

Pursuing 721

Chapter 721

Sophie could not resist a sneer. She's awfully confident.

"It's too soon to tell how this will go down." Then she leaped toward the short girl, snatched the gun in her hand, and sent her to the ground with a kick before the latter could process what happened.

The other four hitmen immediately pointed their guns at Sophie, who had quickly slipped to a hiding spot without hesitation and shot one of them.

She showed no mercy against such ruthless killers. After aiming directly at her target's temple, she pulled the trigger.

After witnessing their comrade's head blown open, the other four realized their mission was not as simple as it seemed.

"Watch out! She has Jada's gun," the man in the lead warned the others.

Jada quickly huddled up beside the other three. She gasped at the sight of John, who had died of a bullet in his head without having seen it coming.

"That was careless of us."

Initially assuming the mission would be simple, they were unnerved by how things had turned out. The four quickly found a place to hide.

"Be careful, all of you. There is a gun in her hand, but there aren't many bullets. She'll be trapped once she runs out of them."

Jada had never expected her gun to be snatched out of her hands.

Although she felt especially resentful at that moment, there was nothing she could do to alleviate the situation.

"I'm sorry, guys." What was once a simple mission had turned out to be this difficult.

"It's no use crying over spilled milk. Eyes open, everyone."

We are elite assassins. Our opponent, on the other hand, is an injured Sophie. We have the upper hand.

Sophie glanced at the chamber and, upon seeing seven bullets inside, smiled devilishly.

Seven bullets. That should suffice.

With her leg almost as good as new, her movements were no longer constrained.

"Get out there and lure her out, Jada." Killing someone is something that has to be done quickly. Who knows what's going to happen if it drags on?

Jada nodded before running out from her hiding spot. Despite the daring maneuver, Sophie did not budge.

I'm not a fool; they're baiting me. I'll be covered in bullet holes the moment I show myself.

"Is that all you got? Why won't you dare show yourself?" Jada called when her quarry did not take the bait.

"Fool!" Sophie scoffed. After she took a quick glance around, the smile on her face widened.

She walked around to the other side. Following the sound of a gunshot to the skull, Jada was the next one to fall.

She had not taken cover in time because she had thought she could avoid it. It was a testament to how unprepared they were.

We should have seen that coming. How were we still taken unawares? Jada died, not having understood how.

The other three widened their eyes in fear. How is it possible for the two of us to have fallen less than ten minutes apart? Least of all Jada and John, who were formidable fighters. Now, two of us are dead for a mere five hundred million, one shot to the head, at that. Our reputation will be ruined if word gets out.

“What do we do now?” the other three whispered, huddled together in discussion.

“Goddammit, this woman is a sharpshooter,” the man in the lead spat, scowling.

Having overestimated the simplicity of the mission, they did not expect it to turn out that badly.

“Surround her from three sides. Don't give her any chance, or we'll be at risk.”

It was the element of surprise that aided Sophie to take out two of their own.

Tristan arrived at that moment. As soon as the car rolled to a halt, he detected the stench of blood in the air.

Tristan was no stranger to the smell of blood. His countenance grew grim when he thought of the possibility of Sophie being in trouble.

He alighted from the vehicle and immediately called Sophie. One of the assassins was drawing close when she glanced at the screen.

I can't pick up right now.

Sophie surveyed her surroundings. As she could not fight in close quarters, a gun remained her best option.

However, her opponents changed their tactics upon learning of her prodigious skill with firearms.

At the sight of all three drawing closer, Sophie bit her lip. I only managed to shoot two of them in the head by catching them off guard. They'll be much more cautious now, and it'll be harder to shoot them in the head.

Without a sound, Sophie slipped into the building next door as there were more hiding places there.

Upon entering, she sent Tristan her location. He must already know there are people trying to kill me.

Sophie did not elaborate after sending her location. Instead, she hacked the system in the building with her phone and obtained its blueprints.

By that point, the three assassins had arrived.

“Get the blueprints of the building. We can only locate her by learning the design of the building.”

“I'm already on it.” Having already lost two of our comrades, we are going to get this five hundred million. It won't be worth it otherwise.

Sophie found a good place to hide and waited there. Tristan arrived soon after.

Aware that they were dealing with professional killers, he whipped out his gun.

Why are people so fearless of death to challenge me repeatedly?

Suddenly, the hitmen appeared. Sophie knew she could not hide forever, so she aimed at one of their heads.

This time, her opponent dodged the fatal shot via what seemed like a premonitory sense. The bullet only grazed his arm.

“F*ck! Over there! I'll have her begging for a quick death when I catch her. This shit hurts!” Despite bleeding profusely, the man who was shot kept coming.

Sophie cursed.

He really is a professional hitman for his tenacity.

Then, they slipped to another spot and attached their silencers. At that moment, none of them knew where their opponent was.

Everything depended on their other senses.

Tristan joined the fray. The three hitmen did not expect the addition of another skilled assassin.

In complete ignorance, one of the hitmen was taken care of by Tristan with a bullet through his skull.

Upon discovering the death of yet another one of their comrades, the other two hitmen began to shiver.

Chapter 722

How is that possible?

“What do we do? The five hundred million doesn't seem easy anymore. We're three men down.” Our opponent, on the other hand, did not even suffer a scratch. The difference in our skills is vast.

“What do you think we should do?” They're not going to let this slide even if we surrender.

Tristan successfully located Sophie. Upon seeing that she was unscathed, he heaved a huge sigh of relief.

“How are you? Are you hurt?” Tristan asked with concern.

Sophie shook her head.

“Don't worry. They were easy to deal with. I'm not hurt at all.”

I can easily handle a couple of hitmen.

“I'm glad you're fine. I was worried sick when I smelled the blood in the air.”

Tristan pulled the woman into his embrace.

Despite how much I wish to protect her, I never seem to do a good job.

“Stay here. I'll take care of the other two, then come back for you.”

I came here to ensure her safety. Now that I know she's unharmed, I'm going to eliminate the other two hitmen instead of wasting time here.

“Mm, be careful.”

She knew how trifling of a matter it was for Tristan to eliminate the two killers, so she could rest here with peace of mind.

Less than ten minutes later, Tristan took out another one of them.

After seeing four of his comrades dead, the remaining hitman did not dare to stay there any longer. Fleeing became the only thought in his mind.

As tempting as five hundred million sounds, I need to keep my life to spend it.

Of course, Tristan would not allow him to escape. Taking careful aim, he shot the latter in the thigh.

Despite his desperation to flee, the last hitman's thigh was hurt, and he could not do so. His prospects felt especially bleak at that moment.

Tristan took aim again and fired another bullet at his other thigh.

There really is no escape now.

Tristan aimed at the hand the hitman wielded the gun with and took another shot.

The hitman was speechless with despair and resentment. Since he's such a good shooter, why won't he just kill me with one bullet instead of shooting me all over?

The gun in his hand fell to the ground.

The hitman was panting heavily.

By then, Sophie arrived as she knew Tristan had taken care of business.

She walked impassively toward the last remaining hitman.

"Are you hurt?" Although she was aware of Tristan's skill, she wanted to be sure.

"Don't worry. I'm fine."

Tristan strode over.

The hitman's eyes were filled with fear. "I'll tell you everything you want to know. Please, have mercy!"

Despite being one of the most ruthless killers in the world, he could not muster up an ounce of resistance against the couple before him.

Who are these people?

"Anything we want to know? No, there isn't."

They are contract killers. Murdering in exchange for money is what they do. What is there to ask

about?

"There's nothing I want to know. You must have killed plenty of people in your line of work, haven't you? I have crippled you, and you won't be able to escape the vengeance of your enemies coming to kill you. This is a punishment you deserve."

The other four who died got off easy. The life ahead he has to face is the best punishment I can ever deliver.

Then Tristan fired a bullet at each arm.

"Don't worry. I'll call you an ambulance soon."

As it was almost time, Tristan did not intend to spend another second there than was necessary.

Promptly, he gave Felix a call to deal with the rest.

Five hitmen died in Jipsdale tonight. As powerful as we are, we can't be leaving bodies strewn about.

Terrified, the hitman watched as Tristan walked toward Sophie.

"Are you in the mood for dinner? What would you like to eat?"

"I am in the mood. The deaths of five nobodies do not damper my spirits whatsoever."

"I'm glad to hear that."

My girl is different from all the rest.

Upon exiting the building and entering his car, Tristan fastened the seat belt for Sophie and planted a kiss on her forehead.

"Why didn't you tell me you had a target on your back, silly?"

It still scares me just thinking about it.

What would become of me if something happened to her?

"You had no way of coming quickly as you were driving at the time. It would only make you more anxious if I told you. Besides, I thought I could take care of it myself."

"Don't do that again!"

Fortunately, she can fend for herself.

"It's all right now." He must still be afraid that something would happen to me.

Upon receiving the call, Felix rushed over to take over. Meanwhile, Ysabelle hurried over to Sophie's condominium when she heard something had happened to her friend.

She stood outside in wait for a long time.

Sophie and Tristan saw Ysabelle waiting outside when they arrived back after dinner. Her nose had turned pink from the cold.

"What are you doing here? How long have you been waiting out here? It's freezing tonight!" Sophie hastened over to help her up.

Upon seeing her friend's safe return, Ysabelle leaped to her feet and grabbed her.

"Thank God you're fine, Sophie!" Ysabelle cried as she hugged her.

Tristan opened the door. "It's freezing out here. Let's go inside."

Sophie dragged Ysabelle indoors. "Why didn't you go inside? Don't you know the password?"

"I forgot in my panic. My mind went blank when I heard there were hitmen involved." The other incident still frightens me, so I came over as soon as I heard the news. I didn't have time to think!

"Get Ysabelle a glass of water, Tristan," Sophie said. Ysabelle felt cold and stiff from being out in the cold.

Intending to give them time alone to speak, Tristan slipped away to bring a glass of warm water.

Ysabelle held the glass.

“Who sent them, Uncle Tristan?” This is the Lombard family's turf. How dare those people make their move here?

“Don't concern yourself with that.” A murderous glint flashed in Tristan's eyes. The Sable family does not need to exist anymore. Since it is death they want, I will oblige them.

Sophie knew what Tristan meant. Later that night, after he took care of business, Felix came over to pick up Ysabelle.

After they left, Tristan and Sophie snuggled on the couch.

“I've decided to eliminate the Sable family.” Tristan felt that Sophie deserved to know.

“I know.” Aside from challenging us repeatedly, the Sable family has gone too far by placing a bounty on me. It would be catastrophic if they were left unchecked.

Chapter 723

“We'll do it together.”

No matter what we have to do, we are together in this. I will not let him deal with it all on his own.

“All right. We'll do it together.”

A strategy was required to deal with the Sable family—an intricate, subtle strategy.

Tristan began scheming. Sean and the others knew what he wanted to do and did not stop him. Instead, they helped with his planning.

Meanwhile, in Anglandur, Nicholas was furious upon finding out what Javier had done.

“I told you before, stay out of my affairs. Why won't you ever listen?” Nicholas shouted hysterically. I have lain low this whole time.

Javier did not expect him to find out about that.

Even worse, he had hired five of the best hitmen in the world, none of whom were left alive.

“I told you, Nicholas, I won't let Alex die in vain!”

Alex is family. His death shall not go unavenged.

Nicholas' face was scrunched up.

“Then don't blame me for what I'm about to do. I'm just trying to protect the woman I love.”

I can't stop loving her just because Alex is dead.

“Wake up, Nicholas! How many times do I have to tell you she doesn't love you back? She will be the death of you if you keep going down this path.”

I can't believe Sophie survived this.

“Even if I were to die by her hand, it's my business.”

“Do you think yourself noble? You still don't know, do you? She's getting married to Tristan.”

Surely he'll give up after this.

"No, she won't. She'll only marry me. Nobody else can marry her." The wedding hasn't taken place yet, anyway. I will not allow that to happen.

Javier frowned.

"Wake up, Nicholas. I told you Tristan and Sophie are getting married, and everybody knows how protective he is. What do you think you're going to accomplish?"

Why won't this boy give up? I don't wish to see him hurt. Tristan doesn't show anybody mercy.

"I will refrain from harming Sophie, but I want you to stay away from her. There are many other women out there. You're free to have any one of them." I'm worried that something will happen to him.

Nicholas had had enough. "As I said, stay out of my business. I've got this handled."

So what if there are plenty of other women out there? I only want her, and I can't help myself.

She was seared like a brand upon his heart, which he could not remove. His heart ached every time he thought of her.

I hate being this dramatic, yet love is an impossible matter over which nobody has any control.

"I am sending you to the psychiatric nursing home, and you should get some rest there. Don't concern yourself with the affairs of our family any longer. I'm going to take over, anyway."

"I am your father, Nicholas. I don't wish to be placed in a psychiatric nursing home. I'm in excellent health. There's no reason for me to be there."

"I'm doing this for your safety, Dad. You've always known what a willful child I am, and I don't know what I would do if you kept going."

There was a manic glint in Nicholas' eyes.

"Don't you dare place me on house arrest, Nicholas. I'm the head of this family!" Is he thinking of replacing me while I'm still alive?

"What are you talking about, Dad? You're not going to die! Don't worry. I'll keep you alive and well."

Having had enough of the conversation, he gestured for the servants to bring his father away.

Javier was beside himself with rage. "How dare you treat me like this, Nicholas? Everything I did is for your own good! How could you do this to me for a woman?"

However, Nicholas did not even give him the opportunity to protest.

He's lucky that nothing happened to Sophie, or I'll kill him as well. Nobody can harm her.

"What do you plan to do now, Boss?" Richard asked. Previously Alex's assistant, he had taken over the latter's spot upon his death.

"What do I plan to do? I, too, would like to know what my options are."

Sophie said she had never loved me, and it had been a one-sided love affair the entire time.

Naturally, he was greatly saddened by those words.

What else can I do? Surely I can't just give up? I would have done so long ago if I could instead of dragging it on up to this point, hurting others and myself in the process.

“No matter what you ask, Boss, I will do it to the best of my abilities.” Being new to his position, Richard was eager to prove himself.

“All right. Leave me for now.”

I need to think about it carefully. She's about to get married, isn't she? Only I can be Sophie's groom,

no one else. I cannot accept another in my place.

“I will have you return to me of your own free will, Sophie.” No price is too high for this endeavor.

Upon finding out about Tristan and Sophie's wedding, William summoned his son, who waited quietly instead of commenting on the old man's palpable discomfort.

“Why, you little—” William was livid. “Ah, forget it. I'm not going to hold you against it. You've been this way since you were a boy, anyway. Bring Sophie home one day and make an appointment to discuss the wedding with her parents.”

They will be going through with the wedding whether or not I give them my blessing. He's still my son. How can I stand idly by when he's getting married?

Despite the Lombard family's reputation in Jipsdale, they placed great emphasis on etiquette.

“Don't concern yourself with the wedding, Dad. I will make all the arrangements.” Dad is getting old. He shouldn't have to worry about me.

Besides, it was his wedding, which he hoped to have a hand in its preparation and preside over its decisions.

“What do you mean by that? You still have to let me meet Sophie! Isn't that something you should do now that you're officially getting married?”

“All right, I will.”

Tristan was being difficult on purpose in response to his father's awkwardness, against which the latter could do nothing.

That night, Tristan picked Sophie up. William had also called Lincoln to return. Sarah and Ysabelle were also there.

The family had not gotten together in a long time.

“Have you made your peace with it, Dad?” Lincoln asked over a game of chess with William. Judging by his carefree demeanor, he must have gotten over it.

“What can I do otherwise? I'm not getting any younger, and all of you are learning to defy me. Who among you would still heed my words?”

Chapter 724

“Dad, what are you talking about? Don't I always listen to you?”

Lincoln was no longer a child. Naturally, he knew what his father meant.

“Hmph, you've been so busy that you've only come home a few times this week. How is Ysabelle doing? Have you cared for her?”

Even if they all show little to no worry about their children, there's nothing I can do about it.

“Dad, it's not that I don't wish to take care of matters. As you know, Ysabelle has her own ideas. When I see how happy she is in the entertainment industry after previously refusing to let her join the industry, I find it worth it.”

As Ysabelle was his only daughter, he greatly wished for her happiness.

“Have you no intention of controlling her love life? I see that she's quite close with the Northley family's son. Felix is a good man, but he's a bit too old for her.”

William wasn't too pleased with that, as he thought that Ysabelle should be with someone who was of a similar age to her. Since Felix was much older than her, William wasn't satisfied with their relationship.

“Dad, let's leave it to Ysabelle to decide. They'll be fine as long as she likes him,” Lincoln murmured. Ysabelle's relationship isn't something we should meddle in.

“Each and every one of you is just—ugh! You show such little care for your daughter!” William retorted. Ysabelle is still young. What does she know?

Ysabelle felt her heart skip a beat when she heard William's words. She immediately went to her room to call Felix.

“Felix! Grandpa thinks you're too old for me!”

Felix was befuddled. I'm only thirty years old! Does that make me seem like an old man to Old Mr. Lombard?

“Ysabelle, do you think that I'm old too?” Felix tried to convince himself that he was fine as long as Ysabelle didn't mind.

Grinning evilly, Ysabelle replied, “After hearing Grandpa mention it, I guess I do think that you're pretty old.”

“Ysabelle, listen... I belong to you for the rest of your life. Don't even think about tossing me aside with such a superfluous reason.”

It's a good thing Ysabelle isn't in front of me right now, or I'd be tempted to spank her bottom. She's such a disobedient girl, causing me to worry about her so much. How did she turn the tables in such a short time?

"Okay, okay! I was just kidding. Mr. Northley is the youngest and the most handsome uncle in the world!"

Felix was bereft of words.

"Listen, you, I only wish to be your husband, not some uncle!" Stop making me feel old.

"All right, I got it." Ysabelle felt a blissful feeling suffuse her heart. "Though I think you'd better brace yourself. Grandpa doesn't seem to be too pleased with you."

"I know. Don't worry. The feelings I have for you are unbreakable! Nothing can stop my love for you."

All of a sudden, Ysabelle heard the sound of a car engine and realized that Sophie and the others had returned.

"Okay, I'm going to end the call now. Sophie and the others are back. I'm heading downstairs for dinner," Ysabelle quickly said, intending to hang up.

"Wait! Give me a goodbye kiss before you go!" Felix had planned to dine outside. However, he returned home because he had something to take care of.

Ysabelle gave the phone a kiss.

"There, happy now? I can go eat now, right?" Ysabelle was in an exceedingly good mood.

"Mm, eat lots and have my share too."

“Sure!”

“Ysabelle, I wish to get married too,” Felix said all of sudden.

It was Ysabelle's turned to be rendered speechless.

“Felix, let's discuss this some other time. You know that my career is on the rise at the moment. Now is not the time to get married.”

“Yes, I know. I just wanted you to know that you're the only person I want to marry and no one else.”

Having said that, Felix finally hung up.

Ysabelle's heart was racing as she put down her phone. She felt incredibly moved by Felix's words. To have someone who only has me in his mind, I can ask for nothing more in this lifetime.

As Ysabelle went downstairs, she saw Tristan and Sophie come in. She immediately accepted the presents Sophie was holding.

Sarah had ordered the housekeeper to prepare dinner.

“All right, since everyone has arrived, let's eat! Dad, Lincoln, go wash your hands!”

It had been a long time since the place had been so festive.

William did not say much as they all sat down to eat.

After they ate, the whole family sat in the living room and discussed Sophie and Tristan's wedding.

“Sophie, pick a time so that I can meet with your parents. It's a matter of courtesy,” William said. Tristan should have no trouble coming up with the wedding gift himself.

Since their children were getting married, William thought he should meet with Sophie's parents beforehand. Something like this should be initiated by the man's parents.

“Okay, I'll make the arrangements.” Sophie did not try to weasel her way out of it. After all, she only had to arrange for them to have a meal together.

“As for the rest of the details, the two of you can discuss it among yourselves. Of course, don't hesitate to come to me if you need my help.”

Truth be told, William really wanted to help out. However, Tristan wanted to take care of everything himself, so he barely had a chance to do so.

“Thank you, Old Mr. Lombard.”

Since Lincoln had a prior engagement, he soon left after chatting with them for a bit. He even told Ysabelle to behave herself before leaving.

“Dad, don't you think I'm quite well-behaved?” Ysabelle felt aggrieved. I've been giving my relationship my all, practicing my singing, and studying diligently. How am I not well-behaved?

“Yes, I'm pleased with your recent behavior too. I was just giving you a reminder.” As a father, Lincoln was incredibly proud to have such a daughter.

Afterward, William and Tristan left for the study to discuss an important matter.

Only Sophie, Ysabelle, and Sarah remained in the living room.

“Hey, Sophie! How should I address you after you marry Uncle Tristan?” After Sophie married Tristan, she would immediately have seniority over Ysabelle.

"Well, I don't really care about such formalities." Sophie wasn't one to quibble over such matters.

"No can do! Uncle Tristan won't be pleased if he finds out." Ysabelle still feared her uncle.

"Don't worry about it. I've got your back. You don't have to walk on eggshells around Tristan."

Ysabelle hugged Sophie happily upon hearing that. She asked, "Sophie, are you really getting married? It feels so unreal!" It was a peculiar feeling.

"What's so strange about it? People get married eventually." But it isn't easy to marry someone you truly love.

"You have to be happy, Sophie!" Sarah smiled.

"Oh, Sarah, I'm sure you'll meet someone you truly love too."

Sarah chose to remain silent. Will I fall in love with someone? I've never been in a proper relationship before, and the only time I had feelings for someone was an unrequited crush. Honestly, when I think about it, I feel like such a failure.

She suddenly thought of Juan and felt flustered. I have no idea what's on his mind. Is it possible that he's in love with me?

Chapter 725

"Sarah, what's the matter? Is Yvette giving you trouble?" Yvette's existence has become insignificant. She must be holding a grudge against Sarah.

"Don't worry about Yvette. I can handle her." Obviously, Yvette isn't too happy about the current situation. She has always thought that she would marry Juan and become a lady of the Quigley family. There's no way she will be happy with the way things are now.

“Okay. Be careful, though. Yvette is a trashy woman. Who knows what she'll try to pull?”

Truth be told, no one could tell.

“Yeah, I know.”

“Let's change the subject, shall we? Today is supposed to be a happy day, so let's not dwell on that annoying person.”

Ysabelle had never liked Yvette to begin with. The other woman was arrogant and assumed Juan would always be around to protect her.

Now that things had come to this, it only served her right.

Inside the study, William handed over the list of gifts he had prepared to Tristan. “I know you don't like me meddling in your affairs, but as your father, this is the least I should do.”

Tristan grew up without a mother, so the duty fell on William.

Tristan was stunned when he saw the two sheets of paper filled with his father's handwriting. He had always assumed that his father would oppose his marriage.

Why is he agreeing to it now, and he's even prepared so much?

“Dad...” Tristan was not someone who wore his heart on his sleeve. At moments like this, he did not have the slightest idea of what to do to express his feelings.

William, too, felt awkward about the situation.

"I know you've been busy. Don't worry too much about it. I'll get someone to prepare the things."
William had been resting idly at home for some time now, and he was pleased with finally having something to do.

"Thank you, Dad."

William was happy when he saw his son's reaction.

"Tristan, remember this. You're my son no matter what. I wish you utmost happiness."

Prior to this, no matter what he did, he had always kept Tristan in mind.

"Yeah, I know."

"Great! Why don't you stay here tonight since everyone's here? It's been a while since we've had such a gathering."

It truly had been a long time since they had everyone present under one roof.

William's children had grown up, and they all had their own places to be. Whereas William himself had grown old and could only stay here and protect the place they called home.

"I'll ask Sophie."

Tristan decided to seek Sophie's permission before agreeing to it. If she said it was okay, only then would they stay the night.

William was bereft of words. They're not even married yet, and he's already being led around the nose by her.

"Tristan, I must say. You don't resemble me in this aspect."

Can't you even make simple decisions on your own? Why do you have to seek Sophie's permission?

"Dad, it's important that we respect each other. We're not even married yet, and it's important to get her consent."

"Okay, okay. Go on, then!"

William no longer wanted to continue the conversation.

When the father and son went downstairs, they came to a stop on the stairs when they saw how well the three ladies were getting along.

Although William had always thought that his daughter was a good judge of character, he had not expected her to warm up to Sophie so much.

"Sophie is a good person." After all, his daughter was a shrewd person! How could she like her so much?

"Yeah. She's the most wonderful person in the world," Tristan replied. There was no doubt his Sophie was utterly perfect.

Once again, William was bereft of words. It had only been empty talk on his part. He did not expect Tristan to agree so fervently. Truly, people tend to see things from rose-tinted glasses when they are in a relationship.

It did not matter what everyone else said. To Tristan, his woman was the best.

As the two men arrived downstairs, Tristan suggested, "It's getting quite late. Why don't we stay over for the night? What do you think, Sophie?"

Tristan intended to respect Sophie's wishes no matter what. If she did not agree to it, they would leave right away.

Sophie found it hard to refuse when she saw the expectant look William was giving her.

“Okay! I also think it's getting pretty late. Anyway, I have lots to talk about with Sarah and Ysabelle. Let's stay here tonight.”

Truth be told, Sophie was an understanding person. She would do anything as long as it was in her power to do so.

William was satisfied that Sophie was not an obtuse girl.

“All right. You younglings can stay and chat. I'll be upstairs resting.”

Even if William refused to admit to it, he was, in fact, getting on in years. There were many things that were beyond his control.

“Okay! Rest early, Dad. Don't fiddle with your phone too much.”

Sarah knew that her father was prone to playing with his phone and it wasn't good for his eyesight. There's really no need for an old man to be on his phone so much!

“I know.” Hmph, can you blame me for using my phone so much? It's because you all have been too busy to keep me company that I had no choice but to occupy myself with my phone.

“You all can continue to chat. I'll go take a shower.” Since Tristan couldn't very well butt into their girls' conversation, he decided to give Sophie a little space.

“Mm, go ahead.”

The three girls continued their discussion after Tristan went upstairs.

“Sophie, you should sleep in my room tonight since it's your first time at our place. You might feel a little uncomfortable.” Ysabelle hoped that Sophie would stay with her so that they could continue to chat.

There were still so many things she wanted to talk about.

“How about the three of us sleep in the same room?” Sarah liked the idea. She, too, felt somewhat excited.

“Okay!”

Sophie had no objections to that.

Once the three of them entered Ysabelle's room, they decided that Sophie should shower first. Ysabelle handed her a set of girlish pajamas.

When Sophie saw the pajamas Ysabelle held in her hands, she could not imagine what she would look like wearing those.

“Is something wrong? These are brand new. I've never worn them since I purchased them, so don't worry about it!” Ysabelle hurried to explain when she noticed Sophie's reluctance. She assumed that the latter did not like wearing used clothes.

“Got it. I'll go take a shower now.”

Sophie could only reluctantly accept the clothes Ysabelle held out. She couldn't afford to be picky. Besides, most of Ysabelle's clothes would look like this anyway.

Ysabelle was amazed beyond words when Sophie came out of the bathroom dressed in pink pajamas.

“Sophie, you really do look good in anything you wear! How can a woman like you exist?”

How are the other women supposed to live when someone like you exists?

"I'm serious. I don't think this outfit suits me," Sophie said as she dried her hair with a towel. It was her first time wearing something like this, and it made her feel uncomfortable.

Ysabelle immediately shook her head. "I'm not joking too! You look good in those clothes. You can go ask Uncle Tristan if you don't believe me. As you know, he has impeccable taste."

Chapter 726

"He's probably asleep, so I'd better not go and wake him up," Sophie replied.

There's no need to do that anyway when I'm the one wearing these pajamas. Whatever comment he has about it doesn't matter.

"All right, then. Since you've said as much, I'll go and take a shower. Entertain yourself here for a while first!"

It was already late, so Ysabelle felt that it was time to take a shower and get ready for bed. Besides, chatting while lying on the bed would be much more comfortable.

"Okay. Go ahead and take your shower."

No sooner had she gone into the bathroom than Sophie's phone rang. Sophie glanced at it, only to see that it was Tristan. He's still awake?

"Hey, what's the matter? I've just taken a shower and am going to sleep." Her voice was incredibly gentle.

It was the kind of tenderness that even she herself was unaware of.

"Come to my room."

Sophie fell silent.

Uh... Will that be appropriate? It's my first time visiting his house, yet I'm to go to his room?

"Hurry up!"

"Well, okay, then." Seeing that Ysabelle was still showering and Sarah wasn't there yet, Sophie went to look for Tristan right away.

Tristan's door was unlocked, so she simply pushed it open upon arriving at his room.

When Tristan laid eyes on the girl dressed in pink before him, he was beyond intrigued.

At a single glance, he could tell that it was Ysabelle's style of dressing.

Anyhow, it makes sense. I'd only planned to come back for dinner today, but we ended up spending the night here. I didn't even prepare any suitable nightwear for her.

"Why are you staring at me like that? Do I look weird in this?"

Immediately, Tristan shook his head and assured gently, "Of course not. You look great."

People with good looks inherently have such an advantage. No matter what they wear, they look amazing without a hint of incongruity.

"Really? I was worried it'd be too strange for me to wear such a color." Regardless of whether the man was being truthful, Sophie was still over the moon to hear that right then.

"Yes, really. You're always stunning no matter what you wear. That can't be helped since you've got a

terrific figure.”

Sophie felt embarrassed at his high praise.

“You're biased because you're my boyfriend.” Am I really that beautiful? Why don't I think so myself?

“You're drop-dead gorgeous. In my eyes, tens of thousands of beauties can't compare to you alone.”

I'm finally marrying the girl I've loved for an eternity. In the future, we'll have a lifetime together, and no one can separate us!

Tristan gathered her in his arms. “Well? Do you want to sleep with me tonight?”

She'll likely be a touch disconcerted here alone, huh?

“I've already promised Sarah and Ysabelle to sleep with them tonight.”

How can I possibly sleep with him when it's my first visit to his house?

“All right, then. I know the three of you have lots to talk about but remember not to stay up too late. Rest earlier.”

Sophie had tons of work to do at the medical association recently and had been as busy as a bee. Tristan felt that she should take a good rest when she had the time to do so.

Subsequently, Sophie noticed that his laptop was still turned on.

“Okay, I will. But you're still working at this hour? Is there a problem with Lombard Group?”

Otherwise, there's probably no need for him to be still working when it's so late.

“Don't worry. There's no problem. I was just waiting for you, so I took a look at my documents.”

There was a rather profitable project lately, and Lombard Group was one of those interested in it.

“I see. I'll be leaving, then. Ysabelle is likely done with her shower.”

“Just stay for a while longer!”

They've already talked for the entire night. Have they not had their fill yet?

“Okay.”

At her docile look, Tristan snapped. Leaning down, he kissed her on the lips.

“What should I do? I don't feel like letting you go and keep them company anymore.” She's my wife. Why should she spend her time with them?

Struck speechless, Sophie didn't say anything further.

Tristan kissed the girl in front of him passionately. Sophie's face flushed so red that it resembled an overripe tomato.

It wasn't that they had never kissed in the past, but her senses were even more sensitive, as they were

at the Lombard residence.

Meanwhile, Sarah saw no signs of Sophie upon arriving at Ysabelle's room.

As soon as Ysabelle stepped out of the bathroom, she was greeted by the sight of Sarah lying on the bed and reading a magazine alone. It was one on fashion.

"Where's Sophie, Aunt Sarah?"

"No idea. Wasn't she with you? She must have gone to look for your Uncle Tristan. It's okay. We're at home anyway, so no one would dare hurt her," Sarah replied nonchalantly.

"Yeah, I know. It's just that I can't help worrying because of the incident back then."

"All right, don't worry anymore! Everything's fine now. You're all happy presently, and no one can hurt any one of you again henceforth."

"I know." Ysabelle was surrounded by powerful people. As long as they remained by her side, no one would be able to hurt her.

Only when the clock struck eleven did Sophie return to Ysabelle's room. At the sight of her red and swollen lips, Ysabelle instantly knew what she had been doing earlier.

"Uncle Tristan picked on you?"

Judging from her current look, that's absolutely a yes. Uncle Tristan is another one. He doesn't even know how to be gentle with her!

On the surface, Sophie appeared to be as calm as ever.

"Nope, he did nothing of that sort." We're going to get married soon. Isn't it normal to kiss and all? How can it be considered as picking on me?

A swoony grin broke out on Ysabelle's face.

"Sure enough, men undoubtedly turn into predators when they fall in love. Usually, he looks like a role model for asceticism, but he's totally unrestrained before you!"

Well, he's a man at the end of the day, so such behavior is par for the course. I can understand.

Clocking the intense shade of red staining Sophie's face, Sarah smacked Ysabelle on the butt. "Okay, cut it out."

"I didn't mean to mock you, Sophie. I just didn't expect Uncle Tristan to be such a person as well!"

"He's just an ordinary person. His reaction is naturally the same as others." To Sophie, Tristan was nothing more than a regular man.

"Yes, exactly! Your Uncle Tristan is also an ordinary person. Isn't it normal for him to have such a reaction? Don't tell me you really think he's a supernatural being?"

"I really thought that in the past because he could resolve anything flawlessly. As time passed, I had such an illusion. But fortunately, he later met Sophie. Sophie is the only one worthy of such a capable man, no?" In this whole wide world, they're the most perfect match!

When it came to that, Sarah was likewise in total agreement.

If Tristan didn't meet Sophie, he certainly wouldn't be enjoying such bliss today. He has always been a person with no desires. It's only with Sophie that he has such a strong sense of possessiveness.

"Stop making fun of us. This is natural between men and women!" Sophie found nothing different between her and Tristan compared to other couples. It went without saying that they also hoped they could be happy for the rest of their lives.

"Ah, that's great! It makes me feel like getting married as well," Ysabelle lamented.

Chapter 727

"You feel like getting married as well? Who's the groom? Felix?"

"Will you give me your blessings, Aunt Sarah? There's a generation gap between Felix and I. Grandpa will definitely object. What about you? Do you have an opinion about it?"

In truth, Ysabelle was very much worried about that matter.

"You don't need to worry about that. With Felix here, he'll resolve everything. As for me, I naturally support you. As long as you're happy, you can be with anyone you like."

Felix was a trustworthy man. Sarah was truly happy for Ysabelle for having found such a man.

At long last, a smile of relief bloomed on Ysabelle's face.

"As expected, you're the best, Aunt Sarah! No matter what I do, you always support me. I love you!"

Sophie, Ysabelle, and Sarah lay on the bed and chatted for a long time. Only when it was past midnight did they go to sleep.

When William woke up the following morning and spotted Sophie coming out from Ysabelle's room, his brows knitted together. I urged them to stay the night here to create an opportunity for them. Why didn't they cherish it?

The instant he was alone with Tristan, he couldn't help asking, "What's wrong with you, Tristan? Aren't you and Sophie going to get married soon? In that case, you two can naturally sleep together. I want to have a grandchild soon!"

He was only so enthusiastic about the couple's matters because he hoped that they would have a child earlier to keep him company.

Ah, I'm reminded of how fun Ysabelle was to play with when she was young! Now, they're all grown up and have their own careers. No one can stay at home to keep me company anymore. If Tristan and Sophie were to give me a grandchild, I could take care of the baby at home with peace of mind. Isn't that great?

Tristan was dumbstruck, words eluding him.

Good Lord! Why is he becoming increasingly out of control?

"Dad, we're not going to have children for the time being, so don't be all excited there alone."

This time, William went speechless instead.

Why don't they want a child when they're going to get married?

"Listen here, Tristan. If the two of you want kids, have them earlier. I am still healthy now and can help you both to take care of them. When I'm really bedridden in the future, no one will be able to help you two!"

"That's enough, Dad. Sophie is still young, and she's currently busy with her career. How would she have the time to have kids?"

William promptly fell silent, saying nothing further.

Indeed, Sophie is exceedingly outstanding, so much so that it makes others envious. However, I'm really dissatisfied if she doesn't want kids.

When everyone had breakfast together in the morning, Sarah and Ysabelle looked enervated.

"What did you two do last night? Why are you looking all listless?" William did not know what to say when he took in their tired looks.

"I'm fine, Grandpa. I've just been too busy recently, so I haven't been having sufficient sleep."

"I'm fine, too, Dad," Sarah muttered while having breakfast.

Sophie was the only one who was still energetic upon waking up despite having talked deep into the night with them both.

Sure enough, people often have boundless energy when a happy event is around the corner.

"Sophie, are you both not planning to have kids for now?" William had restrained himself for a long time, but in the end, he snapped and put that question to Sophie directly.

Sophie jerked her eyes up and cast a glance at Tristan. Did he say anything? Why are we suddenly on this subject?

"You don't need to look at him. This is what I think. Tristan isn't young anymore, so the two of you should have kids earlier. That aside, I'm already advanced in years. If you both have a baby now, I can

still help to take care of the baby. But if you're any later, I'm afraid I might not be capable of helping at that time."

Those were his true feelings.

"That's a matter between us, Dad. You don't need to meddle in this!" No father-in-law asks their daughter-in-law such a question. How awkward!

"All right, you all continue eating. I'm going out to exercise." Conversely, William didn't find anything improper about it.

Hah! Tristan simply adores her too much, so he's always thinking from her perspective in every matter! I'm his father, so I hope my son will have a child soon. Besides, their relationship will be even more stable after they have a baby, no? Young people nowadays are too casual about marriage and divorce.

Considering how much he loves her, he's the one who'll be grieving if their marriage really reaches such a stage one day. Isn't that so? That's why I wish they'll have a child earlier.

Sarah and Ysabelle stared at the man's retreating back before exchanging a glance.

What's going on here? Why did this issue come up all of a sudden?

“Don't take that to heart, Sophie. We have the final say on whether we want to have a child. Others can't make the decision for us!”

In response, Sophie nodded.

It was indeed a tad embarrassing for her, but it wasn't too bad since the matter wasn't something shameful.

“Do you not want a child yet, Sophie? Oh yes, you're only twenty years old! You're just a little younger than me. Even I don't want a kid!”

We're still kids ourselves! How would we know how to take care of a child? It's best to table this for the future.

“Truthfully speaking, I only plan to have a child at twenty-eight years old!” Since getting together with Felix, Ysabelle had also planned out her life.

Sophie shifted her gaze to Tristan. She knew that he would side with her regardless of her decision.

“Such a thing hinges on destiny. Fate determines when we conceive and have kids.”

That was all she could say.

Sarah patted her on the hand.

“All right, don't worry! He was merely saying that and will forget about it in no time.”

“Thanks.”

Truth be told, the pressure on Sophie was still immense. Why did the subject progress to having a child when we had just spoken of getting married?

On the drive home, Tristan wrapped a hand around her long and slender fingers while keeping a hand on the steering wheel when he noticed her spacing out.

“What's the matter? What are you thinking about? Are you still bothered about the issue of having kids?” Tristan asked bluntly.

“Yeah, I'm thinking about that. Old Mr. Lombard hopes that we'll have a child soon, but I think it's still too early for that.”

“Yeah, I agree. We're only planning to get married now and haven't yet enjoyed our time alone. How can we possibly have a child at this time? People say that couples can't be intimate during pregnancy. I object to a child!”

Sophie was wholly dumbfounded.

Good Lord! That's what he's concerned about?

“Tristan!”

“What's wrong with that? Don't you know that I've always wanted you? I've already kept myself in check for a long time. When we've gotten married, I'll definitely make up for all those lost times!” For that reason, he wasn't keen on having a child either.

How could he utter such words with a straight face? This is downright unbelievable!

Sophie's face flushed bright red. Seeing that, Tristan pulled over by the roadside.

“What's the matter? Do you doubt my stamina?” At the mere thought of being free to do anything he pleased after getting married, he couldn't help growing excited.

Chapter 728

Hold on. Are all men so excited at the mention of this topic? Is there a need to stop the car at a place like this?

“I think it's getting late. We should head back now.” Sophie didn't want to dwell further on that matter. She was relatively shy, so she felt self-conscious if they continued discussing that.

Tristan unbuckled his seat belt, leaned forward, and kissed her lips. What should I do? This uncontrollable feeling within me is intensifying.

After a long and passionate kiss, Tristan uttered confidently, “Sophie, we'll definitely be happy.” That's right. We'll certainly be happy because we love each other.

“Okay. I trust you.” Both of them had decided to get married, so they would have to bear the responsibilities together regardless of what happened instead of blaming others.

“Because of you, I genuinely hope there's a next life. I can't help but feel that spending just one life with you is insufficient.”

Yet, chances for a subsequent life were slim, so he yearned to cherish his current life better.

“Okay.” She shared his sentiments. “That's enough. Let's go back now. I know everything that you want to say.” I know his intention, so stopping the car to engage in a conversation is unnecessary. However, I think he stopped the car because of the kiss!

“Okay.”

Tristan restarted the engine. Sophie had to go to the medical association that day, so it was about time for them to get moving too.

Upon arriving at the medical association, she noticed Barney's pale face and figured he might be feeling under the weather.

“What's the matter, Dr. Smith? Are you feeling ill? You should rest at home if that's the case. Why did you come here?”

“You're familiar with his personality. Now that there are so many things to deal with at the medical association, how is he willing to rest?” Arius had persuaded Barney earlier in the morning, but the latter had refused to heed his advice. “But you don't have to worry. He should be fine. He's a doctor, after all. He should know what he's doing.”

“Okay.”

Sophie was still worried even after listening to Arius' speech, so she went to meet with Barney.

“Dr. Smith, are you facing any difficulty? If there's any problem you cannot resolve on your own, you can discuss it with us. Perhaps if we put our heads together, we can develop a better solution.”

Enduring all the pressure alone would be truly exhausting.

Besides, we're a team now, so we should converse about any issues we faced to sort them out together.

Barney couldn't help but chuckle after taking in Sophie's demeanor.

“Don't worry. I'm fine. I'm just feeling a little uncomfortable. Perhaps I'm just a little tired from handling the mountainous tasks related to the medical association.” He was young when he founded the International Medical Association, so he wasn't as worn out.

As he was of advanced age now, it was normal for his body to fail to cope with that large amount of daily work.

“Okay. Is the International Medical Association still constantly troubling us?” Although the International Medical Association was based in Anglandur while the Chanaean Medical Association was located in Chanaea, the International Medical Association was relentless in making things difficult for Barney.

“Yes. They are still too cowardly to believe this and insist on thinking that I've betrayed them.” Barney felt helpless about that.

He had personally guided those people, but they were now ruthlessly impeding the development of the Chanaean Medical Association.

“Sophie, I thought it'd be smooth sailing for you to join the International Medical Association, yet so many things happened. I'm afraid our future path will remain rocky.” Barney was worried about her. After all, she was still a young girl and had never faced so many difficulties in her life.

“Dr. Smith, rest assured. There isn't a path in this world that is all sunshine and rainbows. Dealing with pitfalls is inevitable. I braced myself when I decided to join the medical association, so you don't have to worry about me.”

I'm not a weak person. I'll steel myself to face whatever may come.

“Okay. Still, I can't help but feel that I've misled you.”

“Dr. Smith, that shouldn't be a concern of yours. I'm doing this on my own accord, and my decision has nothing to do with you.” Besides, those members of the International Medical Association can't do anything to me.

"All right. You're about to get married to Tristan, right? I'll prepare a gift of your preference for you by then."

Barney, the medical genius, had always doted on Sophie. He didn't have any children of his own, so he had been treating her as though she was his own daughter.

"Okay, Dr. Smith. I'll look forward to receiving your gift. You should go back and rest for today. I'll cover your part."

"I'm honestly fine, and I don't need to rest. That's enough. Let's get to work. We don't have much time to spare."

"I know we're running out of time, but you should still go back and get some rest. I'll finish your part of the work for today."

Sensing her persistence, Barney had no choice but to take off his white coat.

"I'll let you handle this matter using your discretion. If you're too tired, we can do this tomorrow," he said in resignation.

"All right. Don't worry. I'll ask Arius to send you back. Get plenty of rest when you're back home and don't overthink things, okay?"

"Okay."

Indeed, a girl is better at caring for others.

Arius was astonished when he knew Barney had agreed to go back and take a break. "Dr. Smith, you're too biased! You wouldn't listen to me when I told you to go back and rest in the morning, but you accepted Sophie's suggestion after she said a few words to you."

“That's enough. Since Dr. Smith is not feeling well, you should send him home and come back afterward.”

“Fine. Let's go, Dr. Smith. Are you seeing this? Aren't you touched to be on the receiving end of your mentees' concern?” Arius asked with a grin.

“Yes, I'm very moved. I can die without regrets even at this instant for having you two as my mentees.” I'm genuinely contented.

“What is that nonsense, Dr. Smith! We still have to create miracles for mankind together!” Life is short. To be able to collaborate with like-minded people in doing something one is passionate about is in itself a great pleasure.

Arius returned to the medical association after sending Barney home. Noticing Sophie doing Barney's work and taking in her serious demeanor, he assisted her from the side. The two were in sync and

cooperated perfectly with one another.

In the end, they merely required another thirty minutes to determine the final outcome.

“I didn't expect you to be so efficient,” Arius exclaimed. I can't believe she's close to completing this task in under forty minutes.

“We don't know the result yet, so it's still too early for you to flatter me with compliments.”

“I'm not trying to flatter you. I'm genuinely jealous. How are you so competent?” Even Arius wasn't confident he could finish that experiment in such a short period.

Chapter 729

Sophie ignored Arius. She was all too familiar with such compliments. I know others sometimes can't understand me at all. Things seem to come easily to me, but not everyone understands my world. However, it seems that Tristan comprehends how I feel. If there's one person like that in the world, that's enough for me.

“What's with that look of tenderness on your face? Who are you thinking of?” Arius asked, feeling annoyed when he saw her expression. I'm well aware that she wants to marry Tristan. I don't know what he did to deserve a woman like her, but she's absolutely devoted to him. If I'm being honest, a love like theirs really makes me so jealous.

“Tristan,” she replied, frankly. It's no surprise I'd be thinking about my fiancé, right?

“I knew it. You only seem to have that expression when you think of him.”

“Mm-hmm. It's about time you get yourself a girlfriend. If you continue like this, I'm afraid you'll never experience this feeling in your lifetime.”

Arius promptly shook his head. “Love is a complicated thing. I don't have so much time and energy to spend with another woman.”

Sophie also shook her head. Those are all just excuses. These concerns won't even come to mind if one meets a person one truly likes. Falling in love isn't something that can be controlled, and one won't even care about such things!

The pair stayed in the laboratory the entire day. When it was lunchtime, they made do with ordering a takeaway, as they did not even have time to go out and eat.

After having lunch, Sophie took a short nap at her desk. It was a brutal truth that many dreamed of being a part of the International Medical Association without realizing that the association's work was intense enough to drive the average person mad.

That night, she and Arius invited the others to eat out together. They happened to bump into Winter, who was still the same as before. No matter where she went, she was accompanied by a posse of daughters from wealthy families.

Neither of them brought up the events of the past year. It was as though Winter had never gotten sent away.

The moment Winter saw Sophie, she balled her fists without realizing it. It was their first meeting after what had happened and seeing how happy Sophie looked made Winter's heart clench painfully. What right does she have to be so happy? She doesn't deserve it!

Arius guessed straightaway from the way Winter kept staring at them that the latter had to be one of Tristan's crazy admirers or someone jealous of Sophie's beauty. There are too many such people.

"Do you need me to step in?" he asked nonchalantly while holding a bowl of soup.

"That won't be necessary. She's nobody important. You don't need to bother."

"All right, then. Oh, by the way, has Tristan proposed? I'm telling you, you mustn't say yes so easily," he said, thinking that now was the time to show Tristan just how popular Sophie was.

"There's no need for a proposal. You know I don't care about these little details," came Sophie's reply. All that matters to me is that Tristan and I have a tacit understanding. We're both so busy and don't have time for such nonsense.

Arius was rendered speechless. Finally, he said, "I genuinely doubt whether you're a woman. Other ladies dream of their boyfriends popping the question with romantic proposals, but you give a reply like that!"

Is that even something a woman would say?

"Well, I don't care about those formalities!"

All Arius wanted to do was sigh in exasperation at her response. "It may be troublesome, but don't you think it'll be a beautiful memory for you to look back on in the future? Don't you want the two of you to be able to reminisce about everything that happened during this time when you're old and gray?"

"We already have plenty of memories between us," she argued. Besides, I already know just how much Tristan cares about me.

“Ah, forget it. I've nothing to say to people like you, but Tristan probably doesn't think the same way as you,” said Arius. Otherwise, with Sophie's character, she really might get married just like that and have no memories to cherish in the future.

After a pause, he added, “Oh, right. How's your leg? You encountered five assassins previously, didn't you? How did it feel?”

“I think it has almost fully recovered. As long as I don't use the injured leg in a head-on attack or

defense, there doesn't appear to be a problem.”

“That's great!”

After their meal, Sophie received a call from Yale. She hesitated briefly when she saw the number, but in the end, she answered her phone.

“Sophie, it's me! You and Mr. Tristan are getting married, aren't you? You should come home so that we can discuss your dowry.” If Sophie were to marry anyone else, Yale would not have bothered to give that matter any thought. However, things were different because the other party was Tristan.

“No need for that. I'll handle my own affairs.”

She was about to hang up when Yale said, “Regardless of what happened in the past, we're still your parents. Are you really not going to come back to discuss something as big as your wedding with us? Can't we get along as a family just because your grandfather is no longer with us?”

Her eyes darkened when she heard him mention Josiah. “Very well. Got it. I'll find time to go back.”

“Good. We'll wait for you at home. Just come right over when you have the time,” he reminded her once more, worried that she would not turn up.

Yale could barely contain his excitement that he would soon become in-laws with the Lombard family. After all, it was the dream of many to marry into the Lombard family.

Charmaine could not help sneering when she saw that, and her reaction elicited a frown from him.

“What's your problem, Charmaine? Didn't you always hope that Willow would marry into a wealthy family? Well, Sophie has done what she didn't do, so why on earth do you have that expression? They're both your daughters. Isn't it enough that your dream has come true?” he asked. He could not understand why she was being so difficult.

“Aren't you the least bit worried about Willow? How can you be so indifferent after not hearing from her for so long?” Charmaine demanded, wondering how such a father could exist.

“What else can I do? You should know better than others, shouldn't you? I have no power or authority in Jipsdale now, so what right do I have to ask about her? All I hope for now is that Sophie will return Tanner Group to me after marrying Tristan. That'll be enough. I don't want anything else!”

Charmaine let out a snort of laughter. “You're delusional. Do you honestly think she'll return Tanner Group to you? Quit dreaming! She's the embodiment of a selfish person, so it's impossible that she'll give up something she has acquired.”

“We won't know unless we give it a shot, right? Lombard Group doesn't lack funds, so there's no point for her to continue hoarding Tanner Group,” Yale countered, confident that he had a high chance of succeeding.

Meanwhile, Tristan had arrived to pick Sophie up. As soon as Winter saw him, she subconsciously rushed forward and blocked his path.

Chapter 730

Tristan furrowed his eyebrows when he saw Winter blocking his path. “Step away!” Why is it always so much drama with her? Shouldn't she feel grateful that she's allowed back? What more does she want?

“I simply miss you, Mr. Tristan.” Can't I even do that?

"I don't need you to miss me!" said Tristan expressionlessly. "You should know why you're allowed to return, Winter!" Once she figures out the reason, she'll understand that there are people she can't covet. I think I've said enough.

"I—" Winter was at a loss for words as though everything she could say had been said by Tristan.

"Stay far away from Sophie. Don't keep showing up and ruin her mood. I don't like it." Even though she's just an outsider, it'll be for the best if she stops appearing and affecting Sophie. Once he finished his sentence, he searched for Sophie, unwilling to spare her even an extra word.

When the other women saw that, they couldn't help but inform, "We know you like Mr. Tristan, Winter, but you should give up. Jennifer thought she was special all the time in the past, but look at how miserable she ended up."

Winter had just returned to the city, so she had no idea what had happened.

However, everyone in Jipsdale knew the Whitley family had met their end because they had pissed Tristan off.

They all knew of the length he would go to for Sophie.

"Yeah! Jennifer was sentenced to prison for eight years. Can you imagine what it's like to live in prison for eight years? When she's finally out, there won't be a place for her in Jipsdale anymore. As powerful as the Whitley family was, they still failed to save themselves," another one said.

Winter tightened her fists, her fingers digging into her palm. Of course I know what happened to the Whitley family! I didn't expect Tristan would go so far for a woman.

Meanwhile, Tristan settled down beside Sophie.

"Have you eaten yet?" Sophie asked. Considering how fast he came to pick me up, I doubt he had eaten.

“Not yet. Are you all done?”

“Yeah. What do you want to eat? I'll keep you company.”

Most other people had also finished their meals. It was their first time seeing him, so they thought he looked like someone walking straight out of a painting in a black cashmere coat.

“Is he your boyfriend, Sophie? He's really handsome!” one of them complimented.

“And I thought we stood a chance. I guess we never had any in the first place.” A few youngsters from the medical association couldn't help but sigh. It feels like every woman we encounter nowadays already belongs to someone else.

“That's right. She's already mine,” Tristan uttered. Even though I know they're joking, I'm not taking risks.

The youngsters were rendered speechless.

Even though they didn't know who he was, his vibe was so overpowering that none of them had the guts to keep joking.

“Today's meal has been great, Sophie. Since your boyfriend has come to pick you up, we're going to head back now. See you tomorrow at the medical association.” Georgina stood up first.

Another young researcher hastily stood up and offered, “How about I send you back, Georgina? I drove here today, and it's not easy to call for a taxi here.”

While Georgina wasn't as pretty as Sophie, she was still gorgeous enough that many people in the medical association liked her.

The young man who stood up was one of them.

Georgina glanced at Arius, but Arius didn't respond. In reality, she was hoping he would send her back.

"No, thanks. I still need to drop by a few other locations that aren't on my way back home." Although she was disappointed, she didn't voice her thoughts.

Meanwhile, Sophie spotted the obvious look in Georgina's eyes. As much as I want to help her, I don't think I can, especially with Arius' personality. Only the two of them can figure things out between themselves.

When Arius noticed Georgina kept staring at him, he replied apologetically, "I'm sorry, Georgina. My mentor is feeling unwell today, so I have to pay him a visit." While I'm out here filling my belly, Dr. Smith's still at his house! As his mentee, I should take care of him. It'll be rude to do otherwise.

"It's fine. I can return myself." Georgina was disappointed, but she knew she wasn't that close to Arius, so he had no reason to send her back.

"I still think I should send you back, Georgina. It's not safe for you," the young man from before piped up. I know she likes Arius, but there's no way someone like him will fall for her. That's why I don't mind that little display earlier. I'll remain steadfast. One day, she'll know how much I like her.

"I really don't need you to give me a ride. I'll be leaving now." The reason Georgina refused was that she knew he had feelings for her.

However, she wouldn't accept someone's goodwill if she didn't like them.

After she left, the rest of the youngsters also departed, leaving Sophie, Arius, and Tristan behind.

"What are you doing, Arius? Why didn't you send Georgina back? She was very much hoping you would." Sophie knitted her eyebrows slightly. My heart wrenches when I recall the pitiful look in her eyes.

“Didn't I explain why already? I still need to visit Dr. Smith because he's sick. I can't just leave him alone in his house. That'll be too sad. Anyway, you two go on a date while I head back. Until next time.” So what if Georgina likes me? I'm used to the freedom I have right now, and I enjoy it. After Arius ended his sentence, he left.

“Looks like Arius will remain a bachelor for his whole life. I can't help but pity the women who like him,” said Tristan. I feel that the only person he treats nicely is Sophie.

“Looks like Winter still hasn't given up on you,” said Sophie because she was aware Winter had been gazing at them, which she found unpleasant.

“I don't understand why you allowed her to come back. Do you think she'll change and give up that easily? Then again, you don't need to mind her. I doubt she can do anything substantial,” he responded. I'm aware of how capable she is.

“Yeah. I'm just worried that you will. What did she say to you when she blocked your path? I saw you grimacing.”

“It's nothing. Anyway, let's go. Since tomorrow's the weekend and my grandfather wants to talk about the wedding at your place, should we do it in the condominium or the Tanner residence?” The reason he asked was that he thought it would be better for her to make the decision.

Without delay, she answered, “The Tanner residence. My grandfather's altar is there. I want him to know about this.” I still think I should do something like this before his altar because it'll no doubt put his spirit in heaven at ease.

“All right.”