Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 2401

Luna narrowed her eyes when she saw the image of Sean, then turned to glare at Thomas. "What the hell do you want?"

"To work with you." Thomas placed one hand elegantly on his knee while the other remained poised on the back of the couch and stared back at her nonchalantly. "This seems like a reasonable offer, doesn't it? To get two people in return for signing a contract with me?

"Nonetheless, you have another option-reject my offer and let your husband and brother continue searching for my hostages, but..."

He removed his hand from the couch, brought the cup to his lips to take a sip, then glanced impassively at Luna. "The fact that I captured these two people without anyone noticing means I'm fully capable of doing the opposite : hide them someplace so obscure that neither your husband nor brother will be able to find them in three days."

He glanced at the video displayed on the screen and added," You can see for yourself how dirty this dungeon is, which means it's likely infested with germs and bacteria. If Sean were to continue staying here without changing his wound dressing in three days... Do you think he'll be able to keep his hands?"

Finally, Thomas placed the cup back onto the coffee table and said with a contemptuous expression, "Although I must say, the Landry and Lynch families are so rich that even if he became crippled, you'd be able to take care of him for the rest of his life,

is that right?

"Of course, nothing matters more than your dignity, Ms. Luna. After all, this is a man who isn't even related to you, so why would it matter to you that he becomes crippled?"

Luna bit her lip upon hearing this.

She instinctively pressed the ring on her finger in an attempt to contact Joshua with the hidden microphone so that he would be able to hear their conversation.

However, to her surprise, a loud screeching echoed through her hidden earpiece as soon as she pressed the button.

The sound was so piercingly loud that she could not help furrowing her brows as panic spread through her body.

What happened?

"Don't be nervous; the signal from your communication device was blocked, that's all," said Thomas eloquently when he saw the confusion on Luna's face. "You'd better turn it off altogether. Otherwise, you'd go deaf."

Luna bit her lip, and fear crept into her heart. She quickly turned off the communication device and demanded, "Who on earth are you?"

This man seemed to see right through her every thought, so much so that he could even decrypt the hidden communication

device that Nigel had made for her!

"Why does that even matter?" Thomas sneered as he tossed a stack of documents onto the table before her. "What matters is that you should sign this contract with me now. Otherwise,

there's no telling what i'd do to the two people I kept hostage."

Luna bit her lip as her entire body erupted into cold sweats.

What was Thomas Howard trying to do?

He had kidnapped Sean and Kate to bribe her into working with him, yet insisted on offering her such a low price for her collaboration.

Why was he trying to force her into a deal that clearly disadvantaged him more than her?

"As for what I'm trying to do, you'll find out in the future." Thomas turned to smile at Nellie. "You came here with your Mommy because you wanted to explain the design concept behind the jewelry you customized for me, right?"

Nellie faltered for a moment, then nodded in reply. "Yes...that's right."

"Okay." He pointed at the seat next to him and smiled at her." Come here and explain it to me in person."

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As soon as he finished his sentence, Luna instinctively pulled Nellie closer to her side, staring at Thomas with a guarded look. "Don't you dare try to hurt my daughter!"

Thomas could not help chuckling at the sight of Luna's anxiety. He took another sip of his tea and swept his glance over Luna's face. "Didn't you hear what your daughter said just now? I'm not at all interested in her."

Then, he shot her a meaningful look and added, "However, I might be interested in some of your other daughters, should you have any."

Warning bells sounded in Luna's mind. She bit her lip and shot him a murderous glare. "In your dreams!"

Thomas stared at her for a long time, and then, all of a sudden, a cold sneer crept across his face.

A split second later, he sighed and glanced impassively at Nellie, whom Luna held protectively in her arms. "Well, your mother doesn't allow you to come to me, but what do you think?"

Nellie glanced first at Thomas, then at Luna. Finally, she pursed her lips and reached out to pry Luna's hand off her body.

For some reason, she could not help feeling that this man meant no harm to her, despite admitting the fact that he had lied about liking her.

Therefore, Nellie removed herself from Luna's grasp and picked

up the documents they had prepared for this meeting. She ambled over to Thomas' side and plopped down in the seat next to him. "Mr. Howard, because of the unfortunately short timing, Mommy and I only managed to draft a simple plan.

"Because the majority of your fans are women, we decided to customize some unisex jewelry pieces in lieu of the market demand. This is the proposal that Mommy and I came up with..."

Nellie's childlike voice was a stark contrast to the earnest look on her face as she explained the sketches to Thomas.

He could not help narrowing his eyes as he listened to her systematic and logical explanation.

To be frank, he was not fond of children at all, and he had been lying about liking Nellie, but...

At this moment, she was so cute that he could not tear his eyes away from her.

If only Nellie were not Joshua and Luna's daughter...

He could not believe that Joshua and Luna had raised Nellie in such a comfortable environment, whereas Riley...

A glimmer of malice flashed through his narrowed eyes.

Meanwhile, Luna stood opposite them, watching anxiously as Nellie presented her design scheme to Thomas.

She bit her lip nervously, and she could feel her heart thumping in her chest.

Even at this minute, she still could not figure out what this man had up his sleeve.

After all, Nigel had already investigated Thomas Howard from head to toe before arriving at Bamboo House, and they found that he had nothing in common with the Lynch or Landry families.

However, he seemed to be so familiar with everything about her!

Not only that, but Luna could feel the hostility radiating off this man's body.

Why was this so?

All of a sudden, the image that she had seen on Anne's social media popped into her mind.

Could the man that had helped Thomas with his luggage be Malcolm, after all?

If Malcolm had indeed started working for Thomas ... everything would make sense.

She and Malcolm had been friends for six years, and he knew almost everything about her, but...

Why was he working for Thomas, and why would Thomas even obey his commands ? Why was Thomas so hostile toward her?

Luna could not seem to find an answer to either of these questions.

As Luna's mind was swept away in this current of thoughts, Nellie had finished explaining the design concept and scheme to Thomas.

"What do you think about this, Mr. Howard?"

Thomas had never been interested in jewelry at all, and on top of that, the only thing on his mind during Nellie's presentation was Riley, as well as his hatred toward Luna and Joshua.

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Because of this, Thomas had not been paying attention to what Nellie had been saying at all.

He immediately snapped out of his thoughts, regained his composure, and smiled as he glanced at Nellie. "No problem at all. Let's sign the contract right now."

Then, he glanced at Luna, who was still gaping at him. "Let's sign the contract, Ms. Luna."

Luna furrowed her brows and stared back at him in puzzlement. "I honestly have no idea what you're trying to do."

Thomas smiled and tossed the stack of documents onto the table in front of her. "After you sign this, we'll officially be business partners. With all the time we're going to be spending together, you'll eventually find out what I'm trying to do."

All of a sudden, Luna could not help feeling that the contract she was holding was like a ticking time bomb.

If Joshua were here, he would have stopped her from signing this contract, but...

Her breath caught in her throat when she lifted her head to glance at the image of Sean on the screen, who seemed to become increasingly lethargic by the minute.

Even though Sean was not related to her by blood, he was Jim's brother and Joshua's cousin.

Not only that, but he was the newly adopted son of her parents.

Therefore, she did not dare to put Sean's well-being at risk for her dignity.

What if...

What if the person helping Thomas had indeed been Malcolm all this while?

Malcolm had grown up in Merchant City, so he knew this place like the back of his hand.

What would happen if they could not find Sean anywhere in Merchant City, not even with the combined forces of Joshua,

Jim, and Luke?

Finally, Luna let out an exhale.

She would do this-to salvage Sean's hands, to find out whether the man that had been secretly helping Thomas was indeed Malcolm, and to jumpstart her career.

She did not seem to have any other choice.

She picked up the pen that Thomas had tossed onto the table and signed her name on the contract after checking it.

As soon as she put down the pen, she stared coldly at Thomas and said, 'I hope you stick to your word, Mr. Howard."

"Of course I will." Thomas leaned against the back of the sofa and placed his slender fingers against his temple. "It takes you about half an hour to reach home, and in half an hour, these two hostages will appear at the entrance to Central Hospital. Please retrieve them when the time comes."

Then, he stood up, his tall, slender frame towering over her like Joshua's.

He curled his lips into a smile and added, "We're going to be seeing more of each other very soon, and here's to doing business with you, Ms. Luna."

Then, he strode out of the room.

Unbeknownst to him, a group of men dressed in black had surrounded the booth while they were talking.

The moment Thomas slid the doors open, he came face-to-face with Joshua's cold, penetrating eyes.

"Mr. Lynch." After a moment of surprise, he smiled at Joshua and glanced at the men behind him. "Why did you bring so many people here? Did you think I was going to hurt your wife and daughter?"

Joshua narrowed his eyes and stared coldly at him but did not reply.

Even though he remained silent, Joshua's domineering aura was palpable, and Thomas narrowed his eyes when he sensed this.

A split second later, he chuckled. "I'm not someone who'd stoop so low as to hurt a woman and a child.

"Ms. Luna and I are now business partners, and we'll be working together very closely in the future."

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Joshua narrowed his eyes and lifted his arm to block Thomas' way.

He gave Thomas a once–over, and a cold sneer crept across his face. "Did Luna agree to become business partners with you?"

When Luna was on her way to Bamboo House, she had told him that she would not sign the contract if she sensed that something fishy was going on.

Joshua, too, had realized that the signal from Luna's communication device had been blocked off as soon as she stepped foot into Thomas' private booth.

This was why he had rushed over to the scene with his bodyguards.

He knew that Luna must have discovered that her signal was blocked, and knowing this, she would never agree to sign a contract with Thomas.

"Of course she did." Thomas brandished the contract in his hand. "Everything is written here in black and white. If you have any doubts, feel free to ask your wife, Mr. Lynch."

Then, he put on his sunglasses and glanced at his assistant, who had been waiting outside the door, trembling in fright, all this while. "Let's go."

The assistant quickly approached him and draped a coat over his shoulders. "Sir, we must rush to the studio where *y*ou're scheduled for a magazine shoot. *We*'re already running late..."

"Okay." Thomas nodded at Joshua, smiling, then turned to leave

However, after taking just a few steps, he paused and said, without even looking back, "Joshua Lynch, you and your wife shouldn't be so hostile toward me. I'm not the enemy, after all."

He sneered and continued, "You have no reason to fear me at all–unless the two of you have done something you shouldn't have."

Then, he turned and walked away.

Joshua furrowed his brows, and a vein popped in his forehead as he stared at Thomas' retreating figure.

Why was this man so secretive?

"Daddy!" All of a sudden, Nellie sprinted out of the room and towards him with her arms outspread.

Joshua's heart immediately softened at this sight. He knelt, pulled his daughter into his arms, and kissed her cheek. "What happened just now? W*er*e *y*ou scared?"

Thomas, who at this moment was standing in the elevator, just so happened to witness this heartwarming scene.

A glimmer of malice flashed through his eyes.

The elevator doors slid closed.

"Sir." His assistant lowered his head when he noticed the dark expression on Thomas' face and said tentatively, "Is everything okay?"

"Of course." Thomas rolled his eyes and leaned against the elevator wall lazily. "I remember I sent you to the hospital to retrieve a sample of Riley's DNA and compare it to mine. Have you done this?"

The assistant nodded and quickly handed him the DNA report he was holding. "I went to three different DNA Diagnostic Centers, and all of them returned with this result...

"Riley is indeed your child."

Thomas glanced at the report, and another wave of hatred flashed through his eyes. "The child is a little over two months old now, so this means that her mother is probably that woman I slept with in Europa

last year.

"She gave birth to Riley without my knowledge, and now that the child has gone missing, she must be looking for her, too.

"Search the entire city for any woman currently searching for a lost daughter. Find her at all costs!"

The assistant fell silent for a moment, then finally sighed. "Why are *y*ou even bothering to find her, Sir? "She's just a lowly worker who, by sheer dumb luck, slept with you that night you lost consciousness. Not only that, but she even gave birth to your child without informing you..."

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"It's already enough now that you've found out the child's whereabouts, but finding the mother might

cause you more trouble.

"It's one thing if she wants to gain custody of the child from you, but another problem altogether if she insists on marrying you. You can't afford to get into such a drama like this, so..."

The assistant paused for a moment before finally saying, "I think you'd better stop looking for her."

Thomas took off his sunglasses to reveal his cold, emotionless eyes. "Do you think I'm afraid of such a consequence? A*re y*ou working for me, or am I working for you? Do I have to listen to your e*v*ery word from now on?"

The assistant lowered his head. "...I'm sorry. I'll do as you say..."

As soon as he finished his sentence, the elevator arrived on the first floor.

When the elevator doors slid open without warning, Thomas did not have the time to put his sunglasses back on.

Because of this, the woman waiting in front of the elevator managed to catch sight of his godlike, almost flawless face.

The woman standing in front of the elevator was thin, with skin so pale that she seemed to glow in the light.

However, she was not particularly pretty at all, just average and rather plain–looking.

At this moment, she was waiting for the elevator rather anxiously, as though something was on her mind. As soon as the doors slid open, she instinctively glanced into it and caught sight of Thomas.

Her gaze seemed to falter as soon as she registered his face.

A split second later, she lowered her head and turned away slightly to allow Thomas and the assistant to pass.

Thomas did not even give her so much as a glance. Instead, he put on his sunglasses haughtily and strode out of the door with his assistant trotting closely behind.

The woman remained motionless, staring dazedly in the direction Thomas had left.

After a long time, she let out an exhale and got into the elevator, which brought her to the floor Joshua and Luna were on.

When she arrived, she immediately caught sight of Luna and Joshua, who were chatting at the private booth entrance with Nellie.

She let out an exhale, strode over, and handed the piece of paper she had been holding to Luna. "Ma'am, my name is Yannie. My mother is Mrs. Flores, who works for you.

"After you and Princess Nellie left, my mother found this sketch on Princess Nellie's bed. She knew that you and Princess Nellie had come here for an important business meeting, and she had been sketching the designs on her bed.

"Therefore, she thought you must have left this sketch at home by mistake and sent me here to give it to you."

Yannie let out a sigh of relief after handing the sketch over to Luna. "I've never been to such a sophisticated place before, so I got lost trying to navigate here... I'm not too late, am I?"

A surge of warmth spread through Luna's heart when she saw Yannie wiping her sweat in exhaustion and noticed that the sketch she had given her was also covered in sweat.

She tucked the sketch away and replied, "Thank you. I really appreciate both you and your mother's kindness. This design sketch matters a lot to me, and it'd be troublesome if I were to lose it."

Truth be told, this was a sketch that she and Nellie had abandoned, but because they had left the house in such a rush, neither of them remembered to throw it into the wastepaper basket.

However, she did not say this to Yannie lest she ruined their efforts.

"You don't have to thank us!" Yannie smiled. "This is just a part of our job. After all, my mother gets paid very well working at your house."

Then, she instinctively glanced into the booth and noticed it was empty.

She could not help recalling the man she had seen in the elevator moments before.

She fell silent for a moment, then could not stop herself from asking, "Ma'am…do you mind if I ask you a question? "Did you come here…to talk business with Thomas Howard?"