

Pursuing 131

Chapter 131 She Will Not Go Back To Her Ex

“Why does it always come back to Sophie?” Constance was so angry that she was trembling.

Yale and Charmaine showed up at that moment.

They both jumped in fear when they saw the blood on Willow.

“Willow, are you okay? Are you hurt?” asked Charmaine in a concerned tone. When Willow replied by shaking her head, Charmaine asked, “Where’s Mason? What’s the situation now?”

“I don’t know. I honestly have no idea what is going on. Mason went to look for Sophie, and I couldn’t stop him, even though I tried. I don’t know what Sophie told him, but he acted as though he had gone insane.”

“Sophie... ugh, why is she always making a mess? Don’t worry, Mrs. Laird. I will not let Sophie get away with this if anything were to happen to Mason,” growled Yale. If he could, he would strangle Sophie then and there.

“Do you really think I will let Sophie go now that things have progressed to this extent?”

What does he mean by “if”? Mason has been sent to the hospital! Something has already happened!

The surgery took hours, and the sun had already risen by the time it was over.

When the doctor exited the operating theatre, Constance went to him right away and asked, “How is my son?”

Willow was staring nervously at the doctor as well.

“The surgery was a success, but we don’t know if there will be any complications yet. We’ll have to further observe his condition. His legs are severely injured, though, so he might have trouble walking in the future,” replied the doctor. He had already done everything he could, and all that was left was for the patient to fight for himself.

“What? He might have trouble walking... Oh no, Doctor, please. You have to save him. He is my only son, and I can’t let anything bad happen to him.” Constance could not accept the news of her son being crippled. Mason had always been her pride and joy, so she would not let anything bad happen to him. “Please, you have to help him. I will pay you however much you want.”

“We’ve done everything we can. He will have to work hard during rehab. Only then can we determine how things will turn out.”

At that stage, no one could guarantee what would happen in the end.

It was already two in the afternoon when Mason woke up.

Constance, Willow, Yale, and Charmaine had been staying guard beside him the entire time.

They didn’t sigh a breath of relief until they saw him waking up.

“Mason, how do you feel? Does it hurt anywhere? I’ll go get the doctor for you right away,” said Willow in a worried tone.

Mason didn’t reply. He looked as though he was at peace.

“What’s wrong, Mason? Are you hurt? Talk to me,” requested Constance who was teary-eyed at that moment.

“Just leave. I want to be alone.”

Mason wasn't in the mood to listen to what others had to say. The only person he wanted to see was Sophie, but there was no way she'd show up.

Charmaine could tell that Constance was on the verge of losing her temper, so she quickly dragged her away. "Mrs. Laird, let's leave for now. Mason needs to rest."

Yale shot a look at Mason.

The former kept thinking about what the doctor said earlier. Does that mean Mason won't be able to walk properly in the future? If that is the case, what will happen to Willow?

That night, Willow returned to school. When she saw Sophie acting as though nothing had happened, her fury overwhelmed her.

Willow ran to Sophie. She no longer feared anything anymore.

"Sophie Tanner, you jinx. You're the reason Mason is lying in the hospital bed right now. He might never be able to walk again! People like you should be dead. You should've died in Horington and never come back," roared Willow. Her emotions were running wildly at that time.

She didn't know if she would still want to marry him if he became a cripple.

Sophie shot a look at Willow.

"What does his injury have to do with me? What do you mean when you say I'm the reason this is happening? It's not as though I am the driver who hit him," replied Sophie before she mercilessly dissed. "Wait, didn't you say that you love him no matter what? Isn't this perfect for you? You can prove your love to him now."

"You..." growled Willow. She was infuriated. "What are you so happy about? Do you really think the Laird family will let you get away with this now that he is hurt?"

The Laird family of Jipsdale was ridiculously powerful, both in terms of economic prowess and political influence. They were much more powerful than the Tanner family.

“They don’t have what it takes to make me pay.”

“You...” growled Willow. She didn’t expect Sophie to be that arrogant.

Sophie was too busy to deal with Willow, so she turned around to leave right away. How she swirl her hair, the way she moved.... everything about her was cool.

“Mr. Mason of the Laird family got into a car accident yesterday, Mr. Tristan.”

Felix came rushing as soon as he heard the news.

“Okay,” replied Tristan. What does that have to do with me, though? Countless people get into accidents every day.

“Do you think Soph will feel bad for him?” asked Felix. Women are always self-sacrificing and tend to be too nice.

“What are you saying?”

“Nothing! It’s just... Mr. Mason has always liked Soph. Do you think they’d end up...?”

“No,” replied Tristan. He was quick to interrupt Felix.

“You’re that confident, huh?” said Felix. It was obvious he didn’t think that anyone could be certain of anything when it came to love.

“I trust Sophie, and there is no way she’d get back to her ex.”

Tristan believed that whatever happened between Sophie and Mason was in the past, and they couldn't go back anymore.

"Okay, if you say so," replied Felix. I envy Mr. Tristan so much. He is always so certain and confident. I wish I can be that confident, even when things between Ysabelle and me are still uncertain.

Mason's mood had been unstable over the next few days. When he realized that he couldn't move his legs, he became terrified.

At first, Constance assumed that the doctor was just a pessimist. She was certain that her son's legs would recover.

As time passed, however, she realized just how grave the situation was.

She was also heartbroken to see how devastated Mason was about his injuries.

"Don't give up, Mason. We'll go overseas and hire the best doctor there is for you. I'm sure you'll recover by then," cooed Constance.

Truth was, she didn't even want to imagine how bleak his future would be if he became a cripple.

"Mom, I want to talk to Sophie."

When Mason finally calmed down, he made one request.

Constance turned pale immediately, and she looked so angry that it was as though her face had distorted.

"You won't be in this state if it weren't for her! Mason, why do you remain stubborn despite the situation? Sophie is nothing but a jinx, and I will never let her get close to you ever again!" roared

Constance. If she could, she would kill Sophie right then and there. None of this would've happened if Sophie never returned from Horington.

"Mom, I have never asked for anything from you in the past. I'm begging you for once. Please help me."

Constance had no choice but to back down when Mason said it that way.

"Fine. I'll go and get her."

That woman has never shown up even though it has been a while since Mason was in the hospital. Geez, she might be young, but her heartlessness knows no bounds.

Constance waited right outside Jipsdale Premier High for Sophie. She had to wait until the class was over before she saw Sophie.

"Go grab her for me. Do whatever is necessary if she refuses to come willingly," ordered Constance. She didn't care how it happened. All she cared about was getting what she wanted.

"Understood." Two bodyguards made their way to Sophie and blocked her path.

Ysabelle stepped forward as soon as she saw those two burly bodyguards. She sounded as though she had her guard up when she asked, "Who are you two? What do you want?"

"Ms. Tanner, please come with us."

Chapter 132 Disobedience

Sophie didn't want to get into a fight because she was right outside her school.

“It’s fine, Ysabelle. Go have lunch without me. I’ll catch up with you later.”

“No, Soph. I’ll stay with you.” There was no way Ysabelle would let Sophie go alone when neither of them knew who those men were.

“Our employer wishes to talk to Ms. Tanner.”

Ysabelle rolled up her sleeves and seemed ready to get into an argument.

“Who the hell do you think you are? Why should we go to your employer just because she wants to talk to Sophie? We’re not going! What are you gonna do about it, huh?” replied Ysabelle angrily. She stood in front of Sophie and shielded the latter like a mother hen.

“Our employer is waiting for you, Ms. Tanner.”

“Ysabelle, go wait for me at the restaurant. I’ll be there soon.”

“Soph, I don’t know who their employer is. However, if she is someone who is capable of sending two bodyguards to relay a message, this is definitely not a simple matter; so I can’t let you go with them.”

Sophie was Ysabelle’s BFF, so the latter refused to let anything bad happen to the former.

Sophie was really touched and genuinely appreciated how sweet and protective Ysabelle was.

Hence, she stroked Ysabelle’s head so much that she messed up her hair.

“Awh, Ysabelle, you are too cute, and that level of sweetness should be illegal. Just go on without me. I promise that no one can hurt me, okay?” said Sophie. She was no longer the helpless girl she used to be.

Ysabelle panicked when she saw Sophie following the men and left, so she called Tristan right away.

It only took a few seconds for the line to be connected, but Ysabelle felt as though an eternity had passed. What is up with Uncle Tristan? Why hasn't he picked up his phone? It's been ringing forever. Ugh, he is so annoying.

The second Tristan answered the call, Ysabelle complained, "Uncle Tristan, why did it take you so long to pick up your phone? Someone came for Sophie and took her away. I don't know who they are, and I'm very worried now. What do we do?"

"What are the men like?" asked Tristan. He frowned the instant he heard what Ysabelle said. Which bloody idiot is it? How dare they come after the woman I love?

"I don't know. I won't be panicking if I actually know who the culprit is. Are you busy now? Can you drop by and look into the matter?"

"Okay, I'll head over right away."

Tristan was supposed to have lunch with a business partner that day, but Ysabelle's words made him lose his appetite.

"Mr. Tristan, I thought we are going to have lunch together. Where are you going?"

The one who spoke was the daughter of his business partner. Her name was Nancy Longbottom. She fell for Tristan at first sight, and he was all she could think about, so she made her way to the office after learning that her dad would have lunch with Tristan.

"I'm so sorry, but please tell your father that I have to deal with an emergency right now and won't be able to have lunch with him. Let's do that some other time."

As far as Tristan was concerned, nothing on Earth was more important than Sophie.

It was true that he knew just how skilled Sophie was as a fighter, and he realized that only a handful of people could actually hurt her. However, hearing news like that still worried him. It simply hit too close to home.

Nancy stood up and stopped him.

“Mr. Tristan, the dishes are about to be served, and my dad left to make a phone call. It’s not appropriate for you to leave right now.”

She came all the way just to have lunch with him, but they ended up spending less than two minutes together. They didn’t even get to talk before he excused himself, so it was understandable that she was disappointed.

“Sorry about that. I will treat your father to another meal to make up for this, but I really have to go now.”

Tristan was already being ridiculously courteous by saying as much as he did. Even Nancy’s father couldn’t do anything to stop Tristan from leaving.

Nancy had more to say, but the secretary grabbed her wrist.

“That’s enough. Stop talking. It’s not like you are unaware of what Mr. Tristan’s temper is like. We had to beg to have the opportunity to collaborate with his company, so you cannot offend Mr. Tristan. If you do, your father will never forgive you.”

Hundreds of people in Chanaea would kill to work with Tristan, so the secretary couldn’t risk letting her ruin the business deal.

Nancy was upset.

“How can someone be so ridiculously good-looking?” murmured Nancy as her eyes glowed with admiration and lust. She was in love with his looks.

The secretary was speechless.

Yep, she is definitely an immature woman who knows nothing. I can't believe she judges someone based only on their looks. Mr. Tristan is so much more than that. His reputation alone is worth a fortune.

Sophie made her way to the luxurious car that the bodyguards led her to. They opened the door, and she hopped right in.

She wasn't surprised to see Constance sitting in there.

The latter had always favored Willow, even before any of the drama had unfolded. Hence, Constance had been mean to Sophie since the beginning.

"Mason wants to talk to you, so go to him," said Constance. Even at a time like that, she showed no humility and was bossing Sophie around.

She was used to being at the top, so she never learned the proper way to ask for help. She didn't think she needed to do so either.

"Why should I go to him? There is nothing between him and me, so there is no need for me to go to him."

Constance fumed when she heard those words. What the hell does that mean? How does she not have anything to do with this?

"Sophie Tanner, do you not know how grave the situation is now? I am only here to tell you that Mason wishes to talk to you. You don't get to choose whether you want to go to him," replied Constance. Everyone had only ever tried to butter her up, so she was as arrogant as she could be.

Sophie couldn't resist chuckling.

“That is so funny. I have no obligation to visit him, so what makes you think I have no choice? As far as I am concerned, no one can force me to do what I don’t want to do.”

Why should I go to Mason now? I’ve already made things clear, haven’t I?

“Don’t push your luck, Sophie. You’re the reason Mason is in the hospital now, so how can you say that there is no need for you to go to him? Do you realize how bad the situation is now? He might have trouble walking in the future! Given his condition, how can you say that you are innocent of all crimes? How shameless can you get?”

Mason wouldn’t have been hurt if it weren’t for her, so she is the culprit. I can’t believe she said she’s innocent.

“Not my problem.”

Sophie’s patience was running low, and she didn’t want to waste her time anymore.

Constance had the driver lock the doors when she noticed that Sophie was trying to leave.

“I’ve made things clear. Mason wants to talk to you, and you have to go to him.”

Constance had the driver start driving right away.

Sophie sneered.

“What is the meaning of this, Mrs. Laird?” By then, the car had already left the school.

Constance ignored Sophie entirely.

At the end of the day, the former still favored Willow, who had always been obedient and did what was told. Sophie had always been opinionated and rarely listened to what others said. Constance hated people like that because she couldn't control them.

"Stop the car!" ordered Sophie as she turned her attention to the driver.

Unfortunately, the driver refused to listen to her and kept driving.

Mrs. Laird was the one who hired him, so he would only obey her instruction.

"Shut up." Mrs. Laird's temper had been terrible lately. Anyone would be upset to see their son injured in such a terrible accident, so it was understandable that Constance found Sophie's voice irritating.

Sophie, however, was not having any of it. She was truly exasperated that day.

"I guess I have no choice but to do things my way," said Sophie. Well, if she's too barbaric to behave, then I won't waste my breath talking to her either.

Chapter 133 We Need Your Talent

"What are you doing, Sophie? Are you incapable of behaving just a little? All I ask is that you go talk to Mason. Didn't you use to love him? Why are you not willing to visit him now that he has been in an accident?"

"I have always hated it when others force my hands. I will never accept that."

If Constance had asked nicely, Sophie might have considered visiting Mason. However, the former decided to be barbaric, so the latter wouldn't bother being nice either.

It only took an instant. Sophie moved from the back seat to the front seat and grabbed the steering wheel.

The driver was so surprised that his jaw almost dropped. This woman is too agile. How did she move so quickly from the backseat?

“Calm down, young lady. It’s too dangerous for us to fight for control of the steering wheel,” said the driver whose voice had trembled.

“I gave you a chance and told you to stop the car, but you refuse to listen to me, so I have to resort to doing things my way.”

Constance didn’t expect Sophie to do something like that either.

The latter moved so quickly before anyone could react.

“Stop the car, you lunatic.” Both Constance and the driver were so angry that they were shaking.

The car stopped short, and Sophie opened the door before hopping right out.

“Don’t bother coming for me again. I will not go to him.”

She didn’t like any member of the Laird family.

After slamming the door mercilessly, she walked on the sidewalk. That was when her phone rang.

“Where are you now?” asked Tristan. His low and masculine voice came from the other end of the line.

“What’s wrong? Did Ysabelle call you? I’m okay,” replied Sophie. Ysabelle must’ve been scared mindless after witnessing something like that.

“Just tell me where you are now.”

Sophie sent her GPS location to him, then sat on a bench to wait for Tristan.

He showed up three minutes later in his car.

All he saw was her sitting quietly on the bench. She was still wearing her uniform and was playing a game on her phone while having her earphones on.

When he saw her sitting safely there, his thumping heart finally settled down. Everything was right with the world again.

He slowly made his way to her and sat beside her.

Sophie tilted her head up to look at him when she sensed his presence.

“Don’t you have to work today? I can handle minor issues like these, so there really is no need for you to come here for me.”

Tristan pulled her and made her rest her head on his shoulder.

“There is no such thing as a minor issue when the matter involves you. The lady of the Laird family is famous for being cruel, so I was worried.”

Sophie was speechless.

She didn’t think she would live to see the day she heard the merciless Mr. Tristan describing someone else as cruel...

A man in a jacket was with a young lady, who was still wearing her school uniform.

Anyone who saw the two of them sitting together and being close like that would misread the situation.

Sophie truly was tired, so she closed her eyes as she rested on his shoulder.

The soothing music drifted into her ears. She would lose control of her emotions when she was annoyed, so she needed to listen to some music to calm her nerves.

The two of them ended up staying there for about thirty minutes until Sophie was hungry and opened her eyes.

"I haven't eaten yet, so as a thank you, I will treat you to a meal," offered Sophie as she sat up.

Just then, her phone rang once more.

She picked the call up as soon as she read the caller ID.

"Sophie, it's me. I'm back," said Arius. His voice was relaxed but seemed to be brimming with sincerity as well.

"Where are you now?" Sophie had been waiting for Arius to get in touch with her ever since they exchanged contact details. She was surprised to learn that he was back so soon, though.

"I'm at Cloud Nine Hotel. Come over now. I haven't had my lunch yet."

Arius never told her when he'd be back because he wanted to surprise her.

"Okay, I'll head over right away." The matter regarding her grandfather bothered her, so Sophie needed to deal with it as soon as possible.

"Great."

Arius took off his shirt, and his eight packs revealed themselves. He went into the showers because he wanted to see her at his best.

After Sophie hung up the call, she realized that Tristan was still waiting for her. She had just invited him to a meal, but it seemed that was no longer possible.

"I'm sorry, Tristan, but I have something important to deal with, so I can't have lunch with you today."

"Are you meeting someone? Can I tag along?"

He overheard bits and pieces of the conversation, so he knew that a guy asked Sophie to have lunch together.

Sophie seemed troubled when she looked at him. In the end, she shook her head.

"My friend is a little weird and doesn't like meeting strangers."

Tristan didn't reply to that.

Oh, so that so-called friend is more important than me, huh?

Tristan felt as though his heart was gripped instantly.

He had always assumed that she saw him as something more, so he never thought that someone else could be more important to her.

Who the hell is this mysterious man?

"I have to go now, Tristan. Bye," said Sophie as she hailed a cab and left.

Tristan felt.... strange.

He got into his car and sat behind the steering wheel, but he never started the engine.

He wanted to tail her cab, but he didn't do anything in the end.

Sophie made her way right to Arius' room because he gave her the room number.

He answered the door as soon as he heard her knocking.

"That was fast. It's been a while since we last met, so tell me. Did you miss me?"

Sophie sat on the couch and looked right into his eyes before shaking her head.

"Not at all."

"Oof, you are so heartless. I knew it. Women like you are really mean."

Arius sat down beside her.

"How is your grandpa?" asked Arius. He hadn't forgotten what his main mission for meeting her was.

"He's stable now, but he refused to stay in the hospital and has gone home."

"I see... Well, I can't exactly go to your place to examine him," replied Arius. Even if he could magically become the best doctor in the world, he'd still need his patient to cooperate. At that moment, it was crucial that Josiah had a full body check-up.

"Tomorrow. I'll make him to go the hospital tomorrow and do a check-up. You can examine him then."

Sophie didn't want to waste any time since Arius was rarely in the country.

"Okay, I will free up the entire day tomorrow. Call me after you take him to the hospital."

"No problem."

"It's been over a year since we last met. Do you really have nothing to say to me?" flirted Arius. He couldn't help teasing her a little.

Sophie tossed him a look.

"What is there to say? Okay, let's not talk anymore. Let's go and eat."

He was finally back in Jipsdale, so Sophie thought it was only normal that he'd want to enjoy the local cuisine.

Arius suddenly inched closer to her.

"Sophie, I..."

Sophie remained unmoved even as that unearthly handsome face suddenly closed in on hers. What does he want now?

"Have you thought about what I offered? Will you come with me this time?" She is too gifted, and I am sure she will become a legend in the medical association.

"This again?" complained Sophie as she gestured for him to stop. "Does the medical association really need that much manpower?"

“Oh, we have plenty of manpower. In fact, we receive countless applications every year. What we lack is a talent like yours.”

Chapter 134 Going To A Hotel With Another Man

Arius and Sophie went to the most popular barbecue restaurant in Jipsdale.

Arius had missed everything about Jipsdale since he had been away for quite a long period of time.

The barbecue shop was extremely famous. It was frequently visited by the rich and famous.

If it was not for a contact of Arius, he would not be able to get a private room to dine in.

While he was reading the menu, Sophie was playing games on her phone nonchalantly.

“We haven’t seen each other for ages. Is that the right attitude for welcoming me home? By ignoring me completely?” he grumbled. Even when we were far apart, I have always been missing her in Anglandur. Look at her! I bet she has totally forgotten about my existence. How heartless!

“What do you mean? Am I not having a meal with you the moment I know that you’re back? Do you know how many people in Jipsdale could only dream about having this honor?” Sophie disagreed.

Instinctively, Arius twitched the corner of his lip and snapped, “Don’t you think that I don’t know the only reason you’re being nice to me is because Old Mr. Tanner is unwell.” He came back from abroad several times and went all the way to Horington to see her, but she gave him the cold shoulder.

“Is everything okay with you, Sophie?” No matter what happened between them, he was most worried about her health.

“Absolutely! I couldn’t be any better. Can’t you tell? The world still needs to tolerate a troublemaker like me for at least a thousand years,” she replied casually.

“Sophie, I disliked the way you described yourself. How could you say that you’re a troublemaker? You’re the rare gem of Chanaea, do you know that? There’s hardly a handful of people like you in this world!”

A few foreign universities had been inquiring about her and contacted her multiple times, but Sophie remained unfazed.

Moments later, the waiter served the dishes. Sophie had only a few mouthfuls before focusing on her phone again. Ysabelle sent her a couple of voice messages, and she switched them all to texts for convenience’s sake.

“I see that you don’t have a good appetite. Why don’t you come over to the hospital tomorrow and get yourself a thorough check-up?” Arius stared at her with concern.

During those years she spent in Horington, she had acquired many skills and attained a lot of things. At the same time, her health was also compromised.

“I’m fine, so I don’t need a check-up. I know my condition very well.” The priority now is Grandpa. Everything else doesn’t really matter.

Arius looked at her disapprovingly.

“Why don’t you listen to me, Sophie? I know you’re in the pink of health, but your appetite is bad. Isn’t this a recurring issue?” He did not come back often. This time, he was not planning on giving up persuading her.

Sophie furrowed her brows and repeated, “I said I’m fine.”

I can single-handedly defeat more than ten mercenaries at any one time. What problem can my body have?

“Listen to me, won’t you? Or else, don’t blame me for taking you home forcefully.” Arius regretted his decision to bring her to the training camp back then.

“Dream on! Do you think that I will follow you home so easily? No one can make me do anything I refuse to do,” she declared confidently.

Well, well, well... What should I do with you, Sophie?

“I know there’s no way I can change your mind. Anyhow, that’s your body. You ought to love yourself more.” I can’t imagine what would happen to her next if she continues to live like this.

“All right, I got it. I know that you care. Come on, dig in! Didn’t you say that you’ve missed this barbecue terribly?”

Arius knew that she would turn a deaf ear to him. As such, he could only let her be.

Is there no one else on earth who could control this young lady?

He truly hoped that there was someone else whom she feared, even if it involved another man.

After the meal, Sophie walked Arius back to Cloud Nine Hotel where she ran into Winter.

Seeing that Sophie was entering the hotel with another man, Winter smiled scornfully.

She is going into the hotel with a man when the sun is still out? What a slut!

The two ladies’ met each other’s eyes. Sophie chuckled when she saw the expression on Winter’s face.

Why does this woman keep showing up everywhere?

Arius saw Winter too. Why does she keep staring at Sophie like that?

"Who's that?" Arius was dying to find out about the woman's identity because she kept scrutinizing them.

"A nobody." Sophie could not be bothered.

"Really? From the way she looks at you, I don't think she's someone irrelevant. Perhaps... your love enemy?"

Darn it, Arius! "Love enemy? Are you kidding me? She doesn't stand a chance to be one." Although Winter kept showing up in front of her, Sophie had never taken her seriously.

"Let's go. Aren't you tired after a long plane ride? Why are you so interested in that lady? Are you infatuated with her? Shall I introduce her to you then?" Sophie seldom showed her cheeky and chatty side, unless she was with a close friend.

"What makes you think that she's up to my standards?" Arius withdrew his gaze from Winter.

When the latter saw Sophie walking into the elevator with a man, she smiled delightfully.

Why would Mr. Tristan fall for such a promiscuous girl? This is going to be interesting.

"Who's that, Ms. Quigley?" the girl standing next to Winter asked, upon noticing her eyes were fixated on Sophie. "She's not as pretty as you."

Hearing that, Winter's smile grew wider.

"Who is she to be my match?" The arrogant Winter always thought that she was a class above the rest, especially when it concerned Sophie.

"Exactly! Is there anyone in Jipsdale who can be mentioned on equal terms with you? Only Mr. Tristan is worthy of you."

Then, Winter quickly gave Charles a call.

“Charles, where are you guys now? I need to see you urgently.” Winter could not wait for another second to reveal the juicy news to Tristan.

Coincidentally, Charles was with Tristan when his sister called.

There were three of them accompanying Tristan that night. However, none of them knew why the latter remained silent throughout.

“If it’s not something important, let’s talk about it tomorrow.” With Mr. Tristan being in a terrible mood, the night isn’t going to end well if someone accidentally steps on his toe. What if Winter raised a ruckus and offended him unknowingly? I’d definitely not know how to pick up the mess, especially when she likes him so much.

“Charles, I swear it’s something super important!” Winter insisted.

“Fine. We’re at Nocturnal. You can come over now.”

Charles’ plan was to meet Winter outside of the bar, to be safe.

Unfortunately, things turned out the opposite of what he had anticipated. When Winter arrived at Nocturnal, she headed directly to the private room.

Charles nearly jumped out of his skin when he saw her sister.

“You’re here for me, right? Let’s talk outside.” He grabbed her hand and started dragging her outside with trepidation.

“What’s the matter with you, Charles?” Winter refused to leave the room. She strode forward and took a seat on the couch. Why is Mr. Tristan acting weird? Has he already found out about it?

Chapter 135 She Is With Another Man

“You’d better behave yourself today because Mr. Tristan isn’t in a good mood.” Charles suppressed his anger, knowing that it was not appropriate to argue with Winter at that moment.

“What’s wrong? Why is he in a bad mood?” How is it possible that an insignificant slut could ruin Mr. Tristan’s day? He’s a prominent figure in Jipsdale! Who would dare to upset him? What gives, Sophie Tanner?

Tristan took a sip of water and rose to his feet.

“Where are you going, Mr. Tristan?” Winter called out to him and asked immediately. I just got here...

“Winter!” Charles shot her a stern glance to warn her to stay out of trouble.

She should mind her own business.

“Mr. Tristan, Sophie isn’t who you think she is. Did you know where I met her just now? She’s in Cloud Nine Hotel with a very handsome man. Have you realized that you’re not her only option? She has plenty to choose from,” Winter blurted everything she had in mind without any hesitation.

He’s too prideful to settle as a rebound.

Charles quickly stopped Winter. Had I known this would happen, I wouldn’t have revealed our location. Winter, you’re great at messing things up!

“I’m sorry, Mr. Tristan. I’ll take her back now. I also guarantee that she won’t ever show up in front of you again.” Charles got panicked.

Felix and Sean were flabbergasted.

Winter is so brazen! Does she have a death wish?

Tristan's face dimmed as fury burned in his dark eyes.

"Mr. Tristan, you..." Felix did not know how else to comfort him.

Surely, no sane man could stay calm when he discovered that the woman he loved was in the arms of another man in a hotel!

Sean had never seen an enraged Tristan before. The latter looked as if he was capable of destroying the heavens and earth.

"I'm sure there's a misunderstanding somewhere, Mr. Tristan. Why don't we find out the details first?" Sean finally found his voice.

Mr. Tristan has never lost control like that before. He must have fallen head over heels for that young lady!

Tristan glanced at Winter and said fiercely, "Don't you ever appear in front of me, Winter, or you'll regret it."

With that, he left.

Winter was horror-stricken. She did not expect such a terrifying response from Tristan despite him not saying a word about Sophie.

Charles could not do anything but only shook his head.

"Why must you go for the extreme, Winter? Is it so difficult to keep quiet? Is it necessary for you to get on his nerves?"

After what seemed like an eternity, Winter said, "I merely spoke the truth. Why was Mr. Tristan angry? Isn't it a good thing to see Sophie's true colors as early as now?"

She was clueless about her mistake. "I've been around Mr. Tristan for so many years. Am I not any better than Sophie whom he has only known for several months?"

She refused to accept the reality.

"Charles, I'm the only one worthy of Mr. Tristan." Clearly, Winter had not realized what she had done wrong.

Felix's expression changed at her words.

He spent the most time with Sophie compared to the rest, so he was well aware of her character.

"Winter, Sophie isn't so awful as how you perceived her to be. In fact, there's no one as good as her in the whole of Jipsdale."

"Felix, you..." Winter had never thought she would hear that reply from him.

After taking a deep breath, she continued, "Why are all of you reacting this way? What benefits has Sophie given you? Did she cast a spell on you?"

Why aren't they on my side when I'm the one who grew up with them?

"Whatever. If you obstinately persist in going about things the wrong way, then I've got nothing to say to you anymore." Felix refused to argue with her and left.

Mr. Tristan isn't in a good mood now. I shouldn't leave him alone. If anything untoward happens to him, no one can bear the consequences.

By the time Felix walked out of the bar, Tristan had already driven off. Oh man, this is not good! He's just had quite a bit of alcohol.

Immediately, he tried calling Sophie, but to no avail.

"Shit!" Felix cursed. Why isn't she answering? She's the only one who could calm the infuriated man right now.

Left with no choice, Felix called Ysabelle. "What's the matter?" the latter asked in annoyance. She had been ignoring Felix for the past few days.

"Do you know where is Sophie?" he asked anxiously.

Ysabelle was slightly disappointed since the call was not about her.

"Nope. I'm going to hang up now if there's nothing else."

I swear I won't entertain this man anymore! How dare he neglects me for so long?

"Ysabelle, if you hear from Sophie, please ask her to call me at once, okay?"

Frustrated, she promptly hung up and did not bother to listen to what Felix had to say.

However, she could not help it when she thought about how panicked Felix sounded. Hence, she gave Sophie a call, but the latter did not pick up.

That got her all worked up, so she kept dialing Sophie's number.

Meanwhile, Sophie was in Arius' room at the hotel, discussing Josiah's surgery.

“Soph, it’s rather risky to perform this operation.” Even someone as brilliant as Arius was not confident about it.

Sophie said nothing. She was well aware of the implication. Otherwise, she would not have invited him to travel all the way back.

“Anyway, don’t worry too much. I’ll take charge of it while you assist me in the operating theatre.”

“Me?” Sophie asked hesitantly. If another person had asked her the same question, she would have agreed right away.

However, the person they were going to operate on was her grandfather.

While she had complete faith in Arius, she doubted if she could maintain her composure and perform the surgery with him.

“Soph, you’ve got to believe in yourself. You’re the one in whom my mentor sees potential. If he says that you have it, then you definitely can do it.”

They were all extremely confident in her skills.

Arius also had a hidden agenda. He wanted to use that experience to convince Sophie to join the medical association.

“Okay, I got it.” She glanced at the clock, only to realize that it had already passed midnight without them knowing. “Go get some rest. I’ll contact you again once I get Grandpa to the hospital.”

“It’s so late now. Why don’t you spend the night here since the room is so big?”

Sophie widened her eyes at him.

“Don’t look at me like that. I just feel bad that you have to take a cab home at this hour. Moreover, it’s not safe for a girl to be on the street alone.”

“Thanks for your concern.”

Sophie took her bag and left.

After the door was shut, Arius whipped out a case from his pocket and lit a cigarette.

“What a heartless person!”

She’s always so carefree and lackadaisical. Yet, everyone worries about her extensively.

Regardless, Arius vowed to get her to complete a thorough body check-up; or else, he could not be at ease.

Sophie took a cab back to Wisteria Apartments. By the time she got to her floor, she saw Tristan leaning against the wall outside of her unit. The strong sense of loneliness that lingered around him sent a cold chill down her spine.

Chapter 136 Irresistible Passion

“Why aren’t you going in?” Sophie approached him and asked softly.

“You’re finally home.” The one who was authoritative, high, and mighty seemed so pitiful at that instant.

Tristan stretched out his right arm and pulled her into his embrace. He hugged her by the waist with another arm and rested his forehead on hers.

Sophie’s heart skipped a beat upon his sudden action.

How long has he been standing here? Why are his body and breath so cold?

“Mr. Tristan —”

As soon as her words fell, the man moved and pinned her to the wall. Then, he began to kiss her.

His kiss was swift and somewhat aggressive, to the extent that Sophie felt a stinging pain on her lips. Gradually, he slowed things down and kissed her gently.

Then, he stopped and hugged her quietly.

If only she was older... He had to fight the desire from within to dismiss the thought of launching a series of amorous advances toward her.

He wanted to let her know how much he cared for her so badly.

“Shall we go in now? It’s cold out here.” The winter in Jipsdale was freezing cold even though it was just the beginning of the season.

He touched her hands and felt the cold. Immediately, he covered both her palms with his and strode toward the apartment.

Upon scanning his thumbprint, the door unlocked itself, and the heater was also automatically switched on.

Sophie was a bit surprised that he was so quick to act and seemed very familiar with it.

“What’s wrong? Still feeling cold?” Tristan frowned as he seated her on his lap.

The ambiguous position made Sophie blush.

“Mr. Tristan, I—”

Without paying heed to what she was saying, he kept her locked in his arms as if she was his most treasured prize.

“Where were you?”

I bet the main reason why he’s not his usual self is because I turned him down for a meal and met Arius instead.

“Mr. Tristan, something urgent came up, and I had to meet an important person today. I promise to buy you a meal another day,” she tried to pacify him.

“An important person? Is the person more important than me?” He was very particular about it.

Sophie was rendered speechless.

When Tristan heard that she was seen with a man at Cloud Nine Hotel, he was blazing with rage.

It was not because he did not trust her, but he lacked confidence in himself.

He felt like he was in no position to question her. Hence, at that moment, he wanted to destroy every single man on earth just to be with her forever.

However, when he saw her walking out of the elevator after having waited outside the apartment for three long hours, his pent-up anger just faded away within seconds.

“Quite important.” I wouldn’t have been here if it was not for Arius—the man I met when I first came to Horington five years ago.

Hearing her stating so, Tristan felt as though his heart was instantly torn apart, and the pain was unbearable.

Sophie felt a little down when she noticed the disappointed look on his face.

What's going on?

"Mr. Tristan, I'll definitely treat you to a big meal one day. Just the two of us." Can he stop staring at me like that?

He pressed a kiss to her forehead.

Do I really care about getting a free meal? What has got into her head to arrive at this conclusion?

At first, Sophie wanted to call Josiah as soon as she arrived home. Now that Tristan was present, she could not make the phone call anymore.

I guess I'll have to go pick Grandpa up personally from the Tanner residence tomorrow.

That night, Tristan stayed at Wisteria Apartments for quite a while. Although he knew her bedtime, he refused to leave.

"Mr. Tristan, I'm getting sleepy."

"Go to bed, then." Still, he did not seem like he was getting ready to go home.

"Do you have something to say to me, Mr. Tristan?" Sophie sighed. This is so not him.

“Nope! It’s late, you should go and get some rest.” Tristan walked her to the bedroom and said, “Get a hot shower, then sleep. “

Sophie stood behind the door. She could sense that he was going through emotional turmoil. However, she had no idea how to coax him or make him feel better.

“What’s the matter?” Tristan asked tenderly.

Sophie shook her head.

In the end, she decided to shut the door.

Whatever. If he can’t think things through, no one else can help him with it.

Tristan went back to the living room, took a bottle of wine, and poured himself a glass.

He was well aware that he should leave, but he just could not bring himself to do so, given the circumstance. The longer he stayed at Sophie’s place, the more secure he felt. At the very least, he could convince himself that he mattered more to her compared to anyone else.

After taking a shower and getting changed, Sophie walked to the living room in her pajama. Just as expected, Tristan was still there. He seemed really lonely, standing by the French windows, drinking.

Sophie approached him and poured herself a glass. Then, she took a tiny sip.

Without saying a word, she kept him company while looking out of the window at the hustle and bustle of the city.

Moments later, Tristan put aside his wine glass and strode toward her. He hugged her from the back and buried his face in the curve of her neck.

Sophie remained silent. She allowed him to embrace her as he wished.

His hug was very warm and enchanting, to a point whereby she could not resist it. As a matter of fact, she enjoyed it.

When the both of them had finished a bottle of wine, Tristan landed a kiss on Sophie's forehead and left with a heavy heart.

When Constance arrived at Jipsdale Hospital the following morning, she was greeted by a mess created by Mason.

He hurled his breakfast all over the floor.

It had been days since the surgery was done, but he still could not stand on his feet.

No matter how many times he had attempted, he failed again and again.

Looking across at the messy room, Constance heart ached.

"Mason, I'll get the best doctor to treat you. So, please don't give up," consoled Constance.

"I want to see Sophie."

She had become his only hope.

Constance furrowed her brows and said, "Mason, I've looked for Sophie many times. However, she refused to see you. Why are you still thinking about her?"

She could not understand why was her son so stubborn.

“I want to see Sophie! Get out of my room and leave me alone.”

At that moment, Mason was no longer the dashing guy he used to be. Conversely, he looked rather disheveled and unkempt.

It was the weekend. Willow requested the driver to take her to the hospital early in the morning. It turned out that those were the first few words she heard.

I’ve been taking care of Mason tirelessly for several days now. Yet, I don’t even have a place in his heart?

She clenched her fists tightly, unwilling to accept the truth.

Have I lost to Sophie? Do I really want to admit defeat?

Constance exited the ward and saw Willow standing right there. Obviously, she overheard their conversation.

“Willa, I can’t let Mason continue living like this. Ask your mother to call Sophie and make her come to the hospital.”

“Mrs. Laird...” Willow thought that Constance was on her side all along. Never in a million years would she have imagined Constance to get so pushy.

“Willa, I don’t have a choice right now, except to make use of Sophie temporarily. Trust me, you’ll be the only one who ends up by Mason’s side.”

Chapter 137 Does Not Matter To Me

“Fine. I’m willing to do anything if it’s for Mason’s good.” Seeing how sensible Willow was, Constance became even more satisfied.

“That’s right. I like it when you’re sensible.” Constance was very satisfied with Willow, especially for the past few days. That was because Willow had been taking care of the injured Mason so much that she had lost weight.

Willow called Charmaine in front of both of them and relayed Mason’s request.

After Charmaine answered the call, her eyebrows furrowed. Why hasn’t Mason been moved by Willa’s effort to take care of him yet? And why does he want to meet Sophie?

However, when she thought about how they still needed the Laird family’s help, she called Sophie’s number. After dialing the number a couple of times, Sophie still hadn’t answered the call.

Charmaine was worried Constance would blame her, so she quickly asked her driver to send her to the hospital.

Constance frowned when she saw Charmaine arrived without Sophie.

“What’s going on? Didn’t I make it clear that Mason wants to meet Sophie? It’s just going to be a brief meeting. Why is it so hard for you to do that? Doesn’t your family want our family’s help? You lot have some nerve to ask for more help from us when you can’t even do such a simple thing.” Constance had been very annoyed for the past few days due to what had happened to Mason. So, when she found out Charmaine had failed to carry out such a simple task, she immediately expressed her disappointment.

Of course, Charmaine didn’t feel good when she heard that. Since her family still required the Laird family’s help, she had no choice but to swallow her pride and assured, “Don’t say that, Mrs. Laird. I’ve

been calling Sophie, but she hadn’t answered any of my calls. There’s nothing I can do about that. Don’t worry, once I get in touch with her, I’ll bring her here. Even if she doesn’t come, I’ll tie her up and bring her to you.”

“I hope you’ll keep your word. She’s the reason Mason got hurt.” Constance still felt sullen.

It was then the doctor in charge came.

He wanted to give Mason a check-up, but before he could go into the ward, Mason was already chasing him out.

“It’s not that I’m not willing to help, Mrs. Laird. It’s just that there’s nothing I can do. Even if I have better medical skills, I can’t do anything to help him, as long as Mr. Laird refuses to cooperate,” the doctor said resignedly. In Jipsdale Hospital, he was considered a famous doctor. However, even after lowering himself to treat Mason, he was still kicked out of the ward. He was upset, of course, but he knew he couldn’t afford to piss off the Laird family. So, he had no choice but to endure it.

Charmaine furrowed her eyebrows. “What’s going on with Mason? How can he recover if he refuses to let the doctor treat him? He’s going to be the future head of the Laird family. If he can’t walk in the future, then—”

“What do you mean ‘if he can’t walk in the future,’ Charmaine? You better watch your mouth! I’m telling you, my son will walk again like before!” Constance exclaimed. It was an understandable reaction as no mother would remain calm after listening to other people talking about their son in such a manner.

“That’s right. How can you say that, Mom? Mason will walk again. Medical technology has gotten really advanced nowadays, so he definitely won’t have a problem standing up again.” Willow wasn’t sure if she was saying that to comfort herself or others.

I can’t imagine what I’ll do if he can’t stand again. If he really can’t walk like he used to, what should I do? I have spent all my youth on this man. If he becomes a cripple, what will happen to my future?

“I know Mason will recover, but the treatment requires his cooperation, too. If he isn’t willing to work with the doctor, how can the doctor treat him? I really don’t mean anything else, Mrs. Laird. You know how much Willow likes Mason, and I also hope that he’ll be fine. I want to see the two of them together, too. Why would I hope for the worst for Mason!” Charmaine explained.

When Constance heard that, her scowl became less intense. “I know what kind of situation the Tanner family is in right now. If you can bring Sophie here, I’ll give you what your family wants.”

She knew Yale wanted to become Tanner Group's CEO. There's no way Sophie can win against my family if we decide to help Yale out!

"Don't worry, Mrs. Laird. I'll give Sophie another call right away. No matter what happens, I'll bring her here today." Charmaine was definitely going to do her best after hearing what Constance said. I have to do whatever it takes to bring Sophie here!

When she turned around, she saw Sophie in front of her.

Her expression immediately lit up with joy. What perfect timing!

She promptly went to Sophie's side and spoke emotionally. "You must be here to meet Mason, right, Sophie? I know where he is. I'll take you to him!"

Five years ago, Charmaine already knew Sophie harbored feelings for Mason.

She didn't believe Sophie, who once liked him, would forget about him that quickly; especially when he was all injured and lying in bed asking for her.

Sophie furrowed her eyebrows. I just brought Grandpa here. I don't have time to waste talking nonsense with her.

It was then Charmaine saw Josiah.

"Did you also hear what happened to Mason, Dad? Is that why you're here with Sophie? To visit him? Mrs. Laird will be very happy to see the two of you!" She smiled.

"It doesn't matter to me if she's happy or not. We have other matters to attend to, so please step away." Sophie was already feeling unhappy about wasting a few minutes of time talking to her mother.

“Dad, Mason is lying in bed right now. You also watched him grow up since he was a kid. Are you really not going to visit him?” Charmaine could only place her hope on Josiah since she knew he liked Mason a lot five years ago.

He remained silent and turned to Sophie. I’ll do what she wants. If she doesn’t want to go, no one is allowed to force her.

“I know Sophie listens to what you say, Dad. No matter what happens, she’s the reason Mason was injured. You know the Laird family’s status and influence in Jipsdale. If this matter isn’t properly dealt with, Sophie will be hurt. You don’t want to see her get hurt, do you?” When Charmaine saw Josiah remained unmoved, she decided to shift her strategy a little.

It wasn’t like she made that up. The Laird family did have a huge influence in the city, and she knew what kind of tricks Charmaine would pull.

“How about you take a look at him, Soph? You grew up with Mason, after all. Now that he’s injured, it’s only fair that you pay him a visit,” Josiah persuaded.

When Charmaine heard him say that, she calmed down. Everyone knows Sophie listens to her grandfather the most. Since he has said that, she’ll obey him, right?

Chapter 138 It Is Up To Fate

“Consider it a show of respect on my behalf, Soph. Please?” Josiah was really worried that the Laird family would hurt Sophie.

Sophie felt annoyed. She didn’t want to go because she didn’t have any relationship with Mason. I really don’t know why Mason insists on meeting me. Why is it necessary? Ugh, fine. I suppose everyone thinks differently. Since he wants to meet me this badly, I’ll go and meet him. It doesn’t affect anything, anyway.

When he saw her nod, he let out a sigh of relief. It’s always better to make one less enemy.

What he didn't know was that Sophie had gotten so powerful that even the Laird family wouldn't be able to go against her.

Naturally, the happiest person to hear that response was Charmaine.

She still remembered vividly what Constance promised her. Now I just need to bring Sophie to meet with Mason and Mrs. Laird will do the rest.

Constance and Willow were still standing outside of the ward. When Constance saw Sophie, her expression brightened a little, but she still wasn't happy, because she didn't like Sophie. I really don't understand what my son is doing. Even if nothing happened five years ago, I still don't like her!

Sophie ignored the two of them and went into the ward directly.

"I don't know why you insisted on meeting me, but I really don't think it's necessary at all. I already made my stance clear, no?" she blurted as she stared right into Mason's eyes.

She really didn't have any feelings left for him.

Even after he saw her acting and talking like that, he was still unwilling to accept the reality.

"I knew what I did was wrong, Soph." He didn't want to believe that, but there was no way to get some people back after they had missed the opportunity.

"Since we went to school together before, I'll leave you with a few words of advice, Mason. This is your life, and so are your legs. It doesn't matter to me if you want to accept treatment because that's your decision. Don't keep dragging me into your affairs. You know what kind of person your mom is." Sophie really felt that she had done her best.

"No matter what you say, I'll never give up, Soph! Once my legs recover, I'll make up for everything I did wrong!" Mason suddenly felt confident. Yeah! How can I give her happiness when I'm like this? I need to recover as soon as possible and return to how I was. Right now, I don't even deserve to stand beside her.

"I told you already, whatever happens to you in the future has nothing to do with me. Why do you insist on involving me in your affairs?" Sophie really didn't understand why he wouldn't stop pestering her, despite everything she had said. If he turns out like this after spending a few years overseas, then what was the point of him going overseas at all?

Unwilling to speak any further, she turned and left the room.

Willow's expression appeared twisted when she saw Sophie walking out, but she didn't dare to say anything.

Constance entered the room swiftly.

"Mom! Ask the doctor to come here immediately. I want to stand up as soon as I can!" Mason looked like he was in a hurry to stand back up again.

"I'm glad you've finally thought things through, Mason. I always know you'll pick yourself up again." Constance promptly asked people to call for the doctor in charge.

The doctor gave Mason a full-body check-up.

"How's the situation, doctor?" she asked worryingly.

The doctor turned to them with a troubled expression.

"The operation was a success, but he just can't stand up. The situation is difficult to explain." He had no idea what to do.

Mason's expression changed when he heard that. "What do you mean?"

"I really did my best, Mr. Laird, but I've never seen anything like your condition before." The doctor didn't know what to do.

Constance's expression shifted as she spoke with dissatisfaction. "You're just finding an excuse for your incompetence!"

The doctor couldn't figure out a way to treat Mason, but he couldn't piss the Laird family off either, so he just kept quiet.

"Is there really no way to heal me?" Mason asked with despair. I can't stay like this!

"The only person in Chanaea I can think of who can help you is the legendary doctor, Arius." When the doctor mentioned Arius, there was an expression of admiration on his face.

Arius was a Chanaean legend. He was the first and youngest person to enter the medical association.

"The legendary doctor, Arius?" Constance heard that name before.

In fact, many people did. However, only a few had met him before.

"You can try to contact him, Mrs. Laird." After the doctor gave his suggestion, he left.

Constance immediately tried out different ways to contact Arius, but none of it worked.

Concurrently, Sophie was taking Josiah to get a full-body check-up.

She held on to his coat and cane as she waited outside.

It would take over two hours for the check-up to conclude. Since it was the weekend, Ysabelle invited her to hang out, but she rejected it.

"What are you busy about, Soph? Aren't we good friends?" Ysabelle was feeling bored being alone.

"I'm at the hospital," Sophie replied.

"What? The hospital? Why are you there? Are you sick? Why didn't you tell me you're sick?"

"I'm not sick. I took my grandpa to the hospital for a check-up."

"I see. In that case, I'll come and see you after you're done." The final exam was approaching, so Ysabelle wanted to study with her friend.

"Mhm. I still have things to do, so I'll hang up now."

When Tristan descended from upstairs, he saw Ysabelle sighing and shaking her head.

"What's wrong? Why aren't you looking for Sophie?" He recalled she mentioned she wanted to meet with Sophie yesterday. It was why he was slightly confused as to why she was still in the house.

"I don't know what Soph has been occupied with. She doesn't have time to see me at all! Do you know why she is so busy, Uncle Tristan?" Ysabelle asked. She may be in the hospital today, but what about the past few days?

"I also don't know what is up with her."

Both uncle and niece were feeling depressed because of the same person.

Once the check-up was over, Sophie helped Josiah exit the room.

"My body really is fine, Soph. There's no need for me to do so many check-ups." Josiah didn't want her to worry.

"It's just a routine check-up, Grandpa. You don't need to worry about it. I'll send you back now." Sophie spoke.

"The driver is downstairs. You should leave if you have something you need to do. I can go back by myself." He knew she had things to do and didn't want to trouble her.

He was right. She wanted to meet Arius as soon as possible to know the result.

"I'll let the driver send you back first, Grandpa. I really do have something else I need to take care of, so I won't be going home with you."

Seeing Sophie like that made Josiah sad. Life and death are dictated by fate. There are many things that can't be changed even if we wanted to. I just hope she won't fall into a dead end.

He wanted to tell her what he was thinking, but seeing how much effort she was putting into caring for him, he felt it would be inappropriate if he did. Thus, he just sighed resignedly.

After she watched the driver leave with her grandfather, Sophie turned back to the hospital.

Chapter 139 Am I Ranked Last

"Can you stop being so serious, Sophie? I've never seen you look so serious before," Arius uttered.

He had obtained all the results.

Things weren't looking good, but it wasn't hopeless either.

"What's his situation now? Don't joke with me. I'm not in the mood right now." Sophie's expression darkened.

Of course, Arius knew not to joke with her about her grandfather. He knew how important the old man was to her. "Relax, I got it! I already sent the information to Dr. Smith."

He more or less knew what was going on, but there was one key question he needed an answer from his mentor.

"Is it necessary to inform Dr. Smith about this?" Sophie's expression darkened further.

Arius approached her and patted her shoulder. "There's nothing you need to worry about with me around. Didn't I tell you it's not going to be a problem? I just want to make sure I didn't get anything wrong."

"I believe you." She let out a small sigh. If Arius can't do it, then there's no other way.

Since Arius had just returned, the director of the hospital wanted to see him. Thus, he didn't leave with her.

Once she was out of the hospital, she saw Willow. I guess she has been waiting for me.

When Willow saw that Sophie was out, the former blocked her path.

Sophie furrowed her eyebrows.

"Get out of my way," she uttered mercilessly. I have no patience in dealing with her right now.

"Tell me the truth, Sophie. Do you still like Mason?" Willow wasn't willing to accept the truth.

She felt really bitter. I don't see how I'm worse than Sophie. Why is it that Mason can only think about her even after so many years?

"It's none of your business." Sophie directly pushed Willow away and prepared to leave in a taxi.

“Hah.” It was then Willow hoped Mason’s legs would never recover because that would mean he wouldn’t be able to stay with Sophie.

After leaving the hospital, Sophie contacted Ysabelle.

Ysabelle was all happy and in a good form when she answered Sophie’s call.

“Have you finished with your matters, Sophie? Didn’t you say you want to attend Cecelia’s movie premiere? I think it’s tonight. Do you have time to go?” She only paid attention to Cecelia’s new movie because of Sophie.

“Where are you right now? I’ll come and pick you up,” Sophie suggested.

“I’m at the Lombard residence right now. You don’t need to pick me up. This place is too remote, and it’s hard to get a taxi here. I’ll ask the driver to send me to Wisteria Apartments. You can just wait for me there.”

Due to William, the Lombard residence was built on a spot halfway up the mountain. It really would be inconvenient for a taxi to drive up there.

Ysabelle changed into a beautiful dress. Even though Jipsdale’s winter was very cold, she still liked to wear dresses. She only wears a woolen jacket on top of her dress.

Upon applying her makeup and casually tying her hair into a bun, she was ready to head to Sophie’s place.

However, Tristan stopped Ysabelle before she could leave.

“What are you doing, Uncle Tristan? Sophie is waiting for me to join her on an important matter. I need to leave now. If you have something to say, tell me about it after I come back.” It had been days since she last saw Sophie, which was why she really missed her friend. After all, Sophie had been getting so

wrapped up in her matters for the past few days that Ysabelle didn't even have a chance to meet her. Ysabelle couldn't help but wonder what kind of important matter was keeping her friend busy.

"Can you stay home today? Your dad's heading back right now, and he asked me to tell you to wait for him at home. Are you sure you still want to leave?" Tristan kindly reminded.

"What? No way. Why is my dad back today? Why does it have to be now? Do you have anything to do with this, Uncle Tristan? Isn't my dad really busy? Why would he come back home today when it's not Friday?" Her father usually only returned on Friday, which made her guess his decision to come home that day.

Tristan gave her a scary look, so she spoke in a rather unhappy tone. "What do I do now? I can't just let Soph attend Cecelia's movie premiere by herself. It's too pitiful to let her go there alone. Please, just let me go with her, Uncle Tristan. If my dad looks for me, please put a good word in for me. That way he will surely let me off. I beg you. Pretty please?"

Ysabelle blinked as she gave him a pitiful look.

"No! Your dad seems really angry this time, so you'd better wait for him to come home and talk to him yourself. I don't know who posted the video of you and Sophie singing in the KTV on the internet, but it's trending right now."

Lincoln never wanted Ysabelle to enter the entertainment industry, so he was really surprised when his daughter became famous like that. That short video had accumulated over two million views.

"Video? What video? I don't know anything about that," Ysabelle was confused.

Tristan was kind enough to show the video to her. "You always said you want to become a singer, right? Perhaps this is a good start for you to talk to your dad about it. No matter what happens, you should at least try to fight for that chance. This way, you won't regret it in the future."

She was frustrated. Why did things turn out like this? Yes, I want to rebel and change things, but I didn't expect the opportunity would come so soon. I still want to study at a university somewhere in the south after I graduate from high school. Once I leave Jipsdale, I'll be able to do whatever I want.

“Will my dad listen to me, Uncle Tristan? You know how stubborn he is. All the men in the Lombard family are stubborn! They don’t like to listen to anyone.”

“That’s your problem to solve. There are things I have to deal with, so I’ll be leaving now,” Tristan said.

“Soph is still waiting for me at Wisteria Apartments, Uncle Tristan! How about you accompany her to attend Cecelia’s movie premiere instead? I don’t want her to go alone because I’m afraid she’ll get bullied.”

“I see! Since you want me to go there so badly, I’ll head over there, then.”

Ysabelle’s heart was bleeding silently. She wanted to go too, but with her father returning soon, she didn’t dare to leave the house.

Sophie returned to Wisteria Apartments and opened the box Cecelia asked someone to send to her. Inside was a black dress with a simple design. Nevertheless, anyone could tell it was very high quality with just one glance.

There was also a note on the box that read: To Sophie. This is a dress I specially bought for you from overseas! You must wear it. Otherwise, our friendship is over!

There was a doodle of a silly face behind the note.

Sophie was quite speechless, but she still removed the dress from the box and changed into it. Then she let her hair down.

Upon hearing a knocking sound on the door, she went to open it before she could tie her hair up because she thought Ysabelle had arrived.

She didn’t at all expect the person standing outside to be Tristan instead of Ysabelle. “Why are you here, Tristan? I’m sorry, but I already have a date with Ysabelle. I can’t join you for dinner today.”

He pressed his hands on the walls, basically locking her between his arms and the wall. "Do I rank last among the people you know, Sophie?"

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"Not at all. It's obvious to me that you're overthinking it. How can you rank last?" Sophie said.

"I hope I am overthinking it. You look beautiful today," Tristan complimented.

The topic changed so fast that her throat and lips suddenly went dry, especially when she was being stared at so intently by a handsome man.

She licked her lips. "Mr. Tristan—"

Before she could finish her sentence, she was pulled into his embrace. Once he caught her in his embrace, he lowered his head and kissed her on the lips. "No matter what you wear, you'll always look alluring to me."

So is he blaming me for his behavior? Sophie was speechless.

"Ysabelle had something to take care of, so she can't accompany you to the premiere, but I can." It was pretty clear he wasn't going to take no for an answer.

The premiere was about to start. However, the person Cecelia was waiting for still hadn't arrived, which put a frown on her face.

Her manager didn't know how to comfort her seeing her like that. "Maybe Ms. Tanner has something to take care of, Cecelia. The premiere is about to start. We should go!"

Everyone was waiting for Cecelia, so it wouldn't be ideal if she just waited there.

“No,” Cecelia replied stubbornly.

Her manager sighed resignedly. It was then the door to the lounge was opened and Sophie showed up.

When Cecelia saw her friend show up in the dress she prepared, her eyes sparkled with joy.

“You finally came, Soph! I thought you were going to stand me up again.” She stared at Sophie aggrievedly, like a pitiful puppy.

The manager felt too embarrassed to watch. After staying by Cecelia’s side for many years, she knew her temperament, and it wasn’t anything good.

Yet, when Sophie showed up, Cecelia would act like a pitiful puppy.

“I have promised you that I will be here, so here I am. Last time was an accident,” Sophie replied. Can she stop acting pitiful like that?

Cecelia immediately hugged her friend’s neck, raised her head, and stared at her.

Tristan’s expression darkened when she saw Cecelia hugging his woman.

Sensing his hostile stare, Cecelia intentionally stuck her tongue out toward him. Soph doesn’t belong to him only. Why can’t someone else hug her?

He scoffed.

“Time’s up, Cecelia. We should go,” the manager reminded.

It was then Cecelia let go of Sophie. “I can go there with my assistant. You take Soph to the VIP seat.”

“No need. I can go there by myself. She’s your manager, so it’s better if she follows you,” Sophie declined.

She was just there as a member of the audience. It wasn’t necessary for the manager to follow her.

“In that case, please lead Ms. Tanner to her seat, Chrissy.” Cecelia was still worried. Soph is in my territory right now. I need to take good care of her.

After Cecelia left with her manager, Tristan grabbed Sophie and pulled her into his embrace. “Don’t let anyone else hug you in the future. I’ll get upset.”

If Cecelia was not Sophie’s important friend, he would have chopped Cecelia’s hands off.

Sophie raised her eyebrow. “Not even a woman?” He’s so possessive!

“No. I’m the only one allowed to hug you like this.”

It was Sophie’s first time seeing him acting so childishly.

In the end, she didn’t answer Tristan and brought him to the hall instead.

When Sophie arrived, Cecelia was already on the stage.

A woman like Cecelia was born for the stage.

She looked dazzling and was the center of attraction.

The second female lead in the movie looked pale by comparison.

The host was the host of a television channel. He was a great showman, and a fan of Cecelia, so all his questions were focused on her.

No matter what he asked, Cecelia was able to answer the questions without any issue.

“You gave an amazing performance in this movie, Ms. Lance. I think everyone would agree that it felt very real. Do you have a friend like that in your life as well?” the host asked.

“I do.” Cecelia subconsciously turned her gaze toward Sophie when she said that. “I have a friend I treasure very much. I believe that we’ll continue to stay best friends because I really like her.”

Sophie stared at Cecelia. She has really grown up. A lot of sacrifices are required for someone to grow up, but I still can’t help but feel touched when I see her being the shining star that she is right now.

Tristan grabbed her hand. I didn’t have the opportunity to participate in her life in the past, and many things had happened. However, I’ll be sure to accompany her for the rest of her life.

The warmth she felt when he held her small hand made her feel really safe and secure.

She felt she was really lucky to have a group of friends who treated her sincerely.

The second female lead of the movie was the same person who accepted to star in Dream’s advertisement last time, Lorelei.

Even though she was also a female lead in the movie, the host only paid attention to Cecelia, which made her feel very uncomfortable.

It was then the other host finally changed the topic and directed some questions to her.

“Ms. Crawford, I heard Mr. Zales booked a few showings for this movie for you. Does this mean you two are in a relationship?” The host was referring to Clayton.

Lorelei looked proud when Clayton was mentioned. So what if Cecelia is amazing? She doesn't have anyone backing her up, unlike me, who has Clayton supporting me. She brushed her hair to the side a little and smiled. "Mr. Zales has really helped me a lot, but our relationship isn't what you all think it is. I hope no one will misunderstand that."

"Haha, we know. The Zales family keeps a low profile. I sure do envy you, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Zales is a wealthy man!"

While she didn't say it, she felt really proud.

She couldn't help but glance at Cecelia.

Of course, Cecelia knew what Lorelei was doing. Clayton had chased after her before, but she didn't like him, so she rejected him. I certainly didn't expect him to be with Lorelei, but this doesn't seem to have anything to do with me. What is she so proud of about him? Isn't it kind of lame for her to compare something like this with me?

The host spent the rest of the time on Lorelei, especially her relationship with Clayton.

It was the first time Cecelia felt what it was like to be brushed aside.

When it was time for the reporters to ask questions, many of them were already bought out by Lorelei, so they kept asking questions about her.

Suddenly, a reporter yelled, "Oh god! An anonymous rich person just booked a bunch of showings for Ms. Lance, too!"

"What? Who is it?"

"No idea, but the person booked ten thousand showings. It said so on Twitter. Anyone who liked Cecelia will be able to watch her movie in the movie theater for free. The person will cover the tickets."

“What? You must be kidding me! Who’s capable enough to book ten thousand showings? That will cost an astronomical amount of money! Even Clayton only booked ten for Lorelei!”