

## Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 381-390

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 381-Robert gave Daphne a once-over before he shifted his gaze toward Leanna. Then, his facial expression shifted into one of derision as he mocked, “Oh, what’s the matter? Are you guys having a celebratory dinner here too?”

Leanna just nodded slightly out of courtesy and basic respect.

However, Robert’s attitude only worsened as he snorted disdainfully, “That makes sense too. After all, you probably will never be the winner in this life, so you might as well celebrate getting second place now. Otherwise, who knows if you’ll even come close to even earning a spot next time.”

Unlike Leanna, who had to keep her tongue in check due to reasons that she would love to kick to the curb but couldn’t, Daphne didn’t have such problems. So, she didn’t hesitate to put the pompous little man in his place as she crossed her arms in front of her chest and retorted, “Who the hell let this weird and crazy foreigner out of captivity? Excuse me. Are you not ashamed to be barking at us with your not-so-fluent Chiojan? Didn’t your Chiojan teacher teach you how to speak the language properly?”

Robert shifted his attention from Leanna to Daphne at her insult. His facial expression had gotten a little cold as he sized her up. Daphne Shirley—she’s no stranger to me, considering her face is in the posters of advertising endorsements all over the major shopping malls. As far as I know, she even endorses quite some luxury brands.

Queenie immediately chose this opportunity to butt in, “Miss Shirley, you don’t need to attack Mr. Debauche like this verbally, do you?”

When Daphne heard Queenie’s voice, she turned her attention to Queenie and inquired lightly, “And you are?”

At once, Queenie’s facial expression stiffened at Daphne’s slight. Then, just as she was about to answer, Daphne added, “Never mind. I’m not interested in getting to know you either. You’re just a nobody to me. Besides, how could you say that I was verbally attacking this guy? I was clearly reprimanding some disrespectful seniors that clearly enjoy taking advantage of their qualifications and have some issues with their speech. But I can’t help it if you want to assume that I was referring to you.”

Queenie was infuriated by Daphne's remarks. "You—"

Finally, Leanna couldn't bear to see her friend being attacked from all sides as she looked at Robert and said flatly, "I respect you and tolerate your brashness the best I can because you're a senior. However, I'm also quite grateful to you for letting me understand the principle behind the saying, 'people make the government'. Indeed... some students do naturally take up their teacher's traits, don't they? It matters not to me that I have lost the competition today. Still, I do hope you two can show this same offensive behavior as you have now when you two compete in the actual international competition later."

After she finished saying those words, she tugged on Daphne's hand and left hand-in-hand.

When they got to the bathroom, Daphne asked, "Why did we leave? Why did you drag me away? I wasn't finished with them."

Leanna glanced at Daphne and replied, "It's useless to talk to people like them." Her father's corpse is still waiting to be picked up in the mortuary, yet Queenie is still here throwing a gala. Come to think of it. It's somewhat ironic, isn't it?

After she washed her hands, she turned her head and asked, "What's up with you and Louis? Did you two fight?"

Daphne was perplexed by her questions. She was stunned for a while before she answered, "No, we didn't."

"Why is the atmosphere between the both of you so awkward then?"

Daphne didn't react. Instead, she smiled as she said, "Well, I don't know him very well. So, it's normal for us to have an awkward relationship, is it not?"

However, Leanna didn't buy it. Therefore, she pressed for answers and asked, "But aren't you two filming in the same production?"

"Yeah, that's true, but we don't have many scenes together. Plus, we're mostly in different crews. So, we don't interact much with each other," explained Daphne. After she finished washing her hands, she took out a piece of tissue paper. As she wiped her hands, she continued, "Don't tell me that you actually think Louis and I are close like friends."

Although Leanna didn't know about the situation on Daphne's side, she was aware of what was happening on Louis' side.

So, she stopped probing for questions as she curled her lips upward into a smile and thanked Daphne, "Regardless, thank you for taking care of Louis during this period."

"You're welcome. It's what I should do." Daphne threw the crumpled napkin away. "By the way, did he tell you anything about the thing that came up?"

Leanna was puzzled by the sudden topic change, "What thing?"

When Daphne saw that Leanna didn't seem to know anything, she swallowed the words that she was about to blurt out and swiftly changed the topic again. "Never mind. It's none of my business. Maybe he'll find a chance to tell you about it himself."

Just like that, they ended their topic of conversation. Leanna also didn't bother trying to clarify things despite her immense curiosity.

Nonetheless, the two didn't expect they would bump into Lewis, the person in charge of the party, on their way back.

When Lewis saw Leanna, he approached her and asked, "McK, can I talk to you for a moment?"

Leanna nodded slightly, then said to Daphne,

"Okay."

Lewis and Leanna made their way toward the hotel's balcony after Daphne left.

He had a regretful look on his face as he lamented, "Your work is truly superb, but I'm afraid there's nothing much I can do. So I guess we can only say that each judge has their respective criteria when it comes to judging."

Leanna didn't intend to make things difficult for him as she merely smiled in understanding. "I understand, and I'm especially grateful to you for giving me this opportunity."

Lewis sighed. “You have to believe that you still have a long way to go. Getting second place doesn’t mean that you’re lesser than anyone. At the end of the day, people with skill and talent will always get their chance to shine.”

After the two chatted for a while, he spoke again, “I’m not sure if this is too much to ask or if the timing will be convenient for you, but I would like to arrange a special show for your brand for this year’s International Fashion Week. If you were to participate in this event, I’m sure that you would be able to present your works to a bigger audience.”

Perhaps she didn’t expect to be given such an opportunity, so she was momentarily too stunned for words after hearing Lewis’ suggestion.

After all, only highly remarkable designers would receive the offer to have a special show for their brands at the International Fashion Week. So, frankly, it was logical to assume that Lewis should only discuss this with her if she were the competition’s winner.

In other words, Leanna felt that only the winner was qualified to receive such a fantastic offer.

Therefore, she didn’t understand why Lewis brought

Naturally, Lewis sensed her hesitation and explained with a smile, “Didn’t I just say that be it the winner or the second place, it doesn’t signify anything? We value unlimited potential more in the designer industry than rankings, and I think you are the best candidate.”

When she heard his reassurance, she wanted to agree to his offer so badly. After all, this golden opportunity came straight knocking at her door. Hence, it was impossible for Leanna to decline it. Even so, she wasn’t sure whether she had the spare time to put in the effort it deserved if she took the offer.

At once, Leanna fell into a dilemma. The daily workload in the studio is already taking up a significant portion of my time. But, on the other hand, since it’s a special show for my brand, I am bound to devote more time and energy to the project if I agree to participate in the International Fashion Week. I’m afraid that I won’t be able to do well for both sides when that happens.

Suddenly, Lewis' voice sounded again as he said, "It's fine. There are still a few days left since I have to go back to prepare the contract and related matters too. So you can take your time and think over my offer."

Leanna lightly breathed out a sigh of relief at that. "Thank you."

"In that case, I won't bother you anymore for today. Please consider my offer. There's no rush, so you can just get in touch with me after you have made up your mind."

"Sure."

Queenie only came out of the corner after the two had left. She lowered her gaze to her mobile phone, pressed the pause button, and stopped the recording.

When Leanna returned to the private room, Zoe immediately asked, "Where have you been? The food is getting cold."

"Something came up."

Then, just when everyone was about to take a cab and head to a karaoke lounge for a karaoke session, Daphne suddenly said, "You guys go ahead and have fun. I'm not joining as I still have work tomorrow and have to get up early."

Leanna swiftly responded by saying, "Is that so? In that case, Louis is leaving soon too. Let him drive you back."

Louis furrowed his brows and was about to say something before he was cut off, "I—"

She ignored his protest, pulled him up, and said, "Didn't you tell me just now that something came up at school, and the administration requested you to return to the campus? Well, this is perfect timing. You can send Daphne back to her place and head to campus. So hurry up and go."

He pursed his lips and got up. However, just after he took two steps forward, Daphne abruptly turned her head and smiled, "It's okay, Louis. You don't have to drive me back. My driver is already waiting downstairs. So you guys just go ahead and enjoy the night."

As she spoke, she waved goodbye to Leanna and Zoe. Then, she took her belongings and left.

In the meantime, Louis remained frozen on the spot, not moving a muscle.

Leanna whispered, "What's the matter with you? Didn't I ask you to apologize last time? Did you not do so?"

The corners of Louis' lips moved slightly. But, alas, just as he was about to speak, Zoe leaned in and asked, "Louis is returning to campus? Why didn't I hear anything about this? So, is Louis not joining us for karaoke?"

Leanna laughed awkwardly and tried to sweep the matter under the rug. "Nothing. He suddenly changed his mind and decided not to return to campus."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 382-Still, Louis didn't join them for karaoke either in the end.

When Leanna noticed his listlessness, she asked Zoe and several other young ladies to head to the karaoke lounge first. As for her, she would join them later after she sent Louis back.

Once they got inside the car, Leanna said, "I heard from Aidan that you leave home early and return late every day. What are you up to?"

Louis stayed silent for a while before he parted his lips and gave a vague answer, "I've got stuff to do."

"What is it?" Leanna asked.

However, Louis merely looked away and said nothing.

Judging from how he reacted, Leanna knew he wasn't willing to talk about it. Hence, she stopped forcing the matter and changed the topic. "Louis, no matter what happens in the future, you can't act as impulsive as before. You only need to keep this one thing in mind forever: you are my younger brother. You are my only kin in this world. Therefore, no one is more important to me than you."

Louis paused for a while before he asked, "How about Aidan?"

Perhaps not expecting to receive such a reply from him, she smiled and replied, "Boyfriends come and go, but you're my only younger brother."

"Got it. I won't do anything impulsive in the future, and I also won't let them use this as an excuse to blackmail you." The conversation died down naturally, but Louis seemed to remember something. He frowned as he began, "You and Ron..."

Then, he decided to cut his losses midway and trailed off. The topic in discussion was far too complicated.

Nevertheless, she didn't mind as she replied succinctly, "He rescued me, so everything is in the past. I found him some time ago, asked him to help me look up Jethro's whereabouts, and paid him the corresponding remuneration. That's it."

When Louis heard what she said, his brows furrowed deeper. "In the past?"

Leanna hummed. After a while, she spoke again, "Actually, Louis, Ron wouldn't have come after us if Jethro hadn't borrowed money from a usurer. Moreover, it was Jethro who single-handedly planned that incident. Ron merely did as he was told by retrieving the money he was owed, that's all."

There was a point in her life when she hated Ron as much as she hated Jethro.

Yet, now that she thought about it, she realized she couldn't place the blame solely on Ron.

She couldn't judge whether Ron was a good or bad person. It was just that she had witnessed Ron's humane side when he was in contact with Queenie's father.

From Leanna's point of view, it seemed that everyone chose different ways of living because they were just trying their best to survive in this cruel world. That was all.

Louis didn't comment on it and simply gazed out the window.

When they pulled over at Castor Villa, she said, "It looks to me that your injury will be fully healed soon. Return to the campus once the weekend is over, alright?"

Louis nodded obediently at that. "Okay."

Louis opened the car door, then turned to look at her and asked, "Aren't you coming in?"

Leanna laid her gaze on that familiar place and smiled as she declined with a shake of her head. "Nah... I'll pass."

"Okay. I'll get going then."

"Sure. Bye."

After Louis left, she spaced out in place for a while before driving away.

Meanwhile, in Castor Villa, Louis saw Aidan coming down the stairs as soon as he entered the living room. When Aidan saw him, he asked, "Where did you go again?"

"Dinner gathering."

Aidan couldn't help but frown as he didn't let the matter go by asking, "What dinner gathering?"

When Louis picked up the confusion in his tone, he asked knowingly, "Leanna didn't invite you?"

Aidan didn't have a comeback to that.

Louis also knew not to expect an answer as he continued, "She just left not long ago after she sent me back."

At this moment, Aidan could feel his temples throbbing and immediately looked coldly at Louis, who was all calm and unruffled. Then, he swiveled and headed upstairs in a huff.

As he watched as displeasure lined Aidan's back silhouette, he couldn't help but feel that schadenfreude did make one feel better. He even had proof as the suffocating swirl of emotions lightened at the sight.

Once Aidan returned to his room, he whisked out his phone. Regardless, just as he was about to call Leanna, he suddenly changed his mind. It's pointless. Not only does she not want to return here to



Castor Villa, but she also doesn't even want to come in even when she's right at the door.

When his train of thought arrived at that station, he tossed his phone on the couch. Then, he swept his gaze across the quiet room. Finally, he reached up, pinched his nose bridge, and pursed his thin lips lightly. All in all, I am the reason behind her decision.

Aidan only grabbed his phone and called Oscar's number after a long while. Once the call was connected, he asked flatly, "Have you identified his whereabouts?"

Oscar answered promptly, "No, not yet. That old fox is as cunning as f\*ck! I have no idea isn't Freddie constantly bugging him? He probably doesn't even have the time to give Leanna a hard time."

"Keep a close eye on the situation at the hospital. Don't allow him even a sliver of a chance to take undue advantage of the loophole."

"Don't worry. The person has already been transferred."

Aidan hummed in satisfaction, then continued, "The Crossley Group's new project has been launched. Someone will be handling the rest of it. You just have to ensure that Lloyd and Georgina are too busy to succeed in their schemes during this period."

Oscar responded with an okay.

After Aidan hung up the phone, he remained on the couch, going through his plans in his mind before he suddenly rose to his feet.

As soon as he made his way downstairs, Louis came out of his room. When Louis noticed that Aidan seemed to be in a hurry, he asked, "Where are you going?"

"None of your business," answered Aidan.

For some reason, Louis could feel that Aidan wasn't rushing out to meet Leanna. Could it be that Aidan is seeing another woman on the side?

As he thought of that, a feeling of uneasiness crept into Louis' heart. So, he quickly trailed after Aidan.

Meanwhile, inside his black Rolls-Royce, the corner of Aidan's lips curved upward into a smile as he glanced at that was trailing him through the rearview mirror. He managed to lose Louis with ease after circling the neighborhood several times.

Half an hour later, his car stopped in front of an ordinary residential area.

When Aidan arrived, the little guy was playing by himself in the cradle—the toy in his hand was fully coated with his saliva as he nibbled it.

His finger was stained with saliva as he reached out and poked the corner of the little guy's lips. When he noticed this, he immediately frowned and wiped his hand with a piece of tissue.

At this moment, Naomi popped out of the kitchen. "Aidan, you're here?"

Aidan threw the tissue into the trash can as he inquired, "Why are you the only one here? Where's the little guy's nanny, Celia?"

"Celia has gone out shopping for groceries."

"Grocery shopping at this hour?"

Naomi replied, "It just so happens that the refrigerator is empty, so I asked her to pay the supermarket a visit."

"I'll have someone to take you to Cliffery, a city far away from here, next week," Aidan suddenly said.

Naomi was stunned for a moment when she heard that. "Did Leanna find out about this place too?"

"She's been clamoring about wanting to see you. So I'll go with her next week."

Naomi sighed when she heard his words, "How long do you intend to keep her in the dark?"

Aidan made himself comfortable on the couch and retorted flatly, "After I've finished dealing with Sienna."

Then, Naomi asked again, "What about the little guy after I left? Who's going to look after him?"

Aidan looked at the cradle and said, "I will hire someone to look after him. You can just take over again once you return."

"Well... I guess we just have to settle with this plan for now."

Suddenly, the doorbell rang after the two had chatted for a while. Naomi figured Celia had finally returned with groceries in tow, so she walked over to open the door. Yet, she saw a strange young man with a frigid expression standing outside.

A puzzled Naomi asked, "How may I help you?"

Louis didn't bother introducing himself as he merely said, "I'm looking for Aidan Pearson."

Immediately afterward, he strode in before Naomi could answer.

Perhaps because he didn't expect Louis to be able to locate this place, so he couldn't help but show the surprise on his face when he saw Louis.

If Leanna had not advised Louis not to act impulsively on their way back earlier, he would have punched Aidan in the face by now.

Right at this moment, Celia also returned from her grocery shopping trip. When she saw Naomi standing by the door and an unknown person in the house, she whispered in bewilderment, "Ms. Fletcher, what's going on? Why is the door open?"

When Louis saw this, he couldn't bear it any longer. He grabbed Aidan by the collar and reprimanded angrily, "How could you do this?! What did you promise me back then?!"

Naomi swiftly closed the door and hurried over. "Aidan, what's going..."

Before she could say anything else, Aidan quickly interrupted her, "Nothing."

Then, he looked at Louis and said, "Since you've found out, I have no reason to keep it from you any longer."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 383-Louis released him roughly. His brows furrowed together in anger, and just when he wanted to snap, something soft grabbed his fingers.

For a moment, he was stopped short by the sudden sensation, so he blinked his eyes as he reorientated himself and looked down. He saw a child, who was only a few months old, looking at him with curious, rounded eyes. The child had a wide grin as he babbled nonsensical words.

Louis lowered his voice at the sight of a young one. "This is..."

Aidan tidied himself on the couch as he said composedly, "He's my son."

The anger that had subsided a little within Louis flared up again, and he shot a glare at Celia, unaware of the situation. She was rightfully startled by the fury in his eyes, which quickly clued her into what he was probably thinking. So, the instant she realized that he had gotten the wrong idea, she waved her hands frantically as though she was warding the devil.

"I'm only here to take care of the child under President Pearson's orders. It's not what you think it is!" Toward the end of her words, her tone even turned slightly shrill in her panic.

The knot between Louis' brows loosened a little, and he turned to Aidan again. "What the hell is going on?"

"I'll tell you the truth if you promise not to breathe a word about everything you saw here today to Leanna."

"As long as you didn't betray her, there's no reason for you to be afraid of this."

Aidan lifted his gaze at him. "I just don't want to complicate things further."

Well, considering that both men weren't about to go on a stampede, Naomi knew that the person who just barged in wasn't a bad person. Therefore, she turned her attention to Celia and said, "Celia, I'm so sorry. Please take the rest of the day off."

Celia gave her a nod, dropped off the groceries on the dining table, and scurried off.

The second the door closed, Naomi picked up the child on the couch. "It's feeding time for the baby. So don't wait up."

Naomi held the child in her arms with practiced ease and went into the room with the child leaning against her shoulder. The baby's eyes were fixed on Louis as he flailed his arms around, trying to say something.

As Louis took a closer look at the child's features, he suddenly had a thought in his mind.

In fact, earlier, when the young lady said that she was just here to babysit, an idea had already flashed past his mind. However, the idea was so unbelievable to him that he didn't delve further into it.

When he could no longer ignore those thoughts, he uttered in disbelief, "Could he be..."

Aidan's brows lifted ever so slightly. "Yeah."

"Leanna doesn't know about this?"

"All she knows is the existence of this child, but nothing else."

"Why did you hide it from her, then?" Louis asked.

"I told you that I don't want things to get even more complicated," Aidan said.

Louis unconsciously raised his voice at the offense he felt for his sister. "But this is her baby! You know exactly how upset she is over this baby, but you... Don't you think that you're taking this too far?!"

The look on Aidan's face turned a few notches colder. "The baby was born prematurely and was in emergency rescue right after he was born. So if you are in my shoes, how do you plan to break the news to her? Are you going to make things worse for her when she's at her most miserable and helpless state?"

A stunned Louis didn't know what to say all of a sudden and said after a few seconds, "But isn't he doing well now? Why did you—"

"Before you went to look for Jethro, did you tell her everything?"

Louis abruptly went still as he could probably understand Aidan's situation, and the room fell silent.

After a while, Aidan rose to his feet. “Remember what you promised me. If you go back on your word, you can forget about the kid acknowledging you as his uncle.”

Louis didn't protest and merely watched as Aidan headed toward the door. Then, he peered at the room where his nephew was. “Are you leaving just like this?”

“Or else, what?” Aidan asked. “Do you want to stay here instead?”

Louis retracted his gaze and then left together with Aidan. On said that he has been in emergency care since he was born. How is he doing now?”

“He's rather frail, so he falls sick often. But the doctor comes to check up on him regularly.”

“When will he recover?”

“Once he's a little older, and his immunity system gets stronger, he might do better.”

Louis frowned and asked no further questions.

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Meanwhile, after hitting the karaoke bar, the group left by themselves, and because Zoe had some drinks in the evening, she couldn't drive. So, Leanna drove her home instead.

On the way, Zoe said, “Nana, what are your plans after this?”

“Me?” Leanna gave it a thought before saying, “I guess I'll get the studio on track.”

Several issues cropped up this year. Previously, she was busy preparing for the competition, and because of a series of troublesome incidents, she didn't have the time for the studio at all.

Zoe nodded. “That's what I think as well. Look, after these few months, our studio has gained a small reputation within the country, but we haven't been using such publicity to the fullest. So after this, we should run some ads and hire some famous influencers to promote our product or something. We'll definitely make it big in time!”

Leanna agreed to her plan with a light yet firm nod. "Yes, we will."

"That's why I said it's really not important that you didn't win the first spot. So what if you're second? In my heart, you'll always be number one! Now and forever!"

Leanna chuckled in amusement before she teased, "Are you comforting me?"

Zoe blinked. "Oh, you noticed it?"

"It's okay. I expected this. Moreover, to be able to enter such a prestigious competition is already such a rare opportunity for me. Plus, I even won a spot; all in all, it's a win for me."

Zoe nodded her head vigorously, agreeing to her statement strongly. "Yes, you're right! That's exactly what's on my mind. Just treat this as an experience."

As the karaoke bar was nearby Zoe's place, they reached her place within ten minutes by car.

Zoe pushed the door open and said, "Nana, I'm going home, then. Drive carefully on your way home and drop me a text once you're home."

Suddenly, Leanna called out to her, "Zoe."

Zoe caught the seriousness in her tone, so she plopped herself back into the seat and asked anxiously, "What's wrong?"

Then, Leanna told her everything Lewis had said in the hotel.

A couple of minutes passed by before Zoe finally opened her mouth. "No, maybe I had too much to drink. Give me a second here. So, that guy said that he wants to have a special show for our brand at the international fashion week?"

"Yes," Leanna answered.

Zoe slapped her thigh in her joy and appeared to have sobered up. "That's good news! Excellent news! Did you agree to it?"

"Not yet. I'm still considering it."

“What’s there to consider when it’s such an amazing thing? I told you that the position really doesn’t matter! Look, Lady Luck has finally decided to bless us, after all!”

“The studio has been accepting orders, and if it’s a special show for the brand, I’ll have to come up with a lot of jewelry designs, and I’m afraid that I’ll burn out,” Leanna mumbled, expressing her concern.

Zoe calmed down a little and suggested, “Should we stop accepting custom orders from now on and just produce pieces for our brand? That way, you can fork out more time to prepare for the fashion week.”

“Stop doing custom orders?”

“Yeah. What do you think? If it’s okay with you, we’ll just make arrangements for that.”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 384-Leanna hadn’t considered such a thing, but now that Zoe had brought this up, she recalled that their initial purpose when they set up the studio, was to create their own brand. They only decided to accept custom orders in the beginning as a way to promote their items.

They would have misplaced their priorities if they continued accepting custom orders and missed an opportunity like this.

“You’re right,” Leanna said. “I’ll think this over carefully at home.”

Zoe patted her shoulder in reassurance. “I’m glad you can think this way. I’m going home now. See you tomorrow.”

Leanna nodded and worriedly watched as Zoe staggered out of the car and asked, “Should I accompany you upstairs?”

“It’s okay. I’m already in the lobby and will reach my apartment after taking the elevator.” Then, she closed the car door and cheerfully waved at her. “Go home quickly and give me a call when you’re home.”

“Okay.”

When Zoe disappeared from her sight, Leanna looked away and drove off.



Meanwhile, Zoe reached the elevator, pushed a button, and waited for it to arrive. While she stared at the changing numbers signifying the elevator's current floor, her vision gradually became blurry.

A few seconds later, she couldn't help but burp, and right then, she suddenly heard the sound of hurried footsteps behind her.

She instinctively turned to look over her shoulder, but before she could get a good look at the person, she was suddenly pulled into a warm embrace.

Suffice to say, she was caught off guard and struggled to break free. Just as she was about to start screaming, she heard a familiar husky voice asking, "Are you still mad at me?"

"Huh?" she blurted. Am I so drunk that I'm hallucinating?

Weirded out but drunk enough that her rationality was taking a temporary backseat, she reached out tentatively and pinched the man's waist. Her actions earned her a pained grunt.

Oh, this isn't my imagination.

Once that thought registered, she shoved him away and berated, "What's wrong with—"

Daniel looked at her earnestly. "I'm sorry. It's my fault, and I promise I won't do it again."

While Zoe was still confused about what he was up to, the elevator doors slid open at this time. As she didn't want to deal with him any second longer, she marched into the elevator with a disgruntled face. To her dismay, he followed her like a duckling chasing after its mother.

She felt her lips pulling down to a frown and was about to lash out at him when another man joined them in the elevator. Unfortunately, she wasn't that drunk that she was about to air out their grievances with an audience around. Thus, she could only force the bubbling tirade down her throat.

It didn't help that Daniel stood behind her the entire time, either though they were very close.

Zoe was already frustrated, but she couldn't give voice to it. Hence, she could only express her anger by clutching her bag to her chest and tugging her shirt away from his grasp before sticking herself to one corner of the elevator.

When she lifted her head after she was satisfied that Daniel couldn't pester her any longer, she accidentally met the eyes of the stranger. When the man noticed this, he merely looked away nonchalantly.

The frown on Zoe's face deepened. Although she only met his eyes for a brief second, she felt even more disgusted by the emotions she caught sight of in his eyes. The revulsion she felt for that stranger was stronger than that she had for Daniel.

The moment the elevator reached her floor, she quickly stepped out. But, just as she thought he would, Daniel followed after her, and so did that stranger, who then pretended to be looking for his keys near them.

Zoe's hand paused momentarily as she considered her options. Both if I open the door now?

While she was hesitating, Daniel said, "Baby, I came here especially to apologize to you. Let me in, okay?"

When she heard him call her 'baby', goosebumps formed all over her body. Yet before she could voice her protest, their eyes met, and he signaled her by narrowing his eyes and nodding softly.

Spinning her head around, she saw the man standing not

After the door closed with a click, the stranger finally stopped moving his hands and stared at the closed door, approaching it slowly.

In the apartment, Zoe picked up the baseball bat next to the doorway she had previously bought for self-defense and pointed it at Daniel. "Stay where you are, and don't move!"

Daniel raised both hands in surrender and showed that he had no ill intentions, but she remained cautious.

"What's wrong with you? And what about that person—"

The sounds of footsteps outside the door made Daniel place a finger to his lips, and he gestured for her to remain silent.

Zoe glanced at the door and directly tossed a slipper at it.

Perhaps he wasn't expecting her to do something like this, so he clicked his tongue and dodged swiftly. The slipper struck the door, startling the man on the other side and he hurriedly pulled away, forcibly stopped from eavesdropping.

Zoe stomped into the living room, baseball bat in hand, said expressionlessly, "You can speak now."

"Okay, I apologize for earlier. That man has been following me, and I have no other way but to—"

"You're the one he's following. What has that got to do with me? Why did you drag me into this?"

He chuckled sheepishly, "They're probably trying to find out why I opened up a store next to your studio."

"Yeah, why?" she asked, equally puzzled.

"I..." Daniel looked at her and continued, "The reason doesn't matter, but after this, I may need your help to put up an act with me."

She didn't hesitate to decline, "I refuse."

Daniel had no choice but to bait her into it. "Things are too complicated, so I don't know how I'm supposed to explain this whole mess to you. But based on the current situation, Miss McKinney is in danger right now."

For a moment, Zoe didn't understand what he was saying. Why is his problem suddenly connected to Leanna?

When he saw her confusion, he explained patiently, "There's only you and Miss McKinney in the studio. So I have to show up because of one of you, right?"

"There are many young girls in our studio as well," she mumbled under her breath.

Daniel didn't expect such a retort, but he composed himself and continued, "I'm serious."

Zoe organized her thoughts and said, "In other words, you set up a store next to us because of Nana?"

He gave her a nod in admittance.

"Why? You know that she—"

"All I can tell you is it's because we have the same enemy. I only did that because I want to protect Miss McKinney, nothing else."

Zoe slowly lowered the baseball bat in her hands and placed it on the floor with a firm thunk. "So, what's your plan?"

A smile broke out on his face. "Let's date."

The muscles on her face froze, and she picked up the baseball bat again.

Daniel hurriedly exclaimed, "I mean, fake a relationship! We just need to convince them that I'm there because of you. It won't harm Miss McKinney in any way, and once this act is over, I promise I won't pester you and stay far away from you."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 385-Zoe sat on the couch, utterly immersed in her thoughts. Her eyes were half-lidded, and she was as still as a statue.

Daniel stood opposite her, shifting on his foot when she left him hanging. After a while, he started wondering whether she might have fallen asleep and asked tentatively, "Why don't you... put away the thing in your hands first? It's kinda scary."

When she heard that, her grip on the bat tightened, and he cleared his throat in discomfort before taking a step back.

After a few seconds, Zoe finally said, "The common enemy you mentioned. Do you mean Lloyd?"

Daniel nodded, and she pressed, "So, you and Georgina..."

"That was all for show. I approached her with my own motives, and despite knowing this, she still made use of me."

A few seconds passed, and she remarked sarcastically, “Just a show, eh? Just like what you’re doing now?”

“Well... not really,” he fumbled for a logical reason. “We’re doing this for justice. The nature behind our actions is entirely different.”

“Mhm,” Zoe hummed, unconvinced.

After he waited for a few minutes, he slowly broached the question, “So, have you considered it?”

“Are you sure that they won’t harm Nana if I agree to put on this act with you?” she gazed at him sharply as she inquired.

“At least they won’t be able to blackmail her by trying to catch a hold of me, and if they tried from other aspects, I’d try to think of a way to stop them.”

Zoe furrowed her brows as she finally asked the one thing that had been bothering her the entire time, “Who the hell... are you? No, maybe I should be asking, what’s your motive?”

He smiled mysteriously and promised, “Once this act is over, I’ll tell you.”

...

When Leanna returned to the Crossley Residence, she noticed that the entire house was engulfed in an air of oppression. All the servants were shying away from her, just the same as when she arrived on the first day.

The moment she entered the living room, a servant came over and said, “Miss McKinney, the master is asking for you in the study.”

Then, she left in a flurry of skirts without bothering to wait for Leanna’s answer.

She stood rooted on the spot for a few seconds before her feet carried her in the direction of Lloyd’s study.

Then, she knocked on the door and said dispassionately, “To what do I owe the pleasure, Mr. Crossley?”

Lloyd raised his head behind a pile of documents. “Take a seat.”

She pursed her lips, walked over confidently, and took a seat in front of him. The instant she was seated, he pushed a document before her. When she swept her gaze over the words, she saw that it was an indictment against Georgina.

She curled her lips into a smirk and deliberately asked, "Oh my. What's this?"

Lloyd didn't pander to her games and merely said, "I know that you and Georgina have always been in a conflict because of Aidan, but no matter what, your squabbles should stay within the Crossley Family. There's no reason to blow up this matter."

"I don't understand what you mean, Mr. Crossley," Leanna said as she inspected her nails. "I'm not the plaintiff stated here. How is this related to me?"

"But you're the cause of this conflict. When the time comes, as long as you come forward and clarify that these accusations are false, the indictment will be rendered meaningless."

Leanna understood what he was getting at. In fact, Lloyd could easily handle a person like Karen with a twitch of his fingers. He only had to manipulate some facts to get the deed done, but the problem now was that she was involved in this situation.

As Lloyd knew that many eyes were watching him and Leanna, he didn't want to take the risk. Hence, he wanted her to come forward and deny Karen's accusations.

Once she denied it, then the chips would be in his favor since it would be obvious that Karen was lying. Plus, with a little bit of manipulation behind the scenes, he could easily present Karen as the true mastermind of it all. He could paint her as the person staging the whole incident for blackmail and extortion.

And they say you could dream faster than you could make a wish, Leanna scoffed in her mind.

"Previously, I've asked you if everything Miss Crossley did could be exposed to the public eye, and I've always thought of myself as the victim in this incident the whole time. I've never received the apology I deserve, so why should I come forward for others, my... Bully no less?" she enunciated slowly.

She was playing with fire, but with such a golden opportunity presented before her, there was no way she could help herself.

“We can settle everything in private,” Lloyd answered. “Since you’re a member of the Crossley Family, you have a duty to care for our reputation.”

“You’re making it sound like such a big deal, Mr. Crossley. Even though I’m living with the Crossleys, I’ve never enjoyed any benefits of actually being one. So, what are these duties you speak of?”

Lloyd narrowed his eyes as his expression gradually sank when he saw that she wasn’t going to let the matter go so easily.

Finally, he said, “State your terms.”

Leanna smirked at that. “You’re a daring man indeed, Mr. Crossley.”

Then, she whisked out the equity transfer papers she always brought with her and placed them before him in a flourish.

The moment he laid his gaze on the file, he said, “This is what I’ve promised you before. If this is what you want in exchange, I can sign it right now.”

“No,” she dragged the refusal out for a moment. “I would like to let you know that rather than asking for the shares of Crossley Group, I would prefer something more practical.”

A bad premonition started to bubble up in his heart as he furrowed his brows. “What do you want?”

Leanna mentioned a few places and said, “I want all these lands.”

“That’s out of the question!” Lloyd said sternly.

The places she mentioned were expensive, and some of them included a project that Crossley Group was currently developing. If the land were given to Leanna, that would mean that she had the biggest say over the whole project.

She covered her mouth and giggled playfully, “Oh, it’s fine if you’re not agreeable to it. I’m merely telling you what I want. I’ve made the calculations. All these lands only make up thirty percent of the Crossley Group properties, and I think this is what I deserve.”

“What arrogance! If I really hand them over to you, you definitely won’t be able to manage them well by yourself. The Crossley Group will be ruined in your hands when the time comes!”

“Oh please, Mr. Crossley. I know that I have no head for business, and that’s why I’m only asking for the land. I won’t interfere with any company projects and will be fine with just receiving the money.”

Lloyd gave her a gimlet stare, sitting there without a word.

Leanna’s conditions was basically turning the shares into cash. If she merely held the shares, he would have a multitude of ways to control her, but those lands were an asset he couldn’t afford to lose. Once it was transferred to her, it would be under her name. When the time comes, he would need her signature if anything should happen to the Crossleys, and they would like to sell the land or anything related to the project.

How could Lloyd ever agree to her request?

She wasn’t worried in the slightest, so she continued, “If that’s the case, I won’t bother you anymore, Mr. Crossley. Think about it carefully. I’m not in a rush.”

The one who is in a real rush is the one being accused, she thought playfully and promptly left the study.

As Lloyd stared at the equity transfer papers, the look on his face turned even glummer.

Meanwhile, Leanna reached her room and was about to enter when Georgina’s voice rang behind her.

She tilted her head and asked, “And how can I help you, Miss Crossley?”

“You’re the one behind this matter, aren’t you?” Georgina said coldly.

A sweet smile spread across Leanna’s face. “If you believe thinking this way would make you feel better, then I have nothing against it as well. But...”

“But, what?”



Love Change Of Heart Chapter 386-Leanna stared straight at her as she spoke slowly and surely, "Without you clearing the path with your grand performance, I wouldn't have had the chance to set the stage for mine."

Georgina's face twisted into a scowl before she calmed and sneered, "Don't think for a second that you've won."

"I think I speak for the both of us when I say that I'm only getting started. After all, we both know that you've done far worse," Leanna answered indifferently. "Actually, I've always wanted to ask you something, Miss Crossley, but I feel like I'm asking the obvious and being a little extra. Still, why don't you humor me just this once, hm?"

Georgina cocked her head indifferently, crossing her arms across her chest as though awaiting Leanna's performance.

"You're the one who told Anna about my pregnancy, aren't you?" Leanna asked.

Georgina remained unflappable. "From how you worded it, you probably already assumed that it's me. So no matter what I say, it will merely sound like excuses to you. But since you've mentioned this, there's something I'm curious about. Is your pregnancy something to be ashamed of? It's been so long, but you're actually questioning me about it now."

"There's nothing to be ashamed of to be pregnant, of course. Unfortunately, some people have such dark and filthy hearts that they are afraid of seeing the light. Or should I say, terrified of being prosecuted?" Leanna ended the conversation right then and there and left without hesitation.

Georgina inhaled deeply as she eyed the closed door. Her expression was utterly frigid. When she returned to her own room, her cell phone started vibrating as an unknown number called her, but she

hung up in frustration.

However, that unknown number called again after a few minutes.

She heard Queenie's voice from the other end when she picked up. "Hello, Miss Crossley. It's Queenie speaking."

"What is it?"

Queenie tentatively started, “I’m aware that you hate Leanna as well, so I—”

“So?” Georgina interjected indifferently.

She was flummoxed when she heard Georgina’s curt response, so she paused for a few seconds and said, “Back then, when I was in Lux Jewelry, I could feel it even though you didn’t make it clear, Miss Crossley. But please don’t get the wrong idea. I’m not using this to blackmail you. There’s something in my hands that I think you’ll be interested in.”

“Oh?” Georgina leaned against the couch as she said, “Maybe you have the wrong idea. I don’t hate Leanna. Since she doesn’t affect my interests, I have no reason to dislike her. Are you going to use me as a guise to do something to hurt her?”

Queenie bit her lip. “It’s not like that, Miss Crossley. I just feel that a person like Leanna isn’t worthy at all. She doesn’t deserve to receive President Pearson’s love or be a part of the Croasley Family, not to mention—”

“Not to mention win the first spot in the competition, right?” Georgina finished the sentence for her.

When Queenie didn’t answer, she took it as a silent acknowledgment and continued nonchalantly, “But aren’t you the champion of this illustrious competition this time? It looks like you’re right, she truly isn’t worthy, and neither does she have the ability and talent to back her up.”

“I’ll play a voice recording for you, and you’ll understand everything, Miss Crossley.”

From the other end, Lewis and Leanna’s conversation at the hotel started playing after some rustling noises.

Unfortunately, there wasn’t any reaction from Georgina, and Queenie couldn’t help but raise her voice in agitation, “Only the winner of the competition has the right to hold a special show during fashion week, but Lewis gave this opportunity to her instead. Don’t you find this unfair, Miss Crossley?”

“It’s just a competition,” Georgina said. “Anyone who takes it seriously is the loser.”

“I think it has something to do with one person now that the organizer has made such a decision,” Queenie argued.

“Who?”

“President of the Pearson Group.”

“Why do you say that?” Georgina asked leisurely.

“The Pearson Group is originally the organizer of the competition this time, and back then in Lux Jewelry, President Pearson had been giving all sorts of opportunities in fashion to Leanna. So I have reasons to suspect that the entire competition is just the Pearson Group cooperating with the organizers, so it doesn’t matter who the winner is because Leanna is the one they want to promote,” Queenie explained.

“That’s the Pearson Group you’re speaking about. You better keep your tongue in check if you don’t have any proof.”

On the other end, Queenie clutched the phone tightly. Initially, she thought that Georgina would fly into a rage if she mentioned Aidan. After all, Georgina was once his fiancée, and he was back together with

Leanna now; Queenie didn’t think anyone could take this lying down.

After a few seconds of silence, she added, “The voice recording in my hands and the relationship between Leanna and President Pearson are the best proof.”

“So, what if you have the proof?” Georgina asked. “You already know that it’s an inside job. You can’t possibly expose them to the media, can you? The only ones who aren’t afraid of the Pearsons are only the media companies owned by them.”

Queenie couldn’t think of what to say, but she was able to retrieve some vital information from Georgina’s words—she had to expose this to the media and a media company that wasn’t afraid of Aidan at that.

Queenie furrowed her brows slightly as she contemplated for a few seconds and suddenly understood what Georgina was implying.

Aidan had always been on terrible terms with the rest of the Pearsons. She wanted to expose this matter, but she couldn't implicate herself in this, so the best way was to pass the recording to someone from the Pearsons.

Georgina didn't bother to wait for Queenie's answer as she left a few parting remarks, "That's all. I've said what I should. This has nothing to do with me, so I would advise you to keep mum about this. But, even without this competition, do you think that Leanna wouldn't be able to hold a special show in the fashion week with the help of the Pearson Group?"

Queenie gritted her teeth in anger as she screamed in her mind, If that's true, I will never allow it!

"Thank you for your advice, Miss Crossley. I know what I should do now," she said.

The moment Georgina heard the dial tone, she gazed at her screen as a vicious smirk painted her lips.

I would like to see how long Leanna can live her days happily, she thought. Then, if I'm lucky, she would have suffered her retributions without me lifting a single finger.

On the other end, Queenie was at a loss after the phone call. That was because she had no idea how to contact anyone from the Pearsons.

In addition, she already had a feud with them when she reported that Leanna was a sugar baby of the Pearsons.

Although she was released without any charges, the Pearsons had been keeping an eye on Ron the whole time. If she appeared before them now, they would suspect her motives, which just wouldn't do.

Queenie thought it over for a long time before bringing the recorder, making a few copies of the recording, and placing it into a box. Then, she took a cab to another spot, called the number Ron gave her before and ordered a courier to have the parcel delivered to the Pearson Residence. She even made a note on the box that it had to be personally opened by Gordon himself.

With all that done, she finally breathed a sigh of relief and was about to call a cab home when she received a call.

Soon, Elliot's disgruntled voice echoed from her phone, complaining, "I've waited for you the entire night. When are you coming back?"

She frowned in disgust as she blocked his number straight away. Then, after she gave it some thought, she called Ron and her family, but nobody picked up as always.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 387-When Leanna reached the studio in the morning, she saw that Zoe had yet to arrive and asked the sales girls in her store. "Is Zoe here yet?"

One of them answered, "Not yet. Miss Hart is usually here at this time. What's up with her today?"

"I'll give her a call," Leanna said.

However, after she called, nobody picked it up for a long time. Zoe went home drunk last night, and she's not picking up my call now, her mind launching into terrible scenarios as she picked up her car keys.

But when she reached the door, she saw Zoe hopping off a Porsche, and the person stepping out of the driver's seat was Daniel.

The sight of the two of them utterly confused her to the point where she started questioning her vision. What's going on? Are my eyes playing tricks on me?

Besides a shocked Leanna, the other sales girls from her studio also gathered over, craning their necks as they leaned out to catch a glimpse of such a scene.

Zoe naturally felt their laser-focused gaze and was somewhat embarrassed. So, she powerwalked her way into her office.

Meanwhile, Daniel stared at her back, raised his brows, and went into the store next door.

In the studio, before Leanna could open her mouth, the girls already had a significant headstart bombarding Zoe with questions.

"Miss Hart, why did you come with Daniel? What's happening between you two?"

“Yeah, are you guys seeing each other? I remember that you took a detour when you saw him a few days ago.”

“What’s happening? Quick, spill us the tea.”

Their questions made Zoe’s face bright red, and after a while, she stammered, “I-It’s nothing, actually. He’s courting me.”

Everyone was struck dumb, but she couldn’t blame them for not believing her because she almost bit her own tongue when her brain-to-mouth filter finally registered.

She shoved the people aside. “Alright, that’s enough. Get back to work and be snappy about it,” she said and hid in the lounge.

When Leanna had made some coffee, she went in and gently closed the door.

Finally, she placed the cups on the table, on, Zoe?”

An embarrassed Zoe raised her head. “It’s... just as I said earlier. He’s courting me.”

When she heard such a thing, she was in no mood for gossip and asked solemnly, “Is he serious?”

“Nobody knows, but that’s what he says.” She straightened herself as she He may be courting me, but I haven’t given him the green light yet.”

“I think you’re not far off from that.”

Zoe tried to come up with an excuse but ultimately kept her lips sealed. I have no other choice. In order to make it real, I must put up a complete act, including playing hard to get. But I could make my dream to be a flirt come true. I’ll just leave him hanging and never date him. Fake or otherwise.

“Even if you’re going to give in to him, don’t do it so quickly,” Leanna advised. “I think Daniel doesn’t have any huge issues, but he doesn’t seem so reliable regarding romantic relationships.”

Zoe nodded in agreement. “That’s what I about last night? Have you come to a decision?”

Leanna gave her a nod. “Almost.”

Zoe already knew what her answer was, and she was immediately energized. "I'll inform other customers immediately that we are no longer accepting customs orders. Once you're finished with the orders at hand, I reckon the timing will be just perfect."

"Alright," Leanna answered, rising to her feet. "I'm going back

"Okay, go ahead."

After she returned to her office, she decided to give Aidan a call.

Soon, she heard his husky voice saying, "Baby, are you missing me already?"

She retorted huffily, "Wake up."

A grin appeared on Aidan's face. "What happened?"

"Are you the one who got Georgina sued?" she asked.

Leanna was quite mad after what happened with Louis, but she was busy with the competition at that time and planned to make use of the incident with Karen to strike back once everything was over. Regardless, she didn't think that Aidan had organized everything ahead behind her back.

"It doesn't have much to do with me," he answered nonchalantly.

But Leanna didn't buy his words. "Not much, eh? Then how much is it?"

"She wanted to fight for her own interests, and I merely introduced a lawyer to her."

"Freddie Sutton?"

"Uh-huh."

Finally, she understood the situation. It looks like it's not a coincidence that Freddie suddenly returned to the country. Karen has been awake for a while now, and given her personality, she will never suffer such a loss for nothing. There was no doubt that she would do her best to swallow Georgina whole, bones and all.

Meanwhile, although Freddie was just a lawyer, his family was famous in Highside. Lloyd wouldn't want to fall out with him over this, which was why he had the absolutely brilliant idea of approaching her.

Aidan actually started planning this far ahead, but she didn't notice a thing.

When he heard no answer from her, he prompted, "What terms did you have for Lloyd?"

"Nothing escapes you, huh," she muttered, pouting.

"I'm the director of the show. If I can't even predict this, I might as well step down, shouldn't I?"

"I asked for a few lands from him."

"Did he agree?"

"He said no," she replied.

"That's still within my calculations, then," he said indifferently. "It would be suspicious if he had agreed to them right away."

"Well, I'm not the one in a hurry. So, I can spend my time wearing him down."

"Freddie won't let this slide so easily, and Lloyd will look for you again in three days, at the most." Then, after a short pause, he added, "Once this is over, I'm taking you out."

"Where are we going?" she asked.

"Where would you like to go?"

Before she could answer, she heard a knock on the door, and Jonathan's voice said, "President Pearson, the meeting will begin shortly."

"Okay," Aidan answered and said to Leanna, "Wait for me after work."

"Sure," she said, smiling.

After she ended the call, she fished out the name card Lewis had given her yesterday and called the number.



“Hi, Lewis. It’s me, McK,” she said.

Lewis chuckled when he heard her voice. “Let me guess, you bring good news?”

She chuckled in amusement before she said, “Thank you, but I may need some time to prepare because there are many things left to do in my studio.”

“There’s no rush. There are still a few months to go before the fashion week. You’ll have ample time to prepare.”

After they went into detail about what was expected of them, Lewis said he would send the agreement over once it was ready. As Leanna blankly stared at the custom orders they had received before this, she inhaled deeply as she buried her head in work.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 388-Meanwhile, at the Pearsons, Gordon had just stepped out of the study when a servant hurriedly came over to him with a parcel in his hands. “Sir.”

Gordon frowned as he swept his gaze over the box. “What’s this?”

“This was delivered last night, and it’s written here that... you should open it personally.”

He snorted derisively as he paced to the couch with his walking stick and sat down, saying coldly, “Who’s so great that I have to open this parcel myself?”

The servant stood at the side and didn’t dare to make a sound.

“Throw it out,” Gordon instructed.

“Yes, sir,” the servant answered with a nod.

Right before he left the living room, Gordon suddenly said, “Hold on.”

Immediately, the servant returned. Then, he ordered, “Open it. I would like to see what’s inside.”

The servant answered and opened the courier box, only to find a voice recording in the box.

Gordon jutted his chin out and gestured at the servant to play the recording, but after hearing the contents, he frowned. "What's this?"

His subordinate at the side answered, "Miss McKinney entered a competition recently, and this is probably her conversation with the organizer."

An incredibly displeased look washed over Gordon. "Why is someone sending me their conversation?"

"The Pearson Group is the organizer of this competition, and when the competition was ongoing, there were a lot of rumors questioning the authenticity of the competition. They said that President in advance in order to let her win first place, but these were all false accusations. In the end, the one who won the competition wasn't her but someone else," the subordinate continued.

Gordon narrowed his eyes in contemplation as he picked up the voice recorder and played it again.

Gordon was far from a fool. So, after he heard the he immediately understood the intentions of the person who sent him this.

He sneered and tossed the recorder aside. "After all these years, this is the first time someone has the nerve to make me pull the trigger."

But with this recording, I just need to pull some strings, and Aidan will be charged with abuse of power. This is an excellent way to snatch the Pearson Group away from him, he thought and ordered his subordinate, "Take this to our men. They'll know what to do."

The man immediately did as he instructed. Then, as he sat on the couch, deep in thought, he barked to the servant on standby, "Find out who sent this to me. The nerves of them to make use of me. I would like to find out who has such guts!"

...

At night, Leanna lifted her head from a pile of drafts and stretched out the crick on her neck. When she saw that it was already completely dark out, she checked the time on her phone and saw that it was already 9.00PM. Yet, when she walked around the studio, she didn't see Aidan anywhere.

Didn't the b\*stard tell me to wait for him? So why isn't he here yet? she wondered.

When she was about to call him, she thought

After she tidied her things, she locked the studio door and drove to the Pearson Group.

When she was halfway there, she suddenly received a call from Zoe. "Nana, did you see the news on the Internet?"

"I'm driving now and didn't check my phone," she answered. "What happened?"

"Damn, I must really hand it to them. Some idiot recorded your conversation with Lewis and posted it on the Internet. Many people are now saying that the competition was held because President Pearson wanted to promote you on purpose, and it has lost all of its impartiality. Now, the official Twitter account of the Pearson Group and the organizers have been called to question, filled with keyboard warriors demanding an explanation."

Leanna furrowed her brows. "When did this happen?"

"About half an hour ago. I just saw it as well. Where are you now? Are you home already?"

"I'm on the way to look for Aidan."

"I think you shouldn't do it," Zoe said. "I think the entire Pearson Group must be on tenterhooks now, and you may not meet him even if you go there."

Leanna pursed her lips. "It's okay. I'll try to take a look, and it's fine if I don't get to meet him."

After she hung up, she opened her browser and saw that this topic was trending, and there was even the word 'HOT' at the end of the search, proving just how huge of a mess this was.

She clicked on the first video, which contained a thirty-second voice recording. The beginning and end had been edited off, and only the part where Lewis said that he would let her brand have a special show was left.

The parts of the conversation where she said she would consider it was completely nonexistent, and there were a plethora of harsh criticisms in the comments section.

'Heh, this is absolutely amazing. President Pearson is a loving husband indeed. To be able to do something like this, he's really holding the flag of capitalism high in the air.'

'As a designer myself, I'm disgusted by this. If he really wants to promote her so much, he should just throw in the money directly. Is there really a need to stage such a huge show? Does he take us for fools? This is outrageous!'

'Back then, when McK participated in the competition, I already sensed that something was off, but I didn't think that it would turn out this way. I just feel sorry for the designers who worked so hard on their designs and didn't even imagine that this was all an inside job. In the end, they wasted so much energy and effort for nothing.'

'That's a really grand show! At this point, I really take my hat off to McK. Even after the divorce, she could still wrap him around her little finger. She should publish a tutorial when she's free.'

In addition to these, many started to badger her in her DMs. Finally, she took in a breath, set her phone aside, and stepped on the gas pedal, speeding toward the Pearson Group.

The Pearson Group was utterly shrouded in a depressing cloud, and nobody dared to get off work.

Leanna went upstairs using the elevator and headed for the president's office but saw Jonathan standing at the door quietly. "How are things?" she asked, approaching him.

"Old Mr. Pearson is here," he murmured softly.

A furrow appeared between her brows, and just when she was about to speak, she heard something being smashed inside the room like it had struck the wall.

Jonathan immediately led her to the lounge. "Miss McKinney, please wait for President Pearson in this room."

She nodded and took a seat on the couch. A couple of minutes later, Jonathan returned with a glass of warm water.

Leanna bit her lip before she voiced, "Did this issue cause a huge impact on the Pearson Group?"

He answered, "This type of baseless accusation doesn't have much impact, to begin with, as long as it is clarified. But as you know... Old Mr. Pearson has always wanted to replace President Pearson. So..."

Although he didn't finish his sentence, she understood what he meant. There was no doubt that the Pearsons were grasping onto this like leeches and refused to back down, using this as a tool against Aidan.

Just then, Jonathan's phone started ringing, and he said to her, "I'm leaving now, Miss McKinney. Call me if you need anything."

"Sure."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 389-Leanna sat in the lounge for half an hour, scrolling through the news on her phone the whole time. Unfortunately, the situation had taken a turn for the worse, with many claiming to be designers stepping forward to demand a reasonable explanation. It was also highly suspicious that not one of the designers who participated in the competition before this made a scene at all.

Clearly, these people were bribed by someone to blow up this matter on purpose. She only switched off her phone when her eyes started burning due to the strain.

Another thirty minutes passed, and the footsteps echoed from the door. Leanna sprang to her feet, but the one who came in was Jonathan instead.

"Miss McKinney, Old Mr. Pearson has asked for an emergency shareholders meeting right now, and I don't know when it will end," he said. "Why don't you return first?"

When she heard that, she was quiet for a few seconds before nodding softly. "Okay."

Staying here won't be of any help at all, she thought.

After Jonathan sent her downstairs, he returned into the building again in a rush. She turned her head around, stared at the brightly lit building, and knitted her brows. Then, suddenly, she knew what she had to do.

In the car, she whisked out her phone and found Freddie's number that she had saved previously. After he picked up the phone, she didn't bother beating around the bush, "Are you free? I would like to discuss something with you."

Freddie happened to be on the way. "Sure. Where are we meeting?"

Leanna asked for his location and chose a coffee house nearby. After ten minutes, she literally got out of the car at the same time as him.

He raised his brows when he saw her. There was no need for her to say the purpose behind her invitation; he knew why she requested for a meeting.

When they were comfortably seated in the coffee house, he asked, "I saw the news. Are you planning to sue the people for slander? But this matter is such a big commotion now, so I reckon that it won't have much effect."

To his surprise, she shook her head. "I just want to ask you how things are going with Georgina's case."

He was taken aback as he probably didn't expect her to ask about this and only answered after a pause, "Lloyd is still trying to hold this off, but don't worry. At the most, in less than a week, I can—"

"Tonight."

Freddie thought he had misheard her for a moment and clarified, "What?"

Leanna aligned her plans. "Tonight, send a lawyer's letter to Georgina directly using Karen's name. It's okay for the other details to be vague, but you have to point out that Karen went to my studio to make a scene under Georgina's orders and tried to harm my brother when he was only a student."

He immediately got what she meant. Previously, the Crossley Group had some trouble because of issues with the project. Nevertheless, if one pointed out that Georgina had done something so malicious and even tried to destroy a university student through filthy means, it would cause quite a commotion amongst the public.

“Do you plan to use this as a diversion?”

Leanna nodded. “That’s only one part of it. One week is too long, long enough for Lloyd to make other preparations. This is the only way to catch him off guard.”

“If we do this, he’ll definitely know that you have something to do with this.”

A chuckle escaped her lips. “I’ve been an eyesore to him since the beginning. Even if I don’t do any of this, will he treat me with kindness?”

She has a point, Freddie thought. To pit against a wily old fox like Lloyd, she might as well just beg for mercy on her knees if she has so many concerns and is afraid of offending him.

“Okay, I’ll return to my office right now.” He checked the time and said, “It will take at least an hour for the letter to be out. Is that okay?”

“That’s fine.” Leanna rose to her feet. “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome. This is my job,” he said and quickly departed, not staying for even a second longer as his mind whirled with possibilities.

On the other hand, Leanna didn’t leave. Instead, she

In the meantime, Lewis was utterly bewildered due to this incident, but the number of angry netizens was so high that it wouldn’t help at all if they issued a clarification at this time. Also, they couldn’t come up with any evidence to prove that the truth wasn’t how it was depicted on the Internet.

This was the kind of situation where one had to think of a way to prove that they were themselves, and these rumors were ridiculous and unreasonable.

When he received Leanna’s call, he immediately explained, “McK, we’re discussing how we should deal with this issue. Rest assured, we’ll give everyone a reasonable explanation.”

“I’m the one who has dragged you down with me this time, and I’m calling now to ask who were the people who joined us for dinner that day,” Leanna said.

Her words got Lewis by surprise. “You’re saying that this recording may be recorded and leaked out by someone at the table that day?”

“No.” After she thought it over, she rephrased her question, “Among the judges that went for the dinner that day, there shouldn’t be anyone who gave me a low score, right?”

When she put it this way, he carefully thought about the situation that day.

After the final results came out, Robert and Queenie invited all the judges to dinner, but a few of them came up with an excuse and didn’t bother showing up. The ones who attended after that, besides him and Robert, there were two other judges. The judges who voted for Leanna weren’t there.

What coincidence is this? he asked himself.

When she heard the silence from the other end, she already knew the answer, and she explained, “Imagine you’re a judge and gave a high score to the work you like. However, that didn’t win in the end, but another one did. Will you attend the dinner party organized by the designer who won the competition?”

Lewis paused at her question. If that were him, he wouldn’t bother attending.

On the one hand, it would be awkward because he didn’t give a high score. But, on the other hand, he would more or less feel sorry for the talented designer who could have won but lost instead.

That time when Leanna didn’t get first place, he thought it was highly unusual. Queenie’s design was good, and she had her highlights, too. But, despite that, her design was one level beneath Leanna’s in every aspect.

Besides, he showed up at that dinner because he was the organizer of the competition. So no matter who the winner was, he had to congratulate them.

At the thought of this, he suddenly found the road beyond the fog.

At the same time, Leanna managed to verify her questions, and she didn’t even have to doubt the person who gave this recording to the media because there were only that many people in the hotel that day.

She knew very well what kind of person Queenie was.

If she thought that it was normal for there to be a winner and losers in a competition, then this incident was enough to prove that Queenie didn’t



deserve her title as the champion. Because of this, she feared someone would take away her chance to be the champion.

In other words, if Queenie were worthy of her title as the champion, there wouldn't be so many problems in the aftermath of the competition.

"I'll look into this carefully and give you an explanation as soon as possible," Lewis said gravely.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 390-At 11.30PM, just as everyone on the Internet was engrossed in the incident that occurred during the designer's competition, a legal letter suddenly materialized and it was unexpectedly meant for Georgina.

Initially, the topic did not trend as someone intentionally kept a lid on the news. Somehow, as it got closer to 12.00AM, someone commented below the discussion, revealing that the university student of interest mentioned in that legal letter was the provincial champion last year.

As soon as this comment was posted, a lot more students showed interest in this matter. Most of them came forward and commented that Georgina was such a lunatic to have gone after a student using such despicable methods.

Furthermore, many of them tagged the official accounts of the press to draw their attention to this matter.

Although it was midnight, the topic was still at the top of the chart as one of the trending topics. Furthermore, it was removed from the trending topic several times. Consequently, the crowd who usually had nothing much to do but speculate on rumors also persisted in refreshing the topic regularly.

"What the heck! This is exactly what capitalism truly is; look at how it rears its ugly head! They've been continuously removing the topic from the trending chart and comparing it to the incident during the designer's competition. This is clearly the Crossleys' actions out of their guilty conscience."

"The person above is right on point. Though the matter has now been blown out of proportion, the Pearson Group hasn't been removing any topic related to them from the trending charts. Instead, they are open and transparent in their actions. Have we been going after the wrong side?"

“Honestly, I realized that earlier on. Didn’t you all notice that the ones who kicked up a huge fuss were actually random, unknown designers? The slightly renowned ones who participated in the design competition didn’t utter a single word at all. How dare those who didn’t even qualify to participate in the competition have the nerve to spew nonsense!”

“I think so too. The people earlier were so harsh with their words that I didn’t even dare to say anything. If there’s really something wrong with the competition, then those designers aren’t dumb either. Why would they have kept mum and tolerated the injustice? Some people just hold grudges against the rich and that’s why they continue to harp on about the issue.”

“Well, honestly speaking, I really enjoy every single product designed by McK. The ‘First Love’ series she designed back then was so popular that I bought every single piece in that series. I’m in love with all of them.”

“I’m an ex-staff of Lux Jewelry and I’m here to reveal some insider scoop. In the past, President Pearson had, in fact, intended to help McK by arranging for the best resources in the fashion world for her, but McK didn’t even hesitate in rejecting him. So, this rumor about how President Pearson organized this competition to boost McK’s popularity is just plain nonsense!”

“Hmm. Hahaha. I reckon that President Pearson isn’t someone like that either. If he really wanted to provide McK with anything, he would have just done it directly. There’s no need for him to resort to all these unnecessary measures. Do you guys really think that he’s got nothing else better to do?”

Despite these pertinent statements, there were plenty of objecting and the comments had clearly improved compared to previously.

On the other hand, Georgina’s social media account was swamped by comments.

“Crossley Group had just gone through such a major incident earlier on. Do they really think that the people on the Internet have no recollection at all? They should really just keep a low profile and stop all

this nonsense. How dare they actually go after a university student! How heartless can they get, huh?”

“Hahaha. Actually, I’m not surprised to hear that Georgina did something like this because the incident previously was such a major issue that it caused

casualties, yet it was merely resolved by shifting the blame to a few management-level staff. Crossley Group is totally rotten to the core, so how could one possibly expect them to do anything with conscience?”

“Oh my gosh! I just saw this viral topic. The provincial champion was from our school. He’s not only the ultimate top student, but he’s also extremely good-looking!”

“On a side note, does anyone have a photo of him?”

Soon, someone posted a photo of Louis’ side profile while he was in class.

“Sh\*t! Georgina Crossley should rot in hell! How dare she use such despicable methods against my future husband! Ahhh! This is so frustrating!”

“His looks are out of this world! My gosh! I really want him as my husband!”

“Those two above, are you guys alright??”

“Oh my God! I’m so pained by this. That poor boy there is so pitiful, despite being so good-looking and talented. He’s so unlucky to have encountered Georgina!”

“Little boy, you’re so good-looking. Why don’t you enter the entertainment industry if you ever find yourself out of a job? I’d be your number one fan and do anything at all for you!”

Due to the surge in this post, this topic once again hit the charts and the system suffered a backlog, rendering the topic unremovable.

In just one night, Crossley Group’s share prices plunged dramatically and dropped to the lowest point ever.

Meanwhile at Pearson Group, Gordon was indignantly requesting for Aidan to provide an explanation in front of the other shareholders when Jonathan rushed into the room. “President Pearson, Old Mr. Pearson, fellow shareholders, the situation on the Internet is finally under control.”

As soon as everyone heard that, not only was Gordon shocked, indifferent expression on his face— turned to look at Jonathan.

Gordon maintained his composure. “How?”

Before coming over, he had made the necessary arrangements that the situation would only escalate further under his plan, so there was no way that things could get under control.

Jonathan responded, “Uh... It wasn’t something that we did, but something that happened, which drew everyone’s attention.”

Gordon frowned upon hearing that. “What is it?”

Jonathan did not elaborate further on the exact situation and merely said, “Something happened to the Crossleys.”

At that moment, Aidan’s indifferent voice rang out. “Do you all think that it is necessary to continue holding this shareholders’ meeting?”

Inside the large conference room, everyone exchanged awkward looks with each other, but none of them dared to utter anything unnecessarily. The entire place was so quiet that one could practically hear a pin drop.

Suddenly, Gordon held himself up with the cane. “The issue that the Crossleys are facing has nothing to do with us. You need to explain your misdeed.”

At that point, Aidan snorted. “My misdeed?”

Then, he scanned the room casually. “What did I do wrong? This is quite ridiculous and there’s nothing concrete at all. It’s all just speculation. Do you guys seriously believe the nonsense on the Internet and come here late at night to interrogate me?”

The crowd lowered their heads further and none of them dared to catch his eyes.

Yet, Gordon added, “The comments on the Internet aren’t unfounded, though. Otherwise, why did you select the runner-up instead of the champion for that competition? Isn’t it quite obvious that you’ve secretly pulled some strings?”

“Why else could that have happened? Well, obviously it was because she deserved the champion position.” Aidan replied nonchalantly, “If I had intended to pull some strings, then I could have just easily handed over Pearson Group to her. I wouldn’t merely give her the exclusive rights to the International Fashion Week.”

As soon as Aidan said that, the originally quiet conference room descended into a chilling silence. The hearts of those present thudded hard against their chests.

Naturally, Gordon lost his temper as expected and he stood up straight before banging the conference table with his fist. “Do you even know what you’re talking about? You! You’re too...”

In contrast to his furious look, Aidan appeared to have regained his composure. “It was just a figure of speech and I didn’t give her anything. After all, she refused to accept half of the shares I owned when I tried to transfer it to her back then.”

As soon as Gordon heard that, he was so enraged to the point where he could not help taking two steps back. At that point, he looked as if he was about to collapse any second now.