

Spoiled by Mr. Russell Chapter 446-450

Chapter 446

Now, the thick snow covered Lily's memories of this place, perhaps because she could depend on the person next to her. It was as if the courtyard was not the one she once knew, even though it was the same.

"Are you feeling cold? Do you want to go back?" Alexander held Lily's shoulders, worried she would feel cold.

Lily smiled. "It's not going to be much warmer when we go back. If we run around here, it won't be as cold."

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That was the truth since their room was chilly. Especially now that there was nobody around, it would feel even colder. "If you're uncomfortable, we don't have to stay here tonight. Let's go home," Alexander suggested after some thought. It was hard to imagine how Lily survived all this for many years.

Alexander had interacted with the Lodge family a few times through business, but nothing extensive. He did not know they had such old-fashioned thinking.

"I grew up like this, so it is no big deal. I'm worried that you're not used to it instead." It was not that she was not used to it. It was just that it had been a long time since she last came back. Thus, it took some adjusting.

When a person was comfortable for so long, they would not want to return to suffering times. "If you can get used to it, I will have no trouble doing so." Alexander had more to say, but Lily raised her hand to hush him, her eyes looking diagonally forward.

After being stunned for a while, Alexander followed her line of sight and faintly saw a person.

The Lodge family courtyard was full of trees and plants. Diagonally across was a grove of fruit trees, which a thick layer of snow had settled. Somebody was among the trees, but the person's face was not visible.

"You know that person?"

Alexander could not see the person clearly, but based on Lily's reaction, it was somebody she knew. It was nothing out of the ordinary meeting someone familiar or an old friend in her family's courtyard, so Alexander did not think much of it.

Still, Lily said, "I think it's someone I want to meet. Wait here."

Waving her hand, she headed toward the person. She did not call out names as she walked over and was careful with her movements. It was as if she was worried about frightening the person.

Alexander had never seen Lily this way. He frowned and followed after her. It was impossible to be completely silent when walking on snow, especially when there were two people. Following the noise, the person immediately became alert and turned around.

“Is that really you?!” Lily called out gleefully as she clapped her hands when she saw the person’s face.

The person was surprised. “You...”

“Haha. I was wondering where you were. Fancy running into you here,” Lily said as she ran toward him.

The person was speechless, and Alexander was too.

‘What was going on?’ “Why are you here?” the person asked, curious. He did not expect to meet Lily here. “I should be asking you that!”

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Lily did not expect to see the young man she had been trying so hard to find in her family’s backyard. He looked like he did not change much except that there were no more sparkles in his eyes. There was a gloomy atmosphere surrounding him instead.

“Everyone who’s here today has the same purpose,” Benedict stated as he raised his head nonchalantly and glanced toward the banquet hall.

“Then why aren’t you inside?” Lily asked.

“You’re not either.” Benedict looked at Lily.

Although Benedict looked less happy than his previous self, he was still the same mouthy kid.

“You still owe me an explanation. Why did you quit all of a sudden? You were the one who promised that you’d handle the job I gave you properly, but then you just disappeared without even a text or a phone call,” Lily could finally voice out her dissatisfaction after keeping it inside for such a long time.

When Benedict heard what she said, his eyes became further clouded. He did not try to explain and just mumbled, “I had my reasons. Also, I’ve sent you the finished product and didn’t even charge you. So, we’re even,” Benedict said.

He was standing with his hands in his sky-blue padded jacket’s pockets. He looked outstanding amid the snowy landscape, his blue jacket making him look younger and refreshed.

Lily shook her head. “How are we even? You didn’t even give me the raw materials! Where’s my wood?” She finished and extended her palm toward him. They agreed that Lily could take home the special

wood he had as a distinctive fragrance from the wood attracted her. She took a small sample back home and wanted to return for more.

"I don't have it," Benedict answered outrightly.

"You..." Before Lily could finish, footsteps came from behind, and a voice called out, "Benedict."

When Benedict heard that voice, his face dropped slightly, and his body tensed with a slight annoyance. "Bene..." Just as Derrick was about to call out to Benedict again, he noticed another person standing beside Benedict, so he stopped and approached them instead. He turned to look at the boy, whose back was still facing him, and then at Lily.

Derrick was a middle-aged man who looked stern and severe. He looked good for a man his age, very well-groomed, even though there were signs of gaining weight. Derrick had a pair of sharp eyes that could stare into people's souls. Lily was initially surprised by his sharp stare when he looked at her.

"Why are you out here?" He asked Benedict. Although Derrick saw Lily standing there, he made no moves to acknowledge her presence. Lily did not care, as she was only curious about who this man was.

"It was too crowded inside, so I wanted to come out for some fresh air," Benedict replied without turning around or looking at him.

"Are you done? Can you go in now?" Derrick demanded

forcefully. He briefly paused and added, "Most of them are still waiting to see you. You shouldn't be rude, so go and say hello." Benedict said nothing—instead, he turned around and started walking back to the banquet hall obediently. He stole a glance at Lily.

Lily could tell Benedict was uncomfortable but had no choice. Maybe it was because of Benedict's eyes, or she was just uncomfortable with the middle-aged man's tone. Lily did not give it much thought when she opened her mouth to stop Benedict, "Wait, you can't just leave. We're not done yet!"

She had finally managed to attract Derrick's attention. He stopped in his tracks and turned to glance at her.

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Derrick's eyes were like laser beams scanning her from head to toe coldly. His eyes contained no warmth as if to express displeasure at her behavior. The moment he looked at her, Lily felt a shiver down her spine, but then she realized she did not need to fear him as he was just a nobody to her. After adjusting her perspective, she felt better and stood erect, holding his gaze firmly.

Derrick was surprised that this young woman had such courage in her and was not intimidated by his stare. He frowned and was about to open his mouth to speak when someone interrupted them.

"Mr. Tanner," Alexander, who was watching the whole ordeal from not too far away, decided to step in. He came over and stopped to stand next to Lily. Derrick was surprised to see Alexander, "Alexander

Russell?" "I didn't see you inside, so I assumed you had sent someone else to attend on your behalf. I didn't expect to see you here," Alexander spoke eloquently without offending anyone.

"I was running late due to the heavy snow," Derrick nodded his head at Alexander and explained. His attitude toward Alexander was much more civil than the rude behavior he showed Lily.

Alexander smiled politely and turned his gaze toward the young man standing next to him, "This is?"

Derrick moved aside and tugged Benedict's sleeve, "This is my son, Benedict. Benedict, this is La Beaute Group's director, Alexander Russell. You can call him Alex."

Lily was so surprised when she heard their exchange. Was Benedict from the Tanner family? As in the most prominent family from Ruby city? Judging from how he spoke to Alexander and that he was here for her grandfather's birthday party, they were most likely from Ruby City's Tanner family.

This was such an astonishing fact. Never did Lily guess that this teenage boy who loved woodcarving, who was a bit bad tempered yet still a cute kid, was actually from the famous Tanner family. It was such a small world indeed.

Benedict looked at Alexander and mouthed quietly, "Mr. Russell."

Obviously, not comfortable with calling Alexander 'Alex.' Alexander did not care about what Benedict called him, but Derrick was unhappy with his disobedience and glared at Benedict harshly.

"Alex, the banquet is about to start. Why don't we go in," Derrick said, reaching for his son's sleeve. "Let's go!"

However, before he could grab him, Benedict moved out of his way, not wanting to be touched. This made Derrick's face darken as he was about to burst out in anger.

"Mr. Tanner, I still have some unfinished business with Benedict. May I borrow him for a moment?" Lily stepped in and addressed Derrick the same way Alexander did.

"Who might you be?" Derrick frowned. He had no recollection of Lily and could not recall which family she was from.

Alexander raised his arm and gently embraced her, "She's my...

fiancee." He almost said 'wife' instead but managed to stop himself.

The other two were surprised by this, "Fiancee?"

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Even Derrick could not hide his obvious shock. Though it was a private matter, for people with their status in society, the only way that you could meet your partner was most likely from an arranged

marriage. It was impossible for news not to travel if someone from their social hierarchy got married or was engaged

Alexander was always deemed an eligible bachelor in most women's eyes. They were all dying to date him or even try getting married to him. However, there was never a rumor about him dating or being interested in anyone.

He was always only focused on his work and how to build up the Russell family. Now getting the news of his engagement so suddenly was a shock to Derrick, plus it was coming from Alexander himself. It was just unbelievable.

"Fiancee?" Benedict yelled with his eyes wide-opened, looking at Lily.

"Enough, Benedict!" Derrick reprimanded him sternly for his rudeness.

He immediately regained his composure and addressed Lily politely, "This was surprising yet wonderful news. How should I address this young lady then?" "Hello, Mr. Tanner. My name's Lily Christian," Lily extended her hand politely toward him for a handshake. He was, after all, a family friend and an elder.

Derrick hesitated for a moment. Her name sounded familiar to him. He pondered for a short while before asking, "You're Mr.

Lodge's granddaughter?"

This time, Lily was more surprised than he was. The Lodge family had always kept a low profile, plus they had a lot of extended family members and several apprentices, so not many people knew exactly who was from the main family except the few famous ones.

This was also why no one knew about Lily's background when she left the Loge family to fend for herself.

Naturally, it was unexpected when Derrick accurately predicted who she was and asked if she was Mr. Lodge's granddaughter. This only meant that he had close ties with the Lodge family.

Since he had already guessed, Lily just nodded her head and admitted, "Yes, I am."

"I see. So, you're his granddaughter," Derrick repeated. Lily could sense something in his tone, but she did not know what it meant, so she smiled politely at him. He then turned to Alexander and added, "Alex, you have good taste."

"Thank you, my thoughts exactly!" Alexander smiled and glanced at Lily. She could see that he was boasting.

"Mr. Tanner, if you don't mind, I'm friends with Benedict and would like to talk to him about some things. Could I borrow him for a few minutes?" Since the atmosphere was less tense, Lily decided to voice out her request.

Maybe it was because he knew of her identity now, or he was being nice on behalf of Alexander. Derrick looked at his son and said, "Since you've made some new friends, you should spend some time getting to know each other!"

He then turned around and walked back toward the banquet hall. The tense atmosphere eased further as Derrick left. Without the presence of an older person, all of them could finally relax.

When Lily turned around to glance at Benedict, she noticed that he was studying her closely with a strange expression on his face. She immediately walked toward him.

"Benedict Tanner," Lily said. His family's name was Tanner, so the young carpenter she met at a small wood carving store was actually a member of the Tanner family from Ruby City. Benedict raised his eyebrow in confusion. His name sounded strange from the way Lily was saying it.

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Lily extended her palm toward Benedict and continued asking, "Where's my wood?"

Benedict was speechless at her stubbornness. "I don't have it anymore. I've used all of them," he said simply.

Lily could tell that he was lying from his reaction, "I don't care! You've made a promise, and since you finished using them, you can start from scratch and plant them. Everyone should honor their promises, even if you're a kid!"

Lily was so serious about her wood that Benedict could not convince her to let it go, so he looked at Alexander for help, "Why aren't you even trying to stop her?"

Alexander just shrugged nonchalantly.

Realizing he was on his own, Benedict said helplessly, "Why are you so obsessed with that piece of wood? You wanted me to make a birthday gift for you, so I did. Why are you still so determined to get that piece of wood back?"

Lily would not mind explaining to him why she was so fixated on it, but Benedict's attitude was awful, so Lily just said, "It's none of your business! You were the one who had made that promise."

Seeing that Benedict was being forced into a corner and his face red from the argument, Alexander decided to step in, "If it's difficult for you, we could go over to your place to get it. If it's about the price, don't worry. Name your price, and we'll pay it," He paused before continuing, "Lastly, if...if it's because you have some problems that you could not tell us

outright, maybe we could help you in some way or another?"

Lily remained silent on his side, but she nodded in agreement.

"It's not that I have any problems, but I don't carry that piece of wood around with me all the time," Benedict smacked his lips and looked at Lily, "If you want it that badly, then please wait until next week. I'll bring it to you personally."

Lily was relieved that he finally agreed, "Really?"

"Yes!" Benedict felt humiliated by her suspicions of him, so he added, "Why would I lie to you?"

"Fine then. I'll wait till next week," Lily nodded and lowered her hand in satisfaction. Then, she recalled something and quickly questioned him, "Did you change your phone number? What if you disappear again and refuse to pick up my calls?"

This time, before Benedict could speak, Alexander interrupted, "Don't worry, even if he disappears, the Tanner family is still there. We'll have to go to them. Besides, I believe that young Mr. Tanner here is a lad that wouldn't break his promise twice, right?"

Benedict clutched his fists tightly on his sides and drew his lips into a thin line before replying in determination, "I-I'll keep my promise this time!" Then, he turned around and left. His footsteps were hurried, but he kept his head high and back straight in determination.

"If you continue to stare at him, I'll get jealous!" Alexander started childishly as he took off his coat and placed it over her shoulders, worried that she would catch a cold from standing outside for so long.

Lily looked at Benedict's retreating back, then shifted her gaze

to Alex and commented, "I never expected this."

"Expected what?" Alexander asked.

"That he was a Tanner," she lamented. "I know that Mr. Tanner had a son. He had high hopes for his son as this was his successor, so his son grew up in a rigorous environment. I never expected him to be Benedict."

It was also somewhat expected as she had not returned to the Lodge family for a long time. It also made sense that she had never seen Benedict before, but Alexander had no recollection of seeing this boy at their social events.

"At the end of the day, we live in such a small world," Alexander sighed while looking up at the sky, "It's snowing again. Shall we head back?"

Lily looked around her and noticed snowflakes were falling on the ground. She nodded and walked with him back to the building behind them.