

My Billionaire Ex-Husband Chase Me Back - Chapter 389 – 400

Chapter 389: You're All Fired!

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Instantly, almost everyone in the room was stunned when they heard Bella's words.

However, Lucas Donovan almost fainted upon learning that Bella represented Camellia Capital, the largest shareholder in the Donovan Group.

"Bella, owning Camellia Capital? No, does she own the Donovan Group now? How did it happen?" Lucas' eyes widened as he stared at his daughter. It was still hard for him to fathom all of this.

His mind started to fill with countless questions he wanted to ask her. But, not a single word could escape his lips for some unknown reason.

'Did Bella buy Donovan Group shares using her alimony from her ex-husband?' Lucas muttered.

A smile slowly appeared on his lips a moment later.

'That's it! She definitely used her alimony money to buy company shares. But why would she buy this company? Did she know that this company has so many problems? On the verge of bankruptcy?'

Lucas attempted to ask her, but his words failed him again when he saw Bella still ignoring him. He felt frustrated, but he couldn't say anything. He thought he deserved her silent treatment.

By this point, Lucas has concluded that his daughter must know what exactly happened to her mother. That must be the main reason she despises him so much.

'Sigh! How stupid are you, Lucas Donovan? How could you ruin your own life? How could you choose a son over a daughter? So stupid!' Lucas could only vent his frustration inwardly.

His hand clenched into a tight fist as he lowered his gaze, hearing his daughter speaking.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Bella smiled, looking at each one before continuing. "Thank you for attending this voting event. Since the agenda has been completed, this meeting is over."

Bella said calmly, but her words surprised almost everyone, causing protests from several shareholders who sided with Jacob Donovan.

“What? Is it finished? Don’t we need to choose the new CEO?”

“Yes. Why did you dismiss this meeting before we finished?”

“Miss Donovan, I know the company acquisition is new to you. And that’s why I’d like to advise you that this company you acquired needs a new CEO.”

“I agree. When the media knows Donovan Group doesn’t have a CEO, they might troll us again, undermining every effort to stabilize the company. And eventually, the company stock price will sharply fall, even it will become worthless!”

“So true!”

“Yes—”

Bella looked at the three men, who had only a tiny share in the company and were her uncle’s strong allies; she stifled a laugh upon hearing their words.

“Young miss, why are you laughing at us?” one of the middle-aged men asked in anger.

Another man gritted his teeth as he looked at Jacob Donovan, “Jacob! You need to teach your niece. She lacks manners and the experience to take over this company.”

“Yes, Jacob! You can’t let her take over this company, or in a week, we might close down!”

While a few people started talking nonsense about Bella, Harper, sitting beside Bella, leaned closer to her.

“Girl, no wonder you ran away from your family; they are all now sitting in the lowest chain of stupidity.” Harper couldn’t hold back anymore from expressing her annoyance.

Bella glanced at Harper and smiled, “Yeah. My uncles and father are already stupid, but they’re also friends with those people. Gosh!! How stupid!”

“I know, right? How can they run this company with such narrow-minded people? Hurry up and end this meeting, Bella. Otherwise, I might just drag them out and throw them out of the window,” Harper said casually, but her sinister gaze betrayed her. She was really offended hearing those old geezers talk wrong about her best friend.

“Don’t dirty your pretty hands, Lady Harper,” Bella chuckled. “No worries, I will handle them.”

"I'm looking forward to it!" Harper replied before sitting up straight and waiting for the drama to unfold before her eyes.

Bella didn't answer Harper; she just smiled and nodded slightly at her. Then, she turned to the three people still talking badly about her.

She is not a Buddha who can contain her anger; she is only a human who can also be angry.

"Mr. Layman, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Steward," Bella called the three of them with her icy tone, silencing the three middle-aged men.

When she saw the three men now paying attention to her, with frowns on their foreheads, she smiled at them before asking, "Are you involved in management?"

The three of them exchanged glances before responding to Bella in proud voices.

"Of course we are!" Layman said, sitting straight as he introduced himself and his position in the company.

Bella said nothing but turned her gaze to the next person, who introduced himself and his position in the company.

After the three of them announced their positions, Layman asked, "Why do you want to know our positions?"

She didn't answer Layman's question but said, "Gentlemen, thank you for your hard work to help this company. From now on, we no longer need you in this company. Go to your office and pack your things... You're all fired!"

Suddenly, the room became noisy, and everyone was shocked to hear that Bella had casually fired three company directors.

Three people stood up from their seats and pointed their fingers at Bella, shouting:

"WHAT THE HELL! WHO ARE YOU TO FIRE ME?"

"ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU CAN'T FIRE ME!"

"WHAT A STUPID LITTLE MISSY!"

Despite the outburst, Bella remained calm. She understood their anger – they must have been shocked to be unexpectedly removed from their positions.

Bella didn't rush to answer them but smiled before responding, "Who am I?" she asked.

The three of them didn't answer her, only narrowed their gaze in annoyance and gave her a slight nod.

She chuckled, "Oh, gentlemen, you seem to have short memories now. I told you before, right? I'm the biggest shareholder in this company and have the right to fire you."

The three of them were rendered speechless. How dare this young woman talk to them like that? And even have the audacity to fire them? They still can't believe it!

"And, just to let you know, in case you miss or forget... I have the right to fire all of you without full benefit," Bella continued when she noticed them showing their angry faces without saying a word.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 390: Her Action Shocked Them All

The three of them were surprised at how stubborn Bella was in her decision to fire them.

Hill, one of the men, secretly observed Bella's attitude. She remained calm even though they scolded and said negative things about her.

'This woman is not simple. She is not an ignorant young miss who didn't know what she was doing. She must be aware of her actions now. Or, were the people beside her professionals who allowed her to be calm and aware of the actions she was taking now?' Hill thought, frowning as his gaze remained fixed on Bella.

After several seconds without anyone making a sound, they only stared at Bella silently. Finally, Hill couldn't stop himself from being silent any longer.

"Miss Donovan, I know you are angry with us for our rude comment about you; I sincerely apologize for that. But you can't fire us just like that; you also need to check the contributions we have already made to this company," Hill said calmly. This is his last chance to convince Bella not to fire them.

Bella chuckled in delight, hearing Mr. Hill's words.

"Mr. Hill, do you want me to tell you your contribution to the company's downturn?" She continued her words before Hill said something.

"You, sir, embezzled project funds worth 30 million for constructing the flyover on the city's west side in 2018. You utilized your private company to win the tender for raw materials and building construction in District 7 in 2019; your unethical and unprofessional action has cost our company 50 million and made the project a net loss."

Bella stopped for a moment when she saw Mr. Hill pale as if all his blood had left his face.

“Do you want me to continue, Mr. Hill? I still have so many things I could tell you now.”

“No, no. Please stop!” Hill said, trembling. It’s too frightening to know that this girl knows everything about his dark activities behind the company. How could she know that? He always makes sure to cover his tracks.

“Are you sure, Mr. Hill?” Bella asks, pretending she is hesitant to stop.

“Y-Yes... Please!”

A faint smile emerges on her lips, and Mr. Hill’s expression turns ugly. She looks at the two men, Mr. Layman and Mr. Steward, who have expressions similar to Hill’s — shocked and frightened.

“Mr. Layman and Mr. Steward, do you both want me to remind you of your contributions to the company?” She asked politely, but her words sounded like a death sentence for both of them.

They shook their heads vigorously, refusing to expose themselves just like what happened to their friend, Hill.

“Are you sure? I have plenty of records here,” Bella said while holding her phone and pretending to open it. She stifled a laugh when she saw them press their lips tightly while shaking their heads.

Bella decided to stop pressing them again.

“Okay, gentlemen, you can go now. But before you leave this building, my people outside will give you the paper to sell your share. You can sign the paper, and my people will transfer the money to your bank today.”

“Miss, I don’t want to sell my share.”

“Me too!”

“Same with them. I also don’t want to sell my share.”

Bella shook her head and narrowed her eyes at the useless director. She decided not to keep them in the Donovan Group, as they were all her uncle’s allies.

“Fine! But don’t blame me if your video’ party at the White Angel Brothel downtown ends up on your wife’s cell phone,” Bella said sternly.

Instantly, Hill and two others were shocked. They almost stumbled upon hearing Bella's words.

'How does she have that video? No, how does she know they are members of that Brothel house?' Hill wondered.

"Young Miss...I mean Miss Donovan, please tell me how to sell my share," one of them asked.

"Yes, me too!" another chimed in.

"I agree too!" the third one added.

Bella smiled happily, looking at the bunch of idiots.

"Bryan, please show them the way!" she commanded.

The door opened, and Bryan entered the room, surprising everyone by revealing that Bella had people guarding outside the meeting room.

After Bryan escorted the three directors out of the room, everyone inside couldn't take their eyes off Bella. Everyone, including Emma and Isaac, was still in shock and at a loss for words after witnessing what had happened.

They didn't expect Bella to be so stern in her decision to fire three directors. Moreover, she did it casually while managing to coerce them into selling their shares.

"Grandpa, Aunty, and the rest of my family, please wait for me in the CEO's office. I will discuss something there..." Bella said, addressing her father and uncle.

When she saw her father's expression, which looked dark, she laughed inwardly. She pretends not to care about him.

Bella calmly watched as everyone started to stand up from their seats. Her eyes were fixed on Bradley Caville, who seemed reluctant to leave the room.

The look in his eyes disgusted Bella, making her feel like she wanted to vomit. She silently sighed deeply, trying to calm her anger and resisting the urge to rush at him and punch his face. She knew exactly what he was thinking just by how he looked at her. It was shameless!

"Mr. Caville, you may stay for a while," Bella said softly, shocking everyone walking toward the door.

They all stopped and looked at Bella in disbelief, asking Bradley Caville to stay and speak to him alone.

Bella smiled as she looked at her family, who seemed worried about her, especially her Grandpa and Aunt.

"Sam," Bella called out to Sam, who had been standing near her aunt, guarding her, since her arrival in the meeting room.

"Yes, boss," Sam glanced at her.

"Bring my family to the CEO's office," she instructed.

Soon, the large meeting room felt empty. Only four people were left, including Bella, who was still sitting in her position with Daniel Sullivan, the Legal Director of Quantum Capital.

Bryan, who had just returned, was standing near the closed door with his casual, deadpan expression, staring at Bradley Caville.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 391: Bradley's Off-Putting Smile

Bradley Caville couldn't hide his happiness because Bella finally noticed him. She even asked him to stay. This warmed his heart and made him plan to pursue her again to become his darling wife.

"Bella," Bradley said, only calling her beautiful name was enough to make his heart race. He silently swallowed, trying to calm his chaotic heart.

"Why do you want me to stay here with these gentlemen...?" he continued, looking at the sharp-looking middle-aged man with gold-framed glasses sitting calmly beside Bella.

"This is Daniel Sullivan. He's part of my legal team," Bella said calmly while turning to see Daniel. "Daniel, you may start—"

"Yes, Ms. Donovan," Daniel Sullivan nodded. He took a few sets of papers from his bag and placed them before Bradley Caville, which confused him.

"What is it, Bella?" Bradley asked while looking at her. When he saw Bella avoiding him, he smiled wryly as he lowered his gaze back to the paper in his hands and began reading.

It didn't take long for Bradley to return his gaze to Bella, confusion flashing through his eyes, but she still ignored him. He looked at Daniel Sullivan.

“Mr. Sullivan, why did you give me this paper?”

Bradley was shocked to receive a letter of agreement to sell his shares in the Donovan Group Company to Bella Donovan.

“Have you finished reading the paper in its entirety, Mr. Caville?” Daniel Sullivan asked calmly.

“Yes. What is it? Why did you give me this paper?” Bradley asked again. He was still confused, but Daniel didn’t answer him at all. “Bella, can you explain it to me?”

“All the explanations are in the letter, Mr. Caville. I suggest you read it again if you still do not understand. And when you’re done, please sign it!” Daniel once again answered, which was enough to make Bradley angry.

“And why on Earth would I sign this paper?” Bradley’s voice rose, and his tone was condescending. He starts sharply on Daniel Sullivan, “You see, Mr. Sullivan, I don’t plan to sell my shares,” he said, pushing the paper toward Daniel.

He would not let go of the Donovan Group, especially knowing Bella was now a major shareholder. This was his opportunity to be close to Bella with his ten percent share in her family’s company.

“This is not a negotiation but an instruction for you to sell your shares to my client, Ms. Donovan,” Daniel Sullivan explained calmly, ignoring Bradley’s displeased look. “Don’t worry, sir. We won’t buy at a low price even though we could. But we also won’t buy your share at a premium price. We will pay for your shares at the company’s market price before it drops.”

Bradley’s hands clenched into fists. Hearing Daniel Sullivan’s words, he felt offended.

How could this man force him to sell his shares at the price before it drops?

Bradley narrowed his eyes, ready to vent his anger, but when he saw Bella, he pressed his anger back into his heart. He didn’t want to look bad in front of her.

‘How can this man want to buy my shares at that price when Donovan Group’s share price is currently at its lowest point, or in other words, worthless? Did he think I’m stupid? They must have a good plan to increase the price soon, and they won’t exclude me from being part of it,’ Bradley couldn’t help but vent his frustration inwardly.

He was annoyed, but he tried to maintain a calm expression.

After a few more seconds, Bradley turned to Bella. He asked, “Bella, I don’t know your intention to force me to sell my shares to you. Can you please explain why you suddenly wanted to buy my shares?” he asked gently, hoping Bella would speak to him.

But Bradley's hopes were dashed instantly when Daniel Sullivan answered, "Mr. Caville, because you didn't deserve those shares, and your intention to buy those shares was an ill intention and illegal!"

The thin lines on Bradley's forehead became more visible when he realized that Bella didn't want to talk to him. He felt offended for the first time since seeing her in this room.

After a deep sigh, frustrated with Bella's silent treatment, Bradley turned his gaze back to Daniel Sullivan.

"Ill intention and illegal? What do you mean by that? Is it about my marriage proposal to Ms. Bella? What is wrong with me, a single man who wants to marry her? And she is also a single woman..." Bradley said, waiting for Daniel to respond. However, Daniel didn't seem inclined to answer.

Angrily, Bradley continued, "And, you know what, Mr. Sullivan? Her father and uncle said that if I buy this company's shares, they will arrange for me to marry her. So what's wrong with that!?"

"Because my client is someone else's lawful wife. Mr. Bradley. How could you have the audacity to intend to marry Ms. Bella when she's another man's lawful wife? That's an illegal act," Daniel Sullivan casually replied.

However, Daniel's words almost caused Bradley to vomit blood. He was too shocked to hear Bella was already married.

How could that be? Why did Lucas Donovan not know about it and want him to marry his daughter?

It's hard for Bradley to believe what he hears. Or did his mind refuse to believe? He no longer understands.

After a few more seconds lost in his trance, Bradley Caville suddenly laughed out loud.

"Bwahaha..." Bradley's booming laugh echoed in the room, enough to cause Bella to finally lift her head from her cell phone and look at him.

"Mr. Sullivan, are you kidding right!?" Bradley didn't believe it. Daniel Sullivan must have wanted to trick him into signing the paper to sell his shares.

He looked at Bella with a gentle but off-putting smile. "Bella, I can understand if you don't like me. But please give me a chance to prove that I really want to marry you and that I'm worthy to be your husband." After deep breathing, he continued, "Bella Donovan, please become my wife..."

Bradley's off-putting smile widened when he saw Bella, who didn't say anything, just staring at him.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 392: Second Warning!

'Yes! This is a good sign. She didn't refuse...' Bradley felt utterly happy as he stood and walked toward Bella.

However, before he could reach her, suddenly, a strong hand grabbed his shoulder, pulled him back, and threw him back into his seat.

"What the—"

Bradley's words abruptly stopped when he saw the tall, well-built man standing near the door, now standing before him. Looking at the man's expression was enough to pressure him.

Shocked, Bradley suddenly felt like someone had just put a weight on his shoulders, and he couldn't move.

...

Bella chuckled to herself upon hearing a sudden proposal from Bradley Caville.

'Geez, this man! He's really setting himself up for trouble. If my jealous husband overhears this, this poor man could be in life-threatening trouble.' She couldn't help but feel slight pity for Bradley Caville's audacity.

"Bryan," Bella motioned for Bryan to step aside so she could see Bradley Caville's reaction.

Bryan still wanted to block Bradley's view of his boss's wife. However, looking at how firm Bella's gaze was now, he finally positioned himself one meter away from Bradley to ensure this delusional man would not harm her.

If given a choice, Bella wouldn't want to talk to this social scumbag. However, she was forced to speak to him because this old man's imagination was too nasty for her to handle and needed to be stopped as soon as possible.

"Mr. Bradley, ugh...I'd rather call you Uncle Bradley," Bella paused momentarily. She wanted to mock him deliberately, hoping to annoy him. "Yes, that nickname suits you very well because you are the same age as my father," she said with a smile, looking at his red face.

"Uncle Bradley, you think too highly of yourself," she continued.

Bradley's face, which had looked calm before, slowly showed annoyance. He didn't like hearing Bella call him uncle, but he couldn't refute her words because she was right.

Bella expressed anger to his face, silencing him from his ridiculous and sultry thoughts. "How could you think you were my only option to marry? How ridiculous! How shameless!"

"Bella, I know, but—" Bradley's words stopped when he saw the man standing beside him, sending a shiver down his spine. He saw a warning through the man's sharp gaze, 'Speak one more word, and I will skin you alive.'

Bradley swallowed. He lowered his gaze and looked at his clenched hands. He remained silent, waiting for Bella to say something.

"Let me remind you, Uncle Bradley. Have you realized what happened to your business in the last few weeks?"

Bradley suddenly lifted his head and looked at Bella. His eyes widened, but no words could escape his lips.

He felt like his mind was struck by lightning as he remembered the company matter that had been causing him headaches over the past weeks.

As he thought about why Bella was asking, a realization hit him.

'Oh my god! Did Bella cause all the suppliers and factories to stop selling their goods and merchandise in my supermarket chains? Seriously, could she do that!?' He looked at her in horror. He was shocked to hear his own thoughts.

Bella's satisfied smile appeared on her lips as she dropped another bombshell on Bradley. "So... Uncle Bradley, that's my first warning to you..."

"Are you the one who stopped my suppliers and vendors from selling their products in my stores?" Bradley tried to confirm his suspicions.

Bella didn't bother to answer him, but her smile was enough to confirm his thoughts—although it was not entirely correct because her husband was the one who did it.

"Uncle Bradley, now you choose: sign the paper, sell all your shares to me. And, one more thing, please throw away your thoughts of marrying me, or you will experience my second warning!"

Bradley clenched his teeth after hearing Bella's warning. He wanted to marry her, but if he lost his company and wealth, it would be useless to marry her, right?

Losing a little won't hurt him because he might get this beautiful, hot woman to warm his bed every night.

'Damn it! Should I give up on her? Or give up my company?' Bradley Caville felt even more puzzled. 'Man, if you are penniless, this girl will not like you...' Reality hit him.

After a few seconds of thought, Bradley gathered the courage to ask her, "Bella, may I know your second warning?"

Bradley could feel his heart tighten as he waited for her answer. He still had a little hope of winning her heart for some reason.

"Of course, Uncle. Well, your company will experience what the Donovan Group is facing now. So, if you still—"

Without waiting for Bella to finish her sentence, Bradley immediately grabbed the paper before him and signed it quickly.

"Done! I hope you don't touch my company again, Bella," Bradley said seriously. Even though he felt annoyed that he couldn't marry Bella, his company would return to stability, and he would not lose his wealth.

"Uncle, you should have done this sooner so that we wouldn't waste time here," Bella said, amused to see Bradley suddenly change his attitude after she revealed her plan to ruin his company. "Thank you for your cooperation, Uncle Bradley. You will receive your money soon."

"Thank you, Bella."

"Now, you can leave this place. For your own good, I hope you will no longer appear in front of me in the future," Bella said casually, but Bradley knew it was a warning.

Bradley didn't want to deal with Bella again; he could guess she had a strong backup behind her. He nodded silently and immediately left the room.

As Bradley hurriedly left the room, a victorious smile appeared on Bella's lips.

Bella was delighted to regain her family's company shares. Despite the company's share value hitting its lowest point, she didn't care. She wanted to delist the company from the stock exchange and make the Donovan Group a private company once more. She had enough personal funds to support the company without needing money from the public.

"Boss, congratulations..." Daniel Sullivan's words snapped Bella from her thoughts.

“Thank you, Daniel.”

“Shall we now confront your father and uncles and clean up their mess?”

“Yeah. It’s about time we deal with them once and for all! Let’s go—”

Bella stood from her seat. She looked sharp, calm, and composed. Then, she confidently walked toward the CEO’s office.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 393: Erasing You From My Family Registry
While in the CEO’s office.

Jacob Donovan paced the room, ignoring his family in the seating area. He was too nervous about what Bella wanted to discuss with them.

“Jacob, can you stop pacing like that?” scolded Isaac Donovan. He asked his son to join them while waiting for Bella.

However, Jacob ignored his father’s warning. He continued walking back and forth, muttering to himself like a crazy person.

‘Bella will not replace me, right? If she does, who is the right candidate?’ This question danced in Jacob’s mind since he left the meeting room.

The more he thought about it, the more worried he became about his own future. Even though he could predict what Bella might do, he still tried to ignore it.

His heart still held a slight hope that Bella would be merciful, and she only wanted to warn him. She wouldn’t replace him as the CEO of the Donovan Group.

A nervous smile slowly appeared on his lips as he continued to guess Bella’s next plan.

‘I’m sure Bella will not offer the CEO position to other people, right? Or did she plan to give it to Lucas...? No!’

Jacob suddenly halted. He frowned while glancing at Lucas, who was now talking to Thomas.

‘No! Bella can’t offer the CEO position to her father; that girl despises her father so badly! Lucas didn’t have a chance—’ He dismissed his thought and tried to walk again.

But it didn’t take long; his steps once more stopped when Emma yelled at him.

“Come on, brother Jacob! Stop acting childish. You are old enough to face this matter with maturity and calmness,” Emma said, exhausted from seeing Jacob pacing before her eyes.

“Jacob Donovan, you had better stop now, or don’t blame me if I get angrier!” This time, Isaac Donovan called his son in an icy tone, enough for Jacob to shiver. He didn’t utter anything but rushed to join his family.

Looking at Jacob, now sitting across from him, Isaac Donovan stared him in the eyes for a few more seconds before he continued his words.

“That’s why Bella wants to replace you as CEO of this company. You’re useless but arrogant. You’ve been leading this company for years, but you have not been able to make it soar; instead, you brought it down because of your incompetence. And yet, your lifestyle and personal expenses that the company paid were extravagant, too lavish, and uncareful, putting the company at risk.”

Isaac paused for a few more seconds to take a deep breath to calm his anger, his cold, icy gaze still fixed on Jacob.

“Jacob, I’m really disappointed in you. You brought down not only this company but also our family. Our family image was diminished by your tendency to find easy ways while disregarding ethics and morals.” Isaac Donovan said with a heavy heart.

“Father? What do you mean?” Jacob frowned, confused by his father’s last sentence.

“How could you send a gangster to abduct Bella and detain Liam? Are you a human or a devil in disguise? Why do you bring yourself so low like that?”

Isaac Donovan’s voice was trembling, too angry to remember how his eldest son orchestrated his evil plan to harm his niece and nephew.

Jacob Donovan was almost choked to hear his father’s words. He was too shocked to realize that his father knew what he had done in the past, especially about the gangster he sent to abduct Bella.

As he looked into his father’s eyes, Jacob wondered how his father knew. Soon enough, a chill ran down his spine as he realized Bella must have known about it, too.

‘Damn it!’ Jacob cursed inwardly. Now, he understands why Bella purchased shares in their company through an anonymous entity intending to oust him from the company’s management.

‘So, Bella comes to take her revenge on me and my brothers!?’ Jacob Donovan bitterly thought to himself. He didn’t foresee this move from his niece. He thought Bella was just

an ordinary woman after Tristan Sinclair divorced her. But it looks like she gets a new, strong backup.

When Jacob was about to say something to his father, suddenly, something crossed his mind. Someone betrayed him!

'Who? Who has the guts to betray me?' Jacob glanced at his brothers, Lucas and Thomas. However, seeing the shock on their faces, he quickly dismissed the idea. It was clear that they had no prior knowledge of their father's awareness of their plan to abduct Bella.

'Emma!! It must be her. She has been so close to father and Bella recently...' Jacob, even more annoyed, looked at his sister.

While Thomas expressed his frustration to Emma, Thomas and Lucas averted their eyes, unable to meet their father's eyes.

They both tried to avoid their father's anger, hoping he wouldn't scold them. Unfortunately, their wish was shattered.

"And you, Lucas Donovan!" Isaac Donovan said, pointing his finger at Lucas. "You are a failure! You are so foolish..."

Lucas slowly raised his head to meet his father's angry gaze. He could guess what his father wanted to say. He didn't speak as he lowered his head again, feeling his heartache intensify, as if someone had just rubbed salt into a wound in his heart.

"You are so foolish to mistreat your wife and daughter. Do you realize that you have now lost them?" Isaac said, his hand clenched, trying to calm his pounding heart. "Do you know they both want to sever ties with you now? And do you know that your wife is sick? She's fighting for her life with cancer!"

As if thunder had struck him, Lucas was shocked as he stared back at his father and asked, "W-What? What are you trying to say, father? Who is sick? Is it Natalie? Cancer?"

Lucas Donovan felt his body trembling as he spoke. He was shocked to learn about Natalie's current condition.

Isaac Donovan ignored his son. He was too angry to respond and focused on calming his beating heart. If he continued in anger, he might have suffered a heart attack and ended up in the hospital's emergency room. Even so, his eyes still looked displeased at his son.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 394: Father, Help Me!

After a few minutes passed and his heart no longer raced, Isaac Donovan continued to express his disappointment to Lucas.

“And you know what, Lucas? I also think of erasing you from my family registry. You don’t deserve to carry my name!”

Everyone was shocked to hear Isaac’s words, especially Emma. It was the first time she had witnessed her father saying he wanted to erase his son from the family registry.

In the past, even when their father was really furious and disappointed in them, he had never said those words. This time, he was just bluffing, right?

Emma tilted her head slightly to see her father’s face. Her heart suddenly tensed when she saw the seriousness and determination in his expression.

‘Oh my god, Father is serious...he really wanted to erase Lucas from the family registry!?’ Emma muttered while gazing at Lucas. She saw his face turn as white as the first snow; he was also shocked.

“Father—”

Suddenly, Lucas stood from his seat and knelt before his father.

“Please forgive me. I know I’m so stupid, a scumbag; I’ve been so cruel to my wife and my daughter. But please give me a chance to be a better person. Please, Father, don’t disown me.” Lucas pleaded while holding his father’s feet. He whimpered, almost crying.

He had lost everything—his wife, daughter, and now his father. Just thinking about that, he felt frightened. He felt lost. He can’t imagine what will happen in the future.

Isaac Donovan let out a long sigh while looking at Lucas with a look of pity. However, his annoyance slowly emerged in his heart when he remembered Lucas’s terrible behavior.

Isaac closed his eyes for a moment, trying to clear his mind.

After a while, he opened his eyes again and softly said, “Even though I’m willing to forgive you, don’t expect anything from Natalie and Bella,” he said sternly.

Lucas opened his mouth, trying to say something, but no words could leave his lips.

“You hurt them so badly, Lucas. I hope you stop what you are doing, too, for the sake of my sanity. If you still act like a scumbag, evil... I might die from anger and shame if you continue your lifestyle. I hope you understand what I’m trying to say to you!” Isaac continued.

“I understand, Father. I promise you... I won’t do anything to shame our family,” Lucas said sincerely. What he had heard today was like a wake-up alarm for him.

He witnessed his daughter’s power in the meeting room as she took over the company and mercilessly fired three longtime directors. She also didn’t hesitate to fire her first uncle from the company.

And what made him devastated was the news about Natalie battling cancer without his knowledge breaking Lucas’ heart.

But everything was too late for him. Like his father said, he had already lost his wife and daughter; he didn’t have a chance to get their forgiveness.

It was too late for him to beg for forgiveness.

Sigh!

Lucas was aware that there was something strange inside him. He didn’t understand why, but his intense hatred towards everything was growing day by day.

He knew he needed to break free from the darkness that had consumed his mind and heart, but every attempt felt too challenging. He tried, but the hatred was still there.

What happened today made Lucas even more convinced of the idea hidden in his heart to leave. Leaving everything behind.

Yes, the only solution was to go far away from his family and anyone else he might harm. That was the only way to find peace for him and his family.

“Get up! Bella will be here soon, and she’ll be even more annoyed and angry if she sees you like this.” Isaac commanded.

“Please, Father, help me. Please help me so that my family can forgive me...” Lucas once again begged. He didn’t wish for Natalie or Bella to return to him but only wanted their forgiveness.

Isaac Donovan took a deep breath and looked at his son. Lucas was kneeling before him, and Lucas’s eyes started to dampen. Instead of feeling sorry, Isaac began to feel irritated.

"I'm not a god, Lucas. You know what you have done all this time cannot be forgiven. Not by a man," Isaac shook his head slowly when he saw his son's tears start to flow.

Isaac continued, "My only suggestion is that from now on, you must live your life proving to Bella and Natalie that you have really changed. I might not live long enough to forgive you, but maybe your wife and daughter can forgive you in the future. Stop asking for forgiveness through me, but meet them and kneel before them!"

Lucas hung his head low, looking at the marble floor. He was weeping with tears streaming down his cheeks.

His heart felt sore, not because he feared being fired by his daughter but because he imagined what he had done to his family. He truly felt evil and understood that his behavior could not be forgiven.

Now, he could only grit his teeth and curse himself in his heart.

After a few more seconds, consumed by his sadness and anger, Lucas finally stood up from the floor and walked toward the door. He didn't want to sit in this room anymore. He just wanted to leave, to calm the darkness in his heart.

He didn't need to meet Bella because he didn't want his daughter to hate him even more if she saw him like this. Or, he was too afraid his anger would flare up again and widen the distance between them.

"Brother Lucas, where are you going?" Thomas asked. He was surprised that Lucas wasn't sitting but walking toward the door. "Bella asked us to wait for her here..."

Lucas stopped and then turned his head to Thomas, his younger brother.

"I will be in my office packing my things. I no longer need all of this — my power and wealth. I no longer need them," he said with a bitter smile before turning around and leaving the room, surprising everyone.

"Huh!? Why did Brother say those words?" Thomas asked himself while scratching his head. Puzzled by his brother's sudden change, he felt like he saw someone else, not Lucas.

"Stop overthinking," Emma said, responding to Thomas's curiosity. "Lucas needs to calm down because he just realized he has lost everything: his family, wealth, and even his self-esteem."

Emma felt slightly sorry for her brother, but her sympathy slowly faded when she remembered what he did to Natalie and Bella.

'You deserved it, Lucas! I hope you can be a better person in the future.' She muttered inwardly while looking at her father.

Emma leaned closer to her father when she saw his eyes turn red. She whispered, "It's fine, Father. He will be alright, so no need to feel sorry for him."

"I do not feel sorry for him. But I know I might have a part in his falling toward evilness. I failed to raise him properly, unlike I raised you, Emma. The evil man he has become, I should have stopped it before it became."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 395: Revenge On Her Evil Uncle! (1)

Before Bella arrives at the CEO's office, she asks Daniel Sullivan and Bryan to join Harper and the others in the lounge, where they are waiting for her.

She needed to talk with her family before finalizing everything regarding the handover of the CEO position.

However, when Bella opened the CEO's door, she was surprised to see the room's vibe, which was extraordinarily gloomy and cold, as if she had entered a funeral home. No one spoke; they all focused on their cell phones or were lost in thought while looking at the scenery outside the building.

A slight smile appeared on Bella's face, but it faded when she didn't see her father in the room.

'Where is he? Did he go home without waiting for me!?' Bella muttered as she continued walking to join them.

At the same time, Isaac Donovan glanced toward the door and was surprised to see Bella. Instantly, the gloominess in his eyes faded. He smiled and waved his hand to his granddaughter.

"Bella, are you done taking care of your matter? Come in and sit next to Grandpa," Isaac's words surprised everyone. They all looked at Bella.

Still waiting for Bella's verdict on firing him, Jacob became even more tense. He smiled as his niece walked over to join them. However, he could only swallow hard when he noticed Bella completely ignored him and Thomas.

Feeling sour, Jacob chuckled inwardly while trying to tell himself that keeping his position as CEO of Donovan Group was impossible. Bella and her team had shut down or anticipated every possible way he could think of.

The only thing he could do now was pray that Bella would not expose his past dark secret, which he had kept only for himself.

If this girl exposes him, like she did in the meeting room earlier, he will be in serious legal trouble.

...

Bella nodded slightly to her Aunt Emma and uncles before settling beside her Grandpa and leaning closer to him. "Grandpa, where's my father?" she whispered.

Isaac Donovan shrugged, taking a deep sigh.

"Hmmm. Lucas, he's in his office. I guess he was devastated after I told him about your mother's grave illness," Isaac replied in a low voice, hoping no one else heard his words except Bella.

Unfortunately, everyone in the room still clearly listened to what he was saying.

Bella was rendered speechless. It seemed her Grandpa forgot about his promise to keep her mother's illness a secret. Now, her father knew about it, and she no longer had a chance to hide the fact that her mother was staying in her house.

She slowly touched her earphones to communicate with Sam. It didn't take long; Sam's voice echoed from the other end.

"Boss...?"

"Sam, please guard my father's office. Don't let him leave this building. My business with him is not over. Not yet!"

"Consider it done, Boss!" Sam replied.

After hearing confirmation from Sam, Bella returned her focus to the two men sitting anxiously before her.

She felt amused by how shocked and frightened their faces were as if they had seen her as their worst nightmare.

If only she had more time, Bella would definitely torture them longer. But now, it was already past lunchtime, and she didn't want to keep her grandfather waiting any longer.

"Mr. Jacob Donovan, here we are, meet again," Bella greeted him formally with her polite smile.

“My pretty niece Bella, please just call me Uncle Jacob. We are fam—” Jacob’s voice was cut off when Bella raised her hand, stopping him. He frowned, waiting for her to speak.

Isaac and Emma were also surprised as they glanced at Bella, curious to know what she wanted to do. They could no longer predict her movements or how she planned to teach her uncles and father.

“Mr. Jacob Donovan, maybe you’ve already forgotten, but I clearly told you in the hospital when we met the last time,” Bella said.

Bella smiled faintly while shaking her head, amused by the memory of their last encounter when she visited her Grandpa in the hospital.

At that time, she was so angry when her father and uncles blamed her for the company’s failure because she agreed to divorce Tristan without telling them all.

Jacob’s frown deepened as he tried to remember what Bella had said to him, which made her speak so formally like they were strangers.

After waiting a few more seconds, Bella continued, noticing Jacob’s puzzled expression.

“Mr. Jacob, it seems you have an extremely short memory. That’s natural. You are no longer young, and early amnesia usually comes to people like you,” Bella slightly laughed when she saw Jacob holding back his anger.

Instead of fearing Jacob’s anger, she seemed relaxed and much happier.

“Let me remind you again, sir. At that time, I promised myself I would sever any ties with you, including blood ties. I vowed that I don’t have an uncle like you...” Bella said sincerely. She didn’t try to annoy him now; those were her true feelings about the two men before her.

After seeing the shocked expression on Jacob’s face, Bella turned to her younger uncle, Thomas Donovan.

“If you’re curious about your status... Well, it’s the same, Mr. Thomas. I also think of you like that. Even though our last name is the same, I have erased you both in my heart and mind,” she said, returning her gaze to Jacob.

No one said anything for a moment, nor did they move. They all looked at Bella with the same shocked expression, as if they couldn’t believe what they heard.

Bella let them take in her words, not attempting to say anything, but a smile flashed through her eyes; she looked calm.

However, Bella was worried that her decision to sever family ties with her two uncles would disappoint her grandfather.

Before long, Thomas Donovan finally broke the silence. “Bella, why are you so cruel and heartless?” he asked with an annoyed tone, enough to flare Bella’s anger.

“Cruel? Heartless? Are you really serious about what you’re saying, Mr. Thomas Donovan?” Bella narrowed her eyes at Thomas, feeling like she wanted to whack this man’s mouth with her high heels.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 396: Revenge On Her Evil Uncle! (2)

Bella narrowed her eyes at Thomas, feeling like she wanted to whack this man’s mouth with her high heels.

Before Thomas could say anything, Bella interrupted him to express her anger.

“How can you say that word when you, sir, behave like that precisely? You teamed up with your brothers to, in a way, sell me to Bradley Caville in an immoral act of marriage arrangement. And you were aware that your brother was sending bandits to kidnap me. And yet, you didn’t stop them! Your silence and inaction is complicity, sir.”

“Bella—”

“Mr. Thomas! I’m not done yet! And I expect you to continue to remain silent. It seems the best thing you can do is silence, JUST like before!” Bella hurriedly said when she saw he was about to speak.

Thomas swallowed hard, feeling his throat starting to hurt.

‘Damn it! How dare she stop me!? Ask me to be silent?’ Thomas couldn’t help but vent his frustration while looking at his furious niece. He tried hard to maintain his calm expression. However, hearing her following words, his calmness shattered.

“Mr. Thomas, you also contributed to wrecking the company your dear father, my grandfather, built. And now you dare to call me CRUEL AND HEARTLESS? Did you leave your brain somewhere, or do you simply not have one left inside that thick skull?”

Thomas was left speechless. He didn’t expect to find out that his niece had such a sharp tongue—sharp enough to pierce his heart. His face slowly turned red; he was too angry to deny that everything she said was true, and he was powerless to stop her.

“How dare you call me cruel and heartless? Mr. Thomas Donovan, you should go to the powder room and take a good look at yourself in the mirror. Then you’ll see who the real cruel, heartless, and shameless one is here...”

Thomas wanted to vanish from this room. He couldn’t win speaking to this sharp-tongued and sharp-witted girl! He turned his gaze away, looking scared and limp, pretending he was too exhausted by Bella’s scold.

“Pft!” Emma almost burst out laughing upon hearing Bella scolding Thomas and looking at how weak her brother was before Bella. It instantly put her in a good mood. “I’m so sorry, Bella... Don’t mind me. Please continue,” she said when Bella glanced at her, suddenly worrying that Bella was bothered by her sudden laugh.

Bella smiled at her beloved Aunt Emma before turning her gaze to Thomas. However, she is left speechless when she sees Thomas seemingly ignore her despite his frail appearance.

Well, at least now she didn’t have to waste time speaking to her brainless uncle. She turned to look at Jacob; her business with him was not yet settled.

“Mr. Jacob Donovan—” Bella’s sharp voice was enough to make Jacob look at her intensely.

He didn’t say a word, but his heart beat loudly. He tried hard to maintain his composure and was apparently successful.

“The official outcome of the shareholder meeting is to remove and replace you as CEO of this company. Therefore, from now on, you will no longer be the CEO of the Donovan Group. Please clean your desk and pack your things. The company’s website will have an official announcement within the next twenty-four hours,” She calmly ended her words.

Bella was impressed by Jacob’s calm expression. She felt happy because she didn’t have to waste any more time fighting with him.

Jacob looked at Bella with an expressionless gaze but horridly cursed her in his mind.

How could this little bitch treat him like this? He would have lectured her if only his father hadn’t been with them.

‘HAH!!’ Jacob shouted inwardly to lessen his anger.

However, when Jacob felt slightly better, Bella continued to torture him and almost caused him a heart attack.

“Please sign this letter, Mr. Jacob,” she said as she took a brown folder from her bag and placed it before Jacob.

“What is it!?”

“It’s a letter to transfer all your shares to me. Don’t worry. I won’t take your shares for free, but I will buy them at the current market price—”

“What the fuck are you trying to say, Bella?”

This time, Jacob could no longer hold back his anger. He cursed his niece and didn’t care when his father glared at him. He was too angry to hear this little girl ask him to sell his shares. Is she crazy and stupid?

“You can hear me clearly, Mr. Jacob. Why are you asking again? Please read the paper carefully and sign it!” Bella looked and sounded calm. She didn’t feel offended or scared by his anger.

“Bwahaha—” Jacob laughed loudly, mockingly at Bella. “Do you think I will sell my shares to you!? Stop dreaming. I will never sell my share! You can only have it over my dead body!”

Bella smiled. She felt amused looking at her uncle’s arrogance and foolishness. She said nothing and let him finish his words.

“Even though I am no longer the CEO of this company, I am still a shareholder, and you can’t stop me from attending the next shareholder meeting! Hahaha!” He arrogantly expressed his annoyance and added an unmistakable forced laugh. “You can’t force me, Bella! YOU CAN’T! HAAAAA....”

Bella didn’t respond to Jacob immediately but chuckled at his arrogance, causing Jacob to frown. Looking at her calmness, he started to feel worried.

“Fine! However, you must return all the company money that you embezzled and used for personal gain and expenditures,” Bella paused her words to enjoy how Jacob’s face slowly turned pale.

“You know what, Mr. Jacob? Earlier, I offered to buy your shares because I still have slight pity in my heart as you are my grandpa’s eldest son. But it is clear that you refused my kindness. Therefore, regretfully, you must pay and return everything you took from the company.”

Bella took a deep breath, expressing her regret in an obvious manner. She pretended to feel sad for him.

Jacob gasped and didn't know what to say.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 397: Revenge On Her Evil Uncle (3)

"Mr. Jacob, according to the report I received from my people who investigated you, the money you need to pay to the company is worth a hundredfold the current value of your shares..."

Instantly, Jacob felt like his soul had betrayed him. He was shocked to hear Bella's words.

Jacob couldn't hide his worry. By doing this, this girl must have a backup and hold plentiful evidence against him. Someone, or some people, had helped her uncover their dark secrets. How could she know all of that?

When Jacob thought Bella would stop exposing and softly threatening him, he was wrong.

Bella continued, "And Mr. Jacob, please say goodbye to your family because soon you will live in prison for the rest of your life, with cases involving the attempted abduction of your niece, me. And, the case of Liam's arrest, and—"

"STOP! STOP IT! I GET IT..." Jacob roared. He couldn't stand hearing Bella expose him, especially with his father present.

Bella smiled with satisfaction at her progress. However, her smile faded when she noticed Jacob's inaction and the furious gaze he directed at her.

An idea crossed her mind—to further provoke her evil uncle by adding fuel to the fire of his anger.

"Mr. Jacob, I have all the evidence needed to keep you in jail for a long time. Let's not waste any more time here. I suggest you follow your equally despicable friend Bradley Caville's example; he was wise to agree to sell ten percent of his shares at the current market price."

Once again, Bella's words left everyone in the room shocked. It was difficult for them to believe that Bella had been able to persuade Bradley Caville to sell his shares at a low price.

Bella leaned back casually against the sofa while checking her cell phone, pretending to look for something. She was actually reading her group chat with Harper and the others. She ignored everyone's gaze, who were still shocked by her actions.

“Mr. Jacob Donovan, I suggest you sign the paper now before I change my mind and make you miss Sunshine forever,” Bella said without taking her eyes off her phone.

Jacob felt like he wanted to slap this young girl. How dare she do this to him? But, once again, his anger subsided when reality hit him; he was powerless. He had no choice but to swallow all his anger back into his stomach, lost in his own trance.

A few minutes passed, but Jacob remained glued to his place and didn’t say anything or move. Bella frowned as she looked up to see him.

“You seem to have decided to choose the hard way, Mr. Jacob Donovan...” Bella said in a pitiful tone while touching her earphones again, her gaze still locked with Jacob.

Shortly after, Bella could hear Stefan’s voice greeting her from the other end.

“Bro, you can prepare the news about Jacob Donovan having a mistress at the city border. You could also prepare to expose his teenage son’s detailed information. Let my dear aunty know everything about—” Bella’s words slowly faded when she heard her Grandpa furiously scolding Jacob.

“Heaven! What the hell are you doing, Jacob Donovan? Having another wife? How could you do that!?” Isaac Donovan was utterly shocked when he heard Bella’s words.

Not only was Isaac shocked, but Emma and Thomas were too. They never imagined their older brother had such a secret. They looked at Jacob with the same expression as their father—shocked and disbelieving.

Jacob completely ignored his father, furious. Because after hearing Bella’s words, his mind froze. He felt like his soul was about to be shattered.

He stared back at Bella in horror. How did she also know about that? He was already sure to keep his secret; no one knew. Even his personal assistant didn’t know about his other woman and son. He completely sealed them away from his family and close people.

Bella smiled when she saw her uncle staring at her but not saying anything. She could guess what he was thinking.

“Mr. Jacob, do you want to know how I found out about your second wife and my smart cousin?”

Jacob blinked several times. He opened his mouth to say something, but his words never left his lips. All the words he had in mind refused to come out.

“Because you were so careless to leave so many traces for me to find out about them,” Bella said casually. She would never mention that Stefan had uncovered all her uncle’s misdeeds.

“Now, you choose! Sign the transfer paper or your beloved wife will know everything. You still remember your wife, strong enough to throw you in the street, penniless, right?” Bella’s casual words struck Jacob to the core.

“WAIT, BELLA! PLEASE STOP YOUR PEOPLE! DON’T DO THAT!” Jacob roared. If his wife knew, he would be in big trouble.

Bella turned her gaze to Jacob.

“Why did you stop me, sir?” she asked, raising her beautiful eyebrow slightly, presuming she didn’t like someone interrupting her.

Jacob Donovan gritted his teeth, feeling tired and frustrated talking to her. This girl was genuinely stubborn and cruel.

“Alright, I will sign. I will sign. Please make sure you don’t expose me!” Jacob said, glaring at Bella.

Bella still frowned, gazing at Jacob as if she were telling him through her sharp eyes, “Do it now, or I will send the evidence to your wife!”

Jacob Donovan grabbed the pen and signed the paper. In a moment, another 5 percent of Donovan Group became hers.

Bella could not hide her happiness at smoothly gaining all her enemy’s shares, almost without significant rejection. She took the paper and saw her uncle’s signature, smiling, satisfied.

After putting the folder in her bag, she took out another set and glanced at Thomas Donovan, who happened to see her with wide eyes and gasped.

She stifled a laugh, amused by his silly expression.

“Mr. Thomas, do you want to volunteer to transfer your 1 percent share, or do you want me to expose your dark secret too?”

“I will sign!” Thomas Donovan didn’t dare to deal with this sharp-tongued girl. He starts to believe that Bella could read people’s minds.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 398: Revenge On Her Evil Uncle (4)

"Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Thomas Donovan. You are smart enough not to waste our precious time any longer," Bella said, placing the share transfer paper in front of him before turning her gaze to Isaac and Emma.

"Grandpa, Aunty..."

Bella's voice completely changed. There was no intimidating, fiery tone like when she talked to Thomas and Jacob. A spring-like smile framed her innocent face, causing Jacob and Thomas to roll their eyes at her biased attitude.

"Yes, what is it, Bella?" Emma asked gently.

"You don't have to wait for me here, Aunty, Grandpa," she said while looking at them in return. "You both could have lunch first or return home. I will not join you for lunch because I have to meet my father now..."

Bella was worried her Grandpa would be hungry because it was so late for lunch.

Isaac Donovan furrowed his eyebrows when he heard Bella's words. He was worried about letting his granddaughter meet Lucas without him present.

"Bella, what are you talking about? I'm not hungry," Isaac hurriedly responded. "I will be right by your side when you meet your father."

She instantly shook her head. "It's fine, Grandpa. I can handle my father alone. You don't have to worry." When she saw her Grandpa didn't like her idea, she continued, "My father doesn't have a chance to harm me; Bryan and Sam will accompany me." She tried to convince him.

"Father," Emma held her father's hand. She continues her words, "Let Bella meet Lucas alone..."

Emma knew her niece wanted to talk to Lucas privately but didn't want her father to hear them.

Even though Isaac Donovan was still worried about it, he finally agreed. "Promise me, you can't meet him alone, Bella!"

"Mmm, I promise—" Bella smiled.

"Alright, let's go, Dad," Emma said while standing from her seat. She glanced at Bella, "Don't forget your lunch, or someone might worry about you." Emma flashed a meaningful smile at her and patted her shoulder gently.

Bella widened her eyes, worried her aunt would talk about Tristan and forget that Jacob and Thomas were in the room.

“Oh, right. I forgot to ask. Will you stay here tonight or return to the capital?” Emma asked.

“I will stay here for a couple of days,” Bella answered.

“Really!?” Isaac was so happy to know his granddaughter would not return to the capital immediately. “Bella, stay at my place. I will ask Nick to prepare a room for you...” he offered.

“Grandpa, I’m staying at the hotel. Because my team will also stay with me. Maybe next time—”

Isaac said nothing, only cleared his throat and followed Emma. However, before they walked away, Jacob Donovan stopped them.

“Wait, Dad... Emma...” Jacob shouted, then turned to Bella. He was curious about something. “Why did you let your Grandpa leave just like that? You need him to choose the new CEO, right?” Jacob asked.

Jacob was curious to know who would replace him. He also wanted to hear his father’s opinion on whether Bella chose someone unrelated to Donovan to become CEO of the Donovan Group.

Even though he no longer owned shares in this company, he couldn’t let others run it. However, he would be fine if Bella became the new CEO of the Donovan Group.

Upon hearing Jacob’s words, Bella smiled faintly, “Oh, I forgot to tell you. We have already decided on the person who will replace you.”

“Seriously? Who?” Thomas chimed in, also curious to know.

“Aunty Emma...” Bella’s words suddenly made Jacob and Thomas’ jaw drop in surprise. “Starting tomorrow, Aunty Emma will start her new position as CEO. And Uncle Archy Taylor will assist her as the company’s chief operating officer to replace my father,” she explained.

Jacob was speechless. He never expected Bella to choose his sister to replace him. His gaze landed on Emma, who was smiling at him.

Bella continued, “And as for the chief financial officer, Aunty Emma will continue to lead the team until we find a replacement.”

Thomas suddenly felt his throat go dry upon hearing that. He felt envious of his sister and then realized that Bella hadn't mentioned his position.

"What about me, Bella?" Thomas finally dared to ask.

"Mr. Thomas Donovan, sorry I can't let you work at the company. Professionals in the field will take over your work. Please clean out your office immediately," Bella answered him casually before leaving the room with Aunt Emma and Grandpa.

Thomas's face slowly turned grim. He didn't argue with Bella, but inwardly, he cursed her, wishing the worst on her.

Bella didn't go straight to her father's office. Instead, she stopped by the private lounge to meet Harper and the others.

When Bella arrived at the private lounge, she was surprised to see them enjoying their lunch.

"No wonder you guys didn't ask me to rush to finish my meeting," Bella chuckled, surprising them all. They turned to see her.

"Bella, are you done with them already? That was fast!" Harper asked after swallowing her pasta. She gestured for Bella to join them.

"I'm done dealing with my uncle, but not yet with my father. I need to meet him now," Bella answered Harper while walking closer to them.

"I came here to ask you to go lunch outside without me, but it looks like you guys have already placed a delivery order," she said, amused because she was worried they would be hungry waiting for her.

"Yeah, we didn't want to bother you, girl," Harper replied.

"Boss, we ordered sushi for you," Leo said.

Bella's eyes lit up when she saw the sushi rolls. She didn't sit with them but took a slice of sushi and ate it. After finishing, she sighed deeply and said, "You guys continue. I will meet my father now."

"Let me accompany you," Leo said, standing from his seat, but Bella stopped him. "Why?" he asked, confused.

“Me too!” Bryan said while wiping his mouth.

“I don’t need both of you, but I need Daniel,” she glanced at Daniel, who was already standing from his seat. “Let’s go.”

Bella needed Daniel Sullivan to accompany her in discussing her parents’ divorce papers.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 399: Finally, Bella Meets Lucas Donovan (1)

Bella arrived at the office of the chief operating officer on the eighth floor.

As the COO, her father had an essential role in the company, overseeing its day-to-day administrative and operational functions in the Donovan Group.

Bella saw that the staff on this floor continued to work diligently despite the company’s difficult situation. She felt positive and believed a change from incompetent to competent leaders would stop the company’s downward track and return to its potential growth.

From afar, Bella spotted Sam sitting in front of the room, looking tense, with a few staff members busy with their tasks nearby. She quickened her pace and approached Sam.

“Boss—” Sam immediately stood to greet her.

“Sam, is he trying to get out?” Bella asked curiously, worried that her father would make things difficult for Sam.

Besides, Bella didn’t want to attract suspicion from the staff about what had happened; she had taken over the company from her uncles and father.

Sam smiled before answering, “Yes. But when I explained nicely that you asked him to wait, he said nothing else and returned inside.”

“Alright, good. Thank you, Sam.” Bella smiled at him before looking at Daniel beside her. “Daniel, can you wait here with Sam? I need to talk to him alone first.”

“Sure, ma’am,” Daniel nodded politely.

Standing before her father’s office, Bella tried to adjust her expression to show no emotion and calm her mind. After a few more seconds, feeling much better, she finally knocked on the door.

“Come in!”

Bella felt tense when she heard her father's voice letting her in. She tightly clenched her hand when she saw her father sitting on the sofa, looking towards her.

The urge to immediately slap her father several times for what he did to her mother was so strong. But, with great effort, she managed to hold it and hide any rage that came with it.

'Calm down, Bella! Calm down! Finish your business with him immediately, and leave this place.' She kept reminding herself while walking towards the sitting area.

"Bella," Lucas said softly with his trembling voice, standing from his seat. He gestured for her to sit on the empty sofa across from him. "Please sit, my daughter. Here, here. Come sit over here. Uhm, do you want anything to drink? Tea or coffee, maybe?"

For a few seconds, Bella was stunned to hear how polite he was, offering her a drink the moment they met. She shook her head and refused his offer.

After settling into her seat, Bella was even more stunned when she saw her father's expression more clearly. He looked much older than his actual age, with sad and frailness framing his face.

Bella couldn't help but frown as she witnessed her father's unusual attitude.

This was her first time seeing her father show his vulnerability. As far as she could remember, her father always displayed cruelty. He made threats whenever he appeared before her or spoke to her.

'Is he trying to trick me with this pitiful look?' Bella wondered. She tried not to waver about what her father would do or ask later.

"You must know why I'm here..." Bella paused when she saw her father stop her. Although displeased, she decided to hear what he wanted to say.

"Bella, I hope you would hear me out before you say something," Lucas Donovan said softly, his eyes staring deeply into Bella's confused-looking eyes.

Lucas took a deep breath before continuing, "I know. I understand that my past actions do not deserve your or your mother's forgiveness. Still, I really want to apologize to you and your mother..." His trembling voice couldn't hide how sad he was now.

Bella was stunned; she didn't expect to hear this line from her abusive and cruel father.

'What on earth happened to him? Why? Why did he suddenly turn into a nice man?'

It's hard for Bella to believe the man sitting before her is her father. All this time, her father has never shown affection and has always been rude to her and her mother.

Bella didn't rush to respond to his apology. She only stared at him in disbelief.

At this moment, her mind was still busy figuring out whether her father sincerely apologized to her or if all that was a mask and a ruse to keep his position in this company.

For a while, neither of them said anything. They just sat, lost in their own thoughts.

After several seconds, Bella finally broke the silence.

"Why did you suddenly change like this? This is too unbelievable to be real," she asked, curious to know.

Lucas was surprised to hear Bella's question. He could feel that he had changed but didn't know why. He just felt like his mind was empty.

"No, no. Please, Bella. Hear me out, and I beg for your trust, at least for one last time. This is real, and I don't have any more energy to live, let alone trick or do something bad to you or your mother. But I don't know why I do and feel like this..."

Lucas continued, "Maybe after your mother decided to stay away from me and get rid of me from her life, and maybe knowing that she was fighting death, all of that made me realize something about me. How I'm frail and broken without her...but, but, I treated her so badly. Treated you so badly. That's how lost I have been all along."

After his lengthy words, Lucas lowered his head and shoulders, too weak and embarrassed to meet his daughter's gaze. His eyes were open but looked empty and nearly lifeless now.

Bella gasped in surprise upon hearing his words. However, a second later, she hurriedly maintained her calm expression, trying not to believe what he said, afraid her heart would waver.

"My daughter Bella, I'm sorry. I failed to become a good father to you and a good husband to your mother," Lucas continued with a grief-stricken tone. "I will not ask you and your mother for anything but forgiveness. And after that, whatever punishment that you and your mother would do on me, I shall take it. Even if it's death."

Bella was rendered speechless.

Chapter 400: Finally, Bella Meets Lucas Donovan (2)

Lucas slowly lifted his head when he didn't hear Bella saying anything. He was worried that Bella would despise him even more.

"Please don't feel burdened, Bella. I understand and won't force you to forgive me," Lucas said with a smile, trying to break the coldness between them.

"No, I don't feel burdened. I just feel weird speaking to you now."

Lucas frowned slightly. "Weird? Please, Bella. I no longer have the will and energy to lie to you. I have come to terms with how now I have to pay the consequences of everything I did to you and your mother."

"Okay. But you have to understand why I feel that way. I feel like I'm talking to someone else," Bella gave him a half-hearted smile.

Bella smiled bitterly when she saw him smile. She continued, "This is the first time you are talking to me without being angry or glaring at me. Also, hearing you apologize and beg for forgiveness, hearing those words from you sounds foreign to me. Almost felt unreal."

Lucas could only smile at her, unable to say anything because what she said was true. Even he felt like he didn't know who he was now. He felt so strange, so lost, and so weak!

Once again, they both stare at each other silently.

Lucas Donovan slumped back, consumed by his sorrow.

Meanwhile, Bella struggled to remind herself not to be swayed by her father's sudden change. She didn't want to forgive him easily.

After several minutes passed, Bella finally broke the silence. She turned her gaze back to Lucas Donovan.

"Even though you have changed now, try to show me that you've become a better person and ask for forgiveness. But... I'm sorry, I won't forgive you," Bella said firmly. However, she felt like there was a lump in her throat as she spoke.

Lucas nodded slightly, agreeing with her. He said nothing but turned his gaze away to hide his teary eyes.

"Father, what you did to my mother is too much for me to forgive you. Even if my mind wanted to, my heart did not. I feel pain every time I remember how you tortured and hurt your own wife!"

Bella said in a casual tone, trying hard not to show her sadness, but it was too difficult. Her anger was still reflected in her gaze.

She clenched her fists tightly before continuing to express what she wanted to say to him.

“And, even though you are my father, I will not make an exception for you. Like my uncles, I won’t keep you in this company either. I’m sorry, but you must relinquish your COO position...” Bella’s words faded when she spotted a brown box on her father’s desk.

‘Huh! He already packed his things...’ Bella was stunned. She didn’t expect her father to give up his COO position without fighting like her uncles.

Countless questions started dancing in her mind: Why did he give up so easily? Did he try to trick her into winning his position? What the hell is his plan?

Bella didn’t expect to witness all of this. Before she entered the room, she had prepared herself to hear her father scold or curse at her.

But now? Nothing! Her father looked so harmless, like a cute puppy!

As Bella was confused, Lucas endured the hurt he felt in his heart.

Though his daughter’s tone had sounded casual earlier, every word she said felt like a steel knife scraping him from head to toe.

Lucas knew he didn’t deserve his daughter and Natalie’s forgiveness, but hearing her rejection from her lips hurt him deeply.

“Bella, I understand,” Lucas said.

Once more, Bella was surprised, looking at how calm her father was now.

“I see you already packed your things,” Bella asked.

“Yes, I already know you will replace me, Bella. And I don’t mind it at all. I know I do not deserve to sit in this position. There are so many capable people outside who could become the COO and bring back this company to become number one in this industry.”

Upon hearing her father’s words, Bella felt a sense of disagreement with him. Despite not being a good father to her and a good husband to her mother, he was very diligent in his work.

Out of her grandfather’s four children, her father was the most capable in business matters, followed by Aunt Emma. However, even though Bella is aware of this, she has decided not to keep him in the company.

Because she knows that one of her father's weaknesses is his inability to resist the temptation of other women and power.

The more wealth and power her father had, the more women were willing to give their bodies to him, even though they knew that her father was old and still had a legal wife.

Bella would never make her father stay in this company, gaining his power and wealth.

"I appreciate your understanding," Bella responded. She was happy because she didn't have to argue with her father.

Lucas Donovan cleared his throat while looking at Bella. Slowly, a thin line appeared on his forehead as something crossed his mind.

"Bella, even if I leave this office, I hope you give your brother Henry a chance. He is not at fault in this company mess. Still, because I'm too ignorant to raise him, it has caused him to become like that," Lucas Donovan sincerely pleaded with Bella.

Bella's expression slowly changed, showing anger when she heard her brother's name. She realized she would never have a good relationship with her big brother, no matter how hard she tried—Henry would become her mortal enemy!

However, Bella is aware that Henry is also a victim of their parents' use of violence instead of love.

She looked her father in the eyes and said, "I will make an effort to help him. However, he needs to work hard just like everyone else. He won't secure a position in the company without earning it!"

Bella wanted to teach Henry to become a decent human, not become evil and snobby like their father or their uncles.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!