Love Coming from the Least Expected Chapter 551

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"It's hard to say who owes the other more between your mom and me, but that pure and perfect woman whom I remember is long gone. I was biting off more than I could chew, trying to date an amazing woman like your mom when I wasn't even worthy of her time and effort. Perhaps she had only intended to be with me for a while, but I thought she was going to stay with me forever." It was the first time Nathan had spoken to me about Isabelle so openly.

He began to tear up as memories of their past filled his head. This was the first time I felt his love for Mom. He used to love her as much as Christopher loved me, and he genuinely wanted her to be happy.

I tried my best to calm myself down, but my fingers kept trembling as I stared at Nathan. I said, "I understand. Crystal is right: you don't owe me anything. In fact, I'm the one who owes you after everything you've done for me. Don't worry, I'll ask Mom to spare the Tanner family as a means of making it up to you for not kicking me out back then. Thanks for raising me. Goodbye, Dad."

Since I wasn't his daughter, that could very well be the last time I ever called him "Dad." I should be calling him "Uncle Nathan" from that point on.

I then pushed my way through the crowd of journalists and ran toward the exit. A few of them tried chasing after me but stopped the moment I flashed them a fierce glare. Just as a car pulled up outside the hospital, I got in immediately to escape from the journalists.

"What's the matter? Did something big happen? Why are the journalists chasing after you like that?" Lucas asked in confusion as he watched me pant heavily.

Still unable to speak due to the shock, I shook my head and simply sat there in silence with my arms wrapped around myself. I eventually regained my composure after quite a while and saw that Lucas looked a lot better than when I was at the Goldstein residence. "Why are you here?" I asked casually.

"I was just passing by while helping my dad with some errands." Lucas knew better than to press me for answers if I didn't feel like talking about it.

I then sat up straight and told him, "I've just discovered something horrible and I can't stay calm right now. What do I do, Lucas?"

"You should try talking to someone about it. I'm sure you'll be able to calm down as long as you have your determination and pillar of support with you. Where's Christopher?" Lucas asked curiously.

"He's out on a business trip. You know how the Lane family business is just as big as the Goldstein family's, right? His mother dumped everything onto him, so he's really busy." I slumped weakly against the seat. Whatever strength I had mustered earlier seemed to have disappeared once again.

"Lucas, I'm really thankful for you keeping me company the whole time I was by the seaside. I can't imagine how difficult life would've been if you weren't there to look after me when I lost my sight."

Lucas had always been a very reliable friend to me; our friendship had gotten stronger the moment he carried me on his back looking for a doctor to treat me late at night. As such, I felt a strong urge to tell him about the problems I was facing.

"I've stumbled upon yet another problem now, Lucas. What should I do?"

"Just tackle your problems one by one. Tell you what, I've always firmly believed that no problem is unsolvable. If there is one, that just means you're not strong enough," Lucas replied while staring deeply at me.

"Certain things have nothing to do with strength, though. Guess what? I just found out earlier that I'm not a Tanner! Nathan Tanner isn't my father! Funny, isn't it? All these years, I've been complaining about Nathan not treating me like his daughter, only to realize he was never my father, to begin with! Not only that, but I now owe him big time for having raised me!" I shouted anxiously while pointing at myself.

"What? You're not Nathan's daughter?"

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Lucas seemed to be a lot more agitated than I was. He slammed on the brakes all of a sudden, causing the car to swerve around before crashing into a car parked on the roadside.

He hit his head when he jumped from the shock and sat back down with a frown. He asked anxiously, "So... You're saying that you're not Nathan's daughter?"

I found it strange the way he was so anxious and shocked about it. Even I didn't overreact to that extent.

The other driver got out of his car and shouted furiously at Lucas, "Hey, what the hell are you doing? Look at the damage you've done to my car! You think you're so great just because you're rich and drive a Porsche? Huh? You think that gives you the right to just ram into other people's cars?"

Lucas couldn't even be bothered to deal with him and simply shoved a wad of cash into his hand as he said, "Here! Now, get lost!"

Noticing that Lucas was a rich guy, the driver tried to ask him for more money. "You think this is enough? This car is brand new and I've only just driven it once! Pay up..."

Lucas cut him off by shooting him a cold glare. The driver was so terrified that he shut up and ran off immediately.

Lucas then turned around to face me. "Are you saying that Nathan isn't your father? Did he admit to it himself?"

"Yeah, that's right. Why are you so worked up about it, Lucas? Don't tell me you're my long-lost brother or something?" I couldn't help but crack a joke when I saw how anxious he was.

Realizing he had lost his composure, Lucas gave me a thoughtful look and said, "Who knows? Maybe you really are my long-lost cousin!"

"Pfft... As if!" I exclaimed with a sigh. There's no way I'm Mark's daughter! He doesn't seem like the type who would let someone else raise his own child for him! But really... Who is my biological father? That was when I felt a sudden urge to find out more about it and to see my mom.

"Take me to the Goldstein residence. I'm really conflicted right now. I need to see my mom, or I won't be able to calm myself down."

I thought I would see Mom and Mark at the Goldstein residence, but they both happened to be out. I asked a bodyguard where they went, and he told me Mom had headed over to Wildefield with Mark. According to him, they were going to a holiday resort there because it had hot springs which were good for health.

I then grabbed my phone and gave Isabelle a call, only to hear a strange noise in the background when the call got through. There was a dull thud like something hitting the floor, followed by the sound of ceramics shattering.

"Mom! Mom!" I called out to her as I realized it was the sound of a phone dropping on the floor. Her voice was heard on the other line after a brief pause, "What's the matter, Eve? I'm a little busy at the moment, so I'll be hanging up if this isn't anything urgent."

"I have something really important to tell you, Mom!" I would always hear weird noises in the background whenever I called Isabelle, such as piano music or things being smashed to pieces on the floor. On top of that, she would always sound rather strange when she spoke to me, so I could not help but wonder if I was interrupting them or something.

"Okay, go ahead!" Mom let out a groan all of a sudden after saying that.

What the hell was that? That sound she made was so weird! Could it be that they're... I burned bright red at the thought of that. "What's wrong, Mom? Should I call you back later?"

"It's fine, just go ahead and tell me what you wanted to say!"

I tried my best to rid myself of those thoughts and lowered my volume as I asked, "I went to see Nathan at the hospital today and he said I'm not his daughter. Is this true, Mom? Am I not a Tanner?"

There was a short moment of silence on the line, and I was then put on hold as she answered another incoming call. I placed my phone on the table and stared blankly into space while waiting for her to get back to me.

Mom put my call back on after quite some time. She didn't sound the least bit surprised. "It seems he found out about it long ago. Yes, it's true that you're not his daughter. I have some things to take care of right now, so I'll tell you more when I get back. Bye!"

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"Hey, wait!" I wanted to say something but Mom had already hung up on me. With the phone still in my hand, I could only let out a sigh in response.

I really wished I had my mom by my side at the time, but she was somewhere far away with Mark.

News articles about my identity could be seen all over the newspapers in the afternoon. Thanks to the popularity I gained from my previous drama with Crystal and Monica as well as my art being displayed overseas in Anglandur, my news became a hot topic of conversation.

It wasn't long before practically everyone in Avenport knew about me not being a Tanner. As a result, I received quite a few calls in a row.

Sabrina, Darius, Dylan, and even Julia called to check on me. She asked if I wanted to make a trip to the Lane residence, and I said yes after giving it some thought.

I did not know what exactly happened back then, but Julia had indeed been nice to me ever since she came to accept me. At least she behaved like that until Isabelle returned and after word got out about me being her daughter.

It was all truly a strange combination of events and circumstances.

It was my first time coming over to the Lane residence without Christopher around. I handed a servant some gifts I had brought after stepping through the front door. Dylan then came running toward me the moment he saw me. He was about eight to nine years old. When he threw himself like that, I nearly lost my balance.

"Hey, Aunt Eve! That game console you bought me is amazing! I carry it with me every day and I just can't get enough of it!"

"Well, I'm glad you like it, Dylan. Now, get off me before Shelley sees us, or she'll scold you again!" I said while struggling to carry him in my arms.

"Oh, come on! It's been ages since my mom carried me like this! Let me enjoy this a little while longer. In return, I'll tell you some good news!" Dylan stuck his tongue out and winked at me.

"But you're too heavy for me to carry, Dylan!" Mustering all of my strength, I managed to place him down on the bench before giving him a light smack on the head. "Come on, now. Spill it! What's the good news?"

Dylan rubbed his head as he leaned in to whisper into my ear, "I'm sure you would like to know where my Uncle Christopher went, right? I heard Dad talking on the phone last night. Uncle Christopher is currently in a small town called Mapleton. It's located at the border of Yorksland. I bet he's having a blast there with his friends right now!"

"Huh? Darius knows that much?" I was confused.

Darius and Christopher are both in charge of very different things. Sabrina told me that Christopher is on a secret mission. Isn't strange that Darius would know his exact whereabouts?

I then pulled out my phone and sent Christopher a text: I hear the women in Yorksland are very "passionate." You'd better not let them seduce you now!

Christopher didn't respond to me this time, but I wasn't disappointed because he was out there carrying out a dangerous mission and putting his life on the line. There was no way he would have time to reply my texts so quickly.

I sent him another text after that. I just found out that I'm not Nathan's daughter today, and I'm freaking out right now. Since he isn't my biological father, he has no obligation to raise me and treat me well at all, but he did so anyway. As such, I really hope that my mom would stop going after the Tanners. I'm not sure if this is the right course of action and my mom would probably get mad at me for it too, but I believe you'll support my decision because you're my prince!

Dylan walked up to me and tried to sneak a peek at my phone after I sent that message. "You were texting Uncle Christopher, weren't you? Make sure to add those three magic words! My mom says you need to say those words every day to keep your relationship strong!"

"You cheeky little..." I gave him another light smack on the head before turning around to send Christopher the three words. Sometimes, you just have to tell your significant other how much you love them, or they'll never know!

"I'm not cheeky! I'm mature for my age! Also, I'll have you know that I have a girlfriend, so stop hitting me on the head!"

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The Lane family was rather nice to me even though Christopher wasn't around. Darius kept topping up my plate with food but Julia had a conflicted look in her eyes when she looked at me. She probably wasn't expecting my mom to be an old acquaintance of hers.

Julia asked me to go for a walk with her in the garden after the meal. Shelley wanted to join us, but Julia immediately rejected her request by saying, "Go check Darius' closet and see if he needs any new clothes. The weather is turning cold soon; you should get him some extra coats."

"But I already had one tailored yesterday..." Shelley stopped mid-sentence when she realized what was going on and continued by saying, "I mean, I've already checked his closet yesterday and we just need to decide on which design to go with today. I'll get to it right away. Have a nice day, you two!"

I could tell that Julia had something she wanted to talk to me about, so I followed her into the garden. Julia tended to her garden often as she loved her flowers a lot. The place was filled with beautiful flowers in full bloom.

She then stopped in the center of some lilies and knelt down to touch them. "Look at the flowers. They're all blooming in such bright colors, showing their most beautiful sides to the world. See these two flowers over here? They are quite similar in size and look the same at first glance, but there are tiny differences between each individual flower. This one is growing in a suitable spot, so it blossoms nicely. The other one is growing on the side and hasn't been receiving enough nutrients, so it won't last long even if it does blossom. The same principle applies to marriages."

I was able to read between the lines and immediately understood what Julia was implying. "Are you saying that my marriage with Chris won't last long because of my mom, Mrs. Lane?"

Julia thought she would need to beat around the bush before getting to the point, only to have me do the exact opposite. Since I had already addressed the issue, she decided to cut to the chase. "I'm glad to see that you're on the same page! Had I known that you are Isabelle's daughter and Robert's niece, I would never have agreed to you marrying Chris in the first place!"

"Why is that, Mrs. Lane? I don't understand why the grudges of the previous generation should affect the next!" I exclaimed with a sigh.

Everyone kept telling me we should not be together, and I was getting really sick of hearing that.

"I've been through a lot more hard times than I have good times, but meeting Christopher made me realize that all of my sufferings have occurred so that he could come into my life and bring me happiness. My life is only complete with him in it, so why can't we be together? Why can't I be happy? Am I just fated to live a miserable life forever?"

Julia let out a wry smile when she noticed the anger in my eyes. "Because you're Isabelle's daughter, that's why. You're a good kid, really. It's a shame you are a descendant of the Anderson family."

I looked her in the eye and asked in a questioning tone, "Are you trying to separate us again, Mrs. Lane?"

"You may not know this, but your mother has a long and messy history with the Lane family." Julia frowned as she said that, her eyes glancing at Darius' room from time to time.

"Are you referring to my mom's history with Darius?" I asked.

This time, it was Julia's turn to be shocked. "Your mother told you about something like that?"

I shook my head. Mom had barely spoken to me ever since she returned as she was busy with work all the time and behaved rather mysteriously, much to my confusion. The only thing she talked about the most was my Uncle Robert. She would also often remind me that the Lane family was our enemy.

"I've long since known about the history between Mom and Darius. Darius told me about it himself."

The look on Julia's face turned grim instantly. "Darius knew about it but never told us? If he had said it earlier we wouldn't be in such a messy situation. Did you know that your mom approached Darius with bad intentions?"

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Julia has gone too far with what she said! I may not know the details as to what happened back then, but that's my mom she's talking about! With that in mind, I cranked up the hostility in my tone and said coldly, "You shouldn't talk about my mom like that, Mrs. Lane."

"But I am simply speaking the truth. Why do you think I can't accept you being Isabelle's daughter? Your mother deliberately seduced Darius after finding out that he's my son; she practically had him wrapped around her finger. She was even going to use him against us! Had I not realized that in time, the Lane family wouldn't even exist today! She has always been trying to seek revenge for the Andersons. Does she really think I don't know that just because she keeps it to herself?"

"That's impossible!" I rebuked her immediately. My mom would never do something like this! She's always been kind and gentle! She's an angel that

has descended from heaven. There's no way she would manipulate a guy who loves her so much for her own personal gain!

"Why do you think I objected to their relationship and locked Darius up at home on her wedding day? It's precisely because I noticed what Isabelle was up to! You can go ask your mom if you don't believe me."

"That won't be necessary!" My expression grew completely cold. Being a businesswoman, it was in Julia's nature to be suspicious of others. I didn't blame her for doubting my intentions when I dated Christopher, but I wasn't about to let her talk about my mom like that.

"You were the last person to see my Uncle Robert, Mrs. Lane. My mom saw that and you know it. That's why you're making such horrible accusations! You wouldn't have said all that if you didn't know! In other words, you're feeling guilty for causing the death of my uncle!"

I knew it was inappropriate of me to say such things, especially when things were not looking great for Christopher and me. However, my mom was my own family member; there is no way I could sit by and let someone insult her like that!

"You..." Even Julia was shocked by my sudden outburst and stared speechlessly at me for quite a while before continuing, "I can understand your desire to defend Isabelle because you are her daughter. Likewise, I am defending my son as his mother. I don't blame you for what you said."

That's a perfectly rational response from her, and yet... Why am I feeling a lot worse after hearing it? I let out a sigh at the thought of that and looked up at the sunny sky above. "Regardless, I still respect you, Mrs. Lane. I may have made a lot of mistakes in life, but I will not give up on Christopher even if the entire world objects to our relationship. I don't care if you call me heartless or shameless for insisting on dating Christopher, but we've promised to spend the rest of our lives together, and nothing will ever change that."

I didn't care if people labeled me as unfilial for liking the son of our enemy. Christopher was a man who would sacrifice his life to save mine in a heartbeat, and I would never let go of him for the world.

Julia was about to say something in response but my stubbornness shocked her so much that she held her tongue in the end. I figured she probably recalled our peaceful times together as well as her promise to hold a grand wedding for me.

She then let out a sigh moments later. "Your relationship with Chris has long been beyond my control. He went as far as pointing a gun at his head

when you were dying at the hospital – what more could a mother like me possibly do? However..."

Julia's tone turned cold all of a sudden as she continued, "I will not allow anyone to cause the Lane family any harm, and I mean anyone. Is that clear?"

So that's what she's concerned about? I chuckled at the thought of that. "Understood. I've already made my stand the moment I chose to be with Christopher, haven't !?"