

Standing before Love Chapter 402

The couple made love passionately and fell asleep at 3:00 AM. Sleeping late several nights in a row was bad for their health, and Myra felt dizzy.

The next day, Myra woke up at lunchtime. Early that morning, Tony had already given orders to not wake Myra up from her sleep.

Pregnant women needed more rest. Although Myra planned to wake up early the night before, she had overslept and her whole morning was gone.

After lunch, Myra drove straight to Stark Group. It had been a long time since she last visited Stark Group, so she was curious to see what the company looked like. Besides that, with Matthias' intervention, the internal affairs in Stark Group now were even more complicated.

At the lobby of Stark Group, Myra coincidentally bumped into Cameron. Their gazes met for a moment before they both hurriedly looked away.

Myra didn't want to greet Cameron. The thought of his evil misdeeds made her nauseous. My father is only capable of giving me endless despair.

However, surprisingly, Cameron took the initiative to walk up to Myra. Seeing that, Myra didn't know what to do but watch as he slowly approached her.

"Myra." Cameron's friendly tone made Myra frown. She didn't want to talk to Cameron, so she glanced at the elevator that was not far away and walked toward it.

However, Cameron was in an extremely good mood that day. He followed behind Myra and waited for the elevator with her, but he kept a short distance.

"Are you ignoring me?" Cameron suddenly took a step forward, narrowing the distance between him and Myra.

"There's nothing to talk about," Myra said coldly. Even though he's my father, he treats me even worse than a stranger.

"You can never change the fact that we're blood-related," Cameron said mockingly.

“I hope that I can be completely unrelated to you,” Myra muttered as she glanced at the numbers on the elevator display. Why is the elevator so slow?

“Hahaha! Let’s see who will win in the end.” Cameron’s good mood was completely unaffected by Myra’s cold words.

“Are you done talking?” Myra grunted as she hurriedly took a step away from Cameron. Today is off to a bad start. I can’t believe that I bumped into Cameron. Why am I so unlucky today?

“Myra, how can you speak to your father in such a rude manner?” At that moment, Cameron could no longer bear Myra’s attitude.

“You are not worthy to be a father because all you care about is profit,” Myra said in disdain. Our family was ruined because of you. Is money really more important than family?

“Myra, don’t assume you will definitely win just because you have Tony on your side,” Cameron said furiously. I spoke to her in a friendly tone, but got treated rudely in return.

“I will get Stark Group back with my own strength.” Myra glared at Cameron coldly. I will handle Stark Group’s affairs myself, and I won’t ask Tony for help unless I have to.

“You sound confident, but I wonder if you have the capability to achieve it,” Cameron said with a delightful grin as if he was sure that Myra wouldn’t be able to take control of Stark Group.

Seeing his expression, Myra suddenly felt vigilant. The fact that Cameron is acting haughty shows that he is hiding something.

After the elevator arrived, Myra stopped talking to Cameron, stepped into the elevator, and pressed the button of the level she was heading to. Cameron followed behind and stood next to her.

Cameron is acting really strange today.

In the elevator, Cameron said, “Come to my office later.”

Upon hearing that, Myra looked at Cameron suspiciously. What’s wrong with him today? He’s being really unpredictable.

“I have something important to tell you. It has something to do with Stark Group, so you must come.” Cameron completely ignored Myra’s reaction and spoke as if he was giving her a warning.

“I am not interested,” Myra replied word by word. Cameron can do whatever crazy thing he wants, but I don’t have the time to play around.

“You wouldn’t want me to sell Stark Group to someone else, would you?” Cameron asked in a threatening tone.

Myra instantly looked upset. He’s using the same trick to provoke me again.

“Whoever you sell Stark Group to has nothing to do with me,” Myra replied calmly.

Cameron was stunned by Myra’s reaction and didn’t know what to say, so he stared at her furiously. However, he didn’t receive any response from her.

“Your grandfather started Stark Group and your mother worked hard to develop the company for what it is today. Are you sure you don’t care about its future at all?” Cameron pulled the family card and described Myra as a cold-blooded woman who didn’t care about her family.

“Tsk! If you have decided to sell Stark Group, there is nothing I can do. After all, you hold most of Stark Group’s shares.” Myra looked at Cameron with a mocking grin on her face as if she was looking at a silly clown.

Just when the two of them were having a fight, the elevator doors opened, and Myra immediately stepped out of the elevator. She didn’t want to spend another minute with Cameron.

Cameron watched as Myra walked away, and he was infuriated. He couldn’t figure out why both of his daughters would go against him. They are my children and my bloodline, but they choose to go against me. If I had known that they would grow into such spiteful children, I would’ve strangled them the moment they were born.

Myra naturally wouldn’t go to Cameron’s office. Because of that, Cameron had no choice but to visit Myra in her office. I must give her the message today.

Myra kept her head down and continued to read the documents even after Cameron came into her office. Cameron stood before her desk angrily, but

she didn't even bother to look at him. It was as if the documents on her desk were more interesting than Cameron.

When Cameron realized that Myra wasn't planning to talk to him, he cleared his throat and said, "I heard that you and Tony attended Matthias' dinner banquet yesterday!" He went straight to the point and brought up Matthias's name.

As expected, it has something to do with Matthias. Myra had already guessed that the reason Cameron became so arrogant again was that he made a dirty deal with Matthias.

"So?" Myra slightly raised her chin and glanced at Cameron coldly. Did Matthias ask Cameron to send me a message?

"Matthias has been acquiring Stark Group's shares. Did you know about that?" Cameron asked as he stared down at Myra. At that moment, he thought that Myra would be surprised.

"So?" Myra was losing her patience. Cameron has been babbling for a long time. When is he going to get to the point?

"Matthias came to me yesterday and proposed to work together. He is willing to fully support me. Stark Group will still be mine and nobody can take it away from me. I'd rather have another business partner than let you have Stark Group." Cameron explained everything in one breath and the meaning behind his words was obvious. Now that he was working together with Matthias, he wouldn't have to worry even if Myra wanted to take over Stark Group.

"Business partner?" Myra asked mockingly. "How do you know that Matthias isn't planning to have Stark Group all to himself?"

Myra didn't believe that Matthias was satisfied with being a business partner. He has been making big moves lately, but nobody knows what he's really planning.

"He promised me that his shares won't be more than mine." When Cameron said this, it was obvious that he wasn't confident. After all, most businessmen were untrustworthy.

"Well then, congratulations on finding a good business partner." Then, Myra returned her attention to the documents in her hands. She didn't want to

continue the conversation with Cameron. Besides, she had nothing to say to him.

“I advise you to give up as soon as possible. The number of shares you own are far from enough to go against me. Don’t think that you can sit back and relax now that you have Alicia and her daughter’s support,” Cameron growled angrily. Whenever he remembered that Alicia gave her shares to Myra, he instantly felt infuriated.

I was the one who gave Alicia those shares. I thought that Alicia didn’t date me for money, and I thought that she was different from other women. However, all women are the same. All of them have bad intentions and all they think about is spending my fortune.

The more Cameron thought about it, the angrier he felt. He couldn’t understand why women were so evil. I hate women.

“We’ll see who will take control of Stark Group in the end,” Myra said calmly. Compared to Cameron’s anger, Myra was much more relaxed.

Although Matthias appeared out of nowhere, I will find a way to deal with him. This is how the business world works. Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow. No one will be your enemy forever, and no one will be your friend forever. The only constant is the never-ending search for more profit.

“Matthias wants to see you tomorrow,” Cameron said in an upset manner. I have no idea why Matthias insisted on meeting Myra.

“I won’t go,” Myra replied without even looking up.

Seeing that, Cameron suddenly lost his temper. Myra never listens to me. It’s like I have no authority over her even though I am her father who raised her.

After giving it some thought, he softly said, “It’ll be good for you.” He had already agreed to Matthias’ request, so he had to make sure Myra would be there.

“Is that so? Thank you for your concern, but I’m not interested.” Myra continued to flip through the documents. It was clear that she was not interested in meeting Matthias at all.

“You must go and see him. He wants to discuss Stark Group’s affairs with you.” Cameron suddenly spoke sternly because he had no idea how to persuade Myra.

“Since when have you fallen from your pedestal and become someone’s pet?” Myra deliberately said to provoke Cameron. She was starting to feel annoyed by his babbling.

Cameron scoffed in anger. All of a sudden, he changed the subject and asked meaningfully, “Do you not remember who Matthias is?”

Hearing that, Myra looked up at Cameron. His words made her feel a little worried. Have Cameron and Matthias known each other for a long time?

The two of them glared at each other in silence. After a while, Myra replied grimly, “I don’t know him. If Matthias wants to meet me, ask him to talk to me personally.”

Cameron raised his chin and pointed at Myra angrily. “Fine! Myra, you are really ungrateful. I raised you and never treated you badly, but this is how you treat me?”

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Myra had been treating Cameron with disregard even since the beginning of the conversation. Even though she was curious to know who Matthias really was, she didn’t want to meet him in private.

With that, Cameron left without achieving his goal. What am I supposed to say to Matthias? It’s embarrassing to fail my promise. The more Cameron thought about it, the more frustrated he felt.

That evening, Tony personally drove to Stark Group to pick Myra up from work. Myra, who was helpless and frustrated, immediately felt better when she saw Tony.

“It looks like you are even busier than I am,” Tony said seriously. Myra ignores her health when she gets immersed in work. I should give her a spanking on the butt for that.

Myra glanced at the clock and was taken aback. “I didn’t realize that it’s already this late.” No wonder Tony came to pick me up.

“Aren’t you going to pack up and go home?” The person who cared about Myra’s health the most was Tony.

“I’m coming!” Myra replied and stretched lazily. Her back was aching from sitting on her office chair for long hours.

After they got in the car, Myra told Tony what happened that day. After thinking about it for a moment, Tony said to Myra, “Perhaps Matthias really knows you.”

Earlier that day, Tony read through Matthias’ files again and found out Matthias had visited Bradford City in the past.

Back when Tony first saw this, he didn’t pay much attention to it. After all, Matthias was really young when he visited Bradford City. However, after hearing Myra’s words, he started to wonder if Matthias and Myra had met each other when they were young.

But Matthias’ face stood out and wasn’t easily forgettable. Logically, Matthias’ special facial features would leave a deep impression.

Tony glanced sideways at Myra as he tried to figure out why Myra didn’t remember Matthias. Is it possible that Matthias looked completely different when he was young?

“There is something familiar about him, but I can’t recall where I’ve met him before. If I’ve seen Matthias before, I would definitely remember him,” Myra said with puzzlement.

“Try to recall whether you’ve seen him when you were about 14 years old.” After doing some calculations, Tony calculated that Myra was around 14 years old when Matthias came to Bradford City.

Myra shook her head. Those were distant memories that were hard to recall.

“Are you saying that I might’ve met Matthias when I was around 14 years old?” Myra asked.

“It’s possible. Matthias’ files show that he was in Bradford City a couple of years before he turned eighteen, and he stayed here for a while. It is possible that you met him during that time,” Tony replied truthfully.

Hearing that, Myra smiled and said, "Okay." She didn't want to think about Matthias anymore.

"Since I can't remember him, that means that even if we know each other, we weren't close."

If I'm right and we were just normal friends, there is nothing for me to worry about.

"You're right," Tony said in agreement.

"Let's not talk about Matthias. We have been talking about him so much lately that I'm getting annoyed by the sound of his name," Myra said, obviously upset. It's not good for us to constantly talk about him.

"I agree. No matter who he is, he can't boss the Hart family around in Bradford City," Tony said confidently.

So what if Matthias is powerful in Tasnia City? Bradford City is the Hart family's territory.

"Even a powerful man can't overpower the leader of a territory," Myra said with a smile.

"Who are you calling a leader of a territory?" Tony raised an eyebrow at Myra. Myra's emotions have been unpredictable lately. She acts a little differently. Sometimes, she is more lively than how she used to be, and sometimes, she's quieter than she used to be. It's impossible to predict a pregnant woman's emotions! However, no matter how much her emotions change, I'll do my best to make her happy.

After they decided to stop talking about Matthias, the two of them happily talked about their day until they arrived home. They were a model couple that rarely fought and the love between them could easily be spotted from their every action and expression.

"After we finish dealing with Stark Group's problems, I'll take you to Hawaii. I'm worried that you'll feel bored from staying in Bradford City for so long." Tony had been thinking about this for some time now. He wanted to travel with Myra. Pregnant women should go out and see the world. There aren't any good sceneries in Bradford City, and there are many travel destinations that we have never been to before. I should take a break too.

“Okay. I love Hawaii,” Myra replied without any hesitation. I have been really stressed lately. It’s time for me to relax.

Upon hearing that, Tony smiled brightly. He knew that Myra liked Hawaii because he had done research beforehand.

Looking at Tony’s smile, Myra started to wonder if he had found out all about her likes and dislikes. What a scary and adorable man. I’m probably going to spend the rest of my life with him.

Myra looked at Tony lovingly and felt blessed.

I am really fortunate to find a man who treasures and cherishes me in my most beautiful years. With him by my side, I have a lot to look forward to. I’m starting to look forward to the things that I didn’t bother to think about in the past. As long as I’m with Tony, I feel like I can dream about anything because no matter how hard the challenges will be, we will get through them together.

“If you continue looking at me like that, I might lose control and eat you up.” The corners of Tony’s lips curled into a devilish grin. Myra’s loving gaze aroused him.

That night, Tony held Myra in his embrace and the two of them chatted casually like two kids. Even though Tony was tempted to have sex with Myra, he was worried that Myra would feel exhausted. After all, they already had sex for two days in a row.

They talked about a lot of things. Listening to Myra talk about her preferences, Tony felt particularly contented. It was rare for Myra to be so talkative, so Tony wanted to hear her talk more.

“Why am I suddenly talking about my childhood?” Myra asked, feeling a little surprised. She rarely brought up her past, but she told Tony several stories from her childhood tonight.

“Are you feeling sleepy?” Tony asked with concern. Myra had slept late for the past two nights. Although he wanted to continue chatting with her, he was worried about her health and thought that he should remind her.

“No.” Myra gradually felt more energetic as she spoke, so she wasn’t sleepy at all.

“Why don’t you want to go to sleep? Is it because...” Tony looked at Myra meaningfully with a teasing look on his face.

“I’m exhausted, so I’m going to sleep now,” Myra mumbled as she hurriedly burrowed under the quilt. It’s obvious that Tony wants to...

The more she thought about it, the more she felt that Tony was a perverted man.

“Hahaha!” Tony roared with laughter. Myra is so adorable. She hid under the covers the second she saw the look on my face.

“Hurry up and go to sleep. You haven’t been getting enough sleep for two days in a row,” Myra said angrily. Tony is really energetic. He wakes up early and goes to work the next day even when he sleeps late.

“Are you worried about me?” Tony leaned close to Myra and wanted to remove the quilt that was in the way.

“Go to sleep. I’m exhausted,” Myra said angrily. Tony really likes to tease me. What an annoying man.

“Okay, let’s go to sleep,” Tony said helplessly. There is no way that we’re having sex tonight. I’ll just hug Myra to sleep!

The two of them slept peacefully that night. Myra woke up at the same time as Tony the next morning. For the past two days, she was in such deep sleep that she didn’t even know when Tony left for work.

Later, Myra buttoned Tony’s shirt up and looked at her masterpiece happily. Tony has a great figure, so he looks good in everything.

The sunlight shining on Tony’s body looked like a halo. Every movement that he made was so mesmerizing that Myra couldn’t help but stare.

“Your drool is about to drip onto the ground,” Tony said jokingly.

Hearing that, Myra hurriedly looked away. After realizing that Tony had just made fun of her, Myra glared at him angrily. Why would I drool at the sight of Tony? I’m not a fangirl.

“Come, let me hug you,” Tony muttered as he spread his arms wide open.

Myra walked into his arms in embarrassment. Then, Tony wrapped his arms around her tightly and felt her warmth and breath. It was intoxicating.

“Are you going to Stark Group again today?” Tony casually asked.

“I have to. There are a lot of things that I need to deal with,” Myra replied. The thought of the pile of work that she needed to deal with made her sigh. It seems like I won’t be able to take over Stark Group anytime soon.

“How many shares does Matthias have?” Tony asked with a frown, assuming that Cameron already told Myra about it the day before.

“A lot.” Myra thought about the documents she read yesterday. Many shareholders have already sold the shares they have. What method did Matthias use? He is coming after Stark Group aggressively.

Myra didn’t completely get rid of Cameron before that, and this had allowed Matthias to persuade the other shareholders on the board to sell their shares. Even though the other shareholders didn’t have many shares individually, it was a significant amount when they were combined.

To Myra’s surprise, Matthias personally visited Stark Group that day. When he appeared in her office, she was stunned.

However, she soon came back to her senses and greeted him politely.

“Director Locke.”

“Miss Myra, I didn’t expect to meet you again so soon,” Matthias said meaningfully. He kept staring at Myra, and Myra started to feel uncomfortable.

“Director Locke, how may I help you?” Myra didn’t exchange pleasantries with him and went straight to the point.

“Yesterday, I asked your father to deliver a message and tell you that I want to meet you. I didn’t expect that you would only be willing to see me if I personally come to you. Left with no choice, I came here to see you myself.” Although Matthias sounded polite, Myra felt that he was overbearing,

“I’m sorry for troubling you to personally come over, Director Locke.” Myra’s tone was also a little cold.

“Miss Myra, as long as you are willing to have a private chat with me, I don’t mind making several trips,” Matthias chuckled softly and looked at Myra with a devilish grin on his face.

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Facing Matthias’ confrontation, Myra couldn’t think of a way to deal with him at the moment, and her silence made him want to push his luck all the more.

“Since Miss Stark has no objection, let’s have coffee together,” Matthias said in a casual manner. Nevertheless, he wore a threatening look.

“It’s office hour now,” Myra reminded Matthias as she was not keen to have coffee with him at all. “Besides, I shouldn’t take coffee because I’m pregnant.”

Matthias wasn’t too bothered about Myra’s rejection, but he frowned involuntarily when he heard her say she was pregnant.

In fact, he had long heard of the news concerning Myra and Tony, so he knew everything about Myra like the back of his hand. He was even aware that she was pregnant for three months. Nonetheless, when he heard Myra say this to him in person, he still couldn’t accept that the person who made a promise to him back then had both her appearance and heart changed.

How could he reconcile himself to the fact that his childhood sweetheart no longer loved him? Matthias was unresigned. Last time, they had promised to be together this lifetime. Was a promise made in their youths so fragile that it couldn’t even stand the test of time? He had strived to make himself a better and more outstanding person. However, it turned out that his childhood sweetheart was already married to someone else and had completely forgotten about.

Myra was flustered upon seeing the grievance in Matthias’ eyes as she felt his gaze was rather familiar. For some reason, she felt her heart squeeze and that she had lost an important part of her memory.

“Let’s have some other drinks then. I just want to have a good chat with you about Stark Group.” Matthias stared at Myra in an imploring manner, which made the latter couldn’t bring herself to turn him down.

Deep down, Myra had a bizarre feeling toward Matthias which couldn’t be explained. She knew he was a dangerous person and that he might be an

enemy, and she was even aware of his improper intention toward her. However, there was a voice in her which was asking her not to reject him. Myra had always deemed herself as a loyal person. As a matter of fact, she didn't think her feelings toward Matthias was love between a man and a woman, but it was just delicate and couldn't be expressed in words.

"Let me finish my work first." Myra compromised. She was eager to find out what happened between Matthias and her back then, and what their relationship was.

I actually remember many things and still have a vivid memory about my childhood, but why can't I recall anything about Matthias? I can't even recall who was the guy by my side when I was young.

Myra was distressed about her memory, and she really wanted to find out what actually happened to her. If she had indeed lost her memory, why did she only lose her memory about Matthias? If that wasn't the case, was there any entanglements between her and Matthias before this? Why was Matthias looking at her in such a profound manner?

"I hope you don't mind me sitting here while waiting for you." Matthias glanced at the couch beside him and sat leisurely on it.

Myra's eyelids twitched as she looked at him. How can he be so casual? Doesn't he know that he's disturbing others by doing so? However, Matthias wore a rascally look and didn't seem like he intended to leave.

Myra didn't say anything else and lowered her head to continue working. She was amazed at how thick-skinned Matthias was, and she reckoned she wouldn't be able to escape from having a talk with him today. Tightening her grip on the pen, Myra wished she had more tasks to complete so that she could drag it until Tony came to pick her up.

But on second thought, she decided it was better for Tony to not meet Matthias. Thinking of the enmity Matthias harbored toward Tony, Myra thought it would be a disaster if they met in private.

Both Myra and Tony would not have expected the current situation to happen. Myra didn't wish to always depend on Tony, and she wanted to face her own issue by herself.

Matthias was right—she should have a good talk with him about Stark Group. In fact, she should have a proper conversation with him regardless of the subject being a business matter or private matter.

Nevertheless, Myra was not prepared yet. She just learned from Cameron yesterday that Matthias wanted to meet her in private, and today, the latter already showed up.

Myra was nervous, but she didn't understand what she was being nervous about. She was afraid that she couldn't answer some of Matthias' questions when they started talking later because she hadn't sorted out some key issues in her mind.

As such, the two of them sat in the office, each having an axe to grind. Obviously, Matthias was pretty good at entertaining himself. Neither did he disturb Myra as he probably wished Myra could finish her work as soon as possible.

From time to time, Myra would glance toward Matthias to see him solving a Rubik's Cube. She was sure that the Rubik Cube was not from her office, so Matthias must have brought it along with him.

Why would an adult bring a Rubik's Cube with him wherever he goes? Matthias was proficient at solving the Rubik's Cube, but Myra could still sense his stubbornness and loneliness as she observed him.

Before this, her first impression toward Matthias was that he was a flirty and light-hearted man, but now, it seemed like he was born with an inherently reclusive aura and no one would be able to smooth out his gloomy frown.

A man like him must have encountered a lot in the past as his countenance had a mix of maturity and childishness. At this moment, he was just a boy from Myra's point of view, but he had a stern look that resembled that of a discipline teacher from school.

"Miss Stark, is my side profile that attractive? You've been staring at me for some time. Are you finished with your work?" Matthias' frivolous voice emerged, from which Myra couldn't tell his true emotions.

"Almost." Myra quickly lowered her head to cover up her nervous look. She was embarrassed upon being called out by Matthias even though she wasn't sexually attracted to him.

“Do you need help?” When Myra lifted her head again, she saw Matthias stand up and walk toward her.

“It’s okay. We don’t need an outsider to meddle with the matters of Stark Group,” Myra rejected him. She was inexplicably irritated by how Matthias naturally made himself at home.

“It seems like you’re guarding against me, Miss Stark. I’m not eyeing your company. All that I did was just to help Stark Group. Trust me, I don’t have any ill intentions.” Matthias looked calm as if he was indeed well-intentioned, but Myra didn’t buy his words.

All that Matthias did was clearly targeting Stark Group, and Myra deemed he must be siding with Cameron because she didn’t perceive any help from him. Initially, everything was going according to the plan, and things wouldn’t have ended up in such an awkward situation if it wasn’t because of Matthias’ sudden interruption.

“Help Stark Group? I shall thank you then. Thanks for escalating the already complicated situation in Stark Group,” Myra mocked. She felt her blood boil when she heard Matthias’ apathetic tone.

Perceiving the displeasure in Myra’s voice, Matthias smiled awkwardly and said, “It seems like my action of purchasing Stark Group’s shares has really angered you.”

Myra glared coldly at Matthias and thought he was talking crap. She was so pissed off that she didn’t even feel like having a chat with him later anymore.

“But I’ll never forget someone once said to me that she wished to improve her relationship with her father. I’m afraid it’ll be too late to regret it if things are pushed too far,” Matthias said unaffectedly while the smile on his face became even smugger.

Myra was shocked hearing Matthias’ words. Something flashed through her mind and she seemed to have recalled some stuff, but when she consciously tried to recall it, her mind went blank again.

When Matthias saw Myra’s stunned look, his smile vanished as some memory resurfaced in his mind. The good times they once had together had passed, but he had yet to find a way to resolve his distress.

“I don’t understand what you’re saying,” Myra mumbled while standing up and sorting out the documents on her desk. She was not in the mood to work anymore at this point of time, so she would rather find a quiet place and have a proper conversation with Matthias.

“Nothing. I’m just talking nonsense.” Matthias looked like a graceful gentleman once again with his expression turning serious.

“I’m done with my work. Where shall we go?” Myra asked Matthias while wearing a serious look too as she intended to make this talk formal.

“Wherever you want to go.” Matthias wanted to respect Myra’s opinion.

“I’m sure Director Locke has an idea. I’m fine with anywhere as long as it’s not harmful to the baby.” Myra deliberately mentioned her fetus. She was speechless at the thought of Matthias carelessly inviting her to have coffee.

“There’s a dessert house next to Stark Group and they serve pretty good desserts. Shall we go there?” Someone had brought Matthias to the dessert house before when he visited Stark Group last time. Come to think of it, he had a thing for desserts due to some memories in the past.

“Sure.” Myra was fine with having desserts.

With that, two of them left Stark Group together. Naturally, there were passers-by gossiping about them but Myra and Matthias were not bothered with them at all. When Cameron knew the two went out together, a cunning smile spread across his face. Everything’s developing according to my plan. Hopefully what follows will be smooth too.

The dessert house was within walking distance from the company, and it was desirable for Myra, a pregnant woman, to walk more. The dessert house had a few cosy private rooms which could only accommodate two to three guests, and they were deeply favored by couples. Besides, there were also some close friends who would spend their entire afternoon in the private rooms.

Myra darted a glance at the menu and said casually, “Please give me a Tiramisu.”

Matthias gazed at her and mumbled softly to himself, “Even her taste has changed.”

“Huh?” Myra asked in curiosity as she didn’t hear Matthias clearly.

“Nothing. It’s better for pregnant women to stay away from Tiramisu.” Matthias smiled and said to the server, “Please give me a slice of dreamy fruit cake. This is a better choice for pregnant women. And less cream please.”

Myra stared at Matthias in confusion. Why is he making decisions for me? And what the heck is ‘dreamy fruit cake’? It sounds so disgusting. I bet only young girls will order this kind of cake!

“Trust me. It’s nice even though the name is rather corny.” Matthias winked at Myra and smiled.

His action once again triggered Myra’s memory deep down. What a familiar action. There’s only one person who would do that, and the person is...

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Her memories were hazy and vague. For a brief moment, she felt like she managed to grasp onto something, but unfortunately, it slipped away from her again. In the end, she couldn’t remember anything at all.

No matter how hard she tried to recall, nothing came to mind. Memories that flashed quickly in her mind seemed like a dream that was out of reach. Myra stared at Matthias across from her in frustration, and in the end, she still couldn’t remember how she was related to him.

When dessert was served, they both ate in silence. Matthias had ordered a glass of warm milk for her, as he thought it would be safe for pregnant women.

Just as he said, the colorful fruit cake was delicious. This dessert shop had really good desserts that weren’t too sweet and had a nice texture.

Neither of them spoke to break the silence. Myra lowered her head and ate the piece of cake in front of her quietly.

Meanwhile, Matthias would occasionally raise his head to look at her with a doting look in his eyes. However, this small space made her a little anxious, and it was as if she could hear his breathing. Soon, she was starting to feel uncomfortable under his gaze that looked as if he had known her for a long time. In fact, the affection in those eyes terrified her and made her uneasy.

They couldn't go on like this, so Myra decided to break the silence between the two first. "Director Locke, do you have something to say to me? Is it about Stark Group?"

She deliberately reminded him that the two of them were only meeting privately for business. In any case, he was hiding a lot of secrets, so she had to deal with him carefully.

"Regarding Stark Group, I've reached an agreement with your father," he said openly.

At once, a trace of displeasure flashed in her eyes, but it was quickly suppressed as she casually looked away. Then, she said, "So, you're on my enemy's side." Since he had made it so clear, she didn't see the point of beating around the bush.

"Where did that come from?" he said with surprise in his voice, as if he was completely unaware of the feud between her and Cameron.

"What exactly is your goal? There is no profit to be made from this dying business, so what are you doing by stepping in at this time?" she asked in confusion. Matthias' behavior was not consistent with that of a normal businessman. In fact, the average businessman would not muddy the waters at this time.

"I don't want to see Stark Group fall. With my investment, I believe Stark Group will revive," he said seemingly truthfully.

"An outsider shouldn't worry about Stark Group's affairs. Director Locke, why won't you tell me what your real motives are?" she said in a curt manner. She wasn't going to be fooled so easily by him.

"You're right. I am an outsider, but Stark Group and I have benefited from each other, so I had to step in to help," he said unexpectedly, causing Myra across the table to frown even deeper.

"Why don't I know about this? Since when did Stark Group help you?" She didn't believe a word he said at all, and she didn't think that he genuinely wanted to help. Instead, she felt that he was making the muddied waters even muddier.

“I’d like to know this too. I’d like to know why you have no recollection of the past at all.” He half crouched, bending his waist to lean closer to Myra.

How he wanted to crawl into her head to take a closer look. Did she really lose all her memory, or was she just unwilling to recognize him? This pained him. Time and again, he forced himself to stay calm, but all his will would vanish every time he saw her.

“I’d like to know too.” She looked at him indifferently, not a trace of fear on her face.

“Since it has come to this, we shouldn’t dwell on it anymore,” Matthias said in disappointment.

“Whatever makes you feel better,” she said earnestly. She had no recollection of any entanglements with him at all, but he kept staring at her with a look as if she had betrayed him that made her feel queasy.

“Miss it once, and you won’t miss it a second time. Certainly, you will realize that nothing comes for free, so you’ll cherish it even more.” He stared into her eyes and spoke slowly, as if he was making an oath.

Myra turned away, avoiding his burning gaze. There were just too many emotions behind his eyes, and it made her feel pressured.

“It seems that you have already made up your mind about Stark Group.” She rushed to change the topic and tried to steer the conversation back to the right direction.

Just then, Matthias said sternly, “Then we have nothing else to talk about. What needs to be said has already been said. Since there’s nothing else to talk about in terms of business, we can talk about ourselves,” he answered rather casually. However, Myra had no intentions of chatting further with him. After all, she had only met him several times as far as she could remember.

“I’m not used to talking about my personal matters with someone I don’t know well.” She responded lightly, and she appeared to be brazen.

In his eyes, she saw a hint of disappointment that made her heart wrench, as if she owed him something.

A moment later, they were done with their desserts and the two fell silent once again. Myra's eagerness to leave was written all over her face, which Matthias noticed in her eyes and realized she really didn't want to stay with him anymore. It seemed like their short time together was nearing its end.

"Miss Stark, are you really not going to have a casual conversation with me?" he asked as he was unresigned and fought for his last chance.

"I don't know what to say." She was polite, but it was merely perfunctory.

"Just think of it as talking to an old friend. We can talk about our hobbies and lives, can't we?" His tone carried a sense of hope, which was a little unbearable to Myra.

"We seem to have only met twice," she reminded him, politely indicating that she wasn't familiar with him.

"We can get to know each other. Isn't this normal?" He slowly directed her, like he was demonstrating how to loosen her tongue.

"Do you work as a guidance counsellor on the side?" she asked jokingly. "I don't have any sort of psychological problems that require your help," she said in a partially serious manner.

"Do you not like me?" He pointed it out directly.

"No. I just don't make friends easily." She recomposed herself and looked at him with a solemn face.

Indeed, she rarely made friends. In her opinion, it was important that she felt comfortable around and compatible with her friends, instead of just making friends with anyone.

"Very well. It seems like I won't be able to be friends with you for the time being." He understood the meaning behind her words. At that moment, his smile was bitter as it turned out that they weren't even considered friends when they met again.

"That's not what I mean. It's just that business partners should stay business partners. Being friends is different. I can't lump every business partner into my friend circle. This is not only irrational, but also unfavorable to the smooth

operation between two parties.” Her explanation was a little far-fetched, but she didn’t want to see the pained look in his eyes.

They had been so close for a period of time. How could she have just forgotten everything? It was as if the whole thing had been a joke, or even a dream!

In fact, sometimes even Matthias himself wondered if what they had was just a good dream. He could only reassure himself by touching the red string on his wrist every time just to be sure that it was all real.

The red string was hidden under the sleeve of his shirt. He was careful not to expose it because it was extremely meaningful to him.

After all these years, the red string was worn out, but he was reluctant to throw it away. As such, he kept it on and wouldn’t simply remove it.

He even recalled that one afternoon where the sun was hitting Myra’s face, making it glow so beautifully. She looked so soft and delicate.

At that moment, he thought she was the most beautiful girl in the world, and he vowed to marry her when he grew up. It was such an innocent and childish thought.

The red string was hand-woven by Myra herself, and she said that it would bring him good luck.

However, she would never know how much he cherished this gift from her. He even considered her as his lucky charm.

“I’m very happy to see you again. Perhaps I’m too greedy, and things are different because I was blinded,” he said rather regretfully. Despite that, there wasn’t a hint of giving up in his tone.

“I don’t understand.” She felt distressed. She didn’t like this look on his face, so she spoke a little more bluntly.

“I don’t know what I’m saying either. Just consider it as mindless rambling.” He smiled painfully, as if admitting to the world that he was a fool.

“It’s getting late. I have to get back to work.” Myra didn’t want to stay any longer as she still had some things to do.

“Okay, so that’s it for today. Thank you, Miss Stark, for taking time out of your busy schedule to listen to my ramblings.” The corner of his lips pulled into a resigned smile as his heart still faintly ached.

“If you can stay out of...” Myra spoke and stopped herself immediately, feeling that she had overstepped.

Since Matthias had gotten himself involved, there was no point in saying this. She had no right to demand that he not intervene in Stark Group’s affairs anyway.

As the two were going their separate ways, she received a text message.

‘Are you free to pick me up at the airport this week? I’m coming home, and the person I want to see the most is you.’

Just then, she tried hard to recall as she stared at the unfamiliar number on her phone. She was a little dazed. Her memory had been so poor recently that even she was frowning upon herself.

She thought the number looked familiar, and she was contemplating on replying. When she was in the middle of typing, she abruptly remembered the owner of this number.

Meanwhile, Matthias watched the change of emotions on her face and said softly after she put away her phone, “Miss Stark, I’ll send you back.”

Gazing at him, she almost forgot that he was right beside her. At that moment, she felt like she had done something stupid as her face turned red, and she was embarrassed.

“It’s fine. My office is just a stone’s throw away. You should hurry back to work, Director Locke.”

Standing before Love Chapter 406

After refusing Matthias’ kindness, Myra returned to her office alone. Because of that text message, she felt delighted. Her best friend was coming home from abroad, and she would be able to see her childhood friend very soon. There were so many things she wanted to tell her.

Myra's childhood friend, Heather Langston, was a real scholar. She had been studying abroad for her PhD, and she had finally graduated. It had been a long time since they spoke since Heather was always busy with her studies and simply couldn't spare the time. On top of that, Myra had also been busy with one thing after another, so both of them didn't have the time to catch up at all.

Now, there wasn't much on Myra's plate, and Heather was coming back. She was over the moon at the thought of reuniting.

Myra was contemplating on inviting Tony when she picked Heather up at the airport. Since they hadn't met yet, she decided to ask for his opinion.

In the evening, Tony came to Stark Group to pick Myra up. As soon as he saw her, he noticed something different about her. The smile on her face was rather obvious.

"What are you so happy about?" He was influenced by her mood, and the corner of his lips curved up as well.

"There's something very important that I want to tell you," she said solemnly.

"Yes?" He looked at her curiously, unable to figure out what was so important.

"As I told you before, my childhood friend, Heather, is coming back from Italy," she said excitedly. The thought of seeing Heather soon made Myra unable to contain her joy.

"When?" he asked with interest. This was indeed something to celebrate.

"This week, although I haven't asked her for details." Just then, she silently cursed herself. She was so happy that she had forgotten to ask Heather the time!

"You should find out which airport and the time of her flight. I'll go with you to the airport to pick her up." Tony gazed at her dotingly. She was having pregnancy brain at the moment, and she was suffering from brain fog.

Upon hearing this, Myra immediately replied to Heather's text, asking for the specific time and place. She wondered if Heather would think that she didn't care about her because she had taken some time to reply.

Alas, I messed up again. She quietly scorned herself when Tony reached out to ruffle her hair.

“It’ll be fine. Since she’s your childhood friend, surely she wouldn’t mind.” He saw through her with just a glance.

“I’ve been so clumsy lately.” She gazed up at Tony with an innocent and dazed expression.

“It’s okay. I don’t mind.” He laughed. Myra looked too cute.

Frustrated, she lowered her head. She felt like her stupidity was beyond redemption. Just then, Tony ruffled her hair again.

“Come on, you’re not dumb at all. In fact, you’re the smartest girl ever!” he said in a light-hearted and amused tone.

“Liar.” She glanced at him with a disgruntled look, not believing what he said at all.

“We should head home, dummy,” he said casually.

At once, her face turned sullen. “Look, even you called me ‘dummy!’” she protested loudly, making Tony burst into laughter. He thought she was adorable.

“We should hurry home. Grandma and Grandpa have specially prepared delicious food for you today. They’re waiting for us at home.” He hurriedly changed the topic, though what he said was true. The old couple were worried that she was straining herself, so they spent all their time thinking of ways to strengthen her health.

“If I keep eating, I’m afraid I’ll be so fat that Heather won’t even recognize me,” she said delightfully. She cherished the affection from the Hart family, and ever since she got together with Tony, she had obtained everything she lacked before. The heavens were treating her well.

“No, you’ll look more womanly. Heather would be amazed and marvel at how much more beautiful you’ve become.” He praised her with a honeyed tongue, making her feel a little embarrassed.

“Nonsense. Even my face has gotten fat,” she said and pinched her own cheek. It was obviously fleshy. She had never been this fat before.

“You look good, trust me. Women look better with a little more weight,” Tony said seriously. As long as she was Myra, she would look good to him either way.

“Let’s go!” She smiled and thought that he was getting better at sweet talking lately, as he was always saying nice things to please her.

“Yes, ma’am.” Wiggling his eyebrows at her, he looked energized.

Being with Tony made every day memorable. Everything was interesting when she was with him, and she valued everything that he brought to her.

In fact, she thought this was what being with the right person felt like. Every single day was incredibly delightful. Gazing at his stern-looking side profile, Myra felt indescribably at peace.

When they reached home, the old couple were in the living room. They would occasionally bicker with each other. They had been spending their lives together like that, and they had become the role models for the younger generations in terms of relationships.

Sometimes, family education played a big role in a person’s life. Since Tony grew up in such a family, he was naturally deeply influenced by his grandparents.

In today’s society, it wasn’t easy to find a devoted man, let alone a man as good as Tony, who had so many beautiful and impressive women around him but only had eyes for Myra.

Undaunted by the temptations of the outside world, Tony knew profoundly what he wanted and strived to protect her. Being devoted was a form of happiness too, and being surrounded by many women didn’t mean one would be happy.

In fact, men didn’t need women to prove how good they were. Overcoming difficulties in their career was the real deal, not wooing one woman after another.

“Myra, come here and try this new dish.” Just then, Lisa greeted Myra warmly.

With a smile, she went over. Lisa was particularly fond of Tony, and now that Myra was pregnant with the Hart family's flesh and blood, she was even more affectionate toward her.

"Grandma, this is delicious," Myra affirmed. It warmed her heart to be able to have a home-cooked meal after a tiring day.

"I came up with this recipe myself," Lisa said proudly. Being constantly spoiled by Sebastian, she had maintained a young girl's innocence.

"You're amazing, Grandma." Myra didn't mince words in praise. Once upon a time, she felt unfamiliar with the Hart family. Now, she treated them like her own after spending so much time together.

"I told you she'd like it, old man!" Lisa shot a glance at Sebastian and said smugly.

"Alright, alright. You know Myra's preferences the best." Sebastian's tone was tinged with a hint of adoration. How could he argue with his Lisa?

Meanwhile, Myra and Tony shared a glance and smile, wondering if they would be just as happy when they grew old. They were sure that they would. Then, they gazed at each other in silence. This was probably what 'till death do us part' meant!

Meanwhile, Heather hadn't returned her message. During dinner, Myra was constantly checking her phone, which was rare for her. Seeing this, the old couple looked at Tony puzzledly, seemingly asking for an explanation.

At that moment, he said to Myra, "She's probably busy right now. Don't worry and eat your food." It seemed like she really cared about Heather. It was rare to see Myra so out of character.

"Okay." She smiled apologetically at Lisa and Sebastian. She didn't know why she was feeling so uneasy. From her understanding of Heather, she wouldn't be angry at her for replying late.

In her memories, Heather was an excellent woman. Not only was she a scholar, but she was also protective of her loved ones. During their school years, she was always protecting Myra from being bullied.

With Heather by her side, Myra always felt at ease and protected. She would always be glad that she had her during those dark days.

After dinner, Myra went back to the bedroom. At that moment, Heather's text message finally came. Only the time and place was written, and nothing else.

Finally, Myra smiled and Tony felt a weight lifted from his chest. He grew even more curious about this childhood friend of hers. Fortunately, she wasn't a man, or he was going to be so jealous!

"In three days, at 3PM." Tony silently read and thought about his schedule. It shouldn't be a problem since he would be free that day.

Sometimes, it felt like time was crawling so slowly when one was eager for something and their heart was filled with joy and excitement. Other times, it felt like time was actually flying by quickly.

During those three days, Myra was stoked. Heather was coming back, along with the memories of their teenage years; memories of their young, childish, and innocent past.

When they arrived at the airport, Myra still felt like she was in a dream. She clutched onto Tony's hand with an apprehensive expression. With a faint smile, he soothed and comforted her.

Not long later, Heather came out. Tony and Myra waited as they stared at the walkway. Based on Myra's description of Heather, she was an eye-catching woman.

To be able to get such high praise from her meant that Heather must be an extraordinary woman. Tony was a little excited as he wanted to be closer to Myra.

If he could get along with Heather, then he would know more about Myra's past from her. There must be a lot of interesting stories about young and innocent Myra!

"Myra." A sensual female voice came from not far away. At once, Tony and Myra looked in the direction of the source at the same time.

Wearing sunglasses, Heather was striking among the crowd of people because of her tall figure. Her skin was unusually fair since she was a quarter European.

“Heather, how did you recognize me so quickly?” Myra pranced toward her with unusual excitement and a hint of admiration in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Tony was a little dissatisfied. Myra was like a sheep in front of Heather, and he had never seen her like this.

“I could recognize your eyes anywhere.” Just then, the corners of Heather’s lips slightly curved into a smile. At a closer look, she was indeed an enchanting woman.

Taking off her sunglasses, the half of her small face that was covered was now completely exposed, revealing fine and exquisite features. What a good-looking woman.

Standing before Love Chapter 407

She was wearing a plain T-shirt that hung loosely on her body. A casual attire on a supermodel’s figure and a pretty face no doubt attracted everyone’s attention.

Even the simplest outfit on her would give off a sense of uniqueness. While others were wearing beautiful clothes to make themselves look better, she was born with a perfect body that looked good no matter what she wore.

With this first impression of her, Tony politely gazed at Heather, whose eyes swept over him. When they made eye contact, she seemed to be sizing him up.

Immediately, Myra introduced Tony to her. “Heather, this is my fiancé, Tony Hart.” With two of the most important people standing by her side, Myra felt incredibly happy.

“Hello.” Heather took the initiative to greet Tony with an intriguing look in her eyes.

Without delay, Tony responded politely, “Nice to meet you.” They were extremely formal with each other.

On the other hand, Myra could sense that something wasn't right between the two. When one strong person met another, it was natural for them to be competitive. Meanwhile, she stood on the side lines, not understanding the situation.

Heather extended her hand, wanting to shake hands with Tony. They were behaving in a way that confused Myra. Do they have to be so formal?

"I've heard so much about you, and you really are as impressive as Myra said you were. I think she's found the one," Heather said, but the look in her eyes contradicted her statement.

As Tony courteously shook her hand, he said, "I'm blessed to be with Myra. I will definitely take care of her with all my heart." His reply was even more formal. Myra wondered what was going on.

"Are you guys done? Heather, are you hungry? There's a French restaurant next to the airport that I think you'd like," Myra said attentively. She was holding Heather's arm intimately as they walked.

Seeing this gesture of hers, Tony was a little disappointed. Myra and Heather's bond was truly strong, and he ended up being neglected. In fact, he had never seen Myra behave in such a girly way.

From what she told him, Tony couldn't imagine what they had gone through together back then. After years of not seeing each other, their friendship hadn't changed a bit, so it seemed like they must have gone through some profound things.

Soon, the three of them arrived at the French restaurant that Myra suggested. Like a gentleman, Tony pulled out the chair for Myra. Meanwhile, Heather silently observed his every movement.

When Tony was about to pull out the seat for Heather, she pulled it out herself and smiled at him. "It's fine. You don't have to be so polite." It was obvious that he was trying to impress her.

Tony then retracted his hand and walked toward his seat. The atmosphere was inexplicably delicate. Sneaking a peek at Heather, Myra wondered if she didn't like Tony.

On the surface, Heather and Tony were polite to each other. It was almost like a situation where business partners bumped into each other at a shopping mall. It didn't seem like meeting a friend at all.

Then, Myra handed the menu to Heather first. "Order whatever you want. Look at you, you look like you've lost weight," she said with concern, just like how a family member would.

"And you've gained a lot of weight," Heather said with a faint smile. In fact, it seemed like Myra was very happy.

"Don't even mention it. It's all his fault." Myra glanced at Tony with discontent. She really did gain some weight, and she was worried that she didn't look good anymore.

Tony smiled sweetly and didn't take her pouts and complaints to heart at all. Flirtatiously, he responded, "Alright, alright. It's my fault for taking so good care of you." He was completely unaware that this was a public display of affection in the eyes of Heather.

Just then, Heather took over. "You look better like this." She certainly understood what Myra's concerns were, since every woman was concerned about their appearance—they often thought that they wouldn't look good with a little more weight.

"No way." Although she said so, she still felt pleased. Which woman didn't like to be praised?

"Trust me, I never lie to you. You look more charming with a little more flesh on your face," Heather said while she tilted her head to the side, looking surprisingly cute.

Heather had made a good impression on Tony. In his opinion, she was a strong and generous woman. Though a woman like this certainly wouldn't be a simple character, it was beneficial for Myra to have a friend like Heather.

He was a businessman and it was only natural that he would weigh the situation. No matter which way he looked at it, he didn't dislike Heather at all.

There were too many women who were infatuated with Tony's aura and good-looking face, but when Heather saw him, there was only serious consideration in her gaze and no trace of flirtation, which was detested by him.

“Tony, are you from Hart Group?” Heather looked straight at him. Myra didn’t tell her this, mainly because Heather and the Hart Group somehow weren’t on good terms.

As a matter of fact, this was what Myra was concerned about. She thought perhaps she had made a mistake this time. When she told Heather that her fiancé was Tony Hart, she had probably already figured it out since she was awfully intelligent.

“Yes. Didn’t Myra tell you?” He looked at Myra in confusion, while Heather also looked at her.

With a sheepish smile, she said, “It’s my fault. I didn’t bring it up.” At that time, she only briefly mentioned and didn’t go into detail. Meanwhile, Heather was also busy with something important at that time, so it was brushed off.

“Don’t worry, I’m just a little curious. I don’t mind your status.” Then, Heather smiled at Tony. It was as if she had intended to say that to Myra instead.

Feeling guilty, Myra lowered her head, which Tony noticed and was suddenly puzzled. He tried hard to recall any information about Heather.

He thought he should have gotten someone to send him a copy of Heather’s information. Sure enough, he should have prepared in advance, otherwise an awkward moment like this would not have happened.

This incident was then glossed over, and all three of them tacitly did not mention it again. However, Heather’s scrutinizing gaze was making Tony feel a little self-conscious.

When they left the restaurant, Myra suggested sending Heather home but Heather politely declined. She winked at her, just like back then.

“I’ve been running around all day today. I’m exhausted! I’ll ask you out again tomorrow to go shopping and grab lunch.” Heather easily diffused the awkwardness as she didn’t want her best friend to feel unsettled.

“Really?” Like a child who had made a mistake, Myra pitifully took Heather’s hand, not letting go.

“Of course. Have I ever lied to you?” she said casually, and the smile on her face didn’t seem fake.

Upon hearing this, Myra felt even more ashamed. She thought she should have been honest with her in the first place. The thought of Heather being so outspoken with her while she hid from her made her feel twice as guilty.

“Don’t overthink it.” Heather patted her head, just like when they were young.

Ever since they were young, Heather was taller than the average girl so she could easily pat Myra’s head. Meanwhile, Myra couldn’t do this to her at all.

To a certain extent, Heather was like Myra’s older sister. She was her best friend and family. No matter how long they were apart, their relationship would never deteriorate.

On their way home, Myra was heavy-hearted while Tony was hesitant to speak. He wanted to know why she was feeling like this. She had met her best friend, but somehow it felt like things had gone wrong.

“Myra, is there something you’re hiding from me?” He decided to speak frankly. There shouldn’t be any secrets between him and Myra.

“Tony, I don’t know where to start.” She hesitantly looked at him. Truthfully, it wasn’t a big deal. It was just that the Langston family and Hart family weren’t on the best terms.

“Is it something to do with Heather?” he probed.

She looked at him in distress, even more unsure of how to tell him. At that moment, he gazed at her tenderly, and his warm voice soothed her. “Don’t worry. If your best friend doesn’t like me, then I’ll try harder.” He thought it was his behavior today that made Heather dislike him.

“No, it’s just that Heather...” She spoke and stopped mid-sentence. After thinking about it, she still couldn’t say it.

“What about Heather?” His suspicions deepened. It seemed like it really did have something to do with her.

“It’s nothing.” Myra avoided the topic entirely, since she felt that it was better not to talk about it for the time being.

She could only try her best to avoid letting Heather and Tony meet for now. After all, the feud was between the Langston family and Hart family. Perhaps

Heather didn't even care that much, but it felt like the two weren't too friendly with each other.

"Okay." He no longer pressed since Myra didn't want to talk about it. In fact, he could find out Heather's information anyway. If he wanted, Tony could find out anything.

Seeing how thoughtful he was, Myra felt even more guilty. In fact, she felt like she had embarrassed him, causing all three of them to be unhappy.

"Don't think too much about it. I would love for your best friend to approve of me, but this is something that can't be rushed. It's good that you have such a prudent friend. She probably did it out of concern for you," he said in an unbothered manner.

"Okay." She nodded, still not having the courage to speak.

Truth be told, she was a little annoyed at her own stupidity. How could I make such a stupid mistake? I shouldn't have brought Tony to pick Heather up at the airport. But if I didn't take him with me, he would definitely have opposed it, and Heather would have pressed me about why my fiancé didn't come.

In short, whatever she decided to do would be wrong and she felt like she had no choice. She should have come clean in the first place. After all, Heather wasn't a petty person and she certainly would not blame her. Now that she had deliberately hidden things from her, Heather must be feeling upset.

"We're home. Are you getting out?" Tony pulled open the car door at the passenger's side and gazed at Myra who looked thoughtful.

Seemingly in a trance, she smiled awkwardly and said, "That was fast." She didn't realize they were already home since she was lost in thought. It was easy to forget about the time when one was deep in thought. At that moment, she seemed dazed like she had just woken up.

"Pregnancy brain." Tony dotingly gazed at her. Even in a daze, she is still pretty cute.

Standing before Love Chapter 408

The next day, Myra received a text message from Heather early in the morning. After so many years, Heather still preferred the direct way of texting.

Myra had always been a light sleeper, so she woke up when her phone buzzed.

‘What time are you leaving?’

Heather was direct in asking the question. Glancing at the time on her phone, she then immediately replied.

‘See you at Times Square at 10AM.’

The nearest shopping mall to the Hart Residence was Times Square. She estimated that she would be able to make it there by 10AM.

‘Okay.’ Heather’s text messages were always short and sweet. In fact, she wasn’t a straightforward character, but she was only this direct to Myra and never lied to her.

Since she was meeting up with her best friend, Myra got all dolled up and wore a white cotton dress. She hadn’t dressed like this for a long time, and wearing this outfit made her look a few years younger. She was overflowing with youthful energy.

In addition to that, after seeing Heather, she felt like she had gone back in time. After graduating high school, she felt nostalgic about the past and all the things that they had gone through.

On the other hand, Heather favored light-colored and simple outfits, so most of her clothes were white. Today, she wore a simple, light green, spaghetti strap dress.

In her opinion, life was already complicated enough, so she didn’t see the point of making everything else so complex. Even the thought of the fancy things the Langston family wore made her head hurt.

Growing up in that environment, one would either be deeply affected by it or abhor it. She was one of the few latter. Frankly, the only thing she was thankful to her parents for was not giving her a gaudy name.

Heather arrived at Times Square first. Usually, she would arrive early when there wasn’t anything going on. If she left right on time, she would probably run into some unexpected situation. As such, she’d much rather arrive early than late.

Fortunately, not long after she arrived, Myra came. Heather was a little surprised when she saw her as she nearly forgot what she looked like in a white cotton dress.

Even though she hadn't been home the past few years, she knew about Myra and Sean's failed marriage. She had only met Sean once, but she could already tell that Sean was a fool. Compared to him, Tony was indeed much smarter.

"I'm always later than you," Myra said helplessly.

"Time management requires reasonable planning, which involves statistics." Heather's lips curved into a small smile. The scholar's brain was filled with things the average person wouldn't be able to comprehend.

The pleasure of shopping wasn't just walking around in the mall, but also in buying. Retail therapy was a pleasant experience for the mind and body.

As a child, Heather had the knack of being a spendthrift, while Myra was used to restraining her in time. Otherwise, Heather would have spent impulsively on numerous things that were mostly useless.

For example, when buying clothes, Heather would buy a lot at once and hang them in her closet. She would rarely wear them unless she particularly liked it, while the pile of clothes that she never wore grew.

After so many years, Heather still hadn't changed. She was the most irrational when she was shopping. To her, as long as it was something she liked, she had to buy it regardless of its practicality.

"I'm going to buy a lot of things today," Heather said as she opened the memo on her phone and handed it over to Myra.

"Are you sure?" Myra stared at her worriedly. The memo was a few pages long, and she assumed that it would grow longer as they shopped.

They might even need a truck to send all the items back home. Just as Myra was considering whether to call up a delivery truck, Heather had begun her shopping spree.

"I haven't been home for so long and they've completely messed up my room. I didn't even sleep well last night. I warned them not to touch my room before I

left the country, and yet my room looks like a unicorn puked in it.” The thought of her pink, floral-themed bedroom with a princess bed made her gag. She complained about her family’s taste, and that it was making her stressed out.

“It was inevitable.” Myra comforted her. Just as she expected, Heather had an endless stream of complaints when she returned to the Langston Residence.

“Let’s go to the furniture shop.” Just then, Heather tugged on Myra’s arm. She was still mad that her family had messed up her room.

Myra nodded firmly as she started her big task. She knew Heather would go crazy at the furniture store and buy a whole new set of furniture for her home.

“I heard there’s a good furniture shop in Times Square, and it’s all custom-made. I don’t like my things to look generic.” Heather favored custom-made and unique things, and following trends wasn’t her style at all.

“As long as you’re happy. Which store is it?” Before shopping, Heather would plan out her routes. She would meticulously plan out her destinations based on what was on her shopping list since she didn’t like to wander aimlessly in the mall.

Unless she was bored to death or she was there by chance, she wouldn’t wander without a purpose. In her words, shopping malls all looked the same, and the aesthetics weren’t impressive. If she had time to wander around, she might as well use that time to wander in a scenic area. This way, at least she could enjoy the scenery.

In general, Heather was goal-oriented. She had a purpose in everything she did, instead of doing anything blindly. Back then, she became friends with Myra because of a miscalculation. If Myra had not taken the initiative to comfort her and moved her as a result, it was unlikely that they would be such good friends.

Heather had accounted for everything, but overlooked the power of relationships. She had selflessly devoted herself to her friendship with Myra because of these feelings.

At that time, Heather never thought that in addition to friendship, romantic relationships would also cause her to tumble down. She wasn’t an outgoing person, but once she opened up to someone, she would be warm and willing to do anything for them.

It was sort of a way of maintaining her pure heart. After all, she wasn't a robot, and she would be affected by her feelings.

Heather dragged Myra to the furniture with the rumored unique style. When they arrived, she was rather satisfied with the shop. From the first glance at their brand logo, she knew she was at the right place.

They went straight to the bed section because the first thing Heather wanted to get rid of was her bed. In the display window, there were about a dozen bed models. In order to save space, they had displayed the models instead of the actual item.

However, when shopping for beds, Heather thought it would be better to see the physical item. The hands-on experience would help her in making her decision.

While she was going through a few models, Myra quietly waited instead of giving Heather her opinion. In the selection of things, Heather had her own principles and it was better for Myra not to interfere.

Besides, Heather was an opinionated person, and even a little stubborn. When her mind was made up, there was no one that could persuade her otherwise.

When Heather told the manager that the models alone weren't sufficient in helping her make her decision, the manager cleverly replied, "Miss Langston, our store's policy is customization and we strive to make each item unique. These models are just the more popular ones out of the hundreds and thousands of products we have. You don't have to choose from them. You only need to tell us your specific requirements, and we will try to make it as accurate as possible."

Hearing this, Heather smiled slightly. The fact that this custom-made furniture shop could do this was far beyond her expectations. She thought it was just a bluff and that the items were essentially the same despite any changes in design.

"If you take a closer look at these models, each one is different in both appearance and details. We put most of our focus on details, and we will provide you with the best service. You may even specify the raw materials." The manager was aiming to impress.

Even Myra almost gave in and bought one for herself, but she suppressed the impulse in time. No matter how persuaded Heather was, Myra wouldn't be moved. Even when she offered to buy it for Myra as a gift, Myra unrelentingly refused.

"Shopping-wise, you're not like a woman at all." Heather furrowed her brow and scowled resentfully.

How could Myra refuse such a temptation? Buying things was one of the joys of life and nourishment for women's souls.

"Rational consumption is important, and you should be careful when shopping so as not to cause any unnecessary waste of resources," Myra responded in a serious manner. She had always believed that spending recklessly was a waste of resources. Based on this itself, Heather was impressed since there weren't many people who had the same mindset as her.

"Don't give me that. Since you mentioned the waste of resources, let me give you an example. When shopping demand shrinks during an economic crisis, some things with a short shelf life may face the fate of being scrapped before they even leave the factory. When goods keep piling up and remain stagnant, and when the people's shopping ability can't keep up with the production, manufacturers will simply get rid of some of the goods to keep them affordable. Now tell me, isn't that a greater waste of resources?" Heather flawlessly countered Myra's argument. No matter what, she could always come up with a bunch of arguments.

In terms of reasoning, Myra could never be able to win against Heather. Not to mention that Heather's head was filled with a bunch of fallacious arguments.

"Buying is justice and the way to go. I'm spending money to expand domestic demand and contribute to the national GDP. I worked tirelessly to earn money with my wisdom just so I could chase the high of spending. As long as I want it, I will buy it. This is the right way of living." Heather cocked her head to the side and smiled smugly at Myra. Even when she said sophomoric things, she still looked so charming.

At that moment, Myra wore a look of defeat. Heather had gotten more eloquent ever since she last saw her. At the rate that she was growing, Myra feared that she would never be able to catch up to her.

“Alright, alright. You’re the queen, so you do what you want,” Myra said rather helplessly, remembering when they were still kids and Heather liked to play the queen and Myra the princess. She always said that being a princess was useless, and that it was better to be the queen.

At once, Heather giggled. She hadn’t laughed so happily in a long time.

“Miss Stark.” Out of nowhere, a man’s voice came from not far away, interrupting their laughter.

Just then, Heather gathered herself together and looked toward the source of the voice. When she saw Matthias, a look of horror flashed across her face. As if she was bewitched, she involuntarily blurted, “No way!”

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Sensing Heather’s strange reaction, Myra glanced sideways at her before she replied to Matthias.

“Director Locke, are you here for furniture shopping too?” Heather was even more shocked when she saw how calm Myra was.

“What did you just call him?” Heather pointed at Matthias and asked.

“What’s the matter, Heather?” Myra asked in concern. Heather is acting strange.

Matthias walked up to them and sized up Heather, who was standing next to Myra, but it seemed as if he didn’t know her. Suddenly, Heather realized that she was being rude, so she hurriedly came back to her senses and smiled at Myra. “He reminds me of someone.”

Matthias was even more doubtful. It was as if he didn’t know Heather at all, but it was impossible to forget a girl with a pretty face like Heather’s.

“Hello, nice to meet you. You can call me Matthias.” Matthias introduced himself to Heather with a bright smile on his face.

Myra had an indescribable feeling. For some reason, she felt that Matthias’s attitude toward Heather was different, and Heather’s reaction was even more intriguing.

“Matthias. That’s a beautiful name,” Heather said casually as she stared at Matthias’s face. However, Matthias looked completely calm and relaxed.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you.” Matthias continued to speak politely. He was acting slightly different from the Matthais that Myra knew. When talking to Matthias, Myra always had a feeling that he was only pretending to be polite and secretly had bad intentions.

However, at that moment, Matthias seemed to deliberately hide his evil charm and show off his bookish side. It was an odd sight. Even his smile looked much more genuine than before.

“Mr. Locke, your manners are impeccable.” It was obvious that Heather was being sarcastic. She didn’t bother about Matthias’s dignity.

As soon as Heather finished speaking, she grabbed Myra’s arm. Then, with a dazzling smile, she said to her, “Myra, I haven’t decided what kind of furniture I want to buy today. I’ll go home and think about it.” As she spoke, she glanced at Matthias through the corner of her eyes provocatively.

“Where should we go now?” Myra looked at Heather in confusion. Looking at Heather’s cunning smile, Myra soon gave in because she knew that Heather was definitely up to something.

“I’m thirsty. Let’s go get something to drink,” Heather replied without any hesitation. Then, she pulled Myra’s arm to urge her to leave.

Myra hurriedly turned to Matthias and said, “Goodbye, Director Locke. Have fun shopping.”

Out of politeness, Myra said goodbye to Matthias.

“Why don’t I join you? I have already picked out the things I want.” Matthias quickened his pace and soon caught up to them.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Locke. We are going to shop for underwear later. We would feel embarrassed to have a man around.” As Heather spoke, she waved at Matthias with a sly smile on her face.

Hearing that, Matthias nodded softly and replied, “Well then, I won’t be interrupting you. Let’s have a cup of coffee together some other time.” Then, he looked up and waved at Heather while staring into her eyes the entire time.

Matthias watched as Myra and Heather gradually walked further away. All of a sudden, the smile on his face disappeared and was replaced with a solemn expression. He glared at Heather and muttered through gritted teeth, "That b*tch is even more annoying than she used to be."

"Director Locke, do you still want your things?"

Matthias, who was already in a bad mood, felt even more annoyed after hearing this question. "No, throw them all away."

At that instant, he desperately wanted to throw the things he bought onto Heather's beautiful face.

Some people continued to stay beautiful even after they aged, and some people continued to be perfect until the day they died. Naturally, Heather was someone that many people envied and hated.

"How did that b*tch recognize me?" Matthias mumbled to himself. He was an entirely different person than who he used to be and was even much more good-looking than before. Logically, it would be hard to recognize him. However, Heather had recognized him at first glance.

That woman has sharp eyes! It's been years since I last met her. She is even more beautiful than she used to be. Heather is blessed by God.

"Heather, do you know who Matthias is?" Myra asked seriously.

"Yes," Heather readily admitted. "I met him once in Italy."

Upon hearing that, Myra let out a sigh of relief. She thought that Matthias was their childhood friend. After all, Myra and Heather used to be inseparable in their teenage years. They shared everything, including their friends.

"Is Italy the only place you've met him?" Myra asked gingerly.

Heather could tell that Myra was suspicious. She ruffled Myra's hair and asked seriously, "Why are you doubting me?"

"I'm not doubting you. I'm just curious." Myra lowered her head sheepishly like a child who had made a mistake.

"He made a speech in our school. My school likes to invite successful alumni to give speeches to motivate the students. Back when I was in graduate

school, I studied business, and he is the pride of our business school.” Heather was reluctant to recall that memory, and she looked a little upset.

“Haha...” Myra covered her mouth and chuckled. “It’s no wonder you were hostile to him. Turns out that he’s just your outstanding senior!” Heather didn’t really like outstanding people.

“You’re making me sound petty,” Heather muttered. I’m not that petty. It’s just that we fought in the past, but I am not going to tell her that. We should just let bygones be bygones! Besides, Myra is happy. Tony is a better match for her, and he’s someone that I trust.

“No, you are not petty at all.” Myra held back her laugh and grabbed Heather’s arm, just like old times.

Meanwhile, Matthias was watching the two girls from a distance. Looks like Heather will be the key to my plan. Matthias’s eyes darkened as he fell into deep thought. I should find a chance to catch up with her soon.

Heather bought so many things that day that she desperately hoped to pay someone to carry her shopping bags. The two of them struggled to hold onto the shopping bags in their hands.

As Heather grabbed her shopping bags from Myra’s hands, she sighed and said, “I might need a boyfriend.”

Hearing that, Myra thought that Heather had finally had a realization, and her eyes instantly lit up. However, Heather’s next words immediately put out the light in her eyes.

“Forget it, one boyfriend is not enough anyways,” Heather muttered as she glanced at the bags she was carrying. At that moment, she felt as if her fingers were about to break.

“Heather, how many boyfriends do you need? Is having someone to carry your shopping bags the only reason you want a boyfriend?” Myra asked in a reprimanding tone. Is Heather planning to stay single forever?!

“What other reason do I need? I’m strong and don’t need a man’s protection. Furthermore, the money I have in my bank account is enough for me to spend for three lifetimes. Why do I even need a man?” Heather said with contempt.

She truly felt that it was unnecessary to find a man and considered dating as a waste of time and effort.

“Heather, feelings can’t be calculated. Find someone you love and you will be able to experience a happiness that you can’t find anywhere else. When you do find love, you will feel that the world is a much better place,” Myra said happily. No one can replace the love given by a lover.

“A fortune teller once told me that I am destined to not have many relationships in my life. That is why I don’t count on my family and only have one friend. I don’t expect to find love,” Heather replied casually. However, there was a slight trace of disappointment in her eyes.

“Don’t be so negative. Before you met me, you thought that you would never have a true friend. God has a plan for you, so you’ll definitely find love someday. All you have to do is patiently wait and believe in yourself.” Myra suddenly blurted out a fortune cookie comment.

“Myra, I truly believe that finding love depends on great luck. Finding someone I like despite his background and other external factors requires a lot of luck. I grew up excelling in my studies and career, and I am considered blessed. I have already used up all my luck, so how am I supposed to meet my destined lover?” Heather said helplessly. As she thought about the men that courted her in the past, she remembered that all of them had the same mundane purpose.

Never once was there a man who liked her purely because of her personality. They were all attracted to her because of her good looks, perfect family background, and outstanding working abilities. No one had ever bothered to find out about the strengths and weaknesses of her character.

Being regarded as a goddess, the reasons men coveted her were all mundane. Heather liked unique things, so she also yearned for a unique kind of love.

However, nobody was able to give her what she wanted. After some time, she gave up on searching and wasn’t hopeful at all. Heather was a stubborn woman. Since I can’t get the love that I yearn for, I won’t even start a relationship. So what if being a straight-A student without a first love is ridiculous?

“Why are you so pessimistic when it comes to relationships? Aren’t you usually the most optimistic person?” Myra took Heather’s hand, squeezed it softly, and gave her a bright smile.

“I have analyzed myself in-depth to find the reason. It’s probably because I have been lacking affection since I was a child. Even though I am extremely eager to find love, I am also terrified of it. As a result, I try to avoid forming new relationships,” Heather said indifferently. She didn’t want Myra to worry. Besides, it wasn’t a big deal.

“You really like to analyze yourself.” Myra shook her head in disagreement. Heather knows the reason behind everything, but she is not willing to change. What a stubborn girl.

“You should read a book. It’s my new book that contains a lot of my self-analysis.” Heather hurriedly changed the subject.

“What’s the name of your book? I’ll buy a whole box of it.”

At that moment, Matthias was picking out books to read in the bookstore. He casually picked up the book in front of him but put it back after taking a few glances at the cover.

Matthias was following behind Myra, but Heather had a great observation so he had no choice but to hide in a bookstore. To prevent Heather from finding him, Matthias decided to pick out some books.

“Huh?” Matthias’s eyes instantly lit up as if he had just found treasure. He quickly picked up the hardcover book with a bronzing side on his left.

“‘In-Depth Analysis’, written by Heather Langston. Wow! That woman is omnipotent.”

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Matthias held the book in his hand and strode to the counter without a moment of hesitation. He planned to buy one copy to carefully study its contents. ‘In-Depth Analysis’. Heather really is a narcissistic woman. I’m curious to see how she beautified herself in her book.

Myra sat in Heather's car, and the two of them chatted happily on the way. Heather had invited Myra to Langston Residence. After all, Myra hadn't visited Langston Residence ever since Heather went abroad years ago.

After they arrived, Heather held Myra's hand tightly. The Langston Residence was much more extravagant than it used to be that even Heather was shocked when she stepped into the house yesterday. She was worried that Myra couldn't bear the surprise.

The Langston Residence was a vintage manor house that was built like a medieval castle. It was an eye-catching building that the citizens of Bradford City nicknamed 'The Langston Effect'.

"Your family is as..." Myra smiled meaningfully and glanced at Heather.

"As pompous as ever," Heather said blankly. Before I went abroad, the Langston Residence didn't look like this. I didn't expect that the Langston Family's love for the grandiose would grow so strong. It's like they are desperate for the citizens of Bradford City to know that the Langston Residence is one of a kind.

Heather hated her family's pompous behavior. We should attract others with our beautiful personalities instead of showing off our fortune.

The Langston family was well-known for being a family full of people with beautiful appearances yet rotten personalities. Heather was the only one with high intelligence while all her peers focused their energy on comparing with one another.

I can't bear to imagine what the Langston Family's future will be like. I'm afraid that the Langston Group will be ruined if they hand over the control to the younger generation. However, I have zero interest in inheriting my father's business.

"Welcome home, Miss Heather." A row of servants stood outside the entrance, and they bowed at Heather respectfully.

Myra was shocked by the sight. Looks like the Langston Family has gotten even more pompous than before.

Heather hurriedly pulled Myra into the house, and her car that was parked outside was soon driven to the garage by one of the servants.

“Your house is ridiculous!” Myra felt as if she had stepped into a house of nobles from medieval times.

“You’ll get used to it,” Heather said helplessly. If Myra wasn’t living in Tony’s house, I would have definitely stayed at her place. I don’t want to spend another second in this place.

Myra looked at Heather sympathetically. Heather is a minimalist. It must be hard for her to live in such a grand house!

“Greetings, Miss Heather.” The gardener who was trimming plants in the garden stopped what he was doing and saluted Heather. Seeing that, Myra felt as if she had traveled back to medieval times.

“Is she your distinguished guest?” The gardener continued to speak in an exaggerated tone. Myra suddenly felt her temples throbbing.

Heather completely ignored the gardener and pulled Myra forward. At that moment, she regretted bringing Myra to her house. Everything here is embarrassing!

In order to ease the atmosphere, Myra let out a crisp laugh and whispered, “Heather, where did your family find these people? They are really cooperative. Did they graduate from performing school?”

Upon hearing that, Heather rolled her eyes at her and said, “Myra, you have to understand that there are many stupid people, many idiots who are easily brainwashed, and even more people who ignore their conscience for money.”

Myra nodded in agreement. Heather is right. As long as you are rich, you can do many whimsical things.

The living room was insanely huge, and Myra struggled to remember what the Langston Residence used to look like. Heather had returned home early today, so the adults were still at work and only a few children were left at home.

“Heather.” A pretty little girl with pink cheeks in a green long dress ran over.

Members of the Langston Family were all undeniably good-looking, and Heather was only considered as someone with average looks. Sometimes, they used attractiveness as their greatest weapon.

“Heather, who is this ugly woman standing next to you?” Myra was about to compliment the little girl, but she immediately froze after hearing the girl’s rude remark.

Her words hurt Myra deeply. Even though I don’t have the looks of a Greek goddess, I’m not considered ugly! Even if all of her family members are good-looking, she shouldn’t say such hurtful words.

Myra felt like she was about to tear up. Meanwhile, Heather was infuriated. I can’t believe that this brat just bullied my best friend! She must be taught a lesson!

“Daisy, watch your mouth. Beauty comes from within, and only shallow people would judge others by their appearances,” Heather said harshly with a serious expression.

However, Myra didn’t feel any better. What Heather means is that I am not good-looking by the Langston Family standards... That hurts. I’m never coming here again.

“Besides, my friend is much prettier than you are. That’s because she’s a kind-hearted person. As for you, you are already so vicious at a young age, so you’ll probably grow up to be an ugly wicked woman.”

Most people wouldn’t be able to bear Heather’s sharp tongue. She respected the people who deserved to be respected. As for those who were not worthy of her respect and who provoked her, she would return the favor tenfold.

Hearing that, Daisy burst into tears and ran away with her hands covering her face. As she ran about, she screamed, “Heather bullied me!”

Myra looked at the little girl sympathetically. As expected, Heather can shake down anyone she wants. Looking at her cold expression, Myra couldn’t help but wonder how terrifying it would be to be Heather’s enemy.

“Why don’t you join us for dinner?” Heather sat on the couch and looked straight at Myra. For some reason, Heather started acting seriously the moment she stepped into Langston Residence. At that moment, she looked like a well-educated noble.

“I can’t. I have to head home because Tony is about to get off work,” Myra replied casually. However, she regretted it as soon as she finished speaking. Why did I suddenly bring up Tony?

It was as if the cheerful atmosphere was ruined. Myra looked at Heather apologetically because she knew that she had made a mistake. Why didn’t I watch my mouth?

“There is no need to be so nervous. The feud between the Hart Family and the Langston Family is none of my business. I have been independent and stopped relying on my family ever since I was twelve. The amount of money I have given back over the past few years is more than eight figures. I think that I have been treating them well, and I won’t intervene in family feuds.” Heather sounded very serious, and Myra’s eyes twitched uncontrollably. Heather still had a trace of innocence back then, but now she’s hard to read.

“You don’t have to explain it to me. I already thought about it last night. If you were mad, you would’ve told me. You never said that you were angry about my decision, so I know that you weren’t bothered about it. You were just a little pissed that I didn’t tell you the truth,” Myra smiled and replied. Fortunately, Heather has always been honest with me.

Hearing that, Heather smiled softly. Then, she got up from the couch elegantly and said, “I’ll drive you home.”

Myra was taken aback. Heather is just as stubborn as ever. If I refuse her kind offer, she’ll definitely get upset. Left with no choice, Myra agreed.

“Okay. Why don’t you have dinner at the Hart Residence with me?” Myra’s eyes crinkled as she warmly invited Heather.

“If the Hart Family doesn’t mind, I’m happy to join you,” Heather replied.

“Don’t worry, I’ll talk to them,” Myra said happily. Then, she hurriedly pulled out her phone and told Tony the good news.

Tony was finishing up his work when he received Myra’s message. He opened it and read through it with a slight frown. Tony had learned about Heather’s background today. After staring at the message for a while, he massaged his temples in frustration. It’s not good to ignore Myra’s message. Since Heather is being friendly, we can’t be petty.

As soon as Tony finished replying to Myra's message, he made a call to Sebastian and briefly told him about the matter. However, Sebastian wasn't willing to let a Langston Family member enter his house.

"Tony, I will not eat at the same table with someone from the Langston Family."

Hearing that, Tony told Sebastian the whole story. There was a long silence from the other end of the phone as Sebastian fell into deep thought, but Tony waited patiently.

"Let her come! Our family will treat her well. We can't let the Langston Family look down on us. After all, we are not petty people."

The corners of Tony's lips curled into a triumphant grin. "You're right. We must show the Langston Family how generous we are and prepare the most sumptuous dinner for her."

Tony knew how to deal with people who would only listen to reason. However, he felt a little speechless when he thought about the grudge between the Hart Family and the Langston Family.

Sebastian and Robert were close friends when they were young. At that time, the Hart Family had not yet flourished, and the Langston Family was filled with scholars with hefty savings.

Later, Sebastian started a business and worked hard, and Hart Group developed smoothly. However, Robert was a proud man who couldn't bear to see Hart Group do better than Langston Group.

Then, Sebastian and Robert fell for the same woman, and that woman was Tony's grandmother. After his beloved woman was snatched away, Robert decided to become enemies with Sebastian.

Robert was an arrogant man while Sebastian only listened to reason, so the grudge between them went on for decades. Over the past few years, the Langston Group gradually moved their business from Bradford City to Europe and stopped competing with the Hart Group to become the tycoon of Bradford City.

The Langston Family probably thinks that they were forced to move their business to Europe because of the Hart Family. Their business is doing well in

Europe, but I heard that they don't have a good successor. Rumor has it that the members of the Langston Family are all good-looking and bookish, and even the men were well-groomed. However, even though they have good looks, the family full of scholars has become well-known for being vulgar.

In Bradford City, the Langston Family was famous for being pompous. They all looked like supermodels and wore extravagant clothes. It was said that Robert's aesthetic completely changed after his heart was broken, causing the whole family to have a change in style.

The Langston Family that used to have a pure and elegant image became grandiose. Losing his lover was such a great blow to Robert that it affected the whole family. Moreover, there were a lot of men in the Langston Family, so it was hard to count the number of victims who had fallen for their charm.

Closing the file in his hand, Tony stretched his neck in frustration. I hope everything goes well tonight. He thought about Heather and had a feeling that Sebastian might like her. After all, Heather was completely different from the Langstons they heard from rumors.

Robert was probably elegant and kind like Heather when he was young!

Tony wondered if he should take the opportunity to repair the relationship between the Hart Family and the Langston Family. After all, the Langston Family had influence in Europe which would be helpful to Hart Group's international market development.

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The car was driven smoothly on the road and soon came to a stop at the entrance of Hart Residence. As Heather was always thoughtful, she had brought along some gifts out of courtesy. She lifted her head to marvel at the residence. It was an unpretentious and humble mansion. Indeed, the Hart Family didn't need a glamorous appearance to attract the others.

From the moment Heather got out of the car, she had been wearing a standard, courteous smile as if she was here to attend an important banquet.

"Relax. You're making me nervous too with that serious look," Myra murmured next to Heather's ear.

“I don’t dare to ease up because I don’t want to embarrass you,” Heather said decorously while still wearing a smile on her face.

Just then, Tony came out to welcome them and took Myra’s hand from Heather. Then, they intertwined their fingers, so Heather inevitably had to witness their public display of affection.

“Welcome to Hart Manor,” Tony said amiably. He sincerely wanted to establish a good relationship with Heather.

“Nice to meet you again, Director Hart.” Heather was extremely polite.

On the other hand, Myra didn’t wish to see them being this formal with each other because one of them was her partner while the other was her close friend.

“Come on in!” Myra pulled her hands out from Tony’s clutch and held Heather’s arm again. Heather came alone to the Hart Residence as a guest, so of course Myra wanted to support her.

Tony glanced at his hand which was shoved away by Myra and then retracted it forlornly. I guess I won’t understand women’s friendship.

“Your residence is very beautiful,” Heather praised as she gazed at the exterior of the mansion. She thought it was much more aesthetic than the extravagant ancient bungalow of the Langstons’.

“Thank you. It’s an old residence,” Tony said humbly.

With that, the two of them started being polite to each other again, and it went on and on. Meanwhile, the old Hart couple were awaiting the guest’s arrival in the living room.

Sebastian’s eyes lit up the moment he saw Heather. With a pair of alluring eyes, Heather had an aura which resembled that of Robert Langston when he was young, and she looked beautiful and delicate in her plain dress.

“Nice to meet you, Old Mr. and Mrs. Hart,” Heather said sweetly. It was a courtesy and act of respect to address the elders.

“You must be Heather. Come over here. What a beautiful girl.” Lisa quickly called Heather to her side.

Heather sat gracefully beside Lisa while Myra sat next to Heather. It seemed like Lisa was pretty fond of Heather.

Sebastian too kept observing Heather with mixed emotions reflected in his eyes. Heather wore a sweet smile all the time and did not show enmity toward the Hart Family at all. It seems like she has really not taken to heart the grudge between the Harts and the Langstons.

“I heard from Tony that you and Myra have been friends for over a decade. How sweet of you both!” Behaving overly affectionate, Lisa couldn’t help holding Heather’s hand, but she soon realized her action was inappropriate so she quickly let go of Heather while looking awkward. Looking at Heather, Lisa was reminded of the days when she was young and pretty, during which there were often two gentlemen following her around.

Those were the good old days which Lisa reminisced even though she could only recall fragments of scattered memories now that she had aged.

Nonetheless, Heather didn’t show the slightest bit of discomfort, and her sincerity had won favor from the old couple as she said politely, “Thanks for the scrumptious dinner. I’m very honored. I’ve prepared some gifts for you, let me go get them from the car.” Heather changed the topic and was going to present the gifts that she had prepared. She had indeed prepared some gifts before coming to the Harts, but for some reason, she didn’t bring them in when she got out of the car just now.

Myra looked at Heather in puzzlement as she didn’t understand Heather’s intention. Tony too was perplexed as he thought Heather was a strange woman.

“You’re too kind, but you don’t have to do that. It’s just a casual dinner.” Lisa gazed at Heather in a loving manner as she was extremely fond of her.

On the other hand, Sebastian was rather disturbed by the scene because he was worried that his wife was still thinking of the Langston Family. Due to my insistence, I’ve not made up with Old Man Langston all these years. Lisa must be hoping for the two families to be on good terms again.

“It’s my first time visiting, so please don’t reject my gifts,” Heather said with a smile while casting a glance at Sebastian.

In a very short time, Heather could already tell that Lisa held no grudge against the Langstons, but Sebastian was still stubborn. Like her grandfather, none of them were willing to take the first step to patch things up.

“Alright then, but let’s eat first before you go to get the gifts,” Lisa said. She adored Heather even more as she thought she was sensible.

“It’s my fault. I was so excited chatting with Myra just now that I forgot to bring the gifts in. I only remembered after stepping into the house,” Heather explained. Sebastian was sharp-eyed, so he could naturally tell that Heather was not as simple as she appeared to be.

“There, there. Let’s stop talking about the gifts and tuck in. I hope you like the food.” Lisa warmly received Heather.

Tony had not expected this scene. Although it turned out to be much better than he had imagined, he still had an uncanny feeling. It doesn’t seem like a good thing that Grandpa is remaining silent under the current atmosphere.

“I’m not a picky eater, Old Madam Hart,” Heather responded courteously as she generously met Sebastian’s eyes.

Myra was actually worried for Heather because there was a tinge of hostility in Sebastian’s eyes. Besides, it was unlike him to be this quiet.

Soon, they started digging in. Lisa affectionately helped Heather to the dishes, and Heather’s plate was filled with food in no time. Finally, Tony couldn’t stand the awkward scene anymore and said to Lisa, “Grandma, please let Heather help herself to the food. She might not like what you served her.”

It wasn’t Tony’s wish to call his grandmother out, but seeing Sebastian’s darkened face and how Heather was overwhelmed by Lisa’s unduly hospitality, he was worried about what would happen next, so he had no choice but to remind Lisa to act suitably.

Lisa’s hand which was serving Heather food stopped midair. The atmosphere became rather awkward, so Heather quickly spoke up to ease the tension. “Not at all. I love all the food Old Madam Hart served. Thank you.” Heather smiled brightly. No one would associate her with a schemeful woman given her Mary Sue appearance.

Sebastian's face turned even sulkier when he heard Heather, and he tightened his grip on his cutlery. He looked at the food on Heather's plate, which was exactly Robert's favorite food.

Lisa actually remembers Robert's preference even after so many years. Sebastian was displeased. Meanwhile, Myra and Tony were clueless as to why Sebastian was pissed off; only Heather would know the reason because of course she would know these were Robert's favorite food. When she was still young, her grandfather had told her about a woman whom he loved in his youth.

Truth was, Robert and Lisa were a pair of beautiful couple too and everyone thought they were a perfect match. However, Lisa only perceived Robert as a family all along and had chosen Sebastian who showed up later.

One should not settle for less when it came to love. Heather couldn't help but feel sorry for her grandfather when she heard his love story back then. It was only after she grew up did she understand that a woman would always choose someone whom she truly loved.

Even though Robert had done a lot for Lisa, the latter still chose to follow her heart because it didn't feel right to stay by Robert since there was no love between them. She would only find happiness being together with someone she loved. Alas, Robert was too prideful; otherwise, he wouldn't have lost both his lover and best friend. Three of them were once close, but now they were enemies.

Heather had never imagined that one day, she would personally step in to resolve the grudge between the Harts and the Langstons. Nevertheless, she would not involve herself in something that did not bring her advantages. Currently, not only was the Hart Family powerful in Bradford City, but their influence had even expanded overseas.

Heather came back to her home country this time with the plan to establish her own business empire. She was not interested in inheriting her family's business at all because she thought it was more meaningful to strive for what she desired.

Since she planned to start her business in Bradford City, it was wise to not set herself against the Hart Family because she would need to collaborate with them in many aspects. She wouldn't want to lay up trouble for her company which had yet to be established due to the grudge between the two families.

Naturally, it was ambitious to want to completely resolve the grudge between the two families. Both Sebastian and Robert were very stubborn and were still standing against each other despite their old age. Hence, it would be impossible for them to bury the hatchet in a short time.

In fact, what worried Heather most was her relationship with the Harts. It so happened that the fiancé of her best friend, Myra, was Tony Hart, and this had provided her a perfect opportunity.

On one hand, she had to indicate her stance that she would not meddle with the grudge between the two families. On the other hand, she was searching for opportunities to collaborate with the Harts. That was Heather's ultimate plan even though she was aware that it was impossible to become close to the Harts through one dinner.

Heather already had a rough idea. Firstly, she had to show her friendliness during the dinner and make a good first impression on the Harts. Then, she would take the opportunity to observe during the dinner who was the one holding enmity toward the Langstons.

Anyway, she had successfully accomplished her task today and did not have to worry about Lisa as she was pretty sure that she had left an extremely favorable impression on her. Other than that, she wasn't bothered by Tony all the more because he would certainly establish a good relationship with her in order to please Myra.

The person whom she was most concerned about was Sebastian. Although Sebastian didn't straightforwardly reveal his hostility toward her, the aura given off by him was unpleasant. If Heather wished to win Sebastian's favor, she could only adopt an indirect way to achieve it. As a matter of fact, she had heard of the matters of Stark Group before she came back to the country.

Now that the appearance of Matthias had added on to the uncertainties of Stark Group and caused Myra's plan to be delayed, Heather would definitely not sit back and remain indifferent because besides being Myra's best friend, she also wanted to curry favor with the Harts.

Moreover, she had just come across Matthias during the day, and she was actually impressed by how successful he had become. However, no matter how great the support Matthias had, Heather was determined to defeat him. She had resolved to meddle with the affairs of Stark Group. In fact, this was

her priority at the moment and she deemed it even more important than establishing her own business.

Once this matter was achieved, she would be killing two birds with one stone because both Stark Group and Hart Group would then become her close business partners in the future.