

## Standing before Love Chapter 472

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 crabily. 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 Tasia 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 Tasia 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.

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At night, Matthias wasn't the only one who couldn't sleep; Heather was also tossing and turning in her bed. Meanwhile, Myra and Tony were having pillow talk, and before they knew it, it was dawn. They weren't supposed to spend the night together the day before the wedding, but they were unwilling to leave each other's side. As such, they disregarded the tradition.

After changing into a suit, Tony spent most of his time in front of the mirror early in the morning. Meanwhile, in another room, a makeup artist was putting on bridal makeup for Myra. According to local customs, the groom was supposed to pick up the bride at her home, but due to certain circumstances, Myra was going to be 'picked up' from the next room. On another note, Tony had spent the past few days decorating their new home—a villa he had just bought.

Myra hadn't seen the new villa nor did she know where it was since Tony wanted to surprise her. After they got married, they were going to move out and live in their own home.

Once a man was married and settled down, he would be completely independent. Knowing this, Sebastian and Lisa knew not to insist they stay. The wedding was unconventional as it was done in a way they were most comfortable with. In fact, they weren't bothered by others' opinions.

Today was a big day, so Heather had gotten all dressed up early in the morning. When she showed up, Myra's eyes lit up as she stared at her incredulously.

It had been a long time since she saw Heather's face without makeup. It was like going back in time to the day when she was leaving the country.

"You look so good. Time hasn't left any traces on your face at all," Myra gushed enviously. Without any makeup on her face, Heather surprisingly looked bright, and she still looked like a teenager.

Hearing the sincere compliments, Heather couldn't help but feel a little shy, which was a rare sight. At that moment, her aura softened significantly.

"There isn't any collagen left in my face, so stop feeding my ego. Today is a special day, and I thought you would like me this way." Heather was wearing a bridesmaid's dress and beaming brightly. A carefree smile like that was hardly ever seen on her face anymore.

As a matter of fact, that smile was so infectious that even Myra relaxed and smiled.

"I do. Thank you for doing this for me," she said from the bottom of her heart.

Everything that Heather had done for her hadn't gone unnoticed. Sometimes, Myra just didn't know how to express her gratitude. She could only gaze at her gratefully, feeling blessed to have such a wonderful friend in her life.

"Focus on getting your makeup done and stop staring at me," Heather teased as she gazed at Myra, who looked like she was overwhelmed by emotions. She was going to marry Tony today, and Heather felt like her precious friend was being taken away by someone else.

Without saying a word, Myra smiled. At this moment, Myra and Heather looked as pretty as a picture.

On the other hand, Tony was good to go. Myra wasn't far away, and there were several times he had the urge to go see her.

However, he was stopped by Lucas, who was also dressed up today and looked energized. His stern and handsome face was captivating.

"Hold your horses. It's still early, and it's bad luck to see the bride before the wedding ceremony," Lucas said to Tony, hoping he would calm down a little.

"Myra must look especially beautiful today." The corner of Tony's lips curved into a giddy smile that even Lucas had to look away from. It was the smile of a man in love.

"Myra has always been beautiful, and today she will look even better," Lucas chimed in.

"She will be the most beautiful bride today," Tony said longingly, while Lucas nodded hastily. Tony was under a spell. Seeing the blissful smile on his face, Lucas felt a little envious.

He wondered when he would be able to experience such joy—a simple and pure love. He also wanted to walk down the aisle with the woman he loved and grow old together with her.

Waiting was the worst for someone who was filled with excitement. Since Philip and the others weren't here yet, Tony chatted with Lucas. "Heather is the maid of honor."

Glancing at Tony, Lucas waited for him to finish his sentence. "Looking forward to seeing her in the bridesmaid dress?"

Tony spoke implicitly. After all, Lucas was an introverted person and it wouldn't be a good idea to be so blunt. He wasn't as proactive as Philip, and Tony wasn't sure whether Lucas or Philip was more compatible with Heather. However, it seemed like Lucas had better luck.

Of course, perhaps Heather wasn't interested in either of them. Myra had also mentioned before that Heather might already have someone she liked, but they just couldn't be together for certain reasons.



After having interacted with Heather several times, his impression of her wasn't bad. If she was paired with one of his friends, he wouldn't think of it as a bad thing.

Lucas smiled and dodged the question. Ever since he met Heather, he had indeed been acting differently, but it wasn't a good thing because he wanted to control his emotions. Moreover, Philip was clearly interested in her.

It was difficult for Lucas to reveal his feelings. It was one thing to have a crush on her, but confessing to her was another matter. Just then, Lucas brushed off these thoughts. He internally cursed himself for thinking too far ahead out of nowhere.

Seeing the subtle expression on his face, Tony knew the answer, but with Lucas's nature, he would definitely let Philip get the jump on him when the time came.

Whether it was Lucas or Philip who ended up with Heather, Tony would still be happy. He was only afraid that she didn't like any of them. In fact, it was hard to suppress the urge to play cupid. Surprisingly, Tony found it quite amusing.

Meanwhile, in the other room, Heather was helping the makeup artist. Her makeup skills weren't bad. Compared to the makeup artist, Heather was able to make Myra look even better. With joint efforts, Myra's makeup was mostly completed.

When touching the skin on Myra's face, Heather sighed enviously. "Your skin is so supple. It feels like a peeled egg and I'm envious." There wasn't a hint of exaggeration when Heather said this. Myra's skin was really great, and it was probably because her usual makeup was light and her skin was well-maintained.

"If anyone heard us, they would think we were flattering each other," Myra said jokingly.

Heather giggled, amused by what she said. "They would probably say that we were shameless behind our backs." Heather went along with what Myra said.

Time passed in this relaxed chatty atmosphere. Myra looked extraordinarily beautiful, and the wedding dress brought out her elegance.

“Did Tony pick this dress for you?” Heather asked casually. Since Tony loved Myra so dearly, he would, of course, arrange everything meticulously.

In a blissful manner, Myra nodded. She was extremely satisfied with her dress. Tony was always so thoughtful, and she felt really lucky to be able to marry him. Thinking about seeing him in a few more moments, she thought he must look especially handsome today.

“Seeing you so happy makes me feel relieved to entrust you to Tony.” Heather spoke with a smile although she was a little reluctant. For some reason, it felt like she was marrying her own daughter off.

Everyone would be here in a moment, and it was going to be a busy day. Three cars had already stopped in front of the Hart Residence. Serena would be responsible for reception, and she was followed by Henry who had taken the day off.

Sebastian and Lisa had been sitting in the living room ever since the wee hours of the morning, feeling overjoyed. Everyone was smiling cheerfully on such a big day.

It seemed like the only one who wasn't happy was Matthias, who had been up all night and got dark circles under his eyes because of that. He got up and freshened up since he couldn't show up to Myra's wedding looking so depressed. He even asked Evan to put on light makeup for him. The dark circles under his eyes had to be covered up.

“Please cooperate,” Evan said in a serious manner while Matthias had a resistant look on his face.

After all, most men weren't comfortable with putting anything on their faces. If it wasn't because he looked awful today, he definitely wouldn't have asked Evan to do anything to his face.

Meanwhile, Evan was grinning. “Do you remember the bet we made before?” he asked while helping Matthias with his makeup.

“No,” he said. He didn't like suspenseful opening remarks like this.

“I said that you would let me do your makeup one day. Look at us now.” Evan spoke smugly, which earned him an eye-roll from Matthias.

“So?” He had forgotten about such a bet.

“So, please transfer 200,000 to my bank account later.” Evan stuck his nose up proudly.

”

On the other hand, Evan wasn't giving him the chance to argue. “A real man never goes back on his words. It's only 200,000. It's a drop in the ocean for you.”

“Yeah.” Matthias didn't object even though he knew Evan was trying to distract him.

On the surface, it seemed like Evan was a money-grubber, but in reality, he was a righteous person. In fact, he preferred to keep his true self hidden.

“Thank you, Director Locke.” Evan put in more effort in doing Matthias's makeup as it had earned him a huge paycheck.

However, it seemed like his distraction didn't work at all. Under Evan's skillful hands, even though Matthias had become more handsome than before, his demeanor was still a little sickly and he was obviously not in a good mood. Only Matthias himself could fix the sickly aura that originated from him.

“Your mood is much more stable today.” Evan properly encouraged him. In fact, he treated Matthias like he would a child.

“I feel bittersweet.” Matthias smiled bitterly in the mirror.

“You look worse smiling compared to crying. A man should be gracious, even if attending the wedding of a first love. Not to mention, Myra wasn't even your first love. You've never established your relationship back then,” Evan interjected, ignoring the murderous glare from Matthias.

“If you still want 200,000 in your bank account, you better shut up.” As Matthias glared at him, he looked much more lively in an instant. Satisfied, Evan gazed at a very annoyed Matthias in the mirror.

“There you go. Otherwise, I'd have to put some blush on you.” Cunning like a fox, Evan had set Matthias up again.

“Hmm.” He turned to face Evan, who immediately shut up. Losing 200,000 was the last thing he wanted.

“Don’t worry, I know what to do. It’s Myra’s wedding today, so I’m going to send them a big gift.” Somehow, he looked a little malicious.

The Hart Residence was bustling with people. Elliot and Tilly arrived in the same car, while the door of another car opened to reveal Shawn, who then held the door open for Estelle.

The third car had stopped, and Philip came out of it. At that moment, all of Myra and Tony’s friends had arrived. When they were in the living room, Serena warmly received them while Henry smiled happily. He was overjoyed that his Uncle Tony was finally getting married.

Everyone went upstairs, and the men and women went to different rooms. According to local customs, the bride and bridesmaid would lock themselves in the bride’s room, while the groom and the groomsmen had to complete a series of challenges set by the bridesmaids in order to be let into the room to pick up the bride before proceeding with the wedding ceremony. Estelle and Tilly went straight to Myra’s room. Pushing open the door, Estelle was astonished that the one who was talking and laughing with Myra was none other than Heather.

Time had been too forgiving to Heather because her face still looked like that of a teen girl’s. She didn’t expect Heather to still look so good even without makeup on.

As soon as Heather’s eyes met Estelle’s, Heather immediately straightened up and her majestic aura returned. Although it was a moment’s effort, Estelle was still amazed. After all, Heather had always been this way and a shift in expression wasn’t hard for her.

Meanwhile, Tilly’s impression of Heather was her beauty. Now that she saw how different she looked, she was shocked too. No matter what kind of look Heather went for, she always looked good. She was eye-catching no matter where she went.

Heather was still not used to being seen looking like this, and shifting expressions was only a matter of seconds for her. Soon, she returned to normal.

Showing a polite smile, she didn't want to scare people away on Myra's wedding day. Estelle glanced at Heather profoundly, still unable to believe how easy-going she appeared to be. She was always waiting for the moment when Heather revealed her true colors. As long as she acted a little unusually, Estelle would get a tinge of excitement.

"All set?" Estelle spoke first to break the ice.

Myra was smiling extra radiantly. Accompanied by today's makeup, she looked so good that it was difficult to take one's eyes off her. A bride always looked the best on her wedding day. At that moment, Estelle and Tilly gazed at Myra and congratulated her. It was such a wonderful day.

"Just waiting for the groom," Myra said with a grin on her face.

"They're probably ready and should be coming over in a while." Tilly twiddled the phone in her hand. In fact, Elliot had been updating her about the situation on their side.

On the other hand, Tony looked handsome and charming, and his eyes sparkled. Lucas was also dressed up nicely. As the best man, he looked attractive. Philip also wasn't to be outdone and was dressed extra nicely today.

In contrast, Elliot and Shawn kept a low profile and dressed simply. Tony looked at his watch from time to time, wishing for time to go faster. He couldn't wait to see Myra.

Seeing this, Elliot said teasingly, "I wonder how many women's hearts you're going to capture today, Tony."

Tony laughed and did not answer, while the others followed suit. Then, Philip chimed in, "You three aren't single, so you should give us opportunities."

"There are many beautiful women at the wedding today, so keep an eye out." Elliot and Philip bantered with each other while waiting for time to pass.

The more anxious one was, the more they would feel that time was moving too slowly. As soon as it was time, Tony impatiently rushed out from the room with speed that no one could catch up to. It didn't take long for him to reach the other room as he strode toward the door.

As he stood at the door, he reached out to pull it open, but it was locked from the inside. Politely, he knocked but no one answered. Seeing this, Elliot went up to the door and slammed his palm against the door.

Inside came Tilly's voice. "Stop knocking. Whether this door opens depends on your sincerity." One step ahead of Estelle, Tilly answered cleverly.

"What do you mean by sincerity?" Elliot shouted through the door.

"Give us the money packets," Estelle said from inside the room.

In fact, Tony anticipated this and had prepared everything beforehand. He pulled out a stack of money packets and was ready to slip them through the gap beneath the door.

However, Shawn intercepted him and smiled at him. "We can't do whatever they say. Worst comes to worst, we'll break in." He had always been domineering, and this was clearly said for those inside the room to hear.

"We'll see whether you or the door is stronger," Estelle said, not afraid at all that they would break the door down. She was confident that no human would be able to break in.

"Let's find out," Shawn said carelessly. They weren't ordinary people, so this door was nothing to them.

"Don't." Tony quickly stopped Shawn, astonished that he would be so serious at a time like this.

"I've prepared so many money packets. We'll have to give it to them anyway." Tony didn't want to delay further over money packets, but he knew that it wasn't going to be easy for him to see Myra.

"That won't work. If you agree so easily, the challenges will be more difficult than the last." Elliot also sided with Shawn while Lucas watched them with amusement.

"They can take as many money packets as they like when they open the door," Philip chimed in.

"We're definitely taking the money packets, but whether we'll open the door or not depends on our mood," Estelle said in dissatisfaction. How dare those

men outside think they can just send us off with money packets? It's despicable!

Especially Shawn, who was taking the lead. At that moment, she thought Tony was the most dependable. Not a moment later, a pile of money packets were slid into the room through the gap between the door and the floor.

Estelle and Tilly divided the packets and happily opened the packets. They thought Tony was quite attentive. When they opened the packets, not only did they find money, but also various vouchers for things that girls liked, such as beauty and health entertainment. There were all kinds of vouchers and coupons.

Despite Tony's good performance, they couldn't let him in so easily. They wanted him to make vows and just generally make things difficult for him.

When it was time for the quiz, Estelle asked him everything to do with Myra's likes and dislikes, which Tony didn't find any trouble answering. He was always spoiling her and doting on her, so it was only natural that the quiz wasn't difficult for him.

Finally, Tony took the initiative to declare his love to Myra through the door. "Myra, thank you for marrying me." A simple and direct sentence began with a melodramatic tone.

Myra listened quietly to Tony's loud and clear declaration of love.

"Before I met you, I never believed that I would fall in love with a person. To me, women were all the same—old or young, beautiful or ugly, there wasn't much difference. You are the only one who is different. You are the woman I love. After I met you, marrying you was my biggest goal, and today this goal will be fulfilled. From now on, we're married, and I will never leave you for the rest of our lives." As Tony spoke each and every word with sincerity, Myra held back her tears. She was moved by every word he said.

Tony's declaration of love made the women envious while the groomsmen smiled pleasantly. It was rare to see him so emotional. Once a man met the woman they loved, the words they spoke would start to sound poetic.

"Let them in!" Heather said on behalf of Myra, who probably couldn't say anything for a while, for fear that once she opened her mouth, she would shed tears of happiness.

At last, Tony got into the room as he wished and couldn't take his eyes off Myra. Meanwhile, Estelle mischievously waved her hands in front of Tony, who was dazzled by the sight of his bride. This gesture caused everyone to burst out laughing.

At that moment, Myra was also gazing at Tony. The two stared at each other for a long time as if there was no one else around. Just then, Shawn faked a cough. "We have to get going."

Estelle rolled her eyes at him, thinking that he was a spoilsport. At the same time, Myra and Tony both retracted their gaze as they realized they had been rude. At this moment, all that mattered to both of them was each other.

To Tony, Myra was a whole other level of beautiful, whereas Tony was extraordinarily handsome to Myra. They thought they wouldn't be sick of seeing each other for the rest of their lives.

Then, everyone went downstairs. Olivia was squeamish while Henry, being the caring boy that he was, was standing next to her, trying to ease her discomfort.

Myra quickly spotted Olivia. She went toward her and gazed down at her. Seeing that Olivia wasn't quite used to such a scene, Myra gave her a gentle smile, whereas Tony also gazed tenderly at her as he stood next to Myra.

"You came! I'll be busy today, so I may not be able to take care of you. You can stay with Henry. He's a reliable man," Myra said that she entrusted Olivia to Henry, but in reality, she was letting Serena take care of Olivia.

"Congratulations on your wedding, Miss Stark. I wish you and Tony lots of love and happiness," Olivia said while gazing at Tony with an understanding and well-mannered demeanor.

Reaching out, Myra ruffled her hair. "Relax. Think of this as your own home." Seeing Olivia like this, Myra couldn't help but dote on her.

At once, Olivia nodded firmly. "Mom sends her wishes as well. She's sorry that she couldn't attend your wedding."

Watching her behaving like an adult, Myra was surprisingly a little heartbroken. With a smile, she shook her head. "Make sure Alicia takes care of herself. Tell her I've received her blessing. Thank you."



After a brief chat with Olivia, Myra walked forward and out of the villa. The sun was shining outside, and the smell of sunshine was in the air. It was a good day.

Myra and Tony got in the same car while the others got in their respective cars. The vast convoy was set to leave. Since it was Tony who was getting married, the convoy of cars was naturally the best. In fact, they attracted the attention of many passers-by along the way.

As Tony drove his new sports car, Myra sat in the passenger seat. The dazzling blue Shelby Supercar was flashy and magnificent. He said everything in the wedding had to be the best, so the sports car must also be the world's top brand. In fact, he had gone through a lot of trouble to get his hands on this car.

Myra kept staring at Tony as if she couldn't get enough of him. Meanwhile, Tony would occasionally turn to her and give her a smile.

"You look so handsome today. I can't take my eyes off you," she said softly. In her eyes, he was the most handsome man in the world.

"You can look at me for the rest of your life," he said while speeding up, a wide smile on his face.

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Everyone went upstairs, and the men and women went to different rooms. According to local customs, the bride and bridesmaid would lock themselves in the bride's room, while the groom and the groomsmen had to complete a series of challenges set by the bridesmaids in order to be let into the room to pick up the bride before proceeding with the wedding ceremony. Estelle and Tilly went straight to Myra's room. Pushing open the door, Estelle was

astonished that the one who was talking and laughing with Myra was none other than Heather.

Time had been too forgiving to Heather because her face still looked like that of a teen girl's. She didn't expect Heather to still look so good even without makeup on.

As soon as Heather's eyes met Estelle's, Heather immediately straightened up and her majestic aura returned. Although it was a moment's effort, Estelle was still amazed. After all, Heather had always been this way and a shift in expression wasn't hard for her.

Meanwhile, Tilly's impression of Heather was her beauty. Now that she saw how different she looked, she was shocked too. No matter what kind of look Heather went for, she always looked good. She was eye-catching no matter where she went.

Heather was still not used to being seen looking like this, and shifting expressions was only a matter of seconds for her. Soon, she returned to normal.

Showing a polite smile, she didn't want to scare people away on Myra's wedding day. Estelle glanced at Heather profoundly, still unable to believe how easy-going she appeared to be. She was always waiting for the moment when Heather revealed her true colors. As long as she acted a little unusually, Estelle would get a tinge of excitement.

"All set?" Estelle spoke first to break the ice.

Myra was smiling extra radiantly. Accompanied by today's makeup, she looked so good that it was difficult to take one's eyes off her. A bride always looked the best on her wedding day. At that moment, Estelle and Tilly gazed at Myra and congratulated her. It was such a wonderful day.

"Just waiting for the groom," Myra said with a grin on her face.

"They're probably ready and should be coming over in a while." Tilly twiddled the phone in her hand. In fact, Elliot had been updating her about the situation on their side.

On the other hand, Tony looked handsome and charming, and his eyes sparkled. Lucas was also dressed up nicely. As the best man, he looked

attractive. Philip also wasn't to be outdone and was dressed extra nicely today.

In contrast, Elliot and Shawn kept a low profile and dressed simply. Tony looked at his watch from time to time, wishing for time to go faster. He couldn't wait to see Myra.

Seeing this, Elliot said teasingly, "I wonder how many women's hearts you're going to capture today, Tony."

Tony laughed and did not answer, while the others followed suit. Then, Philip chimed in, "You three aren't single, so you should give us opportunities."

"There are many beautiful women at the wedding today, so keep an eye out." Elliot and Philip bantered with each other while waiting for time to pass.

The more anxious one was, the more they would feel that time was moving too slowly. As soon as it was time, Tony impatiently rushed out from the room with speed that no one could catch up to. It didn't take long for him to reach the other room as he strode toward the door.

As he stood at the door, he reached out to pull it open, but it was locked from the inside. Politely, he knocked but no one answered. Seeing this, Elliot went up to the door and slammed his palm against the door.

Inside came Tilly's voice. "Stop knocking. Whether this door opens depends on your sincerity." One step ahead of Estelle, Tilly answered cleverly.

"What do you mean by sincerity?" Elliot shouted through the door.

"Give us the money packets," Estelle said from inside the room.

In fact, Tony anticipated this and had prepared everything beforehand. He pulled out a stack of money packets and was ready to slip them through the gap beneath the door.

However, Shawn intercepted him and smiled at him. "We can't do whatever they say. Worst comes to worst, we'll break in." He had always been domineering, and this was clearly said for those inside the room to hear.

“We’ll see whether you or the door is stronger,” Estelle said, not afraid at all that they would break the door down. She was confident that no human would be able to break in.

“Let’s find out,” Shawn said carelessly. They weren’t ordinary people, so this door was nothing to them.

“Don’t.” Tony quickly stopped Shawn, astonished that he would be so serious at a time like this.

“I’ve prepared so many money packets. We’ll have to give it to them anyway.” Tony didn’t want to delay further over money packets, but he knew that it wasn’t going to be easy for him to see Myra.

“That won’t work. If you agree so easily, the challenges will be more difficult than the last.” Elliot also sided with Shawn while Lucas watched them with amusement.

“They can take as many money packets as they like when they open the door,” Philip chimed in.

“We’re definitely taking the money packets, but whether we’ll open the door or not depends on our mood,” Estelle said in dissatisfaction. How dare those men outside think they can just send us off with money packets? It’s despicable!

Especially Shawn, who was taking the lead. At that moment, she thought Tony was the most dependable. Not a moment later, a pile of money packets were slid into the room through the gap between the door and the floor.

Estelle and Tilly divided the packets and happily opened the packets. They thought Tony was quite attentive. When they opened the packets, not only did they find money, but also various vouchers for things that girls liked, such as beauty and health entertainment. There were all kinds of vouchers and coupons.

Despite Tony’s good performance, they couldn’t let him in so easily. They wanted him to make vows and just generally make things difficult for him.

When it was time for the quiz, Estelle asked him everything to do with Myra’s likes and dislikes, which Tony didn’t find any trouble answering. He was

always spoiling her and doting on her, so it was only natural that the quiz wasn't difficult for him.

Finally, Tony took the initiative to declare his love to Myra through the door. "Myra, thank you for marrying me." A simple and direct sentence began with a melodramatic tone.

Myra listened quietly to Tony's loud and clear declaration of love.

"Before I met you, I never believed that I would fall in love with a person. To me, women were all the same—old or young, beautiful or ugly, there wasn't much difference. You are the only one who is different. You are the woman I love. After I met you, marrying you was my biggest goal, and today this goal will be fulfilled. From now on, we're married, and I will never leave you for the rest of our lives." As Tony spoke each and every word with sincerity, Myra held back her tears. She was moved by every word he said.

Tony's declaration of love made the women envious while the groomsmen smiled pleasantly. It was rare to see him so emotional. Once a man met the woman they loved, the words they spoke would start to sound poetic.

"Let them in!" Heather said on behalf of Myra, who probably couldn't say anything for a while, for fear that once she opened her mouth, she would shed tears of happiness.

At last, Tony got into the room as he wished and couldn't take his eyes off Myra. Meanwhile, Estelle mischievously waved her hands in front of Tony, who was dazzled by the sight of his bride. This gesture caused everyone to burst out laughing.

At that moment, Myra was also gazing at Tony. The two stared at each other for a long time as if there was no one else around. Just then, Shawn faked a cough. "We have to get going."

Estelle rolled her eyes at him, thinking that he was a spoilsport. At the same time, Myra and Tony both retracted their gaze as they realized they had been rude. At this moment, all that mattered to both of them was each other.

To Tony, Myra was a whole other level of beautiful, whereas Tony was extraordinarily handsome to Myra. They thought they wouldn't be sick of seeing each other for the rest of their lives.

Then, everyone went downstairs. Olivia was squeamish while Henry, being the caring boy that he was, was standing next to her, trying to ease her discomfort.

Myra quickly spotted Olivia. She went toward her and gazed down at her. Seeing that Olivia wasn't quite used to such a scene, Myra gave her a gentle smile, whereas Tony also gazed tenderly at her as he stood next to Myra.

"You came! I'll be busy today, so I may not be able to take care of you. You can stay with Henry. He's a reliable man," Myra said that she entrusted Olivia to Henry, but in reality, she was letting Serena take care of Olivia.

"Congratulations on your wedding, Miss Stark. I wish you and Tony lots of love and happiness," Olivia said while gazing at Tony with an understanding and well-mannered demeanor.

Reaching out, Myra ruffled her hair. "Relax. Think of this as your own home." Seeing Olivia like this, Myra couldn't help but dote on her.

At once, Olivia nodded firmly. "Mom sends her wishes as well. She's sorry that she couldn't attend your wedding."

Watching her behaving like an adult, Myra was surprisingly a little heartbroken. With a smile, she shook her head. "Make sure Alicia takes care of herself. Tell her I've received her blessing. Thank you."

After a brief chat with Olivia, Myra walked forward and out of the villa. The sun was shining outside, and the smell of sunshine was in the air. It was a good day.

Myra and Tony got in the same car while the others got in their respective cars. The vast convoy was set to leave. Since it was Tony who was getting married, the convoy of cars was naturally the best. In fact, they attracted the attention of many passers-by along the way.

As Tony drove his new sports car, Myra sat in the passenger seat. The dazzling blue Shelby Supercar was flashy and magnificent. He said everything in the wedding had to be the best, so the sports car must also be the world's top brand. In fact, he had gone through a lot of trouble to get his hands on this car.

Myra kept staring at Tony as if she couldn't get enough of him. Meanwhile, Tony would occasionally turn to her and give her a smile.

"You look so handsome today. I can't take my eyes off you," she said softly. In her eyes, he was the most handsome man in the world.

"You can look at me for the rest of your life," he said while speeding up, a wide smile on his face.

## Standing before Love Chapter 475

Tony sped all the way to the well-decorated church that seemed matrimonious. It had been completely arranged to Myra's liking. He was willing to do anything for her, and he'd always provide her with the best.

Guests started to flock to the church as Tony welcomed the guests at the entrance. Meanwhile, Myra was waiting for the wedding to begin in a quieter area.

Heather was keeping Myra company. At this moment, Myra seemed anxious as she held onto Heather's hand tightly.

"Take a deep breath. I've never seen you so anxious before." Heather tried to calm Myra down.

"Heather, there are a lot of things that I don't know how to convey." As Myra and Heather locked eyes, Heather bent down to match Myra's eye-level. They looked like a pair of sisters.

"You can take your time." Heather's smile was so influential.

Myra quieted down for a moment as she went into deep thought, but she still couldn't find the right words. She ended up looking at Heather nervously, making Heather wonder if she would be the same when she got married one day.

Time seemed to be passing extra slow today, but Myra wished that the wedding would start as soon as possible. At this moment, she was only accompanied by Heather despite the large number of guests. The Hart family had always been low-key with everything, but it was an exception this time.

In fact, Tony wanted desperately to tell the whole world that he was marrying Myra. When he saw Sean, his face fell slightly but he recovered quickly.

Sean's appearance was a surprise as he came uninvited. Tony scoffed seeing how Sean seemed a little down.

At this moment, Lucas whispered in Tony's ear, "Will he make a scene?" Apparently, Lucas didn't have a good impression of Sean.

"Ask Elliot to keep an eye on him." Tony entrusted Elliot with this mission.

When Sean walked past Tony, he told him in a sincere tone, "Congratulations on your wedding." Nonetheless, it sounded like sarcasm to Tony.

Therefore, Tony scrutinized Sean as he recalled how Sean wouldn't let go of Myra some time ago, but now he was giving the couple his blessings.

"Thank you, Director Chase. Myra and I will be happy together," Tony replied as he observed the change in Sean's expression.

Having let go of a good woman like Myra, he could only suffer the consequences of his actions. Clenching his fists, he tried his best to keep his emotions under control.

Seeing how she was happy now, it was only right that he gave her his blessings. However, his emotions were wavering as he reminisced the moments they had shared.

With a pale face, he forced himself to walk along. Though he seemed a little pitiful, it was his own wrongdoings which led him here.

Not far away was Matthias, who was among the crowd, entering the church hall to attend Myra's wedding. It felt like a dream to him, but it was also a farewell to his past. After this, his past feelings would be buried along with his memories of Myra, who didn't remember a thing.

That was how he was consoling himself, telling himself that the past was in the past. As much advice people might have been given, they were not guaranteed a good life thereafter. Even though he had made up his mind, it still ached deep inside his heart.



Taking a deep gaze at the groom—Tony—Matthias thought to himself, That should have been me. We should be trading spots.

Meanwhile, a meaningful smile made its way to Tony's lips. He was the one who invited Matthias as a token of respect to his fellow business competitor.

Moreover, there had been quite some action from Matthias' side, so Tony was curious as to what he was up to. After all, Tony wasn't afraid of challenges as he thought of them as chances for himself and the company to improve.

It had been a while since Hart Group had competitors, so Tony was actually glad that Matthias was here to keep him on his toes.

Matthias offered a courteous smile as he said, "Congratulations." It took a lot of effort for him to say that single word as the bride of this man standing before him was the person that he had yet to let go of.

As the wedding bells rang, the guests watched Myra walk down the aisle holding onto Old Master Hart's arm. A long stretch of red carpet was covering the aisle, and Tony was standing right at the end. At this moment, Myra and Tony locked eyes as if there was nobody else in the world.

As for Old Master Hart, he smiled from ear to ear. Today, he had the image of a kind and friendly old man, and Estelle thought that she had never seen this side of him.

"Look at your old man grinning from ear to ear," Estelle told Shawn, who was beside her.

Turning to look at her, Shawn replied, "Old Master Hart will be even happier if you marry me."

At once, she stuck out her tongue. Obviously, she wasn't going to get coaxed into a marriage with him just like that. Hence, she simply ignored him, acting like the conversation never took place.

Nonetheless, he didn't let her off the hook so easily. If she still wouldn't say yes to him, he was really going to force her into marriage.

"Tony got married before me," Shawn said in a peculiar manner, wishing he could marry Estelle as soon as possible.

However, she let her gaze wander and acted like she didn't hear what he was talking about, but he still persisted.

"When do you want to get married into the Hart family?" he asked straightforwardly.

Tugging on Shawn's sleeve, Estelle said excitedly, "Look! They're standing together already!" She was obviously trying to change the topic.

He glared at her helplessly. It seemed that he still had work to do. This young lady, he thought.

Meanwhile, Myra and Tony stood side by side as they faced the priest, listening to him speak. As the priest gave the couple a look, he asked, "Mr. Hart, are you willing to take the bride as your wife?"

At that moment, Tony became the center of attention of everyone present, including Myra, who was looking at him with a gentle yet passionate gaze.

"Yes, I do." He answered loud and clear.

"Are you willing to have and to hold your bride for richer or poorer, in health and in sickness?"

"Yes, I do." The gaze he gave Myra as he said those words was gentle and filled with love. As long as they were together, he was willing to face any hardships that came their way.

The priest then asked the same questions to Myra, and she gave the same answers. It was a big moment for the couple as their union was witnessed by everyone present.

With that, the priest gave them a kind smile as he announced, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride."

Upon hearing that, Tony left a kiss on Myra's cheek before closing his lips on hers, kissing her deeply in front of the audience.

The passionate kiss had taken away the breaths of many of the guests. Among the people present, Matthias had his fists clenched tight. Perhaps he should not have come.

Pain was consuming him alive bit by bit. Gritting his teeth, he shifted his gaze to the bridesmaid next to the pair, sending her a look that screamed for help.

As Heather and Matthias' gazes met despite the distance, Heather instantly understood the look in his eyes.

Forcing herself to retract her gaze, Heather and the groomsman passed the newlyweds their rings before the couple put the rings on for each other.

Having completed the ceremony, Myra felt the weight being lifted off her shoulders as blissfulness began to overwhelm her. She was currently lost in the kiss and those captivating eyes of Tony's. She wanted to look at him like this every day and stay by his side for the rest of her life.

There was infinite tenderness in his gaze that was on her, and he felt that it was the best day of his life. He imagined that he would always be grateful whenever he reminisced about today.

The newlyweds had their fingers interlocked, and they matched each other so well that everyone was dazzled. Matthias was of course, an exception. He left the church early as he couldn't bear to watch any longer. Similarly, Sean was another person who didn't have a good time.

How would he have forgotten his wedding with Myra back then? It was done so half-assedly and he hadn't treated her right. That was why she was now smiling in another man's arms.

Drowning in sorrow, he knew that he had no more chances with her. In fact, she was already avoiding him as the mere sight of him would upset her.

By the time the wedding ended, tables were already set up surrounding the church. The banquet was right outside the church, and Tony had prepared scrumptious foods for their guests. Obviously, it was only appropriate to feed the guests well as they couldn't be going home with an empty stomach.

As wedding banquets typically went, the newlyweds went from table to table greeting and drinking with everyone. As the couple's bridesmaid and groomsman, Heather and Lucas followed suit.

Myra was pregnant, so she could only replace alcohol with juice. Meanwhile, Heather took alcohol well, never backing down when a few occasional people would purposely challenge them.

Halfway through, Myra tugged on Heather's sleeve discreetly and said to her sotto voce, "You can't drink anymore." Myra was surprised to see how Heather was trying to drown her sorrows with alcohol.

At once, Heather offered her a smile. "Don't worry about me. You know that my alcohol tolerance is high. It's your big day today so I want to drink a little more." Truth was, she had been uneasy ever since she locked eyes with Matthias. Hence, she wanted to get some alcohol into her system so she could calm down.

Even Lucas was dumbfounded to see Heather downing alcohol glass by glass. Why was she drinking so much so quickly? Would she be okay?

Heather had a weak and frail body. Now that her cheeks were a deep shade of red, it was such a gorgeous sight. From time to time, Lucas would peek at her. He was both worried and attracted to her at the same time, and he could not help but take a few extra glances at her.

By the time they covered all the tables, Heather had drunk quite a lot. Mainly due to the speed that she had drunk at, the aftereffects were starting to hit. Her flushed cheeks were extra adorable, and many guests did not recognize that the bridesmaid standing beside Myra was Heather because she always had the queen-like image of a lady boss.

Therefore, Myra asked Lucas to bring Heather to rest, but Heather rejected. She was not used to others touching her. Moreover, she didn't need his help. Despite them being the bridesmaid and the groomsman, they didn't interact much throughout the wedding.

"I'm fine. It's just a joyful day," Heather said with a smile. At this point, her actions were starting to gain a few men's attention.

"Let Lucas keep you company for a bit. I'll join you in no time." Myra thought that it was about time for Heather to take a rest as she had been running around all day.

Knowing that Myra and Tony no longer needed the bridesmaid and groomsman's company, Heather didn't decline this time.

Thus, Heather and Lucas sat opposite each other. While he didn't know where to look, she simply gazed at him brazenly. Perhaps she shouldn't have

rejected Myra's suggestion; it might not be a bad thing to interact with other men as it might even distract her from thinking about Matthias.

It was a busy day, where some people were happy while some were sad. Myra and Tony were a perfect match, and those who were skeptical about this couple finally stopped commenting on them.

Tony was worried that Myra would be exhausted, so he sent her back to the lounge to get some rest. After all, it was inadvisable for pregnant women to stand for too long. Myra was indeed exhausted too, so she listened to Tony's advice. Originally, Tony wanted to ask Heather to keep Myra accompanied, but Myra stopped him from doing so.

"Look at them. They seem to be getting along pretty well, so let's not disturb them," Myra said while pointing at Heather and Lucas, who were standing not too far away from them. Tony didn't want to spoil his brother's good time either, so he restrained from calling Heather along.

When Heather realized Myra and Tony had disappeared, the couple were already having a sweet time in the lounge. Noticing Heather was gazing around, Lucas asked casually, "Are you looking for someone?" Lucas was not used to getting along with ladies, and neither was he skilful in courting them.

"The bride and the groom have gone missing," Heather said in resignation. In fact, she didn't dislike Lucas. She even found him pretty cute with his clumsiness.

"They..." Lucas paused halfway through his sentence. "They might have gone to take a rest." Lucas was nervous about being stared at by Heather, and he thought this was the result of sparks flying.

"I guess so." Heather tried to put on a gentle expression as she attempted to get along naturally with Lucas.

However, she couldn't find a topic to continue the conversation with Lucas, unlike when she was with Matthias; she could be herself and say whatever that was on her mind.

She could even be more real when she was with Matthias compared to Myra. After all, Matthias was aware of her dark sides. This was probably the reason why Heather had feelings toward Matthias which was inexplicable.

“You must be hungry. I’ll go get you some food.” Lucas was quite thoughtful. It was just that he wasn’t enlightened yet at this moment and didn’t know how to please women.

Heather was about to reject him, but Lucas had already left to take the food, seeing which Heather thought it was inappropriate to stop him. She was indeed hungry, but she didn’t feel all that hungry anymore after starving for some time. Moreover, that glance from Matthias had made her flustered and lost her appetite.

Soon, Lucas came back with some food and drinks. Heather didn’t want to turn down his kindness and she had to eat anyway, so she dug in while Lucas continued staring at her, to a point where he himself had forgotten to dig in.

“Aren’t you hungry?” Heather lifted her head. She felt uneasy being stared at by Lucas and had lost her appetite even more.

Feeling shy, Lucas quickly lowered his head and tucked in. Heather had an inexplicable feeling as she looked at Lucas. She somehow felt that Lucas was like an innocent boy.

Heather had seen too many flirty guys, so she was actually quite interested in naive guys. However, she was still in a complicated relationship with Matthias, so she couldn’t get involved with Lucas.

“Sorry, I’m not good at talking to ladies.” Lucas felt useless because he couldn’t help but to be nervous and tongue-tied when he spoke to Heather.

Heather smiled amiably. “You don’t have to be so nervous. You’re making me nervous too. Just ease up.” Heather could feel Lucas’s tension, and she didn’t know how to carry on with the conversation seeing him as such.

Nonetheless, Heather was surprised at how honest Lucas was. The more she talked with Lucas, the more she perceived him as a special man.

Deep down, Heather was thinking they might be able to start off as friends first because she was keen to befriend someone like him. She no longer held onto her belief that one shouldn’t be friends with their potential date. Anyway, Heather didn’t deem Lucas as her potential date yet at this point of time.

“I’m not nervous,” Lucas said instinctively, but he regretted it immediately because the atmosphere became even more awkward the moment he said that.

This guy’s EQ is indeed... Even Heather had no idea how she should respond to him. Lucas wore an apologetic expression and said, “I mean... the wedding went well today, and we’ve completed our tasks successfully.” Lucas started saying what he could think of as he panicked. Even he himself felt an immense awkwardness.

“It’s worth celebrating.” Following that, Heather lifted the wine glass on her right and winked at Lucas to lighten up the awkward atmosphere.

Lucas quickly lifted his wine glass too. He didn’t expect that Heather wouldn’t mind his awkwardness, and she even took the initiative to ease the tension. As such, he adored Heather even more.

“Yeah. It’s worth celebrating. Cheers.” Lucas clinked glasses with Heather and smiled brightly.

Heather found the contrast rather cute. Myra had once brought up Lucas to her, and he indeed had a mature appearance. When she saw how clumsy the mature man was in front of her, as if he was dating a woman for the first time, Heather couldn’t find it in herself to fault him.

Heather intended to be more patient with him. Even though Lucas was extremely untalented in carrying a conversation, Heather didn’t mind putting in more effort so that the conversation could be continued.

Both Lucas and Heather bottomed up and smiled at each other after putting down their glasses. Heather didn’t mind being friends with someone like Lucas, thinking they might be able to become close drinking pals, but at the same time, she was worried that Lucas would be attracted to her.

Fortunately, Lucas was sensible and did not express his feelings during the conversation. Hence, Heather decided to stop worrying and start off with Lucas as friends first.

Lucas knew he shouldn’t carry on like this, so he decided to talk about finance-related topics as Tony had given him a hint before this.

Lucas gradually directed the conversation toward some wider aspect, specifically regarding the business circles in Bradford City, which made Heather loosen her tongue at once.

Heather was basically a workaholic, so she naturally became more chatty when the conversation was directed to a topic of her interest.

Meanwhile, Philip tightened his grip on his wine glass as he witnessed Lucas and Heather chatting heartily. He couldn't walk up to them because he was not that close with Heather, and it would be abrupt of him to just walk up and accost her.

Moreover, both him and Lucas were aware of each other's intentions. He would appear to be rather insensible if he butted in just to win Heather's attention.

As such, he could only watch them from afar. After all, he was not as fortunate as Lucas who had been chosen as the groomsman.

Elliot noticed Philip's odd reaction, so he went up and patted Philip's shoulder. "Come and have a drink with me. I'm a groom-to-be too." He glanced cheekily at Tilly while saying so because the second half of the sentence was meant for her.

However, Tilly didn't bother with him at all. Instead, she said sarcastically, "When did Young Master Elliot get engaged? Why haven't I heard anything about it?"

Elliot's wide grin disappeared at once as he felt embarrassed being roasted by Tilly. Meanwhile, Philip burst into laughter heartlessly. "Serves you right!" Trying to be lovey-dovey in front of me, huh?

Elliot glared at Philip, thinking he was an ungrateful brat. Elliot had come to comfort Philip seeing him disheartened on his own, but the latter laughed at him in return.

Philip stopped laughing and quickly placed his arm around Elliot's shoulder intimately. He was worried that Elliot might be annoyed if he continued laughing at him.

"Let's go have some drinks." Philip's mood was actually lifted after messing around with Elliot.



Tilly rolled her eyes at the two guys who were behaving like children—they mocked each other and made up again the next second.

Then, she walked away to look for Estelle as she didn't want to stay with Elliot anymore lest he spouted nonsense again. Elliot looked at Tilly sulkily as she left and asked Philip, "Did I annoy her just now?"

Philip shook his head. "Guess both of us did."

Resigned, Elliot mumbled, "I don't understand women at all."

Meanwhile, Estelle and Shawn were having a drinking competition. Of course, Estelle was no match for Shawn and she was drunk after a short while. Little did she know this was Shawn's scheme as it would be easier to lay his hands on her after she was drunk.

However, Shawn's plan was ruined by an emergency call which summoned him back to the city council because there was an urgent meeting and attendance was compulsory. Shawn was left with no choice either.

However, Estelle, who was drunk, was throwing a tantrum and would not allow Shawn to leave. "No way. You can't go. How can you leave early on such a happy occasion?" Shawn ate his heart out because there was no way he could reason with a drunk person.

"I really have an urgent meeting." Shawn couldn't possibly bring the drunk Estelle along to his meeting. He looked distressed as he had ended up bringing trouble upon himself.

"I'm not going to let you leave. You said you wanted to marry me, but you're not sincere at all. How dare you run away from the wedding banquet?" Estelle pointed right at Shawn's face.

What even... Shawn stared at Estelle, baffled at the nonsense she was talking about. However, when he heard Estelle say 'marry me', he'd rather be late to the meeting than miss the chance to get her to agree to marry him.

So, he opened the recorder on his phone and started luring Estelle into a trap. "Alright, I'll stay and marry you. Shall we get married on National Day so that the whole nation will celebrate with us?"

Shawn was waiting for Estelle to say yes. Sure enough, she nodded, but she just tugged at Shawn's arm and didn't say a word. That's not going to work!

As such, Shawn continued luring her. "Marry me during National Day, will you?" He pressed on the record button while asking Estelle.

Estelle was swaying as she felt even dizzier. She was even seeing two of Shawn as her vision became blurry. "Stop moving around," Estelle mumbled in a displeased manner.

"Will you marry me?" Shawn patiently repeated himself again.

"Okay. You have to marry me." Finally, Estelle gave an answer which satisfied Shawn.

"We'll get married on National Day, alright?" Shawn continued luring Estelle. His goal was about to be achieved.

Estelle gazed at Shawn and smiled foolishly without replying to him. Shawn wore a rare, gentle smile as he waited for Estelle's reply. It was very rare for him to be this patient.

Just then, Tilly, who was not far away from them, asked out of kindness, "Do you need help?" Hearing that, Estelle quickly turned around and looked at Tilly. As such, Shawn's scheme was disrupted at the crucial moment.

He pressed the red button in disappointment to end the recording. What a bummer! He glared resentfully at Tilly who was approaching them.

## Standing before Love Chapter 476

It was a busy day, where some people were happy while some were sad. Myra and Tony were a perfect match, and those who were skeptical about this couple finally stopped commenting on them.

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“The bride and the groom have gone missing,” Heather said in resignation. In fact, she didn’t dislike Lucas. She even found him pretty cute with his clumsiness.

“They...” Lucas paused halfway through his sentence. “They might have gone to take a rest.” Lucas was nervous about being stared at by Heather, and he thought this was the result of sparks flying.

“I guess so.” Heather tried to put on a gentle expression as she attempted to get along naturally with Lucas.

However, she couldn’t find a topic to continue the conversation with Lucas, unlike when she was with Matthias; she could be herself and say whatever that was on her mind.

She could even be more real when she was with Matthias compared to Myra. After all, Matthias was aware of her dark sides. This was probably the reason why Heather had feelings toward Matthias which was inexplicable.

“You must be hungry. I’ll go get you some food.” Lucas was quite thoughtful. It was just that he wasn’t enlightened yet at this moment and didn’t know how to please women.

Heather was about to reject him, but Lucas had already left to take the food, seeing which Heather thought it was inappropriate to stop him. She was indeed hungry, but she didn’t feel all that hungry anymore after starving for some time. Moreover, that glance from Matthias had made her flustered and lost her appetite.

Soon, Lucas came back with some food and drinks. Heather didn’t want to turn down his kindness and she had to eat anyway, so she dug in while Lucas continued staring at her, to a point where he himself had forgotten to dig in.

“Aren’t you hungry?” Heather lifted her head. She felt uneasy being stared at by Lucas and had lost her appetite even more.

Feeling shy, Lucas quickly lowered his head and tucked in. Heather had an inexplicable feeling as she looked at Lucas. She somehow felt that Lucas was like an innocent boy.

Heather had seen too many flirty guys, so she was actually quite interested in naive guys. However, she was still in a complicated relationship with Matthias, so she couldn’t get involved with Lucas.

“Sorry, I’m not good at talking to ladies.” Lucas felt useless because he couldn’t help but to be nervous and tongue-tied when he spoke to Heather.

Heather smiled amiably. “You don’t have to be so nervous. You’re making me nervous too. Just ease up.” Heather could feel Lucas’s tension, and she didn’t know how to carry on with the conversation seeing him as such.

Nonetheless, Heather was surprised at how honest Lucas was. The more she talked with Lucas, the more she perceived him as a special man.

Deep down, Heather was thinking they might be able to start off as friends first because she was keen to befriend someone like him. She no longer held onto her belief that one shouldn’t be friends with their potential date. Anyway, Heather didn’t deem Lucas as her potential date yet at this point of time.

“I’m not nervous,” Lucas said instinctively, but he regretted it immediately because the atmosphere became even more awkward the moment he said that.

This guy’s EQ is indeed... Even Heather had no idea how she should respond to him. Lucas wore an apologetic expression and said, “I mean... the wedding went well today, and we’ve completed our tasks successfully.” Lucas started saying what he could think of as he panicked. Even he himself felt an immense awkwardness.

“It’s worth celebrating.” Following that, Heather lifted the wine glass on her right and winked at Lucas to lighten up the awkward atmosphere.

Lucas quickly lifted his wine glass too. He didn’t expect that Heather wouldn’t mind his awkwardness, and she even took the initiative to ease the tension. As such, he adored Heather even more.

“Yeah. It’s worth celebrating. Cheers.” Lucas clinked glasses with Heather and smiled brightly.

Heather found the contrast rather cute. Myra had once brought up Lucas to her, and he indeed had a mature appearance. When she saw how clumsy the mature man was in front of her, as if he was dating a woman for the first time, Heather couldn’t find it in herself to fault him.

Heather intended to be more patient with him. Even though Lucas was extremely untalented in carrying a conversation, Heather didn’t mind putting in more effort so that the conversation could be continued.

Both Lucas and Heather bottomed up and smiled at each other after putting down their glasses. Heather didn’t mind being friends with someone like Lucas, thinking they might be able to become close drinking pals, but at the same time, she was worried that Lucas would be attracted to her.

Fortunately, Lucas was sensible and did not express his feelings during the conversation. Hence, Heather decided to stop worrying and start off with Lucas as friends first.

Lucas knew he shouldn’t carry on like this, so he decided to talk about finance-related topics as Tony had given him a hint before this.

Lucas gradually directed the conversation toward some wider aspect, specifically regarding the business circles in Bradford City, which made Heather loosen her tongue at once.

Heather was basically a workaholic, so she naturally became more chatty when the conversation was directed to a topic of her interest.

Meanwhile, Philip tightened his grip on his wine glass as he witnessed Lucas and Heather chatting heartily. He couldn’t walk up to them because he was not that close with Heather, and it would be abrupt of him to just walk up and accost her.

Moreover, both him and Lucas were aware of each other’s intentions. He would appear to be rather insensible if he butted in just to win Heather’s attention.

As such, he could only watch them from afar. After all, he was not as fortunate as Lucas who had been chosen as the groomsman.

Elliot noticed Philip's odd reaction, so he went up and patted Philip's shoulder. "Come and have a drink with me. I'm a groom-to-be too." He glanced cheekily at Tilly while saying so because the second half of the sentence was meant for her.

However, Tilly didn't bother with him at all. Instead, she said sarcastically, "When did Young Master Elliot get engaged? Why haven't I heard anything about it?"

Elliot's wide grin disappeared at once as he felt embarrassed being roasted by Tilly. Meanwhile, Philip burst into laughter heartlessly. "Serves you right!" Trying to be lovey-dovey in front of me, huh?

Elliot glared at Philip, thinking he was an ungrateful brat. Elliot had come to comfort Philip seeing him disheartened on his own, but the latter laughed at him in return.

Philip stopped laughing and quickly placed his arm around Elliot's shoulder intimately. He was worried that Elliot might be annoyed if he continued laughing at him.

"Let's go have some drinks." Philip's mood was actually lifted after messing around with Elliot.

Tilly rolled her eyes at the two guys who were behaving like children—they mocked each other and made up again the next second.

Then, she walked away to look for Estelle as she didn't want to stay with Elliot anymore lest he spouted nonsense again. Elliot looked at Tilly sulkily as she left and asked Philip, "Did I annoy her just now?"

Philip shook his head. "Guess both of us did."

Resigned, Elliot mumbled, "I don't understand women at all."

Meanwhile, Estelle and Shawn were having a drinking competition. Of course, Estelle was no match for Shawn and she was drunk after a short while. Little did she know this was Shawn's scheme as it would be easier to lay his hands on her after she was drunk.

However, Shawn's plan was ruined by an emergency call which summoned him back to the city council because there was an urgent meeting and attendance was compulsory. Shawn was left with no choice either.

However, Estelle, who was drunk, was throwing a tantrum and would not allow Shawn to leave. "No way. You can't go. How can you leave early on such a happy occasion?" Shawn ate his heart out because there was no way he could reason with a drunk person.

"I really have an urgent meeting." Shawn couldn't possibly bring the drunk Estelle along to his meeting. He looked distressed as he had ended up bringing trouble upon himself.

"I'm not going to let you leave. You said you wanted to marry me, but you're not sincere at all. How dare you run away from the wedding banquet?" Estelle pointed right at Shawn's face.

What even... Shawn stared at Estelle, baffled at the nonsense she was talking about. However, when he heard Estelle say 'marry me', he'd rather be late to the meeting than miss the chance to get her to agree to marry him.

So, he opened the recorder on his phone and started luring Estelle into a trap. "Alright, I'll stay and marry you. Shall we get married on National Day so that the whole nation will celebrate with us?"

Shawn was waiting for Estelle to say yes. Sure enough, she nodded, but she just tugged at Shawn's arm and didn't say a word. That's not going to work!

As such, Shawn continued luring her. "Marry me during National Day, will you?" He pressed on the record button while asking Estelle.

Estelle was swaying as she felt even dizzier. She was even seeing two of Shawn as her vision became blurry. "Stop moving around," Estelle mumbled in a displeased manner.

"Will you marry me?" Shawn patiently repeated himself again.

"Okay. You have to marry me." Finally, Estelle gave an answer which satisfied Shawn.

"We'll get married on National Day, alright?" Shawn continued luring Estelle. His goal was about to be achieved.

Estelle gazed at Shawn and smiled foolishly without replying to him. Shawn wore a rare, gentle smile as he waited for Estelle's reply. It was very rare for him to be this patient.

Just then, Tilly, who was not far away from them, asked out of kindness, "Do you need help?" Hearing that, Estelle quickly turned around and looked at Tilly. As such, Shawn's scheme was disrupted at the crucial moment.

He pressed the red button in disappointment to end the recording. What a bummer! He glared resentfully at Tilly who was approaching them.

## Standing before Love Chapter 477

Shawn couldn't stay on any longer. Then, he retracted his furious glare and waved at Tilly.

"Over here." Tilly looked at Shawn timidly. He was wearing a fierce expression a second ago, but was calling her over now.

After hesitating for a while, Tilly still went forward while staring nervously at Shawn. She wondered if she had annoyed him just now, and he didn't seem to be pleased either when she took a close look at him. As such, Tilly regretted coming to look for Estelle.

Shawn pushed Estelle into Tilly's arms. "She's drunk. Please look after her on my behalf. I have some urgent matters to attend to," Shawn said while turning around elegantly.

Tilly nodded instinctively. It was only after Shawn had left did she smell the alcohol in Estelle's breath.

Fortunately, Estelle was already exhausted, otherwise she would surely chase after Shawn. At this moment, Estelle was just weak. Tilly asked in resignation, "Estelle, how much did you actually drink?"

"I wanna drink more." Estelle giggled foolishly while staring unresignedly at Shawn as he left until he disappeared from her sight.

"You shouldn't drink anymore. You're drunk already." Tilly wore a defeated look.



She was worried that Estelle would act crazy later because she was drunk, so she planned to bring her to Elliot now when she was still calm.

She wouldn't worry as much with a man beside them. At least they would be able to put Estelle under control if she really acted crazy. Tilly was too small-sized to control Estelle.

Elliot was having a good time drinking with Philip, and the two men were perplexed when they saw Tilly dragging Estelle over. By rights, Estelle should be at Shawn's elbow, but Shawn was nowhere to be seen now. Elliot and Philip looked at each other in confusion.

Seeing their perturbed look, Tilly explained to them, "Deputy Mayor Hart left to attend to some urgent matters. Estelle is drunk, so he asked me to look after her."

Elliot scratched his head and pointed at Estelle as he asked, "Are you sure you'll be able to look after her now that she's drunk?" Tilly had gotten herself an arduous task.

It was troublesome to deal with a drunk person, not to mention that person was Estelle. No one could predict what would happen next. Elliot casted a sympathetic glance at Tilly, to which Tilly returned with a fierce glare. This guy just can't say something helpful.

"I'll bring her to Tony. You guys aren't helpful at all," Tilly grumbled, feeling displeased.

Hearing that, Elliot quickly stopped Tilly and said with a wide grin, "Please don't! Tony and Myra can finally take a rest, so don't bother them with such a small matter. We're around, and we won't let Estelle cause a big scene."

Elliot quickly extended a helping hand seeing Tilly's crabby look. If he really irritated her, he would need to spend more time coaxing her by that time.

"You guys are unreliable. I don't trust you all." Tilly glanced at Elliot in disdain, and she directed her comment toward Philip too.

Philip feigned an innocent look at Tilly. "Am I unreliable too?" He pointed at himself and asked. Why am I implicated by Elliot?

"Yeah," Tilly answered firmly.

Nevertheless, she was just messing around with Elliot and didn't actually intend to go bother Tony. At this moment, Tony would certainly be accompanying Myra, and Tilly didn't want to disturb them. Moreover, it had been a busy day for Myra, and as a pregnant woman, she must be exhausted, so Tilly didn't want to interrupt her rest all the more.

Meanwhile, in the lounge, Myra was indeed worn out. Tony was thoughtfully giving Myra a massage. Although Myra said she didn't need it, she didn't actually stop him.

"Do you feel better now, Myra?" Tony asked gently by her ear.

"Mm-hmm." Myra nodded sweetly. There was nothing Tony couldn't do, and Myra thought she had found a gem.

"Take a seat too, Tony. You must be tired too after all the hassle," Myra said while holding Tony's hand. She was indeed exhausted, and she thought Tony was probably worn out too.

Tony didn't reject Myra and sat down beside her. There was some food on the table which the server had brought over upon Tony's order.

"Have some food," Tony said to Myra.

Myra had no appetite, so she wasn't too interested in eating. Tony continued, "You should eat something, otherwise it'll be harmful to your stomach." Saying that, he took a cookie to feed Myra.

The couple enjoyed their sweet time together and couldn't be bothered about what was going on outside. It was currently meal time anyway, and the bride and groom didn't have to be present. The world seemed to be quiet now as they couldn't hear any noise from the outside. It was like there was no one else on the planet except the two of them.

Tony couldn't help but kiss Myra fervently on her lips and moved on to kiss her nose. He then mumbled cheesily by Myra's ear, "There's cookie crumbs on your mouth. I'll help you to lick them away."

Myra blushed hearing his sweet words. Tony teased her as usual while she lay in his arms, carefully listening to his heartbeat.

Tony cuddled Myra tight. The wedding had gone smoother than he imagined. At the very least, there was no one who came to deliberately mess up the ceremony. Tony was actually prepared for if someone caused a scene at the wedding, but everything turned out to be smooth, which was beyond his expectation.

“Tony, is it inappropriate for us to stay here for too long?” Myra asked Tony in his arms. She felt like they had been gone for quite some time, so she was thinking if they should go back out.

“It’s okay. We can go out when it’s almost ending,” Tony said unaffectedly. He couldn’t be bothered to know what was happening out there. He just didn’t want Myra to be tired.

A pregnant woman should be treated with the utmost priority. Tony had been carefully taking care of Myra as he was worried that Myra would feel unwell. In fact, the entire Hart family treated Myra like a queen, which made Myra feel loved.

“They will take care of the other guests, so we don’t have to worry.” Tony continued coaxing Myra, hoping that it would give her a peace of mind.

On this day, everyone witnessed the love between Myra and Tony besides the high profile of the Hart family. The wedding was featured on the front page of all newspapers on the next day.

In the past, the Hart family would not easily allow the media to publish news regarding their family. However, they were extraordinarily hospitable toward the reporters who attended Tony and Myra’s wedding. As long as the reporters did not act outrageously, they were allowed to take pictures as they pleased. The Harts were already being very kind by doing so.

Of course, different media used different approaches to report the wedding. Some even contrasted the wedding with Sean’s loneliness at this time.

When Sean read those reports, he was so pissed off that he began smashing things in his office. The reports were extremely sarcastic and Sean was presented as a totally useless man.

Indeed, reporters often distorted the truth. Even though it was true that Sean was rather disheartened and lonely, he was not as desolate as reported.

Besides, some news reports specifically highlighted Myra's bridesmaid, Heather. She had been on the front page of the newspaper before due to her scandal with Matthias. This time round, the media took the opportunity to continue exploiting Heather as their source of news.

What was more, some reporters even captured pictures of Heather and Matthias meeting each other's gaze in the church. The pictures were taken in such a delicate angle that it captured the complicated emotions in Matthias' eyes and traces of affection in Heather's. The pictures were so ambiguously romantic that even Heather and Matthias didn't know how to refute it.

Myra started suspecting Heather when she saw the said news. She connected everything Heather had said before this and suspected if something was really going on between Heather and Matthias.

It was obvious that this reporter had previously followed Heather and Matthias because he had secretly taken a few photos of them meeting in private. This naturally made the news report more credible and true, and coupled with the writing technique that was tortuous, it sounded like a romance novel where Heather and Matthias were the main characters.

Although Myra had lots of doubts, she couldn't have a talk with Heather at this moment because right after the wedding, Tony took her on a getaway on his private plane.

Of course it was not just a random getaway—it was their honeymoon trip. The timing was so impeccable that when Myra saw the news reports, she was already out of the city.

This morning, Myra woke up early. The sleeping quality of pregnant women tended to be inconsistent. Sometimes she slept like a log, but other times she was a light sleeper. She couldn't go back to sleep after waking up but she didn't want to alert Tony, so she scrolled through the news reports of the wedding and found this particular report.

When Tony woke up, he realized Myra was staring at her phone screen with a frown, so he secretly leaned close to her.

Tony was jealous when he saw Myra was still caring about Heather, who was faraway in Bradford City. He cuddled Myra from behind.

“What are you reading after waking up so early?” Myra was taken aback when Tony’s voice emerged.

Myra quickly kept away her phone and turned to look at Tony with a smile. “Nothing. I’m just scrolling through Twitter out of curiosity.” Her smile was tinged with a hint of guilt.

“Sure.” Tony hummed with a tone which obviously showed that he didn’t believe her.

“Good morning.” Myra changed the topic and kept smiling.

“Good morning. Did you sleep well last night?” Tony leaned closer to Myra. The fragrance from her was so captivating that Tony didn’t even want to leave the bed.

“Yea.” Myra nodded instantly. She had had a long day yesterday, so she had dozed off the moment she lay on the bed. The couple didn’t even spend their first wedding night the typical way.

“There’s still a long journey today, so please rest well and be recharged.” Smiling, Tony said while leaning on Myra’s body and pretended to continue sleeping. Nevertheless, he didn’t dare to put all his weight onto Myra.

“Are you going to continue sleeping?” Myra said in resignation, thinking that Tony was like a child.

“Come sleep with me.” Tony rolled over and pulled Myra to lie on top of him.

“This is uncomfortable.” Myra wanted to come down from Tony’s body as the posture was indeed uncomfortable.

As such, Tony put her down and cuddled her. “Sleep for a while more. There’ll be good food when we wake up later,” he said.

When Heather saw the news reports about her and Matthias, she immediately lost her appetite for breakfast.

She stood up under the others’ gazes and forced a smile at Robert. “I’m done with breakfast. There are some matters to be attended to in the company, so I shall leave first.”

With that, Heather left the Langston Residence and sped all the way to vent out her displeasure. Now that an agreement had been established between her and Matthias, she couldn't actually retort the reports because according to their agreement, there was no issue about the content reported.

However, by publishing this kind of news together with Myra's wedding reports, it was like indirectly informing Myra about the ambiguous relationship between Heather and Myra.

Heather was worried that Myra would instinctively connect the dots before she could confess to her.

Fortunately, Myra had gone for her honeymoon trip, otherwise she would have confronted her about this matter. Nevertheless, the honeymoon trip would end sooner or later, and Heather had no idea how she should explain to Myra when the latter came back to Bradford City.

She couldn't expose the agreement as the reason, but neither did she want to admit her entanglement with Matthias, so the situation seemed to be unsolvable. As long as the agreement still existed, Heather would be bound to Matthias, and the relationship between them would remain complicated.

Right now, how Heather wished to throw 100 million at Matthias to dismiss the vexing agreement. She regretted being soft-hearted back then.

In fact, she had warned herself numerous times that her soft-heartedness would bring her great trouble, but she still made this stupid mistake. While reprimanding herself, Heather had already arrived at Langston Group. She parked her car at the basement carpark with mixed feelings.

The day started off nasty, and it seemed like more bad things would follow. Frustrated, Heather pressed on the button in the lift hard. Heather's displeasure was so obvious that the staff in Langston Group tried to keep away from her, and no one dared to provoke her.

At this moment, there was only one person who would have the nerve to provoke Heather shamelessly—Blake. The more annoyed Heather was, the more he wanted to sneer at her.

Initially, Heather had already calmed down, but little did she expect the arrival of the unwanted visitor. She received Blake with a sullen face.

Actually, Blake was the one who had 'kindly' handed over the newspaper with the said report to Heather. He enjoyed irritating Heather as he found pleasure in her misery.

"What mistake did I make again that you have to come personally to give me a lecture, Blake?" Heather asked sarcastically.

Blake seemed to be in a good mood and he was wearing a smug smile. "Nothing. I came specially to check on you this time. You're my beloved sister, and I'm worried for you after seeing the reports today."

Hearing Blake's hypocritical answer, Heather curled up her lips in disdain. Blake was being increasingly mean lately, and he would use all sorts of things to mock her, which made her think he was actually quite pathetic.

"Blake, there are currently many projects going on in Langston Group which need your attention, so please don't be concerned about my private matters. I'm an adult and I'll be responsible for my own actions," Heather replied calmly so that Blake couldn't embarrass her.

"Grandpa keeps asking me to look after you, so I shouldn't let him down," Blake said uprightly as he used Robert as an excuse again.

"Let's not talk about private matters during office hours. If you're really worried about me, we can have a chat after work." Heather forced a smile. Blake was just a joker to her, and she couldn't be bothered to argue with him.

"Sure. Everyone knows you're a workaholic. I shouldn't disturb you during your working time," Blake continued on fearlessly although Heather had no intention of dealing with him anymore.

"Since you've said so, I shall continue working." Heather lowered her head and continued reading the documents, planning to just ignore Blake.

Blake was merely paying lip service to Heather and didn't think that she would actually ignore him. He stared at her in resignation as it would be awkward for him to either leave or stay.

Heather was busy doing her work and completely disregarded Blake, leaving him unattended to. It was only after a few moments later did she lift up her head and pretended to be unaware that Blake was still around.

“Why are you still here, Blake?” Heather feigned a perfect innocent look.

Blake glared coldly at Heather. He was still hanging here because he was unresigned to leave before he even touched the main point. After all, he had specially come this time to sneer at Heather.

“Heather, I’m not sure how I should say this.” Blake feigned a troubled look, but Heather was not interested in his lousy acting at all.

“Say what?” Heather looked at Blake calmly. She responded to him merely because she hoped he would quickly spit it out and stop beating around the bush. Otherwise, she wouldn’t be able to work in peace.

“The scandal of you and Matthias has caused a sensation in the city and affected Langston Group.” Blake was still feigning a troubled look, and Heather was impressed that he feigned the look for so long.

Heather pretended to be surprised and clueless as she looked at Blake and said innocently, “I’m not sure what you are referring to. Did I do something inappropriate and cause Langston Group’s share price to plummet?” The second half of her reply was filled with sarcasm.

Blake derided, “It’s not that, but there are gossips about Langston Group having some tangled relationship with Locke Group.” He tried to make his statement sound ambiguous. He didn’t dare to say it outright lest he got himself in trouble upon infuriating Heather.

The intention behind his subtle hint was actually to question Heather why she kept involving herself in scandals with Matthias, which was affecting Langston Group’s reputation negatively.

Heather feigned a confused look and asked Blake in return, “Aren’t the gossips true? It seems like the relationship between you and Matthias is very delicate. I suppose Langston Group will collaborate with Locke Group sooner or later.” Heather was extremely quick-witted and immediately pushed the blame to Blake.

Since he brought up Locke Group and Matthias, Heather might as well have a good talk with him. Before this, Matthias colluded with Blake, so Heather wouldn’t doubt it if there were some secret transactions between the two.



Blake was stunned as Heather had hit the nail on its head. Previously, he indeed had some complex association with Matthias, and both of them had committed numerous unlawful acts in the dark, so Blake instantly felt guilty when Heather brought it up.

“Heather, you should know what I’m referring to,” Blake said while feigning an unaffected look. He wouldn’t allow Heather to trick him. He didn’t believe that Matthias would tell Heather such private matters.

Upon contemplation, Blake soon realized that Heather was just setting him up. Nevertheless, he didn’t want to stay any longer lest Heather noticed that something fishy was going on.

On the other hand, Heather continued pretending to be unaware. “I really don’t.” Then, she casted a profound gaze at Blake, which made the latter feel like leaving at once.

“I shouldn’t have meddled with you youngsters’ private matters to begin with. Just forget about it and ignore whatever I’ve said. I still have some matters to attend to, so I’ll go back to my office first,” Blake said steadily. The more he wanted to leave, the more prudent he should be as he didn’t want Heather to find out that he was running away due to guilt.

Heather nodded slightly as a concurrence to Blake’s words. In fact, she didn’t want to continue entertaining him. With that, Blake left crestfallenly while a victorious smile spread across Heather’s face as she watched him leave.

Because Heather was fully devoted to her work, she didn’t spend much energy to keep an eye on Blake. As such, she missed out the opportunity to catch the illegal deals between Blake and Matthias.

Heather heaved a sigh of relief after Blake was gone. Blake had been rattling on just now, which caused her to be unable to focus on her work. After all, she was not a saint, so she would naturally be affected by the provoking words of Blake.

Back then, Blake was dying to see something happen between Heather and Matthias, but now, he was actually using Matthias to find fault with her, so Heather reckoned Blake wanted to use Matthias to strike her.

She didn’t realize it before this, but now she finally understood Blake’s motive. Interesting. So he’s using all sorts of methods to come after me.

Blake had always been plotting against Heather, and he even leveraged on her relationship. At this thought, Heather rubbed her temples. She would be put to more disadvantages if she continued staying in Langston Group.

Meanwhile, Matthias only woke up in the afternoon after being dead drunk from last night. It had been heart wrenching to watch Myra getting married. The scene of the marriage resurfaced incessantly in his dream last night, and Matthias just couldn't forget Heather's gaze.

They had met each others' eyes a few times in the church, and the duration each time was actually quite long. Matthias was flustered by Heather's gaze as he couldn't tell her feelings from her eyes, and he was actually amused after reading the news reports.

"Evan, I don't wish to see this kind of news report again in the future. They are really good at spinning stories," Matthias humphed while tossing the newspaper into the garbage bin.

Seeing Matthias's haughty expression, Evan smiled profoundly. "Sir, what do you think Miss Langston would feel after seeing this report?" It was indeed fearless of him to ask this question.

Matthias rolled his eyes at Evan, but the latter had actually reminded him of something. If Heather saw this report, Matthias reckoned the media would be in deep water.

"Perhaps she has not seen it yet," Matthias replied nonchalantly.

"I doubt so. Not only is this published in the newspaper, but it was even on the front cover. I bet many people have seen it." Evan smiled mysteriously, seeing which Matthias had the impulse to kick him out.

"Does this publisher have such great influence?" Matthias sensed that something odd was going on, so he ordered Evan, "Retrieve the newspaper from the garbage bin. I want to read it again carefully." Matthias planned to examine the report as he was sure he would find some clues.

"I don't want to. It's too dirty," Evan rejected firmly while passing his phone to Matthias. On the phone screen was none other than the said report.

## Standing before Love Chapter 478

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“Blake, there are currently many projects going on in Langston Group which need your attention, so please don’t be concerned about my private matters. I’m an adult and I’ll be responsible for my own actions,” Heather replied calmly so that Blake couldn’t embarrass her.

“Grandpa keeps asking me to look after you, so I shouldn’t let him down,” Blake said uprightly as he used Robert as an excuse again.

“Let’s not talk about private matters during office hours. If you’re really worried about me, we can have a chat after work.” Heather forced a smile. Blake was just a joker to her, and she couldn’t be bothered to argue with him.

“Sure. Everyone knows you’re a workaholic. I shouldn’t disturb you during your working time,” Blake continued on fearlessly although Heather had no intention of dealing with him anymore.

“Since you’ve said so, I shall continue working.” Heather lowered her head and continued reading the documents, planning to just ignore Blake.

Blake was merely paying lip service to Heather and didn’t think that she would actually ignore him. He stared at her in resignation as it would be awkward for him to either leave or stay.

Heather was busy doing her work and completely disregarded Blake, leaving him unattended to. It was only after a few moments later did she lift up her head and pretended to be unaware that Blake was still around.

“Why are you still here, Blake?” Heather feigned a perfect innocent look.

Blake glared coldly at Heather. He was still hanging here because he was unresigned to leave before he even touched the main point. After all, he had specially come this time to sneer at Heather.

“Heather, I’m not sure how I should say this.” Blake feigned a troubled look, but Heather was not interested in his lousy acting at all.

“Say what?” Heather looked at Blake calmly. She responded to him merely because she hoped he would quickly spit it out and stop beating around the bush. Otherwise, she wouldn’t be able to work in peace.

“The scandal of you and Matthias has caused a sensation in the city and affected Langston Group.” Blake was still feigning a troubled look, and Heather was impressed that he feigned the look for so long.

Heather pretended to be surprised and clueless as she looked at Blake and said innocently, “I’m not sure what you are referring to. Did I do something inappropriate and cause Langston Group’s share price to plummet?” The second half of her reply was filled with sarcasm.

Blake derided, “It’s not that, but there are gossips about Langston Group having some tangled relationship with Locke Group.” He tried to make his statement sound ambiguous. He didn’t dare to say it outright lest he got himself in trouble upon infuriating Heather.

The intention behind his subtle hint was actually to question Heather why she kept involving herself in scandals with Matthias, which was affecting Langston Group’s reputation negatively.

Heather feigned a confused look and asked Blake in return, "Aren't the gossips true? It seems like the relationship between you and Matthias is very delicate. I suppose Langston Group will collaborate with Locke Group sooner or later." Heather was extremely quick-witted and immediately pushed the blame to Blake.

Since he brought up Locke Group and Matthias, Heather might as well have a good talk with him. Before this, Matthias colluded with Blake, so Heather wouldn't doubt it if there were some secret transactions between the two.

Blake was stunned as Heather had hit the nail on its head. Previously, he indeed had some complex association with Matthias, and both of them had committed numerous unlawful acts in the dark, so Blake instantly felt guilty when Heather brought it up.

"Heather, you should know what I'm referring to," Blake said while feigning an unaffected look. He wouldn't allow Heather to trick him. He didn't believe that Matthias would tell Heather such private matters.

Upon contemplation, Blake soon realized that Heather was just setting him up. Nevertheless, he didn't want to stay any longer lest Heather noticed that something fishy was going on.

On the other hand, Heather continued pretending to be unaware. "I really don't." Then, she casted a profound gaze at Blake, which made the latter feel like leaving at once.

"I shouldn't have meddled with you youngsters' private matters to begin with. Just forget about it and ignore whatever I've said. I still have some matters to attend to, so I'll go back to my office first," Blake said steadily. The more he wanted to leave, the more prudent he should be as he didn't want Heather to find out that he was running away due to guilt.

Heather nodded slightly as a concurrence to Blake's words. In fact, she didn't want to continue entertaining him. With that, Blake left crestfallenly while a victorious smile spread across Heather's face as she watched him leave.

Because Heather was fully devoted to her work, she didn't spend much energy to keep an eye on Blake. As such, she missed out the opportunity to catch the illegal deals between Blake and Matthias.

Heather heaved a sigh of relief after Blake was gone. Blake had been rattling on just now, which caused her to be unable to focus on her work. After all, she was not a saint, so she would naturally be affected by the provoking words of Blake.

Back then, Blake was dying to see something happen between Heather and Matthias, but now, he was actually using Matthias to find fault with her, so Heather reckoned Blake wanted to use Matthias to strike her.

She didn't realize it before this, but now she finally understood Blake's motive. Interesting. So he's using all sorts of methods to come after me.

Blake had always been plotting against Heather, and he even leveraged on her relationship. At this thought, Heather rubbed her temples. She would be put to more disadvantages if she continued staying in Langston Group.

Meanwhile, Matthias only woke up in the afternoon after being dead drunk from last night. It had been heart wrenching to watch Myra getting married. The scene of the marriage resurfaced incessantly in his dream last night, and Matthias just couldn't forget Heather's gaze.

They had met each others' eyes a few times in the church, and the duration each time was actually quite long. Matthias was flustered by Heather's gaze as he couldn't tell her feelings from her eyes, and he was actually amused after reading the news reports.

"Evan, I don't wish to see this kind of news report again in the future. They are really good at spinning stories," Matthias humphed while tossing the newspaper into the garbage bin.

Seeing Matthias's haughty expression, Evan smiled profoundly. "Sir, what do you think Miss Langston would feel after seeing this report?" It was indeed fearless of him to ask this question.

Matthias rolled his eyes at Evan, but the latter had actually reminded him of something. If Heather saw this report, Matthias reckoned the media would be in deep water.

"Perhaps she has not seen it yet," Matthias replied nonchalantly.

“I doubt so. Not only is this published in the newspaper, but it was even on the front cover. I bet many people have seen it.” Evan smiled mysteriously, seeing which Matthias had the impulse to kick him out.

“Does this publisher have such great influence?” Matthias sensed that something odd was going on, so he ordered Evan, “Retrieve the newspaper from the garbage bin. I want to read it again carefully.” Matthias planned to examine the report as he was sure he would find some clues.

“I don’t want to. It’s too dirty,” Evan rejected firmly while passing his phone to Matthias. On the phone screen was none other than the said report.

## Standing before Love Chapter 479

While browsing through the article, Matthias stopped at a certain page and stared at the picture on it with deadpan eyes. He was astonished that the reporters even managed to get their hands on such a picture and he wondered how long they had been secretly following them. Something fishy was definitely going on.

While gazing at Evan, he tapped on the table with one hand. “Find out who this reporter is.” His instincts were telling him that there was something odd about this reporter. Perhaps by starting here, he could figure out why Heather and him were being targeted.

Glancing at Matthias’s stern face, Evan asked rather worriedly, “You think this has something to do with the Locke Family.” As expected from Matthias’ confidant, Evan immediately guessed his thoughts.

“This isn’t the first time the Locke Family has done something like this, and you know this,” Matthias said profoundly. He was very well aware of the Locke Family’s tricks, but he never expected they had a large enough network that could reach him in Bradford City.

“No wonder they were pushing you to get married.” Just then, it dawned on Evan, and it felt like everything made sense now.

Hearing this, Matthias became sullen and his expression darkened. Evan had just touched a sore spot. These few days, he had been distracted by the whole marriage situation, and when Evan brought it up, Matthias’s head started to hurt again.



“Don’t even bring it up,” he grumbled. He knew he wouldn’t be able to keep running away, and he was getting more annoyed the more he thought about it.

“Why not just get on with Miss Langston?” Evan smiled suggestively, causing Matthias to wish he could land a punch on his face.

“Buzz off!” he snarled. Though flabbergasted, Evan didn’t get angry at him. He knew what his temper was like, and he acted as the bigger person and didn’t bother with him.

“Don’t mention Heather either.” Matthias was distraught and upset at whatever he heard. He didn’t want to hear about Myra and Tony, nor did he want to hear about Heather and the Locke Family.

Meanwhile, Myra and Tony were frolicking in the pool on the top floor of the hotel. They were happy as could be. If Matthias saw this, he would probably be green with envy.

The sun was shining just right, and it was the perfect weather to be soaking in the water. In fact, Tony didn’t want any disturbances, so he had reserved the entire pool. Just then, Myra wandered in the water. It was a beautiful sight, and Tony didn’t want to interrupt this wonderful moment.

He wished he had a camera in his hands at this moment to capture this fleeting and marvelous sight in front of him. However, no camera was going to be as good at capturing this moment as his own eyes. Every moment was deeply imprinted in his brain.

Playfully, Myra splashed water onto his face and giggled. “What are you daydreaming about?” Gazing at her smiling face, Tony couldn’t help but chase after her.

Sensing his intentions, Myra frantically turned and left, not wanting to be easily caught by him. A chase in the water was kicked off. Despite that, Tony didn’t dare to really use much force to catch her. It was only pretend.

After the first trimester, swimming was good for pregnant women. However, everything had its limits, and Tony wouldn’t let her strain herself too much.

Of course, Myra was also extra cautious. The baby in her belly came before anything else. As such, she would be careful even while playing. The two of

them were having fun, and Tony finally caught up with her and pulled her into his arms.

“Where do you think you’re going?” With a sly look, he squinted his eyes at her.

“Carry me up?” She gazed up at him with an innocent look.

Dotingly, he shook his head at her. “Tired?” As he spoke, he kissed her forehead.

The original plan was to go out after breakfast, but Tony had suddenly suggested going for a swim. Hence, they had spent the whole morning in the pool.

When getting out of the pool, Myra’s legs were a little weak. Seeing this, Tony immediately picked her up bridal style, whereas Myra wrapped her arms around his neck. It was like they were in-sync with each other. When one had found the right person, it would feel as if they were custom-made for them by God Himself.

For their honeymoon, Tony had long arranged their route. Myra had no objections, so he was completely in charge of the arrangements.

After being with him for so long, Myra found herself depending on him more and more. As long as she was with him, she felt like there was nothing to worry about. In fact, she had never even thought of being apart from him. She always believed that she would spend the rest of her life and grow old with Tony.

For a long time afterward, when the accident happened, she realized that many things were uncertain, and the happiness she once had stung her deeply.

It was already afternoon when they embarked on their journey again. Since it was their honeymoon trip, they weren’t in a rush at all and went at their own pace.

When it came to this, they were on the same page. They had laid out the route without working out the time. For this vacation, they were going to enjoy it to the fullest. Instead of rushing during the trip, it was going to be a relaxing one.

The scenery along the way was beautiful, and Myra would film the scenery with her phone from time to time. Meanwhile, in Tony's eyes, Myra was the beautiful scenery. As she admired the scenery, Tony admired her.

"Tony, are you taking me around the world?" She looked at him curiously. Their original plan was to travel by commercial planes and not their own plane.

This time, he even got a private plane, which was quite convenient as they could go anywhere they wanted without wasting too much time.

"If you want to," he said while gazing at her lovingly. He would try his best to give her anything she wanted.

"No. The world is huge, and I'd prefer it if we take it slow." She smiled at him. She wasn't greedy. The world's beauty had to be slowly admired and appreciated.

While they were above the sea, she watched the blue ocean in a daze. After flying over the sea, they arrived at the first destination of their trip.

It was a small island in Southeast Asia, and it was rumored that this island would bring good blessings for any couples who visited it. In fact, many couples had come to visit from various countries.

Regardless of whether the rumor was true or not, the island's view was breathtaking. Tony had once stayed a night here before, and he liked this place very much.

This island was the first place that came to his mind when he was planning their honeymoon trip. It was a stunning island. When Myra came down from the plane, she fell in love with the island as soon as she laid eyes on it.

Tony led Myra to the hotel to put down all their belongings before going to explore the island. This was something Myra agreed with. The most annoying thing while going on a trip was carrying their things.

When they came out of the hotel, the sun was setting. Myra and Tony enjoyed the afterglow of the sunset; at that moment, the entire island was painted gold by the sunlight. They strolled as they admired the beauty of the setting sun.

The island was a quiet place, and it wasn't hard to distinguish the locals from the tourists. As a matter of fact, they could tour the entire island on foot, but that was what they planned to do the next day. Today, Tony wanted to enjoy the sunset with Myra.

Myra had fallen in love with this place at first glance. Compared to the hustle and bustle of the city, she preferred a simple and quiet place. She liked the beautiful scenery and the simple life the locals led. They had the most sincere smile on their faces, and it felt like everyone could be their most authentic selves.

The enthusiastic locals would take the initiative to greet the visitors. They didn't know much English and had a strange accent, but Myra found it particularly adorable.

"This is a good place to retire." She sighed, not expecting the first destination that Tony brought her to would be such a beautiful place. It made her look forward to the rest of Tony's carefully-planned trip.

"We can come again next time if you like," he said to her.

Hearing this, she raised her brow at him. Although he spoke lightly, taking another trip wasn't going to be easy. After all, they were both busy, especially Tony; it was almost impossible for him to leave work.

"Okay." She showed a cheerful smile. She didn't want to overthink now since it would spoil the fun.

"Myra, I want to travel to every corner of the world with you," he said while pulling her closer to him. The sound of ocean tides filled the air as the water crashed onto the shore wave after wave.

The relaxing sound attracted the attention of the two, while the sea breeze brushed past them with the smell of fish. At that moment, Myra's hair was flowing in the wind, occasionally brushing Tony's neck and even his face, which tickled him.

Tony simply wrapped her hair around his hand and played with it, whereas Myra didn't stop this silly gesture. Everything about them was unfamiliar at the moment, so their chemistry was also heightened.

“Then you have to remember what you said today. You have to take me to all the places that we haven’t ventured to,” she said in a serious manner.

Hearing this, Tony nodded. “We still have a lot of time. We can definitely travel around the world in this lifetime,” he said with great enthusiasm. There was nothing he couldn’t achieve once he put his mind to it.

Myra believed him too. At this moment, she felt like she had been with Tony for a lifetime. Looking at him, she felt like she could see the vicissitudes of life. As long as her future days were spent with him, every single day would be a brand new and perfect day.

“Are you hungry?” he asked. Pregnant women needed to eat more frequently in smaller portions to ensure adequate nutrition.

“No. I had some snacks on the plane.” She still wanted to stroll along the beach. Though she wanted to feel the waves, the sea wasn’t as gentle in the evening as it was during the day.

This was a lush green country. When she turned around, she saw a dense greenery not far away. She planned to explore the woods tomorrow.

“There’s a curious look in your eyes. You’re dying to explore this island.” Tony’s eyes kept following Myra, noting all of her little movements.

“The island is surrounded by water, and it’s standing independently in the sea. It’s like a separate space, like a little world on its own. This feeling is indescribable. It’s like being able to see the entirety of this small world at a glance, and the end and edges of this world. It’s a wonderful feeling.” She thought out loud.

“Good point. Might as well write it down. When we’re home, you can publish a book of travel insights,” Tony said half-jokingly.

“I haven’t done this kind of thing for a long time, and I don’t think I have the words to express myself well.” She disagreed with his statement as she thought she could never be a writer.

## Standing before Love Chapter 480

At Bradford City, news about Heather and Matthias was spreading fast and wide. The next morning, Robert called for Heather to have a talk in the study.

Blake seemed so delighted that Heather even suspected he was the one behind the articles. Otherwise, Matthias and her wouldn't have been the target of gossip when it was Myra and Tony who got married.

In the study, Robert didn't look too happy, so Heather didn't even dare to breathe too loud. She felt a little guilty since she had denied having any romantic relationship with Matthias, which had caused Robert to disregard the flirtatious relationship between her and Matthias for a long time.

But now, the news was spreading all over the town. Not only were people talking about their private lives, but also Locke Group and Langston Group. Since Langston Group was getting affected now, there was no way Robert was going to turn a blind eye.

Just then, he angrily flung the newspaper to Heather. "Look at this article. Are you still going to deny your relationship with Matthias?"

She glanced at the photo in the newspaper without picking it up. It seemed like yesterday's coverage of Myra and Tony's wedding was just a warm up, and today's report was the main highlight.

Had she known earlier, she would have gone straight to them, just like she did with The Apple Gazette. At that moment, she felt like her mind had not been in its best state lately. If this continued, there was no telling what other mistake she would make. Usually, something like this was unlikely to happen to her.

"It's complete nonsense." Reading the headline, she could already guess how ridiculous the content was.

With a cold gaze, Robert glanced at her. "Read it." He was rather displeased with Heather's attitude. Meanwhile, Heather was reluctant to read such an article at all, but the look in Robert's eyes left her with no choice.

Under his compelling gaze, Heather went through the entire article carefully and came to the same conclusion.

"Bullsh\*t. I'm going to take this up with the publisher." She wasn't going to allow her name to be dragged through the mud like this. Having stayed abroad for such a long time, she valued her personal reputation very highly.

At that moment, Robert stopped her. “Enough. This gossip is spreading like wildfire. You can’t possibly stop everyone from talking about it.” After observing for some time, it seemed like Heather was still too naïve.

Although she performed well in managing Langston Group’s branch abroad, she still had her inadequacies. After all, the situation abroad was different from here. It was evident that she had indeed made a lot of mistakes.

“This is the only publisher fanning the flames. It’s not ‘spreading like wildfire’. This is technically defamation. There are many false allegations here, and they need to be held accountable.” She wasn’t going to let the news agency off easily. If she didn’t stand for her rights now, then there would be more incidents like this in the future.

“Nonsense. Do you really think something like this can be settled in court?” He knew what was going through her mind. In fact, sometimes she was too upright in dealing with her issues.

“So I should just stay quiet?” she shot back. After reading the article, the guilt she felt before was now replaced by rage.

Just then, he revealed a malicious smile. “There’s no need for you to intervene. If there’s anyone who dares to disrespect the Langston Family, then I will definitely investigate this matter thoroughly.”

Robert was preparing to intervene, but Heather was against it. She didn’t want him to worry about her affairs, and secondly, this happened because of her, so she thought she should be the one to handle it.

Evidently, he knew what she was thinking. However, the news agency was pinpointing Langston Group this time and had written about them in an unpleasant way as if they were selling out the female members of the family in order to achieve cooperation with the Locke Family.

This was a great insult to the Langston Family, and Robert would not let this matter escalate any further. He wanted to stop the damage in time. Before Heather saw the contents of the article, she thought it might be Blake who was behind this. However, Langston Group was being targeted by the news agency, so she was sure that he wouldn’t do such a thing.

She had always believed that Blake still cared for Langston Group and the Langston Family. In fact, she knew that he only wanted Robert to see him in a different light.

Unfortunately, the methods he used weren't apt. He ostracized Heather in order to prove himself, which naturally caused Robert to look down on him even more. After all, Robert was a wise old man who saw through everything.

"Do not engage with Matthias for now," Robert commanded. This wasn't a discussion at all.

"Okay." Heather nodded firmly. Since Robert had said so, she certainly wouldn't dare to disobey him.

"I suspect that this has something to do with the Locke Family." Sly as a fox, Robert was able to identify the cause at once.

At that moment, it was as if a bell rang in her head. Heather hadn't thought of this possibility. Although the Locke Family's influence didn't reach Bradford City, since Matthias was expanding Locke Group here, it was possible that their forces were seeping into the city little by little. There was another possibility where the Locke Family already had a certain amount of power in Bradford City before Matthias even came here.

In fact, now that she thought about it, Matthias's development here had gone a little too smoothly. It seemed like the things he was achieving were far too significant for someone who had only just started their journey. Now, she was filled with doubts about him.

From the beginning, Matthias got entangled with Heather because of the feud between the three of them when they were young, putting the majority of Heather's attention on the personal feud and little to his businesses.

On top of that, he had confessed early on that he came to Bradford City because of the Hart Family. He wanted to compete with the Hart Family for the top spot in the business world of Bradford City.

In retrospect, it seemed like this was a means of his. It was clearly just a distraction. Judging from his ambitious character, there was no way he would charge head first into a relationship. It seemed that his approach had to be more secretive and lowly.



As Robert gazed at Heather, he noticed the subtle changes on her face while he guessed what was going on in her mind. The two stayed silent like this for a moment before Heather said shamefully, “I’ve been too naïve, and I’ve been fooled by Matthias.” She sulked, thinking of Matthias’s intolerable actions.

“There isn’t enough evidence to prove that now so don’t make premature judgments,” Robert cautioned sincerely. With her mind in disarray, she gazed at him.

“What exactly is the Locke Family’s... or Matthias’s goal?” she asked humbly. She thought she was still too inexperienced compared to Robert.

“These are two questions. The Locke Family and Matthias have different goals,” Robert answered profoundly, which made Heather a little confused.

“Doesn’t Matthias represent the Locke Family?” She thought Matthias and the Locke Family should be one and the same. As such, she wasn’t sure why Robert was suggesting they were not one entity.

“You’re wrong. It seems like you haven’t done your homework on the Locke Family. The Locke Family is divided into two factions—one of them supports Matthias while the other is against him. There are very few people in the faction that supports him.” As a matter of fact, Robert had mapped out the situation of the Locke Family as soon as Matthias showed up in Bradford City.

It was the first time Heather had heard about this since she never extracted such useful information from Matthias. She didn’t even know where Robert got such important information.

“So, you’re saying that Matthias is in an awkward position in the Locke Family?” Heather had always thought that he had taken over the Locke Family. It turned out that most of the people in the Locke Family were dissatisfied with him.

“Pretty much. So, there were various reasons for him to have come to Bradford City.” Robert felt the need to educate her and tell her about it earlier so that she would stop being involved with Matthias.

“Then how did he become the executive director of the Locke Group since few people support him?” This couldn’t be explained in any way. After all, the Locke Family was a much more complicated family than the Langston Family.

She knew that there were many capable people in the Locke Family. If Matthias could stand out from them, then he must have qualities that no ordinary people had and was an outstanding businessman.

However, he surprisingly did not get the support of the vast majority of the Locke family members. He should have been ousted from his position a long time ago, but now, it seemed like he wasn't leaving the position anytime soon. It was really strange.

"Because the current head of the Locke Family fully supports Matthias, who is the person in charge of the Locke Family on the surface. In fact, as long as he has any shortcomings, it will be easy for the Locke Family to get rid of him. Matthias doesn't hold any advantages when it comes to the Locke Group's shares. In other words, Matthias's authority is relative." Robert had studied the Locke Family thoroughly. Perhaps had already sensed the carnage of war the day Matthias stepped foot in Bradford City.

In fact, Locke Group hadn't been a kind existence and its appearance would certainly bring disruptive changes. Robert had done his research, so if anything happened in the future to the business world in Bradford City, Langston Group would still be able to persevere.

"Then should we take on Locke Group?" Heather asked for Robert's opinion. It seemed like Locke Group was a great threat, and there was no telling when something big would blow up.

"No. We'll wait for an opportunity instead of provoking them. Of course, we won't shrink back from their provocations, but as far as the current situation is concerned, Locke Group's main target is Hart Group. Whatever moves they make after this, we can only watch from the sidelines." Robert was calculating. It sounded like he planned to sit back and reap the benefits as the third-party.

"Grandpa, are you saying we can reclaim the top spot of the business world in Bradford City?" Heather asked with uncertainty. Robert had not been interested in the affairs of the world for a long time now, so Heather was a little shocked and confused when she got to know his thoughts.

Robert smiled but did not say anything. Then, the conversation shifted. "You have much more to learn. Everyone praises you, but you must not stay stagnant because of this." With a look of concern, he gazed at her. He didn't want a great potential like Heather to go to waste. In his opinion, ignoring how Blake always made things difficult for her was a way to better refine Heather.

“Grandpa, I just realized how shallow I’ve been.” Heather laughed mockingly at herself. It turned out that her little tricks weren’t worth anything in Robert’s eyes. Instantly, she felt that there was so much more than she needed to learn.

“Young people will inevitably lose their way in the sound of praise, making it difficult for them to realize their own shortcomings. At this time, the elders are needed to guide them. You have a long journey before you, Heather. Don’t disappoint me,” Robert said pointedly. However, Heather had no idea what kind of expectations Robert had for her.

From this conversation, Heather’s wisdom grew. She also understood the good intentions of Robert. At that moment, there was a sense of clarity, and she knew what she had to do.

## Standing before Love Chapter 481

On the way to the office, Heather was still thinking about what Robert said in the morning. The deep meaning in his words was food for thought. In contrast to Robert, Blake’s tricks weren’t even worth mentioning. In fact, she felt like Robert was implying something to her.

She was unsure if she was overthinking, but she could vaguely feel that Blake was just putting up a guise. It seemed like even though Robert was old, he still had a big ambition.

It appeared that Bradford City was going to be lively in the near future. Both Locke Group and Hart Group weren’t one to be messed with, and Robert didn’t intend to get involved with any of them because he was planning to sit back and reap the benefits later.

No wonder he had been so angry today. Before this, Heather tried to get Langston Group and Hart Group to cooperate with each other, and now she was entangled with Locke Group.

At that moment, remorse welled up in her heart. She realized that she was only causing trouble to Robert. Although she didn’t want to compete with Blake for Langston Group, she still hoped that Langston Group would become stronger.

On her way, she made a decision that she was going to meet Matthias immediately to terminate that contract. She couldn’t be tied to him because of

the contract, and she didn't want to have anything to do with Locke Group anymore.

As she drove to Locke Group, she remembered what happened the last time and quickly dialed Matthias' number. However, no one answered. She looked at the phone in her hand in distress, thinking that he must have run off again for a meeting about some important collaboration.

As such, she could only turn to Evan, who was shocked when he realized the call was from Heather. Immediately, he picked up.

From her conversation with him, she learned that Matthias had gone back to the Locke Residence at Tasnia City, and it was probably inconvenient for him to answer her call.

Frustrated, Heather stared at the phone. Meeting Matthias wasn't an easy task. This time, he had gone a little further away than she thought, and it was unlikely that she would go straight there.

After ending the call, Evan immediately reported the matter to Matthias, who instantly replied. In fact, it wasn't inconvenient for him to answer the phone. It was just inconvenient to answer her call at Locke Residence. After all, Heather was the female protagonist of the gossip Matthias was involved in.

"Tell Heather that I'll be waiting for her at home in three days." Matthias didn't want to stay at Locke Residence any longer and was looking for an opportunity to leave.

The Locke Family had arranged an entire week worth of blind dates for him, which he felt was extremely insulting. He felt like he was being placed on the shelf like goods on a special sale. In fact, he didn't even want to spare a glance at any of the women he was supposed to meet.

Furthermore, ever since he came back, he felt like his every move was being watched. Even going outside became a difficult task. When he wasn't on a blind date, he would be in his room. He was even worried that they had bugged his room.

During his time at Locke Residence, he was tormented. There was no way he was going to obey them, and he didn't have time to play games with them for a week.

Just then, Matthias, who was alone and sulking in his room, heard a knock on his door. He replied with disinterest, "Come in." The only people who would dare to come to him at this hour were either the head of the Locke Family or the cousin whom Matthias disliked the most.

As expected, it was the head of the Locke Family. Matthias faintly glanced at him. In fact, he was the reason Matthias came back this time.

Seeing his sullen look, the head of the Locke Family comforted him. "Matthias, why didn't you tell me that you have returned?" He still cared about Matthias and he didn't want to force him like this, but unfortunately, he was no longer in control of the situation now.

"I can't marry a random woman. I can't do it," Matthias said sullenly without looking at him.

Just then, the head of the family smiled lovingly as he approached Matthias and patted his shoulder. "I went through it too. Marriage isn't always up to you." He spoke as someone who had experienced the same thing.

"What a joke. The Locke Family is powerful. Do they really need this kind of alliance to be better?" Matthias looked at the head of the family with mockery in his eyes. He couldn't agree with him at all since that was an outdated approach.

"The Locke Family does not give up any opportunity to take shortcuts," the head of the family said profoundly. It was because of this exact trait that was causing each and every one of them to be unhappy.

Perhaps it was because life wasn't as good as it should be, so they were all fully devoted to work. Hence, there were many workaholics in the Locke Family.

"I will never marry a woman I don't love." Matthias stared directly at the head of the family and emphasised each word like an oath and with determination.

The head of the Locke Family didn't want to continue to dwell on this matter, so he said, "A man becomes independent at thirty. You should count how many years you have left. After the age of thirty, if you're still not married, then you definitely won't be taking over the Locke Family."

This was one of the rules of the Locke Family, and it was also one that Matthias hated. Every head of the family abided by this rule. Of course, the leader of Locke Group must do the same as well. Sometimes, the head of the Locke Family and the leader of Locke Group were the same person, and sometimes they were two different people.

All in all, the Locke Family was a peculiar family with strict rules which Matthias disliked. As such, he was unhappy. Sometimes, he really didn't understand why he had to be the leader of Locke Group, knowing that he had to sacrifice so much as the leader. Perhaps he thought he could turn it all around.

But as time went by, he felt like it was more and more impossible to escape the vicious cycle that was the Locke Family tradition. He feared that one day, he would be swallowed up like his elders and live without a soul.

"Are you happy now?" Matthias' sudden questions took the head of the family by surprise. It had been a long time since he thought about this.

After properly pondering for a long time, he answered quietly, "Does it matter?" It wasn't an answer, or perhaps the answer was too obvious and there was no need to say it out loud.

"We only have one life. Why should we live so unhappily?" Matthias spoke with intention. He was directing it to the head of the family and also to himself.

"Well said, but reality will not go as you wish. Young man, you still have a long way to go." The head of the family gazed into Matthias' determined eyes and gave him a caring smile. It seemed that he wouldn't be able to persuade him for a while.

"Well, I won't forget why I started." At this moment, Matthias was full of confidence. Later on, he would realize that he shouldn't be too confident because life could drive one to the edge.

The rest of the days, Matthias remained indifferent as he was dragged to the blind dates. In his eyes, those women were all the same and couldn't be compared to Myra, or even Heather. Just then, he was surprised that he even thought of Heather. As such, he revealed a self-deprecating smile. Unknowingly, Heather had left indelible traces in his heart which would bubble up from time to time recently.

The woman sitting across from him looked at the smile on his lips and an embarrassed look crept onto her face. Meanwhile, Matthias' cousin who was accompanying him faked a cough which snapped Matthias out of it.

Giving the woman across from him a glance, he noticed that she had a good-looking face but was uninteresting. This was not what he was looking for in a lover in any case.

"I'm sorry, ma'am. I'm not interested in what you're talking about at all," he said impolitely. He didn't want to waste his time on people or things he didn't like.

At once, his cousin's face darkened as he glared at Matthias, while the girl who was still admiring Matthias' handsome face just now became displeased in an instant.

The man sure was blunt. Even if she had some feelings toward him, there was no way she would stay, not to mention that she was a pampered and spoiled young lady. She was so infuriated that she took her bag and left at once. Meanwhile, Matthias remained seated with an indifferent face.

Instead, his cousin made a point of going after the woman and apologizing to her. Matthias watched his cousin's pretentious performance, knowing full well that this was how his cousin was. He had to let the whole world think that he was the best and most harmless one.

A beautiful name and gentlemanly manners were phony in the eyes of Matthias. After all, he could never forget what his cousin had done to hurt him. He had backstabbed Matthias countless times; after all, he was, in fact, a two-faced person. Matthias glared fiercely at his cousin who was walking toward him.

"Matthias, how could you be so rude?" his cousin questioned him. He was a slim man with little manliness and looked more feminine than a woman. So much so that Matthias even doubted his cousin's sexual orientation. If he hadn't gotten married before he turned thirty and gave birth to a pair of fraternal twins, Matthias would have thought that his cousin liked men.

"I've been sitting here and listening to her nonsense for an hour. That's as far as my patience goes." Matthias squinted his eyes at his cousin who was going to put up a performance anyway. As such, he didn't mind being accused of disrespecting his elder brother.

“Matthias, you can’t go on like this. You’re turning thirty soon. Please, you have to be more serious during your blind dates. Don’t miss out on a good girl.” His cousin looked like he was concerned about Matthias, but Matthias didn’t trust him at all.

“Feelings aren’t for trading. If you like to trade your life, then that’s your business. Do not drag me down with you.” At once, Matthias rose from his seat. He had spent enough time entertaining them. He was leaving tomorrow and no one was going to be able to stop him.

“We’re going to the next spot.” His cousin sighed with a look of frustration.

The corner of Matthias’s lips curled upward. “I’ll accompany you, but I’ve booked a ticket for tomorrow afternoon at three. I do not have the time to gallivant with you for a week.” He spoke dashing. He had already compromised a lot and he didn’t want to carry on anymore.

“What do you mean, ‘accompany’ me? This attitude of yours is very problematic. Return the tickets. You have over twenty more blind dates, and if you don’t choose a woman by the end of it, you’re not allowed to leave.” His cousin’s tone was gentle, but every sentence he spoke was pressuring Matthias. However, he wasn’t going to fall for it.

Matthias sneered in response. “Gather the rest of the women tomorrow morning. I don’t mind meeting all of them at once. I will leave on time tomorrow at three in the afternoon. Nothing is going to stop me.” His tone was decisive and left no space for any argument.