

Married at First Sight [On-Going]

Chapter 4584

River went on, "I can't sacrifice Yantail. I just can't. Does that mean the only option is for Yantail to be absorbed by Lafond Group? Become one of their subsidiaries?"

If he didn't change industries, the only way to avoid rivalry would be to merge.

But River didn't want that. Lafond wanted to acquire Yantail—but that wasn't what he wanted.

Zachary answered, "Weren't you already working on transforming Yantail? The company isn't stuck in just one industry anymore. As long as you move away from competing directly with Lafond, it'll be fine."

"There are hundreds of industries out there. And in every field, there are opportunities for top talent. You could pivot and still thrive."

He paused. "But River, this is your life. I can't make that decision for you. If you're not ready to make sacrifices, then stick with the status quo and see how things go. Maybe in a few years, things will change."

"But," he added, "by then, you'll be in your thirties. Grandma's getting older. She lives day by day now. Who knows how long she'll be around? She's always talking about seeing her grandsons get married. We were all hoping you three—Alex, Rowan, and you—could settle down soon. Give her some peace."

Zachary had also been nudging Alex and Rowan lately.

Alex was just a year younger than River, and he was pushing thirty. Rowan, though younger, could marry if he wanted.

"I get it," Zachary said, "This is a lifelong commitment. You've got to be sure so you won't regret it later."

He added, gently, "But I truly believe Grandma will live to see us all married—with kids. She'll make it."

The brothers had a deep bond with their grandmother. Watching her grow old and struggle with health issues terrified them.

River didn't even want to imagine life without her.

She was the glue of the family. As long as she was there, home felt warm and full. Once she was gone—even though their parents would still be around—it would never feel the same.

He still remembered how painful it had been when their grandfather passed. It took forever to accept it.

But with Grandma, it would be even harder.

They had been with her even longer now. Their connection with her ran deeper.

Zachary's voice softened. "Think it through. Just don't let it turn into a regret. You're capable enough to lead Yantail through a transformation. I think that's the best route—move Yantail into a different industry. That way, you're no longer Lafond's rival, and there's no barrier between you and the woman you love."

River already had an answer in his heart. But he still wanted to hear what his brother thought—see if they were on the same page.

"Brother," he said, "I'll think it through. Yantail has already started transforming. It's not done yet, but we've taken the first step. I'll continue down this road."

"There's no rush with Romina. Nothing's going to happen overnight."

He could guide Yantail through its transformation and still pursue her.

Romina must have feelings for him too. Otherwise, Donovan wouldn't have talked to him like that.

Romina was probably struggling with it just as much.

Even if she left Lafond Group, she'd always be the Lafond family's daughter. That identity would never change.

And if Yantail remained a rival, she would still feel the need to keep her guard up—even outside the company.

In the end, the smartest move was to help Yantail complete its transformation.

Only then could they truly be on equal ground.

Chapter 4585

Zachary said, "If the transformation doesn't work out and she turns out to be the one, then give up Yantail. The York Corporation will always have your back. Whether Yantail exists or

not doesn't actually affect your future. What I really hope is that you'll come back to Wiltspoon and help share some of my responsibilities."

Right now, River was completely independent from the York Corporation. He didn't even hold a position in the family business.

But Zachary had seen his brother's capabilities firsthand. Having worked together for years, he knew River had what it took. In fact, all the York men were capable—they could build their careers from the ground up without relying on the family name.

River replied, "I don't want to go back to Wiltspoon, and I don't want to keep leaning on the York name. I just want to stand on my own—just like I am now—and prove that I can build something solid on my own.

And I'm not letting Romina go. Big Brother, when I fall in love, it's like you—I'm in it for life. If I can't marry her, I won't marry at all."

"I believe I can lead Yantail through a successful transformation. Give me two years. I'll make it happen—and then win Romina back."

Zachary smiled. "Alright. Since you've made up your mind, I'll support you however I can. If you ever need help, you've got your brothers. There's strength in numbers, and we've always got your back."

The younger brothers had grown up a lot. They rarely needed to lean on Zachary anymore.

Even though he was proud of them, a small part of him missed the days when they called him for advice, relying on him to guide them through everything.

Still, he was proud. It meant they had truly grown up.

River said, "I know, Brother. I'll ask if I need you."

Zachary asked, "When's your sister-in-law coming back? Cairo keeps bugging me every day, saying he wants to visit you."

River laughed. "She said she'll be back the day after tomorrow. Today she's taking the kids out to play, and tomorrow she's buying some Eaglioncile specialties. I think she'll probably treat Romina to a meal too. Then she'll fly back."

“Cairo called me saying he wanted to come over. But my second sister-in-law’s too busy to bring him, and I don’t have time to run a daycare either.”

“Not just Cairo—Colson and Colton called too when they found out she brought Baby and Belle to visit me. They all video-called, begging to come see Belle. They said they couldn’t eat without seeing her.”

River laughed again, “Those little troublemakers? I don’t buy it. They’re eating just fine. They just miss the fun.”

Zachary chuckled. “They’re all talk. When their sister isn’t around, they’re still running wild at home. But once Baby comes back, it’s like their ringleader returns. You never know what chaos they’ll cause. Don’t let Baby’s calm demeanor fool you—he’s the mastermind behind most of the messes.”

“He’s not the most mischievous, but he’s the cleverest.”

“If he doesn’t want to do something himself, he’ll get his cousins to do it instead—just to see what happens.”

“And those little guys? Totally clueless. He uses them like pawns and they still think he’s doing them a favor.”

River grinned. “That’s your son for you. He’s the lovechild of you and Sister-in-law—he inherited your smarts and leadership. He’s a little version of you.”

Chapter 4586

River’s words hinted that Zachary had been the same as a child—always playing the big brother role, leading the pack and keeping them all in line.

To this day, they still deeply respected and slightly feared their eldest brother.

River figured that came from how they were raised.

And honestly, he didn’t think that fear was a bad thing. At the very least, it kept them from doing anything reckless. If they did mess up, Zachary would step in, correct them, and guide them through it.

They always felt safe knowing their big brother was around—like standing under a big tree for shade. Zachary carried the weight of the family so that they, the younger brothers, could chase their own goals.

Zachary caught the subtext in River's comment and smiled. "I didn't have nearly as many tricks as Baby when I was a kid. He's outsmarted the master."

That was the best outcome a father could ask for—that his child would outshine him.

River asked, "Brother, have you eaten?"

Zachary replied, "I'm still at work. When would I have time to eat?"

River laughed, "Then I won't keep you. Go eat before you get too hungry. If your stomach gets upset, Sister-in-law will have to take care of it when you get home."

"I'm off to eat too—Romina's about to set me up on a blind date."

Zachary already knew about River's blind date plans. Serenity had filled him in.

So he didn't say much—just gave a hum of acknowledgment and ended the call.

Just as he put down the phone, Josh—sitting across from him—asked, "So, River's found someone?"

Zachary nodded. "Yeah. It's his business rival. After all these years of fighting, they've fallen for each other."

He didn't hide anything from Josh. Their families were so close, and Josh was practically family. There were no secrets between them.

They'd been friends for more than twenty years. Zachary trusted him completely.

Josh said, "It's about time he settled down. He's already thirty-one. If he doesn't get married this year, he'll be thirty-two. None of your brothers waited that long."

Zachary and Serenity had tied the knot at thirty. The rest of his cousins had all married before hitting that milestone.

River was the oldest to reach marriage age among the York brothers and still be unmarried.

Josh added with a grin, "If Grandma York hadn't gotten involved, your brothers might still be single."

Zachary fired back, "Like you married that early? You were already thirty yourself."

Josh went silent for a moment.

Fair enough—he'd been a late bloomer, too.

Mostly because he hadn't realized how special Jasmine was until later. If he had, they would've married much sooner.

Josh asked, "So, when is Serenity coming back?"

Zachary raised a brow. "Why do you care when my wife's coming back?"

Josh laughed. "Because when she comes back, she'll be back at work. And when she's at work, Jasmine gets a break."

Zachary teased, "Why? Planning for a second kid? Gonna start prepping once Jasmine gets a little downtime?"

Josh grinned. "Not a chance. Jasmine says if the second one's a boy, she'll lose her mind. Milo already drives her crazy."

"You always say I'm calm and steady—but the son I raised is a total troublemaker. If I don't scold him for three days, he's climbing roofs and pulling shingles off."