

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 605

Without giving the leader a chance at all, Matthias said without raising his head, "You can leave now." It was as if he hadn't even heard what the person had just said.

Everyone looked at each other for a while before someone took the lead and left, and the rest followed suit. Eventually, only the leader was left standing before Matthias, who did not even spare him a glance. He was busy with the task at hand as if the former didn't exist at all.

Matthias had handled things too kindly in the past, and it emboldened the other as a result. But now, he wasn't going to continue to be so polite.

"Head over to the finance office and collect your pay." He spoke very firmly. The leader looked at Matthias pleadingly for him to change his mind, but it was to no avail.

Matthias did not even ask him who was behind the incident. In fact, he had already made his guess without intending to confirm it with the leader.

Since there was no longer any chance of turning things around, the leader could only accept his fate despite his resentment. Even if that person came out with the truth right now, it probably wouldn't make things any better.

At the same time, Heather was enjoying her solo vacation far away in Iceland. Since Matthias had left, she depended on herself and walked out of her misery. It even reminded her of that time in Antarctica.

Unknowingly, it had been a day since he had left. Heather tossed and turned at night, but she couldn't fall asleep. His face kept appearing in her mind from time to time, and she would be hit by a pang of guilt when she thought of the despair in his eyes.

He hadn't left any messages for Heather, and her phone was quiet as though it had been turned off; it seemed like she had lost everything overnight.

Before this, she would chat with Myra until late at night. After all, there was nothing they didn't talk about. Heather was able to relax with Myra around, but now that her relationship with the latter had turned out this way, paired with her falling out with Matthias in just a few days, Heather had no one else. She didn't know if she could return to Bradford City before New Year's Day. Right now, she didn't want to return to that ineffable place.

It was where her home was; it was where Robert, Myra, Matthias, and even Leon were. In addition to these people that she cared about, there were also traps waiting for her. She felt like a cheetah being hunted by a cunning hunter who was just waiting for her to fall into his traps.

If Caleb wasn't the one setting her up, who else could it be? Could it be that there was a mysterious force even Heather didn't know about? She would think about this whenever she settled down.

Caleb was coming on strong. Although he fitted the image of the mastermind behind everything, her intuition was constantly whispering to her that there was a hidden force in Bradford City.

Nonetheless, she couldn't think of anyone else. Heather wondered how this person was able to hide their presence so well. If she couldn't figure this out, she wouldn't know how to handle the problem.

As the hours went by, Heather pulled out the vintage-style pocket watch she had bought for a cheap price earlier that day. She typically refrained from buying stuff at flea markets, but this morning, she bought this pocket watch without thinking much about it.

She held the object to her ear as she listened to the sound of time passing. In fact, she wanted to make herself fall asleep to the sound of the watch ticking. In the warm room, she almost forgot about the icy weather outside.

The snowfall had been going on for such a long time, and it felt like it was never going to stop. With the light of her cellphone, she carefully studied the pocket watch. After a long time, there was still no sign of sleep, and the chaos in her mind was about to force her into a breakdown.

She wondered what time it was at Bradford City, and she wondered what Matthias was doing. Out of nowhere, an unread message popped up on the screen. She opened up Messenger with a hint of anticipation, thinking it was Matthias who had texted her.

"It's Leon," she said to herself somewhat ruefully.

'Why didn't you come back with Matthias, Heather?' Leon was rather surprised when he heard about this, so he immediately sent a message to her.

'He can't be away from the Locke Group for too long.' She gave a random excuse.

Undoubtedly, Leon wasn't a person who was easy to fool. He immediately replied, 'Did you fall out with him again?' After all, they clashed with each other so often that Leon had gotten used to it.

'I don't want to talk about it.' Talking about Matthias with Leon was the last thing she wanted to do right now.

Leon somewhat regretfully looked at his phone, for it seemed like there wouldn't be any gossip. Heather knew that Leon was concerned about her, but she didn't want to talk about these things.

'Come back soon, Heather!' Leon felt bored without her in Bradford City, not knowing who else he should hang out with.

Recently, he had been so busy with his own affairs that he didn't even have time to pick up girls. By the time he finished settling all of his affairs, Heather had gone to Iceland to his surprise.

As such, Leon was unable to find someone to talk to. In fact, he was rather lonely. He thought about going to see Paige, but he abandoned the idea in the end. As he thought about what she had told him, as well as the things he himself had privately found out, Leon hesitated. He didn't know whether he should go after Paige.

After going through something like that, Leon didn't know if Paige would accept a new relationship—the most difficult women to pick up were the ones who were heartbroken, after all. On top of that, he couldn't guarantee that the relationship with Paige would work out. He didn't want her to experience despair once again.

At the moment, he was indecisive; he couldn't be devoted to just one person. Back then, he had spent all his persistence on Heather, so it would be impossible for him to be loyal to another person for a while. In other words, he was afraid he couldn't handle a relationship with Paige. Although he felt something for her, he hesitated to pursue her. At a time like this, he really wanted to chat with Heather since she could probably give him some help.

'I'll be back before the New Year's.' Heather had just made up her mind. She intended to return in time for the company's opening, and she wasn't going to go back on her word with the Saffords.

'Did you figure anything out in Iceland?' Leon asked.

'I don't know,' she replied swiftly. She really did not know as she had never been so lost.

Leon was astonished upon reading her answer. After thinking for a long time, he then asked, 'Can we video call each other?' Leon wanted to talk to her directly since there were many things that he wanted to say but couldn't express clearly through text.

'Let's just get on a voice call.' Since she couldn't sleep, she thought that she might as well talk to Leon.

Soon, her phone rang. Heather hesitated for a moment before she answered. Meanwhile, Leon's impatient voice rang and he seemed to have a bunch of things he wanted to talk to her about.

"I miss you, Heather," he said with a slight whine in his voice.

"Are you done settling your issues?" Heather knew him. Once she heard his words, she knew that he was loafing around again.

"Yeah." He walked toward the couch with his phone in his ear, wanting to lie down and chat with her comfortably.

"Are things complicated with your family?" She had only occasionally heard him mention his family before, and she didn't know much about them. If his family hadn't come to Bradford City, she might've never thought that his family was so beyond her imagination.

"You could say that!" Apart from the slight ache he felt in his back, he was getting comfortable lying on the couch.

“Why did they search for you in such a way?” She hadn’t spoken about the explosion in detail with him, so she was taking the opportunity to divert his attention.

After a moment, he responded, “Why are you suddenly talking about this matter?” He obviously didn’t want to talk about it at all. His family was his sore spot, and he simply didn’t want it to be brought up.

“You clearly told me last time that you would give me an explanation, so why are you reluctant to talk about it now?” She insisted that they talked about this matter properly.

“Heather, you’re making this difficult for me,” he said bitterly. He didn’t expect her to insist on it, and it made him feel awkward.

“If you don’t want to talk about it, I’ll just hang up!” Heather spoke with a slight hint of threat in her tone.

Just then, his eyebrows knitted tightly. Since she had asked, then he had nowhere to run. After thinking about it, he said, “Don’t hang up. I’ll tell you, but there’s one condition. After I explain it to you, you have to help me with something.” He hurriedly took the opportunity to negotiate.

Heather agreed at once. When she heard Leon’s tone, she instantly knew that he was distressed about his relationships again—she didn’t mind helping him out on this matter. In the past, he had sought her to talk about this, and she helped him to analyze his problems from a psychological perspective.

“I don’t know much about your family. If you don’t mind, can you tell me more?” Heather wanted to know about Leon’s family, and she didn’t rule out the possibility that the mysterious force was related to them.

“Heather, are you suspecting that my family has infiltrated Bradford City and have been secretly manipulating certain things behind the scenes?” Leon knew her well too, for he saw through her at once.

Since she did not deny it, he knew that he had guessed correctly. After mulling it over, he said, “My family does have business dealings with the Moriarty Family, but we are in no way a pawn in their hands,” he said frankly.

It turned out that Heather was right all along—the power of Leon’s family was not to be underestimated. As things got more and more complicated, Heather began to suspect Leon.

“Why aren’t you talking, Heather? Are you doubting me?” Once again, he saw through her thoughts.

“No, I believe in our friendship.” Although she had only doubted him for a moment, she quickly dismissed the idea.

“Don’t worry, my family won’t get involved in your family strife.” He didn’t know what else to say to her, so he could only provide her with reassurance.

“Okay.” She trusted him. After all, he was the only person around her that she could trust.

“Okay, that’s enough of my explanation,” Leon said playfully.

When she heard this, Heather furrowed her eyebrows. She didn’t expect him to pull something like this, and it was a real pain in the neck; it seemed like he really didn’t want to talk too much about his family. Meanwhile, Heather wondered if she should ask the question that had been lingering in her mind.

“Should I take your silence as an agreement? Can we talk about me now?” Leon quickly asked, afraid that she would throw more questions at him.

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Since she failed to find any reason to refuse, Heather could only acquiesce. When Leon saw that she did not deny it, he said, “I’m still hesitant to pursue Paige.”

She didn't expect this to be what he was worrying about. Heather assumed that Leon had started pursuing Paige a long time ago, but it turned out that he was still hesitating. It seemed like he was serious this time.

"If you like her, just do it. Isn't that the principle you've always lived by? Why are you still hesitant to make a move?" she asked teasingly.

"When I think about the things that you've told me, I can't make up my mind at all." He was indecisive since it was something he couldn't easily forget. As such, there was no way he could go after Paige.

In fact, it all started because of Heather—that was why she had to help him get over this. After all, Leon was never this cautious and indecisive when he pursued Heather back then.

It was rare for Leon to be so undecided. Meanwhile, Heather held back her laughter and said, "That means you are quite devoted to Paige."

Right now, Leon was slightly tongue-tied as the woman teased him. In fact, it had been a long time since he last pursued a girl with such seriousness.

"Is there really no hope for me to pursue her, Heather?" Back then, he had lost in the hands of her. This time, he didn't want to fail in his pursuit of Paige.

Chasing after something that couldn't be reached was the worst. After experiencing this once, he didn't want to go through it again.

When she heard this, Heather realized why he was hesitant—he was afraid of being rejected. She had destroyed his confidence before, and it seemed like he wanted to regain his confidence from Heather.

"Perhaps you're the only one who can get Paige to open up her heart," she said while assuring him. If his confidence suffered another blow at this moment, he might be even more afraid to make a move.

After mulling it over, Heather came to the conclusion that Paige simply didn't want to be involved in any romantic relationships—she was probably done with love. Perhaps Leon

could help her walk out of the shadows, and Heather didn't think it was a bad thing. She was so detailed when analyzing others, but when it came to herself, she was a complete mess.

"Are you sure you're not just comforting me, Heather?" Leon didn't quite believe her and felt that she was just comforting him in disguise.

"I've always been sharp-tongued to you, so do you think I would be kind enough to comfort you?" she asked casually. Leon was suspicious by instinct, so she had to eliminate his doubts.

He thought about it for a while and realized that she had a point. Heather had always been blunt with him, and she never beat around the bush.

"What do you think I should do?" Leon asked in distress.

This was a difficult question—even Heather didn't know what he should do. She didn't know much about Paige, let alone her take on relationships.

"Aren't you good at picking up girls? Why are you asking me this?" She threw the question back to Leon. She couldn't come up with an answer, so there was no need for her to think.

"We're going in circles again," Leon said bitterly. Chatting with Heather was just troublesome since there was no conclusion at all.

Leon had long seen through her tricks; if she didn't want to answer a question, she would throw it back at him. He hoped that she could help him out, but he still had to rely on himself in the end.

"I don't know what kind of advice I should give you." Instead of beating around the bush, Heather spoke frankly.

"I don't know how to approach her. Should I go after her relentlessly, or should I play hard to get?" he asked in distress. He was racking his brains just to ask her out on a date. There was still a long way to go after that, and he didn't know what to do.

"Forget about your tricks and just be sincere to her," Heather said in a resigned manner. She wondered why he didn't think of simply pursuing someone sincerely without any tricks.

"Sincere?" The corners of his lips pulled back. This was what he lacked the most; if he was indeed sincere, perhaps he would've even won Heather over back then.

"I know that you don't know how to truly love someone," she said lightly, sounding a little defeated.

She then added quickly, "I don't know, so don't ask me." She didn't know how to be sincere to other people as well.

"You might as well just say that we're both incompetent in love," Leon spat out. After going around in a circle, Heather ended up insulting them both.

"There are too many people in this society who are incompetent in love. Because of this, we feel that true love is precious," said Heather as she sighed. The people around her were bound to someone for a variety of reasons—only Myra and Tony were together because of love.

Occasionally, Heather envied their relationship; she envied the deep love they had for each other.

"Are you lecturing me, Heather?" Leon understood where she was coming from, but in the pursuit of true love, the journey was a rocky road. He wondered how one was supposed to know when they had met the right person to give their all.

"You should stop discussing relationships with me. I don't have any good advice for you, and I'm a mess myself." Inadvertently, she exposed her current situation with Matthias. Her relationship was getting worse and worse, and she was really disappointed in herself.

"Matthias has been rather accommodating to you, so why won't you be a little more gentle with him, Heather?" Leon hit the nail on the head. In fact, no one wished for their partner to be that assertive, let alone a successful business tycoon like Matthias.

"How would you know?" Heather understood all these, but when push came to shove, she was her capricious self who kept doing things that hurt others and herself.

"As an outsider, I see things more clearly. Sometimes, I think you're asking a little too much of Matthias. He's not a master at relationships, so he can't possibly do everything for you." In fact, Leon could see that Matthias was still quite inexperienced. His inexperience both attracted and displeased Heather.

“Are you saying that all the problems between him and I are of my own doing?” she asked in dissatisfaction. She was frustrated that Leon was taking Matthias’s side and accusing her of being unreasonable.

“No, Heather—that’s not what I meant. I mean...”

However, she interrupted him and said, “I don’t want your explanation. Men are always complaining that us women aren’t gentle or tolerant enough.” She was blowing things out of proportion at this point.

Meanwhile, Leon was dumbfounded at how stubborn she was when people gave her advice. He knew this was how she was, and it would be difficult for her to change.

“You’re misinterpreting my words. When there is conflict between two people, I think that both of them must be at fault. You can’t put all the blame on him.” Not wanting her to interrupt him again, Leon spoke in one breath.

“So you’re saying that I’m always passing the buck?” Heather was now energized enough to speak properly with him.

“You’re on fire today, Heather. Why don’t you let some steam off?” Leon asked cautiously.

She had been slightly irritated in the beginning, but because of this little fiasco, her mood improved greatly.

“I don’t want to discuss relationships anymore. Let’s talk about something more serious.” Heather changed the subject since they were starting to talk unpleasantly to each other. Hence, it was probably better for them to change the topic before it was too late.

“How are the preparations for the company’s opening coming along?” Heather had delegated all the tasks to Leon beforehand, so she didn’t know how things were going.

“There are a few minor issues that still need to be discussed with Paige.” In fact, Leon had yet to get started on some of the little details.

“Since there is an open and honest reason to speak to her, why don’t you go and see her?” she said in disgust, wondering since when had Leon become so fearful.

"I don't know how to ask her," he said. He wanted to ask Paige out, but he felt a little embarrassed.

"In that case, I'll ask on your behalf." It was rare for her to be so considerate. Naturally, Leon was more than happy to agree.

"This is what I've been waiting for," he said excitedly.

"You have to be scrupulous in separating public from private interests. You can't delay business because of private matters. Paige isn't going to bite, so what are you afraid of?" she asked half-jokingly.

"The person who is delaying business because of personal affairs seems to be you, Heather," Leon retorted nonchalantly.

"I'll admit to that." She didn't bother arguing with Leon, nor did she want to waste more time dwelling on this.

"You admit it so freely, but there isn't a hint of sincerity at all. You don't even have an ounce of remorse in you." He began to condemn Heather, who had just been lecturing him moments ago. Naturally, he had to return the favor.

"Old habits die hard. Forgive me for being capricious," she said insincerely. Upon hearing this, Leon felt frustrated. It was as if she was the open and poised one, whereas he was the petty man.

"I'm not going to continue talking with you. I'm getting ticked off," he said in an exaggerated manner. If he continued the conversation, he would end up being the one who lost.

"You say it like I'm picking on you." Heather grinned. Her mood had brightened considerably after talking to Leon.

"Come back soon, Heather. Your recent performance has disappointed me!" he said in a joking tone, but he indeed thought her behavior was indeed a little uncharacteristic as of late.

"I'm disappointed in myself too," she said emotionally. Truthfully, she was quite dismayed at herself and did not know what she was doing.

While she hid in Iceland, she refused to return to Bradford City and face the turmoil that was going on. As of late, she realized that she was running away from her problems. She used to face her problems head-on, but now, she was losing her confidence.

It was getting late, yet Heather wasn't sleepy at all. She got down from the warm bed and switched on the lights. In the spacious room, she began to understand the meaning of loneliness.

Never had she waited so eagerly to hear from Matthias. Ever since he left, it was like he had completely disappeared from her world. Without his warmth, she started to appreciate it. No matter what she did, she had no company and no one to share her experiences with.

In fact, no one would always tolerate another person's capriciousness. Heather believed this, which was why she was unwilling to give him her all. She thought he was different, but it seemed like she was wrong.

Will hope emerge from my despair?