

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 491-500

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 491-On the other hand, after exiting the restaurant, Brandon said, "Let me see you off."

However, Zoe politely declined, "No worries, my house isn't very far. I can just take a cab from here. On top of that, you don't live in that direction, so it'll just be very troublesome for you."

Hearing this, he smiled and said, "How is it troublesome to send a girl home? My mother will give me an earful if I don't send you home safely."

Zoe, who was also under the pressure of her parents, knew how scary it was to go against them. So, after thinking about it, she nodded.

She had to admit that she and Brandon got along well.

She had been through many blind dates with friends. They were either too high maintenance or mommy's boys, so she didn't expect anything much this time.

Maybe the lack of expectations led her to feel that this date was great.

He wore a pair of gold-rimmed glasses, and he wasn't very handsome. But he was the type of man that girls would like. No matter what he did or said, it was all very gentle and elegant. If she stayed with him, she would always feel taken care of.

Besides that, he was also very knowledgeable and soft-spoken.

He wasn't pretentious, and she didn't feel ill at ease when staying around him.

All in all, he was pretty pleasant to hang out with.

While sending Zoe back, Brandon continued, "I heard Mrs. Hart say that you're a very busy woman. You didn't even come back during Christmas."

Hearing this, Zoe laughed. "Whenever I get back home, she would ask me, along with my relatives, about marriage. I'm just saving them the trouble."

"Does it have anything to do with your past relationship?"

“Yeah. At the time, we were already talking about marriage. I thought we would already be married around this time of the year.”

Brandon replied, “Thankfully, you found out that he was having an affair before you got married. People would be talking behind your back if you had gotten married.”

Zoe sighed. “Yeah, I guess I was pretty lucky.”

After talking for a while, they arrived at Zoe’s house.

She unfastened her seatbelt and said, “Thank you for today. Be careful on your way back.”

Suddenly, Brandon called out to her. “Zoe.”

She looked up at him curiously. “What’s the matter?”

He asked, “Would you like to go to the movies tomorrow?”

Even if she had never been on a blind date, she knew this was the next step of a growing relationship.

To be honest, she wasn’t dissatisfied with Brandon, nor did she dislike him.

But something just feels...

Brandon saw her hesitation, so he smiled and said, “It’s alright. You can decide later. I think we’ve already had a good date today. If you don’t mind, we can keep in touch.”

Zoe was silent for a second before she laughed. “Sure thing.”

Maybe she could just try this out. Maybe some good would come out of it if they kept in contact.

Wasn’t that what blind dates were about?

Brandon said, “Okay, I’ll pick you up tomorrow.”

Hearing this, she nodded and opened the door. “I’ll see you tomorrow.”

After getting out of his car, Zoe waved Brandon goodbye. It wasn't until he drove off slowly that she turned around to enter the apartment neighborhood.

But as soon as she turned, she noticed Daniel standing under a tree not far away, staring at her emotionlessly.

Zoe was stunned.

She looked around the area, and after confirming she was alone, she scratched her head, confused.

Why's he looking at me like that?

It was as if she had wronged him.

Zoe didn't want to greet him, so she looked away and went into the neighborhood.

After walking for a while, she heard clear footsteps behind her.

A few steps later, Zoe suddenly realized a problem.

Wait a second. I thought I moved. How did he find out where I'm living?

Zoe stopped and turned to look at him. Her eyes were full of wariness.

When she stopped, Daniel also stopped. He met her eyes unashamedly with no hesitation.

However, she didn't back down. "Why are you following me?"

Daniel immediately turned away and looked around. "I'm planning on moving recently, and the environment here seems pretty good."

Zoe was speechless to hear this.

He must be insane.

Without missing a beat, she immediately asked, "How did you know I live here? Did you get someone to look into where I moved to?"

"No."

“Then what are you—”

“I followed you.”

“Followed me...” Zoe mumbled, then frowned. “Were you in the restaurant too?”

Daniel didn’t answer or deny it.

Zoe felt even more weirded out. “That’s not a good reason to stalk me.”

Daniel was quiet.

Then, he patiently said, “That’s not stalking.”

“You followed me home without my permission. Isn’t that stalking?”

At this point, Daniel didn’t know how to explain himself.

In the end, he pursed his lips and said, “I came here to see you.”

Zoe retorted, “I don’t think we have anything to talk about.”

He replied, “I have a lot of things to do these days, so I couldn’t come to see you.”

Hearing this, she was puzzled. “What does that have to do with anything?”

With a frown, he answered, “Didn’t you go on a blind date because I didn’t visit you?”

She laughed dryly. “You overthink. My blind date had nothing to do with you.”

“So, the reason for your blind date is you want to get married?”

Although she wanted to tell him that that was not the whole point of blind dates, she ended up saying, “Yes. I’m in my twenties, after all. If I don’t marry soon, I’ll have my kids at a later age. Of course, I’m in a rush to find a partner.”

“Even if you’re in a rush, you can’t marry someone you just met.”

Zoe said, amused, “Then, who should I marry? You?”

Hearing her words, Daniel tried to speak, but no comments came out.

She sighed. "Enough. I don't know what you came here to talk about, but I have nothing to say to you."

Then, she continued solemnly, "Anyways, you saw me going on a blind date. Medusa has men lining up for her, and she turns them into stone at will. Even if you don't like it, you'd better not come up to me

and say weird things like this."

Daniel frowned, not understanding what she meant.

This was her weak attempt to scare him with folklore, but he didn't understand.

It was pointless.

In the end, she rubbed her forehead and walked away. "I'm going home now, bye."

Zoe had just taken a few steps when he grabbed her wrist from behind. He asked, "Do you want to marry him?"

"Are you the one giving the dowry?"

This immediately shut him up.

Then, she shrugged off his hand and said, "If you're not paying for the dowry, why should you care if I get married?"

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 492-Meanwhile, at Pearson Group.

Jonathan stepped out of the meeting room after he delivered the necessary documents over. Then, he poured a glass of water before handing it to Leanna. "Have things been hectic in the company recently?" Leanna asked after a moment of hesitation.

"It hasn't been too hectic," he replied in a rather cautious tone. She froze upon hearing this. "What has Aidan been up to, then? He seems busy nowadays," she uttered with a frown. "Did something happen in the Pearson Family?"

Seeing that she had misunderstood the situation, Jonathan hastily attempted to clarify things for her. "It's not the Pearson Group, nor is it the Pearson Family, Miss McKinney. It's..." He hesitated to finish his sentence. If President Pearson didn't tell her anything, it means that he doesn't want her to know about this. In that case, I'm not sure if I should tell her anything.

"I knew it. He's cheating on me, isn't he?" Leanna's face remained blank as she spoke. Jonathan nearly choked on his saliva at this point. "No. President Pearson has simply been busy with Crossley Group's matters," he finally explained.

"Crossley Group?" She was surprised to hear this.

"Yes," he replied with a nod. "Miss McKinney, you may not know this, but Leroy had messed things up in Crossley Group when he was still around. This resulted in a lot of trouble when they tried to tally their accounts. Furthermore, with the current state that they are in, most of their projects have been halted. A good number of businesses went bankrupt because of this matter, and many staff members were also impacted by this."

"Is that what... Aidan has been up to?" she muttered.

"Well, the Crossley Group is one of the largest companies in the country, both in terms of scale and influence. Furthermore, they're an independent corporation, so the help that the Pearson Group can provide is pretty limited," Jonathan explained. Leanna was silent after that.

She hadn't expected Aidan to be dealing with the mess that Crossley Group had left behind. She shut her eyes and thought about the situation for a while. This must be a really tough situation since Aidan and Daniel can't seem to deal with it even when they're handling it together. In that case, I guess I have no other choice. No wonder Jimmy and Raymond came to look for me, she thought.

"You need to trust President Pearson, Miss McKinney. He can handle all of this. He simply needs a bit more time because of the way the Pearson Family is eyeing his every move," Jonathan continued. Leanna pressed her lips together and hesitated for a moment before responding, "I got it." After that, Jonathan nodded before heading out of the office.

She sat on the couch and stared out of the window with a dazed expression on her face. No one knew what she was thinking about. The bright skies were

replaced by a dark, grayish tint as the time continued ticking. Darkness fell eventually, and the streetlamps started to light up. Yet, Leanna had been occupied with the same thought since Raymond came over to speak to her.

She was still contemplating this matter, although Zoe and Daniel had both told her not to agree to it. Both of them had said this would cause her too much trouble, but they had never mentioned that it'd be a total mistake for her to get herself involved. Everyone knew the only way they could revive the Crossley Group was for Leanna to step out of the shadows.

It might be because she had been brought up in a way where her priority was her own life, so now, all she wanted was to live a stable life and protect her loved ones. However, with the current situation that

she faced, she felt like she had to step in regardless of what the other party's intentions were. She had to do it for her own sake, for the sake of the thousands of workers, as well as for the sake of Aidan.

She was immersed in her thoughts when a man's deep voice sounded behind her. "When did you come here?"

She turned around to realize that Aidan had returned. "I wasn't here for long. Are you... done?" she asked. He sat down beside her as he loosened his tie and massaged his temple. "No. I still have a bunch of documents to handle," he muttered.

"Are you having a headache?" Leanna asked gently when she saw the look on the man's face. "Yeah," he replied. "Should I give you a massage?" she offered.

He glanced at her before raising an eyebrow. "Sure," he said. She was just about to stand up when he shifted his weight to lie down on the couch, with his head resting on her legs. She stared at him speechlessly. Okay, I guess. She reached her hands out to gently massage the man's temples while he shut his eyes to get some rest.

After a short while, she checked to make sure that the man wasn't asleep before she started talking to him. "I heard you've been helping the Crossley Group to deal with their mess," she said.

"Was Jonathan the one who told you about this?" Aidan asked.

“You don’t need to know who told me about this,” Leanna uttered before pausing. “So, why are you doing it?” she asked.

“What do you mean?” he asked in return.

“Well, technically speaking, the Crossley and Pearson Groups are not affiliated with one another. Even if the Crossley Group goes bankrupt, this has nothing to do with the Pearson Group. You’ve always

been a cold-blooded businessman who puts yourself first, so it is out of character for you to do such a thing,” Leanna responded.

The man shifted his gaze to stare at her. His dark, unblinking eyes remained fixed onto hers for a while as he looked at her silently. She felt somewhat self-conscious to have him staring at her, so she reached her hand out to cover his eyes. “I’m giving you a massage. You’re supposed to close your eyes and enjoy it,” she said.

Aidan pulled her hand away. “Do you think of me as an evil, blood-sucking businessman?” he asked.

“No. I was just asking,” she muttered before she pressed his eyes shut and continued to give him a massage. “If you’re doing it for me, then you shouldn’t do it at all. I’m sure you know that I don’t want to be affiliated with the Crossley Group in any way,” she uttered.

“Are you scolding me or belittling me now?” he asked.

“I’m praising you. I didn’t expect you to be such a responsible man, President Pearson. You’ve blown my mind,” she uttered.

He paused for a few moments before he spoke, “Leroy had created such a huge mess—this is no longer just the Crossley Group’s business anymore. Their actions also impacted a whole lot of other things. Even though I might be a cold-blooded businessman, I have my days where I feel like being the good guy.”

Leanna didn’t know what to say at that point. Why do those words sound so familiar? “I want to be the good guy for once, too,” she finally said. Aidan opened his eyes and fixed his dark pupils on her face as he knitted his sharp brows into a frown. She quickly covered her hands over his eyes. “Hey, didn’t I tell you not to open your eyes?” she protested.

“Did someone tell you something?” he asked.

“No... Well, it doesn't matter if anyone told me anything. I saw the news regarding Crossley Group, and I thought...” Right then, she felt a heavy feeling in her chest that she couldn't seem to get rid of. Before she could come up with a proper excuse, he interjected, “You don't have to bother yourself with these matters.”

“I know, but they still matter to me, and... I want to be like you—I'd like to be a nice person for once,” she announced.

“Have you thought this through?” he asked.

Leanna lowered her head before nodding to him. “Yeah, I have,” she replied. Since Aidan has been dealing with this for so long, I have no reason to avoid it, right? Besides, it sounds pretty nice to team up and work with him, she thought.

Aidan straightened his figure upon hearing her words. Then, he pinched her chin before letting out a dry laugh. “I knew you'd do this.”

She smiled when she met his gaze. “Well, it seemed like I'm a pretty responsible citizen of our society, too, huh?”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 493-Even though they came to a decision, Leanna couldn't just head over to Crossley Group abruptly, especially since she didn't know what was going on within the company itself. Aidan had the same concerns, so he quickly got Jonathan to deliver some files over. She felt her head throbbing just at the sight of the thick files.

“Jonathan will brief you about the situation, and you can ask me if you have any questions,” Aidan offered.

“Okay.” Crossley Group's core issues were mostly the ones that she had known. However, Jonathan gave her a detailed breakdown of the main projects that were affected, the people in charge of these projects, the companies they had partnered with, and the overall progress of the projects. Furthermore, he also told her about the severity of the state of debt that the Crossley Group was in.

Though, he only managed to find an approximation of the debt they had—he couldn't get the exact value just yet. After he completed his report, he gave

Aidan and Leanna a nod before heading out of the office. Aidan sat in front of the desk as he started to work on the files that were placed before him. Meanwhile, Leanna sat on the couch as she skimmed through the files that Jonathan had just passed to her.

Whenever she got to a part she didn't understand, she highlighted them so that she could ask Aidan about them later that night. They were both immersed in their work, and it was way past midnight by the time Aidan looked up from his desk. At that point, Leanna had already fallen asleep on the armrest of the couch, with the documents still in her hands. He strode over before gently removing the files from her hands and placing them on the coffee table. Then, he took off his coat and put it over her.

Leanna seems really tired. She doesn't look like she's about to wake up anytime soon, he thought as he knelt beside her. His gaze was loving and gentle as he tucked a few strands of her hair behind her

ear.

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The sun was out by the time Leanna next opened her eyes. She rubbed the back of her hand against her eyes as she got up. The coat that had been placed over her slid down the couch, so she picked it up before looking around the office in search of Aidan. When she couldn't see him anywhere, she let out a yawn before checking the time on her phone—it was 9.30AM. She hadn't expected herself to sleep for so long.

She figured she should head home to take a shower and get changed. She left Aidan's coat on the couch and was just about to leave the office when someone knocked and opened the door. Jonathan came in with a bag. "President Pearson ordered someone to send this over, Miss McKinney." She took one glance into the bag to see her clothes inside.

"There's a lounge and shower area at the back of President Pearson's office. You can use that space," he continued. Leanna nearly forgot to ask about this, so she was glad that Jonathan had brought it up. "Got it. Thank you," she uttered with a nod. After he left, she headed to the lounge area. She felt a lot more refreshed after she took a shower. By the time she stepped out in her new change of clothes, Aidan was already back in the office.

"Did you have something to do earlier in the morning?" she asked.

He sank into the couch as he nodded and pinched the bridge of his nose. for a moment before looking at her. "Are you heading to the studio?"

"Yeah. I think I'll only go to Crossley Group tomorrow," she answered. For some reason, she had a feeling that Jimmy and Raymond were still going to approach her that day. "Okay," he replied.

After a moment of hesitation, Leanna asked, "Are you going home tonight?"

Aidan raised an eyebrow at her question. "Can't fall asleep without

She glared at him speechlessly. I knew I shouldn't have asked such questions. This b*stard can never give me a serious response. "I'm heading off. It doesn't bother me whether you come home—I just want you to leave me a text to let me know your decision. I'll head out for a meal with Zoe if you're not coming home," she muttered as she picked her bags up.

Before he could say anything, she was already out of the room. Jonathan showed up in the office a while after she left. "President Pearson."

Aidan wiped the small smile off his face before asking coolly, "What is it?"

"The news is out. I'm sure William will find out about Mrs. Pearson's decision to go to Crossley Group by this afternoon." Jonathan paused before continuing in a rather cautious tone, "But based on their previous reactions... Do you think it's likely for William to go back to Crossley Group, President Pearson?"

"Who said anything about wanting William back in the Crossley Group?" Aidan pressed his slender fingers against his temple. Jonathan didn't seem to understand his words entirely. "So, what you mean is..."

"We haven't found Leroy, so things are not over yet. William made a rather dumb move of admitting his true identity at a time like this. However, he was also partially responsible for Crossley Group's current state, so I don't think he could just abandon them without doing anything," Aidan uttered.

"They've been trying to fix the mess that Leroy left them with," Jonathan added.

“Have they really done anything?” Aidan asked in an unimpressed tone. Jonathan was quiet as he realized that they hadn’t made much progress. It didn’t matter who—them or William—attempted to

help out with Crossley Group’s situation. The scale of the problem was too large, so whatever they did merely felt like a Band-Aid being plastered onto a gunshot wound.

Aidan continued in his monotonous voice, “William has clearly given up on Crossley Group for now— he’s simply watching as they fall apart. He probably even hopes that they can just disappear since he no longer cares for the company. If anything, Crossley Group was probably the initial source of his resentment.”

“If what you’re saying is true, then it seems like there’s nothing wrong with his decision,” Jonathan commented.

Aidan let out a deep grunt. “Leroy’s not the only one responsible for the tragedy that happened 20 years ago. William was part of it, too.” William already knew the sort of person that Leroy was—even Leroy’s parents never had high hopes for him. Yet, William was a stubborn and individualistic man who went against the majority’s opinion—he was the one who allowed Leroy to enter the company.

Little did he know, his actions were the cause of this whole mess, Aidan thought.

Twenty years ago, Lloyd was a polite and generous man, who was also charismatic and smart in his field of work. However, he was simply too unguarded and simple-minded. If he had been a little more cautious with Leroy and hadn’t handed everything to him, perhaps Leroy wouldn’t have had the chance to climb up the ladder. Perhaps the entire explosion wouldn’t have happened, and Leanna wouldn’t have ended up roaming around on her own for 20 years or even met someone like Jethro.

Finally, William stepped out of the shadows after 20 years. At this point, all he felt running in his blood was the hatred and resentment that he had carried for so long. So, he needed to know that Leanna was heading to Crossley Group so that he would shift his focus back to the company instead of engaging in other pointless actions.

“Do you think this will be helpful, President Pearson?” Jonathan asked.

“Well, it all depends on how William makes sense of this matter.” Aidan had thought it all out—he knew that he would be able to handle everything after Leanna went to Crossley Group, even if William wasn’t there.

After a slight pause, Aidan shifted the topic. “How’s Georgina?”

“She keeps throwing fits in her cell. The wound on her face is really deep, and the doctor said that it’s going to leave a scar. Her looks will probably be ruined,” Jonathan explained.

Aidan didn’t show a hint of emotion on his face. “It seems like Leroy decided to give up on his precious daughter at a crucial time like this,” he muttered.

“He can barely save himself. I don’t think he can care for his daughter now,” Jonathan replied

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 494-It was nearly noon by the time Leanna got to the studio. When she reached, she found Zoe sprawled over the front counter, and she could hear Zoe let out a few sighs as she walked over. “What’s wrong?” she asked gently.

Zoe looked up and stared at Leanna with a blank look in her eyes. “It’s nothing much. I’m just tired,” she said.

“Do you want to head home and rest? There’s nothing much to do today,” Leanna offered.

“It’s fine. I’m just emotionally drained,” Zoe replied.

Leanna raised an eyebrow upon hearing this. “Did Daniel come over to meet you yesterday?” she asked after dragging Zoe to the pantry. Zoe nodded before letting out another sigh. “What did he tell you?” Leanna asked.

“It was nothing much. He mentioned some odd stuff and asked me if I was about to get married. Then, I asked him if he planned on giving me a gift, but he didn’t say anything. Isn’t he just asking for trouble? Why should he care if I’m getting married?” Zoe remarked.

Leanna went silent for a while before continuing, “So, what happened then?”

“Nothing happened after that. I ignored him, and I headed home,” Zoe said.

“How about the guy that you’ve been seeing? How’s that going?” Leanna asked.

“It has been pretty good. It’s much better than I had expected it to be. He’s a pretty nice guy, and we have a lot of common topics. He even asked me out for a movie,” Zoe responded.

“Did you agree to it?” Leanna asked.

“He was thinking of using this movie date to see if things would work out for us, and I agreed as I thought that it was a good idea, too,” Zoe explained. Leanna pressed her lips together without saying much. She had intended to give Daniel a push, but it seemed like her actions didn’t have that much of an effect. Well, all I wanted was for Zoe to find her happiness. Since the date she has been meeting is working out, I guess she can try things out with him, she thought.

Zoe let out a yawn before turning around to make a cup of coffee. “What about you? Didn’t you meet Daniel to talk about the issue with Crossley Group? What did he say?” she asked.

Leanna let out a laugh upon hearing Zoe’s words. “His advice was pretty much the same as yours,” she replied.

“Yeah, you should just go along with what we—I mean, what I said. Don’t go to Crossley Group, and don’t get involved with their business; it doesn’t matter what happens to Crossley Group. We should just enjoy our quiet and peaceful lives,” Zoe commented.

“I’ve already decided, Zoe,” Leanna announced.

Zoe sipped on her freshly brewed cup of coffee before she spoke, “Trust me. This is the right thing to do. You—”

“I’m planning to head to Crossley Group.”

Zoe nearly spat her coffee out after hearing what Leanna said. Then, she gave Leanna a look of disbelief—she thought she had heard it wrong.

“What?!”

“I’m planning to go to Crossley Group,” Leanna repeated herself.

“Why? Didn’t you decide against that yesterday? We all told you not to go.”

Leanna glanced out of the window as she spoke, “I was still in the process of thinking about it yesterday. Crossley Group’s situation is complex now. If I take over the company, not only will I not get anything in return, but I might also be taken advantage of by people with ulterior motives.”

“Then—”

“That was why I was hesitant at first. But after I went to Pearson Group yesterday, I found out that Aidan has been helping them out all along. So, I figured that I had no reason to avoid them. I mean, Aidan was not related to the Crossleys in any way and had no obligation to help out the Crossley Group, yet he did it anyway. So, why couldn’t I? Besides, I should be the one dealing with it, to begin with, not him,” Leanna said.

I’m not sure when this started, but I feel like everyone has been trying to protect me by keeping me out of this whole mess. However, there are some things that I simply can’t avoid. Some things are simply unavoidable, she thought to herself.

After Leroy messed up the entire Crossley Group, all the staff were disunited. The only way things could be resolved was if the Crossleys stepped forward to do something. Only then would Crossley Group be able to start over. However, since the Crossleys weren’t willing to step forward, Leanna had to do it instead.

Zoe couldn’t help but frown. “But it’s not your fault that Crossley Group is in this state. It’s all Leroy and Georgina’s fault! They’re a pretentious bunch!”

Leanna shook her head. “Now’s not the time to blame anyone. The problems that Crossley Group is currently facing are affecting a lot of people—if we don’t get things in control soon, more people will be affected.”

Zoe didn’t know what to say after that. Leanna’s right. I’ve seen a lot of my friends posting about the loss of their jobs on social media, and I’ve seen some people talking about losing their entire

businesses. This is all because of what’s going on with the Crossley Group. After a while, she spoke again, “When are you going over, then?”

“Probably tomorrow,” Leanna replied.

“Alright. You don’t have to worry about the studio. I’ll handle things here. But... shouldn’t you be preparing for fashion week?” Zoe asked.

“I’m not that great at managing a company. My guess is that the guys who approached me yesterday merely wanted me to make an appearance. I’ll figure things out tomorrow. Don’t worry. I’ll keep up with the preparation for fashion week,” Leanna uttered. This was her dream, after all.

Zoe patted Leanna on her shoulder. “Well, you should give it your all since you’ve decided to do this. I’ll always have your back. So, don’t worry about anything, and go for it!”

Leanna chuckled. “Well, I’m worried about you, though. I hope you can find your other half soon,” she uttered.

Zoe shrugged before responding nonchalantly, “I wouldn’t have to worry about finding my other half as long as I’m rich.” Leanna stared at the woman speechlessly. “Did you just take a page out of Aidan’s book?” she grumbled.

“Yes and no. Aidan is rich, whereas I’m just exaggerating my words,” Zoe commented.

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That afternoon, they went out for lunch together. When they returned to the studio, the admin greeted them, “Miss McKinney, Miss Hart, Daniel is here.” Zoe was stunned. He’s not here to ask about the wedding again, is he?

“He came with someone else,” the admin continued before Zoe could say anything.

“Who is it?” Leanna asked.

“I’m not sure what his name is, but he came together with Daniel,” the admin explained.

“Have you seen him around in the past?” Leanna asked.

“I think he came over with President Pearson once a really long time ago. I’m not too sure, but I think they’re the same person,” the admin said. Leanna could guess who the other person was by then. “Alright. Are they in the lounge?” she asked before pursing her lips.

“Yeah. They’ve been in there for about half an hour,” the admin replied.

Leanna hung her head low and stood there for a while without moving. “What is it? Who’s the other person?” Zoe whispered.

“I think it’s... William.”

Zoe was puzzled. “Isn’t he Aidan’s partner? Why did he come with Daniel? It seems like he’s affiliated with a lot of people,” she commented.

Leanna let out a dry laugh as she didn’t know what else to say. I know I should go in to greet them, but my legs just won’t move, she thought.

Zoe could sense her hesitation, so she offered, “Should I get them to leave? You don’t seem eager to meet them.”

“It’s fine.” Leanna shook her head. She gathered her emotions and tried to pick her mood up. “Why don’t you get us two glasses of water, Zoe?” she said before walking into the room.

“Okay,” Zoe replied.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 495- Standing outside the door, Leanna put her hand on the handle and took a few deep breaths before she knocked on the door and went in. Daniel sat there and greeted her as usual, “Miss McKinney.”

Smiling slightly, she responded, then looked at the person beside him and said softly, “Mr. Morris.”

When Daniel saw this, he hurriedly said, “I met Mr. Morris outside the door, and he happens to have something to ask you, so we came together.”

She tugged at her lower lip, then sat down opposite them. “What do you need from me, Mr. Morris?”

William didn’t beat around the bush and said directly, “I heard you plan to take over Crossley Group, Miss McKinney?”

Leanna nodded slightly. “Yes.”

“Since I have cooperative ties with Crossley Group and have worked closely with them over the years, no one knows the current situation better than I do.

The company's name is all that's left to keep it afloat at this point. Furthermore, internal management is completely anarchic. Anyone taking over the company is immediately liable for all its obligations. Perhaps, Miss McKinney, you should reconsider."

She replied, "I have already given it much thought and consideration. You've already mentioned that the company's name is all left to keep it afloat, which speaks volumes about its impact. Recently, there have been numerous articles in the media about the Crossley Group. So, how many articles have you seen that did not discuss the company's influence on unwitting third parties?"

After a brief pause, she pursed her lower lip and went on with her explanation. "Since the situation has progressed to this point, the question of whether or not Crossley Group can handle the situation on its

own is no longer relevant. However, in terms of finding solutions to these issues, Crossley Group is merely the starting point."

A slight frown formed on William's face, and he found himself at a loss for words. In response, Daniel promptly remarked, "Miss McKinney, the Crossley Group has implicated many individuals, but we have been working hard to find a solution to this problem. My gut tells me that a solution won't be far off in the foreseeable future."

Leanna smiled. "I can wait, but are those workers and those companies that have shut down one after the other able to wait?"

"Still—"

"I am fully aware that you are acting in this manner with my best interests at heart. So far in my life, I've been able to rely on everybody else to watch out for me. However, some things need to be done. As things stand, I am the best person for the job, and I don't see any way out of this situation."

After a brief pause, William spoke up, his voice filled with inaudible emotion. "Since Crossley Group has reached this stage, it does not matter what you do; you will not be able to reverse the situation. Therefore, the best option is to shut down the company. The Complex's headquarters have decided to relocate to Highside. Individuals negatively impacted by this incident will receive remuneration from Complex, giving them a fresh start. The influence

of the Crossley Group will only last for a short time before it is completely forgotten.”

She pointed out, “I don’t know much about running a business, but I do know that whether it’s a bankrupt company or a company on the verge of bankruptcy, or a worker who doesn’t know what to do and can only wait at the construction site, all of these things have one thing in common: uncertainty. All of them must be shown concrete signs of optimism, not just promises of a future that are impossible to visualize.”

After Leanna had finished speaking, there was a sudden, eerie silence. Daniel placed one hand over his mouth and coughed to break the awkward silence. After having known each other for a long time, he knew her personality had always been quite reasonable. She was open to discussion on any topic, and even if she occasionally suspected that he had other ulterior motives, she would not speak in such a harsh manner. On the other hand, she demonstrated absolutely no mercy in that situation.

While he was considering what to say to alleviate this awkward situation, there was a knock on the lounge door. Zoe walked in carrying a tray with two glasses of water. She couldn’t help but clear her throat as she took in the environment in front of her. What is causing the tense atmosphere?

She set the glass of water down and was about to leave when don’t you sit and converse with us, too?”

She was speechless. What a crazy guy! I plan on getting out of here as soon as I can!

However, now that there were outsiders around, she was also nervous. “T-Talk about what?”

“Miss McKinney wants to take over Crossley Group. Help us persuade her against it.”

When Daniel finished talking, Leanna stood up

Then, she nodded slightly to them. “I still have work, so excuse me.”

Once Zoe saw Leanna leave the lounge, she felt compelled to go after her. However, Daniel’s grip on her wrist remained firm, and he had no intention of releasing it under any circumstances.

William got up, said nothing, and left in silence. After he left, Zoe struggled and said, "What are you doing? Let go!"

Daniel said, "We weren't done talking yesterday."

"We have. It's not like you'll get anything from my marriage. What else do you want to talk about?"

"Do you have to marry?"

Obviously, that was not necessarily the case.

Zoe paused, then looked up at him. "Yes, I'll be single forever if I don't get married."

He frowned. "Do you have to marry him?"

"I think he's pretty good, so why not?"

"You've only known each other for a day; how can you tell?"

"I'm afraid you'll never get the concept of love at first sight."

As soon as Zoe had finished what she needed to say, she withdrew her hand and walked away without turning around. Daniel watched as she left the room while he ran his tongue across his teeth.

...

After leaving the lounge, she went to Leanna's office, knocked on the door, then pushed it open. She saw Leanna staring out the window in a daze. So, she walked in and waved her hand in front of Leanna. "Nana, what are you thinking about?"

Leanna withdrew her thoughts and shook her head. "Nothing."

She was baffled as to why she had just spoken in such a harsh manner. In the past, Daniel or, at most, Elijah would be the one to communicate with her. However, William came in person, which was all needed to see how strongly he disapproved of her taking over Crossley Group. It was ultimately for her good, but she lost control of her emotions for a split second.

Zoe pulled up a chair and sat next to her, then sighed, “Still, what they said actually makes sense, and your idea is also not wrong. There can’t be a perfect solution in this world. Anyway, if you’ve already decided, just do it.”

Leanna rubbed her brows and smiled. “Okay.”

At that moment, Zoe’s phone vibrated. She pulled it out to glance at the screen and said, “Nana, do you have any movie recommendations?”

Leanna raised her eyebrows. “Is that your blind date?”

“Yes, he’s asking me to go to the movies, and he now wants me to choose what to watch.”

Leanna replied, “I haven’t been to the cinema for a while, but Daphne’s movie appears to have been released, and the reviews seem quite good. You can go and watch that.”

Zoe instantly typed a reply, then said simultaneously, “Okay, I’ll watch that one. No wonder I haven’t seen her much recently. It turns out she’s promoting her movie. I’ve only heard her complain about not getting even a few days of rest throughout the year. Ugh, her boss is inhuman.”

Leanna didn’t say a word.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 496-At the end of the day, the evidence showed that Leanna’s assumption was correct. When Raymond returned to see her later that day, he brought a letter of support signed by all the company’s top executives currently employed by the Crossley Group. As long as she was willing to take over Crossley Group, the senior management and all the Crossley Group employees would be willing to work with her to the best of their abilities and cooperate with her.

After she read the commitment letter, she said nothing, so he continued, “Miss McKinney, maybe in your opinion, the Crossley Group is a hot potato, but in the past, it was a well-known and influential existence in Highside, and now that it has become like this, it is really—”

She put down the commitment letter and said calmly, “If I take over Crossley Group, will you be able to fulfill the promises in this letter?”

“Of course, the high-level executives have all signed it. Miss McKinney, Mr. Ollander currently holds the highest position in the Crossley Group, and he made a personal visit to see you the other day. He will uphold his end of the bargain.”

Leanna said, “If you want me to take over Crossley Group, that’s fine, but I have a few requests you have to promise me.”

Raymond replied, “Miss McKinney, please tell me.”

“First, I need the wages of all current employees of Crossley Group to be paid immediately. The wages of those who left after what happened to the Crossley Group should also be paid accordingly.”

He hesitated and said, “Unfortunately, the Crossley Group’s current account is empty. In addition to the employees’ wages, there is substantial debt.”

She added, “Doesn’t Crossley Group still have a few high-level executives? Since they are all willing to ask me to take over Crossley Group, they are optimistic about the company’s future. When we finally overcome this challenge as a team and get back to making more money, they will receive the compensation that is rightfully owed to them, right?”

The smile on the corner of his mouth froze for a moment. “Miss McKinney, you’re right.”

“I know this sum is sizable regardless of whether it comes from the construction or project funds. They won’t be able to finance those right away, but they can come up with something to address the issue of the employee’s wages. It shouldn’t be too challenging for them.”

Raymond nodded. “I will convey it to Mr. Ollander.”

As he spoke, he continued, “Miss McKinney... Do you have any other requests?”

Leanna said, “Yes. Secondly, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with the information of the Crossley Group executives who were let go after the incident.”

“Miss McKinney, what do you intend to do?”

She smiled and uttered, "I will let you know once I have finished reading all the information."

Crossley Group was a giant corporation; consequently, only some were as manipulative as Leroy or aggressive as Jimmy. Still, some of them contributed positively to the organization. When the incident occurred, it was obvious that the few high-level people dragged out to serve as shields were not in cahoots with Jimmy. Therefore, she needed to recruit a few high-level employees committed to their work to save Crossley Group. Nevertheless, those are the only conditions under which survival is even possible.

Leanna's second request was much less challenging to implement than the agreed. "I'll send it to you tonight."

"Okay." She continued, "The third requirement; you said just now that the person who holds the highest position in the company is Mr. Ollander, right?"

"Yes."

She stated, "My third request is that after I take over Crossley Group, my position must be the highest, and Mr. Ollander must listen to me."

He hesitated again. "This—"

Then, she returned the commitment letter to him. "It's okay; I understand you can't make a decision. You can talk it over with them and get back to me with an answer."

He was silent for a while and then said, "As long as we agree to your three requests, you will take over Crossley Group, right?"

"Certainly."

"Then, Miss McKinney, please wait a moment. I'll discuss it with Mr. Ollander now."

Soon after he finished talking, he left. Getting in the car, he called Jimmy and told him about Leanna's three conditions. After Jimmy heard this, he was so angry that he almost jumped up. "This girl is too much! Which of these three conditions is acceptable at all? What does she want those people's information for? That's Leroy's decision! It has nothing to do with us. Could it be that she wants to settle accounts afterward?"

Raymond took his time and explained, “Mr. Ollander, given that you are also aware that this was Mr. Crossley’s decision in the past, then providing her with this information will not have any bearing on us

in any way.”

“You should give it to her if you want to. I don’t care! Also, I won’t pay any money!”

Raymond explained, “It’s not just you, Mr. Ollander; Miss McKinney said all the current Crossley Group high-level executives are liable. You need to think about the long run; if Miss McKinney doesn’t take over Crossley Group and we let things continue to simmer, sooner or later, they will find you if they can’t find Mr. Crossley. When that moment arrives, you will lose more than this amount of money.”

Jimmy remained silent as if he were processing the information in his head. Raymond continued, “It was Miss McKinney who suggested that she should have the highest position, which is not a bad idea in and of itself. Didn’t Mr. Crossley say she’d inherit the Crossley Group? Furthermore, considering the current situation at the Crossley Group, her position, regardless of how high it may be, will not be of much use, and she won’t be able to accomplish much. Instead, with increased authority comes increased responsibility, making her the one everyone looks for when Crossley Group goes bankrupt rather than you.”

Despite Raymond’s words, Jimmy continued to feel slightly annoyed. After all these years, he was ranked lower than a woman, not just any woman, but a young girl in her twenties.

“Mr. Ollander, we are running out of time.”

“Okay, okay, just do what she says. You should inform the other high-level executives and ask for a contribution toward the wages of each of them. I’ll just pay a small amount as a gesture of goodwill. Make sure the accountant handles it smartly.”

“Mr. Ollander, don’t worry.”

After hanging up the phone, Raymond immediately reached out to the other high-level executives. The remaining employees were either Jimmy’s faction or those financially strapped to the point where they couldn’t afford to leave

the company even if they wanted to. They became slightly aggravated when they learned that they were being asked to crowdfund their employees' wages. However, given the current state of affairs, if Leanna did not take over Crossley Group, their predicament would deteriorate further than it already had. If the company went under and Jimmy's standing plummeted, it would hurt them. So, these people gritted their teeth and collected the money to pay their employees' wages.

Two hours later, Raymond reappeared before Leanna and put down the documents she asked for. "Miss McKinney, I have already done the three things you asked me to do."

"Have the wages been paid yet?"

He replied, "The finance department has been notified to work overtime, and it will be done before they get off work tomorrow at the latest."

She nodded, took the information, and said, "Okay."

Raymond asked again, "When do you plan to take over Crossley Group?"

"Tomorrow." Leanna flipped through the information. "Please help me schedule a meeting for tomorrow at 10.00AM. All high-level executives are required to attend, and anyone who fails to attend or arrives late will be required to pay the wages of all workers whose projects are stalled."

He replied, "I will inform them."

"Great then. See you tomorrow."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 497-After Raymond had left, Leanna continued to study the documents in front of her. Her assumption was accurate that these high-ranking executives were valuable contributors who were unfairly made to take the fall for the company. To conceal the truth, he only provided her with a short list of the names and titles of the company's executives, along with brief descriptions of the respective departments and the projects over which they oversaw.

In addition, she requested Jonathan to look into it for her, and the evaluation for those laid off was uniformly positive. After some time had passed, she checked the time on her phone and discovered it was already late. Moreover, she had difficulty tracking these individuals because no contact information

was on the list. Soon, something came to mind, and she texted Aidan that she would return later. Then, she sent the message and left without waiting for Aidan to respond.

Suddenly, Zoe asked, “Nana, are you going home? Where are you going?”

Leanna put down the phone. “I’m looking for Maya, but she hasn’t answered her phone. Do you know where I can find her?”

Zoe asked, “Why are you looking for her?”

“I recall that her husband was a high-level executive at the Crossley Group and was one of the select few made to take the fall after the incident.”

Zoe thought for a while and replied, “I’m not sure; she was the most active in the class group before; she always showed off her husband’s gifts daily. Since something happened to her husband, we haven’t heard from her for a long time.”

After a pause, Zoe added, “Wait a minute. I’ll ask the class monitor. I heard Maya tried to borrow money from her, so maybe she knows.”

Leanna nodded. “Okay.”

After some time had passed, Zoe received a response to her message. In the aftermath of the incident, Maya’s family invested heavily in their connections and only managed to resolve the situation. However, they had to sell the family home and car and take out a large loan. As a result of taking the fall for Crossley Group, Maya’s husband’s reputation in the industry was also ruined. Since he still had children, he could only find a security guard job in a hotel because no company would risk hiring him. Maya, who had been a housewife for several years, was also coerced into going to work, and she is now employed as a salesperson at a luxury store.

Zoe forwarded the address to Leanna after obtaining it. “Are you leaving right now? Do you want me to accompany you?”

Leanna smiled. “I’m not going to fight them, so I can just go by myself.” As she spoke, she continued, “Weren’t you going to watch a movie? Why haven’t you gone yet?”

“He has something to do right now, so there is a slight delay. I’ll be in the studio waiting for him. You should get going first.”

“Okay, then I’ll go first.”

While seated in the car, she entered the address Zoe had sent her into the navigation system and checked the driving distance. Due to the current traffic situation, the drive will take around 40 minutes. At that moment, she received a call from Aidan, so she switched on the loudspeaker and answered his call. Then, she looked in the rearview mirror and drove off; she spoke, “Are you done with your work?”

His voice was tinged with tiredness. “The meeting just ended; where are you going?”

“I’m going to find a classmate whose husband previously worked for Crossley Group.”

On the other end of the phone, there was a pause before he asked, “The one who was drunk before?”

Leanna said, “Yes, it’s her.”

“When are you coming back?”

“I’ve just set out, and the trip there will take me roughly 40 minutes. I don’t know if I’ll be able to meet with her. It could be quite late before I get home. When you return home, get some sleep before worrying about me.”

Aidan was speechless. He pinched his nose and said, “Do you

She said, “No, it’s fine; what will you do, anyway? Get some rest at home. I’ll give you a ring when I’m finished.”

He struggled to find the right words before saying, “Did anyone look for you today?”

“Yes.” She pursed her lips slightly. “Let’s talk about it when I return. I’m driving now.”

He grunted, then said again, “Send me the address. I won’t go there. I just want to know where you are.”

Leanna remained silent for a while as if she was thinking about the validity of his words. Aidan said indifferently, “Not only this time. No matter where you go alone at night, you must give me the address; otherwise, I will worry.”

Hearing the last few words, she unconsciously raised the corner of her said thoughtfully, “Okay, I’ll send it to you later.”

“Drive safe.”

“Sure.”

She had just hung up the phone when she came to a stoplight, so she pulled over to send the address before continuing. The light eventually turned green, and she continued on her way. When she arrived at the store’s entrance, she found a parking spot nearby and quickly exited the car.

As soon as she entered, she heard the laughter of two women. “Oh, didn’t you always say that your husband is an executive of a big company? Doesn’t he give you enough money? How did you end up like this today?”

“Why don’t you wear that jewelry that you usually flaunt? Are they not worthy of your identity?”

“I guess they’re either pictures stolen from the Internet or fake, and she’s too embarrassed to wear them.”

“This is why we must always be more practical and reasonable. Be content with what you have and try not to constantly think about how to outdo other people or brag about it. It will be extremely embarrassing when someone finds out who you are and exposes you for it.”

The statements had left a pallor on Maya’s face as she faced these two women. The few other employees in the store, except those who were entertaining customers, gathered around to watch the show and whispered to each other simultaneously.

She seemed furious as she moved her lips and said, “I wasn’t bragging; those were all true—”

“Since it’s true, then why don’t you just stay home as the wife of a wealthy businessman? Why do you come out and work?”

“She’s audacious. How dare she make such a bold assertion after seeing it with our own eyes?”

“She doesn’t give up and admit it, does she? Do we have to expose her on social media before she can admit the truth?”

“Right, she also boasted that her husband is an executive of a big company. I heard last time that he’s just a security guard at a small hotel.”

“My God, this bragging is too outrageous.”

Listening to their ridicule one after another, Maya was utterly embarrassed, and her face turned pale.

Leanna walked over and said lightly, “Do you have time now? I want to talk to you.”

As soon as the words came out, everyone looked at her. One of the salespersons was stunned, and then she whispered, “Isn’t this that famous designer?”

“Oh, I remember her! Isn’t she the wife of the president of the Pearson Group?”

In an instant, the atmosphere in the entire store changed. The person who mocked Maya just now looked left and right, not knowing what to say. Between the two of them, Maya felt even more embarrassed when she saw Leanna. “Why are you looking for me?”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 498-Maya was stunned, thinking she must have been mistaken.

She then thought Leanna was lying and just playing a prank on her.

Before she could say a word, Leanna said, “It is not just him. All of the executives who left Crossley Group during the crisis can return to their previous positions.”

Maya was thoroughly shocked by the news.

“W-Why?” she eventually asked after a pause.

Leanna glanced at her watch and looked around. “Are you sure you want to talk here?”

That snapped Maya back to reality, and she led Leanna away while ignoring the stares of the crowd around them.

Either way, she did not want to work there anymore.

There was a cafe not far from where they were.

After sitting at a table inside the cafe, Maya stared at the glass of water in front of her with her hands nervously clasped together. “Were you telling the truth?”

“What else?” Leanna shot back. “Did you think I was doing it to get you out of a tough spot?”

“Still, the decision is Crossley Group’s,” Maya said doubtfully. “Are you sure you can do this? Is this a prank?”

“Unlike you, I am a busy woman. If I have the time to play a prank, I would be focusing on other tasks.”

“However, Crossley Group...”

“You don’t have to worry about that,” Leanna interrupted. “Just tell me—does your husband wish to come back and work for Crossley Group?”

Maya clenched her jaw. Her family had fallen from grace because of this incident. Why would he not want the job?

He would never truly be happy to work as a hotel security guard for the rest of his life, right?

“You can ask him about it tonight,” Leanna continued. “If he is happy to come back, tell him to report to the office in the morning for a meeting.”

“I-Is that all? There are no other conditions?” Maya asked.

“Of course, there are conditions to the offer.”

Maya snorted. “I knew it. You would never be so generous.”

Leanna smirked. "I never said I was a good person."

"Tell me, then," Maya demanded, tilting her chin up. "I will tell him about the offer only if it is good."

"As I have just said, I want the other executives who left the company to come back as well." Leanna took a sip of her coffee. "Of course, I would not force anyone back to their jobs. They are free to come or go as they please. My condition for your husband's offer is that he must contact them on my behalf to tell them of my offer."

Those people all left the Crossley Group due to dreadful situations, and they had to shoulder the blame for anything bad that happened in the past few years.

It was inevitable that they hated the company. Leanna would thank or two of them were willing to go back to their jobs.

"Is that all you want?" Maya asked.

"Did you expect me to demand 1.8 million as a deposit fee?"

Hearing that made Maya let out a sigh of relief. "I see. I will pass on the message."

"Crossley Group is not what it used to be," Leanna stated. "It may be difficult at first, but I guarantee that as long as we can get through this current crisis, they will get what they are owed and not a penny less. Not only that, but I will get rid of the toxic behavior and corrupted employees from the previous management."

After a pause, she continued, "I only need you to tell them that."

Time was running out, and she could not seek them out one by one.

All she could do was offer a show of her sincerity.

She did not need to say anything else. After all, it was hard for anyone not to know what was going on at the Crossley Group after all the fuss.

Now that she was done with her speech, she stood up. "That is all for now. I will take my leave."

Maya was still dumbfounded by Leanna's resolute words when the movement snapped her out of her thoughts. She thereafter stood up as well. "Then... I..."

"What do you not understand?" Leanna asked, turning to look at her.

That was not the case at all. Maya merely did not think Leanna, who she thought was a nobody, would save her twice.

The first time Leanna saved her was at the party. Then, the former was currently saving the latter and her husband by giving them a new chance at life.

"You spoke quite well, like a powerful woman," Maya eventually uttered.

"You are quite the strong woman as well. You raise your kids while working," replied Leanna.

"I do not plan on working there any longer," Maya spat out. "When I am there, I am either ostracized or bullied."

"All jobs are like that," commented Leanna.

In all honesty, Maya had been quite lucky before. Her husband was promoted to an executive of Crossley Group with a salary of millions despite his young age. Furthermore, he loved her and always bought her gifts. He had no flaw other than never having the time to be with her.

More importantly, she was happy with her life.

Life was different for everyone. Perhaps that was what made her happy.

After exiting the cafe, Leanna messaged Aidan as she walked back to her car.

When the message was sent, she put her phone away and pulled out her key. The moment she looked up, she found Aidan leaning against her car.

With an emotionless expression on his face, he was holding a phone up to his ear as his gaze focused on something in the distance.

She slowed to a stop when she spotted him. A bright smile spread across her lips.

He was her happiness.

She waited until he was done with his phone call before walking over. "Didn't you say you wouldn't be coming?" she softly asked.

He turned to look at her with a raised eyebrow. "I was in the area. What a coincidence, am I right?"

She stared at him, speechless.

"Where is Jonathan?" she asked instead, looking around.

"I let him clock off early," he said before proceeding to grab her key. "Get in the car. It's time to go home."

"Why don't I drive?" she retorted. "It is considered drowsy driving if you do."

"Do I look that tired?" he asked.

"A little."

He smiled and leaned in close to her. "I feel quite energized. Shall we test it out in the car?"

She stared at him, shocked.

The b*stard can just leave right now!

On the way back, Aidan asked as he drove, "How did the talk go?"

"I said everything I had to say, but I don't know what will happen."

"You will know tomorrow."

She was surprised to hear him say that. "How did you know of the meeting I arranged for tomorrow?"

He hummed with a smirk on his lips. "I know everything."

"Do you have a spy in the company?" she warily asked.

"I do not have a spy, but merely a source of information."

There was a lull in the conversation. "Do you think they'll come?" she eventually asked.

“That depends on them,” he answered. “For people like your colleagues who are severely in need of more money and not happy about their jobs, the offer would be their best choice. For other people, that may not be it. Leroy might have been the culprit, but they had to shoulder the blame for the company. It would be hard for anyone to forgive the company after suffering such great injustice.”

She, too, had the same thought.

Letting out a sigh, she stretched lazily. “I am not going to force them to come back. I will be happy if just one or two of them come back. At least, they are all honest and serious workers. They will always be better than those who stayed behind.”

“The current employees all follow Jimmy’s lead. Everything will only get better after getting rid of him.”

“However, since he did not leave and specifically sought me out,” she continued, “it means he cannot be easily kicked out of the Crossley Group.”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 499-Aidan’s slender fingers tapped against the steering wheel as he calmly stated, “That is because no one thought of getting rid of Jimmy before.”

Leanna was stunned by his words but soon snapped out of her daze.

When Leroy was still the head of the Crossley Group, he knew of Jimmy’s actions. Since Leroy was not a good man himself, it was likely Jimmy acted arrogant and brazen because Leroy had implicitly approved of Jimmy’s actions.

When she thought about it that way, Jimmy certainly had no cause for fear.

Especially since his backer was Leroy, no one would publicly challenge Jimmy.

“I know what to do now,” she finally said after a few minutes of silence.

Aidan smiled and turned to look at Leanna. “Do you need my help?”

“No,” she replied. “I can handle this. You just need to focus on the Pearson Group.”

“Oh, right,” she said suddenly. “Why did you come back so late that night? You said you would tell me.”

So many things had happened over the past two days that she nearly forgot about his promise.

“It is nothing. Georgina was found.”

“Where did you find her?”

It took him a while before he replied, “You just need to know she has been found. Her previous location is not important.”

She pouted and decided she was not in the mood to argue. “How is she now?”

“In prison. She does not seem to be doing well.”

Pursing her lips, she said, “Well, Georgina has always been a proud woman. A fall from grace is certainly unacceptable to her.”

“She deserves it,” he said.

“Well... What about Leroy? Any news about him?”

“None.”

“Are Jethro and Louis’s DNA tests done yet?” she asked after that.

He licked his lips and did not say a word.

Something about his hesitance told her bad news was incoming.

If her guess was right, he would have told her by now.

Since he was reluctant to tell her the news, it was likely...

A few seconds later, Aidan spoke, “Jethro is dead. His name will never appear in this world ever again. It no longer matters if he is related to Louis.”

Leanna could tell that he was trying to comfort her.

She leaned back in her seat and slowly said, "I just things? It seems like he would be happy as long as Louis's life is ruined."

"What can you expect out of a man addicted to gambling?"

"Still, not even monsters would eat their children. Surely a would never be that horrible to his son?"

She fell deep in thought after saying that. A few seconds later, she abruptly said, "Well, it is not an impossible scenario anyway. Please forget I said that."

Her statement confused Aidan.

For the rest of the journey, she stared out of the window while deep in her thoughts, ignoring him in the process.

A vein on his temple throbbed. However, he was the one in the wrong, so he kept quiet.

As they stepped out of the elevator, she glanced at the neighboring unit's door and asked, "I think there's a kid in that apartment. Have you met them yet?"

"No," he replied blandly.

After a hum of acknowledgment, she followed him into their home.

She took a shower and settled cross-legged on the couch to message Zoe to ask about her date.

'How was the movie?' she asked.

'It's quite good.' Zoe replied. 'Daphne was really good, as expected of an award-winning actress. I want her autograph now.'

Leanna responded with a request for clarification. 'I meant, how was your date?' she continued.

'It's okay. About the same as yesterday.' Zoe answered.

'For some reason... I think he's just alright. My heart wasn't pounding when we watched the movie, and I did not have the urge to take things one step further either.' Zoe continued.

'Did he ask you for another date after the movie?' Leanna asked.

'He'll be going on a business trip tomorrow, so he said he'll ask me out after that.' Zoe replied.

'I'll think about it then. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, after all. Maybe I'll feel something for him once he's back. It is not impossible.'

'What about you?' Zoe continued. 'Did you find Maya? How was your talk with her?'

'I found her.' answered Leanna. 'It was okay.'

'Does this mean you have to go to the Crossley Group office tomorrow?' asked Zoe.

'Yes. Tomorrow morning.'

'Good luck! All the best!'

Leanna chuckled when she read that. After a few more minutes of chatting with Zoe, Aidan stepped out of the bathroom.

His hair was not completely dry yet as he sat down beside her. "What are you talking about?" he asked, glancing at her phone.

"Nothing much," she replied. "I'm asking about Zoe's date."

"Isn't she dating Daniel already?" he asked.

"Not yet. They are just," Leanna answered with a dry chuckle before drifting off. "Oh, it's too complicated to summarize for you."

She then paused in thought. "What do you think of Daniel?"

Aidan stretched out his arm behind her on the couch and played with a lock of her hair as he nonchalantly replied, "So-so."

"Be serious. Zoe's future happiness depends on this."

"Hm?" he replied softly.

She smacked his hand away from her hair. "Do not deny that she helped you. In fact, she helped you quite a lot when you were trying to get me to date you."

"Well, I am not as bad as you, am I?"

She stared at him, speechless.

Before she could reply, he continued, "How did she even help me? Did she help me by getting you to go out with Elijah?"

"T-That happened a long time ago," Leanna stammered. "Why are you still holding onto that grudge?"

"Forget it," she continued in frustration. "I won't ask you about it anymore. You don't provide any concrete opinions anyway."

Aidan bit back a chuckle. "So impatient."

He wrapped an arm around her waist and pulled her into an embrace as he calmly continued, "I have looked into Daniel. He had a lot of girlfriends and he isn't someone who will stay just because of love. However, all of those relationships ended well. Thus, he is not that bad."

"Except when it comes to love."

"When it comes to love?" Aidan pondered for a moment before saying, "You should know that he is an orphan William took in. Ever since then, he has been working for William."

"I heard he plans on leaving Highside," she commented.

"That's expected," he said with a hum. "He grew up overseas. He only came here to resolve the issue with the Crossleys. Now that he is done with his task, he will leave, as expected."

"Will he be focusing on music after he heads back?"

"Probably."

Hearing that, Leanna explained, "While I think he's quite taken with Zoe, I can't be sure. I don't dare interfere with the relationship anymore."

“They are both adults,” he finally said. “They know their limits. There is no use worrying about them.”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 500-Aidan raised his eyebrows. “Love needs to develop on its own. You cannot rush it.”

“Just who was impatient before?” Leanna shot him an unhappy look.

He smiled. Unable to deny her pointed question, he gently bit her ear. “Well, I am also quite impatient now.”

She stared at him, speechless.

His hands wandered into her clothes as he languidly said, “You don’t need to worry so much. Their relationship might be progressing better than you imagined.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Play along and I’ll sell you a piece of exclusive news.”

A moan escaped her lips. She tried to pull his hands away, but it was useless. “What exclusive news?”

“Have you ever wondered why Zoe’s ex-boyfriend never showed his face again?”

She had not wondered about that before. However, now that he mentioned it, she could not help but freeze. “Daniel did it, didn’t he?”

He must have.

When Zoe told Leanna of Anthony barging into her home, she said he only left after Daniel beat him up.

Leanna had thought that it was the end of the incident.

She did not expect to hear that there was more to the story.

“Why else? Did anyone think he would’ve seen the light and amended his ways?”

“In that case, Daniel really...”

“Alright,” he interrupted. “You have your piece of news. It is time for the payment.”

His response rendered her speechless once more.

“I have to wake up early tomorrow,” she whispered. Her mind was still reeling from the revelation.

“Work with me, and we will end early,” he murmured back.

“H-How?”

“Did you forget what you owe me?”

In the end, she was forced to call out “honey” over and over again to end it early.

After she fell asleep, he glanced at the phone to see a call he had missed half an hour ago. He walked out to the balcony before dialing back.

“President Pearson,” greeted Jonathan.

With a lit cigarette between his lips, Aidan calmly replied, “Speak.”

“The investigation is done. Celia’s boyfriend is an employee at Crossley Group. He is the man who has been approaching Madam over the past few days.”

Aidan’s eyes darkened as he coldly barked out, “When did he show up by Celia’s side?”

“A long while ago,” answered Jonathan. “As our men followed him, we found no abnormal behavior other than meeting up with Celia. He has two kids as well; an eight-year-old and a two-year-old.”

Aidan flicked his cigarette. “What a coincidence.”

“Are you saying he’s deliberately getting close to Celia, sir? He people know about the young master. No one else can know about him.”

“Keep an eye on him for now.”

“Should we tell Celia?”

“No. Let us not alert him.”

“Yes, sir.”

Aidan hummed in acknowledgment before hanging up. Once his cigarette was on his phone and called him.

...

The next day, Leanna woke up before her alarm went off.

She looked at the bright sky outside as she stretched.

Just as she was about to get out of bed, an arm wrapped around her waist. “It’s still early,” said Aidan. His voice was hoarse and tinged with exhaustion. “Sleep for a while longer.”

Hearing that, she turned to pick up her phone from the headboard. There were twenty minutes left before her alarm was supposed to go off.

“It is about time,” she replied. “I have to get up. Go back to sleep.”

She then pulled up the blanket to cover his head and patted his head through it.

For a moment, he was silent and still, as if he had fallen asleep.

However, before she could stand up, her wrist was grabbed.

The next thing she knew, she was lying in bed.

He loomed over her as his deep, dark eyes bore into her.

She had never seen that look in his eyes before, so it took her a moment before she could speak. “What is it?”

His finger gently rubbed across her wrist as he rasped, “Nothing much. I just remembered something.”

On that morning years ago, she did the same thing too.

She covered his head with the blanket so that his eyes were shielded from the blinding sunlight. Then, she gently patted him as if she were coaxing a child to go back to sleep.

Her voice was so gentle, so soft, and so very cautious.

In that instant, all of his anger vanished.

Later on, he thought about how he could have made her disappear back when she came knocking on his door as a pregnant woman.

He did not do that, though.

Instead, he allowed the Pearsons to seize the chance to force them to marry.

While he said he hated Leanna, he was not against the idea of marrying her.

No one in the whole world could force him to do anything.

At most, he would drag them all down to hell with him.

She was likely reminded of that too as she watched the sun splay across his face. She blinked, then hooked her arms around his neck and leaned up to kiss him on the lips. "Aidan Pearson."

"Hm?"

"Did you fall in love with me a long time ago?"

He smiled and slowly answered, "Yes."

She had not expected him to be so honest. Stunned, she stared at him for a moment before smiling. "Am I your first love?"

He unhappily frowned upon hearing that. "Are you sure you want to ask me that?"

She cleared her throat and stopped fooling around. "It is getting late. I have to get ready."

She then hurriedly squirreled out of his embrace and ran into the bathroom.

Although nothing had happened between her and Zayn, and that happened a long time ago, it did not stop Aidan from being jealous of that for the rest of his life.

He watched her panicked figure escape from his sight before licking his lips and getting out of bed.

Her alarm only went off after she washed up. Then, she sat down before her dressing table and began to put on her makeup.

Aidan leaned against the wall beside her with a hand in his pants pocket. "You didn't put in this much effort when you went on a date with me."

"How is that the same?"

"Am I not as important as them?"

She stared at him, speechless.

Was he a jealous incarnation? He was always so jealous.

She reached out to give him a push. "Stop standing there. You are blocking the sunlight."

Aidan pulled his hand out of his pocket and looked at the time. "How long do you have?"

"A few more minutes. You..." At that, Leanna then turned to look at him. "You do not need to drive me. I can go by myself."

"I have nothing to do in the morning," he replied. "Anyway, everyone knows you will be in the Crossley Group office today. They will be watching. No matter what promises they made, Jimmy will surely threaten you one more time before you step foot into the office. If I go with you, he will not dare do anything."

Before she could reply, he continued, "It is called risk avoidance."

Leanna was rendered speechless by his logic. It was evident she was not as eloquent as he was.

Aidan ruffled her hair. "I'll wait for you downstairs. Once you are done, we can leave."

