

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 56

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 56—s It Worth It?

Aidan was telling her that he did not want to give her that chance. He was only doing it because of a promise he made. In other words, he was telling her to be grateful.

Leanna refused to budge, however, as she replied indignantly, “If you’re so unhappy with how we did at the show, I think nobody will object if you rescind your promise, will they?”

Aidan turned his sights to Harvey. “Is that what you think as well, Mr. Mancini?” he asked coldly.

Mancini felt himself sweating, and he laughed dryly. “It’s not as serious as McK made it out to be. But if you do think nobody’s up to par, then it’d be questionable if we still get the slot in the end. Still, thank you for giving us and our designers a chance, sir.”

“Somebody here doesn’t sound grateful, Mr. Mancini, though,” Aidan said indifferently.

Can’t you two just close the door and argue slowly when you get home?

Leanna refused to waste any more time. “Thanks for the offer, President Pearson, but I’m not good enough for it.” She turned to Harvey. “If there is nothing else, Mr. Mancini, I will go first.”

Aidan stood up with a snort after she left. “Is everyone here that arrogant?”

Harvey had no idea what to say to that, so he kept quiet.

Queenie had been waiting for a long time. She approached Aidan the moment he came out. “We meet again, President Pearson,” she said sheepishly.

Aidan looked impatient, frowned, and asked the woman blocking the way, “Have we met?”

She was stunned for a while before saying, “I went to your office yesterday. I’m Lux Magazine’s designer, do you remember?”

“Yes,” he said coolly as he almost forgot that Leanna was not the only designer in the company. He turned to Harvey. “She can have that slot.”

Harvey did not realise what had happened just yet. “What?”

Aidan, on the other hand, didn’t appear to want to repeat his words and departed with his long legs.

Queenie was as flabbergasted as Harvey as well. Slot? What slot?

Harvey massaged his temples a few moments later. Well, this won't be easy to settle. Aidan is providing us with top resources for designers, but McK refused him again. He got mad and Queenie bumped into him, so he tossed everything to her like they're trash. But he told me she can have it, so I guess I have to do this.

He told Queenie, "Come to my office."

...

Leanna went downstairs right away. Just when she was about to get a taxi, someone said, "Leanna."

She looked up at the guy who called out to her. "Why are you—"

Zayn smiled. "I'm here to see you."

"Do you need anything?"

"It's almost lunchtime. Wanna get something to eat together?"

Leanna reflexively refused. "It's alright. I—"

He interrupted, "I need to talk to you. It won't take long, and I'll leave as soon as I'm done."

She had no reason to refuse after he told her that. As a result, she nodded. "Okay then."

The first thing Aidan saw when he came out of the elevator was Leanna leaving with Zayn. He said coldly, "Well, she's married to him now. She can have anything she wants."

Jonathan was standing behind him and took a few steps back.

Aidan said, "Call Anna."

He turned around and headed to the place where they were heading.

Zayn picked a quiet restaurant for the little chat they were about to have. After he made the orders, he clarified, "These are your favorites, aren't they?"

Leanna pursed her lips as she wondered what she should say. She could guess what he wanted to tell her.

After the waiter was gone, Zayn said, "I've been thinking about this, Leanna. I keep asking myself how I feel about you and whether I can take care of you."

Leanna had to stop him, "Zayn—"

Zayn interrupted her, "Let me finish. I've asked myself if I mind your past. I've thought about it for a long time, and this is my answer. I know what you're worried about, Leanna. I won't force you to choose. If you want the child, then I promise I'll treat him like he's my own."

She laughed. "Is that really worth it?"

"That's not the point. The point is I like you. I've lost you for three years, and I don't want that to happen again."

He was not there when she needed him three years ago and he had no idea what happened. He could not change the past, so he wanted to cherish the present and future.

Leanna said slowly, "You might not mind, but what about your parents? Do they think so too?" Most families in their society would forbid their sons from dating a woman who had another man's kid, let alone an aristocratic one like the Barnetts.

"I'll talk to them," Zayn answered in a gentle but firm manner.

Leanna shook her head with a smile. "It's over between us. You don't have to go that far."

"It's never over, Leanna. We've never even started."

She felt sadness bubbling within her that filled her eyes with tears. Zayn was a terrific man. She would date him if she could turn back time. Alas, she had no such power. They could never go back in time and change anything.

Anna had come to the restaurant and the sight of Leanna and Zayn together made her furious. She was about to storm in when someone stopped her. "Hello, Miss Anna."

Anna was already blinded by rage and barked, "Piss off!"

Jonathan made way for her, but he said, "Mr. Pearson is here as well. Keep your anger in check, Miss Anna."

Anna clenched her fists and calmed down a lot. Zayn had been avoiding her like the plague. She had to avoid acting like a scorned woman or she would never bridge the gap between them.

Jonathan was relieved to see Anna calm down so much, after which he retreated into the corner. He looked at the man who was skimming the menu. "She calmed down, sir."

"I see."

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Love Change Of Heart Chapter 57– Only I Can Decide

Leanna was about to leave, and then she saw Anna coming to her. Goddammit. Is everyone in their family a stalker? Anna approached Zayn, ignoring Leanna. "Why didn't you take my call, Zayn?"

Zayn was a gentle soul, but even he was annoyed by Anna's incessant stalking. Over the last couple of days, no matter where he went, she would appear not long after for some reason. He said coldly, "Miss Pearson, I don't want you in my sights. Get it?"

Anna's face fell and she glared at Leanna. "It's because of her, isn't it? You were nicer to me before you came back. That b*tch—"

"Enough!" Zayn stood up. "Anna, stop acting like a child! I've had enough of your tantrums!" "Tantrums? But we've met each other's parents! We'll be engaged sooner or later! I should—"

He replied coldly, "I'll never get engaged with you. Please know your place, Miss Pearson. You don't want to embarrass your family."

Before Anna could answer, Aidan said coldly, "I see you hate being disturbed as well. So, why are you doing the same thing to Leanna, Mr. Barnett?"

The voice of Aidan made Leanna's heart skip a beat. He's here? Since when? And how much did he hear?

Anna was about to bristle, but she calmed down. "Hi, Aidan," she whispered.

Aidan gazed at her before he turned his attention to Zayn.

Zayn pursed his lips and stared at him as well.

Jonathan was standing far, far away, but he could still feel sparks flying in the air.

Zayn said, "I thought you already divorced her, Mr. Pearson. Why are you here? Do you have something in mind?"

Aidan said nothing. He licked his lips as the look in his eyes changed.

God. Why'd I even jump into this feud anyway? And why'd Aidan show up out of nowhere? Leanna whispered, "Let's go, Zayn."

Zayn looked away. "Okay."

They were about to leave and Anna wanted to chase after them, but Aidan hissed, "Hold it right there."

She turned around. "But Aidan..." She was in a hurry.

Aidan looked at her. "This is your final warning. Don't insult Leanna and don't give her an attitude either."

He went around her and left the restaurant.

Leanna and Zayn had left the restaurant. Then, she remained silent for a moment and bade goodbye, "I'll be going now."

"Leanna." He stopped her. "Please consider my proposal."

She smiled at him. "I'm honored that you're still on my side even now, but a lot has happened over the years. Sometimes I wish nothing ever happened."

A long silence later, Zayn asked, "Leanna, do you like Aidan?"

"Sorry?" Leanna froze. She had no answer for that.

However, her silence was as good an answer for him as any. He smiled because he could finally let go. "I see. I won't bring this up again, but I'll still be your friend. That will never change."

A long time later, she said, "Thank you."

...

Leanna went to Zoe's place after they went their separate ways. She texted her a few times, but Zoe did not answer. Probably still asleep.

She leaned against the car window, spacing out at the scenery outside.

Leanna was out of it all the way. She was still thinking about Zayn's question and almost missed a step on the staircase. By the time Leanna arrived at Zoe's place, she stood outside for a few moments and smacked her cheeks to sober up.

Zoe had changed the passcode ever since she found out about Anthony's affair. They unlocked the door with her fingerprint the night before, so she did not know what the passcode was.

Leanna rang the doorbell a few times to wake Zoe up.

She might not hear that. She took her phone out and was about to call Zoe, but someone held her wrist before she could make the call.

Aidan then pinned her against the wall, and her eyes widened in disbelief. "What are you doing?"

He had a dangerous look in his eyes while he held both her wrists with one hand and raised her chin with the other. Then, he squinted. "Zayn didn't give you a ride home?"

What the hell is he talking about? Leanna struggled to break free. "None of your business!"

"Pity. He should have taken you home himself."

"Why you—hmmph!"

He pressed his lips against hers and chomped down on her lips.

Leanna cried from the pain, but she could not escape his grasp. She was too weak. Is he mad?

Aidan noticed her tears and he loosened up a little. He nibbled on her lips and slowly deepened the kiss.

Zoe suddenly opened the door. Her hair was unkempt and she looked groggy, but when she looked up, what she saw shocked her.

He stopped the kiss and shot her an icy glare with a hint of impatience.

A few seconds later, she said stiffly, "Whoops. You guys can go ahead."

She closed the door, after which Leanna pushed Aidan away with tears that swam in her eyes. "Are you crazy, Aidan?"

Aidan wiped the blood off his lips and slowly looked at her. "I gave you a lot of chances to turn back." But you smacked it away every single time.

"I don't need your stupid chances. We're divorced! Which part of 'divorce' don't you get? You don't get to kiss me without my consent!"

A frown of displeasure furrowed his brows. "But you brought the divorce up, not me."

"Yeah, and you signed the papers, you prick!"

"And I am taking that decision back," he said without missing a beat.

Leanna froze. She did not expect him to give her that answer. Her tears hung on her eyelashes for a moment, as if they too were too shocked to fall.

Aidan continued coldly, "Only I get to end this marriage, not you."

"Sorry, but we're way past that point now," she said as she was starting to compose herself again.

He pursed her lips. He was about to say something, but Zoe opened the door again.

She had woken up completely and pulled Leanna inside before Aidan would do anything. Then, she closed the door and locked it. "Are you alright, Leanna?" she whispered as she shot Leanna a glance.

Leanna's hair was unkempt while her eyes were red and her lips were swollen. She did not look alright at all.

She shook her head. She wanted to say something, but she was too tired to do so.

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 58

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 58– Fight

Meanwhile, at Patheon Club, Oscar walked into the private room to find Aidan nursing a drink alone. The room was so silent he could almost hear a pin drop. He sat down opposite Aidan and poured himself a glass as he asked, "What happened?"

Aidan said nothing. When Oscar spotted Aidan's busted lip, he snorted. He got the picture without having to ask any further. They drank in silence for some time before Oscar asked at last, "Is it that hard for you to admit that you like her?"

Aidan's hand froze mid-air, still holding his glass. He threw Oscar an icy stare. "What are you talking about?"

"It doesn't matter what I'm saying. It matters what your heart's thinking. You keep saying that you hate your ex-wife, but everything you do screams otherwise."

"That's not true." "Then, why did you get someone to keep an eye on Zayn Barnett?"

After a pause, Aidan stated coolly, "She tried her hardest to get a divorce so that she could marry into the Barnett Family. Do you think I should just let her get her way?"

Oscar had nothing to say in response. There was no use trying to convince someone who was lying to themselves.

...

As soon as Anna returned to the Pearson Family Estate, she went straight to her room and started a rampage. Soon, the floor was littered with fragile items.

The servants gathered outside the door. None of them had the courage to go in to stop her, so they decided to inform Sienna about it.

Sienna frowned when she heard what the servants told her. "Who pissed her off this time?"

"I'm not sure. It started as soon as Miss Anna got home."

"Is Old Master Pearson back yet?"

"Not yet."

Sienna nodded in acknowledgment and got to her feet. "I'll go and take a look. Get a few servants to clean up her room."

Anna's temper had grown wilder over the past few years. When it came down to it, she was not truly a Pearson, so Gordon was less than keen to put up with her. He probably would have chased her out of the house by now, if not for the marriage alliance with the Barnetts.

When Sienna came to Anna's room and saw the horrid mess, she felt a headache coming on. "What's going on?"

The moment Anna saw her, she began to wail. "Aunt Sienna..." she called out aggrievedly.

"Stop crying and tell me what happened."

"I went to see Zayn today, but that woman was pestering him again."

Sienna's expression soured at once. "What woman?"

"That... Aidan won't let me say," Anna mumbled.

"You're not going to tell me just because he said not to? Don't come crying to me then."

“I’ll tell you! I’ll tell you, Aunt Sienna.” Anna bit her lip and added, “It was Leanna McKinney.”

“Why was she pestering him?” Sienna frowned.

“I don’t know why... Ever since she divorced Aidan, she’s been hanging around Zayn all the time. I don’t know what’s gotten into Aidan either. I just said some things about that woman and he scolded me for it.”

“They’re birds of a feather,” Sienna snorted.

“Aunt Sienna—”

“Enough of that,” Sienna cut her off. “Anna, you’re not a little girl anymore. You should learn to hold your temper. How do you expect Zayn to like you if you continue to act this way once you’re married to him?”

Anna’s eyes lit up at once. “Does this mean you’ll help me, Aunt Sienna?”

“Don’t concern yourself with all these unnecessary things. Just focus on preparing for your future wedding.”

“Thank you, Aunt Sienna!”

After exiting Anna’s room, Sienna instructed the servants who stood in wait outside, “Hurry up and get her room all cleaned up.”

Sienna was just about to leave when Justin popped up from around the corner. He asked softly, “Mom, are you really planning on marrying Anna off to the Barnetts?”

“Under the circumstances, do you think he’d agree if I decide against the marriage now?” Sienna asked.

“Aidan’s the best candidate to become the next company president. I’ll talk to Dad about this.”

“Don’t you understand? He doesn’t want to find a successor. He wants to find a puppet who would do his bidding. You don’t need to trouble yourself with this. Aidan’s just a puppet that is no longer under his command. He doesn’t compare to you at all.”

Justin had a helpless expression on his face. “Mom, no matter what, Aidan is still my brother.”

“The likes of him? He’s not worthy,” Sienna sneered.

He could only sigh.

“Don’t bother yourself with all these. Go back to your room and rest,” she said.

...

Leanna sat wordlessly on the couch while Zoe sat across from her. She cupped her hands around the cup as she threw furtive glances at Leanna, but she did not say anything either.

It seemed like forever before Leanna finally came out of her spell. “Are you feeling any better?” she asked slowly.

Zoe replied at once, “Yes, a lot better. My head doesn’t hurt at all after drinking the hangover cure you prepared for me.”

Leanna seemed to be caught up in her thoughts once more as she fell silent again.

Zoe scratched her head. She could not make head or tail of the situation, so she did not know what to say to Leanna.

After a few minutes, Leanna said, “Since you’re fine, I’ll head back now. Call me if you need anything.”

“Why don’t I go with you?” Zoe was worried about her. “Anthony’s going to keep showing up every couple of days, so I’ll get some peace and quiet if I stayed with you instead.”

Leanna gave it some thought and figured that Zoe had a point. “Sure.”

Once they arrived at Leanna’s home, Leanna sat down at her desk to work on her designs. She worked for hours without moving an inch.

As for Zoe, she plopped herself down on the couch and had a few snacks before falling asleep. Once she woke up, she started eating again, and the cycle repeated itself.

At midnight, Zoe was startled awake by the sound of a phone ringing in the study. She watched as Leanna’s expression changed as soon as she answered the phone. Leanna grabbed her jacket and charged out of the study.

“What’s going on?” Zoe asked.

“Louis is at the police station.”

“Oh, crap. What happened? I’ll go with you.”

“It’s fine. I’ll go by myself. On the call, they said that Louis was the victim, so it’s probably nothing major.”

“Okay then. Call me if you need anything,” Zoe said.

Leanna rushed out after nodding in acknowledgment.

Once she arrived at the police station, she saw a few rough-looking men sitting on a bench. All of them looked up with unfriendly gazes once they heard someone coming in.

Louis was seated not too far away, and his handsome face was covered in bruises.

She gasped as she walked over. “What happened?”

He frowned once he saw her. “Why did they call you?”

“I’m your sister. Who else are they going to call?”

Just then, a police officer walked over with a notebook in hand. “Are you Louis McKinney’s next-of-kin?”

Leanna turned around and nodded. “I’m his sister. What happened?”

“Those bunch of men rushed into your brother’s workplace and they got into a fight that turned physical,” the police officer stated. “It’s up to you now to see how you plan on resolving this. Do you wish to settle it out of court, or do you want to press charges?”

Louis got up all of a sudden. “Let’s just leave it. We don’t need to press charges.”

“So sorry about this, but could you please give me a moment to discuss this with him?” Leanna said to the police officer.

He nodded and walked off.

Leanna pulled Louis aside. “Louis, tell me everything that happened, and don’t leave anything out.”

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 59

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 59–Picked Off the Streets

After receiving 300 thousand from Aidan, Jethro indulged in all the luxuries of life. He got himself all spiffed up and strutted about proudly as his self-esteem soared thanks to all the flattery he received.

It was right around this time that he heard about a business opportunity.

300 thousand was a pittance compared to Jethro’s greed, so once he heard about the possibility of making millions from it, he immediately handed all his money over. He still

needed a few dozen grand, so he decided to get in touch with some loan sharks and offered to partner with them.

Clearly, this was a trap. Once the others managed to squeeze every last drop of cash out of him, the loan sharks came knocking on his door again.

Jethro caught wind of it and went into hiding once more. Somehow, the loan sharks found out about Louis working at a convenience store, so they came looking for him instead.

There was no way that Louis would give them any money, so they became physical.

After hearing everything, Leanna could feel the veins along her forehead throbbing violently. She did have a feeling that something bad would happen...

He frowned at her silence. "You don't need to bother with this. His matters have nothing to do with us."

"That's not true, boy. Isn't it a given to repay a debt? How can you say you're not going to bother with this?"

A man called out from behind them, and Leanna's grip tightened around Louis' arm as she turned around to look at him.

This man was the same one that stormed into their house three years ago and forced her to make a decision while clutching Louis' arm.

Louis recognized him too. The air around him seemed to freeze as he tried to rush at the man, but Leanna held him back.

Ron Sedley gave Leanna a sly grin. "What a coincidence. I never thought I'd see you again."

Her lips thinned into a straight line without responding.

Louis shoved Leanna behind him. There was a menacing expression on his handsome face as he said, "Go and look for Jethro if you want your money back."

"Oh? Look who it is that got his panties in a wad. So, you're Jethro's son, huh? You've grown so much taller after three years." Ron turned to the bunch of hooligans behind him and said, "Guys, take a look. That's a state-level top scorer over there! You should get some of his good luck."

The bunch of hooligans howled with laughter.

The noise caught the attention of the police officer, who walked over and commanded, "Stop your ruckus, all of you! Where do you think you are?!"

Ron waved his hand and asked his men to quieten down before saying, "Relax, officer. We're just congratulating the top scorer in the entire state over here."

After so many years of running a loansharking business, all the police stations in the area had a standing record of him. The police officer eyed him and warned, "Don't get coy with me. Get to the point."

"Sure thing, officer. It's a private matter, so we'll settle it ourselves. We won't be needing your help."

However, Leanna spoke up. "I want to press charges."

When everyone turned to look at her, she repeated, "I want to press charges against those men who laid a hand on my brother."

Ron's expression hardened. He was about to speak when she added, "You want money, right? I can give it to you, but I won't just let you get away with hitting him."

He broke out into a smile at once. "That's reasonable."

The bunch of hooligans spent all their time in and out of fights anyway, so spending a few nights at the detention center was nothing to them.

"When are you going to give me the money?" Ron asked.

"Three days. I need time to gather enough money."

"Sure. I like how cooperative you are. It's a deal."

Louis grabbed Leanna. "You can't give him the money!"

She muttered in reply, "Louis, stay out of this."

Ron glanced at Louis and snorted. "Little boy, your sister is a lot more decisive than you are. If I were you, I would've rather have my hand broken than to let her—"

Bang!

Louis' fist crashed right into Ron's face.

All of Ron's men stood up at once, but Ron waved them down. He massaged his face and said, "Fellows, no need to get so worked up. This little top scorer over here is just a coward who hides behind his sister's back. It's no biggie to let him vent a little."

Leanna grabbed Louis once more and said calmly, "Let's go, Louis."

Louis was starting school next week, so she did not want things to blow out of proportion.

After leaving the police station, he was sullen and did not speak.

She flagged a taxi down and asked the driver to head for the nearest hospital. After that, she said to Louis, "We need to get your injuries checked, and take an x-ray too, to see if you're hurt anywhere else."

He stared out the window for quite some time before asking, "Are you really going to give them the money?"

Leanna snorted. "Do you think I'm that dumb? I'm not a doormat. In any case, where would I get all that money?"

There was no way they were going to be able to get away tonight if she did not agree to give them the money.

Louis unclenched his fists. "What are we going to do now?"

He was not worried about himself, but since those men could find out where he worked, sooner or later, they would know where she was staying too.

"First, we need to find Jethro."

"He has obviously gone into hiding. How can we find him?"

After so many years of dodging debt collectors, Jethro had become quite the expert at staying in hiding. As long as he holed himself up somewhere, there was no way of finding him, not unless he showed up on his own accord.

"I'll find a way," Leanna said softly.

"But—"

"You don't need to worry about these things, okay? It'll be fine. I can handle it. You can just focus on school."

Louis had a grim expression on his face since there was nothing he could say.

Ron was right; Louis could not do anything when it came to money, and he had to rely on Leanna to carry the burden herself.

At least something was different this time. Unlike three years ago, this time, he had time to figure something out.

After a while, Louis suggested, "Why don't you go home first? I can go to the hospital alone."

Leanna was exhausted, so she accepted his suggestion.

He asked the driver to drop Leanna off at her house before directing him to Patheon Club.

...

When Leanna arrived home, Zoe asked at once, "What happened? Is Louis alright?"

"He was injured a little, but he's on his way to the hospital now."

"What on earth happened?"

Leanna took a deep breath and said, "Jethro got himself into a pile of debt and ran off again."

Zoe cursed under her breath as soon as she heard that.

In all her years, she had never met anyone as vile as Jethro who threw his children to the wolves time and time again. He was not fit to even be considered human, let alone a father.

Sometimes, she truly wondered whether Leanna and Louis were just children that the man picked off the streets somewhere.

"Zoe, I don't feel too good. I'm going to go to bed," Leanna said.

Zoe snapped out of her thoughts. "Yeah, go ahead."

Once Leanna returned to her room, she climbed into bed and stared at the ceiling as a feeling of helplessness washed all over her.

Although she told Louis that she would find a way to lure Jethro out of hiding, deep down inside, she was completely at a loss.

Even if she managed to lure him out this time, what about next time? Jethro's greed was insatiable. There would never be an end to this.

Plus, if they did manage to lure him out, would she be able to stand and watch as the loan sharks beat him half to death?

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 60

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 60–Get It Over With

“Don’t worry. Leave this to me. I’ll get a good price.” Louis nodded. “Thank you.” The manager of Patheon Club said, “You don’t need to be so courteous with me, but... are you sure you won’t regret this?”

“What’s there to regret? Compared to this, money’s more important right now.”

The manager sighed. “Okay. I’ll get it done as soon as I can.”

“Alright,” Louis said before turning to leave.

The manager moved away, but when he spotted the man standing nearby, he walked over at once. “Mr. Pearson.”

Aidan stood there quietly, dressed in a plain white shirt. His hands were stuck in his pants pockets as he stared in the direction where Louis had gone. “What does he need money for?” he asked plainly.

The manager was breaking out in cold sweat as he recalled that Louis had hit Aidan before, but he could not leave Aidan’s question unanswered. “His family seems to have run into some trouble.”

“How much does he want?”

“150 thousand...”

Aidan snorted. He forgot how greedy that entire family was as it was always at least six figures. He said nothing, and the manager’s heart was about to beat out of his chest in silence.

Eventually, the manager said, “I’ll get going now if there’s nothing else, Mr. Pearson.”

“Go on.”

Once the manager walked off, Oscar appeared from the side. “You’re not going to ask what happened?”

“Not interested,” Aidan retorted coolly as he walked off.

After leaving Patheon Club, Aidan received a call from a number not on his contacts list.

He frowned and answered the call, only to hear Leanna’s careful voice. “Are you busy right now, Mr. Pearson?”

“Say what you want.”

“I...” Leanna hesitated for the longest time about what to say. The moment she heard Aidan’s icy voice, she regretted making the call.

Aidan got impatient. “Why don’t I say it for you?”

Leanna was startled. “Huh? I—”

“How much do you want? 150 thousand? 300 thousand?”

“That’s not what I meant. I just wanted—”

He cut her off. “Leanna McKinney, did I do something today to let you assume that you can come to me and ask for money?”

She fell silent. She did not know what to say.

“You’re not an eighteen-year-old girl who’s innocent and gullible. You don’t think that a kiss proves that I like you, right?” Aidan questioned coolly. “We’ve slept together so many times now. If I was ever going to like you, I would’ve by now, don’t you think?”

“I didn’t think that,” Leanna said tersely.

“Good. There’s no point even if you had such thoughts.” Aidan ended the call at once.

Less than two minutes later, Jonathan was put out of his misery when he received a text from Aidan telling him that he did not need a female companion anymore. This... Did they get into a fight again?

...

Leanna clutched her phone and sat by the window for the longest time. She had only meant to ask if she could delay this month’s repayment to next month instead.

Who would have known that he was in such a foul mood? She had not even said anything to set him off, but he exploded at her and assumed the worst of her.

She would have to become insane before she would even think that he liked her.

After a while, Leanna called Jethro, but sure enough, the call did not go through. She sent him a text before tossing her phone aside and closing her eyes to rest.

After waiting for three days, she finally received a call from him and he seemed to be using some sort of landline. He sounded frantic but fairly pleased as he asked, “My beloved daughter, do you mean it? Are you going to give me some money?”

“Yeah. Come and take it tomorrow.”

“Let’s not wait until tomorrow. Where are you staying? I’ll come to you now.”

“I haven’t gathered it yet. Come tomorrow, or else, don’t come at all.”

“Sure, sure. Tomorrow it is,” Jethro agreed at once.

Leanna gave him an address and hung up at once without wasting any more of her breath.

The next day, as soon as she walked out of her door, she saw Louis standing in front of her.

“I’m coming with you,” Louis declared.

“Don’t do anything reckless, okay? No matter what, don’t get into a fight with them.”

“Got it.”

Once they arrived at the agreed-upon location, Ron and his men were already waiting for them.

When he spotted Leanna, he got up and asked, “Did you bring the money?”

She took a card out. “It’s in here.”

Ron stuck his hand out to take it from her, but she said, “Hang on. We need to wait for one more person.”

He frowned. “Are you trying to pull some kind of trick on me?”

“There’s just the two of us. What tricks can we pull?”

“Fine. I’ll give you ten minutes.”

Leanna stood there in silence with a cold expression.

Ron could not help himself from scrutinizing her. Three years ago, when he went to collect Jethro’s debt, she left a deep impression on him.

She was beautiful, intelligent, and quick on her feet. She would have had a bright future ahead of her had she not ended up with such a father. It was a pity.

A few minutes later, the door opened and Jethro called out cheerfully, "Leanna, the money..." He paused when he spotted the men, after which his expression changed and he immediately turned to run.

Ron reacted at once. "Get him!"

Jethro had not gone very far before he was pushed to the ground and given a kick in the abdomen.

Once he lost all the fight in him, he was carted off into the private room.

As soon as he was ushered in, he began to yell, "Leanna McKinney, you rotten b*tch! I'm the one who raised you, but you worked with these guys to set a trap for me?! I'm..."

He received a punch to the stomach before he could finish his sentence.

Ron looked over at Leanna. "Ready to hand over the money now?"

She passed the card over to him with a straight face.

He was about to get one of his men to check the amount inside the card when she said, "Don't bother checking. There's only 7,500 in there."

Ron's expression darkened at once. "Are you toying with me?"

"That's all the money I could gather." Leanna glanced at Jethro. "He's the one who owes you money. I lured him out for you now, so shouldn't you be asking him for money?"

Ron and Jethro did not expect that this was her plan as Jethro began to curse at once. His mouth was so foul that even Ron became annoyed.

Jethro settled down after taking a few more punches.

Leanna said coolly, "If you don't want the 7,500, fine. Just beat him up and get it over with. I'll finally get some peace back in my life."

"Little girl, that's not how it works." Ron narrowed his eyes and stepped closer to her.

Louis stepped in front of Leanna and glared at Ron. He was half a head taller than Ron, which made Ron seem a lot less intimidating in comparison.

Without even turning to look, he called out to his men, "Beat him up."

At once, the room was filled with Jethro's agonized cries.

Leanna forced herself to not see what was happening, but she heard all his screams nonetheless. She felt a surge of nausea, but she clenched his fists and bit her lip, forcing herself to stay quiet.