

Standing before Love Chapter 592

Regardless of what Heather said now, Myra wouldn't listen to any of it. Heather couldn't think of a better countermeasure. She had imagined this sort of situation happening before, but she never thought through how to face it.

"I don't want to see you." Looking at Heather's indifferent expression, Myra couldn't see the slightest bit of sincerity. It didn't look like she was remorseful at all.

Myra regretted having met Heather. No matter what Heather did now, it would all be misinterpreted in her eyes. Their friendship had ultimately been jeopardized.

All along, Heather never liked to give explanations, but she already did her best to explain things to Myra. It didn't look like Myra wanted an explanation from her at this point. Nonetheless, what could she do? She was completely at fault.

She maintained eye contact with Myra for quite some time. It was the first time Myra looked this tough in front of her. Her mouth opened slightly; the words had reached her mouth, but she couldn't speak them out loud.

While they were locked in a stalemate, Myra was the first to turn around. When she called Heather over this time, she held onto a thread of hope and probably didn't think things would turn out this way.

It was Heather's fault for abusing her trust. This came as such a heavy blow to Myra that she couldn't bring herself to look at Heather in the face. She always thought that Heather was only a conniving person to outsiders, but it turned out that she herself had gotten caught up in her schemes. Heather's selfishness could make one's blood boil.

"I can still—"

Heather's words got cut off right away. Standing with her back straight, Myra was cold and distant. "What else are you using me for?" Myra didn't even want to look at Heather while she spoke without a trace of warmth in her voice.

Heather wasn't able to proudly claim that she had never taken advantage of Myra before. A while ago, she planned to mend the relationship between the

Langston and Hart Families through Myra. If that counted as taking advantage of someone, then Heather had used Myra many, many times.

“You really took full advantage of me. It looks like I’m quite valuable to you, seeing as you stayed friends with me for so many years.” Myra’s words were filled with ridicule. Even though she was sad, she had to say a few things to hurt Heather. She really couldn’t help herself.

Now that they had come to this point, Heather was forced to reflect on herself. She was starting to hate herself more for ending up as a cold-blooded ace business person who was blinded by greed.

If she had even the slightest bit of repentance back then, perhaps they wouldn’t have come to this. Myra’s right. I am selfish, yet I can’t admit it, and I’m even defending myself with excuses. I have to face my dark side head-on. After all, things that had already happened can’t be treated as though they never had.

“I admit that I was selfish, and I understand if you don’t want to forgive me. I just hope you’ll give me another chance to make up for my wrongdoings.” Heather gave an earnest plea. Apart from making up for her mistakes now, there wasn’t a better way.

“No need. Haven’t you done enough of that all these years? Thinking about it now, every time you did something that made you feel sorry for me, you would always treat me a lot better. I felt grateful each time and always thought about giving back to you twice as much. I didn’t think there was a better friend than you in this world. But I only just realized that you never treated me as one.” Myra couldn’t accept this contrast. Before Tony showed up in her life, the person she depended on and trusted the most was Heather.

Their friendship felt like a joke now. Even at this moment, Myra couldn’t bring herself to say anything mean to Heather. The words were just stuck in her throat, unable to be said out loud.

Heather lowered her head dejectedly. There is no point in trying to explain further. This time, Myra isn’t going to forgive me so easily. From the outside, her silhouette looked very desolate.

“Leave, and don’t come back again.” Myra spoke lightly, but the weight of these words made Heather’s heart sink.

After Myra was done, she left the living room. They didn't even have a cup of tea to drink. Myra was absolutely resolute this time. Once Myra was gone, Heather left the house by herself; it felt like the strength had drained from her body, and she had to use all her energy to open the door.

At this moment, she wasn't expecting to see Matthias outside the house. He had found information on Leon and driven to Myra's house to wait for Heather.

Coming out of the villa, Heather saw his car parked in clear view outside, but she simply walked past his car in low spirits, as though she hadn't seen a thing.

Getting out of the car, he grabbed Heather and said, "Get in my car." He still felt uneasy about showing up in front of Myra's house so hastily.

Heather allowed herself to be pulled into the car. Once she was in the passenger seat, she didn't fasten her seatbelt, which triggered the car safety alarm that started to annoy Matthias.

After driving a distance away from the villa, he stopped the car and helped fasten her seatbelt for her. He was saddened to see the bleak look in her eyes, but he didn't know what had happened to her.

"What's wrong?" His gentle voice also failed to bring Heather back to her senses. It looked like she had lost her soul and was a mere wandering spirit.

"Get me out of Bradford City." She didn't want to stay here anymore. Her emotions were a wreck.

"Where do you want to go?" He was rather taken aback. Why does she want to leave Bradford City all of a sudden? Something isn't right about her. Did she and Myra get into a fight?

Thinking about how the both of them used to be so close to each other that they were practically one person, he wondered what conflict they could've had that made Heather look this dejected. It pained him just to see her that way.

"Don't ask me any questions. Just be with me, okay?" The 'okay' she said at the end sounded so weak that he couldn't bear to say no to her.

Hence, he gave her a firm nod. He was willing to spend his whole life with her. No matter what had happened to her, he was her pillar to rely on at this moment.

After that, the two stopped talking. Heather stared blankly ahead while Matthias focused on driving. Neither of them knew where their destination was, and they just drove aimlessly.

The only thought he had in mind was driving out of Bradford City, and the rest could be discussed later. Heather became vulnerable so suddenly that he also felt the pain.

A long while later, they finally drove out of Bradford City. That was when he brought up Leon to her, but she only gave him an indifferent murmur in response and did not make another sound.

“We’re about to reach a fork in the road. Should we go left or right?” He asked for her opinion as he didn’t know where they were headed either. Currently, it somehow felt like they were eloping together.

“Right,” she replied with one simple remark. Seeing her listless appearance, he felt like taking her to see a doctor badly.

“It’s so cold out. Why don’t we go south instead?” He treated this hasty journey as a trip. Since it was their trip, he figured they should go somewhere with a beautiful view.

He already had a place in mind—he wanted to go to Soville. However, Soville was so far away, so it wasn’t practical to drive there, and it was much more reasonable to take a plane.

“Okay.” Without the slightest suspense, Heather lost her own judgment and went with anything he said. He couldn’t bear to see her this way. How much longer will this situation go on for?

“Should we go to Soville?” he continued asking. Roselake in Soville was a suitable place for a trip during winter. There wasn’t any smog there, nor was the winter dry and cold like it was in the north.

“I want to go abroad.” She didn’t even want to stay in the country and wanted to go somewhere further away. The further she could be from Bradford City, the better.

Heather didn't think she would become an escapee one day—someone who was trying to escape from reality—but Myra's words were still ringing in her head, and she couldn't forgive herself. Her mind was in such a mess that it was impossible for her to think straight.

"Do you want to go to Northern Europe or the United States?" He followed up on her statement.

"Northern Europe." She was only resorting to mechanical judgments now.

"Let's go to Norway, then." He immediately thought of a new location to go to.

"Okay," she murmured and did not go on to say more.

"I'll drive to the airport. We'll take a flight there." He had been driving for a long time now and was slightly worn out. Moreover, the sky was also getting dark.

When she didn't answer him, he assumed that she agreed. Turning on the navigation system, he wanted to find the closest airport to them. They might have to transfer flights on their way to Norway. He never got to appreciate the scenery in Northern Europe, but he would get the chance to now with Heather.

Upon making the hasty decision, neither of them seemed to remember that Heather's company was going to open for business on New Year's Day. At the moment, starting a business was the last thing on her mind.

Another core member of the company, Leon, was also facing a complicated situation. It was going to be difficult for the company to open for business on New Year's Day. Presently, the only people concerned about starting a business was Paige and her father. They weren't aware of what had happened and were still set on preparing for the opening of the business.

Without realizing, Heather might have to let Paige and her father down again as she was not in the right state of mind to attend to company matters. Furthermore, she was even doubting whether she was fit to be a business person. She was truly tired and weary now.

She had only lived through less than half of her life, but she was already wavering. She was not fit to be a business person anymore. The more concerned she was about this, the more she wasn't able to make hard-

hearted decisions. Perhaps she couldn't be a good person nor a good businesswoman.

"Matthias, am I a failure?" she asked suddenly. They were still a long distance away from the airport, but she felt like they had been on the road for a long time; it was as though half a century had passed by.

"Why are you asking that all of a sudden?" He looked at her quizzically. The current Heather no longer had the energetic spirit and confidence from before. Who knew there would come a day when she would also grow inferior?

This made him extremely astonished. It seemed like she had been doubting herself all this while, and he could only watch on helplessly from the side.

"Forget it. I don't want to know the answer." She went limp in her seat, as though she had used up all her strength.

"You're always outstanding and extraordinary to me. I don't know what exactly happened, but I hope you can pull yourself together soon," he encouraged. Seeing her this way, he couldn't be happy himself either.

"I'm not fit to be a businesswoman, nor do I qualify as a decent human being. I know I have many flaws, but I don't know how to fix them," she repented.

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Seeing Heather's deep awareness of herself, Matthias felt like he had misunderstood her all along and had assumed that she was someone who wouldn't repent.

"If you're able to recognize your problems, then it proves that there's still a chance to fix them," he said earnestly. It was better to console her during this time as it was rare that she would want to improve herself.

"What problems do I need to fix?" Looking over at him, she needed to hear his answer.

On the other hand, Matthias was stumped. Some of her bad habits also looked cute to him now. His mind inevitably went blank when she asked him about the problems she needed to fix.

“You have a bad temper and are very purposeful.” He gave a general answer. Aside from that, he couldn’t think of anything else.

In regard to her temper, she really didn’t give anyone any leeway, unless she had business relations with them, in which case she would give them some. In normal life, she wouldn’t even bother with anyone who couldn’t benefit her.

She was purposeful in her interactions with people as she targeted people based on their value. Matthias was not a fool. He had sensed very early on that she was using him.

He saw through her intentions from the start, but he was swayed by her. Even if she was using him, he would still go along with it.

“You told me in the past that I was even using Myra. Thinking about it now, you weren’t wrong.” She mentioned Myra without realizing. Despite never wanting to admit that she was using Myra, after all the things Myra said today, she couldn’t help but reflect on her actions.

From the start, she had approached Myra with a motive. She wouldn’t be able to face herself if she denied that now. When she thought back on their past, she couldn’t remember when she had started treating Myra as a real friend.

“I said that in a burst of anger. I can see that you’re genuine to Myra. Even though you’ve done some hurtful things to her, you were also the one who took the most care of her,” he comforted. Listening to the sad things she was saying, he felt absolutely heartbroken for her.

The truth of the matter was clear. Myra must have found out about the things Heather kept hidden from her; why else would Heather have come out of Myra’s house in that state?

This was a tough situation that even Matthias couldn’t be of much help in. If he resented Heather that much back then, then it must be worse for Myra. She was certainly furious and wouldn’t forgive Heather no matter what.

Nevertheless, this issue was also a heavy blow to Heather. She was doubting herself and her life. Matthias wanted to come up with a countermeasure, but he couldn’t think of a good way. It was better for them both to resolve this themselves.

“The airport is right ahead. Stop overthinking. The both of you need to calm down for a moment. When we come back from Norway, you can go to Myra again and talk to her.” Matthias felt like he was simply a considerate and sweet man at this moment. He wanted to step up and be a beacon to Heather to expel the gloominess in her heart.

“Myra doesn’t want to see me again. I don’t have the right to go look for her now. I want to do something to make it up to her, but she won’t even give me that chance. It’s all my fault for going too far.” She was like a weak little girl who spurred people to want to take care of her.

While Matthias was driving, he reached out to put a hand on her shoulder and give her some comfort.

“I want to go to Iceland,” she said abruptly. She wanted to go to an ice-cold nation that befitted the cool, icy feeling she felt.

“Okay,” he replied without hesitation. Wherever she wanted to go, he would accompany her.

It was already dark out now. As they got out of the car one after the other, they were met with a dreary-looking airport. Heather urgently wanted to leave this place even though they couldn’t take a direct flight to Iceland.

Upon arriving at the front desk, they bought tickets to go to Paris first and planned to switch flights to go to Iceland in France. Since their flight was at dawn, an endless night still awaited them. Hence, they went to rest in the boarding area.

Huddled together, the both of them looked just like a couple. Heather was leaning against his shoulder while listening to him talk.

In order to prevent her from thinking about Myra, he kept talking to her to divert her attention, which she also went along with. The two had never been that harmonious before.

Every now and then, people would cast curious and envious glances at them. Their looks were that eye-catching in a crowd. The presence Heather had, especially, resembled a dazzling lotus flower. Whether it was their looks or presence, they were both well-matched.

It had been a long time since Matthias was this close to her. He felt his heart thumping as he smelled the nice fragrance coming off of her. At this moment, he felt a wave of happiness. He only wished he could always be that close to her.

As the latter part of the night gradually approached, he listened to the sound of Heather's steady breathing while she slept on his shoulder. While she was sleeping, the crease between her brows still did not ease. Seeing her weighed down, he only despised himself for not being able to expel her worries and solve her problems.

She was adamant on not letting Matthias and Myra meet. In truth, he really wanted to meet Myra once. That way, he could speak up for Heather.

He saw how much Heather cared about Myra, and he wanted to tell Myra all about it. The words that came out of his mouth would be the most convincing.

Watching Heather turn timid when she never did, he decided that he would come up with a secret plan of his own once they returned. He didn't want to see Myra and Heather break apart from each other either. He still had a small place in his heart for Myra although they didn't end up together; he still cherished those wholesome moments of his past and still saw Myra as a good friend.

If Myra and Heather, the best of friends, wanted to cut ties with each other, then he would be the most anxious for them. He understood their friendship. Being stubborn was only temporary; Heather didn't know how to express herself while Myra couldn't understand her for now. During this time, they needed someone to give them a little push.

Meanwhile, the waiting process was agonizing. Matthias did not dare to make any movement for fear that he would wake Heather, who was a light-sleeper. Seeing the crease between her brows, he really wanted to help her smooth it out. At the moment, however, things were heading in a direction he wasn't anticipating.

A text arrived on his phone. Looking at the content of the text, he couldn't help but tighten his grip. It was a text from an unknown number with one simple line: 'Do you like my gift, Mr. Locke?'

It looked like someone was playing tricks behind their backs. Matthias really wanted to reply to the text, but it occurred to him that it was most likely a

burner phone. The person working behind the scenes was extremely careful in every step and wouldn't expose themselves because of one text. Hence, calling the number would also prove futile.

Instead, he quickly gave orders to uncover who was exacerbating this situation. This person was someone he would never forgive.

'Why are you trying to drive a wedge between Myra and Heather?' In the end, he still sent a reply to the other party.

'It is all part of my plan.' The other party replied in an instant. Matthias was trying to buy time to try to determine the exact location of that person through the text.

Not long after, however, that person sent another text: 'I know your capabilities. Don't try to find out about me. You're not capable enough for that yet.' The tone of the text was so brazen that it irritated Matthias even more.

It seemed like this person wanted to infuriate him. First, they planned to drive a wedge between Heather and Myra, and now, they were provoking him. As for the relation between the two, he still did not know yet.

At some point, Heather had woken up. She was staring at his phone with a pale complexion on her face.

He quickly turned off his phone, but she was even quicker as she snatched the phone right out of his hand and dialed the unknown number. Unexpectedly, the person answered the call.

A hoary voice came through the phone. "Miss Langston, you're impatient as always." Surprisingly, they guessed that Heather was the one who made the call.

"Who are you? Why are you plotting against me?" She tried to stay calm in order to get more useful information from the other party.

"I am playing a chess game, where each person is a chess piece." The hoary voice was filled with confidence. They were trying to make her infuriated.

"Who are you playing with?" On the other hand, she didn't act hastily. Her tone was calm, as though nothing was happening.

“The chess pieces.” The person gave a strange answer.

After that, they hung up. From the start until the end, their words were extremely suggestive. As of yet, Heather still did not know how to decipher the profundity behind them, but she suspected that they were using a voice changer. Still, the voice sounded so natural that she couldn't hear any traces to prove that it was artificial.

“Did you discover something?” Matthias asked out of concern.

“No,” she answered and returned the phone to him.

“Are we still going to Iceland?” He thought that the phone call would change her mind, so he deliberately asked.

“Yes. We have two hours left before we board the flight.” She gripped the flight ticket tightly in her hands, as though it was her life-saver.

“Relax a little. We're going to Iceland to alleviate your mood. I don't want you to go there in distress,” he exhorted. From the outside, it looked like she was going to Iceland to kill someone instead of distracting herself.

“I can't force a smile.” She tried to force a smile at him, but it looked even worse than her being in tears.

“I'm not forcing you. You can talk to me if you can't figure anything out.” He was like a gentle older brother, trying to clear out her gloomy mood.

“Matthias, are you going to leave me too one day?” she suddenly asked sheepishly. Even though she always did everything alone, there were times when she also felt lonely and needed someone to keep her company.

“No. Have you heard of something?” he prodded.

“What?” She went along with him.

“If ten people in this world loved you, one of them would definitely be me. If only one person in this world loved you, that would also definitely be me. If I ever leave you, then it would be because I was on my deathbed.” Matthias learned and applied what he knew. The last sentence was especially sentimental.

“Don’t spout nonsense.” She shot a glare at him. It seemed like she had regained some spirit from before.

“Don’t worry. For the sake of growing old with you, I won’t let myself die in front of you. I will live to the fullest and become an old goblin.” He did not hesitate to ridicule himself to ease Heather’s depressed mood.

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The atmosphere was heavy. At this hour, there weren’t a lot of people waiting to board a flight. The lounge exuded a mild refreshing scent that seemed like it was barely even there. It instilled a sense of familiarity in Heather, as though she had smelled this scent somewhere before.

“Do you smell this fragrance?” Her question was so sudden that Matthias wasn’t able to make the switch yet.

He tried his best to sniff, but he didn’t pick up any unusual scents. Getting up from his shoulder, Heather looked all around but did not notice anyone suspicious.

“A perfume fragrance?” He only smelled perfume. When he tried his hardest, he even smelled a fusion of several different perfumes.

Looking around, he figured that it was probably coming from the person next to him; even a man was wearing perfume.

“No. Maybe I was mistaken.” She brushed it off. It seemed the mild scent was also gone now. She reckoned she was just imagining things.

He looked at her with a worried gaze and suspected that the heavy burden weighing in her mind must have led to this scenario.

“We’re going to board the flight in a bit. Stop overthinking.” He spoke nonchalantly, but he had his guard up. It was possible that Heather wasn’t mistaken.

He also had a feeling that they were potentially being followed. Thinking about the phone call earlier, he was certain that someone was following them in secret. Otherwise, why would that person behind all of this know them like the back of their hand?

Even with both of their heightened senses, they couldn't find their stalker. It seemed the stalker disguised themselves very well. Only a few people were scattered around the lounge. On the surface, they all looked like social elites. If the two really had a stalker, then it would be one of these people here.

When it was almost time, people started pouring in one after the other. They were most likely on the same flight as the two. Matthias was on high alert, trying to determine the most suspicious person. Compared to him, Heather was a lot calmer. Her facial expression gave nothing away; it didn't look like she was interested in uncovering the identity of the stalker just yet.

"No one here looks suspicious," she murmured in his ear.

This sparked his curiosity. What criteria did she use to judge that these people weren't suspicious? Nevertheless, she never made up nonsense. Since she made that statement, she definitely had a rationale behind it.

"They're challenging us. If they sent someone at this time, that'd increase the likelihood of them exposing their identity," she analyzed. At first, her mind was in a mess because of Myra, but with the sudden turn of events, she was back to her senses.

Someone was following her in secret. She was not a saint and was going to pay them back for it. Currently, she was waiting for the day when she could counter-attack.

There was one thing, however, that she couldn't figure out. Why did this person have to go through Matthias? What was their purpose? She had yet to figure that out. Perhaps once she went abroad and eased her mood, she would naturally figure some of it out.

Even though Heather didn't say a word, she agreed with Matthias. She was too oppressed in Bradford City. Ever since she came back to the country, nothing good had happened, so indeed, she needed a distraction. Her problem with Myra was not going to be resolved for a while either.

It was better if she stayed rational. If her rationality crumbled, the outcome would only be less favorable. She boarded the flight with a weight on her mind, but before going on the plane, she asked Matthias to give Robert a call.

"Old Master Langston," he greeted warmly.

“Matthias! What made you think of me?” They joked around with each other. Robert had already taken Matthias for his own grandson-in-law, so he was a bit more affectionate toward him.

Shortly after, Robert came to the realization. It’s clearly Heather’s phone, but why am I hearing Matthias’ voice? Are they together this late in the night?

“Is Heather with you?” Robert asked directly.

“Yes. I have something to tell you, but I don’t know how to.” Matthias was in a tough spot, but Heather was placid next to him.

“Speak your mind. Is Heather giving you a hard time again?” Robert had a feeling that Matthias’ phone call was not good news.

“No. I’m at the airport with her now. I want to apologize to you for not getting your permission beforehand and bringing Heather here of my own volition. I would like to borrow her for a few days.” Matthias spoke in one breath. He was truly in a tough spot. He had never done something without authorization before, which made him very apologetic toward Robert.

“Where are you guys planning on going?” Robert’s voice became lower, and he clearly sounded upset.

Matthias looked over at Heather with a troubled look. It was troublesome now; he had left a bad impression on Robert, which wasn’t the outcome he had hoped for.

“Heather wants to go to Iceland for a few days. I—” Even through the phone, the stiffness in Matthias’ voice was clear. Why does it feel like I’m doing something illegal?

Without giving him a chance to finish, Robert interjected, “Put Heather on the phone.” He had complaints about Heather’s recent behavior.

“Grandpa.” Her voice came through the phone into Robert’s ear.

“Is Bradford City not cold enough for you that you’re going to Iceland in the middle of winter?” Robert felt like Heather had already overstepped her boundaries before. Now, she had come up with another strange idea; it felt like she was eloping overseas with Matthias.

“Grandpa, I felt an urge to go to Iceland. I want to go somewhere no one can stop me.” She spoke in a gentle voice, but her tone was still persistent.

Robert couldn't stop her. Doing something first before telling him would catch him off guard. Even if he opposed, she was still going to go to Iceland.

“You've been causing more and more trouble these days,” Robert reprimanded.

Heather turned around intentionally and lowered her voice. “You always wanted me to be around Matthias more. Isn't this the situation you wanted to see?” With Matthias by her side, she naturally became more bold. At least, Robert would feel more at ease.

“Whatever. Go and come back sooner. Don't delay the opening of the company.” Robert could tell that she was getting more and more distracted from the business, and he didn't know what she had in mind either.

“Okay.” She almost forgot that Robert was constantly keeping an eye on her from behind. It was going to be a bit difficult to act capriciously.

If it weren't for this phone call, she would probably continue to delay the opening of the company. When the call with Robert ended, she decided to rush back before the New Year and proceed with opening the company as planned.

“How did it go?” Matthias asked.

“He told me to come back before business opens. He hopes that I put work first and stop messing around,” she said nonchalantly. She almost forgot about the responsibility on her shoulders.

“Are you done with all the preparations for opening the business?” he asked out of concern. It was clearly written on her face that she was reluctant.

“Everything had already been prepared before I returned to the country.” She brushed away her gloominess from before. It looked like she had to get back on track again.

While they were talking, the announcement to board the plane was made, whereupon they followed the crowd out of the boarding area. They had bought

first-class plane tickets. Upon getting on the plane, they realized that there weren't a lot of people in first-class.

It was ideal as well. It was quiet, so they wouldn't get disturbed by other people. Heather consciously nestled up against Matthias' shoulder. Since she had done it once, the second time came a lot more naturally.

Lowering his head to look at her, he was filled with happiness. If only there was no end to this trip. Not long after, she was about to fall asleep. She didn't know whether it was because she had stayed up all night, but she felt especially drowsy today.

The last time he watched her this sound asleep was when they were pitted against each other not long after she returned to the country. Indeed, time had flown by and changed their hostile encounter with each other. In the present, he only wanted this happiness to last forever.

The moment the plane took off, he also felt exceptionally comfortable. They were leaving this place to Iceland, where no one knew who they were. Perhaps in Iceland, there weren't that many people out to get them.

By the time Heather woke up again, it was already bright out. Even though Matthias felt like his shoulder was about to break, he didn't dare to move out of fear that he would wake her up.

"Did you sleep well?" he asked in a caring tone, worried that she didn't get enough sleep.

During this time, Matthias also dozed off for a moment, and the two fell asleep with their heads leaning against each other. When he woke up, he felt a pain in his neck, but he didn't wake her up.

"Are you hungry?" He was worried that she would be hungry since she didn't really eat the day before. Her body wasn't able to endure such torment.

"I don't have an appetite." She still didn't want to eat anything. Previously, he thought that she was starting to feel better, but her emotions were still a wreck.

"Have something to eat at least so you don't get stomach pains." His concerned appearance made him look like an elder. It reminded her of how Robert cared for her.

“I want to have some porridge.” She would probably be able to eat if it was porridge.

He stood up. “I’ll go take a look.” Perhaps he would be able to find what she wanted.

After a long while, he returned with empty hands. It looked like he wasn’t successful.

“It’s fine. Once we get off the plane, we can go have some.” Looking at the time, she saw that they were about to land soon.

“There’s no porridge in Paris,” he lamented. They had the best porridge back home.

“I might have more of an appetite when we get off the plane, but right now, I really don’t,” she explained to him kindly. He could be really stubborn sometimes that she wouldn’t know what to say to him.

On the other hand, he didn’t know what to do with her either. If she says so, then so be it.

“Aren’t you hungry?” she asked in return. He was concerned about her hunger the whole time, but he did not tend to his own stomach.

“I’m not,” he replied.

Looking at him in dissatisfaction, she said, “It’s not good to have double standards.” Why is he becoming more and more like a nagging mother? Why didn’t I notice he had these qualities in the past?

“A certain someone doesn’t want to eat, so how could I have an appetite?” He pushed the responsibility to her again and was making it seem as though she was absolutely wicked.

“So you’re blaming me!” she bantered.

As they talked and laughed together, the atmosphere loosened up. It seemed as though they had really put Bradford City behind them. On the surface, Heather looked completely fine, but Matthias knew that she was hiding it from him; even the smile on her face carried some pretense.

“Since you left Bradford City so suddenly, did you inform the people at Locke Group?” It would’ve been fine if she had acted on impulse by herself, but she was feeling disconcerted now for dragging him along.

“I’m the Executive President of Locke Group; I don’t need to inform anyone there.” His expression shifted slightly, as if she had crossed a line with him.

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Matthias’ sudden stern attitude created an awkward tension between the both of them. Heather didn’t think that her words would stir up such a big reaction from him.

“You and Locke Group...” She had a bold prediction, but she wasn’t sure if she should say it out loud. It might be presumptuous to ask him so directly.

“I don’t want to talk about Locke Group anymore.” His complexion improved slightly. He was a little sensitive about Locke Group these days, which inevitably got Heather thinking.

“Okay. Let’s not talk about it, then.” She didn’t want to cross his boundary. That was the basic form of respect between people.

They still had half an hour left before the plane would land. Heather and Matthias also tacitly agreed not to talk anymore. The entire first-class cabin was quiet; everyone was in deep sleep, while Heather was looking elsewhere.

Previously, she was worried that someone was following them and suspected that the person might be in the first-class cabin. After observing for a while, however, she didn’t come to any conclusions. In order to ascertain whether these people were dozing off or not, she kept her eyes on them one by one for a while to look for anyone suspicious.

When she smelled the mild scent in the air, it reminded her of the scent she smelled in the lounge earlier. In an instant, it put her on alert. The mild scent disappeared very quickly this time, so she failed to find its source once again. Meanwhile, there wasn’t any movement from everyone else.

Even Matthias, who was beside her, did not notice anything strange. Hence, she wondered whether it had been her own hallucination. Still, she couldn’t remember where she had smelled that scent before.

This special type of fragrance was not from a common perfume in the market. It could also be a perfume that she had never smelled before, or it could be that person's own scent.

Since her nose remembered it, she was sure that she had smelled it somewhere before. Where on earth have I smelled this before? She loathed herself once again for not having a better memory. She couldn't think of it even though she racked her brain. It proved that this was simply a very ordinary person with a peculiar scent.

Suddenly, she had an epiphany. I know why—it must've been a passer-by. She seemed to remember smelling this scent when she first returned to the country. If she tied everything together, then it meant that she had been followed ever since she returned.

It had taken her so long to figure it out. Standing up from her seat, she was determined to find out where this scent was coming from.

Matthias found her actions strange and also stood up. Feeling worried, he asked, "What's wrong?" He didn't know what had gotten into her again.

"Someone is definitely following us and is right in this plane. Before the plane lands, we must find them." She felt like this was a chance they couldn't miss.

A hesitant look appeared on his face. They had less than twenty minutes before the plane landed. During this time, it was best that they stayed in their seats and did not move around.

"We don't have enough time," he remarked, for it would only be wasted effort. In a bit, an air stewardess would come and tell them to stay in their seats.

"If you don't come with me, then I'll go by myself." With that, she dashed out of the first-class cabin.

On the other hand, he couldn't let her go by herself. Thus, he quickly followed after her. "I'll go with you."

With a stern expression on her face, Heather said, "You take the left, and I'll take the right. If you find someone with a special fragrance, you have to come and tell me."

He gave a firm nod. Since she had mentioned that mild scent before, he was sure that he would be able to identify it once he smelled it again.

The other passengers were puzzled by their strange behaviors. Not long after the two started their search, however, they were stopped by the air stewardess.

“My apologies, Sir and Ma’am. The plane is landing. Please return to your seats.” The air stewardess was standing in their path.

They looked at each other for a moment and tried to break through the barrier, but it wouldn’t be advantageous for them to cause a scene on the plane either.

That person would definitely capture their act, and Heather didn’t want Robert to be worried about her back in Bradford City. While she hesitated, Matthias didn’t move either.

She pulled his hand back and said, “Let’s go!”

Feeling the softness in his hand, he turned around to follow after her. He didn’t think Heather would give up so easily.

She whispered in his ear, “Hold my waist.”

He listened to her and stretched a hand out to hold her waist. Without knowing the reason behind her intention for carrying out these intimate acts, he placed his hand stiffly around her waist.

Her waist was slender and soft. He became enamored by this feeling, but he didn’t dare to make a move. Their physical intimacy was making him slightly nervous.

Upon returning to their seats, they separated immediately, as if nothing had happened.

“What was your intention?” he inquired.

“That person is definitely watching us in secret and has definitely captured our physical intimacy.” A cold smirk grew at the corner of her lips. Seeing his puzzled response, she continued, “You have strong media resources in

Bradford City. Ask the reporters to pay more attention; I want to know who would release the news.”

He knitted his brows slightly, feeling like there was a problem with her thinking. “Why would they do that themselves? Even if we did find the person who released the news, they would be no more than an insignificant figure.”

“It would still be a clue. Having some clues is always better than none.” Since they couldn’t find out who the stalker was right away, she felt like they could take their time with it. As long as they had some clues, they would definitely uncover the truth.

“Okay.” He agreed. She’s making a lot of sense.

Barely a few minutes later, the plane landed smoothly at the airport. Once they walked out of the cabin, it was a different world outside. They hurriedly left this airport and planned to head to a different airport, where they could buy plane tickets that would take them to Iceland.

He suggested that she rest for a night before going, but she refused; she wanted to head to their destination sooner.

Thus, they got in a cab and went straight to a different airport. In such a romantic city, they were in a hurry to set out. The atmosphere in Paris was completely different from that in Bradford City; it wasn’t as fast-paced here.

People in France knew how to enjoy life. Heather and Matthias happened to be looking out the window at the same time. At this moment, Heather didn’t know why she was so insistent on going to Iceland either.

“The last time I came to Paris felt like ages ago,” she mused as she remembered the time when she attended university in Italy.

Suddenly, Matthias went closer to her and hugged her. She was not used to it at all. Because his actions were so sudden, she didn’t have time to prepare herself.

“It feels like we’re the only two people in this world.” He became tender-hearted. For a moment, he wanted to let go of everything in Bradford City and live happily with her in another country.

“This isn’t like you at all.” On the other hand, she didn’t push him away. In this foreign land, he was the only one she had by her side.

This feeling placed a covetous thought in her mind. Their relationship at the moment was unclear, and the distance was slowly being blurred.

If it weren’t for all the disputes, she was willing to stay in his arms forever. Growing old with him didn’t seem like a bad option.

But they had a ticking time bomb between them that no one knew when it would explode. She wondered whether it would destroy them completely once it did.

“Do you understand me?” he asked suddenly. He wanted her to have a deeper understanding of him, and he wanted to show his heart to her openly.

“I don’t. We don’t understand each other.” She knew that he was hiding a side of himself that no one knew about, and that she was too.

“That’s right! People have many sides to them, and I want to show you even more of me. I’m willing to be with you for the rest of my life. I won’t leave or give up. Are you willing to do so?” The sudden confession made it impossible for her to continue.

It was only when the driver told them to get off the car that she was able to get out of the fix and clear the awkward tension his words had created earlier.

“L-Let’s just go in!” She still couldn’t give him an answer because she didn’t want to have an uncertain future.

In truth, she believed in her bones that love couldn’t solve all of one’s difficulties. She feared that once she really got dragged into it, it would only end in a break up.

In that case, it would be better to protect her heart from the start. Nevertheless, she realized that her heart had already secretly strayed away from her intention. In the end, one’s feelings were the hardest to control.

Meanwhile, Matthias also treated it as though nothing had happened and followed Heather in. The airport was bustling with activity, with the sound of lively chatter filling their ears.

As she listened to the pleasant sound of the French language, she quickly walked ahead with Matthias following right behind her. Hearing her speak fluent French, he knew that she had a knack for languages.

At this moment, he realized that he couldn't compare to her. In regard to the French intonation, he always felt like he did not sound authentic enough.

Soon, she successfully bought two flight tickets to Iceland. Matthias was looking at her in a daze from behind. Since they left Bradford City, he wanted to be closer to her without realizing it.

She didn't reject him either. Part of the reason was that her body didn't want to push him away. Once a person caught feelings, naturally, they would also want to have physical intimacy. The other part was that she wanted to go on with her plan to give the stalker more news to expose and, in turn, for them to leave more traces behind.

Before getting on the plane, she finally managed to contact Leon. After hearing that Leon had escaped from being followed, the matter was resolved for the time being.

'Heather, you're on a plane to go to Iceland right now? Are you joking with me?' Leon asked out of surprise. It's only been a day. How did she already end up so far away?

'Are you going to Iceland by yourself?' He sent two messages in a row, which made his degree of shock evident.

She didn't want to chat with him too much. The reason she contacted Leon was to ask him to look into something for her in Bradford City.

'Matthias is going to Iceland with me to take a breather.' She told him straight away so he wouldn't keep asking.

When it came to gossip, Leon had too big of a curiosity. Despite getting an answer, he immediately sent another question over.

'Are you two officially together? Is this a honeymoon trip?'

Seeing the text Leon sent over, she felt her head hurt, whereupon she closed the Messenger app right away. It seemed like it would still be better to give him a call instead. She was worried that someone would eavesdrop on her,

but seeing that it was almost time for boarding, she couldn't let Leon continue gossiping.

Thus, she gave him a call. Right away, she said, "Stop gossiping. I have a serious job for you to do. If you're really curious, I'll tell you everything when I return."

Before he could even put a word in, she cut him off right away. Soon after, he received information from her on Messenger.

The messages poured in one after the other. After Leon looked through all of them, he became dumbfounded. Why is she controlling me even from a distance away? Nevertheless, while Heather and Matthias are having a good time abroad, I don't have much to do by myself in Bradford City. It wouldn't be bad to have something to work on.

He decided to think of things that way. More importantly, he wanted to wait for Heather to return and tell him the whole story regarding her experience with Matthias in Iceland. If he didn't do what she asked properly, he bet she wouldn't tell him a thing later.

Standing before Love Chapter 596

After doing some shopping in the mall, they were able to feel how much better domestic malls were. The malls in Iceland had too few products, so they could only buy a few things.

Walking out of the mall, Matthias received a picture on Messenger from Nikolai. Upon seeing the picture, Matthias became enraged.

As it turned out, the stalker had followed them all the way to Iceland and uploaded a bunch of pictures of them being affectionate with each other. Once again, he and Heather were making headlines again. In an instant, Matthias replied to Nikolai, 'Did you find out who tipped off the media?' He told Nikolai to be more attentive, but he wasn't sure if the latter had found anything yet.

'I need one more day. I'm currently searching through the whole city.' Previously, Nikolai didn't quite understand why Matthias gave him this task, but after the headlines came out today, he finally understood. It looked like Matthias had already sensed that someone was following and taking pictures of them.

'I'll give you half a day.' Matthias couldn't wait another full day. They had to find out who was behind everything as this had gone too far now.

Looking at his phone, Nikolai reluctantly replied: 'Okay.' He was able to understand Matthias' current feelings. Thus, it was better not to go against his will, or it might make him even more mad.

This operation had to be carried out in secret so that it wouldn't create any new problems. Therefore, Nikolai had to do it all himself. It was a lot of work just having to search through everything. After receiving Matthias' instructions, he could only work at a faster pace. It's going to be a sleepless night tonight, he thought.

Meanwhile, it was rare for Heather to see Matthias on his phone for so long in front of her. When she leaned in closer out of curiosity, he immediately closed his Messenger app.

His behavior made her even more curious. She then complained, "What are you hiding from me?"

"It's nothing." He shook his head adamantly, for he certainly couldn't admit it at this moment. However, her gaze was extremely piercing.

"Your eyes are lying to me." She could tell that he was lying to her at a glance. He's definitely hiding something from me.

"What on earth is it that you can't tell me?" she asked once more. His attitude was making her extremely unsatisfied. He shouldn't do this. I can't believe he's hiding a secret.

"It's nothing." Matthias didn't want to tell her about it. She already had a lot of troubles at the moment, so he couldn't let her get mad over something like this.

However, he completely forgot that this was originally her plan. Even if she found out about it, she wouldn't get mad.

Opening the car door, she stepped out and said, "If you want to keep hiding it from me, then we could just split ways now."

Matthias wasn't expecting that response from her. Looking at her dumbfoundedly, he simply handed his phone over. "If you want to know, take a look for yourself."

It was possible that this would go on in the future, and he didn't dare to keep it hidden from her. Without taking his phone, she sat back inside the car and said to him, "Just tell me if you have anything to say. I don't want to look at your phone."

She was truly hard to please. After that, he told her everything Nikolai had told him earlier. By the end of it, she didn't have much of a reaction.

"I already expected that. It was part of my plan, so why would I be mad?" She downplayed the situation. It didn't bother her at all. So what if the entire Bradford City knew about her ambiguous relationship with Matthias?

"What do you plan to do next?" He was, indeed, very curious about her next course of action.

"We'll have to play by ear. What else could we do?" She no longer blamed him, but she just couldn't understand why he would hide something like that from her. Her mentality was not that weak.

This matter was put on hold for the time being. They still didn't know that, back home, Myra had also seen the news, and so did Tony.

Myra and Tony had mixed reactions. Tony did not want to see Heather and Matthias together, and he even wondered whether they had another motive for being together.

After all, he had someone look into Matthias before and realized that there were too many questionable points about him. Matthias was a very scheming person, so it was puzzling the way he was written in the news.

It worried Tony the most that Matthias' final goal could be Myra. He didn't want Matthias and Myra to ever meet.

Surprisingly, it was suddenly reported that Heather and Matthias were together now. Tony remembered the last time at the hot spring resort when they were practically at each other's throats, and now, they were being intimate in public. He thought, The world is moving too quickly. Anything could happen.

On the other hand, Myra was surprised that Matthias didn't resent Heather. How did he end up with her? This is too insane. In comparison, Myra didn't really resent Heather as much anymore. She took into consideration all the things Heather had done for her over the years. It was just hard for her to accept earlier that she had been deceived.

Her thoughts were a jumbled mess now; she didn't know how to describe her chaotic mind. While she thought of the good things about Heather, she also couldn't forgive Heather for deceiving her.

Seeing Heather's gentle appearance in the newspaper and how she was out with Matthias without any makeup on, Myra figured that Heather really didn't notice someone secretly taking pictures of her.

Even though Heather always had a smile on her face, the weight she carried between her brows never disappeared. Myra didn't know what Heather was burdened with; she even wondered if it was because of herself.

Heather took up an important place in Myra's heart. Now that they were both in this state, Myra didn't know how to get out of this predicament. She couldn't forgive Heather, but she couldn't help but pay close attention to Heather's life either.

When Tony returned home after work that night, Myra had been sitting by the window and daydreaming for a long time. Walking up to her, he glanced over at the opened window then walked up to it and closed it without a second thought.

"You can't sit in the cold breeze," he said in a pampering tone. It looked like Myra had something on her mind.

"Sorry," she replied subconsciously. Her thoughts were a mess today, so she wanted to get some air to calm down.

"Silly. You don't need to say sorry to me." He couldn't bear it when Myra spoke courteously to him, for it made them feel like strangers.

"Why are you back home from work so early today?" She didn't want to struggle with this anymore. These few days, she had kept everything hidden from Tony because she didn't want him to worry about her.

“There wasn’t much to do at the company today, so I came home early to see my beautiful wife.” He didn’t mention Heather as he wasn’t aware that Myra already knew about everything.

“Okay.” Myra looked quite weak. A few days had passed, yet he still didn’t know what was going on with her.

He wanted to ask her about it a few times, but eventually, he decided to suppress his curiosity since he was hiding something from her too. However, this situation made him uncomfortable, and he was contemplating on how to tell her.

Thinking about the last time he saw Matthias and the things the latter said to him, he thought that perhaps he had underestimated Myra’s tolerance. Even though he was not happy with Matthias, upon closer observation, the things he said were not without reason. Coming clean with everything could be better for Myra.

“Do you have any plans for tonight?” It had been a while since Tony and Myra last went out on a date together. There was no time like the present.

“What plans could I have?” She chuckled as she pulled herself together. She already noticed that Tony was growing suspicious lately, and she couldn’t let him continue being suspicious.

Other than that, she also sensed that something was going on with him. Since they had been together for a long time now, naturally, they could notice any small changes.

“Can I take you out for a walk?” He wanted to accompany her more. He couldn’t overlook her feelings or let her stay cooped up at home all the time.

Initially, she wanted to refuse, but she changed her mind because she didn’t want him to think that something was off. Upon getting her agreement, Tony pulled her to her feet and started to head out the door.

“Hold on. Let me get ready.” She wanted to dress up before going out and not just leave so carelessly.

“It’s fine. You already look good this way.” In his eyes, she looked good no matter what. Hence, he didn’t think there was a need for her to dress up.

“No.” She wasn’t going to listen to his sweet talk. There was no way she was going to go out in her current state. Touching her face, she fretted, “I feel like I’ve been getting freckles on my face lately.”

Slight changes would surely take place during pregnancy; some were good, and some were bad. Indeed, pregnant women gave off a sense of motherhood, but occasionally, growing ugly was also unavoidable.

Walking over, Tony cradled her face gently and tucked her hair away. “You must be overthinking.” After a brief pause, he continued, “There’s nothing on your face. You’re only getting prettier. You even have an extra charm now.” He didn’t know how to please her. He wanted to say nice things to her, and he only ever said sweet nothings to her.

“You only know how to sugarcoat your words,” she grumbled. Whenever she was with him, she would always be in a better mood. All her worries would also disappear into thin air.

“I only speak the truth.” He gave a small yet charming smile that Myra couldn’t move her eyes away from. How can such a good-looking person exist in this world?

“The extra charm you mentioned is called being pregnant,” she pointed out. She didn’t know how to answer him, and she couldn’t refute his words. Upon hearing his sweet words, she only felt delighted.

Whenever she used to hear those corny lines in movies, she always cringed at them as she wasn’t used to hearing them. But after being with Tony for so long, she was used to it now and was slowly starting to like the abrupt sweet nothings he would say to her.

Holding her in his arms, he said, “Don’t worry. You’re the prettiest mother-to-be. You’re my wife—the most beautiful wife.”

“Okay, that’s enough now. Are we still going out or not?” At the rate that they were going, it was unclear when they would leave the house. Tony was truly the sweetest king of procrastinating.

“Hugging you isn’t procrastinating.” His hand slid down mischievously and reached a restricted area. He couldn’t even manage a proper hug.

He hadn't shown this side of himself for a while now, so Myra almost forgot that he was a vicious wolf. Now that he was making a move on her, it looked like they would be going out a bit later this time.

"No," she said in a seductive voice. She almost couldn't believe that that voice came out of her mouth. After getting pregnant, her body had become even more sensitive. Even though she hated this feeling, she couldn't deny it.

"Why don't we go out a bit later?" he said as he pressed down on her.

Standing before Love Chapter 597

In the below freezing temperature at night, Heather was sleeping in a separate bed as Matthias in a standard room they had booked. Matthias didn't dare to act rashly this time around and maintained a distance from her. She had given him a slight warning during the day, so he knew how far to go.

Because Iceland had an abundance of geothermal energy, the temperature inside the hotel was ideal, and Heather soon fell asleep. On the other hand, Matthias was still unable to fall asleep. Looking at Heather, who was a short distance away, he let out a satisfied smile.

The way she looked while she was asleep looked extremely harmless. She had lost the aggression she normally had, and her sleeping posture was also more carefree.

Occasionally, she would knit her brows together. He didn't know what she was dreaming about, but it didn't seem like a pleasant dream. At the thought of driving in the car with her during the day, and how they even fought over a map, he realized that he liked this feeling that they were not that different from a couple now.

He didn't know how long this would go on for, but he knew that once they returned to the country, they wouldn't be flirting with each other like this anymore. They had work to attend to back home and couldn't do as they pleased like they did in Iceland.

He noticed that, despite having a heavy weight on her mind, she was still all smiles. She was smiling a lot more than when she did in Bradford City, as if being in Bradford City stripped away the most basic part of being human.

Perhaps because Matthias's gaze was too piercing, Heather suddenly opened her eyes in the middle of her sleep, and the two ended up looking at each other. She blinked at him while he smiled awkwardly back at her. Since she had suddenly woken up from her sleep, this scene felt a little horrific.

"Morning." She was befuddled from being in such a deep sleep that she thought it was already morning.

Matthias chuckled. She's too adorable! Earlier, he had been worried about clearing the awkwardness, but her abrupt remark got rid of it in an instant.

"It's 2.00AM," he replied softly. A frown appeared on her forehead as she took a look at the time on her phone.

It's still so early. Closing her eyes again, she decided to go back to sleep. She was in such a daze that she thought it was already 8.00AM or 9.00AM.

He wanted to talk to her a bit more, but she was sound asleep again. I guess she truly tired herself out during the day.

She still looked alert in the Jeep, but as soon as they arrived at the hotel, she became listless. No matter how good her physical condition was, she wouldn't be able to withstand this sort of torment.

As time went on, he wasn't able to stay up any longer either. Yawning, he thought, I should probably go to sleep now. While he was asleep, Heather suddenly opened her eyes and looked in his direction. When she woke up earlier, she had actually lost her desire for sleep.

Now, he was asleep, but she was awake. It wasn't easy trying to fall back to sleep quietly. She remembered that she went to bed at 9.00PM and had slept for five hours before waking up. It was an awkward time, and it was also still nighttime.

When she looked at the time again, it was only 2.30AM. Gripping the phone in her hand, she considered ways to fall back asleep.

She didn't have any entertainment apps on her phone, so it wouldn't be possible for her to play some games even if she wanted to or listen to music.

Since she knew what she needed, she only had business apps and work apps on her phone. At this hour, however, all these apps were useless to her. She didn't want to read the news either.

Being in this foreign country, she wanted to be at her most relaxed state. Putting her phone aside, she knew that Myra wouldn't message her anymore, so the Messenger app had also become meaningless and dull.

She had set a special alert tone for Leon so that in the future, she would see his messages as soon as possible. This honor used to be given to Myra.

I wonder how things are going with Leon back home. I should message him. Opening her Messenger, however, she didn't see any messages from him. It seems like he hasn't found anything yet.

She wasn't in the mood to message him anymore. Even though she wanted to get out of bed, she was worried that it would wake Matthias up, so she continued to stay in bed.

Time was ticking by. She could feel the time slowly pass by, and soon, it was 3.30AM. Finally, she was able to feel slightly sleepy. But when she closed her eyes, the time when Myra scolded her rushed into her mind.

From start to end, she couldn't dismiss it from her mind. She thought about it for a long time, but she still couldn't look past it. Despite telling herself not to think about it anymore, her mind wouldn't listen.

By the time she fell asleep, it was already 4.00AM. This time, both of them slept for a long time. It was already 10.00AM when Matthias woke up, and she was still sound asleep.

He looked at her oddly. She's been sleeping for too long! It's been more than 12 hours. He contemplated whether he should wake her up since it wasn't healthy to sleep for so long.

According to scientific research, people were more susceptible to death from sleeping for too long rather than too little. It was clear that sleeping for too long was harmful to the body.

Getting out of bed, he walked over to Heather and reached out to touch her cheek. The fine and delicate touch made it hard for him to move his hand away. Before he could tell her to wake up, she was awoken by his touch.

Hence, he quickly pulled his hand back, whereupon Heather squinted her eyes like an elegant-looking cat. Seeing the guilty look on his face, she had to hold back her laughter. It looked like he already knew that his action had invaded her personal space.

“Director Locke, I didn’t know you liked doing these subtle acts,” she mocked. He was truly such a handful that it left her at a loss for what to do.

Why didn’t I realize that this was who he was? She didn’t even get to sleep properly. These few days, she had witnessed his clingy side.

“I wanted to wake you up. It’s not good to sleep for too long.” He tried to hide his uneasiness, but she was so forthright that he couldn’t get out of it.

“Well, I must thank you, then,” she said as she got up in bed. Her attitude was extremely bewitching. She had a natural coquettish demeanor that couldn’t be learned.

Because she didn’t need to put on makeup, she also spent a shorter time getting ready. After a simple washing up, they left the room one after the other.

...

The air quality in Iceland was good. In comparison to their home country, it didn’t have any smog, so they were able to breathe freely. In Bradford City, smog days were getting more frequent, and the situation was also slowly deteriorating. Bradford City really needed to rectify and reform its environment.

Breathing in the fresh air in Iceland, Heather was in a good mood as she stood side-by-side with Matthias. They left the car behind in the parking lot of the hotel today and decided to walk around neighboring areas.

The northern lights only appeared by chance, so she decided to have zero expectations. Since they were already in Iceland, they should take a good look around.

Currently, she was standing to his right. There were a few times when he wanted to hold her hand, but he gave up in the end. After all, she still minded these things, and he didn’t want to be too presumptuous. Since he had already persisted until now, he didn’t mind waiting a bit longer.

Meanwhile, the weather was still great. They hadn't seen snow yet since coming to Iceland. Heather liked it when it snowed, so much so that she wouldn't mind going outside while it was snowing to look at the snowscape.

The sun was shining even brighter today than it was yesterday. After checking the weather report, she was a little disappointed to find that it wasn't going to snow over the next few days.

When the breeze blew past them, the hair on her forehead would get lifted up, and she would lower her head from time to time with her blushed cheeks. It reminded Matthias of the lyrics from a song: 'The gentleness when you lower your head, especially, makes you look like a bashful water lotus unable to overcome the cool wind.'

Heather was beautiful just staying still, and she was shockingly beautiful when she was in action. He liked her appearance. It felt as if God had made her just for him.

"I like this weather, this temperature, and the moist feeling in the air." He tried to find a topic to talk about.

"I'd much prefer to see the snowscape," she said with regret. It was such a shame that it wasn't going to snow this week.

She thought that upon arriving in Iceland, a mountain of ice and snow would await her, but she only felt cold and did not see any snowscapes. It felt like the cold had also disappeared over these few days. The warm weather now was appropriate for the aged.

"Perhaps there's no snow in this city we came to. I looked at the weather report and found out that it is snowing heavily in a nearby city." He had also taken notice. After all, she had already mentioned it, and he was still thinking of a way to win her favor.

"We're not going anywhere else. I want to see the northern lights even more. I can always wait to see snowscapes." She was confident that this city would be covered with a layer of snow sooner or later.

When they arrived at a river basin, she quickened her pace, and he followed closely behind her. There wasn't any ice on the surface of the river. It looked like the fine weather had melted the river.

The both of them walked alongside the river bank. The temperature by the river was slightly lower, and even the wind that blew through felt colder. Taking off his coat, he immediately draped it over her.

She noticed that he was wearing light clothing and wanted to refuse his good intention, but he pressed on her hand. "I'm not cold. You're only wearing a few layers."

Before leaving, Heather didn't put on too many layers of clothing because she didn't like the clothes she bought at the mall yesterday. Even when he urged her to put on more clothes, she didn't want to. The temperature by the river bank now was a few degrees lower, and he didn't want her to catch a cold during this trip.

"You're wearing such light clothing. Don't act tough; I don't want to take care of a sick person," she uttered. She wanted to shake off his hand, but his hand was so strong that she couldn't move under his grasp.

"I'm not that weak." He declined. Being able to withstand cold and heat, he surpassed the average person when it came to physical fitness.

"I'm not that weak either." She didn't like how he saw her as a weak woman. She was nimble. Despite being weaker in strength, her physical condition was a lot better than that of most women.

"If you persist, then we'll go somewhere else." He was very stubborn. Both of them were equally strong-willed.

"Okay." She didn't want to keep arguing with him. Besides, she wasn't the one who was going to be cold.

Thus, she went off with his coat in ease. She looked completely fine on the outside, but Matthias, who did not have a coat on, looked rather underdressed.

"Sometimes when I look at you, I really can't tell that you're a martial artist." She was suddenly changing the subject to something else.

Looking down at her, he said, "I can't tell that you're that nimble either." If he really made a move on her—unless he used one dominating move that would destroy her—she wouldn't necessarily be at a complete disadvantage.

“Do you want to demonstrate?” she suggested all of a sudden while her eyes brightened up like a curious child’s.

Standing before Love Chapter 598

The crisp sound made from Heather’s steps on the permafrost echoed. As she looked into the distance, she couldn’t see much on the other side of the river. Since Matthias didn’t continue on the conversation, they simply just let it slide.

Rumors had it that he was good at fighting. She was eager to see his prowess in martial arts but she forgot one thing—she was a girl. There was no chance he would ever fight her; even if he did, he wouldn’t be using his full strength.

On the other side, Bradford City was in chaos. It was so much more peaceful where he and Heather were. The commotion was mainly caused by the constant attacks from Locke Group toward Hart Group that hadn’t ceased, even with Matthias away.

Ever since Locke Group started provoking Hart Group, the two companies could not be in the same city anymore. To make things worse, Tony hadn’t gone easy on the Locke Group.

To be frank, Matthias was still more or less affected by the ongoing tension back in Bradford as Nikolai would sometimes send some work-related documents to him. After all, a big company like Locke Group needed a leader, especially now when Hart Group was trying so hard to kick them out of the city. Nonetheless, Matthias didn’t regret provoking Tony as the competition between them was inevitable. In fact, Matthias was glad to have a rival!

“People say that those who have witnessed the aurora will be blissful,” Heather said with a smile as she recalled the saying. Since young, she hadn’t had the luxury to enjoy a blissful life. Because of that, she wanted more. She wanted a life so full that everyone would be jealous of her.

As if she hadn’t been tainted by society, her eyes sparkled brightly. Because of that, Matthias tried his best to suppress his urge to pull her into an embrace. “I’ll try my best to give you the blissful life you long for,” he promised.

Heather took a glance at Matthias as she tried to form a response but to no avail. Many have told her similar things, but would he stay true to his words?

Not to mention, feelings weren't forever. They might persist for a year, or two... Perhaps even three or five. And then? Such feelings would slowly fade one day. What mattered most was to cherish the little things in our daily life.

"I always had a thought when I was younger," she blurted suddenly as she recalled the past.

He kept quiet and listened attentively to what she was about to say, fearing that he might miss a word. She continued, "I want to own a castle and be a princess for my whole life."

Upon hearing that, he thought that it was cute that she had such thoughts. Hence, a chuckle escaped his lips. Right that instant, Heather glared at him. "Don't laugh at me."

It seemed like she had misunderstood, so he quickly explained, "I wasn't laughing at you. I just think that you are very cute."

Not only did his explanation not earn him forgiveness from her, the frown on her forehead deepened after she heard what he said. "I don't like being called cute," she said from the bottom of her heart. She didn't like that adjective to the extent that she hated it.

"What I meant was, you were cute when you were young," he hastily explained. It seemed that anything he said now could be wrong.

"I just told you that I don't like the word 'cute'." Heather gave him a cold gaze, she couldn't understand why he kept mentioning the word 'cute'. That was how different the nature of men was from women; even the way they cared as well as their line of thoughts were different.

"Okay," he said helplessly. Needless to say, Heather was a stubborn person; she just had to get her point across even in trivial things such as this.

Taking a step closer to him, she stared brazenly into his eyes and saw a trace of helplessness. It seemed that he had compromised rather forcefully. However, his eyes changed in a split second. With a gaze, she saw a tender look in his eyes along with a tinge of anxiousness.

"Haven't you always fought back whenever you don't agree with me? Why did you surrender this time?" She teased him.

He seemed a little displeased after hearing her mentioning the word 'surrender' as it made him sound like he was subservient. Seeing how unhappy he was, she realized she was indeed a little too harsh and rude with him.

"Why won't you just let me off?" After the fleeting trace of unhappiness, he went back to his normal self again.

"Do you feel bored and aggrieved when you're with me?" she asked all of a sudden. With her bad temper, it must not be easy for him to stay with her for so long.

"Nevermind, don't answer that. I don't want to hear neither the lie nor the truth," she capriciously added. To be honest, he was dying to roll his eyes at her at that moment.

"You're so hard to understand." It was true that he could never predict what stunt she would pull the next second. She wasn't like the mainstream majority of people; her actions were always unexpected.

Heather didn't continue the conversation and simply started walking forward without saying a word. Hence, he followed suit. Having gotten used to such antics of hers, he didn't comment any further.

A hint of warmth lingered in the air. Crouching down by the river, Heather quietly watched the stream of water flow down the river before reaching her hand out. The moment she touched the ice-cold water, her hand trembled a little. Right away, he took her hand and gave it some rubs, hoping that the friction and his own body warmth would get her hand warmed quickly.

"You're not a kid anymore. Why would you do that?" He chastised her as her actions were inexplicable in his eyes. After coming to Iceland, she had become curious about everything.

Back in Bradford City, she always seemed uninterested in anything and everything which was quite the contrary from how she was overseas. Here, she acted like an oversized kid who was hyperactive, unlike the usual goddess image she kept up with.

"It's nothing serious. Why are you so anxious?" She then pulled her hand out of his, thinking that he was fussing too much over something trivial. As her parents hadn't been so concerned about her, she was touched over the

simple gesture of concern from Matthias despite her stubborn way of expressing herself.

At this moment, they seemed to have forgotten about the person who had been tailing them as they simply enjoyed themselves. But the truth is, Matthias had actually gotten his men to tail that person to find out who he was.

Unfortunately, said person was rather good at his job as he still hadn't been able to find the identity of their tail after several days. Though Heather didn't bring it up, she knew what he had secretly arranged.

There were many instances where they purposely avoided bringing matters to the table as it would result in an unfavorable situation. Nonetheless, she had Leon help with the investigation of this mysterious person. No matter where she was, back in Bradford City or overseas, Leon would always lend a helping hand—in this case, to identify the mysterious figure.

"Where do you plan to go tomorrow?" Matthias asked. Though they both stood up, they didn't have a destination in mind.

"To the west." She simply gave a vague answer. "My intuition tells me that we'll see the aurora if we head toward the west," she explained.

After brief contemplation, he nodded before saying, "We'll do that then." Since Iceland wasn't a big country, there wasn't much pressure on planning the itinerary.

With that, they went ahead trailing along the riverside without a specific destination. Once in a while, she would look into the distance. The river might not seem long, but it felt like they had walked a long distance. Throughout the journey, she rested several times. While they were still walking the endless trail, snow suddenly began to shower upon them. Perhaps God had heard her wishes.

Without a sign, snowflakes started landing on their bodies and the crowns of their heads. At once, her eyes lit up like it was Christmas; he too was also surprised. What a weird place.

It felt great to experience the weather in another country. As they continued to walk in the direction where the snow was falling from, snowflakes continued to

fall on her face while the wind was blowing. To be frank, they were a little unprepared for the sudden drop in temperature.

By the time they got back to the hotel, they were covered in patches of snow. Seeing that she had the intention of changing her outfit, he suggested, "Just take a shower!" He thought that a hot shower would be better since she got cold when they were outside.

However, she didn't listen to his words. Putting on a fresh set of clothes, she told Matthias who was outside, "You're the one who should be taking a hot shower."

She recalled how he only wore thin layers when they were outside, so he must be the one who was feeling cold right now. In fact, she was rather thoughtful of him this time. They were like a couple who were very used to each other as they did these day-to-day things. Even they themselves were surprised as to how harmonious they were; they didn't even have to tread carefully and walk on eggshells as they let things happen naturally.

Meanwhile, he simply did as she said as there wasn't any reason in dilly-dallying. After all, he was indeed cold. Back when they were outdoors, he was worried that she'd be cold as she didn't dress in thick layers as she prioritized having on a pretty outfit more, so he had given her his coat while he endured the harsh weather.

After the shower, he put on his pajamas and came out of the bathroom. One thing he had to admit was that she had given her utmost cooperation during this trip. This was because she would definitely refuse to live with someone else based on her personality. In fact, she usually wouldn't even live with her sisters or female relatives, much less with Matthias. For instance, she couldn't accept sharing a bathroom with someone else, yet now she had complied by toning down her obsessive concern with cleanliness.

It was surprisingly odd that she wasn't so bothered by him. Even if Leon was the one in Matthias' place, Heather would feel uncomfortable with that. However, she was actually fine co-living with Matthias. She simply didn't feel that it was weird to do things that she usually wouldn't do with men. In the experience of living with him thus far, she had to admit that it was a good decision to be with him.

As someone who didn't fancy any intimate interaction with other people no matter the gender, she could not understand why she didn't feel the same

when it came to Matthias. In fact, she had been trying to figure this out for quite some time now.

Being together with him felt very comfortable as she could be in her own skin as if she was alone. Moreover, he had made it a thing to give her sufficient space to herself. Despite living together, he typically wouldn't bother her much. Having crossed the line on the first night, he now strictly abided by the boundaries he had set to not do anything that would annoy her.

“Matthias, why did you buy a pair of matching couples' pajamas?” As her gaze bounced from his outfit to her own, she voiced out her question as she didn't notice it earlier. Matthias was so sneaky!

“It feels more homey this way.” That successfully earned him an eye roll from her. Now that he said it out, no wonder he insisted on staying in an apartment instead of a typical hotel.

“Are you secretly planning something?” A suspicion brewed in her mind. Lately, his actions had been giving her an unexplainable feeling that clouded her vision.

Standing before Love Chapter 599

Early in the morning, Matthias and Heather started traveling. A journey to the west was what she had decided for them. It had been snowing nonstop throughout the night. Hence, she could only see a huge pile of snow when she looked out the window.

As it just stopped snowing in the morning, they were set to head out. After hours of snow, the weather was rather cold so she had covered herself in a thick fleece jacket. Initially, she refused to as she wasn't a fan of fleece jackets. However, he persistently insisted that she should wear it out. Thinking that he might have to take off his jacket for her again, she complied.

With the fleece jacket on, she looked young and adorable. As someone who was petite and slim, she looked a little chubbier in the fleece jacket. While Matthias liked her outfit, she—on the other hand—couldn't understand his taste in fashion.

“You look like a bear when you're wearing a fleece jacket.” Though she gave him a scornful stare, a smile crept up her lips as she said that.

Hearing that, he took a look at his outfit and thought that he was still quite fit and thin even with the jacket on. So why would she say that he looked like a bear?

“That means that I have a strong build,” he said, taking it as a compliment.

At the same time, she zipped up her winterwear without replying to him. She didn't have much to say to him anyway. If she knew she couldn't run away from the fate of wearing a fleece jacket, she would've picked one out at the mall. Instead, she now had to wear the ones that he bought. Who would've known that he would pick two fleece jackets that were so thick?

The thick fleece jacket made her feel like a penguin. Together, they resembled a polar bear and a penguin. Entertained by her own thoughts, she smiled to herself. Seeing this, Matthias placed his palm on the crown of her head.

“What are you thinking about?” He was getting so close that his face was going to touch hers. Hence, she pushed his face away with her palm.

“Don't get so close to me!” Whenever there was a chance, he'd pull something like that. No matter how many times she warned him, he would simply comply for a while and repeat it again later.

“You blank out a lot these days. I'm curious about what's going on in your mind.” He tried his best to suppress his smile as he said that. Obviously, she was not going to tell him the truth. All she did was give him a glance and stay silent.

“It's very hard to communicate with you.” Unwillingly, he pulled away to create some distance between them. Since she wasn't exactly happy that he got close, he was not going to continue doing that and annoy her.

The way they argued resembled that of the ones you see between two kids as you can feel them bonding as they gazed at each other. Since she wasn't in the mood to face him, she turned away. There were just so many instances that they weren't on the same frequency.

In the car, she kept her head straight while he would occasionally take glances at her. The roads in Iceland weren't exactly smooth; there were times where the roads were a little rugged. Therefore, they were already used to

going through numerous bumps. Fortunately, they were driving a Jeep as things would be difficult with any other car.

Noticing her hands were slightly red, he guessed that it must be due to the exposure to the cold when they were outside earlier. It seemed that she was rather vulnerable to the cold. Meanwhile, she noticed him taking glances at her hands from time to time, so she looked down at her own hands. However, she didn't think anything was wrong.

"Are you freezing?" He couldn't hold back his thought as he asked.

Giving him a weird look, she was confused as to why he would say that since she didn't feel cold at all. "You should just focus on driving." She couldn't understand why he would worry about her when he should be concerned about the route ahead instead.

As she had gotten bored en route, she started playing some mobile games. Because of that, Matthias was taken aback, since he didn't think that she would like to play mobile games. Out of curiosity, he leaned in to take a look. It was a role-playing type of game with fancy-looking characters. One thing he noted was how different she looked from others who played games too.

Typical gamers would be fully immersed when they were playing with no regard to what was going on. On the other hand, she didn't pay full attention to the game as she would still take a look at her surroundings from time to time.

Suspecting that she might be playing just to kill time, he snuck a peek at her level in the game and came to a conclusion—she had been playing the game for quite some time now. Hence, that begged the question of how he hadn't noticed it before.

"Are you interested in my game?" she asked him with a serious look.

"Yes, I'd like to register an account too. Master, can you please guide me?" he said in a joking manner.

"No. I don't like to guide others," she directly rejected. "I only play games to kill time when I'm bored," she admitted.

"You must have spent some time on the game since you're already at level 50." He thought the games weren't just a means of killing time as she was

usually a busy person. If she had reached level 50 under such circumstances, she must've put in some effort.

"Hm? So?" She couldn't understand why he would want to say everything out in such detail. Surprisingly, he was right. It was true that she had invested some effort. She even had expectations for this game; otherwise, she wouldn't have spent so much time on it.

"Are you really not willing to guide me?" Since he wanted to do something together, gaming was a good choice. He was actually stoked to try having the same hobby as her.

"I don't like to be in a guild in games." Once again, she rejected him. In fact, she truly hadn't joined any groupings in the game. As stubborn as she could be, she didn't mind that she failed to complete the daily tasks in the game because of that.

"It's not considered a guild if it's just the two of us." Being the stubborn person he was, he persisted in changing her thoughts.

Looking at him helplessly, she was beginning to be irked. She didn't like how he would coerce her into doing things she didn't like again and again.

Seeing that she wasn't keen on entertaining him, he realized how serious the issue was. If he continued to pester her, her face would turn even gloomier.

At this moment, Matthias decided to stay silent. Prior to this, she had never thought that he was a nosy person, but things had changed after she started being around him. He was almost the same as Leon. These two nosy men were both the most important people in her life. Heather started patting her head, trying to get some sense into her brain as she thought that it was such a painful fate.

Nonetheless, she had never thought of why things were the way they were. It was simple: she wasn't much of a talker, so the other person had to do the talking when they were together.

After all, relationships were built based on communication. Matthias usually didn't have this much to say whenever he was with someone else. However, she didn't appreciate him opening himself up to her, so it was giving him a headache. If he didn't find a topic or initiate a conversation, she would

definitely stay quiet throughout the journey. Alongside her exquisite features, she was almost like a gorgeous porcelain doll.

When they got out of the car, she tugged her clothes closer to herself. It was legit cold outside. This was the kind of weather that others would not come out to play in.

Passing a pair of gloves to her, he nagged, "Don't get frostbites. It's very cold." As she didn't want to continue hearing his nag, she simply took the gloves from him without saying a word.

After putting on the pair of gloves, she felt so much warmer. Though the items he bought might be a little ugly, aesthetically speaking, they were pretty useful. In addition, she looked even cuddly. After brief contemplation, he pulled out a winter hat for her to wear.

Even her ears were well-covered. How considerate of him. She couldn't help but smile. However, having dressed her like a plush toy while he himself didn't have any hat on made her slightly indignant.

"Why did you only buy mine?" Once again, she didn't understand him. Why didn't he get himself a hat too?

"I don't need it." He then said in a macho voice, "Fully-grown men don't need things like these."

Upon hearing that, she was even more baffled. "Are you saying that I'm a little girl?" Sensing his egoistic manly side, she thought that she had to correct him as soon as possible.

"Women are like delicate flowers that should be taken care of," he said. In his eyes, Heather was but a young girl.

"I've been to Antarctica with a research team once. That was the real definition of cold. So, I don't need any special care," she took off the gloves as she spoke, followed by the hat.

At times, he would think that she was a bit of a feminist. She'd be bothered even by such trivial matters. Wasn't it normal for a man to take care of a woman? Why would she be so appalled by the idea of that? He couldn't even express himself well because of that.

She didn't need any special care as men and women are equal. Hence, she didn't think that it was right to say that men should take care of women.

"Are you not cold?" he asked as he side-eyed her. It seemed that this thing between them was getting heated.

"Are you cold?" As she looked up at him with a stubborn look, the only thought that crossed Matthias' mind was that she was such a hard person to deal with.

"I am." Mimicking her ways, he didn't do what he usually would. "Later when we pass by a store, I'll go get myself gloves and a hat too. So can you put them on first now?" Even asking her to keep herself warm was a challenge.

"Are you sure?" Giving him a suspicious look, she had a hunch that he was just coaxing her.

"I'm sure. It's actually very cold and I can't take it, unlike you who went to Antarctica before," he said helplessly. It was better to go soft on her at times like these.

As predicted, she didn't seem as tense upon hearing what he said. After thinking for a brief second, she put the gloves and hat back on. Since Matthias had compromised, she thought it was only fair to comply.

There had been a lot of small conflicts after they got together. Most of the time, it was resolved with Matthias taking a step back. The problem was, he didn't know what to do that would make her satisfied.

"Heather, why are you so different from other women?" he asked as he stared into her eyes with a serious expression.

"So you think that women like me are not likable?" she asked in a casual tone.

Waving his hand, he was baffled by her conclusion. He would never dislike her. It was just that there had been just too many difficulties when he was spending time with her, and this ended up knocking down his confidence.

"I know that my personality isn't likable. I also know that people who can stand me are really rare. Thus, I don't have too high of expectations in life," she said meaningfully. In fact, she didn't have much expectations in romantic relationships either, as she had never believed in true love.

Standing before Love Chapter 600

Back in the country, Locke Group and Hart Group did not give way to each other, causing everyone in the city to live in fear. As the two large companies were in dispute, they implicated many small enterprises and caused them to close down one after another.

Even the Langston Group, who had always been watching the fight from afar, had been affected. Nevertheless, Blake didn't dare to tell Robert about what was going on. If Robert were to find out that Langston Group had gotten into such big trouble under Blake's management, the old man would never let him off easily.

Although Robert had informants in Langston Group, Blake hadn't notified many people in the company regarding this issue. Thus, the informants Roberts planted in the company didn't catch a whiff of this news.

The Langstons are on the verge of bankruptcy and Blake had been trying to solve it. However, he had forgotten that this hole in his finances would become an abyss once it got too big. That was the case now, and he could not fix it no matter how hard he tried.

With no other choice, he could only think of Caleb who had a powerful background with strong financial power. As Robert didn't tell Blake about the grudge between the Langstons and the Moriartys, Blake only knew Caleb as a distinguished guest, and that they had a relationship with Moriarty Family. That was how Blake got the idea of getting help from Caleb, but he didn't consider the fact how Caleb and Robert weren't exactly on good terms.

As for the excuse to meet him, Blake thought of Everly. However, to be frank, her relationship with Caleb was complicated at this moment—which was caused by Blake.

Now that he thought of it, he felt happy about his previous arrangement. It was a good decision to ask Everly to be acquaintances with Caleb. Though the status of their relationship was unclear, they definitely had something going on between them.

Previously, Blake was even worried that Caleb might not be interested in Everly, but it seemed that he had fallen for that pretty face of hers. With that thought in mind, he decided to take immediate action. Today, Everly was at school, so he figured he would look for her there. Lucky for him, Heather was

not around for the time being. Otherwise, she might sense something. He didn't want to get into trouble with her as this matter would get to Robert if she knew.

Honestly, he wished that she would stay in Iceland longer as he wanted to repair the hole in Langston Group's finances before got back. Aside from Caleb, there wasn't anyone else who could help him.

Before Matthias went overseas, Blake had actually met him intending to have a collaboration. Who would've known that Matthias didn't even bother to entertain him at all; he simply told Blake that he would deal directly with Robert about the collaboration. At the end of the day, Blake didn't get any benefits from Matthias' end.

Aside from that, Blake had also considered getting help from Tony. He tried visiting him in person, but Tony didn't bother to give him any chance. He wouldn't even let Blake into his villa. For now, all of his hope was on Caleb. Blake wondered if Everly was enough of an excuse to meet him. After leaving the office, that was all that was on his mind.

Not long after, he had arrived at the university that Everly studied at. Despite being an insignificant and almost transparent person in the Langston Family, she was very famous in school. Not only was she friendly, but she was also beautiful. Hence, she was known as the campus belle.

When Blake appeared in front of Everly, she was happily chit-chatting with a few other pretty girls. They seemed to be having fun with whatever they were chatting about.

Blake's unexpected presence caught her off guard while the people around them stared at him. In front of outsiders, especially beauties, he would always show his chivalrous side. Not to mention, his good-looking face often attracted the attention of most women.

"Blake," Everly called out to him.

Hearing that, he flashed her a smile that he thought was charismatic. If he knew that she had so many gorgeous female friends, he would've come to visit her more often. Even at times like these, he'd have such intentions. Whether it was out of his habit or just him being in his natural state, his sinful thoughts were piqued.

“Everly, something happened back at home. I need you to come with me,” he said what he had planned beforehand.

Upon hearing that, she felt odd. Even if something had truly happened back at home, he wouldn’t come looking for her in person. Thus, she deduced that it was a lie. Nevertheless, it was not appropriate for her to retort right in front of the other students.

That left her no choice but to cooperate with him. She then went along with the act and followed Blake. When it came to acting, she was rather skillful. She could lie without blushing or having her heart race. Moreover, she had become pretty pretentious after being by Caleb’s side for some time, having picked up a skill or two.

Under everyone’s gaze, the two of them left. Blake had even given a flirtatious look toward a girl who was quite good-looking before turning his heels to leave. As to whether she fell for that, he was not in the mood to think about it.

At this moment, Blake was leading the way as he took wide, quick strides, making Everly struggle to catch up. Since they were no longer watched by others, he didn’t bother hiding his true colors. Despite it being Blake who needed help from Everly, he wasn’t giving her much respect as usual. In fact, he was never chivalrous toward the ladies at home unless he needed something from them.

“Blake, don’t walk so fast. I can’t keep up with you,” she took the initiative to say. When they were at home, she usually wouldn’t say anything. However, she was braver to speak up in school.

At once, he slowed down his steps. He must have walked rather fast because he was worried about something. Taking a glance at her, he tried to keep the same pace as her. Meanwhile, she couldn’t stop wondering why he was here to look for her.

Just as she was contemplating whether to ask him about his ulterior motive of coming, he had come to a stop as his car was just in front. With that, he directly told Everly, who looked like she was about to say something, “Get into the car.”

To be honest, she didn’t want to get in his car, but she could not reject him in this situation. Thus, she hopped onto the back seat despite it being unpolite as she was not used to sitting with him.

“Blake, I want you to tell me what your true motives are right now!” she said after she was well-seated.

Looking at her from the rearview mirror, he tried to look for anything suspicious in her expression. She might have sensed that as she looked away so he could not see her face. Hence, he averted his gaze from the rearview mirror to the car ahead of him. Seeing how he didn't answer her, she was beginning to panic, but she refused to ask him any further.

The car came to a stop at a crossroad. The traffic light here had a long waiting time, so he spoke up again while waiting for the next green light. “Everly, do you know where Caleb lives?” It felt like a question that he already knew the answer to; thus, she felt weirded out.

After a brief pause, she unwillingly answered, “Blake, why are you asking me this? How would I know where he stays?” Since it was an act, she wouldn't want to be too serious about it so she played dumb.

It seemed that he had predicted an answer like this from her. Hence, he continued, “I'm sincerely asking you about Caleb because I have something important to ask of him.” Blake told her earnestly.

“But I can't help with anything.” She was still trying to deny the relationship between herself and Caleb.

Upon hearing that, Blake told her, “You don't have to hide your relationship with Caleb when you're with me.” His tone was getting hostile. He had already planned to take the hard way if Everly refused to cooperate.

In his eyes, she was still a young girl who was easily intimidated. Should his initial method not work, he'd just threaten her. He believed that she would not be able to handle that.

“Blake, I don't know what you're talking about.” Though she was fearful, she still insisted that she did not have any sort of relationship with Caleb.

“Everly, I heard about your little escapade to look for him.” As he spoke, he pulled out substantial proof to threaten her. He was confident that she would cave in soon at this rate.

That caught her off guard. Not only did Blake know that she had secretly gone to find Caleb, the guy even had someone take pictures of them. Though the

initial purpose of taking these pictures was not for this, he didn't mind using them now. That was why Blake acted so brazenly as he had the upper hand now.

Seeing how she wouldn't answer, he continued, "Someone caught you going to a shopping mall with Caleb with his own eyes. According to him, you have a very close relationship with him." After hearing those words, Everly became nervous.

"Impossible," she retorted. How was it possible that she was intimate with him? They were obviously not a good match when they were together. Moreover, he had always treated her coldly.

"Don't deny it so quickly, I still have more pictures. Would you want to see if it's you and Caleb in them?" Since it was not progressing well, he could only resort to taking out the pictures.

However, she was not up to seeing pictures of herself and Caleb together. After all, how awkward would that be? It seemed that Blake got hold of something since he was treating her this way.

"There's no need." With a dark face, she spoke with a tone so cold that it resembled that of Heather's.

"In that case, can you tell me where he is?" That was his ultimate intention, after all. Due to Caleb's unknown location, Blake couldn't even attempt to visit him.

"I'm not sure. He usually doesn't just stay in one place," she told him the truth. It was indeed difficult to meet Caleb.

"Then can you contact him? I'm sure you have his contact number," he asked, unwilling to give up. It was imperative that he meet Caleb today.

"No. He won't give me his phone number. Searching for him is harder than reaching the stars," she said. While she was feeling a little displeased at Blake's persistence, she felt even more uncomfortable because of her awkward relationship with Caleb.

Standing before Love Chapter 601

Meanwhile, in Iceland, as the wind blew, the air around them grew colder. Peeking his head out of the car, Matthias stretched his neck as he took a look outside. It seemed that they had to get some scarves too.

Heather sat comfortably in the car as she rested her eyes to the ballad music playing in the background. When he got back into the car, he had the urge to trace her defined nose bridge as he looked at her. There was a tint of pink on the tip of her nose. When he leaned closer, he could hear her steady breathing. He wondered if she was asleep.

“Heather,” he called out to her softly. Seeing that she didn’t respond, a thought came to his mind. “She’s asleep,” he muttered to himself. It seemed that she had really fallen asleep.

Closing in on her gradually, he left a kiss on her cheek. He enjoyed doing sneaky things like these from time to time. Fortunately for him, there wasn’t any reaction from her. Seeing that she was truly asleep, he was ecstatic deep down.

As he looked at the pink lips of hers, an urge within him made him lean closer. Just as he was about to kiss her on the lips, she suddenly opened her eyes.

As their gazes met, he could see that she was still a little blurry. After all, she had just woken up from her sleep. As he was caught red-handed, he didn’t know how to explain himself, so he smiled tentatively as a means to mask his awkwardness.

“Do you like this position a lot?” Despite having just woken up, she still had a sharp tongue. Her grogginess didn’t affect her ability to insult him at all.

“I saw some dirt on your face.” He quickly reacted, reaching his hand out to rub the so-called dirt off for her. Immediately, she blocked his hand before sending him a glare. It irked her that he thought that she would buy such an obvious lie.

“Heather, when will it stop snowing?” He switched the topic immediately.

As she didn’t want to hold onto what happened just now, she gave him a way out as she looked at the vast whiteness outside the car window.

“Perhaps after 3 days, or it may just stop in the next second,” she absent-mindedly answered. She didn’t even seem to be concerned about being stranded in the heavy snow at all.

“We can’t continue in such heavy snow.” As the route covered with snow was slippery, it was dangerous to drive, even with a Jeep.

“Should we get help?” she casually asked. It was blatantly obvious that she was not worried about their situation at all.

Seeing how relaxed she was, he felt the same way too. He then told her, “Why not we just save ourselves?”

Hearing that, she gave him a funny look. “We can consider that once the snow dies down.” In such a big snowstorm, it was difficult to drive anywhere. Once it got less heavy, they might be able to find a hotel closeby. It was funny how they were questioning why they didn’t see any snow some time back, and now, they were stranded because of a snowstorm. At this rate, the snow would get up to half a meter’s height in no time.

“Will you be bored just by staying in the car?” He was worried that she would get bored.

“No. Even if I do, I have you here with me.” She was rather optimistic about this. Other girls might’ve started to complain in a situation like this, but not only did she not complain, she even seemed a little happy.

“Is it really that fun to be stuck in the snow?” he asked curiously. He might have to tone down on his curiosity more often, as the way he asked this question might sound offensive.

“It’s my first time being surrounded by snow, more so getting stranded halfway because of that. Though it might not be fun, I do find it’s amusing.” She didn’t let his choice of words bother her. Here in Iceland, she had been more gentle to him than before, and he was not used to it. However, she couldn’t always be nice to him or he might take advantage of it—just like what he was trying to do now.

“It’s my first time experiencing this too.” As they initially thought there wouldn’t be so much snow in Iceland, it certainly was a surprise.

“Memorable?” she said in a half-questioning tone. As such, he didn’t know how to answer her.

Having been cooped up in the car for some time, it was only a matter of time until things got boring. But for the matters at hand right now, being stuck in the car was like being trapped in a small uncomfortable space. They weren’t even able to stretch their bodies. After a while, they ran out of topics to talk about and so, he tried to fix the mood by asking a ridiculous question. “Do you know when you were born? Exactly?” he asked in a serious manner like how a tarot reader would.

“Are you trying to read my horoscope?” That was the first thing that came to her mind.

He simply smiled without a word as he looked at her, waiting for the information about her birth time.

“Let me try to recall. I don’t remember it clearly.” It wasn’t an everyday question one would ask, so she didn’t bother remembering it well.

“It must be accurate because it will affect the readings.” It seemed as if he truly knew how to interpret horoscope readings.

Seeing how serious he seemed, she sent a text out to Robert. The only person who would remember her birth time clearly would be none other than him!

After the text message was sent out, she got a prompt reply. Though Robert was curious as to why she asked for that information, he still replied to her without asking anything. She then passed her phone over to Matthias, showing him the information he needed to know, which included her birth date and time.

After that, he took out his phone and looked up a birth chart online. He recalled that he learned a thing or two from his mother when he was younger.

Seeing how he seemed to know what he was doing, she thought he wasn’t fooling around. Out of curiosity, she leaned closer as she tried to understand his birth chart reading methods.

As he lifted his head, he was met with a pair of beautiful eyes belonging to Heather. He didn't expect that she had the fate of Polis, Alkaid, and Greed Wolf Star according to the birth chart. These findings shocked him.

When she saw the surprised look in his eyes, her curiosity was piqued. She then asked him, "Do I have a bad fate?"

Shaking his head, he said, "No, I'm not done yet." Through the initial readings, he was already thinking that the readings were weird. However, he had to finish reading to see the entire picture.

Meanwhile, she watched him read the chart from the side as she wasn't knowledgeable at all in this field. As someone who was always eager to learn, she was naturally curious about it. Seeing how he was so serious, she was interested to know how the birth chart works.

As their eyes met, he was completely mesmerized by her eyes as they looked like a sky filled with stars. Getting uncomfortable with the prolonged eye contact, she commented, "Can my eyes help with the birth chart?"

"Yes," he shamelessly lied. He was getting bolder and bolder with her.

"Concentrate on the birth chart, will you?" she urged. After all, he should be more serious when doing things. She didn't like people who'd do things in a half-ass manner.

With his head hung low, he continued to read the birth chart as he noted down her birth time on a note-taking application on his phone. Reading birth charts was not a simple thing. Nowadays, many people would use applications that would do the reading for you, but he thought that it wasn't as accurate as a manual interpretation.

"Were you born in Bradford City?" He was beginning to sense something off with her birth chart.

Looking at the notes he keyed in on his phone, she couldn't understand what he noted down. Raising a brow, she said, "I was born in Italy." The reason why she chose to go to Italy was that it was her birthplace. That was why she chose to further her studies in that country.

"So you're an Italian. Ah, a foreigner," he said in a joking manner, earning a glare from her.

“Do you think Grandpa would let me be registered as a foreigner?” Heather was never keen on bringing up things from the past when she was born. Back then, her parents had believed some lies from a witch doctor who said they would have a baby boy if the baby was born in Italy.

Every time she thought of how her parents had such thoughts before she was even born, she felt disgusted. Since her father had asthenospermia, it wasn't easy for her mother to conceive her. If that wasn't the case, she wouldn't be born as they would have gotten rid of her after getting ultrasonography.

“I'm actually pretty curious on why you were born in Italy. Did your parents give birth to you while they were traveling?” Again, he asked the wrong questions.

“What has that got to do with my birth time?” she asked in a slightly angered tone. It was obvious that he was getting more and more daring with her. Though she understood that he wanted to know more about her, there were just some things that shouldn't be asked.

Sensing that she was getting mad, he immediately shut his mouth. It was best that he continued to read her birth chart and not make her mad.

Finally, he finished the readings for her birth chart. With his brows furrowed, he read the notes he jotted down. Though he didn't remember many certain details, the birth chart showed the incessant danger that was about to occur in her life.

After a while, she asked, “What did you find out?” As he kept quiet for quite some time, she was getting anxious.

“Nothing.” He was not willing to tell her what he saw, for he saw that she was currently or about to have a difficult time in life. She was bound to go through a lot of bad events. Hence, he did not want to tell her that and affect her good mood.

“Do you actually know what you're looking at?” Giving him a scornful look, she could guess that he must have seen something bad. Since there was no benefit in saying it out, he chose not to say it.

Since she led the conversation to that, he simply went along with it. “Alas, I'm not very good at it. I shouldn't have tried to act smart in front of you. I apologize.”

Though he said that, he was still bothered by what he interpreted. He then made a mental note to get a professional to find a solution to it once he returned to the country.

“I don’t need your apology, you liar.” She was unwilling to continue the conversation on this topic any longer. She didn’t fully believe in astrology anyway!

“The snow is getting lighter now. Should we leave?” He immediately found another topic, attempting to soothe the awkwardness between them.

“Sure.” Right after she said that, she kept her eyes shut again as if she didn’t want to have any communication with him. After all, their earlier exchange had given her flashbacks of unwanted memories!