

## Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 2396

Luna hesitated for a long time, but with the three children's encouragement, she finally decided to go ahead.

By the time she reached a decision, it was almost noon, and Thomas Howard had intended to meet her at 1 p.m.

With Nellie's help, Luna brainstormed the prototype for her jewelry design and developed a simple draft for Thomas Howard.

By the time they finished this, there were only 20 minutes left till the meeting time.

Nellie was worried that Luna would not be able to tap into her full creative potential due to her worries, so she volunteered to go with Luna to meet Thomas Howard in hopes that she could help alleviate her nerves.

"Aren't we going to send some guards to keep an eye on Mommy and Nellie?" As soon as Luna and Nellie left, Neil furrowed his brows and glanced at Nigel, who remained motionless on the sofa. "Are you sure it's going to be safe for them?"

"Why wouldn't it be?" Nigel replied impassively as he stared at the surveillance tape on the laptop screen. "You know fully well how big of a star Thomas Howard is. He has reporters following his every move-even to the toilet.

"Haven't you seen how crazy the traffic became as soon as he arrived in Merchant City this morning? He'll be surrounded by

reporters and fans no matter where he goes. Even if he and Mommy conduct their business meeting in a private booth and no one can hear them, there will still be plenty of people with their eyes on him.

"If you were Thomas Howard, would you dare to harm Luna and Nellie in this case?"

Neil nodded in agreement upon hearing this, then propped his chin up in his hand and added, "You're right. Not only that, but the restaurant that Uncle Joey proposed for their meeting is a fine dining place, and it'd be harder for them to hurt Mommy and Nellie even if they wanted to."

Nigel nodded. "That's right. To be frank, celebrities like him don't get much privacy at all." "But they get to be famous." Neil turned around and glanced at his brother with a hint of curiosity in his eyes. "Nigel, do you think I have the potential to be a famous superstar? Do you think I should try to pursue this path?"

Nigel, who was busy typing on his keyboard, froze when he heard this. A split second later, he lifted his head to meet Neil's gaze. "I don't think you should."

Neil pouted. "Why not?"

"I don't like being deprived of my privacy."

"But I'm the one that's going to be famous, not you."

Nigel shot Neil a look of distaste, then replied in exasperation, "Have you forgotten the fact that we're identical twins?"

Neil was silent for a moment. "Oh...right. But since we're identical twins, doesn't it mean you'd be able to share the limelight if I became an international superstar? After all, if someone were to call me handsome, they'd be complimenting you, too."

In response, Nigel hurled a throw pillow in Neil's direction.

While on the way to Bamboo House, Luna contemplated for a long time before finally deciding to call Joshua.

She gave him a brief description of what had happened over the last two hours, including the conversation with Joey and the decision she had made alongside the three children.

Joshua was silent for a moment before finally saying, "I think your decision is right, but please be safe, considering you have Nellie with you, too. I'll send some of my guards to Bamboo House to keep an eye on you, and remember to call me if anything happens."

Luna felt the weight lift off her shoulders when she heard this. She let out an exhale, leaned against the seat in relief, and closed her eyes. "Alright. Have you...heard any news about Sean?"

## **Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 2397**

"No." Joshua sighed. "However, we managed to find out a lot of information about that assistant of Luke's.

"Her name is Kate Miller, and she's from a rich and powerful family in Europa. The power and influence of her family are not to be underestimated.

"Luke had secretly taken her in when she arrived here, but despite that, she's still required to call her family every day to confirm her safety. If her family doesn't receive any information about her within these two days, they'll do anything to find her.

"If her family were to come over to Merchant City in a rage, not only would Luke be in trouble, but the entire Merchant City would be affected, too."

Luna furrowed her brows upon hearing this. "Is it that serious?"

"Yes." Joshua sighed. "It's the same as... If Nellie was to go to a foreign city after she grows up and ends up going missing there, but all data shows that she had never left that city, I, too, would flip the entire city upside down in search of her."

Luna fell silent for a moment before saying, "But why didn't you do this when our second daughter went missing?"

Not only was Joshua shocked by this question, but even Luna herself seemed to be momentarily stunned. A split second later, she sighed and added, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have compared this to that."

However, Joshua did not appear to be angry at all. He fell silent for a moment before finally replying patiently, "The reason I never turned the entire city upside down in search of her..."

"You and I had both thought she died as soon as she was born, and we had even buried her together, hadn't we?"

Luna closed her eyes. "That's right."

"Even after we found out that she was still alive, we were led to believe that Riley was our daughter, weren't we?"

Luna's hands began to tremble. "That's right, too."

"Finally, we have no idea-even until now-whether the child is still alive or not, much less her whereabouts. Perhaps she could be dead, or maybe she could've been taken out of Merchant City already.

"My point is, there are too many uncertainties to this question, and if I choose to flip the entire city upside down to search for her, what would people think of us?"

"What will people think of us, the Landry and Lynch families, if our search efforts turned out to be futile despite wrecking the entire city in the process?"

The quiet rage in Joshua's voice made Luna silent for a long time.

"I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that in the first place." With that, she let out a sigh and hung up.

She knew that Joshua was right.

He was always capable of staying calm and level-headed no matter the situation, whereas she could not.

“Mommy,” Nellie’s voice rang out.

Luna opened her eyes, glanced out the window, and realized that they had arrived at Bamboo House.

As soon as they got out of the car, Joey went up to them like an obedient dog. “Master Moon! Princess Nellie! You two are right on time-Mr. Thomas has just arrived, too!”

As he said this, he led Luna and Nellie into a private booth in the restaurant.

“Is this your daughter?” a man’s low, melodic voice rang out as soon as they entered the door. “How adorable. I wish my daughter were this cute, too.”

## **Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn’t Easy chapter 2398**

There was a hint of a smile in the man’s voice, but for some reason, Luna felt uneasy about it.

After all, no one-not once in her 20-over years of life-had ever said anything like this while complimenting her daughter on their first encounter.

If she remembered correctly, this was her first time ever meeting Thomas Howard in person, and they were not even acquaintances to begin with.

However, no matter how uneasy she felt, she still smiled and glanced at the man sitting in the booth. “You’re a funny man, Mr. Howard. I’m sure a celebrity like you can’t possibly have children on a whim, can you?”

The tall, slender man was leaning against the sofa before her, his arms crossed as he scrutinized her. He was wearing a black suit which accentuated his long legs. Even with his legs crossed elegantly, they still appeared to be longer than most, so much so that a patch of his ankle was exposed underneath his pant leg.

Underneath the dim, yellow light, the man’s face looked as though he had been chiseled out of marble, and for a split second, Luna could not help being swayed by this man’s beauty.

Anne was right; Thomas Howard’s face was a work of the gods.

He was even more handsome and elegant in person.

“To be quite frank, the news of me dating someone would stir up a storm anywhere, much less any news of me getting married and having kids.” Thomas did not appear to be offended by Luna’s words at all. He poured Luna a cup of tea and said, smiling, “Being handsome isn’t as fun as everyone thinks.”

For some reason, these words did not come off as haughty or arrogant when they spilled out of his mouth because it was the truth.

Luna pursed her lips and plopped down on the sofa alongside Nellie. After lingering on Thomas' face for a moment, she began the topic of their meeting.

"Mr. Howard, Joey had told me that you were the one who specifically requested my service and that you wanted to become an ambassador for my jewelry pieces. Is that right?"

"However, according to my research, you had once gotten into an argument with your stylist for making you wear jewelry. Based on this, I don't think you're a fan of wearing jewelry at all, so I want to know: what is the reason you want to work with me so badly?"

Thomas chuckled and swept his dark, penetrating glance over Luna's face.

Finally, he smiled and replied, "What would you think, Ms. Luna, if I told you that I wanted to work with you because I love your daughter too much?"

As he said this, his gaze lingered on Nellie, and he continued with a smile, "I hear that even though your daughter is only seven years old, she's already displayed a remarkable talent in jewelry design as well."

Luna furrowed her brows and instinctively tugged Nellie closer to her, then said coldly, "I'm sorry, Mr. Howard, but my daughter is only seven. Even though she has shown incredible potential in jewelry design, she cannot be the sole designer of any product. Likewise—"

She narrowed her eyes and stared at Thomas with a guarded look. "I'm not sure what your motives are behind telling me all this, Mr. Howard, but I can't help taking offense in this."

Thomas narrowed his eyes when he saw the cautious look on Luna's face, then leaned back against the sofa lazily. "You must've misunderstood me, Ms. Luna. I'm not a creep or a child molester. I just..."

## **Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 2399**

Thomas curled his lips into a smile and swept his glance over Nellie. "I, too, hope to have a daughter of my own, but unfortunately, circumstances won't allow me to, so..."

He propped his chin up with one hand and fixed his gaze on Luna's face. "I was hoping I could get to know Nellie better during our contract period, Ms. Luna. Don't worry; as soon as our contract is over, I'll get out of both you and your daughter's lives, and I promise not to get in touch again in the future."

Luna furrowed her brows upon hearing this.

She was unfamiliar with Thomas Howard's background, and if she had known that he wanted to work with her because of Nellie, she would not have come to meet him!

Even though having such a famous celebrity become an ambassador for her products would truly be the honor of a lifetime, she would not use her daughter as leverage!

At the thought of this, Luna let out an exhale and stood up. "I'm sorry, Mr. Howard, but my daughter is the apple of both me and my husband's eye. I'm sorry to say that our relationship, Mr. Howard, is only that of business in nature, and I'll never use my daughter as a bargaining chip for your cooperation."

With that, she grabbed hold of Nellie's hand and turned to leave.

However, they had just taken two steps when all of a sudden, Nellie drew her hand out of Luna's grasp and turned to stare at Thomas with wide, innocent eyes. "Sir, you said you liked me,

but can you tell me what it is that you like about me? Is there anything particular that makes you want to get to know me better?"

Thomas' expression darkened at the sound of Nellie's sugary sweet voice. He looked back at her through narrowed eyes but did not reply.

Luna was startled by Nellie's impulsive behavior. She quickly stormed forward to pull the little girl back into her arms. "Nellie!"

Nellie had already promised her before coming here that she would listen to her every command, so why did she suddenly break free and say such things to Thomas Howard?

"Why can't you answer me, Mr. Howard?" Nellie cocked her head innocently, blinking. "The truth is, I wasn't the reason you wanted to work with my Mommy, am I right?"

"That was just an excuse you came up with on the spot."

Even though her voice was soft and childlike, the words that came out of her mouth were oddly sharp. "When I entered the door just now, you had just glanced at me without even a hint of adoration in your eyes. You claimed that you liked me and wished I could be your daughter, but when you were talking to Mommy, you kept staring at her and didn't even glance at me.

"If you truly liked me and wanted to get to know me better, you would've been staring at me all this while."

Finally, Nellie let out a sigh and added, "Therefore, you probably have other reasons for wanting to work with my Mommy, but you didn't want to come clean with us, so you decided to use me as an excuse!"

The entire room fell silent.

After a long time, the sound of clapping echoed through the air.

As he raised his slender, bony hands in applause, Thomas glanced impassively at Luna and said with a sneer, "I never thought a seven-year-old would be more observant than you, Ms. Luna."

## **Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 2400**

Luna narrowed her eyes upon hearing this.

She pulled Nellie closer to her and met Thomas' gaze, sneering." So the reason you got in touch with Joey to set up an urgent meeting with me...was to insult me in person?"

Luna knew she had been behaving impulsively and should have noticed the observations that Nellie had made, but it was almost impossible for her to remain calm in a situation where her child's safety was at risk.

She had been questioning Thomas' motives since the beginning, and when he expressed his longing to have Nellie become his daughter and get to know her better... she could not help putting her guard up.

She had already lost a daughter; she could not allow herself to lose another.

She did not want to go through the pain of losing her daughter or the immense sorrow she had experienced when she thought Neil had died-once more.

This was why she had placed all her attention on protecting Nellie and overlooked the fact that Thomas had not expressed any signs of adoration toward Nellie at all, as he claimed.

"Why are you so apprehensive toward me, Ms. Luna?" Thomas chuckled when he noticed Luna's rage, then crossed his legs elegantly and said, "After all, no matter what happens, I'm sure we'll become business partners anyway."

Luna narrowed her eyes. "I don't feel like working with you anymore, Mr. Howard."

If Thomas Howard were to become her ambassador, there was no doubt it would be a great help to the start of her career, but...

She would do perfectly fine, even without his help!

Luna was confident that her career would be smooth sailing, even if she did not reestablish her career with her old pseudonym, Moon, or enlist Thomas Howard's help.

After all, she was experienced and possessed natural talent in jewelry design, so she knew she would be able to succeed eventually

She did not have to force herself to work with someone she did not like just to speed up the process.

"Is that so?" Thomas picked up his phone and tapped on the screen.

All of a sudden, a screen rolled down from the wall behind Luna, and an image was projected onto it.

Luna furrowed her brows as she glanced at the screen.

Just one glance made her entire body freeze as though she had been struck by lightning.

The video displayed a dark, moldy dungeon where two people were restrained.

One was Sean, and the other was a petite woman with short hair that she had never seen before.

The woman kept spouting words of vulgarity in frustration, whereas Sean's face was pale and defeated. His hands were still wrapped with bandages, and he was tied onto a chair with his head lowered in silence.

This scene stunned Luna so much that she was speechless for a few moments.

A split second later, she clenched her fists.

She should have known.

She should have believed her instinct.

Thomas Howard was involved in Sean and Kate's disappearance!

She thought Sean had accompanied Kate to the fan meeting with Thomas Howard, but according to this video, the truth was much more sinister than she had thought.

Thomas Howard had captured and imprisoned Sean and Kate as hostages.

This made perfect sense. Even though Sean was still young, he was an honest and responsible man, so why would he have left the house that Jim and Luke had settled him in without reason?



