

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 2386

"What you're saying is..." After a long moment of silence, Charles lifted his head to stare intently at Jim's face. "When you first started working for Landry Group, you were brainwashed by Butler Fred and Mickey into committing these acts of treachery?"

He furrowed his eyebrows and added, "But even though it was seven or eight years ago, Rosalyn and I had still treated you well, hadn't we, Jim? If so, why would you be persuaded by Butler Fred into betraying our family? Besides, even if he had successfully talked you into doing these, what happened after that?"

Charles raised his uninjured hand and snatched the documents out of Jim's hand. There was a hint of fury in his wizened gaze as he glared at Jim. "All these papers show that the companies registered under your name are still in business until now. Not only that, but they're becoming more and more successful by the day!"

"Rosalyn and I can understand when you say you were brainwashed and didn't know better. After all, every one of us had committed mistakes when we were young, but even after knowing you made a mistake, you never tried to correct yourself and instead started investing more effort into running these private companies. "Moreover, you never tried to help the Landry family financially despite knowing about the hardship we had gone through for the past year." Charles fixated his angry gaze on Jim's face and snarled, "How're you going to explain yourself now?"

Jim furrowed his brows in exasperation when faced with his father's blatant fury. He sighed and plopped down in a chaise lounge, then turned to glance at Butler Fred, who was still restrained. "Are you going to explain, or do you want me to do it?"

The servants had managed to help Butler Fred up from the ground, but at this moment, his face was stained with dirt and dust. When he heard Jim talking to him, he could not help sneering as he replied, "Are you kidding me, Young Master Landry? "If I told them the truth about everything, will you be able to convince the Landry and Lynch families to let me go and show me mercy?". Jim narrowed his eyes and glanced first at Charles, then at Joshua. Finally, he burst into laughter and said, "It's clear that I can't do so."

"Well, in that case, why should I help you?" Butler Fred sneered. "Do you honestly think I'd be so kind as to help your cause?"

A glimmer of triumph flashed through his eyes as he added, "You have no way of explaining yourself out of this, do you? Otherwise, why would you have asked me for help? I'm sorry to say this, but..."

He narrowed his eyes. "Helping you is the last thing I want to do right now, so—"

"So let me explain instead," Mickey interrupted before Butler Fred could even finish his sentence.

Mickey had not uttered a single word from the moment he followed Butler Fred, Rosalyn, and Luna into the garden, so Luna and Joshua were both surprised to hear him speak suddenly.

Luna turned to stare at him in bewilderment.

She did not understand why Mickey would volunteer himself after hearing Butler Fred declare his refusal to help Jim.

Did he have a conscience after all?

Or, was he trying to draw the line between him and Butler Fred so he would have a chance of freedom? "Mickey..."

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Butler Fred furrowed his brows in confusion, clearly unsure of what Mickey was about to do, either. "You..."

"I never knew that you were the one who killed my mother." Mickey lifted his head to fixate his vengeful gaze on his father's face. "You've always told me that my grandpa, grandma, and mother all died in a fire.

"You claim that they had died because of their lack of awareness of fire safety and even told me that the only reason we survived was that they had deliberately chased us out of their barbecue party.

"Every time the thought of my mother or other relatives popped into my head, I'd be filled with hatred and resentment. I had gone so many years thinking that they deserved to die because of their stupidity and arrogance... until now."

His cold, steely gaze was filled with hatred. "It was only after Joshua exposed the truth about your past that I finally found out...not only were you the one who killed my mother and grandparents, but you even twisted the truth and made me think they were the villains for so many years!"

Mickey closed his eyes and let out a bitter chuckle. "It's not that my mother didn't love me at all, but she never got the chance to!"

Butler Fred's expression grew darker and darker at every word, his face as pale as the wall behind him. He opened his mouth as though he wanted to say something, but no words came out. "Mickey....." He wanted to explain that he had been telling the truth, that Mickey's mother was indeed the twisted woman he claimed, and that their entire family had treated him like a slave.

However, when faced with Mickey's seething gaze, he could not seem to utter a single word.

He knew that no matter what he said, Mickey would never believe him again.

None of his words mattered; nothing he could ever say would be able to overpower a woman who had died more than 30 years ago.

He was the one who had done this to himself.

—

"Master Landry." A glimmer of triumph flashed through Mickey's eyes at the sight of Butler Fred's ashen face. He turned to stare at Charles with a look of admiration and said, "I can explain to you why Young Master Landry decided to keep these companies running. That's because Mickey glanced impassively at Butler Fred and explained coldly, without a single hint of warmth in his tone,"

That's because my father had tried to scare Young Master Landry when he first started working at Landry Group.

"He compiled all the documents that had almost been destroyed by the Lynch family and showed them to Young Master Landry, claiming that if he didn't prepare himself for the inevitable battle, Lynch Group would grow more and more powerful with Joshua's reign and one day, Landry Group would be attacked and forced into bankruptcy.

"At that time, Young Master Landry had just started working for the company, so naturally, he was concerned about the company's future. When he heard this, he immediately decided to find a solution to preserve Landry Group's future.

"With the help of other people, my father then managed to convince Young Master Landry into secretly transferring Landry Group's assets to his personal account to prevent any unnecessary financial losses. After all, if not even Landry Group could trace this money, our opponents could never."

Finally, Mickey turned to meet Charles' gaze and added, "Because of this, Young Master Landry transferred all this money out of the company account in batches. Initially, my father had intended to use this evidence to threaten Young Master Landry into obeying his commands, but to his surprise, Young Master Landry had used this money to establish new companies instead of saving them up as he'd thought.

"Not only that, but as he matured, Young Master Landry eventually saw through my father's scheme and fell out over this."

Charles furrowed his brows upon hearing this, then turned to stare at Jim. "Since this was the case, why did you hide the truth for so long?"

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“Well...”

Jim lifted his head to meet Charles' gaze head-on. “I realized that even though the companies I owned outside of Landry Group were small, they brought in considerable income for me.

“I wanted to stand on my own feet by building my career while helping run Landry Group at the same time.”

Charles narrowed his eyes and sneered upon hearing this. “And why is that? Do you somehow think that Landry Group isn't good enough for you anymore?”

“Not at all.” Jim leaned against the back of his chair lazily and explained, “I just knew exactly where I stood. Even though Mother had always treated me as her own for many years, I knew full well that this wouldn't change the fact that I'm not her son, and that I don't have the right to inherit Landry Group. Therefore, no matter how hard I worked, none of this would be mine.”

He curled his lips into a bitter smile. “Initially, I thought Heather was your daughter, but unfortunately, she was not at all suitable to take over Landry Group, which was why I had been compelled to stay and run the company on her behalf.

“If this hadn't been the case, I would've left the company the moment my side businesses took off.”

With that, he turned to glance meaningfully at Luna and added, “This was also the reason why I refused to take over Landry Group after Luna returned last year, no matter how much the company had been struggling.

“I knew that it'd be easy for me to return but almost impossible for me to leave again, and I wanted nothing more than to hand over the family business to Luna because this had always been rightfully hers.” As he said this, he picked up the documents and thumbed through them. “However, I never thought that Landry Group would fall into my hands once more after Charlotte brainwashed me and wiped my memories. As for the reason why I never tried to help Landry Group out despite it being targeted and attacked by Joshua...”

He curled his lips into a bitter smile and began to recite some of the names on the page.

“These are the names of the companies that had been helping Landry Group in secret. Because none of you had ever been directly involved in running the company, you're probably not familiar with them, but I am.” Joshua narrowed his eyes when he heard the names rolling off Jim's tongue.

“I’m more than familiar with all the names of these companies because every time Lynch Group tried to target Landry Group, they’d step up and cooperate with Landry Group, indirectly saving them from going bankrupt. “I’ve sent my men to run background checks on these companies, and all of them came back with the discovery that a lone man owned all these businesses, but no matter how hard my men tried, they couldn’t find more information about this secretive boss.”

Joshua curled his lips into a smirk as he glanced at Jim.” Initially, I had thought the man behind the scenes was one of Mr. Charles’ old friends, but it turns out it was you all along.”

Jim nodded. “That’s right; it was me. As for…”

He lifted his head to stare earnestly at Rosalyn and Charles. “As for the reason I decided to keep my identity a secret and didn’t even offer to help Landry Group financially even when faced with impending bankruptcy, I ..”

He let out an exhale as a look of defeat flashed across his face. “It was because I knew that Landry Group was no match for Joshua at all, and even if I used all the money I had to help, there was no guarantee that we’d even be able to put up a fight against Lynch Group.

“Therefore , if I kept my identity a secret, at least I’d be able to take you guys in if Landry Group went bankrupt, and you’d have something to fall back on.

“However, if I exposed myself too early and made my assets known, the entire family would go broke if my assets and Landry Group’s combined couldn’t overpower Joshua.”

The entire garden fell silent upon hearing this. Charles stared at his son dazedly as though he wanted to say something, but no words came out.

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Luna, too, was stunned by this sudden revelation.

Never, not even in her wildest dreams, had she thought that Jim would be hiding so much from them.

It made sense why Jim, when the Landry family was going through their toughest times, had so confidently told her that even if they went broke, he would be able to take them in.

He had been preparing for this moment for a long time.

“Jim never revealed the extent of his assets because he had been thinking of us all along...” said Rosalyn, sighing, her head lowered as she continued wrapping gauze around Charles’ wound. “This was why Butler Fred had taken advantage of the situation and collected so much incriminating evidence that led us to think Jim had betrayed us...”

She let out another sigh and finally lifted her head to stare at Jim with a relieved look. “You never disappoint, my dear son.”

A surge of warmth spread through Jim’s heart when he heard these.

She...called him her dear son.

Did this mean that... not only had she forgiven him, but she even took pride in him?

“I want to apologize to you, Jim.” Rosalyn sighed when she saw the delighted look on Jim’s face. “Yesterday, when I read the documents that Butler Fred gave him, I had initially been

disappointed in you. I truly believed that you’d abandon us and focus on your own career.”

There was a hint of regret in Rosalyn’s gentle voice. “After all, you’re not my biological son, and now that you managed to find your brother-someone that could link you to your birth mother...

“Combined with the fact that you owned so many companies and assets outside of Landry Group, I truly thought that ...you were going to betray us...”

As she said this, Rosalyn lifted her head to glance at Luna. “This was why I had warned Luna not to believe you, thinking that your heart no longer belonged to the Landry family.

“Now, I stand corrected. You ... You’re my son, the man I raised, and I shouldn’t have doubted you in the first place.”

Rosalyn’s words felt like a blow against Jim’s chest. He quickly stood up, strode over to Rosalyn, and reached out to take her hands in his. “I don’t blame you, Mother. I shouldn’t have hidden all this from you for so long.

“I... When you and Father returned to Merchant City, and Luna and Joshua finally resolved their misunderstanding that Joshua stopped attacking Landry Group, I should’ve come clean with the truth right then and there, but...”

He closed his eyes as a bitter expression crept across his face.” You know how busy I’ve been lately, tending to Bonnie. Bonnie’s disease has been hard on me, and I... didn’t have the mental capacity to think about anything else.”

Rosalyn bit her lip at the sight of Jim’s pain. “Jim, about Bonnie...”

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“You don’t have to blame yourself for what happened to Bonnie, Mother,” Jim interrupted Rosalyn before she could even finish her sentence.

His gaze became distant as he continued, “I know that you were the one who produced the poison that landed Bonnie in this coma.

“Yesterday ...I went to visit Nikki at the police station in secret, and she revealed that my mother Lucy had intended to use this poison to take her life.

“After coming out of the police station, I investigated the clinic from which Lucy got the poison, and I discovered that...the doctor who gave her the drug was a friend of yours.”

He turned to stare at Rosalyn. “You were the one who produced the drug, weren’t you, Mother?”

He let out a bitter chuckle and added, “I should’ve guessed. Who else in Merchant City would be capable of producing such a lethal poison apart from you, Mother?”

“Still, you had no idea that the doctor had requested this poison from you on Lucy’s behalf, and you didn’t know that Lucy would have a change of heart and choose not to take it in the end...”

“In a twist of fate, the poison ended up killing the woman I love the most.

“Perhaps this had been written in the stars; perhaps this was the price I had to pay in return for your many years of unconditional love.”

Jim turned to stare at Rosalyn’s pale face. “However, I don’t blame you. No matter what you did, you would do it with only good intentions, and I’m sure that when you first manufactured this drug, you never thought it would end up in Nikki’s hands.”

Rosalyn bit her lip when she heard this. “Actually, Jim-“

“Actually, Mother-in-law had been stricken by guilt over this,” Joshua interjected, smiling. “She’s been trying to think of a way to apologize to you and Bonnie.”

He lowered his head and contemplated for a moment before finally lifting his head to meet Jim’s gaze with a smile. “If I remember correctly, Bonnie has a few days left, and

I'm thinking that on the day of her death, we should host a small, intimate wedding for you two at Landry Mansion, where she can put on the most beautiful dress and leave this world in the company of friends and family..."

Joshua narrowed his eyes and stared at Jim. "What do you think?"

Jim fell silent for a moment, then nodded. "That sounds like a good idea. I want to hold her in my arms and let her leave that way, but I hope that in the next life..."

He curled his lips into a bitter smile. "In another life, I hope she loses her memories and becomes me, whereas I take her place. I never want to see her suffer and get her heart broken over me anymore."

Luna's chest tightened upon hearing this, and she instinctively lifted her head to stare at the man before her.

At this moment, she could finally associate the man standing before her with the memory of her kind, loving brother.

It was as though after so long, Jim had gradually returned to his old self before he lost his memories.

"Alright, we'll go with it." Seeing that Jim had agreed to his idea, Joshua nodded and turned to glance at Luna. "I'll leave this to you."

Luna nodded. "I'll take care of this."

She knew that Joshua had deliberately interrupted Rosalyn's confession to suggest the idea of hosting a wedding on the day of Bonnie's 'death'.

She knew what Joshua had intended to do; he was hoping that the first thing Bonnie would see when she came out of her coma was her lying in Jim's arms in a wedding dress.

That way, this would be a memory that neither Bonnie nor Jim would ever forget.

"Alright. Thank you, Luna." Rosalyn had also understood Joshua's intention and nodded in agreement. "This can be my way of apologizing to you and Bonnie over my past mistake, Jim."