

Pursuing 231

Chapter 231

won't be going." Sarah wasn't interested in going to the

do as she liked.

"It's okay! Go on! I'll deal with your dad!" Sarah knew how much Ysabelle wanted

the fullest! Besides, the Lombard family is more than capable of giving her a good life.

would have to send her home first before

the entrance of the Lombard family's mansion, Sarah told Tristan to stop the car.

"All right.

send Sophie home.

Sophie, I'll see you next time!"

"Okay, Sarah.

Rest early!" Sophie uttered politely, seeming exceptionally well-behaved.

"You too.

the Lombard manor.

Tristan watched her go in before

all because of Yvette.

Sarah is such a fool for love.

It's just a man.

It's not like he's irreplaceable.

she's still bothered by it.

"Juan? Isn't that Charles'

matters."

"Mr.

mind her own business because she didn't like the drama.

"You do," Tristan answered.

a girl who had harmed her in the past.

She's too magnanimous.

Sophie knew he was talking about Angie.

forum! Besides, Angie had already suffered so much.

but she felt as though what Angie did wasn't unforgivable.

someone's mistake forever?

Right then, Tristan held her

I'll stay out of it.

now!" Tristan believed in Sophie's ability to handle the matter.

Again,

this matter for now.

After sending Sophie back to Wisteria Apartments, Tristan didn't leave right away.

Instead, he gave her a flash drive.

will come in handy!"

Tristan had kept Victor and Yale's dirt on the flash drive.

down.

Sophie blinked while staring at the flash drive in his hand.

"Mr.

I can't handle it on my own?

Tristan kept quiet for a while because he didn't know how to

You don't have to explain.

Thanks!"

Tristan stayed quiet for a while.

to get too tired! Since I can get these things done so easily, why can't you

I'm such a valuable asset.

Sophie replied.

It's okay.

blaming him? After all, he was just being helpful.

"Don't do this

I really don't need him to trouble himself.

Besides, he's a busy man.

of mine.

"Actually, Victor is a good man.

regarding Tanner Group in the future!” Tristan urged.

“Yes.

to that.

Victor is a charismatic guy, and he’s very trustworthy.

Dad didn’t trust him back then.

he had let Victor manage Tanner Group.

Tristan

you.” Tristan hoped that she would let him help her.

least get a sense of fulfillment.

me feel so inconsequential.

been a confident man! Why do I always lack self-confidence when I’m with her?

“Mr.

Tristan, I—”

“It’s all right.

Let’s just drop it.

go of her and kissed her forehead before he left.

While sitting in the living

is unique.

He's unlike Arius, Mark, and anybody else.

However, I'm never good at expressing myself.

racing with thoughts, the ring on

anything now.

Just when she was immersed in such a thought, her phone rang.

Seeing that it was Arius calling

for you! I know you're very capable, but will you be more careful?"

"Have

Why is that man everywhere?.

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me in England. Who would dare to touch me? I'm just worried about you, and

That man just won't quit!

“All right.

Don’t worry about me.

Sophie was confident that no one could get their hands on her.

the man knew her well, so he knew that Arius was her weakness.

“Don’t worry about that.

he wasn’t as strong as Sophie, he was still capable of defending himself.

“Okay.

up the phone.

“Wait, Sophie! Don’t you miss me? We haven’t seen

so heartless?

“What do you want, then?” Sophie asked patiently.

you miss me!” Arius uttered proudly.

Sophie kept mum.

“What’s wrong? I

Is it that hard for you?” Arius asked.

I would risk my life for her.

young anymore.” With that, Sophie hung up the phone before

“Sophie, you’re so heartless!” he complained.

sacrificing more than her parent?

The next morning, Tristan arrived to pick Sophie up.

Sophie wore a formal outfit that day.

chin and sigh.

“Sophie, you’re not only young, but you also have a baby face!” he

boyfriend when I go out with her!

Sophie pushed his hand away and retorted, “What’s the matter, Mr.

alluring! That’s why I’m feeling insecure!” Tristan answered.

respond.

to that?

The shareholders’ meeting was going to start at

brought her to The Crown.

To their

behind him.

I thought Mr.

passed.

Is Mr.

with their flings? Why is Mr.

saw Tristan, he immediately brought Winter

breakfast together! It has been a

What is he looking at?

“No.

his arm around her shoulders possessively.

merely smiled when he saw how Tristan acted.

“Don’t misunderstand me, Mr.

Tristan.

I just find Ms.

Tanner familiar.

Tristan questioned.

exquisite facial features.

“That’s not what I mean.

Ms.

Tanner, apart from Old Mr.

Juan asked.

Sophie shook her head in response.

She had no idea who Juan was.

“No.

I’ve been in Horington for the past few years.

getting sick of wasting her time talking nonsense.

brought Sophie away.

Since there were no private rooms left, Tristan could

Tristan.

Let's eat together!" Winter offered.

Mr.

in romance, I've already been after him for so long.

I'm not going to give up on getting him.

"Winter, I just want to have breakfast with Sophie

pale when she heard that.

"Mr.

Tristan, Winter was just being kind.

Why must you act like that?" Juan piped up.

Regardless, Winter is still my sister.

Juan.

Juan was startled when he saw the look in Tristan's eyes.

I should just forget about it.

It's not worth crossing Mr.

Tristan over such a trivial matter.

go inside, Winter!" Juan dragged Winter away.

While getting dragged away, Winter still kept

was missing him dearly.

are after me, and they're all young and capable.

him?

The annoyance on Tristan's face gradually disappeared after he watched Winter and Juan leave.

Sophie forked some food and sent it

said nonchalantly, not the least bit bothered by Juan.

"Okay!"

it, so it doesn't matter what I say now.

Tristan was

"Have some yourself!"

Sophie was still slightly speechless.

by someone.

Seeing that, Tristan immediately took a bagel and held it up to

Sophie.

She knew she had to say something.

Mr.

Tristan can be a clueless man at times!

“Mr.

to eat this huge bagel in

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left with no choice but to finish the bagel himself.

Sophie found his reaction amusing.

“Rest assured

breakfast! There’s no need for him to keep an eye on me.

“You’re too skinny.

her weight.

“Mr.

women in this time and era.

You look like a bamboo stick.”

“I look like a bamboo stick? Are you

look like a bamboo stick.

“That’s not what I meant.

Actually, I’m very satisfied with your body.”

What?

“Okay, fine.

girls mind when people comment about their

Tristan.

I do feel shy discussing my body early in the morning! Regardless, I’m just a

the Lombard family should Winter tie the knot with Tristan.

“Yes, I do.

but he couldn't care less about me." Bitterness permeated her.

"Since you like

Where there's a will, there's a way.

see results."

Winter stared at him in disbelief.

At the same time, there was a sparkle in her eyes.

"Juan, do

I believe that you will win his heart.

At that moment, she saw a glimmer of hope and felt

not want him to participate in the meeting.

up with your work.

bet Lombard Group has entered a busy period, too."

"Okay."

Yale had

of his car.

Yale's face flushed a little when he saw Sophie staring at

Now that you have Mr.

in the future, can't you?"

Yale was clutching at straws because he could

I've already made my intentions clear.

she be so greedy?

"So, what I'm trying to point out is why are you fighting against

blood? Are you kidding me? Come on and tell me.

ended up the way it is now if it hadn't been for him!

"By the way,

Tristan treats you very well.

If only you could marry him...

Are these words supposed to be spoken

wrong with you? I'm still your father, regardless.

happy if I were to jump

Group.

up.

“Anyway, you’d better mark my words.

Group, I’ll jump off the building and haunt you forever.”

At that instant, Sophie

resentment swirled within him.

Yet, Sophie ignored him totally.

to possess Tanner Group.

Yale stood rooted to the spot, unwilling to accept the reality.

I’m

Group? Do you think you could stay if they removed

I’ll go get Old Mr.

Old Mr.

Tanner out for a walk.

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more confident in succeeding.

No matter what, I must achieve victory this time! So

Don't blame me for adopting an extreme approach.

my pleas.

the past, the employees never paid any attention to her.

However, things changed after the incident at Transfix Cosmetics.

capabilities.

Sophie managed to turn the tides and save

Hence, they were assured of that.

"Good morning, Ms.

suit.

Instantly, everyone became very optimistic about her.

That was the scene Victor saw when he arrived at the office.

"Sophie is quite

Victor, she's now your opponent."

Hasn't Mr.

praise his competitor at this juncture?

"Mr.

given their best.

"No idea."

Without Sophie, Victor would have won the position hands down.

However, he was

It's not like we haven't done anything similar before.

Apparently, it was quite normal for businessmen to do whatever

rejected the idea proposed immediately.

"Did you fall

Victor?" He's never been this kind to others.

a cold glare and yelled, "What are you talking about? Do you know how young is she?"

She's no longer

and did not have the time to check in on her.

I saw her.

“Hi, Mr.

White.” She nodded politely.

Transfix Cosmetics is doing very well,” he complimented, feeling honored to have her as his

it earnestly.

Victor was indeed a capable

manner.

“Look at how we flatter each other! Shall

successfully transform Transfix Cosmetics.”

“Trust me when I say there’s no correlation between gender and caliber.”

“All right, pardon

in the entire Chanaea.”

She was deemed a talent not because she stood out as a girl but her

not a social butterfly.

talks with others.

Soon, they entered the conference

Sophie was the unswerving type who focused

that was the case, there was no way Charmaine could convince Sophie to do

Tanner, our sales has tripled!”

Action speaks louder than words.

The excellent sales performance would definitely help Ms.

job! You’ve worked hard lately.” Sophie meant

Tanner!”

Sophie was a generous boss.

She had given her staff a lot of benefits.

“Ms.

have strong family backgrounds like her would usually remain in the working class for life despite

company’s shares.

“All right, you can carry on with your work.” There

to return to Transfix Cosmetics.

“Okay, I’ll take my leave now.

All the best, Ms.

she was a genius at doing business.

I’m sure her talents won’t go unnoticed.

The shareholders’ meeting was about to

Most of the people had arrived except for Yale.

“Mrs.

Tanner, could you give Mr.

of the shareholders grew impatient.

Our time is very precious.

helpless.

meeting?

“Mr.

up for this major event! If Tanner Group means nothing

shareholders were serious about their investments.

the luxury of time to play the fool.

Faced

Sophie.

“Sophie, do you know where’s your dad? We’re a family! You shouldn’t let these shareholders bully

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then you shouldn’t be here. This is a company. I won’t help you just because you’re my family.”

Sophie had always

liked to rely on someone else.

However, this woman gave birth to her no matter what.

what Charmaine said today really annoyed her.

about her.

Is this what a mother should say to her daughter?

“I’m not the same as you! You

was listening at the side, could

Tanner, how can you say that? I saw Mr.

Tanner on my way here just now.

losing, we'll start the shareholders' meeting

or not," said Victor.

He did not want to waste time on an

I have no say at all in this company!

"Mr.

preparations.

Yale walked in with a confident look.

He was

straight to his seat and sat down.

With that, all the attendees of the shareholders' meeting were

He achieved remarkable results that year.

revive it and turn the losses into profits.

The comparative data presented on the screen coupled

Now let's invite Mr.

last one to present as he had high expectations for her.

Yale asked his secretary

Tanner's daughter?" asked Victor.

an outstanding daughter?

Sophie remained silent, not knowing how to respond.

"I don't mean anything.

I just think biology is amazing.

brilliant daughter?"

Victor admired Sophie from the bottom of his heart.

After Yale finished

none of your business.

the CEO." For some unknown reason, Yale was still very confident despite his terrible presentation.

As

Victor, but all shareholders were looking forward to

visionary.

hope of getting the greatest return.

achieve what you want!" Sophie articulated each word convincingly.

Her confidence was genuine.

prove her case, her performance alone rendered her absolutely remarkable.

When Yale noticed everyone's excited and satisfied expression, his face

give her a round of applause.

"I've never admired anyone in my life.

the presentation that she did was enough to prove her ability.

Such

Victor!" His assistant was shocked at his decision.

did.

We've put in so much effort.

believe Sophie is more suitable than everyone else to

assist Sophie in the future.”

Tanner Group was a company with great potential.

the journey to a better future.

The other shareholders also agreed with what Victor said.

After

up easily.

Victor glanced at him with exasperation.

“Mr.

might not know the validity of your own data, but we all know that.”

Victor did not understand

Chapter 236 Kidnapping Her Grandpa

“What do you mean? All my data are genuine!” Yale was indignant.

Hearing that, all the shareholders in the room felt awkward.

They were not as foolish as Yale. All of them could tell that his data were faked at first glance.

Charmaine felt embarrassed too when she heard what Yale said, and she avoided the shareholders' gazes.

Yale was doomed to failure since he decided to go out and fool around the day before such an important occasion. He did not even bother to do his preparation.

Charmaine was extremely disappointed with him.

Without the title of Tanner Group's CEO, Yale was a nobody.

"Do you have any evidence to prove that my data are faked?" Yale was not giving up. That was not the first time he forged data. He was not afraid of their accusation if they had no proof.

"Since you still refuse to admit your fault, I'll make you do so."

Then, Victor asked his assistant to disclose all the evidence.

Yale's face immediately turned pale after saw the documents that Victor had prepared beforehand.

All of them were evidence of his falsification.

He didn't expect to be humiliated right in front of everyone.

"Mr. White, I know that you've always disliked me. But how can you disgrace me in such a way? This is defamation, and I can sue you!"

"I believe you know it clearly in your heart whether this is defamation," said Victor scornfully.

Yale was so furious that he was at a loss of words.

“If you want to continue to mess around, I’ll have to get the Investigation Department involved.” Victor did not want to waste time listening to his nonsense. After all, it was useless trying to argue with someone like Yale.

“You—” Although Yale was angry, he did not dare to let the people from the Investigation Department come over.

Suddenly, Sophie stood up and interjected, “That’s enough for today’s drama! I believe everyone has made up their mind about who to vote for the upcoming CEO. The three of us will leave the room now, and all of you can proceed with your voting.”

As soon as Sophie walked out of the room, Victor followed behind her too, not wanting to stick around any longer.

However, Yale refused to leave, as he wanted to witness the voting process.

“Mr. Tanner, for the sake of fairness, you should go out too!” said the union chairman of Tanner Group.

Yale was extremely worried about the result, but since everyone was looking at him derisively, he had no choice but to leave the room. Besides, the only thing left for him to do now was to talk to Sophie.

“Do you really want to give up the position of Tanner Group’s CEO?” asked Sophie.

She could hardly believe her ears. After all, Victor had been preparing for this election for so long. Why did he give up all of a sudden?

“Didn’t you hear me just now? Yes, I voluntarily quit the election because I believe you are more suitable for this position than me.”

That was Victor’s sincere thought.

Sophie was unsure of what was exactly on his mind.

Nonetheless, that was not important to her at that moment.

It was better for her if there was one less competitor.

Right then, Yale walked over.

Victor completely ignored him, unwilling to speak with him.

Yale walked up to Sophie and said in a low voice, "Can we talk?"

Sophie raised her brows. What else can we talk about? The outcome is already decided.

"Mr. Tanner, don't be a sore loser." Victor despised the other man to no end.

"Mr. White, this is our family matter, and it's none of your business. So, you might want to step away."

Although Yale was unhappy deep down, he dared not say much in front of a strong competitor like Victor.

"Family? Have you ever treated Sophie as your daughter? If you treat her as your daughter, you wouldn't have behaved like this."

Victor was a straightforward person. He had no qualms about saying what was on his mind.

"Sophie, I'm talking to you. Are you listening? Your attitude is really disappointing. Do you even have manners?"

Yale dared not criticize Victor, but he was not afraid to do so to Sophie. After all, he was her father. He believed she would not fight back.

Victor looked at Sophie in silence, wanting to see how she would deal with that situation.

“Sophie, don’t let yourself regret it.” Yale was annoyed by her attitude. If it was not because Sophie had Tristan as her backer, Yale would not let her off easily.

Sophie frowned.

Is he threatening me?

“If you have anything to say, just say it here!” As a righteous person, Sophie had nothing to hide.

Yale shot a look at Victor.

He did not feel comfortable having Victor, an outsider around.

However, Victor showed no intention of leaving. Instead, he regarded Yale curiously, wondering what he was going to do next.

“Mr. White, do you mind giving us some space for a private talk?” said Sophie as she knew what Yale was wary of.

Victor shrugged. Fine, I’ll leave. I don’t mind.

Then, he turned and left, leaving Sophie and Yale alone.

Now that they were left alone, Yale rubbed his hands and said, “Sophie, I know you’re a very capable person. Since you’re so capable, I believe you can shine anywhere. Why don’t you give me Tanner Group?”

If Yale had other choices, he definitely would not have resorted to kidnapping his own father.

Sophie grew impatient.

“I’m not going to say another word about this matter.”

Taking note of her attitude, Yale clenched his fists in anger.

“Sophie, let me warn you again. You must give up the position of CEO no matter what!” Yale could no longer control himself.

Unwilling to speak any further, Sophie turned to walk away.

“Your grandpa is in my hands. If you don’t give up today, you’ll never get to see him again.” Yale knew that Sophie cared about Josiah the most, which was why he made such a move, putting all his hope on that.

Hearing that, Sophie stopped in her tracks.

“What do you mean?” Her voice was extremely cold.

Looking at her reaction, Yale was a little proud of himself.

No one is indestructible. As long as I can find her weakness, I can control her very well too.

Sophie walked up to Yale.

“You kidnapped Grandpa?” Sophie wanted to give him one last chance. If he still showed no signs of repentance, she would show no mercy.

"I have no other choices. I would not have made such a move if you were willing to listen to me. For the sake of our family's harmony, you have to give up the position of CEO today," said Yale, sounding as if all he did was for her own good.

Chapter 237 Capable Of Murder

"Keep dreaming."

Yale did not expect that to happen.

"Let me tell you something, Sophie. There's nothing I wouldn't do when I'm backed up against the wall. To think that your grandfather loves you so. How could you—"

"How dare you?"

You were the one who kidnapped Grandpa!

Sophie no longer paid him any mind. Instead, she called Butterfly.

"What is it, Phantom?" Butterfly asked, concerned because she was usually the one to seek Phantom out. Could something have happened for Phantom to make contact this time?

"Locate my grandfather, and send a team to bring him back." Sophie's tone made it clear that her order was not to be questioned.

"All right."

Whenever Sophie spoke in that tone, it was a sign she was trying her best to control her emotions.

Still feeling uneasy after hanging up, Sophie made another call to Tristan.

“What is it?” Tristan had been waiting for her call and, upon receiving it, thought the shareholders’ meeting had ended.

“I would like to ask for a favor, Mr. Tristan.” Though she wanted more than anything to search for Josiah herself, Sophie had promised the old man to assume the position of CEO, which was why she could not leave as she pleased.

“What is it?” Though her tone was no different than usual, he felt his heart ache upon hearing her voice.

“Yale took Grandpa away. Could you bring him back for me, please?” Sophie did not realize how much calmer she became after hearing Tristan’s voice.

“All right. I will get it done,” Tristan promised. “Don’t worry. I will personally carry this out and bring Old Mr. Tanner to you once the shareholder meeting ends.”

“Hmm.”

She might not believe anybody else, but she had complete faith in Tristan.

She knew he was capable and would get it done for her sake.

“All right, don’t fret about it. I’ll bring him back.”

After assuring her, Tristan hung up and got to his feet, with Felix following suit.

“Did something happen, Mr. Tristan?” Felix asked curiously.

“Yale is up to no good. He kidnapped Old Mr. Tanner.”

“What?” Felix was stunned. “That old fox, Yale, kidnapped his father to threaten his daughter? What has the world come to?”

“Enough. Have somebody find out Old Mr. Tanner’s current location.”

As he had already promised Sophie, he was going to bring Josiah back no matter the cost.

“All right. Rest assured, Mr. Tristan. I will keep you informed promptly.”

Having met much more formidable and complex adversaries than Yale, Felix was not concerned at all.

Tristan was still not assured. “Make haste. There cannot be any mistake. Understood?”

As long as it pertained to Sophie, I must do it well. I do not want anything to upset Sophie.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Tristan. What haven’t I encountered after all these years by your side?” Mr. Tristan was not even that nervous when Ysabelle was kidnapped!

Tristan gave Felix a look which the latter hastily took as his cue to leave.

“All right, understood. I’ll have somebody poke around.”

Tristan knew despite Yale’s deranged and reckless actions, he would not bring harm to his own father. The latter’s reason for doing so was to force Sophie to forfeit herself from the election.

Only by bringing Old Mr. Tanner home will I ease Sophie’s worries.

Meanwhile, Yale was awaiting Sophie’s answer in Tanner Group.

“Old Mr. Tanner loves you so much, Sophie. You wouldn’t turn a blind eye to his survival, would you? I will have Old Mr. Tanner returned home without a scratch if you give up this opportunity.”

Sophie’s gaze were like glaciers.

Her hands clenched involuntarily into fists.

“Aren’t you ashamed of saying such a thing, Yale? Grandpa has always been good to you. As his son, how could you have such thoughts?”

“Good to me? He would not have snatched Tanner Group from my hands if he were good to me. Do you think I want to do this? I’ve been driven to desperation by you all!”

Who would do such a sick thing? If they had not forced me to the edge, I definitely wouldn’t.

“Since you dared do such a thing for your own greed, Yale, I, too, will dare send you to prison.” I am not going to accommodate him anymore.

Yale was rendered speechless.

He did not expect her to remain steadfast even up to that point.

“Are you going to disregard Old Mr. Tanner’s life for Tanner Group?”

Yale, confident that victory was within his grasp, became suddenly unsure.

Sophie does not look as if she is going to cooperate. What does she mean by this now?

Victor arrived at that moment. The shareholders had already arrived at a conclusion, and it was time they headed in.

“Let’s go! It’s time,” he announced before noticing Sophie’s cold expression.

I wonder what she and Yale were talking about?

“What’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?” Victor asked in concern.

Sophie shook her head.

Tristan will help me with this, so it is not necessary to inform Victor of this.

“I want to be your ally, Sophie. You must tell me if there’s anything important.”

No matter what it is, I would do it without hesitation as long as it was within my capacity.

“Thank you, but it really is not necessary. Aside from Tristan, I cannot trust anybody else.”

“I meant what I said. I want to fight side by side with you.” He even conceded running for election to show her his resolve.

“Hmm. Noted.”

Yale panicked as Sophie and Victor made to depart and completely ignored him.

What is going on with Sophie? Doesn’t she care whether the old man lives or not?

Tanner dashed over and grabbed Sophie’s arm. It was the final straw. Unable to tolerate her father another second longer, she whipped around and grabbed Yale by the throat.

Despite struggling with all his might, Yale could not muster even an ounce of strength.

Sophie stood before him. Though she was several inches shorter than him, the aura emanating from her was terrifying.

Yale panicked and flailed his arms madly as the feeling of suffocation descended upon him.

He did not dare believe Sophie was capable of laying a finger on him.

I am her father, and she is doing this before an outsider. Isn't she afraid of what people would think of her?

"You shouldn't have threatened me with Grandpa, Yale." She might have tolerated it if it were anybody else, but she could not do so when it came to Josiah.

Yale continued to struggle and was suddenly lifted off the ground by Sophie.

Victor, who was usually ruthless, was also stunned by Sophie's actions at that moment.

What is going on here? This girl looks terrifying right now. Even I can sense the murderous, bloodthirsty aura emanating from her. Is she really going to kill her own father?

Chapter 238 A Harrowing Scene

Charmaine emerged to summon them in and was greeted immediately by that harrowing scene.

Her mouth fell open in shock. She wanted to scream but was unable to produce even a squeak.

However, Sophie was unperturbed by Charmaine's arrival.

Only when Yale was deathly pale and close to suffocation did Charmaine force herself to walk over and grab Sophie's hand.

"No matter what happened, Soph, he's still your father," Charmaine pleaded. "You'll regret it for the rest of your life if you hurt him today." Sophie was her daughter, and to that end, Charmaine did not wish for the former to be burdened by the sin of patricide.

Victor came over as well.

"It's not worth destroying yourself for somebody like that, Sophie." I still can't believe Sophie did that.

Sophie shoved Yale aside. Despite regaining his freedom, he could not even take a single step as he sat on the ground and gasped for breath. Even the expensive suit he donned could not disguise how wretched he appeared at that moment.

"Sophie..."

Yale finally found his voice after a long while. It was quavering at that moment.

Is the girl before me my daughter? I never knew that the girl had such a terrifying side. She was going to kill me just now!

Yale could not steady his pounding heart at the thought of his close brush with death.

"You better pray nothing happens to Grandpa, or I won't let you go!" At that, Sophie turned and entered the conference room.

Charmaine frowned.

"What did you do? Isn't Old Mr. Tanner at home? Why would Soph say such a thing?"

Yale shoved his wife, who had knelt beside him, aside.

“All you know is ask questions. Look at the daughter you raised! She even dares raise a hand against her father! She is a murderer!”

Charmaine shook her head. “I know my daughter very well, Yale. She would not be this way if you hadn’t done something.”

Sophie has always been serene by nature and would not flare up without provocation. The circumstances only pointed to the fact that Yale did something that thoroughly enraged her. What’s more, the matter pertained to Old Mr. Tanner.

Yale stood up and entered the conference room. There is no way I’m going to miss the announcement of the result.

Everybody had resumed their seats by then. The union chairman took the stage, and by the end, all the shareholders unanimously agreed that Sophie was the best choice to lead Tanner Group.

“I hereby declare that from today on, Ms. Tanner is officially the CEO of Tanner Group!”

Victor led the round of applause after the union chairman spoke.

Everybody was satisfied with the results.

Sophie has what it takes to lead us to new heights.

Yale, however, refused to accept the result. He leaped to his feet.

“Sophie dared to lay a finger on her own father. How could somebody of this character be the CEO of Tanner Group? I firmly object!”

Yale was clutching at straws, but not one of the shareholders paid him any attention.

Speaking of character, nobody's was worse than Yale's. Sophie's leadership was what they wanted instead.

"Don't you believe me? She'd just grabbed my neck earlier, trying to kill me."

Yale refused to give up. Sophie is not suitable for this position.

Nobody listened to a word he said. Instead, they flocked around Sophie to pledge their loyalty.

"Rest assured, everybody. As long as we work hard together, I won't be pursuing matters of the past," Sophie declared, by way of reaffirming her stand.

"We will, we will."

The other shareholders chimed in.

The more firmly everything appeared to be set in stone, the more in denial Yale became.

"Do you not care whether your grandfather lives or dies, Sophie?" It is impossible. I have done so many things for the position of CEO of Tanner Group, yet here we are. I refuse to believe it.

"I'll deal with you once I find Grandpa." Sophie did not waste her breath with him. Instead, she called Tristan at once.

"You can relax now. We'd found Grandpa! He's doing very well." Tristan was keeping Josiah company when he received the call and strode outside to pick up for fear of upsetting Josiah lest the old man overheard.

To his credit, Josiah knew what was going on. From when Yale's secretary picked him up from the Tanner residence to when Tristan kicked up a ruckus in search of him, he understood everything that was going on.

Severe disappointment was the only thing he felt at the moment.

There is something wrong with the way I raised my son. Otherwise, things would not be the way they are now.

He had been chatting with Tristan earlier, and the younger man did not even dare mention Yale.

Josiah's expression turned especially grim when Tristan stepped outside.

He felt awful about how things turned out.

Sophie exited Tanner Group immediately upon learning Josiah's location as she intended to bring her grandfather home at once.

Yale reached out to grab her arm at the sight of her leaving.

"You really don't care if your grandfather dies or not?" Yale threatened, refusing to give up.

If I was never the CEO, I might not be this upset. But because I once had it, the loss hurts all the more.

"Where did you bring Old Mr. Tanner, Yale? Don't do anything foolish!" Charmaine was shocked to learn that Yale had kidnapped Josiah for Tanner Group.

"Get lost!" Yale growled impatiently.

He shoved Charmaine aside, who would have fallen over if Sophie had not caught her.

“Ignore him. He’s insane beyond redemption.” There is nothing else he wouldn’t do after doing something like this to his father.

The car sent by Tristan had already arrived when Sophie exited Tanner Group. Felix emerged from the vehicle to receive her.

“Let’s go! Don’t worry, Old Mr. Tanner is very safe now,” Felix assured, as he knew that Josiah’s safety was her utmost priority.

“Thank you.”

Sophie only became truly relieved upon finding out that Josiah was unharmed.

Fortunately, nothing happened to Josiah. Otherwise, I would not know whether I made the right decision.

“I’ll bring you over!”

“Can I come over with you, Soph?” Charmaine, too, wanted to pay Josiah a visit.

“It’s not necessary, Mom. You should go home first, and I will bring Grandpa back later today.” As for Yale, the punishment that is going to befall him would be severe. “Start the car, Mr. Northley,” Sophie then ordered.

Felix nodded and drove them away.

Yale, however, ran after the car. No, I cannot lose everything in Tanner Group!

Chapter 239 Consoling Kisses

“He’s still refusing to give up!” Felix smirked. How could a pair of human legs hope to catch up with the four wheels of a car? This man’s brain must be chock full of sh*t!

Sophie glanced at the rearview mirror and saw Yale still in pursuit.

“Ignore him.” Sophie did not want to spare Yale another glance.

Soon, Yale could no longer be seen from the rearview mirror.

“Cheer up, Sophie!” Felix did not know how to console her. He thought she must be feeling horrible for how her father treated her grandfather, despite how relaxed she looked.

“I’m fine.”

Sophie closed her eyes, making it plain that she no longer wished to discuss the subject. She was reluctant to elaborate, and Felix did not force her.

Tristan had brought Josiah to one of his mansions. Though he did not often drop by, a housekeeper kept the place ready for him to visit whenever he liked.

Having learned that Sophie was coming, Josiah sat in wait on the couch.

“Why don’t you take a nap, Grandpa? I’ll wake you when Soph comes.” He’s getting older and has undergone such a massive operation, so he must be tired.

“Oh, Tanny. Thank you for always being by Soph’s side.” If it weren’t for Tristan, who was always by Sophie’s side, Josiah dared not imagine what would become of her.

Though he knew his granddaughter was a force to be reckoned with, there was no way she could face it calmly when her beloved family member was involved, no matter how formidable she was.

“It’s within my duty, Grandpa. Don’t worry. No matter what happens, I will always be by Soph’s side.”

That is my promise. I will not let anybody hurt Sophie.

Felix was leading Sophie in when she heard Tristan utter those words. She was touched.

It really is nice to have him. Otherwise, I would not know what to do.

Josiah smiled at Sophie’s arrival.

“What’s the rush, Soph? The shareholder’s meeting must have just ended. I’m fine! You needn’t worry.”

Josiah did not wish to bring up the matter, but it concerned Sophie, his beloved granddaughter.

He knew that the matter could not go unsaid.

Though he was the one who was kidnapped, he could no longer defend Yale.

Sophie wrapped her arms around Josiah’s waist and leaned on his chest.

Though she knew nothing would happen, Sophie felt relieved to see Josiah standing alive and well before her.

“Don’t worry, Grandpa. Tanner Group will be my legacy from now on.” She was determined to lead Tanner Group to new heights.

Sophie’s voice sounded relaxed.

“I’m sorry, Soph,” Josiah murmured. “If it weren’t for my insistence of you taking on that role, you wouldn’t have had to experience all of that.” Such an ordeal is tough for anyone to endure.

Sophie grasped the old man's hand.

"You don't have to be sorry! It's me you're talking to, Grandpa. All right, you must be tired. Rest a little here at Mr. Tristan's before we go home. If you don't feel like returning, you can stay with me for a few days."

"You know, I really am tired. I'll take a nap here at Tanny's, and we'll talk after I wake up."

"Okay."

After bringing Josiah into a clean room and tucking him in, Sophie emerged sometime later and immediately spotted Tristan waiting for her.

He approached her, took both her hands, and pulled her into his embrace.

"It's over. Grandpa's fine. You can relax now. I'll have two men following him from now on, and they won't allow anybody to take him away." I will have two of my most capable men protect Old Mr. Tanner.

"I'd once offered to hire two bodyguards for him, but he turned me down." Being a soldier in his day, Josiah was prideful and thought highly of his combat skills.

But, how could he fight people off being as old as he is? Furthermore, he had just undergone an extensive operation!

"Don't worry," Tristan said. "I've discussed this problem with Grandpa, and he's agreed to it." Josiah had come around after the incident.

Leaning against his chest, Sophie felt genuinely relieved at the moment.

“Thank you so much, Mr. Tristan. Without you, I think I would be—” If it weren’t for him, I would not have been able to control myself. I would’ve done something unthinkable.

Tristan lowered his head to kiss her still moving lips.

I don’t want to hear her say such things. She only needs to rely on me. I will work hard to ensure that she has nothing to worry about.

It was a lingering kiss, tender and persistent yet vaguely domineering.

That kiss strengthened Sophie’s attachment to him.

Without a doubt, she enjoyed that kiss, which gave her a realistic sensation.

Tristan continued kissing her until she could not breathe and almost became the first person to die of suffocation from kissing. He then let go of her reluctantly.

Tristan was dazed and out of breath, gazing at her lips made red by his own.

Sophie panted as she leaned against his chest. Her gentle, heaving breaths made the atmosphere between them quite suggestive.

Tristan found his voice first. “Are you tired?”

“I’m fine.”

Yale had really got under her skin.

He should never have done something like that to Grandpa. He should never have put Grandpa in such a predicament.

She knew Josiah best and was sure that Josiah must be feeling horrible about Yale at that moment, yet she could do nothing about it.

“How do you plan to deal with Yale? I can help you if you don’t want to handle it.” As Yale is her father, she must feel conflicted.

“I don’t mind handling it. Leave it to me.” Sophie was not a person to back down.

Since it already happened, the only thing I need to do is to make him give up.

He pinched her cheeks as his heart clenched.

Why does she have to make such difficult choices? She could have been a happy princess living in a carefree castle, yet she is forced to face those matters and, even worse, is determined not to accept help from anybody.

“I’m serious, Sophie. I want to help you handle it. I don’t want to see you conflicted.”

“I’m not conflicted.”

There’s nothing to be conflicted about. This isn’t even bad enough to trouble me.

Meanwhile, Yale sought his secretary with the intent of using Josiah as leverage for everything he wanted. Instead, he found his secretary with a bruised and battered face.

“What happened? Where’s Old Mr. Tanner? Didn’t I tell you bring him out?” Yale was livid. If my trump card is no longer in my hands, what else can I do?

The secretary grabbed Yale by the collar.

“You are too much, Yale! I work for you for wages. What about you? Do you want to cost me my life?”

Chapter 240 Fight

“What are you doing? Where is my dad? Where did you bring him to?” Yale was genuinely anxious at that instant.

The secretary shoved Yale aside.

“Stay away from me in the future.” That man is none other than Tristan Lombard. An instruction from him is sufficient to ruin my life.

Dumbstruck, Yale slumped to the floor.

Am I really doomed? Have I truly lost all my chances and possessions?

Meanwhile, at Tristan’s mansion, Sophie took a nap inside Tristan’s room.

However, she did not sleep soundly. Resting in a hypnagogic state of consciousness, she immediately woke up when Tristan entered the room.

“Is my grandpa awake?”

Tristan walked to the side of the bed and helped her brush her stray strands of hair.

“Yes. Old Mr. Tanner is awake, and he’s having his afternoon tea. Let’s go. We’ll accompany him to have his meal.” Tristan was there to invite Sophie to join Josiah.

“Okay.”

She got up and followed Tristan out of the room. Josiah was very contented at the amicable sight of the couple approaching him together.

They are indeed a match made in heaven. I can honestly rest assured with Tristan by Soph's side.

"Did you rest well, Grandpa?" Sophie asked concernedly.

"I had a good rest. Come over here and join me for a meal. Let's have some food and go back home, so the others are not worried."

No matter what, Josiah would demand an explanation from Yale because of what the latter did. Josiah was not letting that matter slide.

"Okay."

Tristan and Sophie sat beside Josiah and accompanied the old man to have his afternoon tea. Josiah's appetite was good as he consumed a considerable amount of food.

Still, Sophie was worried that overeating would affect his health, so he stopped eating after she persuaded him.

"Let's go."

Josiah tried his best to put up a more relaxed appearance but to no avail.

After all, anyone would be furious after experiencing something like that.

Sophie went to help Josiah up.

“Don’t be mad, Grandpa. Getting too worked up is bad for your health.” She was ready to assist her grandpa in executing whatever was necessary after he made the decision, so there was no need for him to be angry.

“Soph, this is a problem I must take care of. I hope you can understand that there are some matters I cannot let you handle entirely.”

Yale is my son, and part of the reason contributing to his current vile behavior is my failure to educate him.

“Okay. I promise you. I will support whatever decision you make.” Ultimately, Josiah was the head of the family.

“I’ll tag along.” Tristan wished to stay by Sophie’s side and face the situation with her when dealing with that predicament.

“Tanny, I know you are a kind boy, but this is still the Tanner family’s matter. Therefore, there’s no need for you to be there.”

Josiah wished to preserve the last of his pride and dignity.

Tristan grasped Sophie’s hand.

Grandpa still thinks of him as an outsider. It seems like there is still room for improvement for Tristan.

“That’s right. You don’t have to go. I’ll take care of this.” Sophie blamed herself for allowing Yale to take Josiah away. This time, I’ll make sure to protect Grandpa well.

“All right. Allow me to send you back then. Remember to contact me no matter what happens. I’ll be there at any time.”

Tristan was actually quite delighted because Sophie had thought of him when that incident occurred.

He hoped that she would always be reminded of him regardless of the circumstances in the future.

Josiah did not refuse Tristan's offer since the latter was just going to send them back to the Tanner residence.

Tristan personally drove to send Josiah back to the Tanner residence. Upon their arrival, Sophie opened the car door and helped Josiah to get out of the vehicle.

Morgan was already waiting outside the house at that moment after he received a call from Sophie in advance. He felt guilt-ridden for losing Josiah.

Hence, at the sight of Josiah, Morgan hastily jogged up to him.

"Old Mr. Tanner, I'm sorry. This is all my fault." After serving the Tanner family for so many years, Morgan could not believe he would commit such a blunder, so he was not able to forgive himself for the error.

"Morgan, this is not your fault. You don't have to feel guilty." Josiah was sure that his incapability to handle his family matters led to the incident, so Morgan had nothing to do with that issue.

"Old Mr. Tanner, you—" Morgan knew Josiah was upset, but he did not know how to comfort the latter.

Yale did cross the line this time. His actions have really disappointed us greatly.

Morgan helped Josiah to enter the house, leaving only Sophie and Tristan outside.

"You should go back now. I'll call you later." Sophie could not spare her attention entertaining Tristan at that moment because she had her family matter to attend to.

"Remember to call me once you've settled everything."

In fact, he yearned to go into the house with her, but he knew she would forbid him from doing so. As a result, Tristan had no choice but to leave.

"I got it. Drive safely on your way back."

As long as Josiah was safe, Sophie was not afraid of anything else and had the confidence to deal with the ongoing situation.

Tristan gave her a gentle hug.

"Bear in mind that you are not alone. I'll always have your back," he uttered emotionally.

"Okay."

Sophie's eyes gleamed as she gazed at him. He's so kind. I think that I am very fortunate and blessed to have met with him.

"Go back to your car. I'll enter the house after I see you off."

Tristan nodded. He turned around, got into his car, and drove away. Sophie watched him leave before spinning on her heel and walking into the house.

Charmaine immediately ordered the housekeeper to prepare a cup of tea when she saw Josiah had returned safely.

"Dad, are you all right?" Charmaine asked looking all concerned.

That unexpected event caused everyone in the family to feel very worried.

Josiah merely nodded in response.

Willow was also present, standing beside her mother.

“Grandpa, did my dad really kidnap you?” Willow was still in disbelief up until that moment.

Charmaine nudged Willow with her elbow. What is wrong with her? How can she ask a question like this now? I wouldn’t have told her these things if I had known her insensibility.

“Willow, go upstairs. You’ve got no business staying here.” Charmaine had no choice but to ask Willow to excuse herself from the scene.

Just then, Sophie showed up. Catching sight of Sophie, Willow took a seat on the couch at once.

“Mom, if she can be here, why can’t I stay? Am I not your daughter?” Willow had the urge to compete against Sophie in everything the latter did.

“Willa—” Charmaine warned her. Can’t you see that your grandpa is at the limits of his patience?

Willow went upstairs reluctantly and threw a tantrum in her room. All of them only have Sophie in their eyes. They are all neglecting me. How can they do this to me?

Sophie sat beside Josiah and poured him a cup of tea.

Yale did not seem to be home at that moment. Therefore, even if Josiah wanted to settle the score, he had to wait for Yale to come home.

Nevertheless, Josiah was determined to reprimand Yale no matter what.

At that moment, the two people hired by Tristan had also arrived, but they appeared no different from an average Joe.

“Ms. Tanner, Mr. Tristan sent us here. From now on, we will take care of Old Mr. Tanner’s safety.”

“You two will need to prove your worth and abilities to me before you are qualified to protect my grandpa.” Although Tristan had assigned the two men, Sophie wanted to be more cautious as they would be responsible for Josiah’s security.

“How do you wish for us to show you then? Do we have to face you in a one-on-one fight?” However, the two bodyguards did not feel it was appropriate for them to bully a girl like Sophie.