

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter

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Under the bright moonlight, Bradford City was illuminated with the festive decorations. The Hart Family was also undeniably quite busy. Apart from Myra and Tony, everyone else including Tony's eldest brother were home for the Lantern Festival.

Shawn had received Tony's message when he was at the dinner table. When Tony found out

about the stalker, he immediately sent the person's information to Shawn. Since the family was having a great time around the dinner table, Shawn did not want to interfere with the great atmosphere and remained silent about the matter.

Only Shawn and Sebastian were initially the ones to have known about the matter. Since others were in the dark, Shawn had to find another time to speak to Sebastian about this. However, things became increasingly complicated. Before this, all the possible reasons that were hypothesized by Ben and Shawn for Tony and Myra being stalked were refuted. After all, all they could think of was their business enemies. However, a normal businessman had no power to hire such a stalker. Hence, it seemed like the incident was related to a government official, but Shawn proclaimed that he did not make any enemies.

Apart from that, it did not make sense to stalk Tony if the mastermind was targeting Shawn himself. No matter what, the explanation did not make any sense. Thinking about this, Shawn did not eat much for dinner.

The Hart Family had moved the table to their garden tonight so that they could enjoy dinner

while looking at the moon at the same time. When Shawn raised his head to look at the moon, he was worried about Tony and Myra's safety, especially the pregnant Myra.

Hence, he insisted for Tony to quickly return to Bradford City. At least no one dared to do anything to them here and he believed that he had the ability to protect them.

However, Tony insisted on his own beliefs and refused to listen to Shawn to return to Bradford City. Instead, he was firm on carrying out his original plan. Sebastian also hoped that Tony could quickly return because the Hart Group had not been performing well and he

was even waiting for Tony to be back to take control of the situation.

Nevertheless, Tony's reason was also logical—since the stalker's intentions were unclear and did not harm them, he was worried that the stalker would discover something if he and Myra suddenly changed their plans. It would be worse if the person decided to hurt them after that.

No matter what, it was a rather complicated problem that made Shawn unable to enjoy the Lantern Festival in peace. In fact, he was quite envious of the people who were oblivious to the incident—at least they were able to laugh joyfully. He had a feeling that the opponent was aiming at the Hart Family, but he had no idea why the said person had decided to start with Tony.

There was another possibility that the Hart Family had been targeted a while ago, but they had not noticed it. It could have been a coincidence that Tony found out about it at this moment. As a result, Shawn had been quite careful these days and even Sebastian took extra note of the surroundings around the Hart Residence. To them, it seemed like something was always off somewhere.

Because of this, Tony was not in a rush to return. It was possible that the Hart Family was the target of their opponent and he could flexibly adapt to the situation now that he was abroad, but his options were limited if he returned.

He had his concerns surrounding this matter and had clearly addressed it with Shawn. Meanwhile, Shawn was trying to check and identify any suspicious characters around him. While everyone had their focus on Tony and Myra, they had no clue that danger was slowly inching closer toward them. Heather thought that it was caused by some enemies that the Hart Family made, but none of them knew that the Hart Family was about to suffer from even more misfortunes.

Everything started on the afternoon of the Lantern Festival when Heather had a disagreement with Robert. Since he looked terrible, she did not dare to disobey him any further, no matter how stubborn she was.

Hence, she agreed to his request and rejected the date with Matthias. When he saw the message from her, he felt he had descended to hell from heaven.

Perhaps Evan was right wherein women were unpredictable. Without any elaboration, Heather had merely sent Matthias a simple sentence—‘Can’t make it during the Lantern Festival.’

She did not even make it clear whether they were going to postpone the date to sometime after the Lantern Festival; she merely said that she could not make it on this day. Without even thinking about it, he wore his sweater and immediately drove straight to the Langston Family. After all, he was quite resentful that she had canceled their date just like that. However, Heather had already foreseen this happening. When Matthias arrived at the Langston Family, he was blocked by the servants outside, who did not even give him the opportunity to enter the house.

“Director Locke, the Langston Family has no plans to see any guests today. Please head home today.” The servants repeated the exact words that Robert used when Matthias arrived the day before as Robert could tell that something was wrong.

In the morning, she was arguing with Robert to head out today. He guessed that she wanted

to meet Matthias for a date, so he did not allow Matthias to enter their residence.

She had no idea that he came to her place to look for her whereas he left in annoyance, thinking that she had deliberately asked the servants to give him a hard time.

To Matthias, Heather had broken her promise and was merely placating him the day before.

It was a humiliation he had never experienced up until now, so his face was as dark as charcoal on his way back. Why did I insist on going to the Langston Family? I bet Heather is laughing at me now. Great. Since she dared to turn around and slam into my car yesterday, I

should understand that she has no feelings for me.

He felt that he had failed miserably. When he finally summoned his courage to start all over with Heather, she already hated him. He had never felt such desperation in his entire life.

On the other hand, he also felt despair toward Myra as he had no opportunity to fight for her

heart. When he faced Heather, she would give him a blow no matter what he attempted.

Sometimes Matthias would feel that such blows did not matter; other times, he felt that it

was impossible for him to be with Heather again. Evan kept saying that she was a suitable match for him while Nicolai said that he was the only person compatible with her. To others, they seemed to be the perfect match.

However, Matthias did not feel that they were suited for each other at all. As time went by, she had merely expressed her disgust toward him in an increasingly obvious manner without even hiding anything. His pride did not allow him to continue to please her, but he sometimes wondered whether he had really treated her badly in the past.

Nevertheless, he still stood by the statement that he had done nothing wrong. After all, it was Heather who ruined his chances with Myra, so he thought the way he had treated Heather was perfectly justified compared to how she treated him back then.

Of course, Heather did not know his internal struggles and she didn't even know that his perception of her had changed. She continued to defend herself against him for the fear that he might play some dirty tricks on her again.

All this while, she had been keeping Robert company and he did not explain yesterday's events to her. In fact, he did not even tell her about today's guests.

To Robert, there were many secrets hidden with some matters that he simply could not tell Heather. One of which was the Langston Family's dark history. Whenever he remembered what his sister, Claris, experienced, an immense guilt bubbled out of him.

It was the Langston Family that wronged her. He was a dozen years older than Claris, who was born when their parents were already in their twilight years. Hence, they had all doted on her since she was young. Until now, he could still remember his first time seeing her as a tiny baby.

Since she was born prematurely, she looked wrinkled and small. Many of their family members were worried that she might not survive infancy, but it was true that she had been

quite weak. Robert had been meticulously taking care of her, but she bore the heavy burden

of the family many years later.

When Heather was born, he immediately recalled Claris, even though Heather was much healthier. However, her stubborn personality was exactly the same as Claris, so her second name was named after Claris.

Upon seeing Heather, Robert felt as though she was Claris' reincarnation. At that time, he quietly decided to protect Heather's happiness and doted on her. As Heather grew up, she became a cute kid, but Stephen insisted that she only brought misfortunes to the family. Stephen had always wanted a son, but he had a daughter in the end. To him, even though Robert doted on Heather, it meant nothing. After all, daughters could not inherit the family business of the Langston Group. Since Robert had been pretty healthy, Stephen did not get the opportunity to run the business and instead placed his hopes in his children. However, he was disappointed that he had a daughter in the end.

Even though Stephen tried various ways to have another child after that, he did not manage to accomplish the feat. At that time, he did not dare to attempt in vitro fertilization. When the technology had finally improved, he no longer wanted to put in the effort. After all, it was

quite clear that Blake would be inheriting the company.

Even if he managed to bear a son at this time, the youngster could no longer take the baton from Blake anymore. On top of that, Robert had also warned Stephen not to think of the sneaky tactics before.

The Langston Family had always been well-educated and there were many ideas that Robert

was against, like illegitimate children and in vitro fertilisation.

At that time, he thought that since Heather was Stephen's only daughter, their relationship as father and daughter might improve as time went by. Unexpectedly, Stephen's dislike toward her increased as she grew up to the point where he did not even allow Camille to shower her with love.

There were many moments where Robert thought, Karma is real after all. Back then, Claris was well-loved by all the family members, but she sacrificed her life in return for all the love she received. On the other hand, Heather grew up in a family that was void of love.

Hence, she was strong and independent, completely different from Claris. It was just that she looked like Claris everytime she frowned, but she was able to accomplish the things that Claris did not even dare to do back then.

"Grandpa, wake up." Heather gently nudged Robert who had fallen asleep on the couch as he tightly grabbed her arm in the process.

"Is he here?" He tried to widen his eyes. Since he was napping, he did not fall into a deep sleep, so he vaguely heard the servants announcing that 'the guest has arrived'.

"Yeah, I think he will enter in a short while." She shot a glance at her arm that he had tightly gripped for a long time. There were already some bruises on her fair arms.

After that, she supported Robert as he stood up. Since the morning, she had been curious about the precious guest whom they had been expecting and she could finally see the person face-to-face later.

When the man casually walked into the living room, his gaze accurately met Heather's mid-air. She boldly returned his gaze with a stubborn look in her eyes.

Before they even met, she did not have a good impression of him. After all, she could not believe that someone would dare to make the entire Langston Family wait for him and she thought that he was putting on airs.

When she met him, she thought even more poorly of him. With a menacing air around him, he looked even more evil than Matthias.

It was clear that a person like him was up to no good and Heather was especially sensitive to characters as such. She could barely accept Matthias, who was sometimes evil, sometimes good, but she had no idea how to befriend someone who was entirely up to no good.

Matthias' bad qualities even seemed to be a positive thing in front of this man. Heather had an ominous feeling as she could not feel any kindness from him, whose powerful air had already annoyed her.

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The hair on Heather's forehead gently swayed with the breeze as she appraised the guest before she retracted her gaze. The guest meaningfully and playfully looked at her, making her feel as though he had locked her with his gaze.

After momentarily meeting her gaze, he turned his eyes to another direction as he walked

slowly toward them. However, she kept her gaze on him until he spoke in a low voice that was quite unfamiliar to her.

However, he was a familiar face to her because they had just met at the golf course yesterday. Today, he unexpectedly appeared at the Langston Residence as a precious guest of her family.

Heather did not understand the twists and turns of the events, but she was rather vigilant about it and it was reflected in the defensive approach in her eyes.

“Old Master Langston,” he broke the silence and started the conversation with Robert. She was not used to the way he accurately pronounced each word that made him sound like a professional news reporter. He seemed stern to her.

With a smile on his face, Robert welcomed the man and introduced him to Heather.

“Heather, this is General Moriarty.”

Upon hearing that, Heather’s heart sank as she did not expect that the guest they had been awaiting was someone from the army. Before she could react, he quickly spoke.

“You don’t need to address me this way. My position in Leisfeld is that of a general, but we are in Solaria now,” Caleb explained to her.

She was even more shocked upon hearing him mentioning Leisfeld. After all, the military had been governing that country. Even though he looked young, he was already a general.

If he was promoted to a higher position, he could be the commander of the military.

Upon hearing that, Heather understood why she felt the cold and cruel aura from him.

Compared to Solaria, Leisfeld was quite unstable all year round and there were a few military skirmishes. She imagined that Caleb must have plenty of blood on his hands. After all, for a soldier to rise up the ranks in the military, he had to be tainted with blood.

When he clarified his position, he was admiring the shock in her eyes. People usually would be taken aback after they heard his current position, but she quickly suppressed her shock and merely looked at him calmly.

She thought, Seeing the position that he holds, why does he come to Bradford City? More importantly, why is he here at our place?

“General Moriarty, welcome.” Heather stretched her hand to gracefully greet him.

When she was in Europe, she already had the opportunity to meet dukes who were even more high-class than Caleb from other countries. She wasn’t extremely shocked because to her, he was merely someone who held an extraordinary position.

When he saw Heather offering a handshake, he also stretched out with his hand to briefly greet her. He had a natural royal aura, so she guessed that he must have been born in a rich or prestigious family. For someone like him to reach such a high-ranked position in the military, he must have a powerful background to back him up.

Robert invited Caleb to take a seat and she was directly arranged to sit opposite him. Once she raised her head, she would immediately see his face. She was not used to the arrangement because she was only interested in business, not politics.

She did not expect the Langston Family had the need to familiarize themselves with the politics of another country, even though they did not have any businesses in Leisfeld. Are we

going to expand our business there? If we really want to expand our business, we would not

start with Leisfeld anyway since there are many bigger countries to explore. Who would be interested in such an unstable country like Leisfeld?

Unless we are entering the arms trade. Heather's heart skipped a beat when she thought about that. Based on Robert's character, he would not want to get into such a business. Meanwhile, Caleb thoughtfully looked at her. It was obvious that her mind was spinning fast

at this moment as she thought of the possibilities, which made him curious about what was on her mind.

After he had finally arrived, the servants asked everyone in the Langston Family to welcome him. The first person who did so was Blake, who gave him a warm welcome. However, Caleb

did not even spare a second gaze at him, which amounted to not giving Blake enough respect.

With a smile on his face, Blake retracted his hands. Initially, he wanted to shake hands with Caleb, but the latter had completely ignored him. Robert flashed a warning look at Blake to notify the latter not to continue embarrassing the family.

This time around, Caleb was here for Heather, so Robert had to tread carefully since he was determined not to sacrifice her happiness at this point.

Even though Caleb had an unfriendly attitude toward Blake, Blake was rather interested in him, albeit his annoyance at the way the man behaved. It stemmed from Caleb shooting occasional glances at Heather.

In no time, everyone from the Langston Family arrived—except Heather's parents.

Disappointment quickly flashed in her eyes and Caleb meticulously caught it.

He had previously investigated her background. After glancing at everyone around the table,

he immediately had his answer. Unexpectedly, her relationship with her parents had worsened to this point. His gaze turned slightly colder when he thought about his own parents.

Last night, Robert had already instructed his butler to prepare fancy dishes today. Because of that, food was being served one after another in a grandiose manner.

Before Caleb took his cutlery, no one from the Langston Family had dared to tuck in. The children in the family merely looked at the delicious dishes in front of them longingly. Since they were easily hungry and sensitive to the smell and sight of the food, they wanted to immediately enjoy the delicious food.

Heather shot occasional glances at him, wondering what went through his mind since he made no move to start eating. Instead, he merely glanced at everyone around him several times. Thinking that the awkward atmosphere did not look pleased, Robert, who was seated

to Caleb's right, invited him to tuck in with a smile.

"General Moriarty, have a bite while everything is still warm." It was only after Robert spoke

that Caleb finally took his cutlery.

She could not tell what he had been thinking and she felt that he was here to flex his power,

so she did not have a good impression of him.

It was only after Caleb had taken a bite that the rest finally dared to tuck in, but Heather still

remained immobile.

She would shoot occasional glances at Robert as if she was asking him, What is General Moriarty doing here?

The silence around the dinner table was terrifying. It had never been this quiet during mealtimes at the Langston Residence. Perhaps Caleb had such hostility to him that even the playful children did not dare to utter a word—even though they would usually chatter around as they were unafraid of Robert.

Heather finally picked up her cutlery when Caleb looked at her. It was obvious that he wanted her to dig in as well.

He emanated a power that would make others buckle to him and she hated the aura because she felt that she was suffocating under his force.

Robert also noticed that Caleb would occasionally 'greet' her with his eyes and it was the last thing that Robert would like to see.

The more Caleb was interested in Heather, the more uneasy Robert became. He wondered whether Caleb wanted revenge or something else, but it was definitely not good news no matter what Caleb wanted.

Everyone had their own thoughts as they ate. Blake had naturally noticed Caleb's interest in Heather and it irritated him. He came to know Caleb's position last night and for him, it was not a good thing that such a powerful person had his eyes on her.

Blake questioningly appraised Heather—he did not understand what qualities she wielded to

attract men. As time went by, the men who were attracted to her became better, even though she was cold and had a bit of a temper herself. Do excellent men have a tendency to

be masochistic?

He recalled the way she had been pressuring him as they were growing up together.

Heather

has always been a strong and dominant woman. Whoever marries her might not have a peaceful life.

Of course, Blake would not fall for a woman like Heather, so he did not understand what exactly these men liked about her. Obviously, her looks were not the most outstanding in their family. Even Everly was much prettier than her, considering that she was already attractive at such a young age.

With these thoughts in his mind, he looked sideways at Everly, who was sitting opposite him. Everyone did not notice her beauty because they were distracted by Heather.

Objectively speaking of appearances, Everly was indeed more beautiful than Heather.

However, Heather had a stronger aura than Everly.

Blake noticed something special as he stared at Everly—she was shooting furtive looks at Caleb. A sudden thought then popped into Blake's mind. I used to think that Everly was still a

young girl. It seems that it's time for her to experience romance now.

Perhaps, I can align forces with her. He had always been giving Heather a hard time on his own. As a result, he forgot that many people in the Langston Family had been rather

unhappy with her and he was not the only one.

This is an opportunity for me. Apart from that, Everly is quite a soft person. If I exploit some of her skills, she will definitely be useful to me. With that thought in mind, Blake revealed a smile on his face. Just as he was pleased with his findings, he noticed that Heather had been looking at him with a questioning look when he returned to his senses.

Perhaps she was wondering what he had been happy about. Upon seeing that, he quickly retracted his glance. He could have looked weird as he smiled in her direction earlier. No wonder she is wondering why I'm smiling at her.

Upon seeing the different family members plotting against each other, Robert did not want Caleb to notice it. However, based on Caleb's sharp eyes, he would probably have understood what was going on by just a few glances.

The Langston Family was indeed facing a problem. Because of the competition between Heather and Blake, the family was separated into two different groups. Even though they looked harmonious on the surface, some of them sided with Blake while others merely relished in the drama unfolding in front of them. After all, there were those who enjoyed the

family dramas without thinking that it was actually quite problematic.

Apart from Blake, the rest of them did not dare to express their displeasure toward Heather.

Everyone had started to become fearful of her some time ago and the resentment began to accumulate over time

Caleb could tell that Heather was not popular in her family. Indeed, she stood out from the rest in the Langston Family. Everyone else in her family was well-dressed whereas she merely wore a plain white dress with minimal makeup on her face.

Even so, she looked beautiful, but she had the air of a powerful queen. Her natural elegance

made her stand out among those present. For someone like her, she would not be inconspicuous even if she was in a crowd with plain clothes. On the contrary, she would make others seem dull, which made her much better than the people who were well-dressed

but rotten on the inside.