

My Billionaire Ex-Husband Chase Me Back - Chapter 229 – 260

Chapter 229: Leo Begged

Chapter 229: Leo Begged

Leo smiled faintly at Bella, trying to signal her to remain calm.

Then, he looked at the man who was pointing a gun at Bella's head. The man's face looked fiercer than the three men he had beaten before. He guessed that this man was the leader of this gangster.

He could see there was a scar on his left eyebrow. When their eyes met, Leo's heart sank; he saw the viciousness in his eyes.

Leo becomes upset because his plan to bribe these gangsters to free them disappears when he sees that this man is not the type of gangster who could be bribed.

"What do you want?" Leo asked calmly, even though inwardly, he was starting to worry about this situation. There was no way out for him other than to fight. However, how could he fight the gunman?

An evil smile appeared on the corner of the gunman's lips before he said, "Throw away your dagger and place your hands behind your head."

Leo didn't dare refuse him. He did it immediately. At the same time, his mind was busy looking for ways to strike back and save Bella. He casually walked forward towards the man while keeping his hands behind his head.

He needed to get close to the gunman to find a chance to steal his gun; even though the chance was tiny, he had to try.

However, Leo's plan shattered when the gunman could see his plan.

"Why are you fucking moving forward!? Stop and kneel!" The gunman shouted angrily, seeing Leo almost reach them.

His words nearly caused Leo to cough up a mouthful of blood. He couldn't believe the gunman was asking him to kneel. What the fuck!?

"You asked me to kneel before you!?" Leo repeated while sending his displeased look at the gunman.

"One more sentence out of your useless mouth, Ms. Donovan's head will explode."

Leo gritted his teeth while venting his anger in his mind. He didn't want to risk Bella's life. Though reluctant, he knelt on the hard ground while his eyes glared at the gunman as if he wanted to slap him through his gaze.

The gunman laughed happily, seeing that Leo didn't fight back. The pretty guy obediently knelt right after he asked.

"Ha ha ha, I thought you would fight back. It turns out you were also scared under the pressure of my gun, right?" The gunman was satisfied.

"This pretty guy is so stupid. Do you think we will hurt her? Of course not. The person who paid us wants her not to get hurt...dummy!" Another man holding a baseball bat said coldly.

Leo clenched his fists, feeling angry at the man's words. He worried too much and forgot that fact. If he had kept walking earlier, he might have had the chance to steal the gun. Damn it!

He looks at the gunman again before he asks, "Who sent you to capture my friend!?"

"You think I'm stupid enough to tell you?" The gunman chuckled. "Shut your mouth before I send a bullet to blow your head off." He said in a cold tone.

Leo sneered inwardly. He gnashed his teeth, wanting to tear apart the human being before him. This was the first time someone had insulted him, and he was powerless to fight back. He was really annoyed.

He could only press his anger, afraid that this man would actually shoot him. He turned to look at Bella.

'Huh!? Why does she look so relaxed?' Leo mumbled under his breath, surprised by Bella's expression. He thought Bella would be as scared as before or even cry. But this girl looked calm, as if she wasn't afraid of someone pointing a gun at her head.

'Did Bella believe these people wouldn't hurt her?' Leo wonders. When Bella's eyes finally fix on him, he smiles at her, trying to calm her down before he turns his gaze again at the gunman.

"Man, I understand there is a rule in your organization not to reveal the identity of those who pay you..." Leo said calmly, suppressing his anger to persuade this man.

The gunman furrowed his brows in confusion, hearing Leo's words.

"I'll give you as much money as you want if you let us go. We won't report this incident to the police either. I promise you, please..." Leo begged.

Suddenly, Leo heard the laughter of the four men in front of him and the three men still lying on the ground, testing his patience. He smiled slightly while cursing them thousands of times in his heart.

“Come on, guys... you just need to tell me your bank number now. And I will send it right away,” Leo smiles, trying to buy time. He can see some passersby in the park from a distance. He hopes one of them calls the police. “I’m serious... you guys could divide the money among you.”

Leo thought these lowly gangsters would accept his offer with open arms, but they all kept laughing, ignoring him. How shameless!

“Alright... Alright... Guys... how much do you want? One million? Two? Fifty? or a Hundred? You name it...” Leo continued to convince and distract them.

While Leo was negotiating with the gangsters, at the same time, Tristan, who was just about to get into his car to go to the following meeting location, suddenly stopped when he saw his security chief running after him.

Tristan turned towards him with a frown when he saw how tense his expression was.

“What’s wrong, Reid? Is there a problem at our base camp?” Tristan asked, worried that Manager Laura Kiels’ arrest was causing problems.

He knew they had caught the manager and detained him underground. Still, he only had an agenda to interrogate him tomorrow morning.

“No, sir.” Reid stopped before Tristan and whispered, “My people were shadowing your wife, but they lost her. They thought your wife was still in her office, but when they checked the CCTV footage, it turned out she was outside the office.”

The wrinkles on Tristan’s forehead deepened, and his eyes filled with worry as he heard the unsettling news about Bella.

“So?”

Chapter 230: Rescue

“So?”

“He tried to trace young Madam, but until now, he couldn’t find her. We tried to call her using an anonymous phone, but the phone was unanswered,” Reid took a deep breath

before continuing. “Sir, I suggest you call Young Madam; maybe she will pick up if you call.”

Tristan’s fingers trembled as he dialed Bella’s number, his heart pounding harder than before. The phone ring echoed in his ears, but it continued to ring, and Bella’s voice was absent.

He knew Bella had never silenced her phone for any incoming calls from him or Dax, and her lack of response sent a chill down his spine—she was nowhere near her phone.

“Sam...” Tristan mumbled while calling Sam’s number. Sam’s voice could be heard from the other end in only a second ring.

“Hello, Mr. Tristan!?” Sam was surprised to see Tristan’s number. This is the second time he called him since he knows him in person. “Sir, why did you suddenly call—”

“Sam, is my wife with you now?” Tristan asked urgently.

“No, sir. Boss Bella assigned me to another job. So, starting today, I will no longer follow her everywhere. Why do you ask, sir?” Sam asked in confusion.

Tristan’s shoulders slumped upon hearing Sam’s words. His worry increased when he found out Bella was out of the office alone.

“Listen, Sam, I lost contact with my wife. She didn’t answer my phone. And... the people I assigned to follow her around said she left the building a few minutes ago, and he also lost her trace. If you are still around the office, please look for her before I assign more people to find her...”

Sam was shocked. He immediately ended the call and rushed to the CCTV control room.

...

Tristan looked at Reid, “Assign people around my wife’s office to look after her,” Tristan said, climbing into his car.

“Yes, sir...” Reid slightly bowed and left.

Tristan asked the driver to go to the Quantum Capital building while trying to contact Bella’s personal cell phone number.

He knew his wife’s noisy cell phone ring tone would attract people’s attention if her phone fell somewhere. However, after several calls, the phone still did not pick up.

“Bella, why didn’t you pick up? Where are you, huh?” Tristan muttered in worry.

However, despite his worry, he was grateful that Bella's phone was still active.

While in the park.

The loud ringtone from Bella's purse echoes loudly through the air, irritating the gangsters.

[Ooh, I see you, see you, see you every time

And oh my... I, I, I like your style

You, you make me, make me, make me wanna cry

And now I beg to see you dance just one more time

So they say

"Dance for me, dance for me, dance for me, oh-oh

I've never seen anybody do the things you do before."

....]

[Ooh, I see you, see you, see you every time

And oh my... I, I, I like your style

You, you make me, make me, make me wanna cry

And now I beg to see you dance just one more time

....]

Bella was happy to hear the ringtone, which only sounded when Tristan and those closest to her called. Now, the loud song had been heard more than five times, meaning that the person who called must be Tristan.

"What the hell is your ringtone? What song is that??" A gangster holding a baseball bat shouted in annoyance.

"This pretty lady has a taste for weird music."

“Hahaha, it’s true. Seriously, what song is that?”

Bella smiled at their words, “You want to know?” she calmly asked.

“Yes... Yes... Please, I want to know...”

“Yes, pretty lady, tell us.”

They all shouted excitedly, but Bella didn’t say anything. She was still standing in her place, with her back facing the four gangsters.

Bella waited for something, and she was patient enough to wait.

After a few seconds had passed by, and she hadn’t heard the gunman ask her, she decided to ask.

“How about you? Are you curious too?” Bella said in a low tone. She deliberately asked the person standing right behind her while pointing a gun at her head—to find an opening.

The gunman’s eyes shook, hearing her alluring voice. He narrowed his eyes at the girl before him while his hand still firmly pointed his gun before her head.

He chuckled before saying, “Are you trying to distract me or what?”

Bella’s fist clenched tightly. ‘Fuck! He knows?’ her gaze became tense.

“Alright. Fine! You succeeded in making me curious, too. What song is that?” The gunman continued his words.

Bella’s eyes lit up as she gazed at Leo. Later, a sinister smile slowly appeared on her lips before she turned toward the man behind.

With only a single move, the gunman’s gun was already in her hand, shocking him.

Bella coldly smiled at the shocked man before her. “The song title is Dance Monkey, by Tones and I. OK, I’m bored waiting for you to spill the name I want to hear...” Her voice sounded unhurried, but it was enough to make the gangster leader widen in fear.

“H-How did... Did you do it? H-How!?” The gangster leader asked. He was curious to know how this woman stole his gun. He couldn’t even see her movement, but now his gun was already in her hand.

Bella didn’t bother to answer him. She kicked him with her right foot on his knee. Her kick was powerful enough to make the man half-kneel before her with his loud scream.

“ARGHH!! YOU BITCH!!”

While still pointing the gun at his head, Bella answered, “You have no right to ask me—”

Once again, her foot lifted with significant force and kicked towards the gangster leader’s head; in a mere second, his head hit the ground so hard. Blood came out of his mouth, forming a pool of blood on the ground nearby.

The three other gangsters rushed toward Bella while swinging the iron baseball bat toward her. Their eyes looked scary and savage. It was as if they wanted to kill Bella in revenge for their bloody Boss.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 231: Shocked Beyond Words

The three other gangsters rushed toward Bella while swinging the iron baseball bat toward her. Their eyes looked scary and savage. It was as if they wanted to kill Bella in revenge for their bloody Boss.

“Bella, watch out, behind—” Leo shouted as he stood up and rushed towards Bella to help her.

However, Leo stopped his steps when he saw Bella had disappeared from where she was, avoiding the gangsters’ attack.

Pop!

Pop!

Two small sounds of gunshots were heard when Bella shot two of the gangsters who attacked her. They both fell to the ground, crying in pain when hot bullets hit their knee.

Bella’s movements were so fast that no one could predict her move. In a blink, she was standing behind the last gangster while pressing the silencer edge toward his head.

“One single move and your brain will shatter!” She said in a cold tone that seemed to lower the temperature around her.

Instantly, the last gangster froze.

“Be-Beauty? Pretty Lady... please give me a chance. Don’t shoot me in the head... please...” His voice was cracking as he was almost crying in fear.

Bella’s mouth twitched. She couldn’t believe it when she heard the man’s voice shaking, crying for mercy.

How funny!

Earlier, they were mocking Leo when he begged them for their lives, but now, this man was begging for his life, too.

"I'm a good woman. I never use violence unnecessarily," Bella said softly, but the man was still scared; he didn't dare move. "I will let you live. But that depends on your answer."

The last gangster nodded vigorously. "Yes, yes, pretty Lady, please ask me. I promise you, I will answer..." he said hastily, afraid that this beauty would shoot him in the head.

"Who sent you?"

The gangster froze after hearing her question. His hanging hand holding the baseball bat tightened. 'Should I hit this woman?' he thought. 'Yeah, I have to hit her now. She definitely wouldn't think I would hit her, right?'

But before the gangster could swing his baseball bat back, there was a "Pop" sound. Instantly, the bat slipped from his hand, and a groan of pain came out of his mouth as the hot bullet pierced one of his fingers and shattered it into unrecognizable pieces.

Unable to endure the pain he felt, his knees gave out, and his colossal body fell heavily onto the stone path.

Thud!

Bella smiled faintly, looking at the man before her, now kneeling on the ground with his back facing her.

With a swift movement, her gun was now aimed at the gangster's head again; she pressed on the edge of the silencer, causing the man to bend slightly, looking at the ground.

"My next bullet will hit your head if you try to make any other useless move!"

"I... I... Didn't know his full name, but..." the gangster's voice trembled as he endured the pain in his hand. "I only heard them say his first name."

"Who?" Bella asked coldly.

"If I'm not mistaken, I hear they call him Ja-Jacob..." The gangster didn't dare to lie to this beauty. He better spill the name; then he dies in her hand.

Instantly, Bella's body stiffened. Her face turned dark upon hearing that name.

'First uncle!' Her hand tightly held the gun while trying to hold back her anger, knowing that her uncle had sent these people to catch her.

Countless questions now filled her mind: Why did he do that? Does this have anything to do with matchmaking?

...

Leo was shocked beyond words by what he had seen earlier. Bella could subdue four gangsters in minutes and even steal a gun from the gangster leader smoothly.

He had never imagined this. How could this small and weak girl do that? He had never heard her learn martial arts before.

He recently heard that Bella likes exercise, such as running in the morning. He thought Bella did that because she wanted to register for the Fort City Marathon competition. It will be hell next month.

'Damn, Bella! How could you surprise me like now?' He chuckled inwardly.

Earlier, Leo thought he would use his life to save her. But it turns out that this girl doesn't actually need his help. With her own strength and swift moves, he guessed Bella could take down all these gangsters by herself.

Leo shook his head while smiling bitterly. He looked at Bella, who was now torturing the last gangster kneeling before her.

...

It wasn't just Leo who was surprised to see Bella in action.

However, Sam and a few men behind him also had similar expressions—shocked and speechless.

They arrived just in time as Bella stole a gun from the man behind her.

Sam instantly stopped his colleague when he saw how fast, precise, and practical Bella's movements were.

When he saw Bella start to kick them with graceful and powerful kicks, Sam couldn't help but mumble under his breath, "Since when did she learn Krav Maga martial arts?"

This martial art was developed for defense. It is derived from a combination of aikido, judo, karate, boxing, and wrestling techniques. It is known for its focus on real-world situations — close combat fights.

Sam never thought that the woman he had been protecting in the last few months had abilities that most women rarely possess. As far as he knows, only elites in special forces have this ability.

'Tsk! Boss Bella... you have to tell me...' Sam couldn't help but chuckle, remembering how panicked he was when he found out Bella didn't want him to guard her anymore.

Now Sam felt confused. Is it necessary to call Natasha, one of the valuable assets of the Sentinel Network operating in Russia, to look after Bella?

"Sam, is that our boss?" One of the men beside Sam asked.

"Hmm, yes, she's our boss."

"Damn it! She's really skillful. I think her strength and agility are similar to mine..." The man said. He was amazed.

"Yes, I think so. It was similar to your strength when you were active in special force," Sam casually said.

"Fuck you, Sam!" The man laughed with amusement when he heard Sam's words right on target.

Sam ignored his colleague. He immediately took out his cell phone and sent a message to Tristan.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 232: Tristan Arrives

Tristan and his team swept near the Quantum Capital Building for several minutes but couldn't find Bella in the area.

This makes Tristan utterly nervous, but then he finally gets a vital clue from Max; he sends him the last CCTV footage showing Bella and Leo walking towards the park.

Max could only see them enter the park because there was no CCTV inside, so he couldn't find their exact location.

Tristan asked his driver to hurry towards the park and ordered his people to spread out. When his car stopped at the last location where Bella and Leo were seen, he immediately got out of the vehicle.

He walks toward the stone path, followed by Reid and a few men behind. His cell phone vibrates only a few meters after they enter the park. It was a text from Sam.

His giant step stopped abruptly.

Tristan feels his heart tighten as he reads the text.

[Sam] I found her. You can follow my location.

[Sam] Live location activate

He ran to follow the live location that Sam sent him. In a few minutes, he arrived and joined Sam. He didn't know what had happened, but what he saw shocked him.

Tristan saw his wife a few meters ahead of them; she pointed a gun at the head of the man kneeling in front of her. He also saw several men lying on the ground in bloody and pathetic conditions.

He can't see Bella's expression now. However, his impression of her posture, standing and holding a gun, is impressive, like a professional shooter or someone who used to shoot a firearm. In this case, a pistol.

Wait!

Suddenly, countless questions fill his mind: Can Bella use a firearm? How so? Since when did she learn to use a pistol?

This fact shocked him because he had never known or heard that Bella practiced shooting.

Curious about what really happened, Tristan asked Sam, "Who beat these people like this?"

Sam glanced at Tristan, who still fixed his gaze on Bella.

"I only saw Boss Bella beating people near her. While the three men behind Leo, I'm not sure whether she is the one who beat them or not," Sam explained.

Hearing Sam's words, Tristan glanced at him. "Did you teach my wife to fight and use a gun?"

Sam was surprised to learn that Tristan actually didn't know about Bella's ability, too.

He shook his head before answering, "No, I didn't teach her. The same as you, sir; I only found out My Boss could fight and protect herself when I arrived here."

Sam chuckled and turned to see Bella again. He is still impressed and proud of his boss. He can't wait to get to her but is worried she'll shoot him. At this moment, he could feel that Bella was still on high alert. He would wait until she noticed his presence.

"Sir, do—" Sam's words suddenly stopped when he saw Tristan no longer standing beside him but walking towards Bella.

"Damn! Does Boss Tristan know his wife is a Krav Maga expert? She'll probably shoot him if he casually approaches her like that." Sam talks to himself, but Reid, standing near him, is surprised to hear that.

Reid looked at Sam.

"You said, my young madam, a Krav Maga expert?" he asked again, afraid he had heard it wrong.

Sam turned his head and saw the man beside him. A faint smile slowly appeared on his lips before he answered him.

"Well, I'm not sure, but when I saw how she snatched the gun from the opponent and disabled them in close combat, I'm sure she is learning Krav Maga..."

Reid didn't ask anything; he followed Sam's line of sight and looked at Tristan, who was now standing behind Bella. They both prepared themselves if something terrible happened.

....

Bella could feel footsteps approaching. As fast as lightning, she turned around, pointing the gun at the person.

Suddenly, her body froze when she saw Tristan standing before her. She saw him raise both hands in the air.

When their eyes met, Bella's heart trembled as if there was a storm inside that stirred her heart and mind.

'Did I see wrong? This man, my husband, right!?'

"It's me, my dear wife..." Tristan said, smiling lovingly at her. He was slightly surprised seeing her fast movement; she was about to shoot him.

“T-Tristan... H-Hubby...” Bella whispered his name. She didn’t expect to meet her husband here so soon. She thought finding her location in this vast city park would be difficult because there was no CCTV. “Since when are you here?”

Tristan did not immediately answer Bella’s question. However, he slowly held the gun in her hand; the gun was still pointed at him. He could feel Bella gripping the pistol tightly when he touched her hand. After he squeezed her hand gently, she finally relaxed her grip.

“My dear, let me take care of this...” Tristan took the gun on its barrel and gave it to Reid, standing behind him. “Reid, take care of this.”

“Yes, sir...”

Then Tristan looked at Bella again. He was stunned when he saw her face turn pale. Her look was no longer as fierce as before, but she looked confused and worried.

“My wife...” Tristan took her hand and held it gently. However, when their hands touched once again, he was surprised that her hands trembled. He didn’t say a word but pulled her into his arms.

His strong arms crossed around her, and her shaking body became more prominent as soon as their bodies touched.

Tristan was surprised to see Bella’s sudden change. Earlier, he had seen her fierce eyes staring back at him when she almost shot him, but the look in her eyes was different; he could only see fear and worry in there. Why?

Over his shoulder, Tristan spoke to Reid, “Clear this area. Ensure no one saw it, and there are no CCTV records of this incident. My wife and I will leave this place now...”

“Consider it done, sir.”

“Thank you!”

Chapter 233: Startled

Tristan leaned in and whispered to Bella, “Let’s get out of here, my wife.”

She responded to him with a weak “Mhmm...”

Hearing her barely audible voice was like hearing someone who had lost the strength to speak, causing Tristan to feel even more worried about her.

He put his hands on her shoulder to make her look into his eyes.

“You must have felt weak with all the adrenaline rush now gone. Would you mind if I carry you in my arms?” he asked worriedly.

He could feel Bella’s body still shaking, and he also saw her shock still lingering in her eyes, but she tried to hide it.

Bella suddenly flinched at his words. She clutched Tristan’s hands, trying to balance her feet—somehow, she felt her knees go weak like they were slowly turning to jelly. Her adrenalin had left her entirely now that she was safe.

The fact that this is the first time she has had the chance to use all the techniques she learned in real-life situations since practicing weird martial arts from her master in Sweden might also made her exhausted.

This is also the first time she has used the gun to shoot the real, breathing target: humans.

When she was in a critical situation earlier, Bella didn’t feel nervous at all. Instead, she made every move with confidence, shooting and beating the gangsters. Her adrenalin indeed occupied and energized her mind and body.

However, now...

After everything was over, she saw Tristan before her eyes; her alertness and vigilance were gone and replaced by worry and nervousness. And it swallowed her.

But Bella still has some energy left to stand and walk on her own. So she shook her head while smiling faintly at him. “Thank you, Tristan. I think I can walk perfectly by myself,” she answered, but then she suddenly remembered something.

Previously, she had been too busy dealing with gangsters and had forgotten about Leo. She turned around to find him, afraid he was in pain.

She felt relieved when she saw Leo standing a few steps away from her. “Leo....Are you alright?” she asked in worry.

Leo was rendered speechless when he saw the worries through Bella’s eyes. ‘Did this girl think I’m that weak? Why worry about me?’ He wondered, feeling amused.

He smiled, scratching his head, “I’m fine... thanks for your concern about me, Boss.”

“Thank God you’re alright, Leo...” Bella smiled before continuing, “Leo, I won’t be returning to the office after all this unpleasant incident; I’m going home with my husband.”

“Sure, Boss, don’t worry about anything. I will take care of everything in the office...” Leo said. He felt relieved that this incident was finally over without them getting hurt.

Then, Leo looked at Tristan and said, “Boss Tristan, your wife hasn’t eaten anything. You better feed her now, or she will faint.”

Instantly, Tristan’s face turned dark, annoyed with the gangsters who attacked his wife, causing her to miss lunch.

“Thank you, Leo...” Tristan said while taking Bella’s hand. He nodded slightly to Leo, then walked away from the scene with Bella beside him.

After a few steps, he glanced at her, “What do you want to eat?” he asked gently.

Only now did Bella feel incredibly hungry. She could hear a strange sound in her stomach as if protesting, asking her to eat immediately.

“Anything delicious wouldn’t be so bad, but nothing fancy. I only need to eat something now...” she said while glancing at her watch; it was almost two in the afternoon. “Let’s go home.”

Tristan didn’t say anything and continued his step toward his car.

When they were settled in the car, Tristan instructed the driver to go to the Stone House Restaurant. He then pushed the partition button to divide them and shield them from the driver and his bodyguard in the front row.

He lifted her to sit on his lap when the car partition was covered.

Bella was surprised, but she didn’t refuse him. Instead, she tries to fit herself into his arms while leaning her head on his chest.

...

They would arrive at the restaurant in fifteen minutes, enough time for Bella to calm herself down after what happened to her.

Tristan let Bella rest in his arms for a few minutes before he took his cell phone and sent several messages to the restaurant manager to prepare their late lunch. He ordered some of Bella’s favorite foods and her favorite dessert cake.

After that, he put his cell phone away, but later, something crossed his mind. He typed another text, but this time to Reid.

[Tristan] Who sent those people?

It didn't take long for Tristan to get a reply from Reid. His whole blood boiled when he read the name on his cellphone screen.

'Jacob Donovan!'

Tristan had no idea that this person had sent gangsters to arrest his wife.

'How could he bear to do that to his own niece!?'

Before Tristan had time to respond, Reid sent another text.

[Reid] They were asked to take the young madam to East City.

[Reid] This involves the Dawson Group. They contact and hire these gangsters.

'Dawson Group?' Tristan muttered as he put his cell phone back.

He knew about this company from Max's investigation; the owner of Dawson Group asked Bella's parents for a marriage agreement.

However, Tristan didn't know what had happened in the East City or why they suddenly wanted to kidnap her.

Tristan silently took a deep sigh. He briefly looked at Bella, who was asleep in his arms.

Then, he turned his gaze out the window. He began planning to teach the Dawson Group and Jacob Donovan. This time, he would do something because they were out of line.

Even though Bella had asked him not to interfere in her family's affairs, he would still teach the Dawson Group a lesson.

He would not allow this small company to survive in this country. Not while the owner of that company was eyeing his wife.

'Dawson Group, you were making a terrible move. You choose to become my enemy...'
A faint smile appeared on the corner of his lips.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 234: Waiting For Her To Talk

'Dawson Group, you were making a terrible move. You choose to become my enemy...'

Tristan took out his cell phone again and sent several messages to Max, asking him to investigate the company in detail.

He needs to know the complete details of his enemy before he acts.

Not long after, the car finally stopped. At the same time, Bella, who had been asleep for a few minutes, moved slightly and opened her eyes.

She smiled at Tristan while sitting straight and looking around.

“Oh, this is the restaurant we visit with Dax, right?”

“Yes. Let’s go...” Tristan helped her sit in her seat before he stepped out of the car and ran to Bella’s side to open the door for her.

The food Tristan ordered was already arranged on the table when they entered the VIP room.

Tristan let Bella sit and urged her to eat. Seeing how tempting she looked while devouring her food, he decided to eat again to accompany her.

While eating, Tristan started to wonder what had happened and how all seven gangsters were lying on the ground when he arrived.

But, even though he was curious about the reason those people wanted to kidnap her, he wouldn’t ask now. He would wait for her to finish and fill her hungry stomach.

....

Seeing how quickly Bella finished her main dish made Tristan worried.

“My darling wife, eat slowly...” he smiled when she looked into his eyes. “No one will steal yours...”

Bella didn’t answer him; she rolled her eyes and continued eating. But this time, she slowed down and tried to enjoy her food.

She didn’t know why, but after fighting the gangsters, Bella felt like her energy was running out. She needed to eat a lot now to regain her power.

“Would you like roast beef or some other soup?” Tristan offered as he watched her finish her beef roast in a few chews. “Or do you want Japanese food? They can make it for you if you want...”

Even though it sounded tempting, Bella shook her head slowly. The food on the table was more than enough for her.

“No, thank you...”

Later,

Tristan saw that Bella had finally finished eating her main dish and was enjoying two scoops of vanilla ice cream with fine nuts sprinkled on top.

“Do you need more? Let me call the waitress...” He was happy to see her eating so much; she looked like their son, Dax.

“No need. I’m already full. My belly will explode if I continue to eat something,” she said, about to wipe the corner of her lips with a napkin.

But before she could do that, her eyes widened in surprise when she saw Tristan stand from his seat and lean forward toward her.

Her heart raced again when she saw his face getting closer, and in a blink, she felt his warm lips touched hers. She could feel her blood rush when she felt his warm tongue gently licking her lips as if to remove the remaining ice cream.

When his lips parted from hers, she could see his eyes beaming like someone had lit a bonfire, and his smile widened like spring came after a long winter. Gosh!

Bella felt her cheek getting warm and her heart beating loudly. She lowered her eyes and distracted her mind with the red velvet cake on the table.

However, after eating two bites, her hand hung in the air when she heard him ask.

“My pretty wife, since when did you learn Krav Maga? Who taught you?”

Bella slowly lifted her face to meet his curious gaze, instantly raising many questions in her mind.

‘So he saw me fighting?’ She didn’t know why but felt embarrassed to show him her fighting ability.

She put the spoon on the plate before she answered. “After I gave birth to Dax, I started exercising to lose weight, but after a few months, I met a retired soldier who lived near my property. He offered to teach me this martial art for self-defense...”

Bella informed Tristan that her master had taught her various skills. She started with the basics to improve her strength and agility.

Later, her master trained her in one-on-one combat and how to exchange blows during a fight. Once she had mastered these techniques, her master taught her how to use a gun and how to disarm any opponent who had a weapon if one day she met danger.

“It was fun... I enjoyed the process so much. I achieved my target to lose weight and became a martial arts expert,” Bella’s eyes sparkled with joy, remembering her martial arts Master and his wife. She already considered them part of her family.

She continued, “I never knew the name of this martial art before. But recently, before I returned to this country, my master told me that this is actually Krav Maga... a fighting skill usually learned by soldiers in their countries.”

“No wonder you look like an expert,” Tristan felt proud of her.

Bella silently gulped. Her eyes blinked several times, and she looked at Tristan. “H-Husband... did you see me shoot them? I mean, since when did you get there?”

She was worried that Tristan would see her beat those people. She felt embarrassed.

“No, I didn’t see you,” Tristan told her. “Sam came first and told me how you beat four people so quickly.” He felt amused as he watched her shyness. “I only saw the way you held the gun. Your posture is very confident. You don’t look like someone just learning to use it, but you look like a pro...”

Bella smiled faintly at his praise.

“I never imagined I could fight so effectively against someone holding a gun or sharp weapon while using the knowledge I had learned to defend myself,” Bella said with a deep sigh, remembering what happened in the park.

“I felt like I had an adrenaline rush when I was in that situation... but... after I saw you, I suddenly felt nervous and like all my energy had run out.” She smiled at Tristan.

Tristan was silent momentarily, but his eyes were still fixed on Bella. He appeared to be deep in thought.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 235: Finally, He Ask

Tristan was silent momentarily, but his eyes were still fixed on Bella. He appeared to be deep in thought.

When Tristan noticed Bella's anxious expression and waited for him to speak, Tristan finally asked.

"My dear wife, I heard that... Sam is no longer your driver and bodyguard. Why did you dismiss him?" He was curious to know her reason.

Bella was surprised to hear that. "How do you know he's no longer my driver and bodyguard!?" she asked.

Tristan silently took a deep breath when he remembered how frightening he was when he couldn't contact her.

"Well, when I lost contact with you, I called him. And he told me that you assigned him to other tasks."

Bella could see how gloomy he was when talking about the incident at the park earlier. She gave a half smile before explaining.

"Yes. I would be wasting his talents if he remained my driver and bodyguard. So, starting today, he will take care of other divisions. Moreover, you insisted on driving me around, so indirectly, he will lose his job if he becomes my driver, right, Mr. Sinclair?"

"Hahaha, you're right..." Tristan couldn't help but laugh.

However, Tristan's laugh gradually faded a few moments later, and his expression turned serious. His eyes deepened, looking at Bella, causing her to be confused.

"My wife, I know you'll hate this, but please consider my offer first. And please accept it," his voice turned serious without losing its gentleness.

"What do you want to say?" Bella slightly frowned, hearing his words.

"I already thought about this... starting tomorrow, my people will guard you. They will become your driver and bodyguard..."

Bella silently took a deep breath. She already guessed this would happen when she returned to him.

In the past, even though Tristan didn't love her, he still assigned her the best chauffeur, who turned out to be an expert in martial arts, too—that's what she heard from Noora.

And now that Tristan is more in love and crazy about her, it's clear he'll do it again—give her extra security.

She smiled at him before saying, "Hubby, I'm okay with the bodyguard. But, is it necessary for the driver too?"

“Oh dear, of course, this is necessary. I want people around you to be someone I trust the most...” His gaze seemed to convey that he didn’t want to be rejected.

“But, Hubby, I—” Bella wanted to protest, to refuse the driver, but Tristan stopped her.

“I apologize, my dear. I wish to ensure that today’s unfortunate events will not occur again. While I understand you are capable of defending yourself, there may come a time when you encounter an enemy who surpasses your abilities...”

Tristan continued again when he saw her say nothing but stare at him while nodding. “In such a scenario, relying on a single bodyguard may not be sufficient. Therefore, your driver must possess similar skills as your bodyguard.”

Bella could only smile at him. She knows she can’t refute him this time.

Moreover, what he said was on point. If someone sent a dozen people to capture her, she would probably be injured.

Especially now, since she returned to this country, her enemies had doubled. It is not just her family and Jessica Sinclair; her decisions with the company could create new enemies that will harm her.

Before Bella could say “OK” to Tristan, he spoke again.

“Darling, I know I sound too exaggerated. But you know what? The mere thought of someone trying to harm you is enough to make my brain feel like it’s about to explode. This noon, I get scared to death when I am unable to contact you...” Tristan’s voice was filled with genuine concern.

“Sorry, Hubby, if I made you worry. Alright, I will accept your arrangement,” She said, feeling bad for him if she rejected him.

Bella chuckled when she saw him finally show his happy smile.

“Thanks, darling; I will make sure they are the best to guard you. Don’t worry; they will meet you soon... in a few days,” Tristan said.

“Thank you.”

They continued to speak about another thing, but before long, something suddenly crossed Tristan’s mind.

“Wife, do you know who sent those gangsters?” he asked curiously, wondering whether she knew or not.

Bella's face slowly turned dark as soon as she remembered her first uncle, who sent those gangsters to catch her.

"Hmm... I know. It was my first uncle, Jacob Donovan..." A wry smile appeared on the edge of her lips. "Since my first uncle has gone too far, I won't remain silent any longer. I will take care of him immediately..."

There was a fiery glint in Bella's eyes. She suspected that her father and uncle were plotting to have her arrested. She knew her father approved of the marriage agreement as a business deal.

Tristan didn't rush to respond. He supported his face with one hand while gently stroking his forehead, thinking about something. Did he need to tell her about the Dawson Group's involvement?

"Hubby, don't worry..." Bella said again when she saw Tristan's expression turn sour. She could also see the worry in his eyes. She continued, "Everything will be fine soon. I already have a plan to make my first uncle regret what he did today!"

Tristan decides to tell her.

"My wife, there's something you don't seem to know..."

"Something I don't know? What is it?"

Tristan sat up straight, calmly looking at her as he told her about the Dawson Group's involvement.

"I don't know whether you know about Dawson's group or not... but they were involved in sending those gangsters to kidnap you. Their goal was to take you to East City," he explained.

Bella was shocked. Hearing that, her face turned redder and redder, as if her blood vessels were about to burst. She really could not understand how that person was also involved.

But later, her face turned pale as she looked at Tristan.

"H-Hubby... Do you know about the Dawson Group? I mean, about my marriage arrangement with the owner?"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 236: Please, Don't Stop Me!

But later, Bella's face turned pale as she looked at Tristan.

“H-Hubby... Do you know about the Dawson Group? I mean, about my marriage arrangement with the owner?”

Tristan noticed her panicked expression.

He smiled at her before saying, “I found out that the CEO of the Dawson Group had his eyes on you. This annoyed me,” he put on a sad expression, causing Bella to frown slightly.

“Wait, weren’t you the one who told me about that?” Tristan asked.

Bella forgot whether she had ever talked to him about this. They talked about so many things in the past few days that she no longer remembers which story she told him or not because she only realized her husband was a good investigator. He could make someone speak anything without them realizing it.

“Maybe...” She said briefly.

Tristan offered her orange juice before continuing his words. “My darling wife... I hope you didn’t stop me from teaching the Dawson Group a lesson,” he said casually, but Bella saw a flash of fire in his eyes.

‘He is mad...’ She took a deep breath.

“I won’t stop you. You can do anything you deem necessary with them...” She chuckled. “But, you don’t have to do anything for my family. I can take care of it myself. I will do something to make my uncle and father regret what they did to me!”

Bella couldn’t wait to execute her plan. She only needed to talk to her grandpa before taking action because this would affect the Donovan Group.

Even though her grandpa has retired from the company, he is still its founder. It would hurt him to know she destroyed it, so she needs to inform him before carrying out her plan.

“What are you going to do about your uncle?”

She smiled mysteriously at him, “It’s a secret for now. But the plan is in motion, and I promise you... you will find out later...”

Tristan couldn’t help but laugh, seeing how adorable she was. It made him want to hold her in his arms. But they are in the restaurant now, worried he can’t hold himself.

“Alright, alright. I trust you. Okay, let’s go home now...” Tristan stood from his seat and offered his hand to her.

East City.

Meanwhile, within one of the buildings in East City,

Three old men sat in a large and luxurious office room. Their faces looked tense. No one tried to dilute the tension that was so thick in the room.

Their gazes were focused on the thin black cell phone on the table before them. They waited for the phone to ring to convey the vital news they anticipated to hear.

However, it had been three hours past the specified time, and the phone still had not rung. It was making them even more anxious.

After several minutes, one of the men in the room finally broke the silence by clearing his throat before the man said in a deep voice.

“Brad, what happened? Why haven’t your people reported to you yet?” The man’s eyes stared at the round-faced man with bald spots in the middle of his head; he was Bradley Caville, the owner of Dawson Group.

Bradley Caville saw Jacob Donovan, who was sitting opposite him. His frown deepened before he said confusedly, “I don’t understand either, Brother Jacob. Why haven’t they called me yet? This isn’t like how they usually do. These people usually work quickly and cleanly to carry out this kind of task...”

Jacob Donovan frowned. Feeling confused, the same as Bradley.

“Did they fail to carry on your order?” another man in the room asked. Suddenly, Bradley and Jacob looked at him with a “Seriously?” look.

“Fail? You said my people failed!?” Bradley muttered softly before his loud laughter booming, “Bwa-ha-ha-ha.”

After his booming laughter subsided, Bradley Caville continued, “My friend Lucas, don’t underestimate my people. They are very skilled at this kind of work. Bringing your daughter to this city is an easy job for them.” He said proudly.

Lucas Donovan took a deep breath, hearing Bradley’s words and looking at his confidence.

But, something still bugged his heart about the idea of forcibly bringing Bella to this city; it was not his own idea. He didn't favor this method but couldn't argue with Jacob and Bradley, forcing Bella to return to this city to finalize their marriage in court.

And what made him finally agree with them was his daughter's stubbornness and his father's firm refusal.

"Good then... I hope they succeed. But, Brad... make sure your people won't hurt her, or I'll be mad at you!" Lucas said seriously, his sharp eyes fixed on Bradley.

Although Bradley was Lucas' best friend, he still had the right to ensure his daughter's safety before marrying her to Bradley.

"Bwa-Ha-ha-ha..." Suddenly, Bradley's distinctive laugh rang out in the room again. "You think I will let them live if they hurt my wife?? I will kill them all, even if they touch her hair. Don't worry too much, my dear friend..."

Bradley's eyes suddenly lit up again as he tried to imagine the little girl he had seen several years ago, who would become his wife tomorrow if they succeeded in bringing her today. He couldn't wait to consummate their marriage immediately.

Lucas Donovan could only shake his head when he saw Bradley's smug-looking face. Looking at his smile widely, he could guess what was on his mind now.

'This old brat!' Lucas vented his sarcasm in his mind before turning his gaze to his older brother. "Brother, do we need to wait here?"

"Why? Do you need to go somewhere now?" Jacob Donovan slightly raised his eyebrow, looking at Lucas.

"Yes. I need to see Father once more before he returns to the capital. I heard he will fly to the capital this afternoon."

Jacob Donovan frowned momentarily as if considering something before finally saying, "Okay. Okay. You may go... I will stay here waiting for the good news."

"Well then, I will excuse myself." Lucas Donovan immediately excused himself and left the room. He headed straight for his father's house, trying to convince him again to resolve this matter quickly.

However, as soon as Lucas arrived in his car, he was shocked when he read the short message on his cell phone.

"What the hell!?" He muttered, annoyed.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 237: Grandpa Return
In the evening...

While Bella and Tristan were chatting in bed and cuddling after finishing dinner, Bella's phone suddenly rang.

"Who's calling you at this hour?" Tristan's voice clearly conveyed his displeasure at someone daring to call her.

Bella immediately got up and grabbed her cell phone from the nightstand. "It's Grandpa," she answered Tristan.

She answered the phone as she sat on the edge of the bed.

"Hello Grandpa, is everything alright? Why are you calling me at this hour?" Bella glanced at the digital clock on the nightstand; it was nine.

A sense of worry gradually crept into her heart. She was afraid that something might have happened to her Grandpa, who was currently in East City.

"Bella, I'm sorry to call you this late. But I need to meet you now. Can you come to my home now?"

Bella was surprised to learn that her Grandpa had already returned. She didn't answer immediately but turned to Tristan, sitting beside her as if seeking his permission.

Seeing him nod, she immediately returned to her Grandpa.

"Okay. I'll be there in a few minutes, Grandpa..." She said and ended the call.

She looked at Tristan, "Grandpa has just arrived. He has something important to say to me..."

Bella stood up from the bed and walked to the walk-in closet to change her nightgown.

"I'll take you there..." Tristan said.

Bella stopped her steps and turned to Tristan, who was standing behind her. She looked into Tristan's eyes with mixed feelings. She didn't think letting Tristan hear her conversation with Grandpa was a good idea.

She could guess that her grandfather wanted to discuss her matchmaking plans with her father's friends.

"Why are you looking at me like that? You don't want me to go?" Tristan put his hands on her waist and pulled her close.

“No, of course not.” She smiled at him. “I am only afraid you will be annoyed when you hear our conversation later. I could guess Grandpa wanted to discuss my father’s plans.”

“Ms. Sinclair, I need to hear everything. How can I stay here when another man wants to steal my wife?” Tristan said as he leaned in to kiss her cheek. “Okay, quickly change your clothes. Don’t keep Grandpa waiting any longer.”

She nods and immediately changes her clothes.

....

When Tristan and Bella arrive at Isaac’s house, Nick is already waiting for them at the main entrance.

“Young Miss, Master Tristan...” Nick greeted them politely before leading them to Isaac’s study room.

“What time did you arrive, Nick?” Bella asks while walking inside.

“We arrived before dinner. Actually, the Old Master wanted to call you as soon as we arrived. However, all of a sudden, he decided to wait. Old Master told me he was worried that Young Master Dax would ask to come here if he found out. That’s why he only called you now, waiting for him to sleep...”

“I see. Thank you for your update, Nick.” Bella could only smile upon hearing that.

Nick gently knocked on the door when they arrived at the study room.

“Please come in.” Isaac’s faint voice could be heard from inside.

“Grandpa,” Bella smiled at Isaac. “I’m so happy you finally returned.”

“Hahaha... Bella! Did you miss me?”

“Yes, of course, I missed you, Grandpa. But... I am also mad at you. How could you return to the East without telling me?” She pouted while narrowing her eyes.

Isaac ignored his granddaughter’s annoyance and turned to see Tristan, “Tristan, you also come...”

Tristan greeted Isaac with a slight nod, “Yes, Grandpa...”

“Good... Good... Alright, have a seat first.” Isaac asked them to join him. After seeing them sit across from him, he fixed his eyes on Tristan.

He stared at Tristan for a few seconds before he said, “Tristan, what I’m going to talk to Bella probably will hurt your heart. Do you still want to stay here to hear it?”

A faint smile slowly appeared on Tristan’s lips, “Grandpa, Bella is my wife. So, whatever you want to talk to her about, even if it annoys or hurts me, I will still be here to hear it.”

Bella feels her heart warm as she hears his words. She looks at him and smiles, gently placing her hand on his lap and patting it.

She then turns to her Grandpa, “My husband already knows what happened in East City, Grandpa. I tell him everything, so it’s fine if he hears it...”

“Good!” Isaac smiles while nodding. “You already know that your father has set you up with the owner of the Dawson group, right?” Isaac looks at Bella.

“Yes, I know.”

“Well, your father and uncle are in trouble now. They have received cooperation from the Dawson Group with the condition that you marry the owner of Dowson.”

Isaac takes a deep breath before he continues, “And what a stupid move from your father was! He agreed to the marriage arrangement, sealing the deal with that old man to marry you. You only need to return home and sign the marriage papers for them to submit to the court.”

Tristan clenches his hands tightly when he hears Isaac’s words. The information is indeed hurtful. He didn’t expect his father-in-law to do that.

How could Lucas Donovan sell his daughter for a business deal?

At first, Tristan wanted to mend his relationship with Lucas Donovan, which had been damaged years ago when Tristan found out that his parents had made a business deal with Lucas.

But hearing this was hard for him to ignore. He would continue to be upset if he thought about it. And the idea of mending his relationship with Lucas Donovan faded from his mind.

As Tristan is drawn into his anger, Bella tries to suppress hers.

She tries to remain calm as much as possible before she asks, “Grandpa, they called you back to the East because they need you to convince me?” Bella asked.

“Yes, that’s their reason. But you don’t need to worry; I strongly rejected their crazy idea and told them to stop bugging me about how to deal with the Dawson Group matter. I will not get involved or get duped into getting involved!”

Isaac took a deep breath, feeling embarrassed by what his son had done.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 238: Bella’s Grand Plan (1)

Bella’s heart swelled as she looked at her Grandpa, who always stood behind her and chose her over his own sons.

“Thank you, Grandpa...” Her voice trembled slightly, trying hard not to shed tears.

“Oh, my dear Bella, you don’t need to say that,” Isaac comforted her.

Isaac always felt sympathetic towards his granddaughter, Bella. Her parents had mistreated her, and Isaac always tried to intervene. Despite scolding Bella’s father for his biased approach in raising Henry over Bella, his son, Lucas Donovan, remained stubborn and refused to listen.

Bella could only sigh silently while hiding her teary eyes.

“Okay, now, you don’t need to worry about anything. Your father won’t bother you anymore. I firmly told your father and uncle I don’t care about their actions. Even if the company closes because of their stupidity, I don’t care...” Isaac said calmly, but his fiery-looking gaze failed to hide his inward anger.

Since Isaac knows about all his sons using Bella’s marriage with Tristan as a business deal with the Sinclair Group, he has given up on all his sons. He withdrew from Donovan Group and tried to live quietly.

...

After feeling better, Bella looked back at her grandfather. She needed to know if her Grandpa knew about her uncle sending gangsters to catch her.

“Grandpa, when did you last communicate with my father and uncle?” Bella asked.

“This morning, your father came with your third uncle. They were still trying to ask for my blessing and asked me to convince you for the sake of the company’s safety, but of course, I still ignored them.”

Bella took a deep breath before telling her grandfather about the incident where she was almost kidnapped by gangsters sent by her uncle.

Before Bella had finished explaining, she could see her grandfather's face redden; he was so angry.

"WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING!?! Your uncle sent gangsters to catch you? What shamelessness! How could he have the heart to do that?" Hearing of his eldest son's evilness, Isaac felt like his heart was about to burst.

In a hurry, Isaac took his cell phone, and with trembling hands, he opened his phone book. "I will call him now and scold him, how dare he—"

"Grandpa, please stop it," Bella immediately stopped Isaac. "Don't do anything for now..."

Isaac's fingers stopped searching for his first son's name in the phone book. Confusedly, he looked at Bella, "Why did you stop me, dear!?" he asked.

"There's no need to waste energy scolding him, Grandpa. I'll deal with my first uncle. I have big plans for him for what he did to me. But..." Bella was silent for a moment, trying to suppress the anger that was starting to consume her.

"Yes, dear, what is it?" Isaac asked when he saw her looking angry but not saying anything.

"Grandpa, if... I did something terrible to the Donovan Group..." Her eyes blink a few times before she continues. "Will you be disappointed in me?"

Isaac frowned, confused by her statement.

"Please speak clearly, My dear. My rusty brain can't grasp what you mean." Isaac said.

Bella was silent for a few seconds before she finally explained her plan to bring Jacob Donovan down and pay for what he had done. She would cause the Donovan Group's share price to drop to its lowest point and create discord between the current CEO, Jacob Donovan, and the other shareholders.

She could picture all shareholders putting pressure on the current CEO, her dear Uncle Jacob.

And, of course, she would ensure her uncle steps down from the position he is really proud of.

Bella also planned to force all her uncles and father to sell their shares to her under her secret company.

Her grand plan was to ensure that they all went bankrupt. And, she would take control of the company when she became the largest shareholder.

She would fire all her uncles and father from the company and hire professionals to run it.

Because her uncle, Jacob Donovan, couldn't run the company. He has been CEO for almost ten years; However, instead of bringing the company to more significant growth, the company he controlled actually did the opposite.

Bella slightly took a deep sigh as she said, "That's my plan, Grandpa. I hope you don't mind if I carry it out. This is for the sake of the Donovan Group, the company you built..."

Isaac gasped in surprise when he heard Bella's big plan. He was amazed to listen to it. He didn't expect his dear granddaughter, who was always gentle, to dare take such a huge step to fight her uncles and father.

"Bella, I will support you one hundred percent... No, not a hundred, but a thousand..." His eyes beaming, he looked at Bella. "Do you need money to do this? I will ask Nick to transfer my money to you..."

Bella remained silent. She didn't need her Grandpa's money; she had plenty in her Swiss bank account.

Isaac smiled when he saw Bella not saying anything. He continued, "Well, even though I have been retired for a long time, I am still rich. I have a lot of money in the bank and countless assets around this country to sell if you need more money. You can use it to teach your Uncles and Father..." He said happily.

Bella felt amused, looking at how excited her Grandpa was.

"Thank you, Grandpa. But at the moment, I don't need it. I have plenty of money from Tristan. He paid me a lot of money when he forced me to sign a divo—" Bella couldn't bring herself to continue her sentence when she saw Tristan's face slowly turn gloomy. She suddenly wanted to scold herself for saying such words.

Bella gently held Tristan's hand and gave him an apologetic look. She knew he had been blaming himself for a past incident and could never move on.

"Grandpa... I mean... I have more than enough ready funds. Buying all the shares from the current shareholders at a premium is not a problem for me..."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 239: Bella's Grand Plan (2)

Bella smiled at him before continuing, "But if one day, and I hope that day never comes, my funds are running out, I will definitely tell you..."

"Hahaha... okay... okay... my dear Bella. You have my blessing. You can do whatever you want with Donovan Group. I don't care about them anymore. And... I will transfer the rest of my shares to your name."

Isaac smiled happily, feeling content to support Bella. He continued, "Well, even though I don't have many shares, I hope this can help you to teach all my shameless sons."

"Thank you, Grandpa. I will ask my head secretary, Leo Smith, to contact Nick for that," Bella expressed her gratitude for her Grandpa's support.

Isaac nodded in agreement, but a few moments later, his expression turned serious when he remembered something.

The line on his forehead deepened as he said, "Bella, please don't touch Nick and Noora's shares in the company."

Bella was surprised to hear what Grandpa had just said.

"Grandpa, you gave them your company shares?"

"Yes. I gave both of them a few percent of my shares, and it is worth every penny. You see, Nick has been caring for me for so long, since his early twenties. I already think of him as my own son. And as for Noora, she is your Grandma's favorite maid. Noora took great care of her when she was ill, almost like spoiled your Grandma."

"Grandpa, you are so kind..." Bella's heart swells when she hears her Grandfather hasn't forgotten about Aunt Noora and Nick's dedication to them.

"No, no, no. Don't say that. I'm just a human. It's my duty to do that, dear. Plus, those two are very kind toward you, particularly Noora. She has always been greatly kind to you and Dax. She cares for both of you like a mother and a Grandmother. And...Bella. One more thing. Would you mind looking after your Aunt Emma? She is the opposite of her brothers."

"I promise to keep Nick and Noora's shares intact, Grandpa. And about Aunt Emma, I want you to trust me. I love Aunt Emma; I will not let anything bad happen to her. And, if she let me, I will care for her..." Bella sincerely said. She did like Aunt Emma.

When her uncle and father don't like her, Aunt Emma loves her; she is kind and gentle even though they rarely see each other because Aunt Emma used to live abroad.

“Hmm, thank you, dear,” Isaac nodded in satisfaction at Bella’s answer. He continued his words again. “And, if one day I leave this mortal world, please look after Nick and Noora for me,” he said while looking at Tristan. “I hope you don’t mind accepting Nick into your family, Tristan...”

Without thinking, Tristan answered, “Sure, Grandpa, I will look after them. Don’t worry...” He had already considered them members of his family—especially Noora—when he started pursuing Bella.

Bella’s grateful smile framed her pretty face as she heard Tristan’s answer to her Grandfather. She thanked Tristan through her gaze before she looked at her Grandfather.

“Grandpa... Aunty Noora and Uncle Nick definitely will stay with—” Suddenly, Bella’s voice hung in the air when something crossed her mind. She narrowed her eyes, looking at him.

Bella opened her mouth a few times, but her words stuck on the tip of her tongue—she was too afraid to express her scary thoughts.

“Why are you looking at me as if you want to pierce me with your sharp gaze?” Isaac was amused, seeing Bella’s expression.

“Grandpa, how you said everything makes me think you might leave me forever soon. Are you, Grandpa?” Bella asked, her voice trembling with worry. “Did something happen to your health?” She couldn’t help but feel like her grandfather was speaking his final words, which scared her.

“Ha-ha-ha, you are so funny, My Dear Bella.” Isaac couldn’t help but laugh when he realized what his granddaughter was trying to say.

Bella was speechless, looking at her Grandfather laughing out loud like he usually did while watching Mr. Bean’s movie.

Tristan also felt worried after hearing Isaac’s words; he seemed to know his age would end soon. But when he saw Isaac laugh, he felt confused.

Just before Tristan wanted to ask, Isaac suddenly spoke, “My dear Bella, why do you think I will die soon?” He said while shaking his head, amused. He continued his sentence, “Your Grandpa is still healthy and strong. I won’t die soon. Not until I attend my great-grandson Dax’s wedding.”

“Grandpa, I’m serious, okay!” Bella said with a flat expression. Dax is not even five; her grandfather hopes to attend his wedding. Gosh!

“I’m serious, too. Bella, I’m still healthy. If you don’t believe me, I will give you my personal doctor’s phone number. You can check with him...” Isaac smiled to reassure her.

Bella didn’t say anything else, but seeing how serious her Grandfather was now relieved her.

“Alright, it’s ten. I need to sleep now,” Isaac said before he stood from his seat and asked Bella and Tristan to return to their home.

But before they left, Isaac asked them to send Dax to breakfast with him. He really misses his great-grandson.

...

Before long,

Bella and Tristan returned to their house. Holding hands, they walked down the dark and quiet street. The half-moon in the sky and the street lamp made the vibe around them feel romantic.

However, a few minutes after leaving Isaac’s house, Tristan, who had been silent since he left Isaac’s house, suddenly stopped his step, causing Bella to look up to meet his gloomy gaze.

“What is it, hubby? Why do you look so sad? Is there something bothering you?” She asked worriedly.

“Mmm...there is,” Tristan said, taking a deep breath before continuing his words. Can you not ask Grandpa for money? Please, just ask me if you need it. I’m your husband. My responsibility is to help you. I would be so jealous if you asked him...”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 240: Jealous Husband
Bella chuckled, hearing Tristan’s sentence.

While smiling lovingly at him, Bella slowly raised her hand and pinched his tall, sharp nose, teasing him.

“My jealous husband, have you ever heard the phrase ‘small talk’? I’m just making small talk with my Grandpa, alright! There’s no way I can ask him for money. Of course, I will ask you...”

Tristan's gloomy eyes gradually brightened as if a flame had reignited within him. He was happy to hear her answer.

"I haven't spent any of the money you sent me when we..." Bella didn't continue her words. She skipped uttering those words again.

Bella continued, "And the money I got from selling the house is still in my bank account," she stated nonchalantly, unaware of her husband's reaction. "I plan to use this money to put an end to my uncle and father's wicked actions. I hope you don't have any objections if I use this money for that purpose."

Once more, the light in Tristan's eyes faded when he heard her words.

Instantly, memories from five years ago filled his mind, and he felt like a thousand nails piercing his heart.

He quietly took a deep breath before he placed his hands on Bella's waist and pulled her closer to his waist.

For a moment, he rested his chin on her head while scolding himself in his mind because he had forgotten to discuss the financial arrangements with her. As his legal wife, Bella had the right to know and receive money from him.

"My dear wife, I don't mind. You have the right to use the money I give you for anything..." Tristan softly said that while loosening his embrace and tilting his face slightly to get a better look at her face.

"Thank you, Hubby." She smiled at him. He responded by lovingly rubbing her cheek.

However, a few seconds later, Tristan takes a deep breath before saying, "And I want to apologize to you..."

Tristan's sorry tone caused Bella to look up to meet his sad gaze. "Apologized? For what?" she asked.

"I forgot to discuss my money and all my assets with you. I promise you that tomorrow, I will ask my investment manager to meet with us and discuss this matter..."

Bella chuckled inwardly, hearing his words. Somehow, she felt slightly awkward discussing this matter with him. She never thought of asking Tristan for anything because she also had money.

Tristan continued before Bella could say something, "Don't worry, dear. I will give you all my money. You can use the money to buy whatever you want."

Bella, "..."

“Oh please, Mr. Sinclair... Stop flattering me with your sweet words,” Bella smiled slightly while rolling her eyes. “If you give me all your money... What about you?”

“I don’t need anything else but you,” his hands wrapped around her.

Bella tries hard to hold her laugh, hearing his cheesy lines.

“Sir, did you forget you gave me your black card?” She narrowed her eyes on him. “So the money there is limited?”

“Ah—” Tristan suddenly remembered the first time they met. He gave her his Black Card to use to buy their son clothes. “You’re right...I gave you that. Don’t worry, my darling wife... The money on the card is enough to buy anything you want.”

“Thank you, Mr. Sinclair. I will use your cards wisely...” She leaned her head on his chest, feeling happy when she saw Tristan’s eyes were no longer gloomy. She could see the smile reaching his eyes.

“My sexy wife,” Tristan whispered near her ear, “Let’s go home to make a little sister for Dax...”

“W-What...” Bella let go of her hug and looked at him, shocked. She had forgotten how many times Tristan wanted to cancel his own plans.

Gosh!

While in East City.

Jacob Donovan paced back and forth in his home office, pinching his temples. He felt dizzy because of the day’s events.

He had wasted precious time waiting for Bradley’s men, who were sent to capture Bella. However, after hours of waiting, they still hadn’t provided any updates.

This situation seemed very strange to him.

How could a capable underground organization fail to capture a weak girl like Bella?

Did someone sabotage their work?

Or did Bella herself pay double what Bradley paid those gangsters!?

Jacob Donovan felt even more headaches when thinking about this matter.

Ever since he returned from Bradley's office, now nearly hitting ten, he was still curious about why Bradley's people were suddenly missing in action.

Jacob thought those gangsters betrayed Bradley. But Bradley doubted it; it was impossible. He insisted his people would never betray him.

What made Jacob even more stressed was that Bradley no longer cared about the good news about Bella; instead, he started worrying that those people would reveal their identities if they were caught.

"Brother, you are giving me a headache!" Lucas Donovan said, annoyed.

When Lucas saw Jacob stop walking and look at him, he continued, "Stop waiting for news from Bradley. It's not important anymore to think about it..."

"What do you mean!?" Jacob frowned deeply, confused by his words.

"Brother Jacob, what's Bro Lucas trying to say? You have to sit now. And let's talk about what's next..." Thomas Donovan, the younger, chimed in. He also started to feel dizzy, looking at his older brother walking like an ironing machine.

Jacob sneered, looking displeased as he joined them in the seating area. He sat opposite Lucas and Thomas.

He didn't rush to say anything, but his eyes focused on Lucas briefly before he asked, "Lucas, why do you seem so happy to know Bradley's people failed to bring Bella back to this city!? Are you trying to back out from our plan now?"

"Bro Jacob, I didn't support this method from the start. It would be better for us to convince Father, but you insisted on following Bradley's idea." Lucas took a deep sigh.

"You—" Jacob couldn't continue his words. He was annoyed, but what Lucas said was true. This method exposed them to uncalculated danger.

Lucas smiled bitterly before continuing, "Bro, I won't back out of the plan. We owe Bradley now; forcing my stupid daughter to marry him is the only way our company will survive..."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 241: Torture Anyone Who Harm Her!

The next morning.

After taking Bella to her office, Tristan did not head straight to his own. Instead, the car sped away from the business street and left the city.

Almost an hour's drive on the highway towards the city border, the car finally left the road.

Later, the car passed through the empty two-lane street.

Houses or buildings around the road were barely visible, and only a few cars passed.

After driving for two miles, the car made another turn and left the paved road.

The location was extremely remote, and there were no other cars except for Tristan's car.

Before long,

The car passed through a large gate guarded by several well-built men. After passing through the gate, the car went back onto a road lined with tall and dense trees.

Several minutes passed...

Finally, the car stopped in front of a simple-looking red brick house. The building looked elongated and had only one level. A black SUV was parked in front of the house.

Tristan immediately stepped out of the car. Reid, who appeared behind the brown wooden door, approached and greeted him politely.

"Sir, welcome..."

Reid bowed slightly towards Tristan, to which Tristan responded with a slight nod. Then he glanced somewhat at Dylan behind Tristan to flash his small smile before he continued his words.

"Please come in, sir... those people are already waiting downstairs."

He gestured to Tristan to enter first before he followed behind him.

Tristan, followed by Dylan and Reid, walked towards the rear of the house, making their way to the elevator located in the corner.

Shortly after, the elevator descended, and after a few seconds, the doors opened, revealing a bright corridor with white walls and concrete floors.

The corridor was flanked by black doors facing each other, like passing through a corridor in a hotel.

“Sir, will you meet Laura Kiels’ manager or the gangsters?” Reid asked.

“I need to meet the gangsters!” Tristan answered in a low voice, but Dylan and Reid, who were walking behind him, could hear the anger in his tone.

“Their room, at the end, 101...” Reid said as he stepped up in front of Tristan and opened the door for him after entering various passwords and fingerprints. The iron door creaking slowly sounded as the door opened, and the light automatically turned on.

The gray-painted windowless room was not very big. Still, it was spacious enough to accommodate seven men lying on the floor in terrible condition. The sound of the door creaking open made all of them turn toward the door.

Their eyes widened in surprise when they saw the figure of the tall man they usually saw on the news, Tristan Sinclair, appear before them.

Tristan, with his deadpan expression, entered the room. He saw that their condition was still the same as he had seen yesterday in the park. The difference was that a few of them had basic bandages to stop the bleeding.

He stopped right in the middle of the room, a few meters away from the seven men who were now staring at him in shock. He ignored them as he turned to Reid beside him.

“Which one attacked my wife?”

Tristan’s low voice was clear enough for the seven men on the floor, who immediately made small sounds as if they were cursing in their hearts to get the answer that had been bothering them all night.

They talked about why this man had appeared in the park!? Now, they knew that their target was Tristan Sinclair’s wife.

“Those four...” Reid pointed to the right side of the room.

“Drag them here!” Tristan said coldly, looking at the four men now knee and staring at him in fear. He would not forgive people who would hurt his wife, even if it was only in their minds.

Reid narrowed his eyes at the four men in the corner. “All of you...” he said coldly. “Come here yourselves, or I will drag you by force. You choose!”

The four men immediately dragged their bodies closer to Tristan.

“Mr. Sinclair, please forgive us. Give us your mercy, please, sir.” A hoarse and low voice came from one of the men, who was now three steps away from Tristan.

“Yes, sir... Please, please don't kill us.”

“I will do anything for you, sir... If you let us live.”

“I beg you, sir, spare our lives...”

Reid hissed in annoyance, listening to their stupid pleas.

“One more word from your dirty mouths, and I'll break the rest of your bodies!” Reid warned them sternly.

Instantly, their pleading disappeared.

The room fell silent again, but their worried expressions were still clearly visible in their eyes.

They all knelt on the ground, holding onto the nameless pain that still tortured their minds and bodies now. But they didn't dare make a sound. They all wait in fear for Tristan to speak.

“You guys want to hurt my wife?” Tristan said in a cold tone that seemed to lower the temperature around him, causing all the men on the floor to feel their blood run cold.

“Sir, we didn't know the madam was your wife,” the leader of the gangsters answered him immediately. “If I know, I will not accept this job.”

“That's right, sir. What my leader said was true...”

“Yes, sir, we wouldn't have taken this job if our employer had informed us about it. But there was no such information about our target.”

“True, true... We would have refused if we knew she was your wife!”

“Please forgive us, sir...we beg you...” The man's voice trembles in fear.

Tristan pretended to scratch his ear with his index finger as if he didn't like hearing them talk so much.

Instantly, the four men pressed their lips again, afraid to speak. They froze when they saw Tristan's displeased expression.

After a few seconds, Tristan spoke again, “If you guys hadn't done bad things, you wouldn't have accepted this job, right?” his cold gaze returned to their stare.

The four men nodded with their mouths pressed tightly, not daring to make a sound.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 242: Dealing With His Wife's Enemy (1)

The four men nodded with their mouths pressed tightly, not daring to make a sound.

At first, they thought Tristan Sinclair would forgive them. They immediately wanted to thank him for his kindness and mercy. But then their sentences stopped on the tip of their tongues when they heard Tristan Sinclair's following sentence.

"But... because you all almost hurt my wife, I can't accept your apology. My wife was traumatized by your actions... she is scared every time she remembers what happened in the park." Tristan said casually, but all the gangsters were speechless to hear that.

They could only vent their sarcasm in their minds while looking at Tristan Sinclair in horror.

'Traumatized? Seriously? We are the ones who should be traumatized, sir!' One of the gangsters thought.

'What the fuck!? Boss Tristan, come on... how could you say your wife is having trauma??'

'Can you make another excuse, sir? Your wife is such a demoness... She kicked me until my knee was crushed, and I couldn't stand up straight.'

They did not believe it because they saw how fast and talented Tristan Sinclair's wife was. She subdued them in mere minutes.

The woman they met in the park is definitely not an ordinary woman but someone who has learned martial arts from birth or just graduated from a military camp.

Looking at them staring at him in horror, Tristan gradually feels in a good mood. He continues his words, "So, you guys also have to feel what it's like to be traumatized and scared..."

All the gangsters were rendered speechless. They wanted to beg for forgiveness, but seeing the look in Tristan Sinclair's eyes, their wish faded. It was useless; Tristan Sinclair had already decided their punishment and fate before he arrived here.

They could only wait for what Tristan Sinclair wanted to do with them. But whatever it was, they hoped Tristan Sinclair wouldn't take their lives.

...

Tristan glanced at Reid beside him, leaned closer, and whispered, "Beat them all again. Make sure you don't kill them, but give them the pain they will never forget."

After giving clear instructions, Tristan moved a few steps behind to give Reid room to beat them all. He would not dirty his hands and feet on lowly people like them.

Crossing his arms before his chest, Tristan's eyes were cold as he watched Reid kick all the gangsters until they became even more battered.

The wounds that had not yet dried tore again, and fresh blood flowed. There were no words that could escape from their lips; only howls of pain could be heard.

Reid beat them mercilessly as if they were his punching bag. However, he didn't aim for vital spots to endanger their lives.

After hearing their howls of pain slowly fade as if they all no longer had the energy to scream, Tristan raised his hand, signaling Reid to stop.

Then, Tristan's eyes fixed on the leader of the gangsters. His cold gaze was enough to make the man unable to meet Tristan's eyes; he lowered his gaze and looked at Tristan's shiny leather brown shoes.

"Return to whoever fools employ your...service. Tell them that they have messed with the wrong, possibly deadly, enemy." Tristan's voice turned icy, and his eyes radiated with disgust.

He continued, "You can tell them my name, but what you saw in the park and here, keep it in your mind and heart, take it to your grave. If there's a rumor about it, I'll assume all of you here are the ones who leaked it, and I'll hunt you all down. You all know you can't hide from me, right?"

"Ye...Yes, s...s...sir!!" they all stuttered weakly. They were glad, but at the same time, they were also confused.

The gangster leader was utterly confused to hear Tristan Sinclair's order. He didn't expect this man to let them go, even asking to mention his name to the person who paid them.

'Why did he do that? He is supposed to hide his identity, too, right? No one knows he has a wife...' The gangster leader tried to find the answer. Still, when Tristan's face turned dark again, he immediately put aside his curiosity. He didn't want to upset this man, so he quickly nodded.

"Yes, sir. I will do as you say. I will tell the person who pays me about your name," said the gangster leader. He's not afraid of Bradley Caville; however, he would never betray this man, Tristan Sinclair. If he betrayed Tristan Sinclair, the man would not let him stay

in this country, or worse. A man as powerful as Tristan Sinclair could easily end anyone who dared to hurt him or anyone he loved.

Tristan didn't answer but glanced at the three men in the corner. Then he looked at Reid.

"Beat them too! Even though they didn't do anything to my wife, I heard they have an eye on her. I can't stand someone seeing my wife with their dirty mind!"

"Yes, sir!" Reid nodded. "Is there anything else?"

Tristan stopped in his tracks before he got out of the door. He turned to look at the gangster leader and then looked at everyone in the room one by one in their eyes. His gaze was sharp and frightening, making them all seem frozen.

"If I see you guys after this, I will not be this merciful! So, remember to get out of this city immediately!"

"Y...YES, YES... SIR!" Simultaneously, the seven gangsters shouted while lowering their heads until they touched the floor.

...

Tristan no longer looked back. He walked out of the room and saw Dylan and a few guards in black tactical uniforms standing near the room.

"Where is he?" Tristan asked Dylan as he walked down the corridor towards the elevator.

"Room 107, sir," answered one of the guards waiting with Dylan.

Tristan's steps stopped in front of the room. Dylan entered the room first after the guard opened the door for them, and Tristan followed behind him.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 243: Dealing With His Wife's Enemy (2)

Room 107 looked different from the room where the gangster was detained.

It resembled an interrogation room at a police station, with a table in the middle and four chairs facing each other. A yellow lamp hung above the table.

The dominant navy blue-colored wall made the room vibe seem gloomy.

Robert, Laura Kiels' manager, instantly stood up from his seat when he saw the door swing open and saw a man wearing glasses enter the room.

His anger flared. After a few hours isolated in this room, he felt his patience thinning like paper.

Detained in this room, Robert felt like a suspect about to be interrogated. Yet, the investigators left him alone to stress him out. When he could no longer hold his patience, someone entered the room, causing his face to turn red as all his blood seemed to rush to his face.

“So, you're the bastard who locked me up for days in this damn place? Why did you do it!? What was my fault for making me feel like a criminal?” Robert said, pointing to the man wearing glasses before him.

Dylan was speechless. But he remained calm, ignoring Robert's cursing.

“Who are you? Why are you detaining me here? I will report you to the police because—” Instantly, Robert's voice trailed off as soon as his eyes saw the figure of a tall man behind the man wearing glasses.

‘Huh!? This man...? Why does he look familiar...’ Robert wondered while narrowing his eyes at the man, trying to look clearly.

It didn't take long; he knew who the man was, ‘Tristan Sinclair...’

Instantly, Robert felt all the muscles in his body betray him. His legs went limp, barely able to support his large body. He slumped in his chair; he could feel his body suddenly turning cold, frightened.

‘Tristan Sinclair was actually the person who captured me? Why? Why does this man detain me here?’

Robert tried to find the answers to all the questions running through his mind, but no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't find the answers.

He was puzzled.

Utterly puzzled.

Robert started to feel worried because Laura Kiels, his boss, always used this person's name to spread gossip between them. And as Laura's manager, he knew Laura didn't have a romantic relationship with Tristan Sinclair.

They had only created gossip so that Laura's popularity would always be a trending topic on all Internet news and social media sites.

'Oh, God! I hope this man doesn't know about it.' Robert prayed inwardly while looking at Tristan.

Robert's sweaty hands clenched into fists as he saw Tristan stop his step and stand a few paces before the table. He felt all his blood leave his face as he saw Tristan's disgusted gaze fix on him.

Feeling nervous, Robert could only swallow to wet his suddenly dry throat.

Waiting for a few seconds to pass by without Tristan saying anything was enough to make Robert feel tortured.

"Mr... Mr... Sinclair, why? Why are you detaining me here?" Robert's voice trembled. He was too afraid to face this man because he knew he and Laura had created many rumors about him.

Now, Robert continued to pray this man didn't know what they had done in the past.

But...

Wait!

'Tristan Sinclair must be aware, right!? That's why he captured me and detained me here?'

Slowly, Robert's eyes widened in horror as he saw Tristan.

'Damn it!! This is my end! This man definitely will torture me...'

Robert feels like wanted to cry. He tried to hold his shaking hand under the table, waiting for Tristan to say something.

But after a minute passed, Robert could only see Tristan standing where he was without saying anything. His hands were tucked into his trouser pockets, and his cold charisma made Robert even more anxious.

....

Tristan didn't answer right away. He walked closer to the table, stopping two steps before it. His eyes were still sharp, looking at Robert.

After being satisfied looking, the man in front of him was sitting restlessly. Tristan said in an unhurried tone, "I will ask you one thing, and your answer will affect your fate... I hope you answer honestly. Are you ready?"

Robert blinked for a moment before he nodded quickly.

“Yes, yes, Mr. Sinclair. I’m ready...please, please ask anything, I will answer you...” He answered quickly.

Whatever Tristan Sinclair’s question, he would answer it honestly.

Robert knew he couldn’t make a mistake in front of this man, or his life would be in danger.

“Good! Was the idea of hiring a buzzer to attack Stellar Entertainment purely your idea?”

Tristan’s question was straightforward; he only needed to find evidence that Laura Kiels was involved in this matter. They couldn’t find anything after monitoring all her gadgets and communication devices, including her email. Laura Kiels seems to know that her cell phone and email were monitored.

Instantly, Robert felt all his limbs frozen hearing Tristan Sinclair’s question.

‘How did Tristan Sinclair know about it?’ This question immediately filled Robert’s mind.

It’s hard for him to believe because he was confident that he had completely covered his tracks. No one will be able to track that he paid for all the buzzers.

Robert clenched his hands under the table. He was trying to find the correct answer. He couldn’t talk randomly because he would be in trouble if he exposed Laura Kiels.

“Y-Yes... It was my idea, sir...” Robert answered briefly.

He had no other choice but to answer like that. He couldn’t possibly reveal the truth because if Laura Kiels asked her fiancé to get rid of him, he would die instantly.

A thin, cold smile emerged from the corner of Tristan’s lips, hearing Robert’s answer. His hand slowly raised while he stroked his eyebrows, feeling displeased.

Seconds later, he muttered softly, “Beat him!”

Two men, no less big than Robert, entered the room. Their aura was like someone ready to kill their prey, making Robert widen his eyes in surprise when he saw them marching toward him.

“Sir... Mr. Sinclair... Why are you asking them to beat—”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 244: Dealing With His Wife's Enemy (3)

Robert widened his eyes in surprise when he saw them marching toward him.

“Sir... Mr. Sinclair... Why are you asking them to beat—” His words faded as the mighty fist of one of the large men standing beside him landed on his cheek, causing his head to tilt at a ninety-degree angle.

He let out a loud howl—as the nameless pain could be felt on his face—echoing throughout the room.

Before Robert raised his head, the other man's fist hit the other side of his cheek with the same force. A roar of pain sounded once again, this time louder than before.

“Arghh...”

The more Robert screamed in agony because of the pain he felt, the stronger the punch landed on his cheeks. It was as if these two men were punching him as punishment for the noise he created.

Gradually, Robert no longer had the energy to cry and scream in pain. Instead, he tasted metal in his mouth, and warm liquid slowly dripped down the edge of his lips and onto the white floor.

‘Blood!?’ Robert whispered while wiping the warm liquid in the corner of his lips and was surprised to see so much fresh blood on his palm.

Robert looked up to see Tristan with teary eyes.

“S-Sir, Mr. Sinclair, I will answer you... But please ask your men to stop punching me. ARGHHH...” He howled while crying in pain as the two men continued to hit him.

Robert can't do anything now. He can only try to endure the torture they give him. The howls continued to tear the silence of the room.

After a few seconds, he coughed heavily.

“Coughs!”

He vomited blood several times, and his eyes started to shed tears again; he couldn't stand this torture. He would rather die than endure this.

“Please just kill me... Sir... Please... I can't hold this pain anymore...” Robert said between sobs. A few seconds later, his loud cry echoed again when he saw that several of his teeth had now fallen to the floor.

Tristan didn't make any sounds; his eyes were still fixed on Robert, but he ignored his miserable plea.

"Mr. Sinclair, Sir...please stop..." Robert raised both hands to protect his face from their punches.

"Speak!" Tristan said, and at the same time, his men stopped throwing punches at Robert's face.

Robert's huge body shook as he saw Tristan. "La-Laura Kiels, who asked me to do it."

"I need evidence! If you don't have one, then it's useless..."

"Sir, I can provide proof. I have Laura Kiels' voice recording when she asks me to pay several internet buzzers and social media influencers to slander Stellar Entertainment." Robert was no longer trying to hide anything; he didn't care about Laura anymore.

Tristan chuckled inwardly when he saw Robert's unrecognizable face. Fresh blood dripped from his nose, and his eyes looked red. His cheeks started to look blue and swollen.

"You should have answered me like this from the start. If you had, my people would not have beaten you..." Tristan said coldly. "I need the recording voice. You can tell my man where you saved it..."

"Yes, sir. I will..." Robert answered quickly, nodding.

Tristan didn't say anything. He left the room without looking at Robert again. In front of the room, he met Reid. After giving Reid some instructions, he left the dungeon with Dylan, heading to his office.

He had many things to do, especially arranging plans for his short honeymoon with his wife.

Meanwhile, at Quantum Capital, around the same time,

Bella was meeting with Leo in her office.

However, before Bella opened the meeting to discuss work, Leo spoke first.

And he was not talking about work. Leo barrages her with several questions that are not related to office matters.

Instead, he wanted to know everything she knew about the people who had tried to kidnap her and who had hired and sent them.

Leo has been curious since yesterday, but Bella hasn't revealed anything about it. When he asked Sam, the big guy admitted that he was as clueless as him.

All night, Leo lacked sleep because his mind didn't stop making him curious about these matters.

His eyes narrowed at Bella before he spoke in a serious tone.

"Don't try to hide anything from me, Bella. I am your trusted person in the company; you have to tell me who your enemy is so that I can prepare for the worst if something like yesterday happens again in the future."

Bella silently took a deep sigh, hearing his words.

After yesterday's incident in the park, Bella feels even more trust in Leo. This man throws his life to protect her, something she never expected to happen.

Seeing Leo's expression slowly change from calm to tense, she decides to tell him everything.

"The mastermind behind all that was my first uncle. He plotted with the Dawson Group owner..."

Bella tells him how her father received the marriage proposal from his friend, Bradley Caville, the Dawson Group owner. That person actually sent a gangster to capture her and plan to bring her back to the East to finalize the marriage.

Later,

Bella finished explaining what had happened in her family and how it was related to her kidnap attempt.

She was expecting Leo to come up with several more questions afterward.

But Leo didn't say anything. He stared blankly at her with a deadpan expression as if lost in his perplexed thoughts.

She chuckled before loudly saying, "What the hell with your expression, Leo Smith? Did someone or something suddenly possess your soul?"

Leo took a few seconds to understand Bella's whole story. After a while, he shook his head, not believing what he heard. It sounded absurd for him to know that Bella's family, or some of her family, was actually evil and thought very little about her rights!

“Bella, I feel sorry for you. How could you have such evil people in your family? And, did your uncle court death... to send a gangster to capture you?” Leo asked, confused.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 245: Leo's Past

“Indeed! My uncle, Jacob Donovan, was the most evil person I ever encountered in this mortal world. The same with my father...”

Bella bitterly smiles, talking about her own family. She feels ashamed.

“True... True...I could feel how terrible it must be for you,” Leo feels even more sorry with her.

However, later, Leo frowned when something suddenly crossed his mind.

“Bella, no one in East City knows about your relationship with Boss Tristan?” Leo asked, puzzled.

If her family knew about her relationship with Tristan Sinclair, they would be unable to arrange another marriage for her, right?

Bella shrugs, “Mmm, I don't know for sure. I hate being presumptuous, but yeah... my best guess is that no one knows about it.”

“I see. That would explain how they had the guts to do that in the first place. Now, I'm curious what will happen to them. Will the mighty Boss Tristan take revenge on the evil people in your family?”

Bella, “...”

She asked Tristan not to touch her family because she already had an articulate plan to deal with them.

“My husband will not do anything to my family. But... he might punish those old men, Bradley Caville.”

“Why? Boss Tristan should do something, or they will arrange a marriage for you to another man again...”

A faint smile slowly spread across Bella's lips as she heard Leo's words. She already had a solid plan for her own family. Still, now she just realized that Tristan would likely punish the Dawson Group in his own way.

Bella never really planned a punishment for Dawson Group. But, if she has to deal with the Dawson Group, she will strike where it hurts the most and ruin their revenue base.

She will ensure the group suffers heavy losses and files for bankruptcy. Then, she will immediately acquire the company cheaply, keep its good employees, and eliminate the bad ones.

'Bradley Caville, how dare you ask my father to marry me!? I already thought of you as my uncle. How shameless!'

Bella can't help but vent her sarcasm in her mind, feeling annoyed with that old man. She hopes Tristan will punish him severely.

"Because I already have plans for my own family. Meanwhile, Tristan will handle Bradley Caville." A sinister smile slowly appeared on Bella's lips, making Leo chuckle.

But later, Leo asked again...

"Boss, why do I feel curious about all gangsters? Where did all the gangsters end up?"

Leo's curious gaze becomes more noticeable when he remembers those gangsters from yesterday—Tristan's guard cleans up the crime scene and takes care of all of the gangsters.

Bella instantly remembers all the gangsters.

This morning, she forgot to ask Tristan.

"Alright, stop talking about my shameless family and those weak gangsters..."

A soft chuckle rang in the room when the memory of beating them filled her mind. The excitement warmed her blood again, feeling the adrenaline rush.

"Damn it!! How could I forget?"

"Forget? About what?" Bella asked.

Leo's smile completely vanished from his lips. He narrows his eyes, looking at Bella, curious about her ability to kick those four gangsters effortlessly and how she could snatch a gun from a man that fast.

"Bella, tell me... since when did you learn to use your feet and hands to beat bad people?"

He clearly remembers when they were still in college; this girl was the weakest in their group.

Yesterday, he felt like he saw a different person when Bella confidently beat all those gangsters. Her movements were fast and powerful. She could subdue a massive man with only one kick.

Leo even wonders if Bella is more powerful than him.

“My strength increased because I lived in a beautiful but harsh environment in North Sweden. You see, the house I lived in didn’t have running water. So, Aunty Noora and I always carried water from the lake to our house...” Bella answers Leo nonchalantly.

“The most tiring thing I did when I stayed there was to clear the walking path from the snow for nearly a half mile. Gosh, this is more tiring than exercise. I think, because of that hard, manual labor, my strength and stamina had been greatly increased,” she continues to convince him to believe her and stop asking.

Bella didn’t want to tire herself out by explaining that she had actually learned Krav Maga and Tae Kwon Do. And given Leo’s interest in martial arts, they would likely spend their mornings only discussing it.

Leo, “...”

He was rendered speechless.

“Tsk...Tsk... Boss, do you think I’m Dax? Did you think I would easily fall for your hard-to-believed story?”

He narrowed his eyes.

“C’mon, be honest with me, Boss...I mean, no way hard labor could make anyone suddenly very good at kicking gang members’ butt!”

Bella laughed inwardly when she saw Leo’s annoyed expression. But she ignored him anyway. She would not explain anything about it.

“How about you? When we were still in college, I remember you were a pacifist who hated violence. And I remember you said you would never learn martial arts and trusted the police to protect you. Am I right?”

“Oh...you remember? Okay...Yeah...”

“Since when have you learned martial arts!? And why did you suddenly go into physical exercise?” Bella narrowed her eyes, looking at him.

In the past, Leo hated exercise. He chose to study over everything, which is why Bella has a crush on him.

In Bella's eyes, Leo is a perfect man, intelligent and handsome. However, despite having a beautiful face and an awesome brain, Leo lacks self-confidence because he always sees himself as a lowly person from a low-income family.

Leo is an orphan. When he was five years old, a family adopted him. However, when he was in his teens, that family went bankrupt, and they became toxic toward him. So, he ran from their house and lived on the street.

One day, Leo met Jack Foster while struggling with his life. Jack is the one who helps Leo, gives him shelter, pays for his education, and finally helps him to where he is now.

"Since our lovely boss forced me to learn martial arts, he encouraged me to learn to lift up my confidence..."

Leo bitterly smiles and remembers those times. However, he will never blame Jack because what Jack did to him ultimately benefited him.

"Hmmm, what a story, Leo. Life must've been very challenging in your teens. But I'm glad you ended up well!" Bella sincerely said. She feels happy for Leo. He is indeed different now.

"Yeah, life was not so kind to me in the beginning. But...yeah..., I'm glad I met the right people, including you, Boss." He answers her awkwardly.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 246: Hiding His Real Identity

"Yeah, life was not so kind to me in the beginning. But...yeah..., I'm glad I met the right people, including you, Boss." Leo answers her awkwardly.

"Alright, enough with the chit-chat. Let's talk about work..." Bella said softly, but her eyes stared thoughtfully at Leo as if she signaled him to return to discussing work.

That gaze caused Leo to nod in a hurry.

...

They started discussing Stefan's arrival. Bella already assigned Leo to prepare Stefan's place and temporary office during his stay in this city.

She hears everything about the progress in silence.

"His bedroom is already ready upstairs... Overall, everything is ready. His office has also finished. We only need to buy a high-tech computer for him..." Leo explained.

“There is no need to buy anything. Let him buy himself because only he knows what he needs. You only need to provide him with space and funds...” Suddenly, she paused for a while as if thinking about something.

After several seconds, Bella looks at Leo again, “Leo, you don’t need to ask for money from the company. Just ask me. I will use my personal money for what Stefan needs during his stay here...”

Leo was confused as to why she suddenly changed her mind. And why does she use her own money?

“Bella, I know you are super rich, and your husband is too. However, it does not feel right if you use your own money.” Leo expresses his concern for her.

“Stefan is also here to work for the company and not merely handle your personal matters. I think Jack or Harper will be OK if you use company money for him, right?” His eyes narrowed as he looked at her, curious to know her reason.

Bella chuckled when she realized Leo didn’t actually understand her.

She couldn’t risk Stefan’s identity. He is their precious asset, their top hacker in the company. If his identity were exposed, his life would become a target for evil people outside. Someone might even kidnap or eliminate him.

That’s why Jack has been overprotective of Stefan since he joined the company; only a few people know his real name, and others know that Stefan is Jack Foster’s assistant, using an alias named Gael Foster.

Stefan uses Jack’s last name to tell people that he still has a family relationship with Jack Foster and to prevent people from asking about him further.

“You must know that Stefan’s identity was top secret, right?” When she saw him nod, she continued. “If we use company money to set up his temporary office, many eyes will be curious why we built a super advanced computer room in this building,” Bella explained.

Leo suddenly understands Bella’s reason. Indeed, a few people in the company, especially in the finance department, will know about him.

“OK, Boss. I understand...”

“Thank you. How about his flight?”

“He already emailed me his flight schedule. He will land tomorrow at 10 a.m...”

“Good,” said Bella excitedly because she would be working alongside Stefan again, like before. She really needed him now to help her take care of her personal matters and many other things at Quantum Capital.

Leo asked Bella, “Are you sure you can go to the airport tomorrow? Did your hubby know about it?”

He doubted whether Bella could come with them to pick up Stefan. Following yesterday’s incident, Tristan may not allow her to go to public spaces like the airport.

Bella’s expression slowly turned worried, hearing Leo’s words. She knew what he was trying to say.

This morning, she heard from Sam that five people, Tristan’s guards, had been added to this building; they would guard her.

Tristan’s people will follow her around if she plans to go to the airport tomorrow. It would be a hassle to visit the airport with many people following her around, right!?

Two people are still OK. But five? That’s too much. People who saw her in the airport with five bodyguards following her probably thought she was a Hollywood movie star or a K-pop idol.

Bella slowly shook her head, trying to shake off those pictures in her mind.

Gosh!

She hated too much attention from other people.

‘It looks like I need to discuss this matter with Tristan.’

Silently taking a deep sigh, she said, “We will see tomorrow...”

They continued again discussing a few things about Stefan’s arrival arrangement and their subsidiary company.

Later,

Leo finally excused himself. However, before Leo could leave, Bella suddenly brought up the matter of Laura Kiels.

The last information Bella hears is that the police have already arrested a few people who have been spreading hoaxes about their company. But she doesn’t have time to open the Internet to read the public sentiment.

Instantly, the light in Leo's eyes turns brighter; he can't hold it anymore to tell Bella about it. He likes gossiping about those matters.

"Boss, the news about Stellar is almost gone. But, you won't believe the NEW trending news out there..." He grinned.

"Is there any other news that could overtake that woman's scandal?" She frowned.

"No. I mean... this isn't about Laura's fans but about Laura herself. Before I came here to meet you, the trending topic was discussed; all of Laura Kiels' social media accounts suddenly disappeared—" Leo stopped talking when something crossed his mind.

He paused and thought for a moment before asking, "Did you ask Stefan to delete all of Laura Kiels' social media?"

"I don't have much time to deal with Laura Kiels. Imprisoning her cyber army was enough to teach her a lesson and prevent her from returning to the entertainment business," Bella said, shaking her head slowly. "Why do I need to do anything else?" she chuckled.

"Hahaha..." suddenly Leo laughed. "You are right, Boss... You are right. But this is suspicious; I guess someone messed with her. Is this Boss Tristan's doing?"

Bella slightly frowned.

"Well, I don't know either."

She doubted her husband would do that. Tristan is now busy with his own company and doesn't have time to deal with lowlifes like Laura Kiels.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 247: The Frightened Laura Kiels
The same day, in the afternoon.

In one of the large villas, Laura Kiels was pacing in her bedroom.

Her face looked pale, frightened by the text message she had just received from an unknown phone number.

Laura had received an odd text message, but when she tried to confirm its contents with her manager, Robert, she discovered that his cell phone was still out of service — It had been three days since she had been able to contact Robert.

This was unusual because Robert never turned off his cell phone, so she started to become suspicious.

The short text message she received a few minutes ago convinced her even more that its contents were actual.

“What to do? What will I do if Robert really betrays me?”

She muttered softly as she continued pacing back and forth in the room. Occasionally, she tried to divert her worries, biting the tip of her thumb.

After a few minutes passed by, suddenly, a deep and charming voice came from the door.

“What happened, Laura?”

A deep and charming voice came from the door, making Laura stop in her tracks and turn to see at the door.

Laura’s lips formed a half-smile as she saw Marco, her fiancé, leaning on the door frame, looking at her. He looked charming in his black turtleneck, which covered his beautiful tattoo on his entire front neck. As she whispered his name, “Ma-Marco... Ba-Be...”

Her heart raced as she gazed at Marco’s familiar dark hair and intimidating gaze.

He always claimed her as his own, but she never felt secure in his arms.

Marco was so mysterious, and Laura struggled to understand his true intentions.

Despite her fear of his dangerous vibe, she pretended to be obedient and in love with him, concealing her true feelings in her heart.

“Babe, are you done with your work?” Laura asked, maintaining her Monalisa smile and ignoring his question.

She tried to appear calm even though her mind was preoccupied with debating whether to ask him for help finding her missing manager.

Before Laura could open her mouth to speak again, she saw Marco walk towards the seating area. He pulled his sleeves up, revealing his muscular arms, and gracefully sat on the sofa while she stared at him.

She stood in her place for a few seconds, looking at him with a fearful expression.

“Why are you looking at me like that, Laura? Is there anything that worries you?” Marco asked, gesturing for her to join him in the seating area. “Come, come, tell me...”

Laura did not answer immediately but approached the seating area and sat opposite him.

After thinking quickly, she finally decided to ask Marco for help. Again. She couldn't ignore the message she received, and suspicion now filled her mind.

She looked him in the eyes before saying, "Babe, please help me..." Her voice trembled slightly.

Marco slightly raised his eyebrow, confused by her frightening expression.

"What is it, Laura?"

"Someone sent me a message. That person informed me that my manager had turned his back on me. And he also warned me to get ready to end up in jail."

Laura told him everything about what she did to pay several buzzers and journalists to create negative news and publications about Stellar Entertainment.

She took another deep sigh before continuing, "Marco, Babe... this time, I really need your help..."

He didn't rush to answer her, but his eyes narrowed, staring at her teary eyes.

Silently, he sighed deeply; remember, this was the second time he had seen her cry and plead for help, and he couldn't refuse her beg. Not when this sexy and lusty girl could satisfy his need in bed.

After a few moments, Marco said, "Why are you afraid? As long as I'm here, no one can touch you. Well, unless you offended a certain person more powerful than me."

Laura immediately shook her head, confirming she didn't offend the particular family.

"Marco, don't worry, not them. I will not try to offend them. My enemy now is Arabella Donovan and her company, Quantum Capital, the same as before."

"Ah, she is..." A smile emerged from the corner of Marco's lips. "That's an easy target. So what do you want me to do?"

"I'm not asking you to teach Arabella Donovan, not now. But, please trace where Robert is. He has been missing in action for a few days, and his cellphone cannot be contacted. I'm afraid my enemy might have captured him and forced him to—"

Laura couldn't continue her words. She was too frightened to imagine if that really happened; Bella forced Robert to give evidence.

What bothered her now was that if Bella found evidence that she was involved in creating lousy press about her company, she would be in trouble and unable to return to this industry in the future.

"Okay! I'll call my people..." Marco calmly responded to her while dialing a number.

...

Before long...

Marco's phone rang again.

He immediately answered the call. It didn't take long; his face suddenly turned dark when he heard the bad news from his people on the other side.

A few moments later, Marco ended the call and turned his gaze to Laura, who looked anxious in her seat.

"My people found your manager. He is at the border, heading to another country. Looks like he's in a hurry to leave this country."

"WHAT!? Why? I mean... Why is he running away from me? Something suspicious happened to him, right!?"

"I think what you're afraid of is real. He betrayed you... my people said someone forced him to leave this country." Marco took a deep breath, thinking about this unimportant matter. He wanted to ignore it, but since Laura asked, he couldn't refuse.

Upon hearing that Robert had betrayed her, Laura clenched her hand into a tight fist.

"Babe, can I meet him? I need to ask him something important," she said.

Marco stood up from the chair, "Sure. Let's go..."

Laura immediately grabbed her bag and put on her jacket. She followed Marco, who walked ahead while making a call.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 248: Run!

Laura was taken aback when she realized they were boarding the helicopter to visit Robert.

After twenty minutes of flying, the helicopter landed in a remote location.

Once they got off the helicopter, Laura followed Marco, who was already walking ahead of her, as they approached a black SUV a few meters away.

They headed to the location using a car, and after ten minutes, they arrived at a rusty warehouse that looked like it had not been used for a long time.

Laura was very nervous following Marco inside the rusty warehouse. The vast building was empty, and a few robust men stood in the corner, waiting for them.

Just before Laura wanted to ask, her eyes fell on a familiar figure she met almost every day. The man's body was stocky, just like Robert, but his face looked unrecognizable and was covered in wounds.

Laura was puzzled.

"Robert!?" She muttered as she continued to approach the man who was sitting on a chair with his body tied to a rope. The man's eyes looked red, staring back at her.

Her step stopped a few meters from the man and then looked at Marco, who was standing right before her.

"Babe, is this man really my manager?" she asked in a low voice.

Marco nods while smiling at her. And he gestured for one of his people to approach them.

"L-Laura..." A barely audible sound escaped Robert's lips as soon as he saw Laura. He was happy to see her but frightened at the same time. If Laura and her fiancé knew what he did, they might kill him.

Robert sighs silently while trying to endure all the pain that still lingers in his body. His condition now seemed awfully miserable.

Laura didn't answer Robert immediately but looked at Marco's people, the long-haired man standing before them. She looked at the man, "You guys hit him?"

The long-haired man shook his head, "No, ma'am. We found him in this condition..."

She didn't say anything else to the man with long hair but turned her gaze again to Robert. Her hand clenched into a tight fist as she asked, "Who did this to you?"

Robert bitterly smiled, looking at the confusion and anger in Laura's eyes, enough to make him decide to be honest with her. He was too exhausted now. Either Laura and her fiancé would let him live or kill him later; he didn't care anymore.

“Laura, my suggestion to you...” Robert’s eyes stare into her eyes. “You better run away. You are so daring to offend someone... you should not. If you didn’t run, you would definitely end up just like me. They will capture you and perhaps throw you in jail...”

Instantly, Laura felt her blood running cold, hearing Robert’s warning. Her hands clenched even more tightly.

“Offended who?” She snapped. “What are you trying to say?”

“Tristan Sinclair!”

Laura was utterly shocked to hear that name. Suddenly, countless questions now appeared in her mind: Why does Tristan torture her manager? What’s his motive? Why is Robert saying Tristan will capture her, too? What is going on outside?

She remembered giving up on Tristan Sinclair and made a promise to Tristan’s mother that she would never appear before them again.

“Are you kidding, right?” Laura asked, only to reconfirm if she heard it wrong. “Robert, you lie to me, right?”

“No! I’m telling the truth...” Robert weakly answers. “Laura, please help me... let me go now. I can’t stay in this country, or Tristan Sinclair will come to collect my life.” His voice trembles as he pleads to Laura.

Not only was Laura shocked to hear Tristan’s name. But Marco also felt the same way.

Marco wasn’t afraid of many people in this country, but there were a few names he would not cross paths with. He was fearful of their power and connection. One of them was the Sinclair family, especially Tristan Sinclair.

“What the hell are you doing this time, Laura?” Marco’s cold stare is enough to make Laura’s face turn pale as she looks at him.

“Explain why you are having a connection again with that man. You said you no longer have a connection with him and his family. Why did he suddenly capture your manager?”

Marco started to doubt this woman’s honesty.

Laura opens her mouth a few times but fails to utter anything. She feels frightened hearing Tristan Sinclair’s name after what happened the last time she met Jessica Sinclair; that woman tortured her.

‘Did Jessica Sinclair ask Tristan to arrest my manager?’ Laura muttered angrily.

The Next Morning.

Stefan is expected to arrive in the city today. Still, Bella has decided not to pick him up from the airport because Tristan insists on following her to the airport.

She is concerned that someone might take photos of them if she and Tristan are seen together at the public airport. She doesn’t want to add a new problem; she already has many matters and responsibilities to bear.

...

Bella sits alone on the garden bench behind her Grandpa’s house, watching Dax doing his morning exercises near the lake with Geoffrey.

“You didn’t go to the office?”

Suddenly, Isaac Donovan’s voice came from behind.

Bella spots her Grandpa walking towards her. She smiles at him when he sits on the bench beside her.

“I will go after nine in the morning... right after our breakfast, Grandpa.”

“I see. Okay, if you think you must. By the way, where is Tristan?” Isaac is curious because Tristan didn’t show up at his house this morning when Bella and Dax joined him for breakfast.

“Tristan is already leaving for the office; he has a meeting early this morning,” Bella answered.

She knew Tristan was speeding up his meeting because he wanted to accompany her to the airport.

However, this morning, she decided to punish him. She didn’t pick up Stefan, so Tristan was forced to go to the office early in the morning.

Bella feels amused remembering how miserable Tristan was before he headed to his office.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 249: Being Honest To Her Grandpa

“Tristan is so hardworking...” Isaac chuckled and turned to see Bella. “You don’t have to work so hard to build someone else’s company, dear. Stay at home and play with Dax... Let Tristan work hard.”

Isaac is concerned to see her working hard. He thought his granddaughter was unaware that her life was no longer miserable, unlike when she was alone in a foreign land.

Bella smiled, hearing her grandfather’s words.

“Grandpa, thank you for your concern. But I can’t stop working because I can’t abandon and ignore my responsibilities to my company. I have to work—”

“Do they pay you so well that you don’t want to resign?” Isaac interrupted her before Bella could finish her words. “My dear granddaughter, I could infinitely send you money every month to replace the salary they pay you. Or are you worried about breaching the contract?” he asked, his tone showing a genuine concern.

She took a deep sigh, thinking about whether to just tell him the truth or not.

“I will send my lawyer to meet them,” Isaac continues his sentence. He can’t stand seeing his granddaughter suffer again while working for someone else.

This was actually Isaac Donovan’s concern when he learned of Bella’s work in the company.

When Isaac knew that Tristan was chasing Bella back after divorcing her five years ago, he specifically asked Tristan to ask Bella to stop working and become a stay-at-home wife and mother instead. But Tristan had reported to him that he also failed to ask her to resign from her company. Tristan said he was too afraid to force her, fearing she would be angry and refuse to return to him.

Bella can’t help but laugh when she hears her grandpa’s words, which causes Isaac to raise his brow slightly, confused with her laugh.

“Grandpa...” Bella said after her laugh subsided. “Well, I’m not working for someone else. I actually work for my own company.”

Instantly, Isaac’s expression turned shocked. He didn’t expect Bella to own a company.

“Y-You own a company?”

“Yes, Grandpa.” She smiles, looking at her grandpa’s comically shocked expression.

“If I’m not mistaken, you work at Quantum Capital? The investment company, right?”

Isaac knows from Nick the details about Bella's company; Quantum Capital is not a new company, but it was founded in the country several years ago. How could the company be hers?

"Did Tristan set up a company for you when you married?" Isaac asked again. This is the only reason that could come to his mind now.

She almost choked to hear that.

"Of course not, Grandpa. I established a company with my college friend..."

Bella explained to Isaac how she met rich kids like Jack Foster and Harper Reed while studying for her master's degree in the USA. Her intelligence impressed Jack and Harper, who invited her to join them in setting up a company.

They recognized her contribution to the company's formation and granted her free shares. Although Bella is not a significant shareholder, her shares provide substantial dividends, allowing her to live comfortably. Her involvement in the company's management also helped to bring Stefan, their powerful hacker, on board.

...

Isaac gaped at Bella's story. He knew that Bella was no ordinary woman. Her intelligence was high; she could be considered a genius. Therefore, she was one of the students selected for the acceleration program while studying in this country, and she received a full scholarship to continue her master's degree in America.

However, it's hard for him to believe that going to the US would bring her into contact with rich young people. And now, she is one of the shareholders of Quantum Capital.

"Bella, congratulations, my granddaughter... congratulations... Grandpa is very proud of you." Isaac was delighted to hear that. His granddaughter was not an ordinary woman but someone with great talent and a business owner.

"Thanks, grandfather. But please don't tell anyone about this. So far... No one knows, only you."

"Wait," Isaac raised his eyebrows again, surprised by her words. "Tristan doesn't know?"

"Hmm, I haven't told him yet."

"Hahaha..." Isaac suddenly burst out laughing. He was so happy he was the first to know about Bella's big secret.

"Huh!? Why do you laugh, Grandpa?"

“I’m just happy. Good... Good... don’t tell Tristan about it. Later, if he messes around again, just slap him because you’re not an ordinary person, either. You own your company, too. Even though your company is much smaller than the Sinclair Group, he will definitely be shocked to know that...”

Bella, “...”

“Grandpa, it seems you didn’t hear my explanation carefully.” Bella smiled faintly.

“Huh!? Am I wrong?”

“Yes.”

“What?” Isaac was confused. “Which one? You said you own a company, right?”

“I mean... My company is no smaller than the Sinclair Group.”

Isaac was speechless and unable to say anything. He could only clear his throat because he was shocked that Bella’s company’s growth was more significant than the Sinclair Group.

After a moment, he said, “I thought Quantum Capital was a middle-level company...? No?”

“Quantum Capital in this country is indeed small. However, our parent company is based in New York...” Bella explained. “Has grandfather ever heard about the RDF Group?”

As the Donovan Group’s founder, Isaac knows about several well-known investment companies abroad. RDF Group is one of the companies he often hears about, one of the top ten companies in the world’s investment sector.

“Your parent company, RDF Group?” Isaac couldn’t believe his ears. If it were converted to Donovan Group, that company would be too big, like the Earth and Sky.

“Yeah, that’s the name of my parent company. It’s one of the investment companies that plays a big role in today’s world economy.” A proud smile slowly appears on her lips.

“And you are one of their founders and shareholders?”

“Yes...” Bella laughed when she saw him seem to doubt her. “Grandpa, you seem not to believe me?” she narrowed her eyes at him.

Isaac didn't answer immediately, but the look in his eyes clearly answered Bella's question.

"Actually, the company uses the founder's last name."

Instantly, Isaac's eyes widened before he could ask, "D, does that mean Donovan?"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 250: Isaac Has a Heart Attack!

"Actually, the company uses the founder's last name."

Instantly, Isaac's eyes widened before he could ask, "D, does that mean Donovan?"

Bella slightly nods before explaining, "The R is from Harper Reed's last name, the F is from Jack Foster's last name, and yes, that's right, Grandpa... the D is from my last name, Donovan."

'Do-Donovan...' Isaac Donovan felt a massive wave of emotions rise within him, making his blood rush and his heart beat even faster. He was so shocked to know the top company, RDF Group, bears his name.

Isaac narrowed his eyes, looking at Bella, while he raised his hand and made a sign gesture.

Before long, Nick appeared at his side. "Master, do you need..." Nick paused when he saw Isaac's face turn pale. "Wh-What happens, sir? Why does your face look so—"

"Ni-Nick... Hurry... Hurry... take my heart medicine..." Isaac said while stroking his chest. "This little girl just gave me a heart attack..."

Nick no longer said anything but marched toward the house.

Bella panics when she sees her Grandpa seeming in pain. "Gr-Grandpa, are you alright?" she says while holding his hand. She is frightened, looking at how pale her Grandpa's face is now.

"No... No... I'm not alright. And you! You have to tell me everything later about your company..."

Bella, "..."

"Let's go to the hospital, Grandpa. Let me drive for you." Bella's voice trembled.

"No need! I only need my med, and everything is fine."

“Grandpa, I overheard you ask Nick for your heart attack medication. This is serious, and we can’t take any risks with your health,” Bella said.

When she saw him not saying anything but keeping his gaze fixed on her, Bella felt even more worried. She took her cell phone out of her pocket.

“I will call the ambulance...”

Before she could dial a number, Nick arrived with his two hands holding something—a glass of water and med.

“Master, this is your med...” Nick offers it with worry. However, Isaac didn’t take it. His eyes also don’t look at Nick; instead, he looks toward the lake.

Bella was confused about why her Grandfather looked so relaxed; he ignored Nick, who brought him medicine. When she saw him smile, she became even more confused. Just before she wanted to speak, her Grandfather stood up from his seat.

“My dearest boy! Are you done with exercising your martial arts?” Isaac’s voice sounded cheerful while approaching Dax, who had just finished his exercise. He took Dax’s hand and walked toward the house. “How about if we eat now? You must be starving, huh?”

“Grandpa, I drenched in sweat. Would you mind if I shower first before breakfast?” Dax politely asked with a smile as he turned to his mother, who was still sitting on the bench. “Mom, are you okay? I can tell you looked...shocked,” he asked, confused at her blank expression.

Not only did Bella have that expression, but Nick did, too. He was rendered speechless, looking at his master, who looked healthy. Earlier, he panicked when he heard him asking for his heart medicine. But now? He looked terrific. Is he really that fine?

Bella snapped out of hearing Dax’s words. She smiled at him before responding calmly, “I’m fine, Baby...” Still, inwardly, she was venting her frustration toward her Grandfather.

‘Gosh! How could Grandpa pretend to have a heart attack just like that? And make me frightened!?’

“Really, Mom? You look weird now.”

“Yeah, mommy is fine...”

While Bella and Dax exchanged words, Nick couldn’t hide his curiosity and worry. He asked, “Old Master, are you really fine? How about this med?”

Isaac didn't rush to answer Nick's curiosity; instead, he turned his gaze toward Bella. With his unhurried tone, he said, "I'm fine. I was just trying to scare that little girl...I mean Dax's Mother..."

Dax, confused hearing his great-grandpa's words, looked up to see him in the eyes. "Mommy makes you angry, Grandpa?"

"Yes, but only a little. Grandpa thinks your mommy is hiding something from Grandpa..." Isaac gently smiled at Dax. "Alright, let's go inside... You must be starving, right?"

Dax answered him with a "Hmmm..." he was indeed starving now.

After Isaac and Dax left, Bella and Nick still stood where they were while watching Isaac and Dax's backs disappear behind the door.

No one spoke for a moment. They seemed lost in their thoughts.

They both still feel dumbfounded to know Isaac was actually only pranking them.

Geoffrey, who has finished teaching Dax, joins them.

However, he was surprised when he saw Bella and Nick standing motionless in their place like cosplaying statues. He was confused when he saw Nick holding a glass of water and carrying medicine in his other hand. Who was sick?

Curious to know, Geoffrey can't help but ask.

"Young madam... Nick... what happened? Why do you both look like this!?"

Nick and Bella jolted out of their own thoughts and looked at Geoffrey, surprised.

Bella is the one who responds first. A half-smile slowly appears on her lips.

"I...I'm fine, Geoffrey. Thank you for your hard work." She awkwardly said, leaving without giving Geoffrey a chance to say anything.

Geoffrey frowned slightly as he looked at Nick, "What just happened, Nick, my man? Who is sick? And why does the young madam look incredibly annoyed?"

"Nothing... See you around, G!" Nick hurried to follow Bella inside the house. He was still curious why his master pranked them.

Geoffrey, "...."

“Why does everyone look so weird today?” he mumbled while returning to Tristan’s house. He needed to prepare himself for another sudden task: driving the young madam to her office.

...

The lively and eventful morning finally ended.

Bella headed to her office with Geoffrey. No bodyguards rode in their car, only the two of them.

However, Bella was immediately aware that their car was not alone. She could spot a few cars shadowing theirs from the rearview mirror, but she didn’t ask Geoffrey anything. She already knew; those cars must be Tristan’s people.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 251: SHOCKING NEWS!

Their car finally arrived at the Quantum Capital building. Bella thanked Geoffrey and asked him to return home as she didn’t need him. She planned to stay at her office until Tristan arrived to pick her up later.

After reaching the nineteenth floor, she went straight to her office and started working. She had enough time before Stefan’s arrival.

Bella immediately became immersed in the pile of files on the table. She needed to read several documents containing the business proposals of several companies they wanted to invest in.

However, thirty minutes later, a text notification distracted her. She lazily glanced at her cell phone and read Leo’s name.

‘Huh!? Why is he texting!?’

Bella’s mind was suddenly preoccupied with horrible scenarios. She imagined that something might have happened to Leo, who was supposed to have arrived at the airport to pick up Stefan.

Without delay, she set aside the paper she had been reading and opened her text messages to check the text messages.

[Leo] Check out this SHOCKING NEWS!

[Leo] Link to article.

[Leo] (Shocked Emoji)

Bella turned on her laptop and opened the link that Leo sent her. Just reading the news title shocked her.

[Laura Kiels's Manager Found Dead In A Car Accident!]

"Laura's manager? Robert..." Bella muttered and started to read the article.

A few minutes later, her hands clenched into tight fists.

"Why did he suddenly die!?"

Countless questions now appeared in her mind upon reading about Robert's sudden death.

"Why did this man meet his death when we needed him to expose Laura Kiels in court!?"

Bella and her team already knew that Robert was only a messenger to pay for all the buzzers. Still, Laura Kiels must be the mastermind behind it.

She heard the police were about to call Robert a few days ahead to be questioned as a witness.

But now, he's dead. How can they catch and expose Laura Kiels as the mastermind behind Stellar Entertainment's smearing campaign?

Instantly, Bella began to assume that Laura's manager's death was not just a simple accident. Someone must have caused his death, right!?

"Damn it! Laura Kiels! How dare you erase our witness by killing him?" Bella was getting increasingly annoyed with this situation.

This is why she needs Stefan in this city. She has many enemies for her to monitor.

Just like this case, Bella believes this is not a simple death; this is not a mere car accident, but someone killed Robert.

For several seconds, Bella sat in her place while reading another article.

Later,

Bella decided to call Sam.

Not long after, Sam appeared. She asked him to sit for a moment before she joined him.

Sitting opposite Sam, she asked, "What about the Sentinel Network progress?"

Sam explained in detail their progress over the last few days.

“Several members of the Sentinel Network who are not on special assignments have been directed to come to this country to help and teach new members; everything is under control...”

Bella listened carefully without interrupting him.

“We have about twenty-five senior members here and fifty new members. The senior members are paired with two new members and spread across the country to collect information about our company. But, as you requested, we placed more people in Nova City to investigate Celebes Energy. And also in this city...”

Sam continued, “So, yeah, we are rapidly growing here. I believe we will operate like other branches, faster than I thought. Maybe around next month...”

“You’ve worked hard, Sam. I really appreciate it.” Bella sincerely praised him. This fast progress was enough for their company, Quantum Capital, to grow faster.

“Boss, don’t say that. This is part of my job...” Sam chuckled, hearing her praise.

Sam liked doing this kind of job because he could still use his abilities when he was active in the military and help his retired brother-in-arms from his special force division to work again.

Bella smiled, hearing his humble words. She immediately asked him why he called her now.

“Sam, did you read the news?”

“Not yet. I’ve been busy briefing with my team since this morning. Is there any news about Stellar Entertainment again?” Sam asked worriedly.

The bad news about the company lately was definitely not in their favor, and he knew it was stressing out Bella.

“No. But this is about Laura Kiels’ manager, Robert. You know him, right?”

“Yes, of course, I know him. You asked me to follow him. But Boss... I’m really sorry. We tried to locate him in the last two days but failed to find him.” Sam feels ashamed that he can’t do his job properly.

Bella took a deep breath before telling Sam that Robert was found dead in a car accident this morning. His car went into a ravine, and it was indicated he was driving drunk.

“What?” Sam was shocked. “How come he died like that? Why do I feel strange to hear that!?” Sam didn’t expect the person they were looking for now to be dead. “Robert’s death seems suspicious...”

Bella could only laugh bitterly when she heard Sam’s words. They have similar thoughts. She also suspects Robert’s death was not a mere car accident.

“That’s why I called you here, Sam. I want you to deploy your members to conduct investigations in the field, at his residence, or wherever he was last seen. Ask your people to look for anything suspicious at the place where he had the accident...” Bella ordered.

Bella could ask Stefan to find CCTV footage, but she believes if someone killed Robert, they must have deleted all the CCTV footage, right?

“I will immediately order our people to investigate now...” Sam is excited. This is the first significant case they have to handle since he formed a new team.

“Good! But be careful not to attract anyone’s attention. We are new to this country... I don’t want certain people in this country to notice our Sentinel Network.”

“Sure, Boss.” Sam smiles at Bella. He believes his people’s talent makes tasks like this easy for them. “Anything else, boss?”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 252: Call From Amanda Spencer

“Sure, Boss. Consider it done.” Sam smiles at Bella. He believes his people’s talent makes tasks like this easy for them.

“Anything else, boss?”

“Did you send a few people to protect our new guy? I mean... Gael’s arrival!? You know him, right?”

Sam nods.

“Yes, of course. Mr. Gael Foster is Mr. Jack’s precious family. I can reassure you that I know how to take care of him, Boss...” Sam convinced Bella. He already knew Gael Foster was one of the precious people in the company they must protect. “Besides, Mr. Jack sent a few capable men flying with him...And some of them even in disguise...”

Bella can't help but smile, knowing how protective Jack is toward Stefan. And Jack is the kind of man that will prepare for the worst.

Sam didn't know Gael Foster's exact job at the company; he only heard rumors that Gael was a computer expert. However, Sam did know that Gael had as many security forces as those protecting Jack Foster and Harper Reed. He is an important figure in the company—just like their founder.

That's why Sam is shocked when he discovers that Gael is flying to this country and will stay for several months.

'How could someone as important as Gael Foster decide to come to this country?' This question has been bothering him lately.

When Sam asked his contact at the head office, they also didn't know why Gael had suddenly relocated to Astington.

"Oh, Jack did?" Bella didn't hear anything from Jack about it. She thought Stefan would travel in lowkey, using his other identity. She knows Stefan has several identities he usually uses.

"Yes, I got word from the head of the Sentinel Network New York about this. And they asked me to take care of him during his lengthy stay in this city..." Sam explained.

Bella laughed inwardly, thinking several bodyguards were following Stefan.

She could imagine Stefan would become anxious with so many people around him and might be complaining; he had always hated being the center of attention, just like her.

They talked about a few other things for a few minutes before Sam excused himself. He needs to do what Bella asked and investigate Laura Kiels' Manager.

...

After Sam left the room, Bella didn't immediately get up from the sofa. Her mind was busy thinking about the death of Robert, Laura Kiels' manager.

Countless questions emerge in her mind that need to be addressed. And all of this makes her head begin to hurt.

"Gosh! Why does this bitch, Laura, always make me uneasy? Why does she always feel like a pain in the ass in my life?"

Bella's memories reel back to the past and how things might have been different if she hadn't heard the gossip between Tristan and Laura that night at the hospital.

If she hadn't heard the rumors—Tristan came with Laura Kiels to meet Obygym—she may not have faced the challenges of living in a foreign country and raising her son Dax alone. That night, she had considered giving Tristan a second chance. Still, the false rumors had ruined her mood about nearly everything.

When she returned to this country and took an offer from Quantum Capital, who would have thought that this damn woman Laura Kiels was one of the talents in her company!?

Gosh!

What makes Bella hate Laura Kiels even more is that she joined hands with her mother-in-law, Jessica Sinclair, to trick Tristan into getting pregnant.

Bella took a deep breath, feeling her head even more hurt, only thinking those things.

She shook her head slightly, trying to put the source of her headache, Laura Kiels, out of her mind. She no longer wanted to have a connection with that bitch, hoping this matter would be solved faster.

“Haaaah!”

Bella took a deep breath as she stood and walked towards her desk. Just before she wanted to continue working, her cell phone rang.

She was surprised to see Amanda Spencer's name written on her cell phone screen.

“Amanda Spencer... How could I forget about her?”

Instantly, Bella felt utterly sorry because she had promised to call her when she arrived in this city, but she had completely forgotten about it.

After clearing her throat a few times to relax her voice, Bella immediately answered the phone.

“Hi, Sis Amanda,” Bella greeted her awkwardly. “I'm really sorry I haven't called you yet... I'm slightly busy handling a few things in the company,” she said apologetically.

Bella walked over to the glass wall behind her desk. She stood there, looking at the passing vehicles on the street below, trying to distract her nervousness.

“Hi, Bella, you don't have to apologize,” Amanda Spencer's gentle and relaxed tone rang from the other end. “Instead, I'm the one who should apologize to you, dear. Because I'm bothering you...”

“Oh, no... no... sis. You are not bothering me. Even though I have been quite busy the past few days, I plan to call you in a few days ahead,” Bella explained quickly, worried Amanda would misunderstand her.

After returning from Nova City, she was distracted by the gangster who attacked her and Laura Kiels’ matters, so she completely forgot about her promise to Amanda.

On the other end, Amanda chuckled lightly before speaking.

“Bella, I could understand that.” Suddenly, Amanda’s voice sounded worried. “I called you because I just wanted to ensure you were okay. Well, I read the news about your company, Stellar Entertainment, on the internet...”

Since yesterday, Amanda has refrained from calling Bella because she worries it will bother her. But today, after she read the increasingly hot news about Laura Kiels’ manager’s death, Amanda could no longer resist the urge to call Bella. She really wanted to offer her help for Bella, as she also owned an entertainment company and had handled similar cases in the past.

Bella was surprised to hear Amanda was concerned about her and her company’s well-being. This woman had not met her in person but was already worried about her. She feels her heart slightly warm.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 253: Finally, Meet Stefan

Bella was surprised to hear Amanda was concerned about her and her company’s well-being. This woman had not met her in person but was already worried about her. She feels her heart slightly warm.

However, the warmth in Bella’s heart instantly vanished when she remembered who Amanda was. Her heart tightened, and she felt even more pressure to meet with Amanda Spencer to explain her relationship with Sean.

“Thank you, Sister Amanda, for your concern,” Bella said, unsure of how much Sean had revealed to Amanda about their relationship. She was eager to meet with Amanda and hear her side of things before expressing her thoughts and feelings.

There was silence for a few seconds before Amanda stated, “Bella, please tell me if you need my help.”

Once more, Amanda’s sincere tone gave Bella a guilty feeling in her heart. She felt Amanda seemed to like her. What exactly did she think about her? Did Amanda know she was a mother?

Another silent sigh escaped Bella’s lips before responding to Amanda.

“Thanks, sister, but my team could handle everything so far...” Bella immediately dismissed Amanda’s offer. She needs to draw a line between them.

She continued her words hastily to change the direction of the conversation. “Sis Amanda, about our meeting. I might be able to meet you tomorrow. Is that okay?”

“Wow, really!?”

“Yes, sis...” Bella slightly smiled when she heard Amanda’s happy laugh on the other end.

“Sounds great, Bella. I can’t wait to meet you. Please let me know the place. You can choose any place you like. I will ensure to spare my time and come to our meeting...” Amanda couldn’t conceal her happiness. Finally, Bella agreed to meet her.

“Okay, sis. I’ll contact you tomorrow...”

“Sure, dear. I will look forward to your call...” Amanda Spencer answered enthusiastically.

After politely chit-chatting about recently popular restaurants and whatnot, Bella finally ended the phone call.

However, she didn’t return to her desk right away; she stood there with her mind, thinking about Sean Spencer. Weeks passed, and Sean answered none of the short messages she sent, making her even more restless.

“Where are you, Sean? I hope you are fine there and return to our country soon! We need to talk...” Bella whispered bitterly.

After another few minutes...

Bella took a deep breath before sinking back into the pile of documents she needed to read.

She was so absorbed in her work that she didn’t hear the knock on the door.

Before long,

A familiar voice rang in the room.

“Sister Bella, after flying for dozens of hours to meet you, but... you completely ignored me!? You are so heartless, sis...”

Bella suddenly looked up to see a young man standing before her. It was Stefan. His appearance hadn't changed much since she last saw him. His face was still pale, and his gaze was deep.

He wore his usual attire: an oversized hoodie and jeans. Despite being in his late twenties, he looked very young. Large, rectangular, black-rimmed glasses perched on his sharp nose.

Bella's smile grew wider as she stood up from her seat.

"Finally, you have arrived, my little brother..." Bella welcomed Stefan with a warm hug. "Why are you taller than me now?" she said as she let go of her hug and looked at Stefan from head to toe.

"Ooo, please, Sis... I was taller than you when we met before. Don't distort the facts," Stefan smiled at her. "Sis, I'm starving now; the food on the plane was so bad, I couldn't eat it at all," he sighed deeply while rubbing his flat tummy.

"Didn't you take a first-class flight?"

"Yeah, I did..."

"The food is usually delicious. You can even request the type of food you want, and the airliner usually has a chef on board..." Bella said, slightly raising her eyebrow. "Are you really flying first class or business class?"

"I'm not sure," Stefan laughs while scratching his head. "Bro Leo, did I..." He glances at Leo behind.

"First class..." Leo answered him.

"Hahaha... I forgot to ask them to change my meal. So, I just decided to sleep and play a game during the flight."

"You!" Bella punches his shoulder lightly.

Stefan didn't dodge Bella's gentle and tiny fist. Instead, he drew closer to her and whispered, "Sis, you know what? I asked your secretary to stop by to buy some food before coming to this place, but he didn't let me..." He said in his miserable tone, but Bella, who heard that, felt amused.

'Jeez! This kid!! We have only met for a few minutes, but he's already complaining about the food. Since when did he become a foodie like me? Has Jack spoiled him that much in New York?' Bella chuckled inwardly.

But she can't blame him, too; this is almost lunchtime.

"Alright, let's eat. I already asked someone to prepare our lunch," Bella glanced at Leo, who was still leaning against the door frame. "Leo, is lunch ready upstairs?"

But Leo seemed not to hear her. He was drawn into his thoughts, worried about staying in the same house with Stefan.

This is the first time they have met in person; all this time, Leo has never crossed paths with Stefan when he was still working for Jack in New York. He did see Stefan, but at that time, he knew his name was Gael, Jack's family.

Recently, Leo learned from Bella that Gael's real name was Stefan, and he was actually their hacker.

After just a few minutes of talking with Stefan in the car, Leo's first impression was that this young man was too chatty and complained a lot. He didn't expect their top hacker to be a man who loved to chat and had a sharp tongue.

And, just now, before his eyes...

This young man also complained to Bella because he refused to stop by the convenience store. It wasn't because he didn't want to, but because the security team had warned them to head straight to Quantum Capital.

Thinking they will share a house in the next few months, Leo feels an instant headache; he can picture his peaceful life starting to run away from him. He silently takes a deep sigh and puts aside his worries.

"Leo? Did you hear me?"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 254: Mother!?

"Leo? Did you hear me?"

"Huh!?! Sorry?" Leo slightly raises his brow, confused.

"How about lunch?"

"Ah, Yes...yes... My secretary has prepared it. We can go straight upstairs!" Leo responds while smiling at her.

"Alright, shall we go upstairs?"

“Terrific! Let’s go,” Stefan said excitedly, but later, he yawned. “Ugh! I think I’m still jet-lagged...I feel like I want to sleep...”

“I’m sorry, Stefan, but you can’t sleep now! There are so many things we need to discuss. Besides, I still miss hearing about your life lately, my ‘lil bro,” Bella said, pulling him to walk faster.

Their lunch went by so fast.

After lunch, Bella, Stefan, and Leo continued the discussion in the living room. They discussed the biggest priorities they would investigate.

Their current focus was on resolving Stellar Entertainment’s matter related to that damn woman, Laura Kiels.

Apart from that, Bella also assigned Stefan to start her plan to destroy the Donovan Group. She would make factual but negative news about the company to lower its stock market price and force all shareholders to sell their shares to her anonymous company at a considerably lower price.

This time, Bella would no longer see her uncles and father as part of her family but as enemies. She would not allow them to hurt her anymore.

Even though she felt hurt for doing so, she had no choice. They had pressured her so much that she thought she was at a dead end where she could only fight to survive.

‘But how about Mother...!?’

The thought of her mother suddenly caused her heart to tremble, and a wave of emotions engulfed her. Unknowingly, her hands formed into tight fists as she attempted to suppress her anger.

As a mother, Bella could empathize with the pain her own mother went through to become Lucas Donovan’s wife. Her father was a narcissistic and manipulative man who never truly loved or cared about his wife. For her father, a wife was merely a woman who would bear a child, not a mutual partner.

Bella knows precisely how miserable her mother’s life is. Still, she also doesn’t understand why her mother never fought back when her father abused her!? Bella believed her mother blindly devoted her life only to her father.

‘Should I call her?’ This question consistently appears in Bella’s mind, especially when her brother Henry tells her their mother misses her.

However, Bella never dared to dial her mother's cell phone number.

"Sister Bella, for Donovan Group, it is an easy task for me. I already collected many things about that company when you asked me to eye your scum brother, Henry..." Stefan casually said, but enough to make Bella pull out of her thoughts.

She looks at him, smiles, and gives him a thumbs-up, praising him for his efficiency.

"When do you want me to do this?" Stefan asked.

"You can start when you are ready. The faster, the better. I must settle my family matters before I begin dealing with my husband's family." Bella said calmly but smiled faintly when she saw Stefan and Leo's faces turn stiff. "Why do you guys look scared?"

"Damn, Bella! You still have not yet settled with Boss Tristan's parents?" Leo, who knows how bad Bella's relationship with her in-law is, starts worrying about her. He didn't want this girl to suffer again to enter the Sinclair family.

"Wait... Wait..." Stefan chimed in. His brow wrinkled slightly as he looked at Bella. "I am genuinely curious about this and wanted to ask you since you seem to have confirmed that you have accepted your husband's wish to come back to you..."

Bella maintains her calmness, even though she feels worried about Stefan's question. "Okay. I have considered you as family, as my little brother. So, I'll let you know. What do you want to know?" she asked.

"Why did you let him return to you again, sis? Jack told me that your husband divorced you and that he didn't love you and was one hell of a womanizer!"

Bella almost choked to hear his words.

"Yes, that was what everyone knew about Tristan. But Tristan, my husband, is not like that at all. From the last few months of being close and speaking heart-to-heart with him, I know he loves me and has never been a womanizer. By the way, what exactly did Jack say to you?" She narrowed her eyes on Stefan.

"Are you sure he loves you, sis?" Stefan ignored Bella's words and continued to doubt her. "Sis, Mr. Tristan Sinclair is incredibly handsome, even in the eyes of men! And he is also super rich! Don't you think you might be tempted by those traits and not by his actual feelings for you?"

Bella, "..."

Leo almost laughed hearing this naïve and innocent Stefan's words.

“Tsk! Stefan...why don't you stop being a wise-ass kid! Tristan Sinclair is madly in love with Boss Bella. I saw it with my eyes and heard it with my own ears,” Leo responds to Stefan's silly question. He has already met Tristan a few times, and how Tristan looks and speaks at Bella clearly shows his profound love and admiration for her.

“Oh, he better be! Because...if this time he tries to ruin my sister's life again, I vow I will whack Tristan Sinclair's head!”

Leo, “...”

“Are you sure you can beat Tristan Sinclair, kid? Have you seen him? He was so big and taller than you, kid... With only one flick from him, you already fly like a kite,” Leo chuckled as he saw how pale and thin Stefan was.

Stefan narrowed his eyes at Leo before his laugh echoed through the room.

“HA HA HA...” Stefan laughed a loud pretend laugh while holding his stomach, hearing Leo's ridiculous words.

Leo, “...”

Bella also wore the same expression as Leo.

They both have a similar question: Why does Stefan suddenly laugh? Did something possess him!?

After his laugh subsided, Stefan's friendly gaze slowly turned cold, staring at Leo. But only for a second, as his cold gaze turned warm when he turned to look at Bella, “Sis, did bro Leo know my last name?” he asked gently.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 255: Leo's Nightmare

“I guess, no! Why?”

“How about you?”

“Of course, I know... Petrovich, right?”

“Mmm. You are right, sis.” Stefan smiles. “Maybe you both didn't know, but I suggest you guys search who the Petrovich family is—especially you, bro Leo. Search that name now, and you will know whether I'm a weak person or not.”

Leo, “...”

He didn't want to waste his time entertaining Stefan and didn't care who the Petrovich family was. But looking at Stefan's proud and disdainful expression now, he had no choice but to take a look.

"Don't tell your family is a military family or related to your president?" Leo casually said while typing the search engine on her cell phone. He can't come from a prestigious family, right?

"Or, your family owns some kind of martial arts..." Leo's words faded suddenly when he read the article on his cell phone. A few moments later, he looked at Stefan in shock.

"Fuck! Your family is—"

"Yeah! So now you know, right?" Stefan proudly said.

After finishing their discussion, Bella finally bid goodbye.

She still needs to settle a few pending tasks before Tristan comes to pick her up.

However, before Bella went downstairs to her office, she remembered Sam and the task she had assigned him. Her steps halted before she entered the elevator and turned to look at Stefan standing behind her.

"Stefan, I forgot to ask you to investigate the death of Robert, Laura Kiels' manager."

"Oh, that fat and unattractive man is finally dead!?" Stefan immediately corrected himself when he saw Bella's sharp gaze as if she were scolding him with her eyes. "Oops... I'm sorry... I mean, why did he die?" he asked with a guilty smile.

"It's a lengthy story. You can search online for details of his accident. But I want you to investigate his death more thoroughly, based not only on what's on the internet but also on police and morgue reports and based on the places he was days before and right upon his untimely death," she paused, glancing at Leo, who stood beside Stefan.

Bella returned her gaze to Stefan again before continuing, "You see, Stefan, I believe his death was unnatural. I suspect someone murdered him."

"What? Someone killed him?" Leo shouted, surprised by what he heard. He hadn't considered it; he had simply assumed Robert died due to negligence.

"Yeah, I suspect his death isn't as simple as the news out there," Bella responds to Leo and turns to Stefan again. "Stefan, I have our people, Sam, from Sentinel Network to investigate the fields, but with your help, we might get faster information about the exact cause of Robert's death."

“Okay, understood, sister. I’ll gather all the related information that might help us to get a clearer picture of the case and report it to you later.”

Stefan started thinking the same as Bella because Robert was the key person they needed to testify in court. If he suddenly died, that meant someone wanted to bury him along with the evidence. And only one person came to his mind who was capable of doing so; it was Laura Kiels.

“Thank you, little brother.” Bella smiled as she continued walking towards the elevator, but her hand still held the door from closing. “And you need to rest first before working. We can talk about it again tomorrow...”

“You know me so well, sis. I indeed need to lie on the large, soft bed...” He laughs.

Stefan felt sleepy and tired now. He felt like his body was being torn apart. He really hated long-distance flights. This is why he only lived in NY in the past five years, never flew long hours, let alone intercontinental flights, and didn’t even visit his family in Europe.

“Good! Okay. Get your badly needed rest, and we’ll talk again later. Bye...”

“Wait... Wait... One more thing, sister,” Stefan runs forward to stop the elevator door before closing. “There’s something I forgot to ask... does Sam know about my real identity?”

“I haven’t told him your real ID. So, I guess not. Are you alright if I told him!?” Bella asked. “And I think it would be best if he knows. Because, it would be troublesome if Sam were unaware of you since Sam leads the Sentinel Network in this country. He will work intensely with you in the future. So, do you agree?”

Stefan ran his finger through his hair before responding to her, “Sure, sure. It’s fine. I know him from his confidential profile. He is indeed a trusted person... I can see why Jack put so much trust in him to protect you here.”

“Perfect! You know what, as an icebreaking between you and Sam, you can tell him about your real ID when you meet him later,” Bella smiled at Stefan warmly even though her tone was assertive.

Before the door closed, she turned her gaze to Leo and said, “Leo, would you mind taking care of my little brother Stefan here? And be less...you...on him, will you?”

Leo rolls his eyes at her. He knows what Bella is referring to.

Earlier, he complained to her about how Stefan would disturb his peaceful, solo life.

However, of course, Bella only gave him a grin and wise words, “Hang in there, bro...”

Sigh! How shameless she is!

Leo silently sighed and turned to walk inside, but a hand landed on his shoulder before he could move. It completely shocked him—he hated someone touching him when he was least expecting, regardless of gender or age.

He vented his sarcasm while turning to scold Stefan. But when he saw his expression, he could feel his blood shiver.

‘What the hell is this kiddo doing? Look at me like he saw me as a treasure!?! And why is his smile different from before?’

Leo recalls how Stefan has tested his patience since meeting at the airport. However, now he seems completely different, overly clingy and needy, and he could see his eyes spark like gems.

‘Fuck! Is he—’

Leo was too scared to continue his thoughts. He immediately shook his head to throw away the idea that this man was actually gay.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 256: Spring Has Fully Arrived

‘Fuck! Is he—’ Leo was too scared to continue his thoughts. He immediately shook his head to throw away the idea that this man was actually gay.

“Bro Leo, can you show me my room? I’m freaking tired and need to sleep now...”
Stefan yawned.

Leo silently swallowed, turning to see Stefan’s hand on his shoulder. This was the first time a man he had just met dared touch him.

After adjusting his shocked expression, Leo answered him casually. “Sure, man...” He smiled awkwardly. His eyes fixed on Stefan’s hand, squeezing his shoulder.

Unable to hold back any longer, Leo turned to meet his eyes.

“Okay. By the way, for your future reference, I don’t like people touching me when I’m not expecting a touch. You know...like when we’re handshaking, that’s fine. But other than that kind of situation, it’s not fine. And it is regardless of gender or age. Got it, kid?!” His voice sounded casual, but his words and gaze made Stefan feel like Leo scolded him.

“Oh, sure. Sure. Chill, brother...” Stefan awkwardly chuckled when he saw Leo’s annoyed expression. He immediately pulled his hand away from Leo.

Leo felt better after successfully drawing a line with Stefan without killing the kid. However, his sanity almost shattered when he heard Stefan’s following words.

“I’m sorry if suddenly I have to hold on to you, brother Leo... I can’t help it. Besides, you look so damn cute when angry like now,” Stefan said while running after him.

He placed his hand again on Leo’s shoulder, tightened his grip, and directed Leo’s body to head inside.

“Bro, sorry to hold you like this, but please hold me. My feet suddenly feel like jelly. It must be because of the long flight hours. I can’t walk properly now...” he said in his miserable tone.

Leo almost choked when he heard his silly reason. He had no choice but to let Stefan hold onto his broad shoulder and walk beside him while trying to appear as calm as possible.

“Bro Leo, why do you look nervous? You didn’t want me to stay here? Do you want me to ask sis—”

“Stop talking and walk!” Leo snapped while increasing his steps. He just wants this weird man to sleep and leave him alone.

‘Fuck! Is Stefan really a gay? Oh, Damn...I hope I don’t act like a homophobic...but...Damn it!’ He cursed himself inwardly, venting his annoyance.

Leo knows how exactly a real man behaves, even a young man or teenage boy. And it is different from this man who still clings tightly on his shoulder.

‘Bella, you wait for my scolding! How could you throw this funny bloke at me?’

“Okay, Stefan. Here we are. This is your room...” Leo said.

He stops and moves a few steps away from Stefan.

“The room next door is your computer room. As Bella said earlier, you can start looking for computers tomorrow. We will accompany you looking for any type of computer you want, spare no expense. Boss Bella will cover all of it,” he explained quickly.

Leo tried to only make a flashing gaze at Stefan and not dare to look too long at the strange look in Stefan’s eyes.

“Okay, if you need anything, you can knock on my door—that door at the end of this room...” Leo points to the door in the corner. “And the other room, beside my room, is Sam’s. You already heard about him earlier from Bella, right? Sam is the Sentinel Network leader and the guy you will work with.”

“Ah, so there are three of us living here on this floor?” Stefan nods while looking at Leo and Sam’s bedroom.

“Yeah. Yeah, three of us. Okay, you may rest now. I still have a lot of work to do and must finish it now. BYE!”

Leo walked quickly towards the elevator without giving Stefan time to stop him. He needed to confirm his suspicions with Bella. Is it true that Stefan is gay, or is he just too sensitive to Stefan’s closeness?

...

Stefan stifled a laugh when he saw Leo running like he had his tail between his legs.

Looking at his expression earlier, he feels excited to have a fun roommate like Leo in this new place.

“Damn! It was fun to tease him...”

When Stefan no longer sees Leo, his smile fades as he enters his room. He needs to take a nice bath before sleep to get rid of all the anxiety he had during the flight.

During the flight to this country, he couldn’t sleep at all, and he didn’t dare to take any food or drink on the plane, afraid someone would try to kill him.

“What a pathetic life you have, man!” He mumbles and starts to undress...

Meanwhile, in the Quantum Capital CEO’s room,

Bella was engrossed in reading several cooperation proposal documents that she had left unfinished. However, after reading a few documents, she began to feel tension in her shoulders.

Standing up from the chair, she raised both hands and stretched while looking at the sky outside.

A sense of calm washed over her as she gazed at the clear blue sky. It was almost five in the afternoon, yet the sky was still bright and pretty.

The sight of people walking below, no longer clad in their winter clothes, clearly indicates that spring has fully arrived in the city. The air is no longer as chilly as it was when she first arrived in the country three months ago.

“Wow! Time flies so fast...” Bella muttered softly with a small smile, imagining that her sudden change of plan to return to this country started because her grandfather tricked her with the illness he was suffering from.

Although Bella was a bit annoyed that her Grandpa tricked her, she was also grateful for it.

She returned to this country to pursue her dream of becoming a successful businesswoman.

And,

God also gave her a gift to reunite her with her husband, Tristan, after they clarified the misunderstanding that caused their separation.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 257: Choose

Many things had happened in the last few months of her life. Bella was genuinely happy to be back and moving forward with her goals.

However, despite all the happiness she had achieved, many things remained stuck in her heart, tormenting her mind and soul, and needed to be cleared up: her own family, Tristan’s Family, and Sean’s.

Sigh!

At a glance, Bella could see a faint smile appearing on her rosy lips through the reflection of the glass wall before her.

Patting her chest gently, Bella muttered to herself.

“Cheer up, Bella. All of this will soon pass. Be strong! Everything will be fine...”

Slowly, she felt better after talking to herself; however, her mother’s image started to fill her mind again.

Exhaling deeply filled her heart with fresh air several times before Bella sat back in the chair.

Her eyes stared at the cell phone on the table while considering whether to call her mother.

Once more, this question popped into her mind, bothering her, "Should I call my mother...!?"

After a few more seconds, Bella grabbed her cell phone. However, a short message appeared before she opened the phone book to look for her mother's cell phone number.

"Tristan...?" Bella frowned, looking at a text from Tristan.

It was rare for Tristan to send her a short message. He usually prefers to make phone or video calls unless he is in a situation where this is impossible, for example, during an important meeting.

Bella immediately opened Tristan's short message.

However, reading Tristan's ambiguous short text message caused her to raise her eyebrows. She was confused.

[Tristan] Darling, please choose Mountain or Sea.

Stunned momentarily, she read Tristan's short message a few times.

Why did he suddenly ask her to choose?

"Oh! Gosh, Tristan..."

Bella's smile widened when she realized something. Tristan wants to buy her something related to Mountains and Seas, right? That's why he asked her to choose.

"A house?" She shook her head, trying to throw away her imagination while swiftly typing her reply.

[Bella] Hubby, whatever it is, I'll like it. You decide!

[Bella] (Shy emoji) (Love Emoji)

Not long after, a reply from Tristan appeared again.

"Huh!? Hot or Cold?"

Bella found it amusing that Tristan asked her to choose between the two.

“Now what!? This has to be about food, right?” She asked herself again with a smile, guessing what Tristan was planning.

She leaned back in her chair, looking at the white ceiling above, and trying to think about what food she wanted to eat.

After a few moments, she finally decided. She needs to eat something cold now because the temperature has recently started to get hot.

[Bella] Cold!

[Bella] Hubby, Seriously, why are you asking? (confused emoji)

She put her cell phone back on the table and continued to finish her work.

Meanwhile, at the Sinclair Building.

Leading a meeting with a few Directors, Tristan smiled when he read Bella’s answer.

‘So, she prefers mountains and a cold country? Alright, dear, I found a good place for our honeymoon...’

His heart grew happier when he imagined them cuddling in bed all day and night in a cold place. He had thought about the country where they would spend their honeymoon. What he needed now was to call his people to prepare everything and end this damn meeting!

“This is all my presentation, Mr. Sinclair...” The voice of someone calling his name made Tristan focus back on his meeting. “Are there any other questions, sir?” The man felt nervous as he looked at Tristan, who sat at the end of the table.

Tristan’s happy smile slowly faded as he put his cell phone in his pocket and looked at one of the directors who had just finished his presentation.

“No. Thank you for your report,” Tristan stood up from his chair and left the room. “The meeting is over...” He said and left.

However, someone stopped him only a few steps after leaving the meeting room.

“I need to talk to you, Tristan...”

Tristan's footsteps stopped, then turned to look at his father, William Sinclair, who was also attending the meeting. He didn't say anything, only nodded, then continued his steps toward his office.

"Please sit down..." said Tristan as he continued walking towards his office table to put down the documents before joining his father in the seating area. He sat opposite his father. "What do you want to say?"

William Sinclair took a deep breath before finally telling Tristan that his mother wanted him to come home to have lunch together tomorrow. They hoped Tristan wouldn't refuse because his mother had something important to discuss.

Tristan stroked his forehead lightly, hearing his father's words. He could guess what exactly his mother wanted to say. Whenever his father begged him to return home, his mother had a grand plan for him again: to introduce him to another woman to choose as a wife candidate.

Tristan always rejected it immediately in the past, but he will not avoid it this time. He needed to speak to them about Bella and their son.

"Okay!" Tristan firmly said, looking his father straight in the eyes.

"O-okay?" William Sinclair repeated. He was too shocked to hear his son agree right away. Usually, his stubborn son would refuse and argue, but now he answered fast and firmly. It felt unreal to listen to that.

"Yes," Tristan says, amused by his father's shocking expression. He tries to maintain his deadpan expression while he continues, "Please tell Mother I will come tomorrow. Is there anything else you want to say, Father?"

William Sinclair was lost in his thoughts, unable to say anything. He looked at Tristan and felt the odds.

"I need to finish my work before going to my other meeting. Father, I will not send you out..."

Tristan stood from his seat and didn't wait for his father to say anything; he headed to his table and immersed himself in the document he needed to sign before he picked up his wife.

While Tristan was immersed in his work, William was still sitting in his seat, his gaze fixed on his only son while lost in thought.

William Sinclair struggles with his relationship with Tristan. Despite his attempts to reconnect with Tristan, he has been unsuccessful, and their relationship has become

cold and distant. Since Tristan divorced Bella a few years ago, he no longer sees him as his father, and William feels he has lost his son.

'I'm sorry, son...' William stood from his seat and left.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 258: Heartless Friend
Quantum Capital Building.

When Leo arrived at Bella's office, he saw her still busy writing. As usual, she was unaware of his presence. Even after he knocked on the door, she was still immersed in the paper she was reading.

Leo waited a moment, leaning against the door frame, waiting for Bella to notice him. But after a few seconds, she still didn't lift her head. He shook his head as he entered the room, approaching her desk.

"Boss, you are a hardworking big boss. No wonder Jack likes you..." Leo said as he stopped a few steps from her desk. A faint smile graced his lips when he saw her finally lift her head and look at him.

"Why are you still here? Hasn't your husband picked you up yet?" Leo asked while quickly glancing at his watch. "Oh, it's almost five, boss..."

Bella didn't rush to answer Leo. She continued to sign several documents before tidying them up and putting them in a document box in the corner so that some secretaries could retrieve the documents later when she left.

"My husband is still in a meeting," Bella finally responded to Leo as she looked at him.

She stood up and walked towards the sofa, inviting him to join her. Once Leo sat across from her, she asked, "Why are you here? You should be giving a room tour for Stefan upstairs, right!?"

Leo's expression turned grave as soon as he heard the name 'Stefan.'

Instantly, memories of what happened upstairs flooded his mind. How Stefan openly seduced him, enough to make his stomach feel uneasy.

He sighed heavily before venting his anger, "Boss, you have to compensate me... for my emotional damage!"

Bella slightly frowned upon hearing his words. Confused, she asked, "What do you mean? Why should I compensate you?"

Leo's shoulders slumped, shaking his head slowly. "Because you threw a shameless gay in my place."

Looking at Leo's terrible expression now, as if someone had just spat in his face, she couldn't help but feel worried about him.

"Leo! Can you please use simple, normal language? I can't understand you now..." Bella said before taking her water bottle off the table and taking a sip; she suddenly felt her throat dry, looking at his annoyance.

"Boss, I'm sorry to say this, but I think your little brother is gay! Not that there's anything wrong with it.... It just caught me by surprise! You should have warned me in advance, boss..."

"COUGH! COUGH!" Instantly, Bella's face turned red, and the water she had just drunk gushed out. She was shocked to hear Leo's words.

Leo chuckled. He stood up, grabbed the tissue box on the small table in the corner, and handed it to her, "Wow! Why are you shocked? I'm sure you are already well aware of it, right?"

Bella accepts the tissue box. She immediately cleans her mouth and wipes the water spilled on her trousers. After her cough subsided and she felt better, she looked at Leo again. Her looks evidently show how perplexed she is.

"What the hell are you talking about? Since when did Stefan become gay? He is a straight guy, alright! Not that there's anything wrong with being gay..."

She had never heard Stefan tell her about his sexual orientation, but knowing him since he was in his teens, she could tell that he liked women. A few times, she saw him flirting with a girl.

"Tsk... Tsk... boss, the man upstairs openly seduced me. Damn!! Thinking about what happened earlier, I feel like... Ugh..." He rubs his arms, feeling goosebumps.

Bella, "..."

Now, she feels confused after seeing how serious Leo is.

"Is he!?" she asked in her confused tone but later corrected herself again. "No... No... Impossible!"

"Damn! You are so clueless, boss. That's why you didn't know," Leo was amused when he saw her eyes widen. "Anyway, you should tell him. Don't try to seduce me, or I will kick him out!"

Bella, "..."

She still doubts it.

It's hard for her to believe Stefan is gay.

"He is not. You're just delusional, Leo. Or... did you now turn into—"

"What the fuck are you trying to say, Arabella Donovan!?" Leo's face blooms with redness while holding his anger. "How could you assume that?"

Bella grinned, ignoring his annoyance.

"Seriously, you didn't...?" When she saw his eyes narrowed at her, Bella continued. "But why did you reject me even though I openly told you I liked you..." She playfully asked, remembering her stupid self in the past.

Leo's mouth twitched.

"Heaven! Bella, I know you like me because I'm smarter than you, not because you love me! And please, could you please stop trying to create nasty gossip about my sexual orientation? If Jack or Harper hear, they will roast me alive. I like women! And I have a woman I like now..."

Bella could only laugh upon hearing his words. She glanced at her watch and stood up.

"Alright, understood. I should prepare now... My hubby will arrive soon..."

Leo took a deep sigh.

"Please remember to tell your little brother to stay away from me!" he said, begging.

Bella shook her head while tidying up her desk. She would not say anything to Stefan. It would be embarrassing if she told him about that, right?

"Bella?"

When Bella heard Leo calling her name, she lifted her head and saw Leo still standing near the door. She paused to put her things in her bag.

"Leo, I won't! He's not gay, so you should have nothing to worry about. If you feel uncomfortable around Stefan, that's on you. Stefan is a good kid, and I'm sure you will find him a great guy to hang around with once you know him well."

“Oh, geez...what a heartless friend...” He faintly said, but Bella could hear his words.

“Oh, come on, Leo. You have to believe in yourself. Even if I turned out to be wrong and Stefan was gay, you wouldn’t be easily tempted by him even if he openly seduces you, right? Or—”

“Alright, alright...I get your point! I have something urgent to do now. See you, boss!” Leo walked quickly, leaving Bella’s room. He must call his lovely secretary Dana and ask her to return immediately. He now worries about himself, too, falling into Stefan’s trap because he must admit that Stefan is a good-looking guy, even for a straight man like him.

...

Bella can’t help but laugh, looking at Leo running out of her office.

She continues to prepare to go home. Just as she was about to call Tristan, her cell phone rang.

“Did you arrive?” Bella asked while grabbing her bag and walking out of her office.

“Hmm. I parked in the basement.”

“Oh, you drove yourself?” Bella asked, smiling. It had been a long time since Tristan drove for her.

“Yes. I want to drive with my wife...”

When Bella arrived at the basement lobby, she saw Tristan’s usual car parked near the entrance.

Bella quickly approached the car, but her cell phone rang a few meters before she arrived. She stopped to check the text message.

“Se-Sean...” She whispered in a trembling voice. After three months, this was the first time he had texted her using his cell phone number.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 259: Sean Is Back!

“Se-Sean...”

Bella whispered in a trembling voice. After three months, this was the first time he had texted her using his cell phone number.

Her hand slowly became cold and shaky as she tried to open the text message.

[Sean] Hi Bells, I've just landed in Astington! (Smile emoji)

[Sean] But, I can't meet you right away. I have to stay on base for a couple more days for an internal report.

[Sean] I will call and visit you pretty soon. I miss you and Dax!

[Sean] (Love Emoji)

A faint smile appeared at the corner of Bella's lips as she looked at her cell phone screen.

'He... finally came back. Sean finally came back...' Bella muttered under her breath.

She couldn't describe her feelings now; tears of joy, worry, sadness, and guilt mixed.

However, when a faint whisper escaped her lips, "I'm sorry, Sean..." Her hand holding the cell phone tightened as guilt enveloped her.

...

Tristan became worried when he saw his wife standing frozen, looking at her cell phone. He immediately exited the car and approached her, not caring if someone saw him.

He reached her with his long legs and strides, "You okay, darling?"

Bella flinched when she heard Tristan's voice near her ear. She put her cell phone in her bag and looked at Tristan's hands, now touching her arms.

Slowly, she looked up to meet his gaze but was unable to answer his question.

"What's wrong? Why do you look so shocked?" Tristan asked, his concern growing as he noticed her ghostly expression.

She blinked a few times before she managed to speak, "Shock? What do you mean? No. I didn't look shocked. In fact, I looked totally fine..."

"Are you sure?" Tristan cupped her cheeks with both hands, looking into her confused gray eyes. From her gaze, he could tell that something was bothering her. He could also see that her smile didn't reach her eyes.

"Hmm. I'm fine," said Bella while glancing around. She saw a few people coming out of the elevator and several cars parked nearby.

Worried that someone might recognize Tristan, Bella grabbed his hand and pulled him toward the car.

“Let’s go... Someone might recognize you,” Bella said, walking quickly.

Tristan smiled as he quickened his pace to match hers. After ensuring she was properly seated in the passenger seat and helping her buckle up her seatbelt, he rushed to his side, behind the wheel.

He said nothing but drove the car out of the basement.

While driving, Tristan occasionally glanced at Bella. He saw she was immersed in her cell phone, texting someone.

A few more minutes passed, and she was still busy texting. Tristan couldn’t help but ask, “Who are you texting now?”

He asked casually, but Bella could feel the tension in his tone. She immediately turned to look at him. She saw him still focused on the street ahead, and she could see him looking calm from his side profile.

“I texted Sam. I asked him to check the CCTV footage and erase your face if it was clearly seen. I also asked him to ensure no one was taking our picture. My security team often finds paparazzi posing as guests in the parking lot. They are waiting for artists from my agency.”

A soft chuckle escaped Tristan’s lips before he asked, “Are you that worried about someone seeing us together?”

Bella was stunned to hear his words, which clearly expressed his disappointment.

No words left her lips because what he said was true. She wasn’t ready for their relationship to be revealed, especially when all her problems had not been resolved.

Her hand clenched tightly. She didn’t know how to answer him. She worried that her answer would make him sad because she knew Tristan wanted to tell people they were a couple, while she was the opposite.

Bella saw Tristan turn his head to her. His gloomy gaze gave her the courage to express her thoughts.

“Hubby, I know you understand why we can’t be seen together, right?” When she saw him nod and focus on the street again, she looked ahead before continuing her words. “Please give me more time to solve everything...”

Nobody spoke again after that. A few minutes later, the car stopped at a red light. Tristan turned to Bella; seeing her staring pensively at the road ahead, he asked, "Earlier in the basement, who texted you to make you freeze like that?"

Bella suddenly felt her heart sink when she heard his question. She hadn't planned on keeping Sean's return from him, but she was afraid to tell him now, especially since he was driving. She feared he would be disturbed by the news of Sean's return.

After thinking for a few more seconds, Bella decided to talk to him about it because if they got home, she wouldn't have the chance, as Dax would distract her.

She looked at him, "Hubby, can you please find a place to park the car? I have something I need to tell you..."

Tristan could see the tension in her gaze. He didn't ask anything else but made a turn, heading to a park near the river, not far from their position.

Soon, the black SUV stopped at the car park facing the beautiful river in front of them. In the distance, they could see the lights from the skyscrapers in the business district where their office was located.

There was a brightly illuminated path by the river where people could jog or bike. But that late afternoon, no one was walking there, and only a few cars were parked in the vast parking lot near their vehicle.

Tristan unbuckled his seatbelt and turned to see her. When he saw the tension in her eyes, he could guess something was bothering her. Not only did Bella have worries on her mind, but he also had thoughts weighing on him, like his plan to meet his parents tomorrow.

He smiled gently at her while playing with her dark, soft hair, "What do you want to talk about?"

Bella looked at her hands, entangled on her lap, before slowly raising her head to look at him.

"It's about Sean. He is back—"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 260: Don't Blame Him

"It's about Sean. He is back—"

Instantly, silence hung in the air. Neither of them said anything.

Bella saw his hand hanging in the air before touching her hair. His expression slowly darkened, but it was only for a moment, a faint smile reappeared on his lips, and his frozen hand moved to land on her head, stroking her hair gently.

She took a deep sigh, relieved that Tristan didn't overreact to the news of Sean's return.

However, just as Bella was about to continue speaking, Tristan spoke, "I will talk to Sean about us. You don't need to meet him to explain anything..."

Bella was surprised to hear that. She immediately shook her head and refused his idea. "No, hubby. Let me meet him first."

Tristan frowned. "Why do you insist on meeting him?"

"I told you before I made a promise to him..." Bella explained her promise to Sean that she would give him a chance and wait for him. "I have to meet him myself to apologize to him."

Bella knew she had broken her promise to Sean and understood her actions would hurt him. Therefore, she didn't want to let him learn about her situation with Tristan from someone else, as she didn't want to disappoint Sean further.

Bella respected Sean deeply because he had brought another color to her life over the last five years. Although their relationship had only been limited to close friends, Sean was the only man who openly and sincerely approached her at the time.

Tristan frowned, "My dear, but—"

Bella's index finger landed on Tristan's lips, signaling him to stop speaking. "Tristan... Husband, please, you must allow me to do what I ask this time."

Even though Tristan was reluctant to let his wife meet Sean Spencer, seeing the sincerity in her eyes, he didn't have the heart to refuse. He had no choice but to nod, agreeing to her request.

"Thank you, Hubby—" Her voice suddenly vanished as soon as Tristan's lips touched hers.

The sudden kiss surprised Bella, but she didn't resist his deep and sweet kiss. Instead, her hands rose and wrapped around his neck. His dominant lips enveloped hers, coaxing her stiff tongue to intertwine with his in a seductive manner.

Her heart beat faster, and every nerve in her body tensed as he slid his hands up to her neck and kissed her deeper. A series of moans were heard every time he sucked on her tongue. However, as she attempted to delve deeper into his mouth, she felt his passionate kiss slowly stop, and his lips moved away from hers.

'Damn! Why did he stop?' She vented her frustration inwardly while lowering her face, looking at his chest, trying to control her shallow breath.

The car's atmosphere felt increasingly hot and quiet. Without either of them speaking, only breathing could be heard.

After a few moments, Bella finally broke the silence. "W-Why did you stop kissing me?"

She felt annoyed because Tristan had been doing this a lot lately, arousing her lust but stopping as soon as she wanted more. Gosh! How annoying.

"My pretty wife, did you forget we're in the car park?" He casually said while touching her chin and making her look him in the eyes. "We will be in trouble if the Car Parks's security caught us making out here..."

Bella pouted.

She sat back in her seat while smoothing her hair, trying to hide her red cheeks.

When Bella thought they would not discuss anything again other than going home, Tristan's voice broke the silence.

"My darling wife, I allow you to meet Sean. But I will drive you to the place where you meet him." Tristan said it casually, but when Bella saw the look in his eyes, she could see that this was not a request but a condition she couldn't refuse.

"Ok, no problem..." she said, smiling at him. For her, the most important thing was that she met Sean first and talked to clarify everything. If Tristan was going to meet Sean after that, that was his business.

"Thank you, my darling wife..."

...

"Oh, right, hubby... I forgot to tell you. Tomorrow, I will meet someone..."

Bella suddenly remembered her lunch meeting with Amanda Spencer. Even though Sean had returned to the country, she couldn't cancel it—she had already made a promise to Amanda.

"You mean you will meet Sean tomorrow?" Tristan was worried about failing to accompany her because he had already promised his father he would return to their house for lunch.

“Not him. Sean will not have time to meet me for a few days. But tomorrow, I will meet his aunt, Miss Amanda Spencer. You know her, right?”

Tristan was taken aback. He didn't expect Bella to have such a connection with Amanda Spencer.

“Yes, I know her. A few times, we've met at his brother's parties and house.”

Bella silently gulped, hearing that Tristan always visited Sean's house and met his parents.

Gosh! It would be humiliating if she dared to enter Spencer's household.

“Why do you want to meet her? Is it about work?” Tristan asked.

She didn't know how to start telling him about Sean, who sent her an exclusive black card through Amanda Spencer. Since then, Amanda has become curious about her.

‘Should I tell him?’ she thought while checking his mood.

“Is there something you can't tell me?” Tristan asked, smiling, but Bella could see that his smile didn't reach his eyes.

Bella didn't want any misunderstanding between them, so she immediately explained that Sean had sent her a black card to use.

Instantly, Tristan's calm face turned dark. “What? Sean is so daring to give my wife his exclusive family credit card!? What the hell is he thinking?”

“Hubby,” Bella chuckled when she saw him angry. When Tristan looked at her, she continued, “Don't blame Sean because he thinks you already divorced me.”

Tristan's shoulders slumped. He said nothing but leaned against his seat, closing his eyes.

He couldn't speak whenever he remembered that painful moment when he had ignorantly let her go five years ago.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!