

## Chapter 200 Trap

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Before Audrey could speak, Gunter grabbed the phone and shouted, "Why are you answering the call without my permission? This is my phone!"

For a second, she was stunned before she narrowed her eyes at him. His reaction alone was enough to suggest to her that he was hiding something.

Gunter had no choice but to roar at her. Had the call come from Fidelia, then their little secret would've been exposed.

"Give me your phone right now," Audrey said in a threatening tone as she stretched out her hand towards him.

Despite the scary look on her face, Gunter didn't budge.

"Are you doing something behind my back?" Audrey directly asked. Her face was cold as ice.

"No! Why would I? You're overthinking..."

Before Gunter could finish his words, Audrey snatched the phone from his hand and spoke to the person on the other end of the line. "Hello..."

"Audrey? Is Gunter with you?"

Audrey recognized the sound of this man's voice. If she wasn't mistaken, this was one of Gunter's friends.

In fact, she had met him before.

Obviously, Gunter also heard his voice, which was why he exhaled a deep sigh of relief. He then snorted at Audrey and said, "I don't know why you've been suspicious of me the whole day. Now, you've embarrassed me in front of my friends! They might now think that I'm a hen-pecked husband!"

Audrey flashed an apologetic smile. "I'm sorry. It's just that I care too

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much about you."

With a frown, Gunter took back his phone and went outside to answer the call.

Despite what she had heard on the phone, Audrey still secretly followed him to eavesdrop on their conversation.

However, to her dismay, she didn't find anything fishy.

Still, the fact that he was acting so weirdly just now meant that he was afraid of her answering the phone.

"You must be very tired recently," Gunter said to her after hanging up the phone. Then, she approached her and added, "I just asked the servant to cook you some soup. When you're done eating it, go ahead and take a rest. You should take care of yourself more, you know. You've been looking very haggard lately."

His concern towards her made her heart swell.

She smiled at him and said, "I'm doing this for you and my son. Both Isaac and Travis are from the Johnston family. How come only Isaac has it all? Nevertheless, from now on, you'll have the final say in the Johnston family."

Gunter pulled her close into his arms and said, "I appreciate how much you've done for this family. Don't worry. I'll never betray you. We've been married for so long, and I've never done anything wrong to you, have I?"

This was true. Over the years, he had always been loyal towards her and never had an affair with another woman.

Audrey rubbed her temples and sighed. Perhaps she had really misunderstood.

After all, she had been so stressed these past few days from taking care of the company's affairs.

"Honey, thank you for being so considerate with me," she said as she buried her face in his chest.

The tension in Gunter's body disappeared as he smiled and laid Audrey

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on the bed. "I'll give you a massage to help you relax," he offered.

"Okay." Then, she lay prone on the bed, exposing her back to him.

She was so exhausted that she didn't notice herself falling asleep.

The next day, Audrey and Travis arrived at a high-end restaurant. There, they made an appointment with the person in charge of the Hexagon Inc.

As both of them waited, Travis grew restless with worry. "Do you think Alick will stand us up?" he asked.

Audrey shook her head and remained calm. "I did a background check on him. He has a good reputation in the business circle. I'm sure he won't stand us up."

While they were talking, Alick Bates arrived at their table.

Audrey pulled her son up as they both greeted him. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Bates."

Alick smiled back at them and said politely, "I apologize for being late. I was delayed by something earlier."

Audrey flashed a reassuring smile and gestured to the seat across her. "No worries. We've just arrived as well, so you're not late. Please, have a seat."

Alick gladly took her offer and sat down.

He went straight to the point and slid the document towards them. "This is all the information of our research. It turns out that the component we're working on can be used on an airplane as well as on a large scale ferry, reducing their fuel consumption by around thirty percent. Right now, I'm welcoming investors because my company is lacking money. Otherwise, I would've never accepted any financial support. You should know that once my invention has finished development and becomes available in the market, it will definitely monopolize the market. That's the reason why you want to invest in me, right?"

Alick's thought process was exactly correct.

Right now, Audrey and Travis were desperate to show good performance

in order to win the trust of the shareholders.

"That's right," Audrey answered as she poured a cup of tea for Alick. "I think you're well-aware about the reputation of the Paramount Corporation."

Alick smiled confidently. "Of course. Otherwise, I would've never agreed to meet with you. After all, there are so many people who want to invest on this project. How can I meet all of them? The only ones I choose to meet are those who are powerful."

"But we also don't know much about this project, which is why we have to be cautious as well." After saying that, she began reading the document that Alick had handed her earlier.

The document was full of details and included all the pertinent information regarding the design, research and development, as well as other aspects of the product.

However, the document was too technical for them to completely understand.

Travis leaned to his mother and whispered, "Mom, do you think we need to hire a professional to help us understand this? Neither of us can comprehend what any of these mean!"

Audrey was a bit hesitant at first. From first glance the project seemed profitable. She was afraid that something could go wrong. She couldn't afford it after she had put a lot of money in the research and development.

Besides, she couldn't raise that much money from the company.

Noticing the two of them whispering at each other, Alick butted in and said, "I know you have your own concerns. I can't force you to cooperate with me. But to be transparent with you, I also have an appointment with the boss of the BeTTe Group. If you're done reading, I'll go ahead first."

Based on his behavior, he seemed to be itching to leave.

As soon as Audrey heard that Alick had another appointment, her heart began to race in anxiety. "Well, since you're here already, why not eat something first before you leave?"

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Alick stood his ground and remained firm. "I personally know the boss of the BeTTe Group. In fact, we're friends. That's why I can't refuse his invitation. He also told me that he's interested in investing in this project. This might be a good opportunity for me, so..."

"Sir," Travis interrupted as he poured a glass of wine for Alick. "How can we let you leave with an empty stomach? No matter how busy you are, you have to eat, right? Let's talk while you eat! It won't delay your schedule, I promise. Besides, what if we do decide to cooperate with you? Then you'll no longer need to discuss with the president of the BeTTe Group!"

Alick paused for a while and pretended to ponder on his words. "You do have some good points, but if we're being honest, you guys would've definitely been my first choice if Isaac was still the head of the Paramount Corporation. I believe that once he looks at this, he'll see it as a profitable business. Meanwhile..."

Alick wanted to say something but deliberately stopped himself. Based on his tone alone, it was obvious that he was wary of them. He then coughed at his fist and continued, "It's not that I think you're incompetent, but rather, you have just taken over the job. I still don't know very well how you do business. That's why..."

"So you're saying you don't trust us?" Travis sounded offended.

How dare he compare him to Isaac?!

Did Alick think that he wasn't as good as Isaac?

"We have agreed to invest on your project," Travis decided on the spot. "You no longer have to meet the president of BeTTe. Besides, isn't their main business building malls? How would they know much about this project?"

Alick was still a bit hesitant. "Well... You've made up your mind already?"

Travis nodded. "I've fully reconsidered your proposal and I've decided on it."

Audrey had also made up her mind. If they let other companies get in before they did, they would surely lose this opportunity!

"That's right. The Paramount Corporation is willing to invest in Hexagon Inc." She declared.

Alick pretended to hesitate, but deep inside, he was overjoyed.

"Are you sure you don't want to think about this any further?" Alick was still acting a bit unsure. "You know, I'm quite familiar with the president of the BeTTe Group..."

"Let's sign the contract now," Travis cut him off.

Alick had no choice but to agree. "Okay."

Once they were done eating dinner, the contract had already been signed.

During dinner, Alick's phone kept ringing repeatedly. It seemed like a lot of investors were very interested in meeting him.

When both Travis and Audrey saw this, they felt confident that they had made the right decision.

After their meeting with Alick, they managed to have the contract signed under three hours.

With the signed contract in his hand, Alick said, "You can come to my company for inspection whenever you're free."

"Of course," Travis replied with a smile.

"Okay. Call me anytime." After a slight pause, Alick added, "I must go. I have something else to do."

"I'll see you out," Travis offered.

Alick gladly accepted his offer as both of them walked side by side. "We'll be partners in the future," Alick said.

Travis nodded genially. "I hope that our cooperation will be a pleasant one."

"Oh, yes. Our cooperation will definitely be pleasant." A mysterious smile formed on Alick's lips.

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Because Travis was too overjoyed at the thought of getting the contract signed, he didn't notice anything unusual.

As soon as he left the place, Alick got into his car. Shortly after, the driver turned the keys on the ignition and switched the engine on. Alick then took out his mobile phone and dialed a number.

After a single ring, the call was connected.

