

Chapter 93 Protect You Forever

Later, the dinner drew to an end. It was supposed to be Hannah's treat, but Jonathan was still the one footing the bill in the end.

Hannah hadn't yet recovered from the shock of her daughter dating Jonathan in the first place, but she unexpectedly bumped into Jacob and witnessed such a shameful scene to boot.

She was a touch distracted, merely saying that she had something to handle before leaving in a hurry.

Michaela was initially still on pins and needles in the private room. Several times, she wanted to sneak out and eavesdrop on their conversation. However, she was worried that she would be caught red-handed and end up mortified.

While she was in utter turmoil, the two of them returned to the private room, one after another.

Not only did her mother mention nary a word about it all, but she even dumped her on Jonathan. That had her feeling rather chagrined.

Throughout the drive back to Shappiray Mansion, Michaela remained sullen and moody.

Only after the car drove into the courtyard and came to a stop did Jonathan reach out and ruffle the top of her head, his expression as tender as ever. "What are you thinking about, looking all somber?"

"What did my mother say to you earlier? Did she tell you what she was going to do? Why didn't she bring me along?"

Gazing at Michaela's conflicted expression, Jonathan frowned and deliberately teased, "Am I really that repulsive? Why don't you want to be with me, Mich?"

Recalling his unexpected action earlier that gave her such a fright that her heart almost leaped out of her chest, Michaela ignored him then. That aside, she even shot him a dissatisfied glare.

Hmm? Is she mad?

Chuckling aloud, Jonathan took her hand and pulled her into his embrace. In the blink of an eye, he had her on his lap.

The muscles at a man's thigh were solid and taut, so the heat was still discernible even through his pants.

As he held her within his arms, he was seemingly afraid that she would be uncomfortable with the steering wheel at her waist, so he shielded her with his palm. In just an instant, a scorching heat swept over her entire body.

That had Michaela feeling shy and embarrassed. Just as she was fretting inwardly, the man's deep voice abruptly rang out. "Mich, don't blame me for my actions today. Since I want to be with you, I've got to take responsibility for you and consider our future. I didn't do that for the sake of dating you. Instead, it was because I'd like to spend the rest of my life with you! I want an identity with which I can show you concern and protect you without keeping you a secret. I also yearn to have the whole world know that you're the woman I love! Then, everyone who wants to sabotage you has to think twice. Besides, I want to protect you forever so that no one can ever hurt you again. Do you understand my thoughts?"

While Jonathan was saying that, his voice was right beside her ear, low and alluring. It lingered in the car, making her feel dizzy for a moment.

Suddenly, a glaring beam shone in from outside the car window. Seemingly in a reflexive manner, Jonathan instantly gathered Michaela close to him. Only after doing that did he shoot a glare out the window, the frost in his eyes bursting forth.

Oblivious to his displeasure, Vincent stumblingly pulled open the car door. In a flash, the stench of alcohol permeated the air. On the heels of that, the man's disgruntled voice split the air.

"Say, Jonathan, you've arrived home, yet you remain in the car for eons. What are you... Huh? Isn't this Mich? Oh, I got it! The two of you are planning to do the horizontal tango in the car, right? Oh no, I'm really sorry for interrupting. Just continue where you left off. Go on... Heh!"

Despite saying that, Vincent didn't close the car door. Instead, he grinned at the two of them so widely that it was as though he would start drooling in the next second.

"Let me down!"

Michaela was already mortified to be caught red-handed in such a compromising position in the first place, but it was worse when Vincent spoke in such blatant terms. It had her both embarrassed and irate.

The instant Jonathan dropped his hold on her, she slid off his lap and returned to the passenger seat. Then, she deftly swung open the car door and hurried into the main hall.

With the romantic atmosphere ruined and Michaela having run off in a fit of pique, Jonathan climbed out of the car and slammed the car door shut with a bang.

The look in his eyes was chilly and forbidding as he glowered at Vincent, but the latter remained incognizant. When he saw Michaela leaving, he even clapped his hands and guffawed. "You've scared Mich off, Jonathan!"

"Is it funny?" Jonathan's eyes were narrowed into slits, radiating a dangerously dark glint.

"Is it not funny?" Vincent asked innocently.

Just then, Wayne hastened out from the main hall. As soon as he saw the situation before his eyes, he hastily stepped forward and supported Vincent. "Mr. Xander, Mr. Sullivan drank a little too much, so please don't take offense at him!"

"He indeed drank too much, so he should sober up." Retracting his gaze, Jonathan tersely ordered as he walked up the stairs, "Help him take a cold shower. If he still isn't sober, throw him out!"

"Understood, Mr. Xander!"

Wayne silently glanced at Vincent, the pity in his eyes clear as day.

By the time Jonathan made it into the mansion, Michaela had already gone into her bedroom with the door shut tightly.

Amused, he tentatively knocked on the door. "Mich?"

"I'm tired, so let's just talk tomorrow if there's anything."

Aware that Michaela was avoiding him, Jonathan didn't bother her any further. He bid her good night before whirling around and heading toward the study.

The moment he stepped into the study, the smile on his lips disappeared without a trace. He whipped out his phone and dialed a familiar string of numbers. "Leslie, I want all information related to Jacob Lingard, the more detailed, the better. Make it quick!"

The impact of the accidental encounter with Jacob that night didn't hit Jonathan any less compared to Hannah. At the same time, it also strengthened his resolve to shield Michaela under his wings.

In fact, he was in full agreement with Hannah's decision to sever things off at once.

Nevertheless, it also meant that he had to have more dirt on Jacob, judging from the latter's despicable means in order to prevent Michaela from getting hurt.

Meanwhile, at a high-end residential area in Baykeep, Hannah stared at a lit window and silently kept track of the time while sitting in Gary's Audi.

After leaving the restaurant, Jacob brought the seductively-dressed woman there straight away.

That residential area was known as Bibliophilia Residences. Back when the two of them got married, the Simmons used part of their retirement savings to buy the couple a house there as a marital home.

Later, Jacob's business gradually improved, and they bought the mansion in Haversville Pavillion. Thus, this place was left vacant.

However, never in Hannah's wildest dreams had she ever thought that Jacob would bring a woman there. That was downright shameless of him.

It wasn't the first time she discovered the man's extracurricular activities. All these years, she had always chosen to turn a blind eye to it, feigning ignorance to maintain the peace for the sake of giving her daughter a complete family.

It wasn't until Michaela and Zack's wedding was called off and he revealed the atrocious side of him that she contemplated a divorce.

When Lucille later used disgraceful means to frame her daughter, and he lashed out at the latter without asking any questions, that idea of hers firmed.

In fact, she had decided even when she was in Gerton to start the divorce procedures with him upon her return.

Be that as it may, she had never expected to witness such a scene at the restaurant on the first day she came back. After her conversation with Jonathan earlier and the scene a while ago, she realized all too well that she could no longer drag her feet.

Jacob's reprehensible tactics and ever-increasing ambitiousness were too much of a threat. She didn't want those to be her daughter's burden in the future.

Therefore, it was best to go along with the flow.

About twenty minutes later, Hannah, who had been keeping mum, finally spoke. She said to Gary, "Come, let's go in. I'll snap photos while you block the door. Don't allow them to escape!"

As her words fell, she opened the car door and strode into the building without a backward glance.

She didn't feel at all embarrassed that Jonathan was a witness to her household scandal. Considering Jacob's temperament, he would also kick up a huge fuss when their matter got out, making it common knowledge.

Hence, knowing about it earlier or later made no difference.

Furthermore, Jonathan had always been prudent in everything he did, so the person he arranged for her was no doubt his trusted aide. As such, she was naturally not worried.

However, her calmness was merely a façade. In truth, she was trembling with every step she took.