

Standing before Love Chapter 462

When the date of Myra's wedding drew closer, Matthias seemed to have fallen into a trance.

Heather had completely given up on him, for she always looked down on men like him. Seriously though, what is his point of showing his despondency like a drama queen?

Finally, it was Evan who called her and begged her to pay a visit to Matthias's place.

"I'm super busy. I don't have the time to do so," she rejected emotionally. Even after listening to Evan describing Matthias's desperate situation, she had nothing but disdain for him.

At that point, Matthias was basically living in his wine cellar and gave up on running Locke Group. His behavior attracted complaints from the board of directors. Even Heather was shocked to find Matthias throwing a huge fit over Myra's wedding. In her eyes, his action was utterly despicable.

"Please tell him: He does not deserve love if he only acts out like a child. He needs to learn how to love someone right before he gets all dramatic over someone again," she hissed into the phone right before she hung up.

Feeling defeated, Evan could only convey Heather's 'advice' to Matthias, whose eyes were red from crying. When he heard Heather's cruel but honest reply, he started laughing like a maniac. "Who does she think she is? How dare she mock me? Does she know what true love is? Does she?!"

He screamed and wailed as if he just heard the biggest joke in the world.

Evan lowered his head in front of Matthias's outrage. He secretly agreed with Heather's words, but seeing that Matthias was emotionally unstable, he would rather not provoke him at the moment.

"There's no need to be angry," he advised Matthias kindly. Lately, Matthias had been emotionally unstable, and his behavior had put his butler through an ordeal.

"Get out!" Pointing at the door, Matthias yelled at Evan. He always acted mindlessly in front of Evan, releasing his emotions as he wished.

Perhaps, he was confident to act out because he was certain that Evan would always stay by him. To him, Evan was like a reliable older brother who silently endured and forgave his outrageous actions. He had never considered the possibility of Evan betraying him. Had that happened, he would have lost all his trust in his family and friends.

After being yelled at, Evan quietly exited the room as instructed and closed the door softly behind him. In the next second, he heard the sound of broken wine glass in the room. It appeared that Matthias had once again lost control of his temper.

Evan secretly worried that he might have to send Matthias to the psychiatric ward one day. This time, he has crossed the line.

The lunch break of Locke Group was long, and Heather was one of the people at the company who could not wait to get off work. Early in the morning, Tony had personally delivered the bridesmaid outfit to her. Through his courteous move, he expressed his respect for Heather, and she was very satisfied with him.

She got home with the bridesmaid dress and hurriedly changed into it. She could not wait to see if the dress would fit her.

Staring at her reflection in the mirror, she quietly admired her beauty. A wide smile appeared on her face as she tried on the dress. It was a specially tailored dress Tony had ordered. Considering that Myra only had one bridesmaid at the wedding, Heather started feeling the weight of her role.

After all, she would be a supporting character in Myra's grand wedding. She needed to dress elegantly, at the same time not stealing Myra's spotlight. She agreed that the choice of the bridesmaid dress was solid as she admired her reflection with great satisfaction.

The simple and modern design of the dress matched her preference. The minimalist design added a touch to the airiness of the dress.

She started imagining her makeup on Myra's big day, and she planned to put on light makeup. Her face was too ravishing to start with, and she anticipated difficulty in toning down her allure with the light makeup.

Some women screamed sexiness in their eyes, their smiles, and their actions no matter what they were wearing, and Heather was one of them.

She thought that the bridesmaid should dress in a simple fashion. The last thing she wanted to do was to show up at her best friend's wedding like a hottie. Myra's clean and innocent face flashed across her mind, and she vowed to dress up in a way that would not overshadow her friend.

No matter what, my fashion has to be in harmony with Myra's style. Otherwise, we would look awkward when we stand together, and that would cause dissonance at the wedding.

Upon giving it a second thought, she went over to stand at the bathroom countertop and cleaned away the makeup on her face.

Drops of water splashed across her face. She looked at herself in the mirror after taking off her work makeup, and she looked five years younger than her actual age. Indeed, she looked like she was in her early twenties.

Every time she went out, she would always put on full makeup. Without it, she would not step out of her bedroom.

It had been some time since she took a careful look at her bare face. Her lips curled up into a smile when she noticed her flawless skin. Oddly, her clear face only made her look like the innocent fake b*tch that one always encountered in life.

Anyway, she believed that putting on makeup at work was a show of respect for her colleagues. With that, she struck down the momentary idea of showing up to work barefaced. Plus, she looked less threatening when she was barefaced, which might work at her disadvantage.

She wondered how long she needed to stay at work for the rest of the day after the lunch break. Now barefaced, she looked less imposing than before. She slapped some water on her face as she debated whether or not she should be barefaced as a bridesmaid.

Despite that, her movements still screamed sexiness. The sensuality was something she was born with and hard to be erased by switching her makeup style.

She was surprised to find herself worrying about her makeup. Most women around her attempted to transform themselves into a more alluring version through the power of makeup, but she went the opposite instead—she wanted to reduce her sexual appeal by switching to lighter makeup.

Meanwhile, Myra was trying on the bridal gowns that were delivered by air. A couple of the gowns were exorbitant. Sitting on the sofa, Tony was looking at her with a smile from the living room, waiting for her to try on the gowns.

Because of this gown fitting session, he skipped work in the afternoon and brought Myra along with him. Her eyes lit up in surprise and joy when she saw the gowns on the clothing rack because their designs looked more sophisticated than the ones available domestically.

He could see the excitement in her eyes and urged her, "Quick, change into the gown and show it to me." He was more impatient than her, craning his neck in anticipation of seeing her in the bridal gown. He acted as though the wedding was scheduled for tomorrow. He had an unusually bright smile on his face, and it lingered there for a long time as if this was the best thing that had happened to him.

Myra picked the gown that she liked the most. Since she disliked complex designs, she went for a minimalist gown. She changed into the gown cautiously in the bedroom and realized that it was not easy to slip into a gown. During her attempt, Tony followed her into the room to check on her.

Since it would be hard for her to put on the gown on her own, he went up to offer help, to which she shot him a stern but playful look. "Well, look which grown man is here to give me trouble?" She did not believe that he could be of any help, given that men usually were unfamiliar with the way dresses work.

To her surprise, he was really there to help out. With a calm look, he beamed at her and said, "I'm not here to create trouble. I'm helping you to put on the gown."

Since he was deft and smart, he quickly learned the design and tailoring of the gown. With her instructions, he immediately proved himself useful, and she successfully put on the gown with his assistance. Once she was done, she glided over to the full body mirror to take a better look at herself.

Wild with joy, Tony seemed very satisfied with her choice of gown. She was looking at herself in the mirror and secretly admitted that she looked good. She always had an immaculate taste when it came to fashion. She started twisting her hair around, imagining the hairstyle that would match well with the gown.

After admiring herself and toying around, she was almost reluctant to take the gown off. Still, she felt exhausted from walking in the gown, but there were still a couple of gowns waiting for her to try on. Before this, Tony told her to pick one gown only so as to not be wasteful, and she looked at him expectantly.

He was confused by her stare and asked her curiously, “Do you want to try the other gowns?”

She shook her head in response but quickly nodded again. The gowns were lovely and expensive. Of course she would want to try them on! If not, she would waste the rare opportunity.

She decided to try on all the gowns. Staring at her figure in the mirror, she was filled with joyfulness, and she smiled in happiness at the thought of marrying her beloved man.

Once she overcame her psychological complex, she felt more light-hearted. Except for pure joy, she rarely had any negative feelings from recalling her challenging past anymore.

Through the journey, it was Tony who led her toward the light at the end of the tunnel. She turned her gaze to him and smiled even brighter, to which he responded with a dotting smile.

Their interactions were always the envy of others. No matter how many unfortunate events she endured in the past, it was Tony who had put an end to her misery. After she met him, happiness entered her life, and every day felt like living in a sweet dream.

After some comparison, Myra decided that the gown she first laid her eyes on was the best. She turned and said to him, “The first gown is better.”

He nodded in agreement. “That’s true.” Once they reached an agreement, they decided to get the best gown for their wedding.

Myra’s eyes drifted over to the other gowns, and she hinted at him. He gave her a confident smile. “We need three gowns: one for walking down the red carpet, one for leaving the house, and one for the wedding dinner. As for the rest, we will use them in our wedding photoshoots.” He spelled out his plans for her, and all the gowns seemed to have their place.

His explanation made her feel that six gowns were not enough for the wedding. Looking at him defeatedly, she secretly thought that he was indeed good at the art of persuasion. Since all the gowns had their purpose on the big day, she did not object to his idea.

A while later, she realized that something was wrong, and she said to him with a serious expression, "These are all bridal gowns." No one would wear bridal gowns at every moment of the wedding day. It would be very inconvenient for the bride to greet and toast the guests at the dinner in a full gown.

He lifted his brow and gave her a comforting smile. "Looks like I'm not thoughtful enough. It's indeed impractical to wear a gown at dinner. I will place an order for a tailored evening dress."

Hearing that, she rubbed her forehead. He's going to spend money again! How much does he plan to waste on the wedding? This is such an extravagant event!

"Tony, don't you think that is too wasteful?" She could not stop him from spending lavishly. In the past few days, he was in high spirits, and nothing she said could stop him.

"A wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime event. I hope that we look back with no regrets." He winked at her and gave the same answer as before, one that she could not object to.

She could already imagine the headlines the day after their wedding. All the media would be reporting on the 'century wedding with a huge price tag'. She rubbed her temples as he looked on with excitement, and she decided to say nothing about it.

"Don't worry about a thing and marry me. Do not overthink!" Tony comforted her to ease the burden on her mind. This time, he did not want to listen to her objections and insisted on holding the wedding of the century.

She flashed a powerless smile at him. "It's fine as long as you're happy." They had differing opinions when it came to the spending on the wedding, but she still looked forward to it.

"You're my Mrs. Hart." He smiled tenderly at her, feeling that the efforts he put in over the past few days were worth it. Every time he looked at her, his stress from planning the wedding would melt away.

“Mr. Hart, you’re smiling from ear to ear,” she joked at him shyly. Despite their slight disagreements, they were still a happy couple.

Standing before Love Chapter 463

On one hand, Myra and Tony were happily making their wedding preparations. On the other hand, things were getting worse. In comparison, Matthias appeared to be in a bleak situation.

Heather thought that he deserved the outcome. Hence, she could never sympathize with him. Her failed relationship in the past did not cripple her, and she had never acted out like Matthias.

In fact, she held a disdain for people like him who would cry and wail over relationship issues. She felt a heightened annoyance at Matthias, but she did not know if the feeling rose because she was angry at the fact that he was deeply in love with Myra.

She was disturbed by his obsession with Myra, but she would never openly admit to it. Moreover, she had no right to confront him about his love for Myra.

Under Evan’s encouragement, Matthias mustered up his courage to do something. He could not keep languishing when Myra’s wedding was nearing. At the very least, he wanted to attend her wedding with grace. Before that, he needed to formally apologize to Heather.

When he showed up in front of Heather again, shock flashed across her face, but she soon composed herself and ignored him. Just when she planned to walk past him, he called out to her.

At that moment, she understood that they did not run into each other; he had planned to show up. Frowning, she tried her best to maintain a neutral expression as she turned around to look at him.

“Can I interrupt your lunch break?” His tone still sounded a little harsh and authoritative, causing her to frown even deeper. Why does this sound all too familiar?

“No.” She immediately turned around to leave. I’d have to be a fool to keep trusting him!

Every time she took out some time to engage with him, it always ended badly. Why would she repeat the same mistakes?

Looking at Heather's determined movement, he swiftly ran after her. She might have turned him down, but he did not plan to give up just yet. It didn't bother him because, knowing her, she never agreed readily to any of his requests. She stared coolly at him, who was now walking beside her. What have I done to deserve this? Why is he clinging to me again?

"I am offering a sincere apology to you this time," he addressed her while walking closely beside her.

This was not the time she heard that remark from him, and she stayed silent. Oblivious to her irritation, he followed her closely and ruined her mood. Did he not realize that he's a pain in the neck?

"I accept your apology. You may leave now." Reluctant to confront him, she decided to play along in the hope that he'd leave.

"Why don't we have a meal together? Think of it as my apology." He tried his luck with her again. Now that she had budged a little, he was unwilling to leave just yet. He wanted more time with her.

She cast a tired look at him. So far, she had not felt his sincerity, and she wondered if he was truly here to apologize or only to force her into having a meal with him.

"It's fine," she turned him down without hesitation.

Unfortunately, he was steadfast and firm. He followed her around, and she could not think of a way to shake him off.

In the silence, she realized that she had no way to deal with him. At first, she wanted to go for lunch, but his presence ruined her appetite. Once she went past her limits, she exploded as she glared at him. "Could you please stop following me around?"

She hated his annoying behavior that was forcing her into a corner. To her dismay, he looked totally unaware of his loathsome actions.

After a few attempts to shake him off, she gave up on the idea of getting her car from the underground car park and driving away. No matter what, she

could not get him to leave her alone. Her words did not seem to affect him because he looked chill and stubborn. Not only that, he did not reply to her at all, which angered her.

“Say something, please! Are you a mute?” she demanded an answer in a mean way. His behavior was despicable; she had never come across a man like him who did not have basic manners.

“I am honestly here to offer you a sincere apology,” he said again with an earnest look. Most of the time, he was only attuned to his own feelings and blind to Heather’s emotions.

That was why her impression of him gradually went downhill. Truthfully, he did not have any malicious intentions, and his irritating behavior could only be explained by his poor understanding of women. He never knew how to interact properly with the opposite sex.

“I accepted your apology, so please don’t follow me around. Okay?” She started pleading with him to leave, but he doggedly followed her. At that point, she lost all appetite for lunch.

He looked at her, totally oblivious to his annoying behavior. Suddenly, he came to a stop and glanced at her hesitantly, which puzzled her even more.

“Sure. Sorry for the interruption.” After that, he turned around and left instantly without another word.

When he was gone, she let out a long sigh. I can’t stand looking at him now! He’s causing a lot of distress for everyone around him!

In his car, he stared at his face in the rearview mirror indignantly. I offered her a sincere apology, didn’t I? How did I offend her again?

He felt deflated because he never got what he wanted from women. Instead, he met a series of rejections that caused him to question his relationship with the opposite sex.

It appears that women don’t like me much. In his memory, he could not think of the times he personally interacted with women in his life.

Slapping the steering wheel in frustration, he drove away from the area. It was another unlucky day. He reached out to resolve the grudge between him and

Heather, but she still looked like she detested him. He was at a loss, clueless at cheering up women.

Back at the mansion, he immediately discussed today's event with Evan, hoping that the latter could offer constructive criticism.

After hearing about the incident, Evan shot him a disgusted look, a look that made him uneasy.

"Matthias Locke, are you really dumb, or are you acting like a fool?" Evan seemed disappointed and frustrated. Matthias's behavior is infuriating!

Not knowing the source of Evan's anger, Matthias had a confused look on his face. He did not think that he had done anything wrong, and he believed that he was the innocent victim in this situation.

"Evan, what do you mean?" Already unhappy at Heather's treatment of him, he felt even angrier after being reprimanded by Evan.

"Have you heard about this word? A chauvinist," Evan replied calmly and ignored his angry expression.

Matthias now looked even more perplexed. He had no idea about the 'chauvinist' that Evan brought up, but it did not sound like a positive word. Turning red in anger, he stared threateningly at Evan as though he could kill with his eyes.

Behind Evan's bright smile was his disdain for Matthias. Matthias saw through that and became even more incensed at Evan's mockery. He and Heather are ganging up against me!

"Whatever! Do as you like! You never consider the feelings of others. Sure, you can apologize to her, but forcing her to have a meal with you is not nice," Evan tried to explain to Matthias that one should never be forceful and self-centered when dealing with women.

I guess Heather has been quite patient with Matthias. If he had done that to a different girl, she might have poured a bucket of ice water over him.

"Since she has accepted my apology, why can't she have lunch with me?" Matthias insisted that he was not wrong. After all, as a businessman, he was

used to discussing business matters over meals, and he thought it was natural to eat with Heather as they resolved their misunderstanding.

“Do you really think she has accepted your apology?” Evan was dumbfounded by Matthias’s adorable naivety.

“Did she not?” Matthias stared back at Evan in confusion. He heard from somewhere that women rarely spoke their minds. So, has she not accepted my apology? Was that why she refused to have lunch with me?

“Perhaps she did, perhaps she did not. Regardless, you cannot force her to have lunch with you. That is a new low.” Evan shook his head and sighed secretly. With Matthias’s EQ, it is impossible for him to get into a relationship!

“Stop dwelling on that topic. Now, you need to tell me how to resolve this problem.” He was done with Evan’s lectures. This was not a trial, and he was more interested in the solution.

“Firstly, you have to be more sensible.” Evan shrugged as he finally understood why Matthias was single all along. Even if he meets a nice girl, she would likely get frustrated and leave him soon!

Matthias looked at Evan quizzically. He always thought that he was sensible, but when Evan accused him of being insensible. Hence, he felt personally attacked.

“Do you have some constructive feedback?” he impatiently questioned Evan. He’s only giving me vague answers. God knows what he is trying to explain!

“Look at that temper of yours. With that hot temper, it is almost impossible for you to gain favor. Even if others want to gain your favor, you would think of them as annoying.” Evan clucked and shook his head, provoking Matthias over and over. This time, it was a miracle that Matthias had not exploded in anger.

“I am asking for your advice humbly, not sending myself on trial to get humiliated.” Matthias was obviously upset as he warned Evan to know the boundaries.

“You have too many flaws. I can’t hold back from criticizing you.” Evan’s words did not sound earnest at all.

“Just tell me! What should I do next?” Matthias did not want to waste time, and he directed the topic of conversation to something more practical.

Evan chuckled and said, “Well, you will have to ask yourself.” Then, he shrugged as if this had nothing to do with him.

After the back-and-forth, Evan did not offer any good solution, and Matthias regretted sharing his relationship problems. What did I get in the end? I was mocked and ridiculed!

“Evan, I’ll give you ten minutes to come up with a satisfying reply. If not, I will cut your paycheck by half.” Matthias’s threat sounded real. Hearing that, Evan immediately gave in. He shot a resentful look at Matthias. I guess that I should have controlled my temper better when I’m dealing with a chauvinist like him.

Afraid that his paycheck would be affected, he started to think of a viable solution. Right now, Heather must have had no good impression of Matthias. It was almost impossible to turn the situation around in the short term. With Matthias’s level of EQ, he could not possibly do anything touching to change her mind.

Ten minutes passed in the blink of an eye. Matthias stared squarely at Evan. If he can’t come up with a satisfying answer, I will not let him off the hook!

“Well, this is a complicated problem. You did not pay much attention to your behavior in the beginning, but you wanted to change her impression of you. I bet that she would not change her mind,” Evan rambled on with some nonsense to buy time for himself.

Sitting across from Evan, Matthias was seen with a terrible expression. I’m not here to listen to your nonsense! He gave Evan a sharp glare, causing Evan to immediately give up on his nonsense and put on a serious expression to avoid making him mad.

Despite Matthias’s various shortcomings, Evan remained loyal to him. Even he was touched by his loyalty. Still, friendship was not as strong as the power of love. To ‘treat’ Matthias’s temper, he wanted to slowly lead Matthias into forming a romantic relationship, and for that, he thought Heather would be a safe bet.

Matthias encountered numerous women in his life, and Evan had met with most of them. To him, only Heather and her no-nonsense personality could counter Matthias's odd character.

After staring at each other for a few seconds, Evan looked away while Matthias stared at him from above. Matthias! How am I supposed to know when I know my way around girls?

"Jobbery," Evan said.

It seemed like Matthias found Evan's suggestion interesting as he gave Evan a knowing look while Evan only continued talking after a while. "Since Heather is completely focused on her work, it would be better for you to approach her under the name of work."

Heather probably wouldn't be happy with Matthias if he kept approaching her anytime he could, especially when she was working. After all, most people wouldn't be happy to be disturbed by private matters during work. Moreover, Matthias would just be ruining his chances, considering how career-oriented Heather was.

"Seeing how the partnership discussion with Langston Group hasn't reached an agreement, I don't have the time to do anything else," Matthias felt his head hurting as he said. He really wanted to work together with Langston Group for once, but Old Master Langston refused to allow the collaboration. After all, since Matthias' target was Hart Group, Locke Group would only benefit from partnering with Langston Group.

"Instead of discussing the partnership, why don't you try gaining their attention on smaller matters?" Evan nudged Matthias with his elbow. Since when did Matthias become so inflexible?

"There's no use for any discussion if Old Master Langston does not approve of it." Matthias rolled his eyes at Evan. It was undeniable that Evan wasn't made for the business field.

"Can't you find work-related matters?" Evan asked tentatively.

After pondering for a moment, Matthias replied, "Nope. I can't think of any!" If there really was any matter related to them, he would have taken advantage of it so he could be free from the complicated situation.

“Then, it’s better if you stop bothering Heather now.” Evan figured that it was for the best if Matthias didn’t appear in front of Heather now.

However, Matthias frowned. Still, he had to admit that Evan made sense.

“Since everything you do will be deemed wrong, it’s better if you don’t see her as much so you won’t always be in the wrong.” Evan felt that Heather and Matthias should take some time off to calm down because the two of them would only argue if they were pitted against each other.

“You’re right.” Matthias agreed with Evan’s idea. After discussing with Evan for a while, he could only decide not to make any approaches. Although he had his doubts, he could tell that this was the better option at this point. Matthias planned to find an opportunity after the marriage to gain Heather’s liking again because he undoubtedly didn’t want her to hate him. This emotion was way more intense than him not wanting Myra to hate him. His subconscious was telling him that he didn’t want Heather to hate him again.

“I noticed that you’ve been mentioning Heather a lot recently, way more than Myra.” Evan patted Matthias’ shoulder.

Right then, Matthias looked like a fool who was struck by love. However, he still hadn’t figured out his feelings because he kept insisting that he was loyal to Myra even though his attitude showed that he was drifting toward Heather.

This kind of ambiguous state was often the scariest where by the time one opened their eyes, the one they loved might not be there anymore. One might not feel it when the other was still present, but once they were gone, they were likely gone for real.

Nevertheless, Evan couldn’t comment too much about this, so he hoped that Matthias could avoid another sad ending and finally experience true love.

“Thanks again.” Matthias gave Evan’s strong shoulder a solid pat. “Your salary will be raised by 20%.”

When Evan heard that, his eyes brightened. He didn’t yearn for much, but a raise in salary was good news to him.

In fact, Matthias couldn’t recall how Evan was at the very start. Back then, Evan wasn’t this way. He used to have many dreams that he wanted to achieve and many goals that he wanted to realize. However, time would

always soften up people's edges. Right now, Evan was living the life that Matthias yearned for. Wasn't it great to be free?

Still, everyone had their own problems. Even Evan had things that he worried about. Yet, he never showed any of his problems because he wished that he would be the one to bring happiness instead of negative energy.

Before the wedding, Matthias had decided not to meet Heather anymore and threw himself completely into his work. As for the person that Myra was marrying, he also forced himself not to think about it anymore so that he could do his best to give her his blessings. Just like what Heather said, he should wish for the happiness of the person that he loved, even though it was tough to convince himself to do it.

While Matthias was completely absorbed in his work, he managed to calm down a lot. Moreover, he didn't have any time to wind down due to the dispute with Hart Group.

If it weren't for Tony abandoning his work to focus on the preparation of the wedding these few days, it would have been over for Locke Group. Meanwhile, Matthias was busy getting drunk.

Truthfully, Locke Group couldn't compare to Hart Group in many aspects, and they were doomed to lose in this war without any gunfire. Staring at the document-filled office desk, Matthias couldn't help but feel guilty. A man can't keep dwelling on his relationships! There were still many things that Matthias had to deal with because he couldn't just stop developing new markets.

Facing challenges was Matthias' favorite thing to do, and Hart Group was his target. However, this obviously wasn't the only reason why Hart Group was his target. It would take too long if they were to explain the history between Locke Group and Hart Group, but Matthias was shaken, even if Tony was the holder of Hart Group right now.

Catching up to the Hart Group was one of the goals that Matthias swore to archive in his life, and he had completely changed once he was fully engaged in work.

Waking up early in the morning while the sky was still dark, Matthias planned to start a full-on attack on Hart Group while Tony was in the preparation of his wedding. Although it was normal for companies to fight against each other in Bradford City's business field, not many companies dared to challenge Hart

Group, not to mention that Locke Group still hadn't stabilized its footing in Bradford City. Of course, he wasn't aiming for Hart Group's position and just wanted to prove their true strength.

On the other hand, Tony, who was busy preparing for his wedding, received a call from his assistant informing him that Locke Group, who had finally stopped, was trying to look for trouble with Hart Group again.

Upon hearing that, he couldn't help but feel annoyed. Honestly, what's with Locke Group! We've never offended them, but they kept coming at us!

Although Locke Group was influential in the business field, Hart Group still had the final say in Bradford City, and Tony really hated meaningless challenges like this. Although he dealt with them previously, he really didn't want to deal with them because he was too busy with his wedding recently. However, he didn't expect Locke Group to pull something so large and had the guts to intervene in their eastern suburb project. This time, Tony was utterly enraged.

Right then, Myra, who was standing in front of Tony, heard him talking on the phone with a serious tone. "Meet at the company an hour later." Since Locke Group had the guts to provoke Hart Group, Tony had decided not to let them off the hook.

After hanging up, Tony turned toward Myra and said, "Myra, there's an emergency at the company, and I have to go over in a bit. I'll let you handle everything from here." As there wasn't much going on in Stark Group today, Myra tagged along with Tony to prepare for the wedding. Since she was here to overlook things, Tony could go to handle his job without worries.

"Don't be worried. I'll be here to look after everything," Myra assured him with a smile. Tony had been the only one doing everything recently, and she was delighted that she could finally be of use today to help him.

"You don't have to make yourself tired by watching over them, and you can leave if everything's alright," Tony instructed Myra as he cared for her health more than anything else.

"Alright. Just go! I'll know what to do!" Myra urged him. It really seemed like Tony loved her very much from how he spoke to her.

Then, Tony quickly left, as it was an emergency this time and the board was waiting for Tony's decision. After all, they could only follow Tony's decision to carry out an action as serious as this.

When Tony got back to the company, everyone on the board of directors was already there, and it was all because of his assistant's intelligence. All of them were already gathered to wait for him to start the meeting while he adjusted his shirt before entering the meeting room.

Today's meeting was focused on getting a quick fix, so they managed to reach a solution in half an hour, and Tony immediately gave his commands. After the meeting, everyone went to execute Tony's commands. It took them about 40 minutes to discuss and decide on a solution.

A helpless smile appeared on Tony's face as he sat in his office after the meeting and stared at the documents piled high like a mountain in front of him. As the company's helm, he needed to settle many public affairs daily, and he barely had time for anything else. Bosses were mostly people without any resting days. Tony massaged his nose. Since I'm already at the company, I suppose I should hurry to settle everything else as well.

Fortunately, Tony's work efficiency was high as he quickly scanned his way through everything before giving important details a few more glances. If it weren't so, he wouldn't be able to handle a large corporation like this effortlessly.

Although his working speed was fast, he was so absorbed in his work that he forgot to check up on whether Myra was still at the church and supervising the decoration process. As Myra and Tony were both meticulous people, they had to be present to supervise everything. By the time Tony managed to settle all of the urgent documents, he finally recalled Myra and quickly sent her a text.

'Myra, you should go back now. It's already late.' Since he didn't have time to send Myra back home today, he left his driver there so that Myra could leave anytime she wanted.

'It's fine. There's still much time left before the sky darkens. Are you done with your work?' Myra replied to his text with a caring tone because she knew that Tony wouldn't go back to his company in a rush if nothing serious happened.

After Tony saw Myra's reply, a satisfied smile appeared on his face before he texted her back immediately. 'Don't worry. It's nothing huge. I've already

instructed everyone about what to do, and we will see the results tomorrow. Go home earlier if everything's alright at your side. You don't have to wait until the sun sets to go home.' Tony sounded as if he was worried about his child. Nonetheless, since when hadn't he looked after Myra as if she was his little princess?

Time flew quickly as the two continued texting, and by the time he came back to his senses, half an hour had passed. Immediately, he composed himself because he was planning to spend his time settling all of his work today, and he couldn't waste any more time on texting.

After organizing his thoughts, Tony continued to work hard. Although working made his life more productive, Myra was the one who made him feel complete. Thinking about the love of his life, Tony smiled. Even when no one else was there, his lips still curled up instinctively at the thought of Myra.

Because of her, Tony had lost his cold demeanor in the past because he wanted to provide Myra with all of his love and kindness. Now, there was a hint of gentleness on him, making him look more lively. Indeed, the power of love was hard to predict.

Although thinking of Myra would brighten up Tony's mood, his mood dropped right after going through his documents. Locke Group has really been too unscrupulous these recent days. Looks like it's time for me to meet Matthias Locke.

Standing before Love Chapter 464

After staring at each other for a few seconds, Evan looked away while Matthias stared at him from above. Matthias! How am I supposed to know when I know my way around girls?

"Jobbery," Evan said.

It seemed like Matthias found Evan's suggestion interesting as he gave Evan a knowing look while Evan only continued talking after a while. "Since Heather is completely focused on her work, it would be better for you to approach her under the name of work."

Heather probably wouldn't be happy with Matthias if he kept approaching her anytime he could, especially when she was working. After all, most people wouldn't be happy to be disturbed by private matters during work. Moreover,

Matthias would just be ruining his chances, considering how career-oriented Heather was.

“Seeing how the partnership discussion with Langston Group hasn’t reached an agreement, I don’t have the time to do anything else,” Matthias felt his head hurting as he said. He really wanted to work together with Langston Group for once, but Old Master Langston refused to allow the collaboration. After all, since Matthias’ target was Hart Group, Locke Group would only benefit from partnering with Langston Group.

“Instead of discussing the partnership, why don’t you try gaining their attention on smaller matters?” Evan nudged Matthias with his elbow. Since when did Matthias become so inflexible?

“There’s no use for any discussion if Old Master Langston does not approve of it.” Matthias rolled his eyes at Evan. It was undeniable that Evan wasn’t made for the business field.

“Can’t you find work-related matters?” Evan asked tentatively.

After pondering for a moment, Matthias replied, “Nope. I can’t think of any!” If there really was any matter related to them, he would have taken advantage of it so he could be free from the complicated situation.

“Then, it’s better if you stop bothering Heather now.” Evan figured that it was for the best if Matthias didn’t appear in front of Heather now.

However, Matthias frowned. Still, he had to admit that Evan made sense.

“Since everything you do will be deemed wrong, it’s better if you don’t see her as much so you won’t always be in the wrong.” Evan felt that Heather and Matthias should take some time off to calm down because the two of them would only argue if they were pitted against each other.

“You’re right.” Matthias agreed with Evan’s idea. After discussing with Evan for a while, he could only decide not to make any approaches. Although he had his doubts, he could tell that this was the better option at this point. Matthias planned to find an opportunity after the marriage to gain Heather’s liking again because he undoubtedly didn’t want her to hate him. This emotion was way more intense than him not wanting Myra to hate him. His subconscious was telling him that he didn’t want Heather to hate him again.

“I noticed that you’ve been mentioning Heather a lot recently, way more than Myra.” Evan patted Matthias’ shoulder.

Right then, Matthias looked like a fool who was struck by love. However, he still hadn’t figured out his feelings because he kept insisting that he was loyal to Myra even though his attitude showed that he was drifting toward Heather.

This kind of ambiguous state was often the scariest where by the time one opened their eyes, the one they loved might not be there anymore. One might not feel it when the other was still present, but once they were gone, they were likely gone for real.

Nevertheless, Evan couldn’t comment too much about this, so he hoped that Matthias could avoid another sad ending and finally experience true love.

“Thanks again.” Matthias gave Evan’s strong shoulder a solid pat. “Your salary will be raised by 20%.”

When Evan heard that, his eyes brightened. He didn’t yearn for much, but a raise in salary was good news to him.

In fact, Matthias couldn’t recall how Evan was at the very start. Back then, Evan wasn’t this way. He used to have many dreams that he wanted to achieve and many goals that he wanted to realize. However, time would always soften up people’s edges. Right now, Evan was living the life that Matthias yearned for. Wasn’t it great to be free?

Still, everyone had their own problems. Even Evan had things that he worried about. Yet, he never showed any of his problems because he wished that he would be the one to bring happiness instead of negative energy.

Before the wedding, Matthias had decided not to meet Heather anymore and threw himself completely into his work. As for the person that Myra was marrying, he also forced himself not to think about it anymore so that he could do his best to give her his blessings. Just like what Heather said, he should wish for the happiness of the person that he loved, even though it was tough to convince himself to do it.

While Matthias was completely absorbed in his work, he managed to calm down a lot. Moreover, he didn’t have any time to wind down due to the dispute with Hart Group.

If it weren't for Tony abandoning his work to focus on the preparation of the wedding these few days, it would have been over for Locke Group. Meanwhile, Matthias was busy getting drunk.

Truthfully, Locke Group couldn't compare to Hart Group in many aspects, and they were doomed to lose in this war without any gunfire. Staring at the document-filled office desk, Matthias couldn't help but feel guilty. A man can't keep dwelling on his relationships! There were still many things that Matthias had to deal with because he couldn't just stop developing new markets.

Facing challenges was Matthias' favorite thing to do, and Hart Group was his target. However, this obviously wasn't the only reason why Hart Group was his target. It would take too long if they were to explain the history between Locke Group and Hart Group, but Matthias was shaken, even if Tony was the holder of Hart Group right now.

Catching up to the Hart Group was one of the goals that Matthias swore to archive in his life, and he had completely changed once he was fully engaged in work.

Waking up early in the morning while the sky was still dark, Matthias planned to start a full-on attack on Hart Group while Tony was in the preparation of his wedding. Although it was normal for companies to fight against each other in Bradford City's business field, not many companies dared to challenge Hart Group, not to mention that Locke Group still hadn't stabilized its footing in Bradford City. Of course, he wasn't aiming for Hart Group's position and just wanted to prove their true strength.

On the other hand, Tony, who was busy preparing for his wedding, received a call from his assistant informing him that Locke Group, who had finally stopped, was trying to look for trouble with Hart Group again.

Upon hearing that, he couldn't help but feel annoyed. Honestly, what's with Locke Group! We've never offended them, but they kept coming at us!

Although Locke Group was influential in the business field, Hart Group still had the final say in Bradford City, and Tony really hated meaningless challenges like this. Although he dealt with them previously, he really didn't want to deal with them because he was too busy with his wedding recently. However, he didn't expect Locke Group to pull something so large and had the guts to intervene in their eastern suburb project. This time, Tony was utterly enraged.

Right then, Myra, who was standing in front of Tony, heard him talking on the phone with a serious tone. "Meet at the company an hour later." Since Locke Group had the guts to provoke Hart Group, Tony had decided not to let them off the hook.

After hanging up, Tony turned toward Myra and said, "Myra, there's an emergency at the company, and I have to go over in a bit. I'll let you handle everything from here." As there wasn't much going on in Stark Group today, Myra tagged along with Tony to prepare for the wedding. Since she was here to overlook things, Tony could go to handle his job without worries.

"Don't be worried. I'll be here to look after everything," Myra assured him with a smile. Tony had been the only one doing everything recently, and she was delighted that she could finally be of use today to help him.

"You don't have to make yourself tired by watching over them, and you can leave if everything's alright," Tony instructed Myra as he cared for her health more than anything else.

"Alright. Just go! I'll know what to do!" Myra urged him. It really seemed like Tony loved her very much from how he spoke to her.

Then, Tony quickly left, as it was an emergency this time and the board was waiting for Tony's decision. After all, they could only follow Tony's decision to carry out an action as serious as this.

When Tony got back to the company, everyone on the board of directors was already there, and it was all because of his assistant's intelligence. All of them were already gathered to wait for him to start the meeting while he adjusted his shirt before entering the meeting room.

Today's meeting was focused on getting a quick fix, so they managed to reach a solution in half an hour, and Tony immediately gave his commands. After the meeting, everyone went to execute Tony's commands. It took them about 40 minutes to discuss and decide on a solution.

A helpless smile appeared on Tony's face as he sat in his office after the meeting and stared at the documents piled high like a mountain in front of him. As the company's helm, he needed to settle many public affairs daily, and he barely had time for anything else. Bosses were mostly people without any resting days. Tony massaged his nose. Since I'm already at the company, I suppose I should hurry to settle everything else as well.

Fortunately, Tony's work efficiency was high as he quickly scanned his way through everything before giving important details a few more glances. If it weren't so, he wouldn't be able to handle a large corporation like this effortlessly.

Although his working speed was fast, he was so absorbed in his work that he forgot to check up on whether Myra was still at the church and supervising the decoration process. As Myra and Tony were both meticulous people, they had to be present to supervise everything. By the time Tony managed to settle all of the urgent documents, he finally recalled Myra and quickly sent her a text.

'Myra, you should go back now. It's already late.' Since he didn't have time to send Myra back home today, he left his driver there so that Myra could leave anytime she wanted.

'It's fine. There's still much time left before the sky darkens. Are you done with your work?' Myra replied to his text with a caring tone because she knew that Tony wouldn't go back to his company in a rush if nothing serious happened.

After Tony saw Myra's reply, a satisfied smile appeared on his face before he texted her back immediately. 'Don't worry. It's nothing huge. I've already instructed everyone about what to do, and we will see the results tomorrow. Go home earlier if everything's alright at your side. You don't have to wait until the sun sets to go home.' Tony sounded as if he was worried about his child. Nonetheless, since when hadn't he looked after Myra as if she was his little princess?

Time flew quickly as the two continued texting, and by the time he came back to his senses, half an hour had passed. Immediately, he composed himself because he was planning to spend his time settling all of his work today, and he couldn't waste any more time on texting.

After organizing his thoughts, Tony continued to work hard. Although working made his life more productive, Myra was the one who made him feel complete. Thinking about the love of his life, Tony smiled. Even when no one else was there, his lips still curled up instinctively at the thought of Myra.

Because of her, Tony had lost his cold demeanor in the past because he wanted to provide Myra with all of his love and kindness. Now, there was a hint of gentleness on him, making him look more lively. Indeed, the power of love was hard to predict.

Although thinking of Myra would brighten up Tony's mood, his mood dropped right after going through his documents. Locke Group has really been too unscrupulous these recent days. Looks like it's time for me to meet Matthias Locke.

Standing before Love Chapter 465

Prior to Tony and Myra's wedding, Estelle, who was busy with her shootings overseas, rushed back. Not to mention, Tilly, who was on her annual holiday, canceled her holiday and came back as well. Immediately, Myra felt like Bradford City had become lively again because it had been a long time since she met them.

However, Tony, on the other hand, valued Myra over his friends and didn't bother about them, as he was too busy spending time with her. After some discussion, they all decided to meet each other at Zion Club, and the Messenger group chat that went quiet for a long time became active again.

Besides that, Myra also added Heather into the group. This was Heather's first group chat on Messenger because she barely used it if it weren't for Myra. The group got even more lively with her arrival while Tony warned the others as he figured that Heather was probably not used to lively chats like this. 'You guys better behave well and don't scare her away.'

Unexpectedly, Heather replied, 'It's fine.'

In the group, besides Myra and Tony, Estelle had also met Heather, and they had interacted a few times because Estelle and Myra were good friends after all.

However, since they were on bad terms, Estelle stopped chatting when she saw Heather entering the group chat. Upon noticing that Estelle went missing, Myra figured that it was due to the dispute that happened when they were young, and she really wanted to use this opportunity to get them back on good terms.

Hence, that was the reason she added Heather to the group chat. Since Heather hadn't gotten the chance to socialize with people in Bradford City, she accepted Myra's invitation after pondering about it.

Myra had managed to get to know some close friends, and Heather had never met any friend of hers besides Tony. Besides, Heather wasn't as possessive

as she was back when they were young. Now, she was totally fine with Myra being nice to others. However, this was the exact reason Estelle disliked Heather.

Estelle and Myra were way closer after all, and what Heather did almost affected their friendship. If it weren't for Heather leaving overseas, who knew how things would have developed?

During the night, Zion Club's private room started becoming lively. Heather had already informed Myra earlier that she would be late due to overtime work.

Since they were all young and the purpose of this casual gathering was to catch up with each other, none of them really minded that she was late.

Those who were done with their work would gather there first to wait for the others, and there was really nothing to blame for being late. As the last person to arrive, Heather had a polite smile plastered on her face before she knocked on the door to the private room.

Upon hearing the knocking sound, Myra immediately knew that it was Heather because all of them entered the room by pushing the door open, and none of them would have opted to knock on the door.

At the same time, Estelle's gaze darkened because she was still fearful of Heather even after not meeting each other for a long time. Urgh! I don't want to face her at all. Right then, Shawn, who was sitting by the side, observed the micro-expression changes on Estelle's face curiously before he got interested in the person who was about to enter.

"Come on in!" Myra exclaimed cheerfully.

The moment Heather entered the room, the atmosphere in the room got a little colder since she always gave off a cold impression.

"Hey, Myra." Heather's gaze was fixated on Myra, and she didn't bother giving anyone else as much as a glance.

However, everyone's gaze was fixated on Heather, while Estelle stared at Heather's face with an annoyed look. She didn't expect Heather to look way prettier than her now, and Heather's presence really irked her.

On the other hand, Tilly was staring at Heather with curiosity-filled eyes because she had been hearing things about her from Myra for a while, and Heather really lived up to her expectations. As Heather's beauty was really outstanding, all of the men's gazes were fixated on her, especially Elliot.

When Shawn noticed the annoyance and jealousy toward Heather in Estelle's eyes, he smiled cunningly before guessing their relationship. I didn't expect Heather to affect Estelle like this.

At this moment, Heather turned toward Tony and gave him a polite smile before greeting, "Hello, Mr. Hart."

Still, what Estelle didn't expect was Heather's gaze glancing past her because she couldn't help but feel uncomfortable by Heather's gaze despite it being a swift glance.

"It's been a long time since I met you, Estelle. You've gotten even prettier now." Heather took the initiative to greet Estelle. All along, Heather had been reflecting on the dirty tricks she pulled on Estella because of Matthias, and Myra had already informed her earlier that Estelle would join the gathering this time as well. Since Estelle was Myra's best friend, Heather figured that she should take the initiative to talk to her in an effort to fix their friendship after what happened in the past.

However, Estelle's heart dropped when she received Heather's compliment because she couldn't help but feel like she was indirectly making fun of her. Nevertheless, she couldn't just ignore Heather, as that would be rude.

Right then, Estelle, who was always a sociable person, suddenly got nervous and replied awkwardly, "It's been a while. You look prettier, though." Upon hearing Estelle's reply, Shawn felt like he was about to die from withholding his laughter.

So, there's actually someone in this world that can intimidate Estelle, huh? I'm sure that she's actually afraid of Heather but still held onto her grudges.

Shawn couldn't help but give Heather a few more glances as he wondered what this mysterious woman did to Estelle, to the point where Estelle was traumatized.

At the same time, Philip's and Lucas' eyes were fixated on Heather as well. As she was too beautiful, it was easy for the single men to start imagining things.

Still, it wasn't as if they could do anything besides giving her a few more glances. However, Elliot had lost his entitlement to do so after Tilly rolled her eyes at him when she noticed that he had been staring at Heather.

Scooting over, Myra got Heather to sit next to her while Estelle sat on another side, and Shawn could obviously sense Estelle tensing up when Heather sat down.

After that, Heather tried to plaster a natural smile on her face before giving Estelle a smile because she really wanted to try to save her image in Estelle's impressions.

However, it seemed like that was too late due to the fact that she had left an unremovable scar in Estelle's heart. Hence, all of her attempts to make up would only be viewed by Estelle as her trying to plot a scheme.

At this moment, Myra took the initiative to introduce Heather to everyone briefly. "This girl right next to me is my best friend, Heather, and she's also the third young lady of the Langston Family." Although the introduction sounded formal, it gave everyone a simple understanding of Heather, while a polite smile remained on Heather's face. Since she was there to attend Myra's friends' gathering party, it would be better if she could be less flashy, as being lowkey was the best way to avoid making mistakes.

On the other hand, Estelle also felt annoyed by the fact that Myra didn't invite her to her wedding because she wanted Heather to be her bridesmaid. Still, she wasn't one to hold grudges, and she understood that Heather was important to Myra.

Many things happened to Myra back then, and she wouldn't have been here if it weren't for Heather's help. Hence, she was also Myra's lifesaver besides being best friends. Although Heather had a weird personality, she was still way more mature than them because she provided guidance to Myra on many occasions and had accompanied her throughout many difficult situations in life. Thus, it was an understatement for Myra to feel grateful to her.

Then, Tony started introducing everyone to Heather while she remained smiling. This made Estelle, who was sitting next to her, shocked.

Heather, back then, was so unapproachable that she could still remember her arrogance clearly. Estelle didn't expect Heather to become like this now because she was way too different from how she was in Estelle's memories. She had become polite, and the smile on her face looked genuine and natural now. Estelle initially thought that Heather would never smile genuinely in her entire life, but it seemed like Heather had really changed, and it was hard for Estelle to accept that.

Still, Heather had only gotten even more charismatic now. She had gotten many young men's liking back when she was a teen, and she had now captured the hearts of every man.

Then, everyone started partying and having fun. When they were having a karaoke session, Heather specially picked an Italian song to sing. It had been a long time since they heard her singing, and Heather was an excellent person; in fact, one could even say that she was an all-rounder because her voice almost reached the standard of a professional singer.

Although Heather's arrival fascinated many, the way she looked at everyone was slightly unaccustomed besides Myra.

In fact, Philip and Lucas, who were single, were very interested in Heather, and they were jealous that Myra could receive that kind of look from her.

Since Heather was young, she had learned how to deal with men's attraction toward her, since many men fell in love with her everywhere she walked past. It was hard for normal people to understand this, so Heather rarely had any female friends.

Nevertheless, Myra was the one who never cared about all these things since they were young, and that was why she was so important to Heather. At the same time, Tony was silently observing everything. How could he forget about his brothers when he was trying to set Heather up on a date in the past?

After the gathering, Tony told Myra about everything he had seen. Coincidentally, something happened to the groomsman that they had invited previously, and it looked like he couldn't make it, although they had come to an agreement last time.

Since Myra didn't have many expectations of the groomsman, she somehow sighed in relief when she heard that. It seemed like that man wasn't fated to meet Heather, then.

“Myra, you saw everything that happened during the gathering too, didn’t you?” Tony asked tentatively.

However, Myra gave him a confused look because he sounded too vague, and she didn’t know what he was talking about since she couldn’t read his mind.

“Have you noticed how Philip and Lucas were acting around Heather?” Tony had no choice but to come clean to his thoughts before he reached out to ruffle Myra’s head when he saw how confused she looked.

Right then, Myra gave him a knowing look. Great! I think Myra and I are now on the same page!

“Indeed. They were behaving very differently.” She had known Philip and Lucas for a while now, and she had never seen them being like this to another girl. Still, it was probably because Heather was too charismatic.

“So, what do you think of them?” Tony asked tentatively.

This put Myra into deep thoughts as she frowned. She had completely forgotten about these two best friends of Tony previously, and the two of them were indeed excellent men that fitted their basic requirements.

However, Heather’s attitude toward them wasn’t much different during the gathering. Of course, she couldn’t rely on first impressions because something fruitful might bear from future development.

Immediately, Myra fell into a dilemma.

Standing before Love Chapter 466

After a long moment, Myra replied faintly, “We can have only one best man. Who should we pick?” There would be a quandary if they really intended to match Heather with the best man.

Then, the choice for best man would become complicated, as there were currently two candidates from which Myra and Tony had to choose the one most suited to Heather.

“Well, from your point of view, who would suit Heather more—Philip or Lucas?” It wasn’t up to Tony to decide, since Myra knew Heather better, anyway.

“It’s hard to say. They both have their merits,” Myra replied hesitantly, wondering if she should have them meet up once more before the wedding.

It felt too improper for them only to have met under the flickering lights of Zion Club and the influence of alcohol. There was a possibility that in broad daylight, Heather could feel a different spark altogether with the two candidates.

“We still need to see what Heather thinks,” Tony suggested meaningfully.

“Let’s find a time to meet up tomorrow,” she proposed.

At this point, he gave her a conflicted look. There were quite a few things that needed to be done tomorrow, and it would not be easy for them to gather the group together.

Not to mention that, even if they could summon the others, they might not be able to summon Heather unless they found a suitable excuse, as she would be busy with Langston Group.

Regardless, the discussion continued, causing Heather to sneeze multiple times as she walked home alone in the frigid evening. The chill of fall was already descending, and she bundled up tightly as she made her way home alone after having declined others’ good-natured invitations to send her home.

All along, she would refuse such invitations. She had a very independent personality, which prevented her from allowing people she barely knew to send her home. Matthias was the only exception, but at the thought of Matthias, she shuddered internally; she didn’t like his sudden appearance.

Long ago, she decided to give up on him and no longer allow herself to grow close to him. It was a good thing that, during this period, he never held the contract over her.

Tonight, she had witnessed Myra’s unbridled joy, something which genuinely thrilled her. She was gratified to see that Myra had such a group of good friends, for it meant Myra hadn’t done too badly for herself in the past few years.

Likely, the worst thing Myra ever did was marry Sean, but it didn't matter anymore because she was going to marry the man she loved now. Tony Hart—the man who was to make her happy for the rest of her life—wore his heart on his sleeve and looked at her with love in his eyes.

Perhaps because it was such a happy occasion, Heather drank quite a lot. Now, she started feeling the effects of the alcohol. With her body swaying and swinging, she staggered her way back to her room, thinking of Estelle once more.

While Heather was overseas, she read articles mentioning Estelle's on-and-off relationships. Who knew even Estelle would find true love?

To say Heather wasn't envious would be a lie. She was currently the only single woman in the group—she could tell that even Elliot and Tilly were a couple. The thought of the three couples struck her in the chest.

However, the two remaining bachelors seemed interested in her.

A lot of the time, she couldn't tell whether such initial interest was due to her beauty or some other reason.

Gently opening the door to her place, she rushed into the bathroom and washed her face before looking at herself in the mirror. She was attractive—the Langston Family genes gave her a face beautiful and a uniquely stunning body enough to devastate nations.

While she wasn't the most attractive member of the family, the way she carried herself helped her stand out. It was rare for someone so beautiful to have such a remarkable disposition, and it was no wonder she drew attention wherever she went.

After removing her makeup, she peered at her soft, pink face in the mirror. Ever since senior high, she hadn't been what could be considered cute. Back then, she was still a little cutie pie, but that was a long time ago, and she missed those days all of a sudden.

The next day, the group chat was as busy as ever. Whenever she had time, she would go and take a peek at it. She didn't mind getting to know Myra's friends as she was still very unfamiliar with Bradford City and didn't know many people she could get along with.

Since Myra was kind enough to bring Heather into her own circle of friends, Heather wasn't going to refuse the invitation for friendship. This time, Estelle wasn't going out of her way to hide from Heather either.

Previously, Myra kept telling Estelle that Heather had changed, but Estelle was disinclined to believe that the arrogant and domineering Heather could be much different from the person she used to be. It was only when seeing her the previous night that Estelle's jaw nearly fell open in shock.

'Have lunch with me today.' Myra was telling Heather in the group chat.

When Heather saw the message, she didn't immediately reply. Realizing that Heather wasn't replying, Myra quipped that the lack of response meant acquiescence. In response, Heather laughed. Of course she was happy to have lunch with Myra, so she answered with a '....'

Satisfied with Heather's answer, Myra began to address the other members of the group, saying, 'If you're nearby, come and eat with us at my house.'

At this point, Tony jumped in with, 'Myra's making you all home-cooked food today, so if you have time, do come over.'

Upon seeing the message, Myra rolled her eyes at him. Currently, they were huddled up on the couch in the living room, and she told him, "I'm only making two or three dishes. If you say that, they're going to think that I'm the one who prepared all the food."

Pulling her into his lap with one arm, he said, "Two or three is enough." His words were followed by a kiss on her cheeks.

"Are you skipping work again today? You're becoming lazier and lazier," she chastised him with dissatisfaction.

Because he was busy with preparations for the wedding, he rarely went to work now. However, as he felt it was best for him to be personally involved with the wedding, he couldn't find it in him to care about official business right now. While there were certain matters he could compromise on, he was set on participating in the preparations, no matter how much Myra criticized him.

"I'm going to start making lunch," she told him, making her escape before he could kiss her again.

Yearning for more, he watched her run away. Finally, he knew what it meant to be madly in love. Whenever she was around him, he didn't feel like doing anything else.

Oh, how he wished he could hold her forever! He felt like he was bewitched or as if she had drugged him. As he watched her retreat, his elated mind manifested the image of him hugging her from behind.

Coincidentally, today happened to be the day Serena returned from abroad with Henry. They had gone on holiday overseas only to return the day before Henry started school.

Thus, Myra wanted to take the opportunity to invite them over for lunch to liven up the place. The house hadn't been busy in a while—Heather's visit was the last time it had seen visitors. After that, everyone was busy with their own things as if they had planned it.

While Myra cooked, Tony attended to his own business—that was, he went to the airport to pick up his sister and his nephew. Before lunch, right after Myra finished laying the dishes, the three of them arrived home. The moment Henry saw Myra, he rushed up to her.

“Be careful!” Tony shouted behind him, afraid that Henry would be too reckless to the detriment of Myra's pregnancy.

However, Henry hugged Myra so closely that it nearly made Tony jealous. At the same time, because she hadn't seen Henry in a long time, she hugged back just as tightly.

As Serena watched her son's behavior, she couldn't help pouting and commenting with feigned jealousy, “So, you complained all the way here that you wanted Aunt Myra, and now you can't let go of her. You don't want your mother anymore, do you?”

Immediately, Henry rushed back to his mother and put on his most adoring face. “That's not true, Mom!”

Happy and harmonious, the family chattered and made merry. At this point, Tony even emphasized, “Myra cooked today. She's showing off her cooking skills!”

In response, Myra rolled her eyes at him. Good Lord! You're embarrassing me! After all, the chefs had prepared most of the food, and she had added only a few home-cooked dishes, but he was acting as if everything on the table were the fruits of her labor.

Ignoring her eye-roll, he continued telling Serena, "We've also invited a few friends over. The house has been so quiet since you and Henry left, and we haven't had a good party in a while."

In response, Serena smiled. She didn't mind, for she had met the friends Tony was talking about.

"Where are Grandpa and Grandma?" she asked.

After exchanging a smile with Myra, he replied, "They've gone out. I tell you, they're even more unrestrained than us young folk!"

During this period, Lisa and Sebastian were absent from home nearly every day. They would frequently go out on walks, eating at the various restaurants they encountered and doing god-knew-what-else. It was likely they were looking back at the romantic dates they used to have; at any rate, it was a good thing for them to be out and about while they were still in good health.

Meanwhile, this was Heather's second visit to the Hart Residence. After parking her car outside, she rang the doorbell. Noting that Heather arrived rather quickly this time, Myra opened the door for her.

When Heather saw Myra, she let out a happy smile. As she was led into the living room, she noticed a mother-and-son pair sitting on the couch.

Hesitantly, she turned to Myra only to have Myra whisper into her ear, "This is Tony's elder sister. The one sitting next to her is her son."

Giving the mother-and-son pair on the couch a polite smile, she introduced herself formally. "Nice to meet you. I'm Myra's friend."

As this was Serena's first time meeting Heather, she only nodded at Heather. It was curious—Myra was clearly the plainer of the two.

On the other hand, Myra's friends always seemed prettier and more coquettish. That wasn't the case only with Estelle but with Heather as well. When Heather and Myra stood next to each other, it was hard to tell that they

were good friends, for Heather carried herself in a completely different way to Myra.

Following their introduction, Tony explained Heather's identity to Serena. Serena realized that she rarely saw such beautiful women who carried themselves so well. Even if Heather didn't necessarily look approachable to other women, her temperament made her difficult to hate.

Upon learning her name, Henry told Heather with bright eyes, "Miss Langston, you're so pretty."

Children spoke in such a straightforward manner, and it made Heather smile, which in turn prompted Henry to say, "Miss Langston, you look even prettier when you smile." He had learned to sweet-talk girls at such a young age!

On the other hand, Serena gave him an exasperated look. Feeling like he was impolite in front of strangers, she chided him a little sternly, "It's not polite to speak so glibly to strangers."

Instantly, he fell silent. Nonetheless, Heather found it endearing. After all, the children in her own household were much too wild, and Henry was practically an angel in comparison.

"He's very cute," she praised with a big smile.

Tony had assured Myra previously that Philip and Lucas would surely show up if Heather agreed to come over. As expected, the two of them reached a while later.

While Philip and Lucas didn't confirm their attendance in the group, Tilly and Elliot confirmed that they couldn't make it. As Tilly was completely overwhelmed by her public affairs, it had been a while since she and Elliot were separated due to her work. Hence, it was normal that Elliot would go look for Tilly when he had free time.

While Shawn was busy every day as the vice-mayor, he obviously wasn't free during the noon, so Estelle was the only one who replied in the group.

'Wait for me. I'll be here in a bit since I wouldn't want to miss out on Myra's food.' After last night, she wasn't as afraid of Heather any longer. Moreover, it wasn't as if she had to spend time with Heather alone because everyone else would be there as well.

Since Estelle was the only person left that hadn't reached, it wasn't appropriate for them to start eating yet, so Myra texted her in the group chat. 'When are you reaching?'

'I'm on my way.' Estelle was stuck in a traffic jam because this was the time where everyone got off work.

'How much longer will it take for you to reach?' Myra was starting to feel hungry. Why can't Estelle leave her house earlier?

'20 minutes,' Estelle replied to Myra's text in a guilty manner because she could only reach half an hour later at the earliest, considering the traffic jam situation.

Right then, Myra gave Tony a helpless look because they knew that whatever time Estelle told them must be multiplied by two.

Still, they had already achieved their objective for today. At this moment, Philip and Lucas were stealing glances at Heather while she sat tight.

When Heather wasn't smiling, she looked cold and unapproachable. Despite that, she still looked extremely attractive, and her cold demeanor was the ultimate temptation for men.

While Myra and Tony were observing them, Heather's gaze was fixed, and she didn't bother glancing at Philip or Lucas. This made Serena curious because anyone could see that Philip and Lucas were interested in Heather.

I think this is a different kind of blind date, right? she thought to herself before pulling Henry closer to her. Because of how charismatic Heather was, even young boys such as Henry were attracted to her and wanted to sit together with her.

Nevertheless, doing that would be too impolite, so Serena refused to let Henry do that, making Myra giggle as she watched on.

In a blink of an eye, half an hour had passed by, but Estelle wasn't here yet, so Myra continued rushing her in the group chat. 'How long do you need to get here?'

Myra was in despair, as she didn't expect Estelle to take so long to reach this time. By right, Estelle would have texted the group by half an hour later to inform them that she was reaching.

However, she was still quiet this time, and Myra feared that Estelle might take longer than that. I will starve to death if I have to wait for an hour to eat.

At the same time, Estelle was reading the texts in the group chat helplessly. If she had known earlier that the traffic jam would be so bad, she wouldn't have wanted to go.

Noticing that Myra was starting to get impatient, Estelle could only reply to her with a cute emoji, hoping that it would make her feel better. However, it didn't work, so Myra repeated her question. 'How long do you need to get here?'

Knowing that she couldn't avoid Myra's question any longer, Estelle replied truthfully this time. 'You guys should start first. I don't think I'll be able to reach anytime soon because an accident happened in front of the road, and the entire street is congested.'

Since Estelle already said that, they all decided to wait for her while eating. If not, the dishes would be cold by the time Estelle reached, and everyone would have to eat cold food together.

Even Heather was already starving by the time they finally decided to start eating, and she could immediately notice the three homemade dishes that Myra prepared among all the dishes from the chef.

On the other hand, Tony kept complimenting Myra's dishes as if he wanted all of them to himself while Heather quietly reached out to grab some of Myra's dishes before placing them in her bowl. Myra's cooking skill is average at best, though, Heather thought to herself.

Still, she played along and complimented as well, "This is quite good. I still remember how we didn't know how to cook back then." Back in high school, most of the girls never knew how to cook.

Nevertheless, as Heather continued eating, she felt like she should show everyone her cooking skills as well. She used to have no filter and would say anything without any considerations, but she learned how to restrain herself now. Due to the fact that Myra and Heather were the only ones interacting

with each other at the dining table, the atmosphere was slightly awkward, probably because all of them were deep in their thoughts.

I can't let this go on any longer, Tony thought to himself before he started chatting with Philip and Lucas about their business.

He wanted to find an opportunity to allow them to talk about their strong point, so he kept directing the conversation. Myra and Tony were really trying their best to make things work this time.

However, it seemed like Heather wasn't interested in them because she never chimed in to the conversation, even though she was listening to their conversation. She'd only look up occasionally in Myra's direction.

Estelle only showed up when everyone was halfway eating as she apologized, "I'm so sorry that I'm late."

Right then, her arrival resolved the awkward atmosphere because everyone's gazes were fixated on her right away.

After getting another set of cutleries, Estelle took a seat next to Heather before giving her a bright smile while Heather returned it with a small grin. From her polite smile, Estelle could tell that Heather was well-educated, and she really wanted to go up to Heather to pinch her cheeks.

She really couldn't believe that Heather had become like this because she used to be a devilish person, and Myra was the only person who would always praise her. Everyone was afraid of Heather because her viciousness was on another level, and her existence itself was fearful.

"Heather, how has it been for you all these years in Italy?" Because of Heather, the way Estelle spoke became politer instead of her usual blustering ways.

Yet, Heather stared at Estelle with a dumbfounded look because she didn't expect Estelle to start a conversation with her. After pondering for a moment, she replied, "Italy was great. The school there was nice, and the years I spent there were fulfilling." Facing people that she wasn't close with, Heather usually talked in a polite manner.

Since it wasn't related to business partnerships, there wasn't any need for her to cotton up to anyone, so she gave off a cold aura.

From Heather's face, it was hard to tell that she was actually someone with a cold demeanor because she looked too alluring after all. It was as if she was a real fairy.

At the same time, Myra was staring at Heather in confusion because she had been acting weird ever since last night. For a person who was a great socializer, Heather wasn't acting like one.

Come on, girl! I mean, you're supposed to be in the limelight, but why do I feel like you're a bit too rigid today? That's weird...

In fact, Myra could also sense a hint of timidity when she glanced at Heather. Still, she would never have guessed that Heather was deliberately being low key because the latter didn't want to stick out like a sore thumb.

Heather was hoping to get a platonic friendship and wanted to keep her social means for benefit-related purposes only.

On the other hand, Tony was still talking to Philip and Lucas about business-related matters and was trying to get them to talk more about their areas of expertise. Upon hearing that Philip specialized in the medical field, Heather finally looked toward him.

Since Heather rarely cared about others' appearance, this was her first time looking at Philip seriously. Then, when Philip noticed that Heather was staring at him, she gave him a small smile.

Upon noticing that, Myra figured that Heather was only interested in the fact that Philip was a doctor instead of actually being interested in him. On the contrary, Lucas, who was more mature, had a lower presence and didn't manage to attract Heather's attention, while Philip got even more pumped up to talk because of Heather's gaze.

Still, Heather listened most of the time and rarely chimed in because they weren't close, and she knew her place while Lucas kept glancing at her. Somehow, he was really attracted by her aura instead of her beautiful face, especially when she was quiet. She was just beautiful, and Lucas really couldn't put what he was feeling in words.

He felt a connection toward Heather, and it had been a while since he ever felt attracted to a woman. This was Lucas' first time actually wanting to get a woman. Yet, it was obvious that Philip was interested in Heather as well, so it

made him feel conflicted, since he didn't want to fight his best friend because of a woman.

All of them felt conceited after the meal, and Estelle quickly noticed something wrong. Then, a cheeky grin appeared on her face as she glanced at Philip and Lucas.

When they were young, Estelle had already noticed Heather's charm because men used to be all over her back when they were young as well. It was just that Heather used to be way colder than she was right now, so none of them succeeded in confessing to her. In fact, she might even humiliate them.

After that, although those who liked Heather didn't lessen, lesser people tried to confess to her because they would get hated by her after doing so.

Estelle had always thought that Heather was an alluring woman even until now, and from this distance, she noticed that Heather actually put on very little makeup.

In fact, Estelle could tell that Heather's skin condition was superb, and she probably wouldn't look any different without any makeup. She was a natural beauty.

Good looks are the root of troubles. Right then, those words appeared in Estelle's mind. Although she wasn't as hostile toward Heather as before, it was impossible for her to gain a liking toward her in a short time. Still, Estelle was still confused by Heather's initiative to be nice to her yesterday.

Back when they were young, she really wanted to befriend Heather because Heather was a really cool person, and she really liked that.

Estelle figured that her best friend's best friend would be her best friend as well, but she suffered the blow when she found out how hostile Heather was toward her.

Recalling about the past, she realized how terrifying Heather's viciousness was. Right then, Estelle sneaked a glance at Heather before wondering what kind of plan Heather had in her mind because she was never a simple person before.

Throughout the entire meal, everyone was deep in their thoughts because of Heather. Even Philip felt conflicted because he didn't want to fight with his best friend for a woman, but he was unable to resist Heather's charms.

After seeing Heather today, his liking toward her deepened, and he figured that it was the same for Lucas as well. Philip was afraid to think about the possibility of him losing his best friend because of a woman, and he prayed that something so cliché wouldn't happen to them.

On the other hand, Heather, who had been having her meal quietly, didn't know that the two men sitting in front of her had already gone through so many thought processes, but she felt slightly uneasy about their constant gazes.

Still, it seemed to her that they were friends worth making because they were Tony's best friends after all, and she would obviously like them together as a group. Nevertheless, Heather disliked the idea of being friends with people who were interested in her romantically because all of those were only for benefits, and she'd always try her best to avoid it.

Standing before Love Chapter 467

Tony had assured Myra previously that Philip and Lucas would surely show up if Heather agreed to come over. As expected, the two of them reached a while later.

While Philip and Lucas didn't confirm their attendance in the group, Tilly and Elliot confirmed that they couldn't make it. As Tilly was completely overwhelmed by her public affairs, it had been a while since she and Elliot were separated due to her work. Hence, it was normal that Elliot would go look for Tilly when he had free time.

While Shawn was busy every day as the vice-mayor, he obviously wasn't free during the noon, so Estelle was the only one who replied in the group.

'Wait for me. I'll be here in a bit since I wouldn't want to miss out on Myra's food.' After last night, she wasn't as afraid of Heather any longer. Moreover, it wasn't as if she had to spend time with Heather alone because everyone else would be there as well.

Since Estelle was the only person left that hadn't reached, it wasn't appropriate for them to start eating yet, so Myra texted her in the group chat. 'When are you reaching?'

'I'm on my way.' Estelle was stuck in a traffic jam because this was the time where everyone got off work.

'How much longer will it take for you to reach?' Myra was starting to feel hungry. Why can't Estelle leave her house earlier?

'20 minutes,' Estelle replied to Myra's text in a guilty manner because she could only reach half an hour later at the earliest, considering the traffic jam situation.

Right then, Myra gave Tony a helpless look because they knew that whatever time Estelle told them must be multiplied by two.

Still, they had already achieved their objective for today. At this moment, Philip and Lucas were stealing glances at Heather while she sat tight.

When Heather wasn't smiling, she looked cold and unapproachable. Despite that, she still looked extremely attractive, and her cold demeanor was the ultimate temptation for men.

While Myra and Tony were observing them, Heather's gaze was fixed, and she didn't bother glancing at Philip or Lucas. This made Serena curious because anyone could see that Philip and Lucas were interested in Heather.

I think this is a different kind of blind date, right? she thought to herself before pulling Henry closer to her. Because of how charismatic Heather was, even young boys such as Henry were attracted to her and wanted to sit together with her.

Nevertheless, doing that would be too impolite, so Serena refused to let Henry do that, making Myra giggle as she watched on.

In a blink of an eye, half an hour had passed by, but Estelle wasn't here yet, so Myra continued rushing her in the group chat. 'How long do you need to get here?'

Myra was in despair, as she didn't expect Estelle to take so long to reach this time. By right, Estelle would have texted the group by half an hour later to inform them that she was reaching.

However, she was still quiet this time, and Myra feared that Estelle might take longer than that. I will starve to death if I have to wait for an hour to eat.

At the same time, Estelle was reading the texts in the group chat helplessly. If she had known earlier that the traffic jam would be so bad, she wouldn't have wanted to go.

Noticing that Myra was starting to get impatient, Estelle could only reply to her with a cute emoji, hoping that it would make her feel better. However, it didn't work, so Myra repeated her question. 'How long do you need to get here?'

Knowing that she couldn't avoid Myra's question any longer, Estelle replied truthfully this time. 'You guys should start first. I don't think I'll be able to reach anytime soon because an accident happened in front of the road, and the entire street is congested.'

Since Estelle already said that, they all decided to wait for her while eating. If not, the dishes would be cold by the time Estelle reached, and everyone would have to eat cold food together.

Even Heather was already starving by the time they finally decided to start eating, and she could immediately notice the three homemade dishes that Myra prepared among all the dishes from the chef.

On the other hand, Tony kept complimenting Myra's dishes as if he wanted all of them to himself while Heather quietly reached out to grab some of Myra's dishes before placing them in her bowl. Myra's cooking skill is average at best, though, Heather thought to herself.

Still, she played along and complimented as well, "This is quite good. I still remember how we didn't know how to cook back then." Back in high school, most of the girls never knew how to cook.

Nevertheless, as Heather continued eating, she felt like she should show everyone her cooking skills as well. She used to have no filter and would say anything without any considerations, but she learned how to restrain herself now. Due to the fact that Myra and Heather were the only ones interacting

with each other at the dining table, the atmosphere was slightly awkward, probably because all of them were deep in their thoughts.

I can't let this go on any longer, Tony thought to himself before he started chatting with Philip and Lucas about their business.

He wanted to find an opportunity to allow them to talk about their strong point, so he kept directing the conversation. Myra and Tony were really trying their best to make things work this time.

However, it seemed like Heather wasn't interested in them because she never chimed in to the conversation, even though she was listening to their conversation. She'd only look up occasionally in Myra's direction.

Estelle only showed up when everyone was halfway eating as she apologized, "I'm so sorry that I'm late."

Right then, her arrival resolved the awkward atmosphere because everyone's gazes were fixated on her right away.

After getting another set of cutlery, Estelle took a seat next to Heather before giving her a bright smile while Heather returned it with a small grin. From her polite smile, Estelle could tell that Heather was well-educated, and she really wanted to go up to Heather to pinch her cheeks.

She really couldn't believe that Heather had become like this because she used to be a devilish person, and Myra was the only person who would always praise her. Everyone was afraid of Heather because her viciousness was on another level, and her existence itself was fearful.

"Heather, how has it been for you all these years in Italy?" Because of Heather, the way Estelle spoke became politer instead of her usual blustering ways.

Yet, Heather stared at Estelle with a dumbfounded look because she didn't expect Estelle to start a conversation with her. After pondering for a moment, she replied, "Italy was great. The school there was nice, and the years I spent there were fulfilling." Facing people that she wasn't close with, Heather usually talked in a polite manner.

Since it wasn't related to business partnerships, there wasn't any need for her to cotton up to anyone, so she gave off a cold aura.

From Heather's face, it was hard to tell that she was actually someone with a cold demeanor because she looked too alluring after all. It was as if she was a real fairy.

At the same time, Myra was staring at Heather in confusion because she had been acting weird ever since last night. For a person who was a great socializer, Heather wasn't acting like one.

Come on, girl! I mean, you're supposed to be in the limelight, but why do I feel like you're a bit too rigid today? That's weird...

In fact, Myra could also sense a hint of timidity when she glanced at Heather. Still, she would never have guessed that Heather was deliberately being low key because the latter didn't want to stick out like a sore thumb.

Heather was hoping to get a platonic friendship and wanted to keep her social means for benefit-related purposes only.

On the other hand, Tony was still talking to Philip and Lucas about business-related matters and was trying to get them to talk more about their areas of expertise. Upon hearing that Philip specialized in the medical field, Heather finally looked toward him.

Since Heather rarely cared about others' appearance, this was her first time looking at Philip seriously. Then, when Philip noticed that Heather was staring at him, she gave him a small smile.

Upon noticing that, Myra figured that Heather was only interested in the fact that Philip was a doctor instead of actually being interested in him. On the contrary, Lucas, who was more mature, had a lower presence and didn't manage to attract Heather's attention, while Philip got even more pumped up to talk because of Heather's gaze.

Still, Heather listened most of the time and rarely chimed in because they weren't close, and she knew her place while Lucas kept glancing at her. Somehow, he was really attracted by her aura instead of her beautiful face, especially when she was quiet. She was just beautiful, and Lucas really couldn't put what he was feeling in words.

He felt a connection toward Heather, and it had been a while since he ever felt attracted to a woman. This was Lucas' first time actually wanting to get a woman. Yet, it was obvious that Philip was interested in Heather as well, so it

made him feel conflicted, since he didn't want to fight his best friend because of a woman.

All of them felt conceited after the meal, and Estelle quickly noticed something wrong. Then, a cheeky grin appeared on her face as she glanced at Philip and Lucas.

When they were young, Estelle had already noticed Heather's charm because men used to be all over her back when they were young as well. It was just that Heather used to be way colder than she was right now, so none of them succeeded in confessing to her. In fact, she might even humiliate them.

After that, although those who liked Heather didn't lessen, lesser people tried to confess to her because they would get hated by her after doing so.

Estelle had always thought that Heather was an alluring woman even until now, and from this distance, she noticed that Heather actually put on very little makeup.

In fact, Estelle could tell that Heather's skin condition was superb, and she probably wouldn't look any different without any makeup. She was a natural beauty.

Good looks are the root of troubles. Right then, those words appeared in Estelle's mind. Although she wasn't as hostile toward Heather as before, it was impossible for her to gain a liking toward her in a short time. Still, Estelle was still confused by Heather's initiative to be nice to her yesterday.

Back when they were young, she really wanted to befriend Heather because Heather was a really cool person, and she really liked that.

Estelle figured that her best friend's best friend would be her best friend as well, but she suffered the blow when she found out how hostile Heather was toward her.

Recalling about the past, she realized how terrifying Heather's viciousness was. Right then, Estelle sneaked a glance at Heather before wondering what kind of plan Heather had in her mind because she was never a simple person before.

Throughout the entire meal, everyone was deep in their thoughts because of Heather. Even Philip felt conflicted because he didn't want to fight with his best friend for a woman, but he was unable to resist Heather's charms.

After seeing Heather today, his liking toward her deepened, and he figured that it was the same for Lucas as well. Philip was afraid to think about the possibility of him losing his best friend because of a woman, and he prayed that something so cliché wouldn't happen to them.

On the other hand, Heather, who had been having her meal quietly, didn't know that the two men sitting in front of her had already gone through so many thought processes, but she felt slightly uneasy about their constant gazes.

Still, it seemed to her that they were friends worth making because they were Tony's best friends after all, and she would obviously like them together as a group. Nevertheless, Heather disliked the idea of being friends with people who were interested in her romantically because all of those were only for benefits, and she'd always try her best to avoid it.

Standing before Love Chapter 468

During this period, Heather looked at Myra from time to time. The atmosphere around the table was strange, giving her a sense of foreboding. The gaze that Myra returned was intriguing, as well—it made her feel uneasy.

After lunch, as everyone sat around the table chatting, Heather glanced down at the time on her cell phone with a slight frown. Noting the movement, Myra realized that she could not keep Heather any longer, for lunch had already used up quite a bit of Heather's time.

Meanwhile, the clock read 2.00 PM. It was time for Heather to be at work. After dithering for a long moment, Heather decided to be direct and opened her mouth to tell Myra, "I have to go to work, so I'm taking my leave."

As it was, Heather rarely got to visit Hart Residence and had no wish to leave so hastily, but time did not permit her to linger. With a slight nod of her head, Myra responded, "Of course! Go on." Of those at the table, she was the only one who could truly understand how busy Heather was.

Feeling a little crestfallen, Lucas and Philip watched Heather depart. During the entirety of the short lunch, they hadn't managed to speak to her much, and now she was already rushing to work.

After Heather made her leave, Myra explained to the group, "Please forgive Heather; she has too much work on her hands." After all, it seemed a bit impolite to leave before anyone else had to go.

For her part, Estelle wasn't bothered about it. It was only Lucas and Philip who looked disappointed, a fact which even Serena noted.

At this point, Henry piped up with particular honesty, "Oh man, I'm sad that pretty Miss Langston has left." It made Serena glare at him, for she couldn't understand why such a well-behaved child could develop such a sudden fondness for Heather.

After Lucas and Philip left, Estelle asked Myra boldly and straightforwardly, "Are the two men interested in Heather?"

Currently, she, Myra, and Tony were the only three left in the living room, as Henry and Serena had retired upstairs, tired from being on the road for so long.

Quietly, Myra stared at Estelle, uncertain of how to explain the situation to her. Thus, it fell to Tony to answer the question.

"Of course men like beautiful women," he said with a slight furrow on his brow, which made Estelle laugh.

"Haha... It's hilarious to hear you say such a thing." It made Tony give her a baffled look and Myra give her an exasperated one, for there was nothing funny about what he said.

"Who do you think is better suited to be the best man?" Myra asked, changing the topic out of the blue.

The sudden question made Estelle sober, and she looked back and forth between Myra and Tony.

"What's going on? Are you planning to matchmake the bridesmaid and the best man?" At the mention of 'bridesmaid,' Estelle felt something twist in her

heart. After all, she had yearned for the position for a long time only to have Heather snatch it away so easily.

Myra figured it would at least leave a little more of an impression on Heather.

After stroking her chin in thought, Estelle now said with a grin, "It depends on who you intend to introduce to Heather. Surely two such good friends cannot be interested in the same woman!" The fact that Esther could already see where this was going did not bode well.

"Well, there lies the problem," Tony pointed out. Judging by Lucas' and Philip's demeanors, neither of them was ready to bow out just yet.

It would be stupid for two friends to have a falling out due to a woman, but no one could help their feelings. That was why Tony was a little worried that things would spiral out of control in the future.

"Why don't we form a best-man group?" Estelle proposed.

"That doesn't seem appropriate. There's usually only one best man!" Myra protested, voicing her worry about appearing improper.

"Who knows? We might be the one starting the new trend," Estelle pointed out, continuing to fan the flames. She was the type to revel in drama.

"Well, a best-man group is still diverging from our original ideas," Myra retorted stubbornly.

Her argument was supported by Tony, who also thought it was best for them to choose one best man. If only Lucas and Philip hadn't taken interest in Heather at the same time...

"Well, if this won't do and that won't do, you might as well just flip a coin to decide who gets to be the best man." Estelle only felt like Heather was unreasonable for taking up so much of Myra and Tony's time. The more she thought about it, the unhappier she got.

Yet, Tony immediately exclaimed in approval, "That's not a bad idea!"

Speechless, she stared at him. It seemed he had changed during the time she hadn't seen him. Clearly, it turned out that no matter how much someone

eschewed romance, they, too, would become a romantic the moment they met the love of their lives.

After a round of discussions, they decided on using the lottery to determine who would be the best man so as to not be too obvious. At this point, Myra and Tony even thought of including Elliot. Of course, they would have to collude with Elliot beforehand to prevent him from actually being chosen.

With the lottery being the case, they would have to meet at Zion Club again tonight. For her part, Estelle was perfectly willing to do so as she had been bored to death while filming out of town. If she could have her way after coming back, she would have a get-together every night—with her friends, of course, for she had no interest in any other kind of get-together.

“See you at Zion tonight,” Myra said as she waved Estelle off later in the afternoon.

This time, when news of the gathering hit the group chat, Heather didn’t make a single peep. Fortunately, it didn’t matter whether she would be there or not. Moreover, Myra realized after today’s lunch that it was best not to take up Heather’s time during this period.

In the evening, Zion Club was bustling. So that they could discuss things with Elliot, Myra and Tony arrived early.

Once he heard their harebrained scheme, he told them honestly and mercilessly, “I feel like you’re invested in something no one else cares about.”

For a moment, Myra and Tony were a little embarrassed, but Tony recovered quickly and opined positively, “Look, this is all we can do for her. God willing, things will work out for her.”

Next to him, Myra nodded in agreement. Personally, she cared less about the end result and more about enjoying the process. At the end of the day, she had tried her best to help Heather only because she hoped Heather would find the man she loved and no longer have to be single.

“Why are you so interested in Heather’s romantic life?” Elliot asked curiously. After all, no one else had received such treatment.

“She’s had her difficulties when it comes to love,” Myra explained simply without elaborating too much. She wouldn’t give such an explanation to anyone else, but Elliot was different.

While guilt rose up in her the moment she spilled her friend’s secret, she suppressed it quickly. Some things could no longer stay hidden, and Elliot was the considerate sort who would never gossip about Heather, anyway. Besides, Myra’s answer was adequately ambiguous.

“Alright. I know what to do,” Elliot said with a nod to both Myra and Tony. He just had to cheat. That doesn’t sound too difficult.

Later, Philip entered the room, followed by Lucas. Both seemed quite eager to be there. On the other hand, Shawn was busy with work and wouldn’t be attending that evening.

Similarly, Tilly was still at work. Her busyness made it seem like Myra was exploiting her subordinates, but in truth, Myra had advised Tilly to practice flexibility and not get too caught up in work.

Nevertheless, Tilly was stubborn. If she wanted to work late, no one could stop her. That was something which pained Elliot, who had long awaited Tilly’s return to Bradford City only to have her throw herself into work, thus reducing his opportunities to see her.

Once Estelle arrived at Zion Club to partake in the festivities, everyone was considered to be in attendance, and so Myra and Tony began explaining the process of selecting the best man.

Despite having no opinions to the contrary, Elliot, Lucas, and Philip were a little disappointed, for they thought they would be a best-man group.

After the explanation, Elliot was the first to reach for a scrunched-up paper ball on the table. Philip followed after him, and Lucas was the last to go. Taking the initiative to unfold the scrap of paper, Elliot said with seeming disappointment, “Alas, it’s not me.”

With a nervous stare at each other, Lucas and Philip opened their papers at the same time. Curious, Estelle kept her eyes on them, for she would soon learn their results.

In the middle of the tense atmosphere, Lucas calmly put down his piece of paper and said, "It's me."

At this, a flash of regret crossed Philip's eyes. Since they already knew Myra had appointed Heather to be her bridesmaid, they were aware of the significance of being the best man this time.

However, luck was just like that, and it was obvious that the heavens were not on Philip's side. Carelessly, he threw the scrap into the bin.

At this point, Lucas gave Philip a slightly apologetic glance. While he had won by luck, he still felt uneasy, as if he had stolen Philip's girl. The guilt was so burdensome that he nearly thought of giving up the opportunity.

Nevertheless, everyone had witnessed what just happened. It was not proper for Lucas to speak up. So, he simply met Philip's eyes, and they smiled at each other. At the end of the day, they were good friends and would not come to blows over such a small matter.

With the matter of choosing a best man resolved, Myra and Tony felt like a weight had been lifted off their shoulders. On their way home, they talked about it.

"Do you think Lucas will be better suited to Heather?" she asked him.

"Lucas is steady and mature. He's most likely better-suited to Heather, but it's hard to say when it comes to matters of the heart. We can only try our best and give them a push. We can't interfere too much with what happens in the future." Personally, Tony felt like he had already created a chance for them, and whatever happened next would be up to them.

"True, that's all we can do," Myra agreed with a nod. If they continued to interfere, they would be less of a matchmaker and more of a browbeater.

As they chatted on the way home, they reached the topic of their wedding. Time had passed in the blink of an eye, and they were going to get married the day after tomorrow. At this thought, they both got nervous.

Since they had been drinking, Tony had had to summon a driver. Now, in the backseat as they chatted on and off, Myra curled into his embrace and rested her head against his chest, indulging in the warmth of his embrace.

“Are you nervous, Tony?” she asked curiously. It was hard to imagine that he would be!

To her surprise, he let out a faint smile and answered, “A little. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. I would be lying if I said I wasn’t nervous.” Who knew Tony could admit to his nerves so openly?

Suddenly, she felt like she had found a brother in arms. Nonetheless, his ‘nervousness’ was undoubtedly just a slight squeeze around his heart. In contrast, Myra could feel her heart racing whenever she thought about the wedding.

“I’m so glad I get to marry you,” she told him with a tender kiss to his cheek, like a girl in the throes of her first love.

Standing before Love Chapter 469

It was on the day before the wedding that Heather heard from Myra that the best man was Lucas. The moment Heather heard that name, she knew that he was one of Tony’s bros. She tried to recall Lucas’s features, remembering that he didn’t talk much and seemed to be more mature.

“So, what do you think?” Myra asked teasingly, “You did say you want a best man who is tall and handsome.” She jokingly reminded Heather of what she said before.

Heather smiled in response, which in turn caused Myra to feel slightly curious about it. The two proceeded to sip their drinks in silence.

Myra’s wedding was just around the corner, and Heather was glad to see that Myra looked comfortable and relaxed. Myra had slight pre-wedding anxiety before, so it was nice to see that she had adjusted herself.

“I’m going to give you an amazing gift,” Heather said, grinning.

Myra replied, “Then I will also give you a superb gift in return.”

“Why not just give me a gold card?” Heather joked.

Looking at the time, Myra realized that it was almost time for Heather to go to work. She didn’t want to take up more of Heather’s time than necessary, so she said, “It’s time for you to get to work.”

Heather was nonchalant. "I'm taking the afternoon off today, so there's no work this afternoon."

Myra was puzzled at this. The wedding is tomorrow, so why did Heather take leave so early on?

Heather continued, "The woman I care the most about is going to get married, so I don't have the mood for work." Her smile was so bright that Myra almost fell for it.

"What a coincidence! I'm skipping work too," Myra said with a smile.

"Let's do something meaningful then," Heather suggested, unwilling to let a nice afternoon go to waste.

During the conversation with Myra, Heather could feel that she was slightly nervous, so she wanted to take Myra somewhere else and do something to ease the wedding jitters.

Something meaningful? Myra looked at Heather in disbelief. She had no idea what Heather had in mind.

"Back to school!" Heather didn't hold the suspense for long either as she revealed her plan straight out.

Heather's suggestion moved Myra a little, for she had never gone back to school ever since she graduated.

"It probably changed a lot." Myra recalled what their high school was like. They had attended the best private high school, and the scenery there was excellent.

After so many years, she wondered what the school was like now. Did it change for the better or the worse?

Heather had gone overseas after graduation, much less return to school for a look. At the sudden reminder, nostalgia washed over her as she reminisced the young and innocent years spent in school.

The two readily agreed on the idea and waited no longer to put the plan into action. As Myra and Heather headed for their destination in Heather's car, the two chatted about their time in high school and laughed at the fond memories.

“We were so innocent back then.” Heather laughed so much that she was in tears.

“You’re the one who was the least innocent of us all,” Myra said teasingly.

“True, I used to be the top student in school.” Heather’s voice had a proud tone to it.

“Yep, the top student who’s also terrific at hogging the road.” Myra went along with it. The delightful exchanges between them continued.

“What do you mean by hogging the road?” Heather wasn’t agreeable on that description; it made her look like some serial killer on the road.

“Whenever you see anything happen on the road, you’d immediately go over and interfere,” Myra replied with nostalgia in her tone.

Heather tried her best to remember, but she didn’t recall being such a busybody when she was younger. She gave Myra a deep stare, thinking that Myra must have misremembered.

“Don’t bluff me just because I’m gullible.” Heather looked innocently at Myra.

“You really don’t remember?” Myra could still remember the scene vividly. When Heather used to face off against the gangsters from outside, she had an awe-inspiring aura about her, and her sense of justice was off the charts.

Hearing Myra’s descriptions, Heather felt as if she lived in another dimension. She only remembered that she had done everything possible so that she could be Myra’s only bestie.

She did not expect to have such a justice-filled side to her all those years ago; she didn’t even dare to think back on it, for it was so different from her character now.

The car pulled up at the school gates. Heather and Myra got out of the car, one after the other, to find that the school used to be more magnificent. They thought that their school was big enough when they were younger, but after making it in society, they had seen for themselves how much bigger the world was.

“Why did you go overseas?” As they walked, Myra posed the question to Heather.

Upon returning to school, Myra felt like they had time-traveled to the past, and she could finally ask Heather the question she didn’t get to ask then.

The scenery was beautiful as it had been in those days. It wasn’t easy for a school to place importance on its greenery in addition to its staff and resources. It was thanks to this that there were so many rich families spending effort and money to enrol their children in this school.

The field was a lively green, reminding Myra that she used to be bad at jogging, and it was Heather who led her in her training. Every corner of the school told stories of their memories gone by.

When Myra had first entered high school, she was reluctant to be here, for she had to be separated from her childhood friend Estelle. As time went by, Myra started to make friends with Heather, and she gradually became more cheerful and especially relied on Heather.

Myra was forced to be independent only after Heather left the country. Ever since they became besties, Myra’s life had changed.

The two strolled under the Platanus tree, but after walking for a while, Heather still had not answered Myra’s question. It wasn’t until they stopped at the lake when Heather finally said in a faint voice, “I wanted to leave the Langston Family as soon as possible.” At that time, her whole focus was on her struggle to get out of the Langston Family’s chains, and she was willing to be separated from her best friend in order to achieve that goal.

She did not regret it one bit. Her life overseas was very fulfilling; she had learned a lot and made many great friends. The only downside was that she had to be separated from Myra and had to live without her for so long.

Heather had almost never set foot in Bradford City in all those years. She refused to be trapped by the Langston Family, but things had turned out the way she feared they would. After going back to her home country and deciding to start a business in Bradford City, the Langston Family had once again gotten Heather in its grip.

Although she had her grandpa Robert supporting her in the Langston Family, she still could not be completely free. This troubled her greatly. She achieved

financial independence and had great mental strength, but she was still bound to the Langston Family simply because her last name was Langston.

“Have you been happy all these years?” Heather couldn’t help asking Myra. All those years, she could only learn of Myra’s emotions through text.

Now, Heather could feel that Myra was truly happy, for Myra had found a man she could entrust the rest of her life to. As long as Tony was there, Myra would keep being happy and blessed.

Heather remembered a few years ago when Myra was dating Sean; she couldn’t imagine the pain Myra had to go through. At the thought of this, Heather regretted not coming back earlier so that she could help Myra escape from Sean as soon as possible.

“Let’s appreciate the happiness we have now; the past is in the past,” Myra said, not minding it at all. She was over it now, for she realized that life has its gains and losses.

If there was such a thing as karma, maybe Myra found Tony’s love and care exactly because Sean had wronged her before.

“You were going through such difficult times in Bradford City, but I never once came back in that period of time. I feel so guilty for that,” Heather said faintly. She didn’t mind being honest about things.

On the school grounds, Heather wanted to come clean with Myra about many things, including those concerning Matthias. However, she knew that this wasn’t the time for it; even Matthias could hold back from spilling the beans so that Myra could have her wedding in peace.

If that was the case, then Heather had no reason to tell her the truth. If the matters concerning Matthias really affected Myra, then Tony’s efforts would’ve gone to waste.

Tony wanted to give Myra a grand wedding and a fond memory, so Heather would not attempt to jeopardize that. However, the scenery and her feelings at that moment kept urging her to be honest about everything in the past, for she still felt guilty toward Myra.

“You don’t have to feel bad about anything; you have your own circumstances. What’s more, I didn’t even realize the situation I was in, and I

had forced myself into a corner. It was my own fault that I had to go through the pain; no one else is responsible.” Myra didn’t mind. If she had come to her senses earlier, she wouldn’t have to go through hardship after worsening hardship as the days went on.

“That’s enough of the unhappy topics. We’re finally back in our alma mater, so we should be happier than this.” Heather also felt that she had brought down the mood by reminding Myra of Sean in the middle of a happy moment.

There was a rockery near them, which used to be a third of its current area. The school was thriving and clearly profiting well.

“Do you remember when we first met?” Looking at the rockery, Myra asked.

Heather’s gaze was also drawn toward the rockery. “It’s right at that rockery,” Heather said, pointing to it.

“It’s so weird that we would become best friends; we were so different,” Myra said as she looked at Heather, who was standing beside her.

“Yeah, thinking back on it, it still feels like a dream.” Heather’s eyes were trained on the rockery.

In her mind, she was remembering the past. They were so young and inexperienced. Heather wore no makeup, and her tender face didn’t look like a high-schooler at all.

Myra used to be so timid. She had heard many things about Heather, so she was still a bit nervous when they first met.

Myra had heard that Heather was a scary person, but Heather didn’t come off as such when Myra first saw her. After all, Heather’s pretty face was like that of an angel.

Myra had nervously talked with Heather, who teased Myra quite a bit. At that moment, Myra was not the only one who thought that she had encountered an angel, for Heather thought the same.

Heather liked Myra’s eyes and the innocent look in them, for it was a look only an angel would have. Heather felt that Myra’s stare could cleanse her, which was why Heather continued to interact with Myra.

Leaving the memories behind, Heather said in a serious tone, “The Langston Family funded this school.” The information caught Myra by surprise.

“No wonder you kept skipping class.” Myra came to a sudden realization. Ahh... So the Langston Family owned this school as well.

Heather grinned proudly. “Yep, so I can do whatever I want and be at the top of the school chain.” She used to hate this school to the bone because it belonged to the Langston Family; she felt like their eyes were on her even in school.

“Let’s go over there,” Heather suggested.

The two walked hand-in-hand over to the rockery. Myra felt something weird when she looked at it. A peal of thunder broke out in her mind and pain shot throughout her whole body, forcing her to bend over and hold her head between her hands. Seeing Myra’s strange behavior, Heather quickly bent down in concern.

As Myra’s vision blurred, she fell into Heather’s arms, hearing the latter’s anxious voice calling her name.

The sudden onset of pain was identical to the headache she had experienced before, but this time, it affected her whole body. Myra gripped her chest tightly, the pain threatening to cease her heartbeat. Without delay, Heather lifted her friend up.

She then took Myra to the hospital in her car, but something peculiar happened. A short while after arriving at the hospital, Myra could feel that the pain had vanished.

It was exactly like her headache last time, which left as suddenly as it came. Heather’s eyebrows creased in a frown as she wondered what was going on with Myra.

“What did you see at the rockery?” Myra was staring in a particular direction when she fainted, but when Heather followed her gaze, she didn’t see anything out of the ordinary.

“A cave,” Myra answered with a hollow look in her eyes.

The frown on Heather's brows deepened. How could a simple cave cause her to become like this? she wondered. She was in a hurry to get Myra to the hospital, so she didn't look too closely, but what else could a rockery contain but rocks and caves?

"Don't let Tony know of this." Myra did not wish to worry him on the day right before their wedding.

"Okay." Heather hadn't contacted Tony in her hurry, and now that Myra had told her not to let him know of this, she decided not to do anything unnecessary.

"Has this happened before?" Acting like a doctor, Heather asked her friend sternly. The incident had given her a huge fright.

"You saw it once before. You were also the one who took me to the hospital that time," Myra answered word by word.

At that moment, she was lying on the hospital bed. The doctor had left after confirming that there was nothing out of the ordinary, so now Myra was resting to regain her strength.

"I'm really worried..." Heather hesitated, deeply worried about Myra's current condition. However, any proper treatment would have to be delayed because of Myra's pregnancy.

Moreover, Myra had been pregnant for a few months, so it wouldn't be plausible to remove the child; it wasn't some serious illness anyway.

"Don't worry," Myra comforted her friend.

Heather's hands were still trembling as they held Myra's. She was so very afraid, for Myra was like a dear sister to her, and she would not allow any accidents to happen to her.

"I'm sorry. It's my fault for dragging you back to school. That other incident was also my fault," Heather apologized. She truly believed that the blame was on her.

The series of incidents reminded her of Matthias, and she suspected that Myra was experiencing the aftereffects of forgetting Matthias.

Heather did not dare to continue her train of thought. She was sure that it was bad news, and she kept blaming herself. There was a deep sense of guilt inside her as she realized that she had hurt Myra despite treasuring her.

But she must not tell her the truth; she mustn't say anything about Matthias. She looked at Myra meaningfully, guilt written all over her face.

"This was a coincidence; it's not your fault." Myra continued to comfort Heather.

In her hazy consciousness at the rockery, she felt like she saw a young man with a pale and melancholic face. The face was familiar yet strange, and when she tried to think back on it, she could not recall any other details.

Heather was supporting Myra as they walked out of the hospital. I shouldn't have brought Myra to the school. She racked her mind for clues and anything related to this incident. Myra had met Matthias a few times before, and it was at one such meeting where Myra experienced the headache.

This time, Myra's whole body was thrown into pain after seeing the cave. What was the relationship between these two incidents? Heather couldn't find the answer. If this was really related to Matthias, then he must have brought Myra to the rockery before.

In order to prove her theory, Heather drove to Locke Group after dropping Myra off at her home. She hadn't contacted Matthias in a while, and this was a sudden visit too. Unfortunately, Matthias was out of office.

Matthias' assistant Lara was the one who received Heather, and she was very polite to her. However, Heather could keenly feel Lara's enmity toward her.

"When is Director Locke coming back?" She didn't want to waste too much time here; she had to see Matthias now.

"I'm not sure. Maybe he'll be back soon, or maybe he'll take a few hours." Lara was ambiguous in her reply.

She saw the anxiety in Heather's expression. She had noticed Matthias' decadent attitude as of late, and, unable to think of any other culprit, she was sure that Heather was the one who caused him to be like this.

She did not blame Heather for stealing Matthias' heart, but she was angry at her for not appreciating him enough. This was why Heather unknowingly became Lara's subject of hate.

"Can't you contact him?" Heather asked anxiously. Lara wasn't like this before, so why the enmity now?

"Director Locke is in an important meeting, so I dare not disturb him," Lara answered, faking a smile.

Heather understood the meaning behind Lara's words, so she said without thinking, "Then I'll call him myself." To her, Lara had been energetic and loveable before, but now she was just bitter.

"He had probably turned off his phone." After saying that, Lara left.

Heather looked at her phone, unsure of how to respond to Lara's bitterness. Despite everything, she decided to send Matthias a message and continue waiting there.

10 minutes had passed, but there was still no response from Matthias, proving Lara's claims to be true. Heather immediately called Matthias on his phone, and it was truly turned off. She glared at her phone, an unknown rage boiling inside her.

As she was wondering what she could do, she suddenly remembered Evan, Matthias' butler. She immediately left Locke Group and made a beeline for Matthias' villa.

When Evan saw Heather, he gave her a bright smile which caused her to feel uneasy. Heather did not fancy Evan's overenthusiasm every time they met; she disliked men who were too attentive.

"Tell Matthias to come straight back to the villa after he's done with his business. I have something to ask of him," she said without beating around the bush, acting like she owned the place.

Evan expressed his agreement with smiles all over his face. To him, Heather might very well be the mistress already. It was rare for him to see Matthias treat a woman differently; no matter what, Evan had approved of Heather and wished that the two would just start dating already.

When Matthias was done with work, he turned on his phone and saw Heather's message. He hadn't received news from her in a long while, so he was surprised to see her looking for him in such haste.

After that, he read the message from Evan and was even more surprised that Heather had gone straight to his home. At this, Matthias could feel a subconscious smile creep onto his face.

Matthias hadn't cracked so much as a smile these few days, so the sudden grin crept out the bodyguards around him. He put his phone away and made up his mind to hurry back, lest he suffer Heather's wrath.

At the thought of Heather's face, Matthias couldn't help smiling again. There was a look of tenderness in his eyes, but even he himself failed to notice that he was starting to harbor special feelings for Heather.

Matthias fixed his clothes as he stood at the door, for he wanted to look spirited in front of Heather. He feigned calmness and nonchalance as he walked in.

He threw a glance at Heather, who was seated in the living room, and pretended not to mind as he walked over. In reality, he was already experiencing a plethora of emotions in his mind.

"I've been waiting for quite a while, Director Locke," Heather said abruptly.

She had business with Matthias, so she decided not to be too rude. Moreover, she had no intention of mentioning Myra to him.

After thinking for a while, she had decided to get the answers indirectly, chatting about things while inching closer to the heart of the matter. She would spare nothing to get the information she needed.

"I was busy with a meeting, so the phone..." Matthias explained uneasily. Evan stole a grin at the side, for he had never seen Matthias so nervous before. He didn't believe Matthias for a second when he said he had no feelings for Heather.

Heather forced a smile. "I understand. My visit was too sudden, right?" Even she felt strangely awkward for rushing over all of a sudden.

“No, no, it’s fine. You’re welcome here anytime.” Matthias was behaving like a harmless boy.

Evan discreetly dismissed the other people in the living room, leaving Heather and Matthias alone. His thoughtfulness earned Heather’s appreciation.

After all, there were things Heather would hesitate to say in front of an audience, so now that Matthias was the only one listening, she felt more relaxed.

“I just wanted to say that I was too rude last time.” She started off apologetic.

Matthias stared at Heather in surprise. Regarding the incident before, he had already reflected on his actions. He didn’t expect Heather to pay a visit because of it, but upon reconsideration, he immediately came to his senses as he realized that Heather was too stubborn to apologize for an incident like that.

Heather obviously had another motive. Matthias wasn’t dumb; he had seen Heather directing a conversation in her favor before, and since he wouldn’t want to get too calculative with her, he decided to just play along.

“No, I was the one at fault. I spent a long time at home reflecting on it, and I realized that there was something wrong with the way I treated women—I don’t respect them enough.” In order to look good in front of Heather, Matthias parroted the words Evan had used to reprimand him, blurting them all out in one go and putting on a deeply regretful expression.

Even Matthias felt that he himself was being weird. Why am I trying to get on Heather’s good side? This cannot go on, he decided.

However, he couldn’t control his own actions. He cursed his behavior as he questioned his supposed feelings toward Heather.

“Let’s get something to eat?” Heather asked tentatively.

Matthias quickly agreed. He liked meals with Heather; he felt that even the food tasted better when he was with her.

The two went to their destination in their own cars, for it wasn’t an appropriate time for them to be alone together in the same car. Heather went in front; she was the one treating the other for a meal, so she led the way.

In the car, Heather reflected on her actions, telling herself that she really rushed over to see Matthias for Myra's sake.

"Maybe I'm just looking for an excuse," she mumbled to herself.

The moment Matthias appeared in front of her, she felt her anxious mind calm down, as if she hadn't seen him in forever. She felt that she was a failure; she knew that they could never be together, but still, she couldn't control her emotions.

Maybe she already had feelings for Matthias since an earlier time. She recalled her first time meeting Matthias; it was behind the rockery, and he had appeared shier and more bashful than Myra.

Those eyes were ignorant of worldly affairs. When Matthias stood next to Myra, it was a harmonious picture, for they were the same type of people. On the other hand, Heather felt that she was the odd one out. This was why envy took over her and urged her to do what she did. She hated even more the fact that Matthias' eyes were always on Myra, never once turning to her.

Standing before Love Chapter 470

As Myra's vision blurred, she fell into Heather's arms, hearing the latter's anxious voice calling her name.

The sudden onset of pain was identical to the headache she had experienced before, but this time, it affected her whole body. Myra gripped her chest tightly, the pain threatening to cease her heartbeat. Without delay, Heather lifted her friend up.

She then took Myra to the hospital in her car, but something peculiar happened. A short while after arriving at the hospital, Myra could feel that the pain had vanished.

It was exactly like her headache last time, which left as suddenly as it came. Heather's eyebrows creased in a frown as she wondered what was going on with Myra.

"What did you see at the rockery?" Myra was staring in a particular direction when she fainted, but when Heather followed her gaze, she didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

“A cave,” Myra answered with a hollow look in her eyes.

The frown on Heather’s brows deepened. How could a simple cave cause her to become like this? she wondered. She was in a hurry to get Myra to the hospital, so she didn’t look too closely, but what else could a rockery contain but rocks and caves?

“Don’t let Tony know of this.” Myra did not wish to worry him on the day right before their wedding.

“Okay.” Heather hadn’t contacted Tony in her hurry, and now that Myra had told her not to let him know of this, she decided not to do anything unnecessary.

“Has this happened before?” Acting like a doctor, Heather asked her friend sternly. The incident had given her a huge fright.

“You saw it once before. You were also the one who took me to the hospital that time,” Myra answered word by word.

At that moment, she was lying on the hospital bed. The doctor had left after confirming that there was nothing out of the ordinary, so now Myra was resting to regain her strength.

“I’m really worried...” Heather hesitated, deeply worried about Myra’s current condition. However, any proper treatment would have to be delayed because of Myra’s pregnancy.

Moreover, Myra had been pregnant for a few months, so it wouldn’t be plausible to remove the child; it wasn’t some serious illness anyway.

“Don’t worry,” Myra comforted her friend.

Heather’s hands were still trembling as they held Myra’s. She was so very afraid, for Myra was like a dear sister to her, and she would not allow any accidents to happen to her.

“I’m sorry. It’s my fault for dragging you back to school. That other incident was also my fault,” Heather apologized. She truly believed that the blame was on her.

The series of incidents reminded her of Matthias, and she suspected that Myra was experiencing the aftereffects of forgetting Matthias.

Heather did not dare to continue her train of thought. She was sure that it was bad news, and she kept blaming herself. There was a deep sense of guilt inside her as she realized that she had hurt Myra despite treasuring her.

But she must not tell her the truth; she mustn't say anything about Matthias. She looked at Myra meaningfully, guilt written all over her face.

"This was a coincidence; it's not your fault." Myra continued to comfort Heather.

In her hazy consciousness at the rockery, she felt like she saw a young man with a pale and melancholic face. The face was familiar yet strange, and when she tried to think back on it, she could not recall any other details.

Heather was supporting Myra as they walked out of the hospital. I shouldn't have brought Myra to the school. She racked her mind for clues and anything related to this incident. Myra had met Matthias a few times before, and it was at one such meeting where Myra experienced the headache.

This time, Myra's whole body was thrown into pain after seeing the cave. What was the relationship between these two incidents? Heather couldn't find the answer. If this was really related to Matthias, then he must have brought Myra to the rockery before.

In order to prove her theory, Heather drove to Locke Group after dropping Myra off at her home. She hadn't contacted Matthias in a while, and this was a sudden visit too. Unfortunately, Matthias was out of office.

Matthias' assistant Lara was the one who received Heather, and she was very polite to her. However, Heather could keenly feel Lara's enmity toward her.

"When is Director Locke coming back?" She didn't want to waste too much time here; she had to see Matthias now.

"I'm not sure. Maybe he'll be back soon, or maybe he'll take a few hours." Lara was ambiguous in her reply.

She saw the anxiety in Heather's expression. She had noticed Matthias' decadent attitude as of late, and, unable to think of any other culprit, she was sure that Heather was the one who caused him to be like this.

She did not blame Heather for stealing Matthias' heart, but she was angry at her for not appreciating him enough. This was why Heather unknowingly became Lara's subject of hate.

"Can't you contact him?" Heather asked anxiously. Lara wasn't like this before, so why the enmity now?

"Director Locke is in an important meeting, so I dare not disturb him," Lara answered, faking a smile.

Heather understood the meaning behind Lara's words, so she said without thinking, "Then I'll call him myself." To her, Lara had been energetic and loveable before, but now she was just bitter.

"He had probably turned off his phone." After saying that, Lara left.

Heather looked at her phone, unsure of how to respond to Lara's bitterness. Despite everything, she decided to send Matthias a message and continue waiting there.

10 minutes had passed, but there was still no response from Matthias, proving Lara's claims to be true. Heather immediately called Matthias on his phone, and it was truly turned off. She glared at her phone, an unknown rage boiling inside her.

As she was wondering what she could do, she suddenly remembered Evan, Matthias' butler. She immediately left Locke Group and made a beeline for Matthias' villa.

When Evan saw Heather, he gave her a bright smile which caused her to feel uneasy. Heather did not fancy Evan's overenthusiasm every time they met; she disliked men who were too attentive.

"Tell Matthias to come straight back to the villa after he's done with his business. I have something to ask of him," she said without beating around the bush, acting like she owned the place.

Evan expressed his agreement with smiles all over his face. To him, Heather might very well be the mistress already. It was rare for him to see Matthias treat a woman differently; no matter what, Evan had approved of Heather and wished that the two would just start dating already.

When Matthias was done with work, he turned on his phone and saw Heather's message. He hadn't received news from her in a long while, so he was surprised to see her looking for him in such haste.

After that, he read the message from Evan and was even more surprised that Heather had gone straight to his home. At this, Matthias could feel a subconscious smile creep onto his face.

Matthias hadn't cracked so much as a smile these few days, so the sudden grin crept out the bodyguards around him. He put his phone away and made up his mind to hurry back, lest he suffer Heather's wrath.

At the thought of Heather's face, Matthias couldn't help smiling again. There was a look of tenderness in his eyes, but even he himself failed to notice that he was starting to harbor special feelings for Heather.

Matthias fixed his clothes as he stood at the door, for he wanted to look spirited in front of Heather. He feigned calmness and nonchalance as he walked in.

He threw a glance at Heather, who was seated in the living room, and pretended not to mind as he walked over. In reality, he was already experiencing a plethora of emotions in his mind.

"I've been waiting for quite a while, Director Locke," Heather said abruptly.

She had business with Matthias, so she decided not to be too rude. Moreover, she had no intention of mentioning Myra to him.

After thinking for a while, she had decided to get the answers indirectly, chatting about things while inching closer to the heart of the matter. She would spare nothing to get the information she needed.

"I was busy with a meeting, so the phone..." Matthias explained uneasily. Evan stole a grin at the side, for he had never seen Matthias so nervous before. He didn't believe Matthias for a second when he said he had no feelings for Heather.

Heather forced a smile. “I understand. My visit was too sudden, right?” Even she felt strangely awkward for rushing over all of a sudden.

“No, no, it’s fine. You’re welcome here anytime.” Matthias was behaving like a harmless boy.

Evan discreetly dismissed the other people in the living room, leaving Heather and Matthias alone. His thoughtfulness earned Heather’s appreciation.

After all, there were things Heather would hesitate to say in front of an audience, so now that Matthias was the only one listening, she felt more relaxed.

“I just wanted to say that I was too rude last time.” She started off apologetic.

Matthias stared at Heather in surprise. Regarding the incident before, he had already reflected on his actions. He didn’t expect Heather to pay a visit because of it, but upon reconsideration, he immediately came to his senses as he realized that Heather was too stubborn to apologize for an incident like that.

Heather obviously had another motive. Matthias wasn’t dumb; he had seen Heather directing a conversation in her favor before, and since he wouldn’t want to get too calculative with her, he decided to just play along.

“No, I was the one at fault. I spent a long time at home reflecting on it, and I realized that there was something wrong with the way I treated women—I don’t respect them enough.” In order to look good in front of Heather, Matthias parroted the words Evan had used to reprimand him, blurting them all out in one go and putting on a deeply regretful expression.

Even Matthias felt that he himself was being weird. Why am I trying to get on Heather’s good side? This cannot go on, he decided.

However, he couldn’t control his own actions. He cursed his behavior as he questioned his supposed feelings toward Heather.

“Let’s get something to eat?” Heather asked tentatively.

Matthias quickly agreed. He liked meals with Heather; he felt that even the food tasted better when he was with her.

The two went to their destination in their own cars, for it wasn't an appropriate time for them to be alone together in the same car. Heather went in front; she was the one treating the other for a meal, so she led the way.

In the car, Heather reflected on her actions, telling herself that she really rushed over to see Matthias for Myra's sake.

"Maybe I'm just looking for an excuse," she mumbled to herself.

The moment Matthias appeared in front of her, she felt her anxious mind calm down, as if she hadn't seen him in forever. She felt that she was a failure; she knew that they could never be together, but still, she couldn't control her emotions.

Maybe she already had feelings for Matthias since an earlier time. She recalled her first time meeting Matthias; it was behind the rockery, and he had appeared shier and more bashful than Myra.

Those eyes were ignorant of worldly affairs. When Matthias stood next to Myra, it was a harmonious picture, for they were the same type of people. On the other hand, Heather felt that she was the odd one out. This was why envy took over her and urged her to do what she did. She hated even more the fact that Matthias' eyes were always on Myra, never once turning to her.

Standing before Love Chapter 471

The two cars arrived at the restaurant one after another. When the car door was opened, a man got out of the car followed by a woman. Breeze blew through Heather's hair, and she casually tucked her hair behind her ears so that it wouldn't block her sight.

Matthias gazed at Heather in adoration as he was attracted to the gorgeous and poised woman. Even the passers-by were attracted by her beautiful appearance. Not only was she a stunning woman, but she was also the kind of woman who was always easy on the eyes.

The more Matthias got to know Heather, the more he could feel her charm, and the more he perceived Heather as an appealing woman. In fact, Matthias was already stunned at Heather's beauty when he first met her even though he was filled with hatred toward her at that time. Heather's beauty was extraordinary.

Her delicate facial features and elegant aura were characteristics which were pursued by countless men. There was a saying that women who were extremely gorgeous would generally possess a heroic aura, and this was a genuine description of Heather as she had an independent and confident demeanor.

When Heather and Matthias entered the restaurant, the waiters' attention was attracted to them. It was rare to see such a good-looking couple, so they couldn't help but to fix their eyes on them, especially Heather, who was striking. Women would want to observe how beautiful Heather was while men would cast her glances of admiration.

Matthias didn't like to be watched when he was dining so he asked the waiter, "Is there a private dining room here?" He remarked casually while perusing the menu.

"Yes, but there's no private room for two. The minimum occupancy is eight pax," the waiter, who was a frank intern, answered bluntly.

Matthias darted a hostile glance at the waiter and wore a spurious smile. "Please give us the smallest room then." His domineering vehemence caught the waiter off guard as this was his first day working at the restaurant.

The atmosphere became slightly tense as two of them stared at each other. After a while, the waiter smiled awkwardly. "Uhhh... Guests are required to spend a minimum amount to use the room," the waiter mumbled hesitantly as he was worried that he might offend Matthias.

Heather gazed at the waiter and smiled at him as she thought he was pretty interesting. He seemed to be an honest man, and Heather reckoned he almost wanted to say that it wasn't worth it for them to overspend just for the sake of the room. However, Matthias did not bother to admire the waiter's honesty. He was merely unhappy with the waiter's service and the way he spoke.

"You don't have to worry about that. If the food we order can't reach the minimum spending, I'll top up the remaining amount with cash. You can consider that your tip," Matthias said solemnly. It was the first time he ran into this kind of situation while dining out where his request couldn't be fulfilled.

The waiter came to a realization at once and he looked at Matthias at a loss. He guessed these two customers were rich. Principles and rules could be

changed, but customers were kings and the last thing he should do was to offend them.

The waiter was startled for a while. Just as Matthias was about to lose his cool and blow up, the waiter said to Matthias apologetically, "Alright. Please follow me." The honest waiter then added, "Uhhh... and I don't need the tip."

The originally tense atmosphere was lightened up because of the last sentence the waiter said. Heather covered her mouth and giggled, seeing which Matthias was startled. He immediately forgave the blunt lad because he had amused Heather.

Then, Heather and Matthias stood up and walked side by side while following the waiter to the private room. The waiter brought them to the smallest room but he was unsure if his decision was appropriate or not. He also didn't want to alert the manager.

After they settled in, Heather said to the waiter who was about to leave the room, "Thanks for your kindness." The waiter blushed instantly because Heather had taken the initiative to speak to him, and Heather smiled even brighter seeing his reaction.

After the waiter left, Heather and Matthias waited for the food to be served. Meanwhile, the manager was waiting for the waiter outside the room. His face darkened at once when he saw the waiter. "How can you allow two guests to use the private room?" he retorted. The manager was displeased by the waiter's action as he thought the waiter had taken it upon himself to make the decision.

As such, the waiter was even more flustered. Originally, he didn't intend to alert the manager and planned to quietly bring the guests to the room, but apparently, the manager had noticed his action.

"I-I'll ask them to come out then," the waiter stuttered nervously as he was at a loss of what to do.

"Just leave it, but don't repeat the same mistake again. If there's anything that you're unsure of, remember to consult me before making a decision, or you can ask me to handle the situation," the manager said in a resigned manner. He had seen the waiter leading Heather and Matthias into the private room which was usually reserved for a minimum number of eight guests, yet it was too late to stop the waiter.

Looking fearful, the waiter nodded incessantly. In fact, the manager hired him because of his honesty, but he was indeed a little dull-witted. Thereafter, the waiter served Heather and Matthias with a perturbed mind. Heather sat across from Matthias, and two of them remained silent for quite some time as they didn't know how to start a conversation out of the blue.

"Why did you bring me to this restaurant?" In the end, Matthias broke the silence. He lowered his head to avoid meeting Heather's gaze.

Heather was caught off guard by the question. Staring at the dishes in front of her, she pondered why she even brought Matthias here. A minute passed, and Matthias thought Heather didn't intend to answer his question. Just then, Heather mumbled, "The food here is tasty and it's worth revisiting. It's rare that I have someone to eat with, so I thought this place was just nice."

The answer she gave was rather reasonable. Matthias hummed in response and started to dig in. Since Heather said the food here was tasty, he would like to know just how good it actually was. However, upon tasting the food, Matthias thought it wasn't that delicious after all, so he glanced at Heather in puzzlement as he was confused about what was going on.

Heather perceived Matthias' gaze and could tell what he was thinking. "You don't like it?" She stressed the last three words.

Matthias thought twice. Heather was the one who invited him for a meal and brought him here, and since she deemed the food here good, he shouldn't tell the truth to upset her. He shook his head immediately and said, "No, I like it. The food is pretty good." In order to add credibility to his words, he quickly put more food onto his plate. He was indeed striving to impress Heather.

"I'm glad you like it." Heather wore a profound smile. She had never heard the others praising the food of this restaurant other than herself.

As a matter of fact, Heather deliberately brought Matthias here as revenge against him. She didn't invite Matthias for a meal out of sincerity and actually had ulterior motives. Remembering what Matthias had done before this, Heather thought she shouldn't bring him to nice restaurants.

As such, this restaurant was the most suitable place. After all, Heather had a different opinion from the majority and she liked the food from this restaurant. Nevertheless, seeing Matthias' expression, Heather reckoned he had the same thoughts as others and didn't enjoy the food here.

It seemed like Heather was indeed one of the very few who appreciated this restaurant's food while the majority disapproved of it. Heather gazed at Matthias' expression and lying face with amusement. All in all, it was a rather harmonious meal.

Two of them barely talked and there was only the sound of them chewing food. Meanwhile, Heather was racking her brain to broach a certain topic because she still had some important questions to ask Matthias.

While they were halfway through their meal, Heather managed to change the topic to Myra. As much as Matthias was confused why Heather brought up Myra all of a sudden, he had no choice but to go along with her.

Since Myra's wedding was happening tomorrow, he thought Heather deliberately wanted to remind him of that. He already disliked the food of this restaurant to begin with, but now, he was all the more disgusted.

Deep down, Matthias thought he would never come to dine in at this restaurant again. On the other hand, Heather carefully observed Matthias' expression. That was the advantage of sitting across from him.

"Do you remember where you first met Myra?" Heather asked a burning question out of the blue, which caused Matthias to almost choke on the soup he was drinking.

Why the heck is she asking this kind of question? Matthias had an impulse to leave the room. Not only did Heather bring up Myra and forced Matthias to be reminded of the past, but she even asked him about their first encounter.

Matthias looked at Heather in a hostile manner as he suppressed the emotions that were surging within him. Meanwhile, Heather stared at Matthias in a frank and fearless manner. Obviously, she was waiting for his answer.

Matthias couldn't ignore her question, so he replied stiffly, "In a park." It was an ambiguous answer.

However, this wasn't the answer Heather was expecting. A park was far different from a man-made hill. Could it be that the man-made hill is in the park? Heather immediately denied her conjecture as she thought she was overthinking, and she continued questioning him.

“Has Myra ever brought you to the man-made hill in the school before?” In the end, Heather decided to mention the man-made hill directly. Otherwise, she doubted she would hear an answer regarding the man-made hill from Matthias.

Matthias looked at Heather in confusion as he totally had no idea why Heather was asking these questions. He thought it was ridiculous and didn't want to answer her.

However, he couldn't turn Heather down seeing her fervent gaze. Heather's stare made him feel like it would be very rude of him if he refused to answer her. He could tell from Heather's gaze that she was dying to know. They stared at each other for quite a while until Matthias couldn't avoid her gaze anymore.

“The first time the three of us met was at the man-made hill. She once told me that she first encountered you at the man-made hill, so she brought me there to meet you. She introduced you to me, saying that both of us are her close friends whom she treasured.” Even though it had been a long time, Matthias still remembered the incident vividly.

Back then, Matthias had never thought that he would meet the outstanding woman whom Myra kept talking about at the man-made hill. He had thought that Heather was an angel when he first met her. But alas, what happened next proved that he had met a devil. He was very shy during their first meeting and he didn't even dare to look at Heather, so he stared at Myra the whole time.

He would feel nervous when he was in Heather's presence, but he was comfortable being around Myra, which gave him a very odd feeling. Hence, for a long time after that, he had thought he was actually afraid of Heather while Myra gave him a sense of belonging.

Heather was actually not surprised upon hearing this answer. How could she forget that she first encountered Matthias at the man-made hill too? Heather wore a spurious smile. It seemed like Myra had gone through the pains because of Matthias.

“You have a good memory.” Heather lowered her head so Matthias couldn't see her eyes nor the complicated emotions in them and took a bite of food.

Matthias smiled and remained silent. Not only did he remember the incident clearly, but he even felt like it happened yesterday. His memory was so vivid that he could clearly recall Heather's expression at that time.

"You asked me out today just to ask about this matter?" Matthias asked in disappointment. After beating around the bush, it turned out that Heather's motive was to ask this simple question.

Heather did not respond to Matthias. Her aim had already been achieved and she didn't intend to explain to Matthias. Seeing Heather ignoring his question, Matthias roughly understood that it was true that Heather came to him just to ask this simple question.

How ironic. Matthias smiled in resignation. He had never expected that this was what was on Heather's mind. No wonder her apology today sounded so unnatural. Matthias felt like he had been used, and he would rather Heather had not come to find him today. At this thought, he laid down his cutlery as he had lost his appetite.

Heather noticed Matthias' reaction but she couldn't care less and continued enjoying her dinner. Deep down, Heather was still bothered by what Matthias had done previously. The only reason she came to find him this time was for the sake of Myra. After proving her thoughts, Heather detested Matthias even more.

Besides, she became even lost as she couldn't figure out the reason behind Myra's malady. In fact, she wasn't too sure how devoted Myra was toward Matthias back then.

It was hard to guess what a girl was thinking about. They could say the opposite of what they meant. Moreover, it was true that Myra was attracted to Matthias at that time.

They were probably very in love with each other back then. If that wasn't the case, Matthias wouldn't have been able to pull through the period after their breakup.

Heather was flustered when she realized this beautiful first love was destroyed by her. She didn't dare to imagine if Myra would still want to be her friend if she recalled what happened in the past. It was only now that Heather recognized how serious the mistake she had made in the past was.

She couldn't face Matthias all the more, who was Myra's first love and someone whom she had persecuted before. Heather's mind was tangled at the thought of this complicated relationship.

"I'm done with my food. There are some urgent matters to attend to in the company, so I shall take my leave first." Matthias made up an excuse as he intended to leave.

Heather did not stop him since it would be meaningless for them to continue eating together. Nodding, she still wanted to say something to Matthias but bit her tongue toward the end.

As such, she watched Matthias walk out of the private room. It seems like I've offended him. Ever since Heather met Matthias, she felt like she couldn't even handle things in a rational manner anymore.

Neither did she want her relationship with Matthias to end up this stiff, but it somehow turned out to be so. If this continued, the amity that was finally established between them might perish and they might become enemies again.

After Matthias left, Heather stopped eating too as she had completely lost her appetite. Standing up, she stared at the direction in which Matthias had gone off and hesitated for a moment before leaving the room resolutely.

Seeing Matthias starting his car engine and leaving, Heather felt distressed. She had just met Matthias not long ago, yet they ended up in such a situation now. The development of their relationship was even more torturing and complicated than a pair of lovers'.

On the other hand, Matthias sped away and drifted all the way home recklessly as he desperately needed to vent out his displeasure. Fortunately, he arrived home safe and sound. When Evan saw Matthias come home with a darkened face, he reckoned Matthias had a fallout with Heather again.

In order to not get himself into trouble, Evan intended to avoid bringing up Heather lest he irritated Matthias. However, Matthias brought Heather up first this time, which made Evan stare at him innocently as he didn't know how he should react.

"Don't you think this woman is weird?" Matthias asked Evan crabbily. Evan couldn't avoid the question, so he nodded in a quandary. He didn't dare to

further provoke Matthias and thought it would be better to agree with whatever he said at this moment.

“Miss Langston is not an ordinary woman.” Evan attempted to defend Heather, which made Matthias glare at him in return.

With that, Evan smiled awkwardly and stopped talking. Obviously, Heather had provoked Matthias again. Evan wondered how Heather even managed to make Matthias this furious.

“Don’t ever mention her name in front of me,” Matthias scowled angrily.

Evan wore an innocent expression. It was him who brought up Heather first, yet now he’s blaming me. It sure is hard to please him.

“Sure, sure. It has been a long day for you. Why don’t you go upstairs for a bath first?” Evan quickly changed the topic. He decided to let it go for the sake of his salary increment.

“Bring me to the hill. I want to go to the hot spring.” Matthias wanted to take a hot spring bath as the usual bath couldn’t satisfy him anymore. At that time, he purchased this bungalow situated at the foot of a hill exactly so that he could develop a hot spring behind the bungalow.

Matthias had a health issue ever since he was born, and soaking in hot springs was beneficial for him. As such, there was a hot spring built in Locke Residence especially for him. After arriving at Bradford City, Matthias made himself a hot spring too.

Matthias had always been a big spender, so he had bought the land behind the bungalow as well. Nevertheless, this was just the tip of the iceberg. Even Matthias didn’t know how wealthy the Locke Family actually was.

Now, Matthias was still not the most influential person in the Locke Family. Although he was the person-in-charge by name, the shares had not been transferred to him yet.

Matthias only possessed a small amount of Locke Group’s shares while most of the shares were still in the hands of the elders. If the elders in the family were displeased with Matthias, they could drag him down from his current position anytime.

Matthias had been extremely prudent over the years, but he still couldn't escape from the Locke Family's control. Moreover, only a few elders in the family were supportive of him while most of them were discontented with him.

For instance, the present family head of the Lockes was displeased with him, but he still supported Matthias because there was no other person in the family who was as talented as Matthias when it came to running businesses.

The family head was well aware that their family business would only prosper and expand if Matthias was the leader. Hence, he had been guarding Matthias in the dark so that no one would target his position. No matter how much he detested Matthias, he would still support him so that Matthias could focus on managing the business.

Nevertheless, these reasons were exactly why Matthias felt insecure. No one could guarantee that he wouldn't be dragged down from his current position in the future.

He would only be safe after possessing a majority of the shares. Matthias had been striving to achieve this goal all these years. However, neither did he dare to act recklessly since most of the shares were in the hands of the other Locke family members.

No matter how desperate he was, he couldn't buy over the shares from the other family members because such an action would cause alarm within the family, which would in turn accelerate his downfall.

The Locke Family was smart to make this move because Matthias could only obey them and would only receive shares as a reward if he did so. Otherwise, he would have to give up Locke Group. Matthias knew that the family head was actually soft-hearted despite being harsh. As such, he would become the person-in-charge with autonomy sooner or later, and he would break free from the control of the group of elders.

Having accumulated power and waiting to take action for so many years, Matthias had tried his best to give in whenever he could. However, there was news from the Locke Family a few days ago where they made a fuss out of his marriage again. Matthias knew he would sooner or later be involved in a political marriage, but he didn't expect that he was still unable to escape from this fate even after he had run away from Tansia City. Matthias was already frustrated to begin with, but this news actually came to him a few days before

Myra's marriage. It seemed like God was deliberately testing him by throwing these two incidents at him simultaneously.

Soaking in the hot spring, Matthias felt relaxed. Meanwhile, Evan stood beside Matthias to be at his service.

Evan was probably the only one who could understand Matthias. These few days, he had kept away his sharp tongue because he knew anyone else would feel terrible if put in a similar situation.

Matthias had been totally devoting himself to his work. Since there were so many things that were bothering him, he rather put those troubles aside and completely focused on what he was supposed to do.

However, something couldn't simply be avoided just because he hoped so. While Matthias was having the hot spring bath, he asked Evan, "Are the Lockes pushing me again?"

Matthias' face turned sullen at the thought of being pressured to get married. He had already sacrificed a lot for the Locke Family, and even his health was at stake. However, he didn't think that everyone in the family was this ungrateful and was actually dying to exploit him to the maximum. At times, he even thought that he was just a tool of the Locke Family, and this tool would be abandoned someday once it reached the end of its usefulness. Although the Locke Family would need a great deal of courage to abandon him, it didn't mean that Matthias would always be safe. After all, it wasn't too hard to get him replaced.

Matthias felt like he was just a puppet all these years. He had undergone terrible dark times which would be unbearable for ordinary people. Now that his only hope had vanished too, Matthias felt that his life was meaningless. He had been fighting against his fate until today, yet he still lost terribly.

"The family head advised you to head back to Tasia City," Evan replied in a concise manner.

Matthias knew the family head had given him this reminder out of kindness, but he didn't feel like going back to Tasia City at all. Moreover, he would have to attend blind dates once he was back.

What a wretched life. As much as outsiders might deem Matthias as a rich and influential man, the truth was he was powerless.

Thirty was a common age to get married. Thinking he was almost reaching this age, Matthias let out a rueful laugh as he thought he was too pathetic.

“In my opinion, you should visit TASNIA City after attending Miss Stark’s wedding.” Hearing Matthias’ terrifying laugh, Evan couldn’t help but voice his opinion.

“No way,” Matthias rejected it resolutely.

“This is the third time they pressured you to get married this year. If you don’t go back this time, they might lose their heads and make a big fuss out of this matter. Please consider it carefully,” Evan said responsibly. His livelihood depended on Matthias, so he naturally didn’t want Matthias to get into trouble. As such, he would advise Matthias whenever the latter was being irrational lest the Lockes caught him tripping.