

## Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 681-690

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 681-Once Charlotte was forcefully dragged into the car, everything finally calmed down, and the group of men left quickly. Joseph gazed at the unconscious woman by the road and was about to leave when several car lights suddenly appeared.

Squinting his eyes, he approached Zoe and picked her up before heading onto the middle of the road. A black car stopped before them the next moment when Keaton quickly exited the vehicle.

Joseph urged, "Bring her to the hospital, quick. Otherwise, it'll be too late."

When Keaton saw Zoe's condition, he carried her from Joseph and asked, "Where's Miss Woodley?"

He frowned. "I couldn't protect Charlotte. They brought her away."

Then, Keaton turned to look at the car beside him and ordered, "Catch up to that car. We cannot let them leave Highside." Once he gave the orders, he quickly brought Zoe into the car and sped toward the nearest hospital.

In the meantime, Joseph looked at the departing car and pondered before driving his car to follow Keaton.

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Meanwhile, in Lachstein, Leanna began packing up after lunch. They had to go to the hospital before returning to Highside that night. For some reason, her things had doubled from when she came, with five pieces of luggage in total. Besides her clothes, she had bought everyone presents, including Zoe, Louis, Daphne, Charlotte, and even Jonathan.

It was 3.00PM when she finished packing her things. Then, she pushed her luggage to the door and clapped. "That's it. Let's go."

Aidan commented, "Others would think you're in procurement services."

She was speechless and snorted softly. "People with no friends, like you, will never understand."

Hearing that, he hesitated but did not utter a word.

At that moment, she thought of Oscar, who had not appeared before her since he fell ill. Wanting to change the topic, she said, "Alright. We've got to go."

When they arrived at the hospital, William's condition improved as he seemed more energetic than the day before. Many company higher-ups gathered outside his room, wanting to see him, but they were all blocked by William's assistant.

When the group saw Leanna and Aidan entering, they began complaining softly in Dellshorean. All of them were questioning why he could settle company matters on William's behalf during the two weeks. Although Complex and Pearson Groups were in partnership, no collaborating partners would 'collaborate' to this extent.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 682-The assistant smiled. "That's Mr. Morris' daughter, and President Pearson is his future son-in-law."

Everyone was shocked. "When did Mr. Morris have a daughter?"

"It's a long story."

While the group was outside discussing, Leanna entered the room and saw William flipping through something. She approached him and asked, "What are you looking at?"

He looked up and flashed her a smile before handing her the item in his hand. It was a thick photo album.

When she opened the album, the first page was a photo of William and her mother, but his face remained as Lloyd's.

A few pages later, they had a young girl between them.

While Leanna flipped through the pictures, William explained, "Nothing was left of the Crossley Family after that explosion, and these photos were printed out from Mr. Jackson's film."

She asked, "Were you close to him?"

"Your mother used to be his student, and the Crossleys were good friends with the Jacksons, so Mr. Jackson is like a half-uncle to me. When my parents

were involved in an aircraft accident, I gave him a copy of all the films at home because he missed them. I didn't expect that act would benefit me in the end."

"My mom... She's beautiful."

He slowly added, "You and your mother look alike, and so do your tempers."

Closing the album, Leanna spoke up after a while, "I'm sorry."

When William heard that, he gazed at her, probably confused.

Her head was down. "I knew the truth and that you're my father, but I chose to avoid it back then and pretended as if nothing happened."

He responded, "You don't have to blame yourself. I understand what you were thinking. I've never been a father to you, yet I made you deal with Crossley Group's matters, leaving you in harm's way. So, I should be the one saying sorry."

"That's not it... I decided to take on Crossley Group's matters. It's just that I couldn't keep living the life I wanted and do nothing."

"You did well. Crossley Group wouldn't have gotten to where it is without you."

After that compliment, Leanna felt slightly embarrassed and touched her nose. "So... When are you planning to return to Highside?"

William answered, "Once I find Daniel and settle the matters here. It will take at least six months or two to three years at most."

She asked, "Daniel, is he..."

"He'll be fine. I heard about what happened between him and your friend. I'll do my best to help her if she needs anything while Daniel is away."

The two chatted for a while, and before she left, she held the photo album and asked, "Can I bring this with me?"

He nodded. "Sure. I have another copy with me."

She clutched the album in her arms and smiled. "I'll get going. Rest well... Dad."

The sound of that froze William, and he could barely register what had happened. That was the last of her as she turned around and sprinted away, eliciting a smile from him.

When Leanna came out from the ward, the group of company executives had left, leaving only Aidan. She asked, "When did you come out?"

He put his phone into his pocket and replied, "While you two were talking. I couldn't join your conversation, so I excused myself."

A smile appeared on her face as she patted the album in her arms. "I'll let you have a look on the plane. I looked adorable when I was young."

Curling his lips, Aidan caressed her head. "You still do."

Embarrassed, Leanna blushed and looked around, heaving a breath of relief after seeing no one around them. Then, she urged, "It's late. Let's go."

He looked at the time and offered, "Why don't we grab something to eat?"

"No. Let's eat on the plane."

They had been away for one month, and the thought of going home pumped her up. Just as she took a few steps forward, she felt someone pulling her hand, prompting her to turn around and ask, "What's the matter?"

Aidan was staring at her with his black eyes and pursed lips. It took him a few seconds before he announced, "I have something to tell you."

Seeing his slightly contorted expression, Leanna lowered her voice as the smile on her face slowly faded. "What happened?"

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 683-What Happened Yesterday

At 10.30AM the next day, a private plane landed at Highside.

Leanna and Aidan immediately rushed to the hospital, where they saw Keaton, Louis, and Joseph waiting outside the ward.

After quickly approaching them, Leanna asked, "How is she?"

Keaton replied, "She came out of surgery, but... she's still asleep."

“What did the doctor say?”

“The doctor... said... Miss Hart was bleeding heavily when she was sent here... If we were any later, she might not make it too.”

Closing her eyes, Leanna felt her body shivering. Even her hands were shaking uncontrollably.

Without saying anything, she gently pushed the door open and headed inside.

Aidan withdrew his gaze and looked at Keaton. “Have you found Charlotte?”

While shaking his head, Keaton replied, “We’ve already blocked off every road leaving Highside, so they can’t leave. Also, they don’t seem to be planning on leaving, so the direction of our plan is wrong.”

At that moment, a voice came from beside them. “It was my fault. This wouldn’t have happened if I had brought Charlotte away sooner.”

Hearing that, Aidan looked at Joseph.

Since he had previously carried Zoe in his arms, his shirt had been stained with blood, so he looked less refined than normal and even looked slightly flustered.

When facing Aidan’s unfriendly gaze, he openly accepted it without cowering.

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Inside the ward, Leanna looked at Zoe, who was on the bed and choked up a few times. Tears were streaming from her eyes, and she had to bite the back of her hand to keep herself quiet.

She had called Zoe yesterday, and she seemed fine.

Moreover, Zoe had gotten her pregnancy checkup the day before yesterday, and the doctor said the baby was fine.

Everything changed in one night...

The sunlight gradually shone through the window, illuminating the room.

Following that, the woman on the bed moved slightly.

Leanna quickly wiped away her tears and approached Zoe, whispering, “Zoe, Zoe.”

Zoe weakly opened her eyes and looked around her before looking at Leanna. Then, she put on a smile. “Nana, you’re back.”

Nodding, Leanna assured her, “Yes, I’m back. How are you? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere? Why don’t I get a doctor to come check on you?”

“It hurts...”

“Where?”

Zoe muttered, “I don’t know. My whole body is aching.”

Leanna softly said, “I’ll get the doctor.”

Once she said that, she pressed the call button.

At that moment, Zoe grabbed Leanna’s hand, and her dry lips trembled slightly. “Nana... Did I... Did I...”

She repeated her words several times but still couldn’t voice the last few words.

On the other hand, Leanna sat beside the bed and held Zoe’s hand. Before she could speak, a drop of tear fell from her eyes.

Looking up, Zoe seemed calm as she muttered, “Actually, I could feel it. I could feel everything from when I was in the car to the hospital and inside the operating room. I knew my child was slowly losing his life, and I couldn’t pull him back.”

While helping Zoe tidy up her hair, Leanna choked up. “Don’t think about it anymore. Let’s focus on getting better.”

Slowly closing her eyes, Zoe let out silent tears while digging her face into her pillow.

Soon, the doctor came and did a checkup on Zoe.

Her condition was a normal post-surgery reaction, and though she had a miscarriage, she still needed to recuperate. She needed to avoid getting her wounds wet and watch what she ate.

Since the doctor had gone through such situations before, she tried persuading Zoe, "You're still young and can still get pregnant after you recuperate."

Zoe replied after a long silence. "No, I won't."

She and Daniel were bound together because of the accidental pregnancy. Now that the child was gone, they didn't have something binding them together anymore.

When the doctor heard that, she let out an inaudible sigh before exhorting Leanna to a few more things before leaving.

Once the doctor was gone, Leanna asked, "Zoe, what would you like to eat? I'll buy some for you."

Zoe looked at her and said, "I want to eat something you make."

Nodding, Leanna promised, "Sure. I'll head back to make some and bring it back. Aidan is outside, so call him if you need anything."

Zoe stayed silent. "I think it'll be more peaceful to be alone here."

Chuckling softly, Leanna informed her, "Louis is also outside. Can I get him to stay here?"

Zoe shook her head. "Ask all of them to leave. I'm fine, and having them waiting outside seems scary."

After considering it, Leanna agreed, "Then I'll get them to leave. Press on the call button if you need anything."

"Okay."

Before leaving, Leanna tucked Zoe in and left. Outside the room, she let out a long breath.

Louis came forward, asking, "How is she?"

Not knowing how to explain, Leanna said, "Let her have some quiet time alone."

A short pause later, she asked, "Where's Aidan and the others?"

"They went outside."

Leanna informed him, "I need to head home for a bit. Find a female nurse and have her wait outside. Tell her to only go inside if Zoe needs her."

"I understand."

"You leave too once you find the nurse."

Louis nodded.

As Leanna walked toward the exit, she called Aidan, telling him she was heading home to cook some food.

Aidan said, "Keaton's outside. Ask him to send you there."

Hearing that, Leanna didn't reject it. "Okay."

Once Leanna came out of the hospital, Keaton approached her. "Miss McKinney."

On their way back, Leanna asked, "Were you with Zoe and the others when it happened?"

Keaton replied, "Yes."

"Can you tell me what happened yesterday?"

"Yesterday afternoon, Joseph went to look for Miss Woodley. I don't know what they discussed, but Miss Woodley didn't leave the studio after closing. Miss Hart saw that, and she asked Miss Woodley, but Miss Woodley said she didn't want to implicate you guys, so she decided to leave Highside with Joseph."

Keaton briefly described the conversation between Zoe and Charlotte and continued, "Not long after Joseph appeared, a group of men suddenly appeared and stopped them. But they didn't expect that during the chaos, Joseph brought Miss Woodley and Miss Hart away, and when we caught up



to them, I saw Joseph with Miss Hart in his arms. He was about to send her to the hospital.”

Leanna asked, “How is Charlotte? Do you have any news about her?”

“Nothing yet, but we are sure that the group that took her has yet to leave Highside.”

With pursed lips, Leanna asked, “About what happened yesterday, what did Joseph say?”

“He told us he brought Miss Woodley and Miss Hart away because of the dangerous situation but didn’t expect he would get cut off halfway. Miss Hart tried to protect Miss Woodley. That’s why she...”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 684-Another New Beginning

Anyone could tell that the story had lots of loopholes.

Keaton assured her, “Miss McKinney, I assure you that Mr. Pearson is already on it. Also, we have Joseph under surveillance.”

After nodding, Leanna leaned against the window and looked at the scenery outside.

She had Keaton send her to a fresh food market nearby the apartment to buy fresh ingredients before sending her home.

It was already 1.00PM by the time she finished cooking.

She made fish stew and cooked two light vegetable dishes before storing them inside insulated food containers. Then, she headed back to the hospital.

When she arrived outside the ward, she met the caretaker Louis hired there.

Softly, Leanna asked the caretaker, “How are things inside?”

While shaking her head, the caretaker replied, “I didn’t enter the room. But I heard her crying.”

With pursed lips, Leanna told the caretaker, “Thank you for your hard work. You may head to rest now, and I’ll call you if I need anything.”

“Sure, no problem.”

Since the caretaker had already received her payment, she could work on other things when she had nothing to do.

Once the caretaker left, Leanna stood outside the room for a few minutes before taking a deep breath and knocking. “Zoe, I’m coming in.”

After that, she specifically waited for one minute before heading inside.

Inside the ward, Zoe was done composing herself. She looked fine besides her red puffy eyes.

When she saw Leanna opening the food containers, she sniffed and asked, “What did you make? Smells amazing.”

Leanna raised the small table on the bed and served the food from the food container. “They are all your favorites.”

Picking up her utensils, Zoe commented, “Wow, they look delicious.”

After sitting down, Leanna asked, “What would you like for dinner?”

Zoe replied while eating, “I can eat whatever’s available at the hospital. You should return home after this and don’t come here again today. It’s such a hassle.”

“How is this a hassle? Weren’t you with me all the time while I was hospitalized?” Leanna urged, “Eat up.”

Zoe said nothing and continued enjoying her stew.

Even though she had no appetite, she still ate more than half of the food.

Once done, Zoe rubbed her belly and leaned against her bed, satisfied. “That was delicious. Nana, your cooking has gotten even better.”

“Well, I can cook you dinner tonight.”

“Sure. Then, I’ll have to find a menu and order what I want. This is not a treatment I can get on usual days.”

Leanna was in the middle of packing up the food containers when she said, "Go ahead. I'll wash these."

Five minutes later, Leanna came out and saw Zoe sitting on the bed, dazing.

Leanna went over and asked, "What's the matter?"

After withdrawing her thoughts, Zoe replied, "My phone... I think I left it inside Charlotte's uncle's car."

Once she mentioned that, she asked, "How is she? Have they found her?"

Leanna answered, "No, they haven't, but they haven't left Highside."

She poured Zoe a cup of water. "Zoe, do you remember what happened after you left the studio last night?"

Nodding, Zoe explained, "I was about to call Elijah, but Charlotte's Uncle Joseph suddenly stomped on the brakes, and my phone fell. He said there was a stray cat, and then..."

"And then what?"

"And then Charlotte noticed I was bleeding and asked her uncle to send me to the hospital."

After that, Zoe frowned and recalled the scene in more detail. "Since it was an urgent situation, Charlotte's uncle didn't take that situation seriously, and at that moment, that group of men arrived, and the car was forced to stop. I told Charlotte to run... They said they came to bring Charlotte back to Jamesdon. Then, Charlotte told them she would leave with them if they released her Uncle Joseph and

me. Soon after that, someone came forward to grab Charlotte and pushed me to the ground. I lost consciousness then, so I don't remember anything."

Leanna frowned. "What was Joseph doing when Charlotte was being brought away?"

Zoe thought about it but couldn't recall anything, so she rubbed her temples while answering, "The scene was so chaotic that I had all my attention focused on Charlotte. I didn't notice her uncle, but when I was about to fall

unconscious, I heard her scream for her uncle to send me to the hospital. Did he?"

Leanna replied, "Keaton said that he saw Joseph carrying you and was about to rush you to the hospital when he arrived at the scene."

Zoe explained, "If that's so, there might not be a problem with him. I previously thought her uncle seemed strange and was worried about her leaving with him. Now, it seems like he's quite normal."

Leanna gave Zoe her water. "How about you take a rest first?"

After drinking her water, Zoe asked, "Nana, did you bring me any presents?"

"It's inside the car. I'll get it later."

While hugging Leanna's arm, Zoe spoke peevishly. "You're the best. You have to stay with me these few days. I'm going to borrow you from Mr. Pearson."

Laughing, Leanna agreed, "Sure. I'll keep you company."

Zoe urged, "You go get my presents while I nap. I hope to see a surprise when I wake up."

Nodding slightly, Leanna assured her, "I'll be back soon."

"Go ahead. I'm sleepy after that meal. I'm gonna rest."

Once the door was closed, the smile on Zoe's face gradually disappeared. Then, she lay on her pillow and fell into a daze while looking out the window.

She knew that Leanna blamed herself and felt guilty because of this miscarriage incident.

If she continued to reject Leanna's company, it would only make Leanna feel even sadder.

During these times, Leanna would feel less guilty if asked to help because it would make her feel like she was needed.

Zoe closed her eyes, getting ready to sleep.

Since nothing can be done about the past, let's... just let it go. It will be another new beginning once I wake up.

...

When Leanna arrived at the hospital's entrance, she realized she didn't know which car their luggage was in.

Since finding out about Zoe's accident, she had been in a daze on the way here. If Aidan hadn't been with her, she might not even have found the hospital's entrance.

It was the afternoon. The sun was so bright that Leanna couldn't open her eyes, and the heat made her feel dizzy.

She lost her balance and fell backward.

Aidan held her shoulders and asked, "What are you looking for?"

Leanna answered, "Our luggage... Zoe's gifts are inside my luggage."

"Let's grab something to eat. I'll get Keaton to get the luggage."

"I can't. Zoe's alone in her room, and I—"

But Aidan interrupted her. "You hadn't eaten anything since last night. Do you expect me to take care of her if you faint?"

Leanna was at a loss for words. Alright. Getting food is more important.

As they sat in the dining room, Aidan served Leanna a bowl of soup. "Get some shut-eye after this. I have someone watching over her at the hospital."

Leanna was silent for a moment before whispering, "I think something's not right with Joseph."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 685-You're Indeed A Spoiled Child

Aidan placed the bowl before her and slowly said, "Do elaborate."

Leanna explained, "He went to the studio yesterday afternoon and told Charlotte he would bring her away from Highside. Also, he told her not to tell us about it under the pretense of not implicating us in this matter. Since he's

the uncle Charlotte trusted the most, and along with the fact that she didn't want to implicate us, of course, she would believe in his words. Also, Joseph and Charlotte initially agreed to meet at 8.00PM, and Joseph would bring her to a safe place. As Charlotte's uncle, his actions seemed reasonable, and even if I were at the studio back then, I might not find a reason to stop him from taking Charlotte away either."

Then, she continued, "But the problem is, for some reason, Joseph specifically went there during the afternoon to inform Charlotte. He knew she was in danger but didn't immediately bring her away. Instead, he had to wait until 8.00PM to fetch her, and let's not mention Zoe getting involved in this matter and managing to persuade Charlotte to stay. In addition, when Joseph arrived, at approximately 8.00PM, that group of men arrived, which means that even if Zoe didn't manage to persuade Charlotte to stay, and she left with Joseph, they would also encounter that group of men. What's more coincidental was that according to what Keaton said, Joseph wouldn't be able to take Charlotte away if those men hadn't appeared out of the blue."

"I guess that Joseph knew you had sent people to guard Charlotte, so he couldn't continue with his plan under that situation. So, he went to the studio and coaxed Charlotte to leave with him. Once she agreed, he would arrange for the act that night, but for the act to happen, Charlotte must agree to leave with him. Otherwise, it would be difficult for him to implement his plan. Zoe told me that when those men came after them, the scene was so chaotic that she focused all her attention on Charlotte and didn't notice what Joseph was doing. In that situation, Charlotte was being brought away, and as her

uncle, Joseph kept his presence low, which could only mean one thing—he never said a word since the start and didn't try to stop it."

Leanna said all that in one go and suddenly felt chills run down her spine.

She remembered Zoe mentioning that Charlotte yelled for Joseph to send Zoe to the hospital before she was brought away.

If that was true, it meant Charlotte might still not know that the person who planned all this was her most-trusted uncle.

Aidan smiled. "How did you analyze so much in such a short time?"

Leanna replied, "I had a bad feeling about this since listening to Keaton's description of what happened last night. Along with what Zoe told me, I thought this whole thing seemed off."

When she got to that point, she stopped and frowned. "But there's still something I can't figure out."

"What's that?"

"Since Joseph's men had successfully brought Charlotte away, why would he send Zoe to the hospital and wait with the others? That makes me doubt all the guesses I told you just now."

Aidan calmly replied, "You're right. He sent Zoe to the hospital because he didn't have the time to escape."

Stunned, Leanna repeated, "He didn't have the time to escape?"

"Keaton should have told you that he chased after them almost immediately, so Joseph didn't have much time. In his whole arrangement, Zoe was an accident, but he must bring Charlotte away. Since he had gone through so much to get Charlotte, it means that he still doesn't want her to know the truth."

After listening to that, Leanna instantly understood the situation and felt numbness in her scalp. She subconsciously replied, "So he didn't leave with those people but waited until they left... but by that time, Keaton arrived, so he made do with the situation and pretended he was about to send Zoe to the hospital?"

Aidan hummed slightly in response. "Since things had escalated to that point, he clearly couldn't escape, so he decided to come with us. That's because he can use this incident as his alibi."

"So... Where is he now?"

"I told him to go home." Aidan explained, "Since we want to know where Charlotte is, he is the best option to start with."

Drawing a breath, Leanna stayed silent for a while before saying, "Since Charlotte has been kept in the dark about this, I'm worried she might get hurt."

Aidan assured her, "Don't worry. He most probably took Charlotte away because he wanted to do something in Jamesdon. As long as they are still in Highside, she will be safe."

Leanna parted her lips, wanting to say something, but Aidan cut her off. "Let's eat. The food's getting cold."

That caused Leanna to withdraw whatever she was about to say and half-heartedly drink her soup.

She was worried about Charlotte's condition.

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On the other hand, since Charlotte refused to comply and was causing a ruckus after she was brought away, the man in the lead knocked her unconscious.

When she came to, she found herself in an unfamiliar room.

She slowly sat up and felt like her world was spinning.

After shaking her head, she felt less dizzy and got off the bed. But her hands were tied, so she could only kick the door and yell, "Open the door! Open the door!"

Two minutes later, the door was finally opened, and the man in the lead from last night appeared before her.

He looked at Charlotte emotionlessly. "Miss Woodley, I'd suggest you behave yourself. This is not the Woodley Residence."

Feeling her heart sink, Charlotte retreated in fear but mustered her courage to threaten him, "E-Even if we're not inside the Woodley Residence, you still have to feed me. I'm hungry. I hadn't eaten since last night, and if you starve me to death, my dad and grandfather will never forgive you!"

The man stared at her for a long time. "Oh, what would you like to eat?"

Charlotte purposefully ordered a few Jamesdon specialty dishes and arrogantly demanded, "I want all of that, and buy me a smoothie. I want it at room temperature and with no ice."



The man snorted. “Miss Woodley, you are indeed a spoiled child. None of that is available.”

“W-What do you have?”

“You’ll eat whatever we bring you.”

Afterward, the man slammed the door shut with a bang.

Then, Charlotte walked with difficulty toward the couch with sweat-drenched hands.

A while later, the door was opened again.

Charlotte glanced at the food and was instantly sure they were still in Highside.

Without mentioning other things, she was a foodie and could instantly distinguish Jamesdon cuisine and Highside cuisine with one glance.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 686-You’re Pretty Cute When You’re Stupid

Charlotte averted her gaze and looked at the man in front of her, lifting her chin slightly. “Untie me. How am I supposed to eat with my hands bound?”

When the man heard that, he pulled out a dagger and moved closer to her.

She quickly gulped and shut her eyes tight. A moment later, the rope around her wrist came loose.

She could feel her nose tingle as she looked at her reddened wrists and gently massaged them.

The man warned, “Miss Woodley, it would be best for you not to play tricks, or you won’t even have food to eat in the future.”

At that, Charlotte muttered, “Aren’t you afraid that I—”

“You’re just a pawn. The only thing that matters is that you are alive. Don’t have too many demands, Miss Woodley. You’d better understand your situation.”

After saying those words, the man turned around and left, locking the door behind him again.

Charlotte looked at the food in front of her. Sniffing, she picked up her fork and started gobbling up her food.

As she ate, her tears pattered when they fell into the food.

She didn't even know how Zoe and Joseph were doing now. Those people probably didn't do anything overboard with them, but Zoe was bleeding so much...

At the thought, Charlotte couldn't help but sob. The more she thought about it, the sadder she was as she blamed herself more.

If only she hadn't so stubbornly insisted on leaving Jamesdon to come to Highside, Zoe wouldn't have gotten hurt trying to protect her.

And the baby in her womb... I'm sure they're safe.

After finishing her meal, Charlotte tried to open the door, only to realize that it was locked. She then walked to the window where she saw several men in black coming in and out downstairs.

It was almost impossible for her to escape by jumping out of the window.

Feeling dejected, she sat on the bed and gazed sadly out the window.

After a while, a woman appeared downstairs.

Freya took off her sunglasses and asked, "How is she?"

"She just finished eating. She stopped making a fuss for now," the man replied.

Freya raised an eyebrow at that. "She is cooperating?"

"Miss Woodley has lived a pampered and sheltered life. She's never experienced something like this before, and she has never starved. We can just give her some food and scare her a bit. That should do it."

She sat on the couch as she stated, "The lady is timid. Don't scare her too much."

The man nodded slightly in response.

Then, she asked again, "Have you contacted the men at Jamesdon? What did they say?"

"Mr. Woodley wants us to take it slow. With her in our hands, we not only have leverage against Charles Woodley and the others but also a way to deal with Lachlan Woodley."

Freya lit a cigar and spoke slowly. "Lachlan Woodley still hasn't shown up even though something so big has happened in Jamesdon."

As she said that, she squinted and blew out a puff of smoke, seemingly lost in thought.

"Given the current situation, Lachlan may not be able to return to Jamesdon."

Freya only looked at him and scoffed without agreeing or disagreeing with his words because Lachlan was definitely not someone they could underestimate.

After a while, she continued, "Tell the people in Jamesdon to keep a close watch. We need to find Aidan Pearson's son and his mother. The situation will only be favorable to us then. Right now, we only have Charlotte in our hands. The most having her will do is restrain Charles and the others. It's far from what we want."

The man nodded. "I will give the instructions right away."

After he left, Freya finished her cigar and went upstairs.

Charlotte, who heard the footsteps, immediately sat up on the bed and cautiously looked at the door. Her entire body was on high alert.

The door was soon opened, but this time, the person that came into sight was a glamorous and flamboyant woman.

Charlotte couldn't help thinking that she looked familiar.

Freya then walked in with a smile. "What's wrong? Don't recognize me anymore?"

"It's you!" Charlotte's eyes widened as she exclaimed. It's the woman who has been to Leanna's studio before!

Seeing her reaction, Freya purred, “I’m honored that you still remember me, Miss Woodley.”

Charlotte couldn’t help but step back, stuttering, “W-Who are you... You—”

“No need to be nervous, little lady. I won’t do anything to you. I just want to remind you to behave and listen well if you want to return home safely. This place is not like the Woodley Family Estate. The people here don’t care if you are a woman. If you get hurt, you’ll have to bear it on your own.”

Charlotte took a deep breath before carefully asking, “Are you... from the Woodley Family?”

“Not at all.”

“Uncle Joseph said that the people from the Woodley Family want to use me to threaten my father, and you...”

Freya smiled. “Your uncle isn’t entirely wrong, but...”

She stopped halfway through her sentence, leaving Charlotte eagerly asking, “But what?”

“It’s nothing. It’s better for you to remain clueless. As I thought, pretty girls can be cute when they are stupid.”

“You—”

Before Charlotte could say anything else, Freya turned around and left Charlotte alone in the room.

The bedroom once again fell into silence.

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By the time Zoe woke up, Leanna had already returned with suitcases full of gifts.

It was hard not to feel good about it.

As Zoe unwrapped the gifts, she asked, “By the way, Leanna, you didn’t go to Siebenna this past half a month. Where did you go instead?”

Leanna paused before answering, "Lachstein."

"Lachstein?" Zoe looked up and repeated.

Leanna nodded lightly. "My father... He got sick. We went there and stayed for a while."

"Your father? William?"

"Mhm."

Zoe couldn't help but get excited. "Did you finally meet each other? Come on, tell me what happened?"

Leanna sat next to her and slowly began, "When I saw him lying in the hospital bed, I wondered if my persistence all these years had been wrong. I will regret never calling him my father if he never wakes up again."

"Is he... doing better now?"

"He is. There's no major issue now. He will be discharged in a while."

Zoe mumbled, "So, that's what happened."

No wonder Daniel had been so busy lately. It turned out it was because William was hospitalized.

Leanna knew what she was thinking, but she hesitated to say anything.

In Zoe's current condition, the woman would only get more upset if Leanna told her that Daniel had gone missing.

I'll tell her after she is discharged.

Both of the women, who were deep in their thoughts, didn't notice that the door to the ward had been opened, only to be closed gently after a pause that lasted for a few seconds.

Leanna realized it was getting late and she stood up, offering, "What do you want to eat? I'll go whip something up."

Zoe mentioned some food, but Leanna refused them all. "The doctor said you can't eat spicy food right now."

Zoe then laid back on the bed and huffed, seemingly disinterested. “The joy of life lies in eating.”

Hearing that put a smile on Leanna’s face. After she took a few things, she asked again, “Do you need anything else? I’ll bring it for you.”

“A few books, please. I’m so bored. I might as well enrich my inner world while I have the chance.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 687-Young Men These Days Are Really Something Else

Recalling that Zoe’s phone was still in Joseph’s car, Leanna nodded and said, “Okay, I got it.”

Zoe waved at her. “Be careful on the way, Nana.”

“I’m leaving now. As for you, don’t move around. There is a nurse at the entrance. Just call her if you need anything.”

“Don’t worry.” Zoe blew a kiss at Leanna. “I can lie down all day.”

After leaving the ward, Leanna took out her phone and dialed Joseph’s number.

The phone rang for a long time before someone picked up.

Leanna went straight to the point. “Mr. Woodley, my friend’s phone is in your car. Is now a good time for me to go and get it?”

Joseph paused for a moment before replying, “I have already sent the car for repairs. I’ll have someone look for it and if they find it, I’ll have it delivered to her. How is your friend doing now?”

“Thank you for your concern, Mr. Woodley. She’s not doing well.”

Joseph sighed at that. “I’m sorry. I should take responsibility for this.”

“There’s no need,” Leanna uttered calmly. “I should thank you for bringing my friend to the hospital. She could have been in much worse condition if it weren’t for you.”

“Don’t mention it, Miss McKinney. It’s the least I can do.”

Leanna didn't want to waste more time exchanging pleasantries with him. Hence, she told him straight out, "Mr. Woodley, you can just deliver the phone to the entrance on the first floor. I have other matters to attend to, so I won't disturb you further."

With that, she ended the call.

Leanna put away her phone and as soon as she got into the car, she saw Aidan waiting for her inside.

When the man looked at Leanna's cold expression, he asked in a calm tone, "Whom were you talking to? You seem quite upset."

"Joseph Woodley. Zoe's phone is still with him."

"I'll have Keaton pick it up."

"It's alright. I asked him to have it delivered. You can have someone pick it up later."

"Sure," Aidan replied.

...

Daphne was recognized by two fans as soon as she entered the hospital.

To avoid trouble, she chose not to take the elevator and instead used the adjacent emergency staircase.

Zoe's ward was on the eighth floor. By the time Daphne reached the sixth floor, she was already feeling a little out of breath.

After resting for a few seconds, she continued her ascent.

Just as she stepped onto the stairs leading to the eighth floor, she instinctively looked up and met a pair of calm eyes.

We are bumping into each other again, she thought as her eyes fell upon a crushed cigarette butt. Feeling rather speechless, she quickly averted her gaze and nonchalantly asked while continuing to walk up the stairs, "How is Zoe doing?"

Louis withdrew his hands and slipped them into the pockets of his pants.  
“She’s resting in the ward.”

When Daphne finally arrived on the eighth floor, she took a short minute to catch her breath before asking, “Aren’t you going in?”

“I’ll go in later.”

“I’ll wait too, then.” Daphne fanned herself with her hand and leaned against the wall to rest.

“Feeling warm?” Louis looked at her, to which Daphne responded with a nod.  
“A little.”

As he looked at her, he noticed that her sweat had already dampened the stray strands of hair on her forehead.

His hand hanging beside his torso moved, and he was gently removing the mask from her face the next moment.

Daphne clearly didn’t expect this action, as her eyes widened when she stared at him in astonishment.

After a few seconds of locking eyes, Louis shifted his gaze to the side and handed her the mask he took off. “Wearing a mask during exercise can lead to oxygen deprivation.”

Daphne also came back to her senses and she hurriedly reached out to take the mask. “Oh. Thank you.”

“Do you still feel hot?”

“A-A little bit.”

“I’ll go buy you some water.”

With that, he turned around and left.

“Hey, there’s no—”

Before Daphne could finish her sentence, Louis had already disappeared into the corridor.



She stood there holding the mask, and her gaze once again fell on the nearby cigarette butt.

She only let out a breath after a long time.

When Louis returned with the water, Daphne was sitting outside Zoe's ward.

He then handed her the bottle after he twisted the cap open for her.

"Thanks." She reached over and took it before she stood up, pointing at the ward. "Are you coming in?"

"You can go ahead. I won't be joining you."

Puzzled, she asked again. "Why not?"

"It's inappropriate for me to do that. I'm just glad to see her fine. I'm off."

Daphne nodded. "Goodbye."

After Louis left, she looked away and pushed open the door to the ward.

Inside the room, Zoe was sitting on the hospital bed, staring blankly out of the window.

She quickly composed herself when she heard the sound of the door opening, as she thought Leanna had returned to the room. But when she turned her head and saw Daphne, she paused momentarily before asking, "Why are you here?"

"I went to your studio this morning and heard that something happened to you. And since I couldn't get in touch with Leanna, I contacted Jonathan instead. He was the one who told me. So, what happened to you?"

Hearing that, Zoe smiled and lowered her head. "I'm alright. I'm doing well."

However, Daphne could tell from the woman's condition that things weren't quite okay. But seeing how Zoe didn't want to talk about it, Daphne didn't ask further. Instead, she said, "By the way, Louis also came. He was standing outside the door, but he didn't come in. He said it's enough for him to see you alright."

"Has he left now?" Zoe asked.

Daphne nodded at that. "He left when I came in."

After chatting for a while, Zoe questioned, "Has that sc\*mbag harassed you again?"

"No."

"Good. He has probably learned his lesson."

Daphne continued to stay in the ward with Zoe until Leanna brought food.

After leaving the room, Daphne took out her mask and put it on, but not before staring at it for a few seconds.

Young men these days are really something else. Not only are they good-looking, but they also know just what to do, she mused.

On the way back, Daphne's assistant sent her the upcoming schedule. The filming of a new movie would start in a month. Before that, there was a new product launch event and two advertisement shoots.

It was neither a relaxed nor busy schedule.

After checking it, Daphne leaned back in her seat and slowly closed her eyes.

When the car arrived at the underground parking lot, she asked the driver and her assistant to go home, and she went ahead and took the elevator herself.

As the elevator went up slowly, she remembered that she accidentally broke her water cup this morning, and there weren't many toiletries left. Since it was still early, she pressed the elevator button for the first floor to head to the mall for a bit.

The sun had just set, leaving behind a few traces of the evening glow.

Daphne had just walked out of the residential complex and was about to head toward the mall when someone suddenly stopped her.

It was Theodore, who sported a gloomy expression with a hint of exhaustion. He seemed to have just recovered from a serious illness. His voice was cold when he stated, "You have finally shown up now. I've been waiting here for days."

Daphne took a step back, her face devoid of any emotion as she peered at him.

“I’m warning you—stop trying to do something if you don’t want everything to fall apart. Do you have any idea how much I have lost because of you?”

“You brought it upon yourself. What does it have to do with me?”

As soon as he said that, he grabbed her wrist and tried to drag her to a nearby car.

However, a security guard walked over before Daphne could say anything. “Hey, you! What are you doing? Let her go!”

Theodore only ignored him and exerted more force as he attempted to drag Daphne away.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 688-Could Make a Woman Cry and Leave a Man Speechless

At this moment, several more security guards who each held an electric baton approached. They shouted, “Don’t you hear us telling you to let her go?! If you don’t release her, don’t blame us for not holding back!”

Theodore’s eyebrows were pulled together into a tight frown when he saw the guards coming toward him. Taking advantage of the moment he was distracted, Daphne swiftly broke free from his grasp and ran to the side.

He attempted to reach her again, but the guards stopped him. “It’s you! You are the one who has been lurking around here suspiciously for days. We can tell you’re up to no good just by looking at you. Go now. Get lost!”

Theodore’s face fell further when he heard that. “Do you have any idea who you are talking to?” he growled.

“I don’t care who you are. Don’t think you have the right to do whatever you want just because you have money. I despise people like you who look civilized and all even though you are a hypocritical beast inside.”

“You—”

“Don’t ‘you’ me! Get lost now, or I’ll call the cops!”

Outnumbered and unwilling to involve the police because of his identity, Theodore adjusted his collar and snorted coldly before threatening Daphne, “This isn’t over. Just you wait!”

One of the guards picked up an electric baton and warned, “Try threatening her again.”

Theodore only glanced at them, and he quickly got into his car and drove away.

After he left, the guards spat on the ground and turned to Daphne. “Are you alright?”

Daphne nodded. “I’m fine. Thank you.”

“No need to thank us.” One of the older security guards put away his baton and informed her, “Your boyfriend has already talked to us in advance. We even feel a little embarrassed by how he occasionally brings us food and drinks.”

“Right! With us here, you can rest assured. He won’t set foot inside the community gates.”

Daphne was still trying to process what the older guard had just said. “My boyfriend?” she asked in confusion.

Another guard nodded and replied, “Yeah! Your boyfriend was here about a month ago. He gave that b\*stard a beating and chased him away.”

“That’s right! He asked us to keep an eye on you so that guy wouldn’t harass you anymore. He often buys us cigarettes, alcohol, and delicious food too. Didn’t he tell you?”

Daphne only replied after a slight pause. “He... didn’t.”

The older guard couldn’t help but give a thumbs-up as he praised, “Your boyfriend is truly something. It’s hard to find such a good boyfriend nowadays. Cherish him, young lady. If I were you, I’d quit that job and get another one.”

“Exactly! Just the sight of bosses like yours is enough to make me lose my appetite. They only know how to bully young girls like you who have just entered the real world. Karma will get them sooner or later.”

Daphne smiled upon hearing that.

After giving her thanks, she no longer had the mood to go shopping. Instead, she turned around to walk back to the building.

The guards also returned to their posts. However, they decided to give Louis a call after a short discussion.

Although they had already driven away that human scum, they were sure that Daphne must have been quite frightened. Hence, they figured it would be good for her to have her boyfriend come and accompany her.

After returning home, Daphne took off her mask and walked to the refrigerator. She then grabbed a bottle of cold water and took several sips, allowing the frustration that had been swirling in her chest to subside.

She was setting down the water bottle when she noticed a pile of clothes on the couch. And so, she walked into the walk-in closet and began another round of decluttering.

Amid tidying up, she suddenly heard the doorbell ring. When she walked out and saw Louis through the monitor, she didn't hesitate to open the door.

The man stared at her intently. He only spoke in a voice slightly colder than usual when he had made sure she wasn't injured. "He came looking for you again?"

She nodded at that. "But he left. I'm fine."

Louis pursed his lips and was about to turn around and leave when Daphne grabbed his arm.

"You came at the right time," she began. "I'm sorting out my clothes, but the suitcase is too heavy for me to lift. Can you help me?"

He kept standing there quietly.

Daphne continued, "You didn't go out of your way coming here just to say those few words, right? Regardless, I have to treat you to a meal. Chop-chop! We can eat after we are done tidying the things up."

Seeing that he still hadn't moved, Daphne pulled him inside, saying as they walked into the walk-in closet, "People of your age should do something useful with their strength instead of wasting it on meaningless things."

There were already a few large boxes inside the walk-in closet.

"Now help me move those few boxes into the living room. There's not enough space here."

Louis looked at the room full of clothes and he couldn't help raising his eyebrows.

Daphne continued to maneuver through the obstacles before she resumed tidying up. "I actually have fewer clothes compared to others. After all, I'm a celebrity. You haven't seen your sister's walk-in closet. It could make a woman cry and leave a man speechless."

Louis was quiet for a few beats before he muttered, "The place she rented doesn't have a walk-in closet. There is only one wardrobe."

Daphne flashed a smile at him. "That is because President Pearson bought the unit beside hers and made that place her walk-in closet."

After a two-second silence, he no longer said anything as he started to move the boxes out.

Daphne took out a few more items and placed them in an empty box nearby, dusting her palms off when she caught her breath.

It was stress relieving to see the once-packed walk-in closet suddenly appear half-empty.

Louis looked at the last box. "Are there any more?"

"Nope! What do you feel like eating? I'll order takeout."

"Anything is fine."

"Gotcha." Daphne took out her phone and stated, "I'll just order whatever, then."

Since she didn't know what Louis liked to eat, she decided to order a variety of food.

When she was done, she opened the fridge and handed a bottle of water to him. "Tired?"

Louis shook his head and replied calmly, "No."

Daphne sat on the couch and stretched. She was quite tired herself. After all, her physical strength couldn't keep up now that she was getting older.

Louis glanced at the several large boxes near the entrance. "What will you do with those?"

"My staff will take care of them when they come tomorrow."

Louis didn't say anything else and he looked away upon hearing that.

In that instant, the entire living room fell into a strange and awkward silence.

The atmosphere was somewhat peculiar.

Noticing this, Daphne cleared her throat and found a topic. "Zoe is doing well. She should be discharged from the hospital in a few days."

Louis merely nodded. "I know."

After a few seconds, Daphne added, "You are starting school soon, right?"

"In another half month."

"Do you have any other work arrangements for the next half month?"

"I have some work to do. It will continue until school starts."

Daphne pondered for a moment before asking, "Can I ask you a question?"

Louis softly responded with a hum.

"Why didn't you go inside Zoe's ward today? I know all the reasons before were excuses. If you really felt it wasn't appropriate, you wouldn't have stayed in that area."

Louis' expression remained calm when he asked in return, "Would you get mad if I don't want to answer that question?"

Daphne froze for a moment. “Not really, no...”

“Ask another question, then.”

Daphne’s hand on the couch clenched involuntarily. “Will you answer it regardless of what my next question is?”

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 689-Are You Checking Up on Me?

Instead of answering her, Louis simply turned his head and met her gaze. After a few seconds, he uttered, “Sure.”

Daphne asked, “Did you... meet Theodore?”

Louis made a sound of affirmation at that. “I did.”

“You went to him—”

“That—” Louis interrupted, “—is the second question.”

As Daphne quietly looked at him in confusion, he stood up and walked away. “I’m borrowing your kitchen.”

She finally came back to her senses after feeling dazed for a moment. Did he just brush me off? As expected of a top student. How quick-witted.

She watched his figure and raised her hand to scratch her eyebrow. Even though she had many things to say, she didn’t know how she could approach the topic.

The takeout she ordered arrived not long after.

After Daphne took it, she walked to the dining room while asking Louis, “What are you doing?”

He emerged from the kitchen. “I was planning to whip up a dish or two, but your fridge is empty. There were also some expired frozen foods. I threw those away.”

Why does that feel insulting, Daphne thought to herself while forcing a cough.

“Let’s... start eating.”



Louis looked at the food on the table. "There's too much for the two of us. Put some in the fridge. You should pick what you feel like eating now."

Daphne glanced down and selected some food.

The rest were all placed by Louis in the kitchen to cool down before being put in the fridge.

As Daphne needed to watch her weight and she didn't have a big appetite, it didn't take much food to fill her up.

"Is there anything you want to eat?" she asked Louis.

"No. This is enough."

The portion was just enough for them to finish.

After Louis gathered the trash, he told her to rest early and that he would be leaving.

Daphne was standing by the side when she hesitated for a moment before asking, "Are you going straight home?"

Louis paused and quietly responded, "Yes."

She asked again, "You are going to take a cab?"

"The subway is still running."

"Okay." She glanced at the time. "There's a subway station five minutes away from here. Let's assume it takes you half an hour to get home, plus a ten-minute walk from the subway station. You should arrive at your home no later than forty-five minutes from now. If you need to stop by the supermarket to

buy some water or anything else, I'll give you an extra five minutes. So, share your location with me fifty minutes from now."

After a moment of quiet contemplation, Louis finally spoke. "My home is quite far from here."

"How far? Is it in the neighboring city?" Daphne repeated, "Fifty minutes from now, share your location with me, or else I'll contact your sister."

Louis paused for a few seconds before asking, “Are you checking up on me?”

Daphne was taken aback. “Check—”

She only realized that the words didn’t sound quite right when they were about to leave her mouth.

With an unchanged expression, she insisted, “I’m responsible for your safety. How am I supposed to explain to your sister if you don’t arrive home on time and end up getting into a fight or something?”

A barely noticeable smile tugged at the corner of Louis’ lips. “Got it. I’m leaving.”

Daphne walked him to the door. “Fifty minutes, okay?”

He took out his phone. “Let’s start sharing locations now.”

“Ah, there is no need for that—”

“You’re concerned about my safety, right? If something happens to me on the way, you’ll be the first to know.”

Daphne was surprised by how reasonable his words were.

She then took out her phone and accepted Louis’ location-sharing request.

He soon put his phone back into his pocket. “I’m off, then.”

“Bye!” Daphne waved at him.

After he left, Daphne returned to the living room and collapsed onto the couch. She zoned out for a while and she took out her phone to check on Louis, who had already arrived at the subway station.

That’s fast. Oh, the benefits of having long legs!

Not even two minutes passed and his location started changing rapidly. He must have boarded the subway.

The location kept changing incessantly. Daphne didn’t know why, but she couldn’t take her eyes off the screen.

The farther he got from her, the stranger she felt inside.

Twenty minutes later, Louis got off the subway.

Another ten minutes passed, and he entered a residential complex and sent Daphne a message. 'I'm home.'

He was fifteen minutes faster than she estimated.

Louis' home was indeed not on her way, but it wasn't too far either.

She looked at the message that popped up on WhatsApp and belatedly snapped out of her thoughts. She quickly returned to the chat.

'Good. You have work tomorrow, so rest early.'

'Alright,' he replied.

Daphne looked at her phone, paused for a moment, then exited the location sharing and went to take a shower.

On the other end, Louis put away his phone and left the house after he saw that the location sharing had ended.

...

In the evening, Joseph sent someone to deliver Zoe's phone.

When Zoe received it, she breathed a sigh of relief. "I thought I'd never get it back! I have so many photos here."

She then turned to Leanna. "Nana, you can take the books back. There is nothing about me that can be refined even if I tried. I shouldn't waste any more time. My phone is my spiritual sustenance."

Leanna chuckled at that. "Alright."

Seeing that it was getting late, Leanna said, "Okay, you should feed your spirit with food tomorrow. For now, get some rest."

Zoe plugged her phone in to charge and obediently lay down on the bed. "I'm going to sleep now. You can go back and sleep, Nana."

“It’s fine. I’ll sleep on the couch.”

Seeing how firmly Leanna insisted, Zoe didn’t say anything more. She whispered, “Goodnight.”

“Goodnight.”

Leanna turned off the lights, walked to the couch, and slowly closed her eyes.

Both of them slept soundly through the night.

...

Three days later, Zoe was discharged from the hospital.

After returning home, she nestled on the couch and sighed. “Home is the best. It was so boring at the hospital.”

“Rest for a while I cook,” Leanna urged.

When Zoe heard that, she grabbed onto her friend. “Hey, I’m already back home. You don’t need to take care of me anymore. You should rest too.”

“I’ve been resting with you in the hospital for the past few days, haven’t I?”

Except for breakfast, which they had at the hospital, Leanna came back to cook lunch and dinner for Zoe. The back-and-forth trips were tiring.

Zoe thought for a moment before she came up with another idea. “You should go to work. We haven’t been there for the past few days. Who knows what the studio has turned into?”

Leanna raised an eyebrow. “Guess what Aidan is doing.”

Puzzled, Zoe met Leanna’s eyes before a look of disbelief appeared on her face. “President Pearson... isn’t at the studio, is he?”

“He is. He doesn’t have much to do at home, anyway.”

Zoe was speechless to hear that. I can’t imagine President Pearson sitting in the office and dealing with that trivial stuff.

She also felt a bit sorry for the few young ladies in the studio. They were earning a few hundred while bearing the pressure of tens of billions worth of work.

Leanna smiled. "Alright, then. I'll go cook now."

With that, Zoe was left to sit on the couch, idly scrolling through her phone.

After a while, she walked into the kitchen and asked in a soft voice, "Nana, is there still no news about Charlotte?"

Leanna's hands paused briefly before she gently shook her head. "Not yet."

Over the past few days, Aidan's men had searched almost every corner of the city for Charlotte, but to no avail.

As for Joseph, he hadn't left the hotel at all

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 690-I'm Your Brother

Once Zoe went to sleep, Leanna went back to her home. Aidan was reading on the couch, and he didn't say anything to her as she came in.

Leanna was getting sleepy, and she went to the bedroom. "Have you showered?"

Aidan said coolly, "Yes."

She took her pajamas out of the closet. "It's late. Aren't you going to sleep?"

"Yeah," said Aidan coolly.

Then, Leanna paused and went to sit with him. "What's wrong?"

He flipped a page of his book. "It's alright. Go ahead and shower. Just leave me be."

Oh, what is it this time? Leanna huddled closer and noticed he was reading, but she had no idea what the book was about. "What are you reading?"

"Sutra."

Huh?

Before Leanna could say anything, Aidan said calmly, "I've been sleeping alone for three days. It's time I read some sutras to temper my mind."

She was amused and miffed, then she took the book away and put it aside. "You're not a kid anymore. Do you even need me to sleep with you?"

He looked at her. "Yes, or I can't sleep."

Leanna stood up and patted his head. Like soothing a child, she said, "Yeah, yeah. I'll get showered and sleep with you tonight." She was about to leave, but her wrist was grabbed and she fell into his embrace.

Aidan put his hand on her waist and slowly said, "How are you going to sleep with me?"

"Like how we used to."

"I don't think we're on the same page here."

Leanna gritted her teeth. "Can you stop with the sexual innuendos?"

Aidan smiled and leaned in closer for a kiss, then he picked her up.

"What are you doing? I need to get showered."

"We'll do it together."

"I thought you already showered."

"You're going to sleep with me, so I don't mind showering again."

Huh.

Two hours later, the couple lay in bed. Leanna's eyelids were weighing a ton and she yawned. "So how does working in the studio feel?"

"Feels nice leeching off you," said Aidan. "Expand it. I'll be in charge of finances."

Leanna couldn't even muster up enough strength to chide him. A while later, she said, "Still no news about Charlotte?"

"No news is good news." Aidan grunted.

“That’s true.”

He pulled her into his embrace. “You’re sleepy, aren’t you? Go to sleep.”

She couldn’t stay awake anymore, and she drifted to sleep.

...

Charlotte had been locked up for three days. Every day, they would give her her meals, then they would lock the door right after that. The whole building was crawling with their people, so she couldn’t run away. The more time passed, the more she missed her home. She missed her father and great-grandfather.

If she had stayed in Jamesdon, she might have married Lachlan, but even that was better than being kidnapped. At least she would live her days happily. Even if she got on Lachlan’s bad side, she could at least ask him to give her a feast before he killed her. I wouldn’t have dragged my uncle and Miss Zoe into this... She lay on her bed and stared at the ceiling, seemingly uninterested in anything.

A long time later, night descended, and the moon hung high up in the air. Just then, the room next door lit up, and everything got rowdy.

Hearing the noise, Charlotte approached the window, then she noticed the fire coming from next door. Even the heat wave was making its way over to her. She noticed the people downstairs running around amidst the chaos. Nobody cared about her.

This is my chance. She quickly pulled her sheets off and turned them up into a knot. Just when she thought she could escape through the window, someone opened the door. The moment the man saw what she was doing, he knew she wanted to escape. “I told you no funny business, Miss Woodley.”

He yanked her by the arm and dragged her downstairs, but Charlotte wouldn’t work with him, so she bumped herself into a lot of stuff along the way, bruising her face and legs. She then got stuffed into a car. The men were going to take her somewhere else.

Charlotte kept banging on the car window, shouting, “Help! Help!” However, the fire was burning too brightly, and the noise outside drowned out her shouts for help.

The car left in a hurry, so Charlotte was flung around the backseat and she bumped her head. A while later, the car ran into a roadblock. The driver got out of the car to check it out, but he fell to the ground right away. The man who took Charlotte away frowned and held his gun, then he stepped out of the car. He crouched beside the driver and tried to see what was wrong, but the car suddenly roared.

He turned around, but it was already too late, for the car had left. He cursed, "Damn it! This is a trap!" He tried to go after the car, but he was faced with a few more guns.

Charlotte was flung around again, but she felt excited, thinking she was saved. "Did my father send you?"

"No."

"Oh, so you must be working for my uncle."

"Also no."

"So, you're... working for Aidan, then?"

The man turned around and looked at her. "I'm your brother."

Charlotte froze. "But I have no brother."

"Yeah, I was just kidding."

Huh? Charlotte got a bit cautious, and she retreated a little. For some reason, she had a feeling she just jumped into another dangerous situation. A while later, she whispered, "W-Where are you taking me?"

"Jamesdon."

"I'm not going with you! You're the bad guy!"

"And how do you know that?"

"My father said to never trust any Woodleys, and he told me to never go back to Jamesdon with them!"

"You went with your uncle, though."



“That’s because he’s my uncle, and he wasn’t taking me back to Jamesdon. He was taking me somewhere safe.”

The driver chuckled. “You’d trust your uncle over your own father, so why won’t you trust me? I’m your brother.”

“I have an uncle, but I don’t have a brother. You’re lying.”

“I am not. You were just a wee baby when I left Jamesdon, but yeah, we’re not real siblings. Your father found you on his travels and took you in, but he kept it a secret from you so that you wouldn’t worry.”

Charlotte’s eyes went wide. “T-That’s nonsense.”

“It’s true. I’ll take you back to Jamesdon, and you can ask your father about it.”