about to text Aidan, a familiar figure appeared at the studio. At the sight of him, the lady who'd been scratching her head just now instantly goggled her eyes and whispered to Zoe in a muffled scream, "What a handsome guy!"

“Huh? A handsome guy? Where is he?” Zoe immediately followed the lady’s gaze, only for her joy to disappear from her face at once. She was utterly speechless. Why wouldn’t he go away?

Daniel walked up to her before he raised his hand to his lips and hemmed. “Ahem, can I talk to you for a second?”

Zoe wondered what he was up to. Why don’t I simply make things clear to him once and for all? It’s annoying for him to keep pestering me like this. She nodded before going outside with him. Then, taking a deep breath, she said, “You don’t have to come to me anymore. Well, I admit that I had a crush on you before, but who doesn’t like handsome guys, anyway? I just lusted after you for a moment, that’s all. There are so many handsome guys in the world, so it’s not like I can’t do without you. I’ve totally gotten over you now, so you don’t have to come to me again and again and think of me as your rebound. I’m not—”

Daniel interrupted her in a slow voice, asking, “Could you have misunderstood something?”

Zoe stopped while looking at him expressionlessly.

Daniel paused for a moment before explaining, “I’m here to ask you about Miss McKinney.”

Zoe stayed calm. “Oh.” Sh*t, I’ve slipped up big-time!

Daniel then asked, “Is she taking part in The Designer Competition for certain?”

Zoe replied, “Isn’t that a matter of course?”

Daniel fell silent for a moment. Then, he said, “I got it. Well, then, I gotta go.”

Zoe was baffled. Is there something wrong with this guy? Why would he come here purposely just to ask such a meaningless and skill-less question?

After walking a few steps, Daniel asked, “By the

Zoe’s eyelids twitched. “She’s gone out.”

“With who? President Pearson?”

“Your girlfriend-to-be’s father said he wanted to take her somewhere.”

Daniel’s face grew grave at her words. The next instant, he nodded and left quickly.

Zoe couldn’t help but let out a snort. Reacting that much on hearing about Georgina, eh? Seems like he wasn’t lying; he really came to look for Leanna. Jeez, I got delusional about him having feelings for me again.

...

It was a long drive before the car eventually pulled up in front of a cemetery. After Lloyd stepped out of the car, the chauffeur immediately handed him a bouquet of flowers from the back seat, which he took before going straight inside without saying a word.

Leanna roughly figured out where they were going as she followed him from behind.

Finally, the man stopped before a tombstone. He bent down and laid the flowers in front of it, saying, “Since you say that Sandra is your mother, you should come here and pay your respects.”

Leanna laughed at his words, though. “Mr. Crossley, it’s wrong of you to say that.”

Lloyd turned to look at her without so much as a change in his expression. “Oh?”

Leanna replied, “As I said, my mom passed away after giving birth to my brother, which means that the person lying here isn’t my mother, nor does she have anything to do with me.”

Lloyd asked, “In that case, where was your mother buried? Judging from what you said, I should go visit her, too.”

Leanna pressed her lips together in silence. Mr. Jackson had asked her the same question before, but he had done so out of genuine concern, unlike Lloyd, who was merely trying to sound her out.

She didn’t know where her mother was buried. Aside from the fact that she had no memory of the latter, Jethro had never taken her and Louis to visit her

grave since they were little. In other words, Jethro might be the only person on earth who knew where her mother's grave was.

Lloyd seemed to have expected her to be lost for an answer. He merely said, "If you don't know where she was buried, here's at least a tombstone erected for her. It's only reasonable that you should pay your respects to it."

Leanna didn't want to do so, though. She didn't even know who was lying here in the name of her mother. Furthermore, according to what was known to the public, Leroy had caused the death of her family after purposely setting Lloyd up back then, though they guessed that Leroy had actually survived by posing as Lloyd, causing her mother to run away with her. Therefore, if her guess was correct, the person lying beneath the tombstone might be the wife of the actual Leroy. I'd never pay my respects to an enemy, she thought to herself.

Lloyd asked impassively, "What's the matter? Didn't you say that Sandra is your mother? Why are you unwilling to pay your respects to her now?"

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 338-It suddenly occurred to Leanna that Lloyd had brought her here on purpose. He simply had two purposes in doing so: aside from wanting to take the opportunity to find out where her mother was actually buried, he also wanted to make her kneel before his wife at this very moment. If she refused to do so, he'd have an excuse to accuse her of being unfilial, which would no doubt give him an excuse that she had an ax to grind in moving into Crossley Residence. Never mind, the big picture has to be put above everything else. The more I want to find out more information, the more I can't slip up and get kicked out of Crossley Residence by Lloyd at such a time. I'll kneel as he says. It's not a big deal, anyway; I've even called Jethro "Dad" so many times before.

She was just about to get down on her knees when a voice rang beside them. "Hi, Mr. Crossley and Miss McKinney."

Lloyd and Leanna simultaneously turned to look at the speaker; both of them were surprised to see William here.

Also holding a bouquet of flowers in his hands, William smiled at them, asking, "Are both of you here to visit someone, too?"

Lloyd was obviously displeased at the man's interruption, but he maintained his expression. "What about you, Mr. Morris?"

William replied, "I'm here to visit an old friend, but I didn't expect to meet both of you in such a coincidence." As he spoke, he darted a glance toward the tombstone in front of Leanna, his gaze falling upon the woman's smiling face. "May I ask who she is?"

Lloyd withdrew his gaze. "She's my late wife."

"Oh, I see. Pardon me for asking."

Lloyd replied with a wave of his hand, "Please go ahead with what you were doing, Mr. Morris."

William nodded. After giving Leanna a nod, he proceeded to walk on.

He had barely walked a few steps when Lloyd's subordinate, who'd been waiting outside the cemetery, hurried over and whispered something in Lloyd's ear, causing the latter's face to darken at once. Turning to look at Leanna, the latter opened his mouth, but his words suddenly took a different direction. "I've got something to deal with, so I gotta go. Why don't you stay here and keep her company?" he said to Leanna before striding off. As he reached the cemetery's entrance, he took a backward glance and ordered his subordinate, "Keep an eye on them."

Leanna stood there, getting lost in thought while staring at the photo on the tombstone. After a long time, William's voice reached her ears again. "Miss McKinney."

Leanna collected herself at once. "Mr. Morris."

William nodded with a smile before turning to look at the tombstone. Nobody knew what he was thinking, but after a long time, he finally said, "You look very much like your mother, Miss McKinney."

Leanna replied, "I can't remember what she looked like. Whenever I see a picture of her, I feel like I can vaguely recall something, but I can't grasp it at all. It's as if I were in a dream." It was precisely because of this that whenever she looked at the photos of her mother, she felt as though she were looking at the photos of a stranger.

William replied, "You'll remember her someday."

Leanna dropped her gaze for a moment. After composing herself, she looked up again, asking, "Are you done visiting your friend, Mr. Morris?"

William replied, "Yeah, I am. Speaking of it, it's a coincidence that my late friend and Mrs. Crossley are laid to rest in the same cemetery. If I'd known that Mrs. Crossley was also buried here, I'd have come to pay my respects long ago."

Leanna smiled a faint smile. "It's not necessary to go to such trouble. God knows who is buried in here?"

At this, William looked at her and pursed his lips without saying a word. Finally, he asked, "Miss McKinney, are you leaving?"

Leanna nodded. "Okay."

They left the cemetery together, but as soon as William asked if Leanna needed to get a ride from him, Lloyd's subordinate came over and said to her, "Miss McKinney, the car's waiting right there."

Seems like Lloyd is still a good enough actor by not leaving me thought Leanna. She said to William, "Well, Mr. Morris, I gotta go first."

"See you again," replied William.

Leanna had the chauffeur drive her back to her studio right away. After seeing her off, Lloyd's subordinate immediately returned to Crossley Residence.

Sitting in his study, Lloyd asked with a frosty expression, "What did they talk about?"

His subordinate recounted the conversation he'd overheard at the cemetery.

Lloyd turned the conversation over in his mind with a frown. Their conversation sounds normal; it doesn't sound like there's anything peculiar.

His subordinate asked, "Mr. Crossley, are you suspecting that Leanna was sent by William?"

Lloyd replied, "There's no reason for her to suddenly learn about what happened in the past. And besides, she sounds like she's certain of who I am."

“Then why do you still—”

Lloyd explained, “Things will only get even more troublesome if they escalate at this point.” He narrowed his eyes. “And besides, she’s still got Aidan behind her.” Most importantly, he knew full well that it’d be a devastating blow to the Crossley Group if more confidential information about the company was leaked. It would no longer be an issue that could be solved by scapegoating two of the company’s top executives. Leanna is the best candidate for this in the first place. Since she came to me on her own, she can’t blame me for doing this.

However, his subordinate argued, “But the background check on William showed nothing wrong. Mr. Crossley, why don’t you—”

“That’s the point—that we didn’t find anything wrong about him.” Lloyd let out a sneer. “How could a businessman with a company this large have nothing dirty up his sleeve? Even Aidan has crippled God knows how much of Old Mr. Pearson’s power while battling against the Pearsons both openly and covertly over so many years. William, on the other hand, is Chiojan by birth. Do you think it’s possible that he achieved his present status with no backing behind him?”

He agreed to this time’s collaboration because, for one thing, he was interested in the strength of William’s company. For another thing, he also wanted those who were watching him to know that everything was normal at the Crossley Group and that the projects were still running. And besides, he wanted to sound out William’s motives. After a while, he added, “Go find out about the friend whose grave he visited today. Find out who the person is or if the person even exists.”

“Roger that, Mr. Crossley,” his subordinate replied before leaving.

As the door to the study was closed again, Lloyd took the pocket watch out of the drawer with his face showing a hint of cold ferocity. I’ve managed to get through such a dangerous night. How can I so easily let those with evil intentions take away from me everything that I’ve worked so hard to own today?

...

That evening, Leanna received an email from The Designer Competition’s organizers, who announced the topic for this time’s competition. It was

'Confession of Love,' and contestants were required to produce a piece of jewelry that had a simple, straightforward design while being as touchingly romantic as a love confession.

In reality, the topic wasn't a difficult one, since it mostly depended on the designer's own understanding of the topic and how they gave play to their imagination.

The competition would last for a week. In addition to drawing the final product, designers also had to produce the actual product and have both the finished product and their drawings delivered a week later at 7:00PM sharp to the venue specified by the organizers. Early or late submissions were strictly prohibited. Considering the time it'd take to produce the finished product, there actually wasn't much time left for them.

Preoccupied with what had happened at the cemetery this afternoon, Leanna couldn't focus her mind to think about her design at all, nor did she have any inspiration for it. She looked up and rubbed her eyes, only to notice that it was already dark and raining outside without her realizing. Perhaps due to an early-spring cold spell, the weather had gotten a lot colder again these days.

She rose from her chair and took her glass to pour herself something to drink.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 339-Aidan was busy with his work on the couch in the studio. Leanna joined him after pouring herself a glass of water before she said, "This is already like a second office to you, President Pearson. Perhaps you should just move your things in here as well."

"Should I?" he asked with his brows raised. "I'm kidding," came the response after a momentary pause. Then, he closed the file in front of him and turned his gaze at her. "How long until you're done?" "Not sure," she answered, pursing her lips slightly. As inspiration hadn't struck her yet, there was a possibility that she might need to spend the night in the studio instead of going home tonight. Coming into a few assumptions upon noticing the sadness on her face, he then asked, "Have you received the theme of the competition?" Sitting on a single-seater couch beside him, Leanna only grunted a response akin to a 'yes.' "What is it?" "Shouldn't the president know about it?" She turned to him. Aidan frowned. "Pearson Group is only the organizer of the competition. Why would I need to care about these trivial matters? Even if I did want to know about it, that would only be a scandal waiting to happen. By then, you would be affected as well." Since Queenie had already declared that she had come to this point in her life all for Aidan, it went

to show that there were others who shared the same sentiment even if they didn't voice them out loud.

Hence, should he have known about the theme in advance, the people would start rumors of their own even if he hadn't said anything to Leanna. Looks like this b*stard here is quite attentive this time, Leanna thought with her lips twitching. Seemingly waiting for Leanna to answer, Aidan rested his arm on the back of the couch as he loosened his tie. Then, she said slowly, "Confession of Love." As his eyebrows raised slightly, he gave off a look that seemingly showed that he didn't understand what she just said.

"That is the theme for this competition," she continued. "Then, why are you so stressed out?" Without waiting for been confessed to before?" Puzzled, she was stunned into silence. With a slight movement, he leaned over in front of her and said deliberately, "Haven't you received many confessions before?" Feeling an inexplicable sense of guilt from how he was staring at her, she retorted, "I-It's not like you have had any less yourself. Unless you're saying that it's true?" Upon that, she was immediately afflicted with regrets, as she not only felt that their conversation was becoming more like an argument between elementary school children, but also like an argument to show who felt more jealous of the other. No longer wanting to continue the conversation, she got up and left for the office with her ears reddened. "I have to continue thinking about the design. If there's nothing else, you should head back, President Pearson."

He held her wrist before he said unhurriedly, "What's the rush? It's not like you have any inspirations, right?" Looks like he found out. "After all, if you did have some sort of inspiration, you wouldn't be so grumpy right now." Leanna took a deep breath before she replied with an "Oh." Sounds about right. It's because I'm lacking inspiration that I can't help but feel slightly annoyed. "I know what your problem is," he continued. At his words, she looked at him with a curious expression, as though she was curious to hear just what sort of nonsense he would say. Then, he continued casually, "Although you're a designer, you didn't even bother to properly contemplate the theme. How will you be inspired if that is the case? Wasn't it because you've had a personal experience that you've managed to come up with 'First Love' back then?" Leanna frowned. She couldn't comprehend just why she felt that there was some truth to what he just said. "Hence, if you want to find inspiration for the theme, then you should try target of the confession, I guess I can take up the role, albeit reluctantly." Immediately, she became speechless with the man. She had thought that he was going to impart a grand wisdom that could help her out, but instead, it all came to this in the end. She was about to retort but

managed to hold her tongue as she realized that she indeed hadn't had the experience of confessing to someone else before.

Although she and Zack both liked each other, no one took the step of confessing to the other, so their relationship only remained as close friends. There wasn't even the need to mention how it went with Aidan. Even though he had been spewing innuendoes one after the other, he had never properly confessed his love for her. Looking back, it felt as though the concept of confession was alien to Leanna. The way she saw it, it was only when one possessed youthful ignorance, only held one person so dearly in their heart, the ideal age, and the appropriate atmosphere, would they make a confession of love. She couldn't seem to imagine the scene of confession, regardless if it was Aidan confessing to her or it was her confessing to Aidan, as it just felt wrong to her. She couldn't fathom why she felt as though once one had reached a certain age, one would gradually stop expressing their love verbally to another person.

Are confessions only something you do at the beginning of relationships? No. On the contrary, it's something that has its place in relationships of those who are madly in love. Suddenly, inspiration struck Leanna, so she broke away from Aidan's hand and said, "I'm going to get busy now. You should head back home first." Looking at his hand currently grasping As soon as she entered her office, Leanna went into a complete immersion as she started drawing up a draft at a fast pace. When she was done, she stretched her back and noticed that it was two past midnight. Since she didn't feel like going home when she was feeling the inspiration, she decided to simply put together the final design. Just as she stretched her neck and was about to continue working, she heard a knock at the door with a voice saying, "Come and have something to eat." She was surprised that Aidan hadn't left yet. Taking two steps toward the door, she opened it to find the man outside. "President Pearson, why are you..."

With one hand in his pocket, he replied, "I can't sleep alone." Her eyelids twitched as she was overcome with a heavy warning to not continue this line of conversation, so she just walked past him to find there were a number of dishes on the table. It was then that it occurred to her that she had skipped dinner. She walked over before she sat on the couch and couldn't help drooling slightly at the sight of the delicious-looking dishes. Taking a glance at the insulated container on the table, she said in surprise, "There's even soup?" "It's your favorite, right?" he said while taking a seat beside her. At a closer look, she noticed that it was a fish stew infused with cilantro. "Did Alice prepare this?" Saying that, she took a sip, but couldn't help frowning upon

tasting it. Aidan asked, "What's wrong?" "This taste is..." She took another sip before she turned to him with a look of uncertainty. "Are you sure Alice made this?" "Who else?" "I feel like Ms. Fletcher's the one who made this." "Is that so?" Aidan took the spoon from her hand and took a sip. "It tastes the same to me. Isn't it all the same if it uses the same ingredients?" Leanna remarked, "Would you be able to make this if I gave you the exact ingredients?" He stayed silent at her question. Nevertheless, she felt that there was some substance to his words. Back at the Castor Villa, she had discussed Naomi's cooking method with Alice and concluded that the fragrance of the soup was further

enhanced with the addition of the cilantro. Maybe I am overthinking it.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 340-When Leanna was done with her meal, she felt comfortable, a feeling that she seemed to have missed for the past couple of days.

Noticing that, Aidan asked, "Are the Crossleys not feeding you properly?"

Nestled on the couch, she replied, "I'm reluctant to eat with them. I'm afraid that I'll end up with an upset stomach instead." During her stay with the Crossley Family over the past few days, her schedule was basically coming into the office to have a meal in the morning and taking another meal in the evening before going back. It was already hard enough for her to stay with them under the same roof, let alone share the same table to have meals with them. To her, it was worse than death by a thousand cuts. Sighing as she mulled over these thoughts, she then said, "Alice's cooking is really good. It's so much more delicious than take-outs."

"You'll be able to have them every day once you move back in with me," he said casually.

Leanna cleared her throat as she knew just what the man was insinuating. As she didn't want to continue with that line of the conversation, she said, "By the way, Lloyd brought me to the cemetery to pay respects to his wife today."

"Did you?"

"Nope, but guess who I bumped into there."

"Who?"

“William Morris. It’s quite a coincidence, isn’t it? He has a friend who is also buried there.”

“It is,” Aidan replied indifferently.

“Actually, I feel that William is a mysterious man.” After a brief moment of thought, she then continued, “Since he’s a businessman, he should be well aware of what’s going on with the Crossley Group. Yet, he still chose to collaborate with them at such a time. Either he plans to use Crossley Group as a stepping stone and use this short period of collaboration as an opportunity to expand his business, or...”

Aidan’s eyes grew darker as he stared at her. “Or what?”

“Nothing.” She shook her head. She suddenly had a thought that William specifically came after Lloyd. Not only that, but she felt an inkling that the former might even have something to do with Daniel. Very quickly, however, she thought the idea seemed ridiculous.

Just as she was slowly drowning in her thoughts, Aidan flicked her forehead with his finger and said, “You should finish your work before starting to worry about someone else.”

She rubbed her forehead while looking at him with dissatisfaction. Then, she ordered him off the studio. “You should go now!”

“Are you still planning to continue?”

“Yeah. Haven’t I told you before? I would often work without sleep when inspiration strikes.”

“Is inspiration more important than your life?”

Before she could retort, she was pulled into Aidan’s arms. Resting his chin on her head, he whispered, “Don’t move. Stay with me and sleep for a while.” There were heavy signs of exhaustion in his tone.

Forget it, she thought as she pursed her lips. Since she was done with the draft, the finalized design would be much better. Perhaps she was full from her meal, she was gradually overcome with

sleepiness as she yawned and slowly closed her eyes. Just as she was about to fall asleep, Aidan said, "If you have nothing to do in the coming two days, try probing Lloyd's intentions."

Since she thought he was going to say something important, she sobered up and asked, "What intentions?"

"What are the chances of me moving into the Crossley Residence to stay with you," he answered slowly.

At this juncture, Leanna really wanted to pry open the man's brain just to have a look at what went on in his mind. She pushed the man away and said, "I think the chances of you getting killed are higher. You can try it if you don't believe me, President Pearson."

"That bad?"

"Obviously. Did you think that Lloyd would welcome you into their home by fetching you over there in a luxury car?"

He looked at her with his eyebrows slightly raised. "Then, when do you allow me to welcome you into my home with a luxury car?"

Leanna could only stay silent as he touched her sore spot. In the end, she closed her eyes and said, "Go to sleep." At that, Aidan became silent. Amidst her drowsiness, she only felt the warm embrace by her waist as she drifted into a sweet dream.

...

The next morning, Zoe came to the studio door to find several ladies there, clearly hesitating in entering the studio. "What's wrong? Did you all forget your keys?" Saying that, she was about to open the door

when one of the ladies tugged her hand and gestured for her to be quiet before directing her gaze at what was inside the studio with her finger.

Upon looking over, she widened her eyes in shock. What is with this situation? She cleared her throat and gestured for the ladies to go away before saying, "I'm sure all of you haven't had your breakfast this early, right? Go and have them. It'll be my treat. It doesn't matter what's on the menu as long as you bring one set back for me."

When the ladies left, Zoe quickly took her phone out and called Leanna. However, the latter had left her phone on mute in the office. Have they never slept before in their lifetime? How are they so deep in their sleep? Putting her hands on the window, she knocked on it.

When Leanna woke up, she felt some pain in her neck and thought to herself that she wouldn't have slept there if she knew this was going to happen. As soon as she raised her head, she happened to meet Zoe's glittering eyes. After a few seconds of silence exchanged between them, she realized the situation she was in, so she quickly stood up from the couch with a scuffle, which woke Aidan up.

Seeing that they were awake, Zoe went away with her head hung so as to not make Leanna feel even more embarrassed. And so, the chaotic event this morning ended with Aidan's departure.

Noticing the glittering eyes of the ladies, Leanna was so overcome with regrets that she felt her stomach getting upset. Nonetheless, she hadn't expected Lloyd had given her a call as he was concerned that she still hadn't returned home last night. When she ended the call, Zoe came in and clicked her tongue. "Looks like that man is really good at putting up an act. As expected of Georgina's father."

Leanna smiled faintly. "Is something the matter?"

Zoe placed a pile of drawings in front of her. "These are the sample drawings of the trinkets in the studio. Take a look and see if there are any problems with them. I'll go ahead and have the factory start manufacturing them if there aren't."

After briefly going over them, Leanna replied, "No problems. Oh, right. I sent the factory a customer's customized drawing two days ago. It should be done by now, so can you grab them for me while you're at it?"

"Sure," Zoe answered. Then, she suddenly added, "I almost forgot, Daniel came to look for you yesterday."

Leanna was puzzled. "He came to look for me? Did he say anything?"

Zoe couldn't help curling her lips as she remembered yesterday's incident. "He started spouting some sort of nonsense at first before I told him that Georgina's father had taken you somewhere out. He suddenly grew nervous

at that as though he was afraid that no one knew that he was his future father-in-law.”

That meant Daniel knew that I was with Lloyd? The brief thought she had last night resurfaced in her mind.

Seeing that Leanna was lost in her thoughts, Zoe waved her hands in front of her and asked, “Nana, what are you thinking about?”