

Standing before Love Chapter 662

This time around, Heather did not immediately rush home to the Langston Residence. Instead, she headed to her office, where she had not gone for quite a while. Throughout the entire journey, she remembered that her company would officially start in another few days.

As a result, there was a chance she would not be able to make it for the previously agreed appointment that she had with the Saffords and she felt quite guilty toward them.

The moment she arrived at her office, she used her fingerprint to open the door. She felt fortunate that she had previously set up a biometric system that could capture fingerprints. Otherwise, she would not have the key with her now.

Because it had been completely empty for such a long time, there was a musty odor in the office. She quickly opened the window to air the place.

The Saffords also had the keys to the office, but it seemed that they had not been here for quite some time as well. Then, Heather switched the lights on.

Even though it was still early in the day, she loved to close the curtains and switch on the lights. The lighting in the office was quite decent, but it immediately became darker as soon as she closed the curtains.

Under the ceiling lights, she switched on her work laptop and carefully looked at the documents in the file. She believed that Tony had picked them out with great caution.

As the time ticked by, it didn't take long for an hour to quickly pass. Yet, Heather was only halfway through the document as a sentence had caught her eye.

She did not expect that the Saffords would be mentioned in the document, but as it turned out, Paige's current workplace belonged to the Moriarty Family. It had greatly surprised Heather because she had investigated the company prior to this; the result was that it was an international corporation that was completely unrelated to the Moriarty Family.

It looked like the changes that arose from the incident was something that normal people could not understand. Heather only understood that the

international company was affected by the downfall of the economy after she perused the documents. The negative economical turn had created an opportunity for the Moriarty Family to take advantage of it.

However, their actions had also reflected their wealth. It was a staggering fact that they could take over an international corporation that was at the brink of bankruptcy.

What should we do now? The Moriarty Family has already entered the international arena. Are we, the Langston and the Hart Families, able to move this huge tree now?

As Heather flipped through the pages, she saw that it was the introduction to the glorious history of the Moriarty Family. It was only after reading through it that she was shocked about their power.

Things were now increasingly complicated for them. After reading further into the document and finishing the introduction, she felt that something was still missing.

While biting her lips, Heather thought about the proposal Tony had written. There were many courageous plans that he intended to undertake, but it seemed that using the normal tactics would not be enough to even affect the Moriarty Family.

The same piece of document had also introduced other family businesses, including the Locke Group. Heather had been wanting to know their strength and she finally knew about it today.

The Locke Group had many shady records with many other corporations wanting to attack them as well. Even the government was trying to obtain evidence of their criminal activities.

It was only on the surface that the Locke Group looked glamorous because they had many enemies. Under such circumstances, they still dared to provoke the strongest force in the business circle of Bradford City. Does Matthias still think that the Locke Group is not conspicuous enough?

While reading the introduction of the Locke Group's background, Tony had also written some of his own speculations. He directly pointed out that Matthias was probably trying to destroy the Locke Group by provoking the business circle's strongest force.

For the past few years, it was undeniable that the Locke Group had grown a lot under Matthias' leadership. However, as he was too ostentatious, he had offended many people who wanted to bring down the company.

Judging by Matthias' intelligence, Tony assumed that he would not deliberately do this. The only explanation was that Matthias had the intention to destroy the Locke Group himself.

Heather agreed to Tony's assumption after she thought about her interactions with Matthias all this while. Apart from that, Tony also wrote a note for her, asking her to wisely use her relationship with Matthias.

Even though Tony thought that it was worth a bet, he believed that Matthias would increase their chances of success. In an instant, he immediately boosted the confidence that Heather had for Matthias.

After that, he also touched upon the power of Leon's mysterious family. He summarized it with a word—'unmeasurable'. It seemed that Leon's family was the most mysterious and they had the greatest potential. If they could somehow quantify it, Tony would not have used the word 'unmeasurable'.

Tony knew that Leon's family was split into various parts. Perhaps, one of those behind the scenes was a part of Leon's family.

His thoughts had shocked Heather, who had a feeling that his assumptions were correct. After all, she could not think of another family with such great power.

However, Tony also focused on Leon's family that were separated into various factions. Based on his understanding, there were at least three major forces in Leon's family, who were waiting to take over Dave's position since his health was deteriorating as the days passed.

Apart from that, Leon's family had a huge connection to the Moriarty and the Locke Families. The three families were intertwined together, but Tony had no idea what this meant.

Based on the incident this time, the Hart and the Langston Families were innocents who were implicated. However, he also speculated that Claris, who died way back when, had a secret lover who was someone in power within Leon's family.

This person could be the mastermind behind everything. Not only did he want to take over the power, he also wanted to take revenge on the tragic incident back then.

After reading Tony's detailed analysis, Heather thought that it would be a waste of his talent if he did not become a detective. When she finished reading the documents that he had compiled, she finally understood the complicated past of the few big families who tried to hide their true strength.

It seemed like only the power of the Hart and the Langston Families were clearly shown to everyone. She wondered, What are the three big families thinking? The most mysterious of them all is Leon's family. First, we have no idea how powerful his family is. Second, we aren't clear on the identity of the person in his family who has been attacking us. However, we have temporarily narrowed the range of possible suspects

Heather naturally thought about Leon's family party the day after tomorrow. It seemed like she could not afford to miss it this time around. On one hand, she had to hold onto Matthias whereas on the other hand, she had to go through Leon to investigate what exactly had been happening in his family.

No matter from which direction she looked, she felt that she was a heartless person who cheated on both of them. While feeling troubled, she rubbed the bridge of her nose. Tony has passed a rather difficult task to me.

However, apart from Heather, there were no other people who could manage this task. Feeling amused, she returned the document back to the file.

She also needed to make use of her connections with the Saffords. After all, Paige was now working for Caleb, so she might be able to obtain some information from Paige.

Initially, Heather planned to postpone the opening of her company. However, with the ongoing current situation, she thought that she should continue with the original plan and operate as usual.

Since it was no longer early, she planned to invite Paige to her office to have a chat with her. Apart from that, the incident with Leon also had to be settled, especially when there were plenty of things waiting for her to complete.

Heather had not even replied to the text that Matthias sent until now. She had the strong urge to divide herself into three parts. More importantly, if Leon had

made their relationship public, she would have a hard time explaining things to Matthias.

She was trying to balance everything out, but she did not know what method she should use to convince Dave to believe that her relationship with Leon was genuine. Is there another way to do so apart from making it public?

Underneath the light, Heather's thick, alluring eyelashes were slightly trembling as a troubled expression was written all over her face. Unknowingly, she fell asleep in front of the laptop that she had not even used after switching it on as her entire focus rested on the proposal.

In the blink of an eye, three hours had passed. It was already dark by the time she had woken up. As she rubbed her eyes, she had no idea where she was and it took a while before she realized that she was in her office.

Why am I so careless? With an apologetic expression, she stared at the proposal that had changed shape after she had slept on it. Then, she quickly used her hands to flatten it. What have I just done? She despised herself in her heart.

Looking at the words on the proposal, she remembered that she still had some important things to do. The empty pages in the proposal were waiting for her to fill them in.

Heather could not afford to sleep that night as she had to spend the entire night writing the proposal. She had no idea how long it took Tony to prepare the proposal, but she was now running out of time.

She had to bring the proposal to him the next morning. After that, she would have to execute the plan. She simply had insufficient time and too many activities crammed in such a short time.

Wanting to also write the proposal by hand, Heather took a pen from the side of the table. As she had been extremely reliant on her laptop in the past, the action of writing had made her feel quite weird.

Back in the day, she used to have a neat handwriting, but it was no longer immaculate. She smiled as she thought of how Robert had complained about her handwriting. Sure enough, I've thrown my talent away.

She quickly wrote out her proposal. The words that Tony had written were carved deeply in her mind, so she did not even need to look at his part. It was only natural for her to continue from where he left off with her suggestions.

The responsibility of dealing with the three greatest families rested on her shoulders. He had already actively and secretly investigated their backgrounds with his hidden strengths.

As Heather wrote the proposal, a lump formed in her throat. I'm now taking the role of a double spy! I can't believe that I have to do this one day. I had to do what I despised the most in the past.

During the entire process, she only felt sorry that she was doing this to Matthias. Because of Leon's deceit, she did not feel sorry for him at all. Instead, she could not bring herself to face Leon.

However, Matthias was innocent. Even though she was unclear as to why he wanted to attack her family, she was quite sure that there was some unfortunate past that was hidden from them.

Heather even felt that she was not good enough for him. Throughout the entire relationship, he had genuinely fallen for her, but she kept thinking of the various ways she could use him. This made her feel extremely shameful and guilty.

However, since things had arrived at this stage, there were no other options for her. She could only brave herself to continue to move forward. She yearned for a simple and straightforward romance, especially when she had killed the one she had and turned into someone she used to hate.

She continued to write with a few breaks in between. She was unsure about how to treat Matthias, as she did not know which way would be gentler. She did not want to deceive him after all.

After she experienced the pain of being deceived by a friend from Leon, she did not want Matthias to endure the pain of being hoodwinked by a lover. Hence, she felt conflicted.

Heather hoped that she could truthfully tell everything to him and that he would do the same too. Unfortunately, it was something that could never happen because they had met at the wrong time and the beginning of their relationship was already a tragedy in itself.

She forgot that she had been planning to use Matthias from the beginning. Her remorse had arrived too late as the situation got out of hand.

She arduously wrote down her part with Matthias. Since it was already written into the proposal, she would definitely achieve it. She bit her lower lips as she thought, Let the storm rage on with more ferocity!

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Now that things had progressed to such a state, Heather had also lost her urge to sleep. She spent the whole night making corrections to her end of the proposal. It had been quite some time since she pulled an all-nighter for work. She suddenly recalled her time in Europe while she was in charge of expanding the new market there; although the work was tiring and tough, she found the effort quite worthwhile.

At this moment, dawn broke and she stood in front of the window while staring at the passersby below her. Life was ever-changing but to her, everything felt the same. The city life that she experienced now was leaden for her and it was completely different from what she'd envisioned.

Heather would occasionally wonder whether there were people with superpowers present in this city. She had been seriously considering the matter of reality and the imaginary world during this timespan. Recently, she kept having the feeling that reality was very much like an illusion in Thailand whereas the imaginary world seemed quite realistic. Over time, she seemed to be unable to differentiate between reality and imagination.

Then, she hugged herself. The temperature was quite low in the early morning and she could feel the cold from outside even while standing in the room. She breathed out on the glass window and saw herself from the foggy reflection; in fact, her blurry self looked exceptionally beautiful.

It was quite rare for her to admire herself, so today, she revealed a beaming smile toward the window pane. However, the reflection shown on the window pane revealed a blurry shadow and even her smile looked quite forced. She resembled a beast showing its teeth.

Heather lifted her hands to wipe the water vapor on the window pane. Soon, her features were clearly revealed; her brooding eyes indicated that there were a lot of secrets within them and she gave a slight smile. It felt like her soul had only re-entered her body at that moment.

She glanced at the clock and noticed that she was short on time as there were a lot of important issues that she had to deal with. The proposal was all set to be submitted and it was the result of her and Tony's hard work. Next, there were also other steps of the process that required their joint effort to complete.

Therefore, the first thing she had to do was to look for Tony now. Recently, she hadn't been sleeping well at all and she reckoned that Tony was likely facing the same issue too. She clearly remembered his shocking bloodshot eyes from yesterday.

During the process of freshening up, Heather suddenly realized that her eyes were equally as shocking and bloodshot as his. However, she was rather blasé about it. I'm still quite beautiful with bloodshot eyes.

Throughout the journey in which she drove her car, she was extremely anxious to see Tony as soon as possible. After they had come to a mutual agreement, she was pressed for time since there was plenty of work for her to complete. I hope time will pass by slower today. It was at that moment when she glanced at the stack of documents on her passenger seat and lamented, These are extremely important documents!

There was a pleasant smell in the air and she enjoyed the crisp, fresh air, which was less polluted, in the early morning. However, the downside was that morning was the peak time for traffic and she used double the time than normal to arrive at Hart Group.

Because Heather only swung by the office yesterday and was now back again, the new secretary was quite surprised to see her. Zephyr scrutinized Heather from head to toe before enthusiastically greeting her. "Mr. Hart is lecturing someone in the office. Miss Langston, why don't you take a seat and wait for a short while?" she elaborated with a slightly embarrassed look. Again, Heather had arrived at an awkward time.

"Sure," Heather replied. There was no sign of exhaustion from her face and she looked quite energetic on the surface. If it wasn't for the obvious redness in her eyes, it would have been quite hard to tell that she'd stayed up the whole night.

Zephyr looked at Heather with slight trepidation. Heather's bloodshot eyes made her seem even more distant than before and Zephyr was unsure on how to make small talk with her. As such, Zephyr lowered her head and continued with her work. As for Heather, she didn't intend to continue probing

Zephyr for more information, so both of them quietly continued with what they were doing and left each other alone.

Heather would occasionally raise her head before she glanced at the door to the director's office from time to time. After some time, she noticed that there didn't seem to be any activity inside the room.

What's wrong anyway? Why is Tony chiding someone so early in the morning?! In fact, she was quite anxious, but she put up a patient front and didn't reveal anything. She didn't want to appear rude as it was quite inappropriate to barge in while he was telling someone off. She had always known that he was a conscientious boss; he had strict expectations from his subordinates, but it was quite unexpected that he would lecture someone for such a long period of time.

Somehow, Zephyr sensed Heather's anxiousness. She took the initiative to respond to Heather, "Miss Langston, Mr. Hart's usually busier in the morning, so you might have to wait slightly longer."

"I understand." Heather pretended to be alright with it and responded. I guess I've chosen the wrong time to come and visit Tony. I was too hasty in that split second. Usually, one would either be extremely busy or rather free in the mornings. She slightly regretted her decision to pop in without calling Tony beforehand to let him know about her arrival. It was her normal style to usually pop over whenever she had something to discuss with him and she rarely gave prior notice. At this moment, she lamented, I think I should change this bad habit!

Come to think of it, Heather would normally swing by to pay her close ones a visit without prior notice. However, if she had to meet her business associates, she would normally make an appointment with them before the meeting time. Besides, she was never late for a meeting and would always turn up earlier than the agreed time.

At this time, she thought, I'm bored out of my mind. Maybe I should set up an appointment with Paige in advance. It had been ages ago since Heather last contacted Paige via text messaging and she hadn't been in much contact with Paige recently. Nonetheless, Heather didn't have many qualms about it and she went straight to the point by informing Paige that she wanted to meet Paige to discuss the opening ceremony of the company via Messenger.

Unexpectedly, Paige immediately replied after seeing the text message, 'I'm kind of busy today...' Her words had a slightly resigned tone to them.

Heather was quite aware that Paige wouldn't easily say such words, so Paige must have been tied up with her job responsibilities. After contemplating the situation, Heather texted Paige, 'I don't mind going to see you at your office. I just need you to spare about half an hour of your time for me.'

Since Paige was rather busy, Heather decided to take the initiative to meet her. After all, Heather's timetable was much more flexible than Paige's. Heather had initially planned to have a chat with the Staffords, but it looked like she could only chat with Paige alone today. As a result, Heather's timetable was no longer as packed and she had much more time to spare.

"Can we meet during lunchtime?" Paige wasn't one to beat around the bush either, so she asked directly.

Heather responded with an affirmative. Now that the first two tasks on her list were basically sorted, she only had one final task to complete. However, she had no idea how to initiate the reconciliation with Leon.

Yesterday, she was disappointed with Leon. Right now, she seemed to have no choice but to forgive him for the sake of their interests. She realized that it was quite a challenge for her because she was not ready to forgive him yet.

Heather was in fact still quite annoyed with Leon. She stared at his profile picture, but hesitated to click on it. At this moment, she bit on her lower lip and decided that she would only consider this last task after she met up with Paige.

Meanwhile, the door to the director's office finally opened from inside while Heather was trying to decide how to deal with Leon. From inside, a couple of mid-level associates of the Hart Group walked out with darkened expressions.

One of them recognized Heather and took the initiative to greet her with a smile. Heather responded with a forced smile. It was quite obvious that her smile wasn't sincere because one could tell by the smile, which was uglier than a sad face, that she was quite unwilling to do so.

"Hi, Miss Langston. I haven't seen you in ages."

Heather had a recollection of the said person, but because she didn't have a good impression of him, she didn't bother to give much of a response. The rest of the associates fixed their eyes on her before they suddenly realized who she was and greeted her in a hurry.

A resigned Heather responded to each of them before she slowly made her way into the director's office. She found small talk an extreme waste of time.

Tony noticed the impatient look on her face and teasingly asked, "I wonder who it was that offended Miss Langston?"

Heather noticed that he was in a good mood so she went along with him. "Well, offend is quite a strong word, so it's not exactly as bad as that. However, it seems that all of your company's mid-level associates are quite long-winded, right?"

As soon as he realized that she had thrown the ball back into his court, he stopped teasing her and returned to his solemn mood. "Are you here to show me your proposal?" He pointed at the document file in her hands. Unexpectedly, she's quite efficient.

"Yeah, I spent the whole night on this." Heather directly handed the file in her hands to Tony.

Tony reached over to take the file and immediately opened it. Then, he quickly located the proposal and started to peruse it. Meanwhile, Heather intently kept her eyes on Tony and paid close attention to his expression as she tried to gain some insight from his face. However, his face remained impassive, so she wasn't quite sure whether he was satisfied with the proposal.

The time slowly flew past while she patiently waited for his evaluation. Because she wasn't quite sure of how he would react, she felt a slight sense of trepidation because she wasn't quite sure of his response. It would be quite awkward if he showed his displeasure. She had never experienced such anxiety at all from her past experiences of presenting proposals. As a result, she felt the air turn still all of a sudden while her breath became shallower.

After quite some time, Tony finally closed the proposal shut and shot a meaningful look at Heather. Somehow, she was able to comprehend the meaning behind his deep gaze.

“Heather, it seems that you have some reservations.” Tony was quite surprised by the proposal that she had submitted because it wasn’t her usual style. It seemed overly soft by her standards.

“I’ve made an accurate guess. Director Hart, it seems like you have some queries about my way of handling this?” Heather had originally decided on a soft approach to deal with the situation, but it seemed to be at odds with Tony.

“I’ve heard of Director Langston being quite decisive with business dealings and having a hard stance too. Unfortunately, I can’t seem to find the resoluteness that I’m looking for from this proposal,” Tony subtly rejected. She seems different than before.

“Perhaps you should take another closer look at it?” Heather’s lips curled upward as she confidently mentioned.

Meanwhile, Tony stared at her with a wary expression. He wasn’t sure whether to trust her words, but he had a moment of hesitation when he noticed her confident smile.

“Okay,” he replied.

She smiled at him before she walked to the couch by the side to take a seat. The demure expression on her face was unlike her. He had no idea what she had experienced all this while, but he felt that her behavior was quite strange.

Nevertheless, Tony lowered his head and carefully went through the proposal once again. Her methods are too soft. Does she intend to fight back by going in the complete opposite direction? He couldn’t help but focus his gaze on her before noticing that she was quite relaxed and comfortable in her spot. At this moment, he narrowed his eyes and thought, I really don’t know what’s on her mind!

Meanwhile, Heather felt his eyes on her. She was also taking furtive glances at him from the side. Indeed, a man who’s focused on work looks the best. Tony’s looks are quite extraordinary compared to the regular male.

In fact, Leon’s well-sculpted features were incomparable to Tony’s looks. Heather was quite content with the fact that Myra had captured the heart of such an outstanding male.

Once again, Tony slammed the proposal shut. He had discovered Heather's dilemma from this proposal and he understood the effect of a relationship on a person, so he didn't want to force her into making any decision. Since that was how it would be, he planned to agree to this proposal for the time being. After all, there was a chance that the plan could change directions when they were executing it.

He finally acceded, "I agree with your proposal."

Then, Heather gave him a pleased look as it was the sentence she was waiting for. Meanwhile, she caught the meaningful look in his eyes as they exchanged looks. "Director Hart, I'll execute the plan accordingly then." She suddenly felt that her mood had lightened. My first task is considered complete!

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After Heather exchanged her thoughts with Tony, she rushed off to her next location. Actually, she didn't have to do so because it wasn't time for Paige's lunch break yet.

Nevertheless, Heather was keen to meet Paige. In the end, she tasted some desserts at a cafe next to Paige's office while she waited for Paige. Heather was a big fan of desserts and she would always find that her spirit would be tremendously lifted after the fact, no matter how she felt at that moment.

Heather had already informed Paige about her location and she requested for the latter to drop by as soon as she was on lunch break. It was because Heather didn't want to enter Paige's workplace.

There was plenty of time before their agreed meeting time, so Heather had ordered a lot of desserts. Since it was rather rare for her to have much spare time, she planned to chill and savor the sweet desserts.

Word was that sweets could improve one's mood. It would be great if happiness was that easily achieved since she felt that happiness was a distant matter for her. She wished that she could be happier most of the time, but the end result always seemed to be contrary to what she had hoped for.

It took Heather a long time before she replied to Matthias' message. Most of the time, she didn't understand why he had so much patience with her. In the eyes of a businessperson, time and patience were always driven by gains.

She didn't know what he could gain from her but he seemed to be enjoying the process.

There was a strong fragrance in the air, which left Heather feeling quite content. However, she remained lost as to what to say to Matthias.

In the past, she had ulterior motives for getting closer to him, but everything seemed to have disappeared now. Meanwhile, the waiting time had been indefinitely prolonged and she felt like she had been waiting for almost a decade.

Paige finally strolled in after a long time. At this moment, Heather took a sip of her cup of drink; in fact, she didn't like the taste of it and wanted a cup of coffee.

When Paige saw the plates of desserts in front of Heather, she was aghast. Heather had ordered heaps, but merely taken a bite out of most of them. As soon as Heather saw Paige, she lifted her head and responded, "Oh, you're here. I've ordered you some dessert. Try them to see which one suits your taste."

Page had already noticed the platters of dessert in front of her, but she wasn't a big fan of sweets. Upon seeing so many desserts at once, she felt her appetite wane. "I'm not a fan of desserts," she frankly replied.

"Then, just try some of it." Heather had intended to share the delectable dishes with someone, but she never expected this to be the outcome.

At this moment, Paige was in a dilemma. Heather's done a great job of ordering all my least favorite food.

Meanwhile, Heather looked at Paige's expression and asked in helplessness, "Is there anything that you would like to order?" Then, she nudged the menu to the front of Paige.

"I've eaten and I'm not hungry." Paige intended to get straight into things with Heather. Usually, Heather wasn't one to waste time, so she felt that Heather's recent behavior was strange.

It had been quite some time since Paige last met Heather and she sensed that Heather became distant. Heather's personality had changed and it was

different from who she was before. Furthermore, there was also a change in her demeanor and her makeup style.

Heather's makeup and attire are usually flawless whenever she's out in the public, but her style is quite casual and simple today. Her demeanor seems softer than usual. She always had a look of rejection, but now, she looks easily approachable. Paige had a grim feeling about this. In fact, she had preferred her leader to be outstanding, so she wasn't keen on this change in Heather because the latter's previous personality was much more suitable in setting up and controlling a company.

"I feel like I haven't paid much attention to the company, so I came over to talk to you about it. I just wanted to ask, are we able to proceed with the agreed opening date of our company?" Heather had handed everything over to the Saffords, but she'd expressed her query today with the intention to pacify everyone. After all, seeing that Heather had been in the limelight lately, the Saffords were rather worried that the opening day of their company would be affected.

As soon as Paige heard Heather's words, she felt slightly appeased. She hasn't been actively keeping in contact with me for such a long time that I was worried she no longer cares about the starting of our company.

"Of course we can." Paige's face significantly brightened. Frankly, she bore a slight grievance against Heather and it was at that moment when all of her unhappy feelings dissipated. Heather had noticed Paige's awkwardness, but she understood that it was quite normal for Paige to be upset. It was much better for Paige to express it than to suppress her feelings and secretly resent Heather.

"I know I've been quite lax about the company, so I understand that you must be quite resentful about it." Heather's soft tone was quite different from before.

Meanwhile, Paige felt slightly embarrassed by Heather's words. She'd already expressed her displeasure, so there was no need to keep harping on the same thing.

"No, I am sure you won't give up on our start-up. I trust that you're not an irresponsible person." Paige revealed a slight smile as her mood was instantaneously lifted.

However, upon hearing Paige's words, Heather was ridden with guilt. At the current moment, she harbored the intention to run away and she realized that she was becoming more irresponsible. Furthermore, she'd forgotten all the aspirations and dreams she had from before. She realized that her current ambition was no longer to conquer the corporate world and reap its gains. Moreover, she no longer wanted to aim for the vast international market.

All these were no longer important in Heather's mind because she had found something else much more important. Although it hadn't been long ago that she had drastically changed from the inside and on the outside, she was no longer the same as before.

"The situation in Bradford City right now is extremely complicated and the risk of starting a new business is quite unpredictable." Heather suddenly directed the topic toward the overall external environment.

Paige nodded her head in response. "Yes. Even our company, which is quite a well-known international brand, has been taken over too." This came as a huge blow to her.

Although the takeover had mainly involved the Chinese counterpart, she felt that this was something beyond her expectations. There was such a drastic change in the corporate world in this time and day, so anything perceived to be impossible could basically happen in the next instance.

"Who's your new boss?" Heather pretended to ask with an innocent expression inadvertently. In actual fact, she had intended to talk to Paige about the latter's workplace. So, it was lovely that Paige had initiated the topic.

Paige shot an inexplicable look at Heather before her own expression turned wary. Perhaps it was because she never expected Heather to suddenly be interested in this topic.

"You should know." Paige no longer minced her words lately. Heather wasn't the only one who had gone through a drastic change over this period of time.

"The Moriartys." Heather didn't want to beat around the bush either, so she decided to be honest.

Paige nodded her head. "This came as quite a surprise and even Dad thought it was quite strange too." Upon recalling Josiah's words, she had some slight concerns.

Bradfort City had undergone a change and it was different from before, leaving Paige with the feeling that she somehow could no longer keep up with its pace. It was quite hard to actually predict the future progress of the place.

"Bradfort City is no longer the city we recognize. Perhaps we need to reconfigure our thought process and our company strategy might need to be changed." Heather furrowed her brows. Perhaps we need to surrender our previous plan and come up with a new one.

Upon hearing that, Paige remained silent. She was currently at a loss for how to respond to Heather as she knew she probably didn't have as much insider information as Heather. When Paige looked into Heather's wise eyes, she couldn't help but feel something amiss.

"So, do we need to change the company's marketplace orientation?" Paige probed since it was rather difficult to accept that their previous plans needed to be overhauled.

"It would be much better to make changes to the company's orientation now than to wait and realize the issue further down the track," Heather casually mentioned, but she managed to convince Paige and quell the latter's doubts.

This was the exact appeal of a leader. Heather had planned to continue probing for the information that she was interested in from Page, but it seemed that the latter didn't have much time to continue the conversation.

"I need to head back to work now. There are a lot of things that I need to deal with," Paige answered with an awkward expression because she hadn't spoken much to Heather yet, but she needed to leave soon and felt that it was quite impolite to do.

Nonetheless, Paige couldn't come up with a better solution. After all, her company had just underwent a restructuring process, so there were a lot of things that she had to deal with. Upon realizing that, she felt an oncoming headache.

"You should head back then. As for the specificities, let's talk about them in detail when you're free." Although Heather had a lot of questions that she was

keen to seek answers for, she didn't want to delay Paige's precious time any further.

"Okay, for the day after tomorrow, I'll be free for half the day. Would you be free as well?" Their company's opening day was around the corner and Paige was keen to discuss the details associated with the actual day.

"Sure, let's meet at Safford House the day after tomorrow then," Heather agreed. Both of them were rather honest with each other, so they easily decided there and then about the meeting time.

After she made arrangements with Paige, Heather finally had to face her third and most frustrating tasks. She was honestly rather reluctant to meet Leon, what more to say initiate reconciliation with him.

However, come to think of it, Leon seemed to be keeping his cool, which was quite unlike his usual personality; in the past, he would have been spinning in circles in his attempt to try and locate her. He wouldn't be quietly keeping to himself.

Since their incident, he hadn't sent Heather a single text, which left her wondering, Don't tell me that Leon has decided to give up?! Meanwhile, she recalled the words that she had previously said and felt quite mortified to take the initiative to seek him out. As she pondered about the situation, she couldn't help but lament about it.

Maybe it was because Leon was on Heather's mind that her wish was quickly granted. He had actually taken the initiative to ring her. As she looked at the caller ID on her cell phone, she felt quite surreal. Since when am I so blessed?! This is such a wish come true! She pondered for a short while before she answered the call.

Soon, his voice rang out from the phone. "Heather, do you plan to stop helping me?" He went straight to the point. He had considered the situation for quite some time and planned to try his luck once more.

Leon couldn't even bear to think about his dire predicament if Heather didn't show up for the party tomorrow. It's not that simple trying to handle Grandfather. He reckoned that he would be forcefully escorted back this time, especially when the old man had an unwavering stance.

“I’m willing to help you, but that doesn’t mean I forgive you,” Heather coldly replied. Whatever it was, she refused to forgive him. This was more than just her ego speaking but in fact...

“As long as you agree to help me, we can talk things through.” Her answer was completely out of his expectations.

Heather has finally agreed to help me! Well, I can’t rush into things so I’ll take things one step at a time and slowly try to convince her to forgive me. “Can I come over to see you right now?” Leon hurriedly asked his next question. There were a lot of things that they had to complete together, so there wasn’t much time left to waste.

“I’ll pop over to yours shortly.” Heather thought that his mansion was a better location for a discussion since there was more privacy to meet there than outside.

“I’m not there right now. If you prefer to talk there, then I can head back right now.” He couldn’t possibly be there all the time and right now, he was dealing with some personal matters outside.

“It’s alright. Where are you? I’ll share my location with you. Why don’t you share yours too?” She wondered, Don’t tell me he’s sitting at the next table and he purposely rang me after identifying the perfect timing?!

“Sure.”

After they hung up the phone, both of them shared their live location with each other via text messaging. She was surprised to note that Leon was quite a distance away from her. Looks like he hasn’t been tracking me.

Heather had truly misunderstood him this time. Then, she stopped sharing her location and both of them agreed to meet at a middle point for their discussion.

In fact, Leon had some unfinished tasks on hand, but since meeting up with Heather was a current priority, he glanced at the young man on the ground and left the place after some hesitation.

At that moment, he felt slightly apprehensive. He wasn’t sure about the force he had exerted earlier on the young man, so he wondered whether to call for an ambulance for that person.

Leon had disagreed with someone earlier and out of impulse, he came to blows with that person. The said person was now on the ground in a state of unconsciousness, causing Leon to be in a huge dilemma.

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Before he left, Leon dialed 911 in kindness on behalf of the person who was sprawled on the ground. He knew that the person would not reveal anything unnecessarily once he regained consciousness.

Occasionally, Leon hated those reporters who tend to make up stories. It was at that moment when he tightly clenched the negative of a photo with his hands while having an ugly expression on his face. There were some secrets that should not exist in this world. Meanwhile, he tucked the negative into his pocket and decided that he would find an appropriate spot to destroy it.

He drove his car to meet Heather at their designated meeting point. It had been ages since he'd last gone to that place. In fact, he quite liked that location because there were plenty of beautiful women there.

As soon as Leon hastily pushed open the door, he noticed Heather waiting for him at a spot next to the window; the rays of sunlight splashed on her face and she looked quite exquisite to the extent that he found it quite surreal.

He gradually made his way toward her. His footsteps were light and he seemed to be quite wary of disturbing her peace. However, she had an exceptionally good sense of hearing that couldn't be beaten by anyone else. She'd actually noticed him first but pretended not to see him because she was curious to find out what he was trying to play at.

At this moment, Leon stopped in his tracks and Heather was quite perplexed by his actions. He kept a distance from her without moving forward or backward, making it an odd scene.

She maintained her gesture of looking outside the window. Well, let's see what he is trying to do! He didn't take any further actions, which made her confused as to whether she should take the initiative to greet him to break the ice.

"Sir, are you ready to order?" The waitress's voice rang out and disrupted the silent moment between the two.

Meanwhile, Heather stifled a laugh. As for Leon, he awkwardly shuffled over and greeted her after the perfect moment was suddenly disrupted.

“Heather, did you notice me from the start?” he grumbled with a downcast face as he made his way to stand in front of her. There was no longer any sign of his previous ferocious attitude.

Leon was keen to maintain a perfect image in front of Heather even if that meant behaving silly and comical. He was okay with it since he didn’t want to reveal his dark side to her.

“Why did you sit down on the other table?” Heather frowned, but she was actually trying hard to stifle her laughter.

“You were quite dazzling from that angle and you looked like a fairy from the skies,” Leon answered with a silly smile.

Meanwhile, Heather turned her head in the other direction and it was as if she hadn’t heard what he said. Without saying anything, she quietly changed the topic. “Is everything all sorted for tomorrow’s dinner party?” She was reluctant to discuss anything irrelevant with Leon. After all, he had a glib tongue and she didn’t want to give him the opportunity to lull her.

Meanwhile, Leon stared at her innocently. “I’m quite blank about the details of the dinner party, so I need your help to sort things out.” He threw the ball into her court.

“I’m supposed to sort things out?!” At this moment, Heather’s expression soured as she felt like he was joking around with her.

“Actually, Heather, I’m really nervous around the old man and I always stutter around him.” He acted pitiful as he mentioned those words.

Heather felt that he was starting to exaggerate his words. She couldn’t imagine Leon being so anxious to the point where he would stutter his words. In the end, under her suspicious gaze, he had no choice but to reply frankly, “Actually, I don’t even want to talk to the old man. Could you please handle him on my behalf during the dinner party?”

So, that’s his plan for that day! She gave him a cold smile. “You better deal with your family members by yourself! Don’t tell me you’re going to act dumb on that day and get me to speak on your behalf the whole time?!”

Upon hearing her words, Leon smiled awkwardly. "I know! I know, but are you actually going to leave me by myself?! I find myself with a massive headache as soon as they pop into my mind!" He continued to wear a pitiful front to gain Heather's sympathy.

Unfortunately, she did not have the slightest sympathy at all for him right now. In fact, she was quite tempted to teach him a lesson, but then she was aware that there were other more important things to deal with.

"Then, do you know them well? How should we handle this bunch of people by then? Don't tell me you haven't had a plan in your mind?!" she interrogated Leon. He seems to have already given up!

Meanwhile, he looked at Heather abashedly. "I haven't considered all these. I just thought I would deal with the situation spontaneously. I don't even know what sort of questions that bunch of A-holes would ask." He was quite indignant upon touching on his family members. Indeed, there was no love lost between him and his family.

"Are you actually sincere in working together?!" Heather looked at Leon angrily. She'd initially planned to control her emotions but unexpectedly, he had behaved as such.

She was quite angered by his lackadaisical attitude. I really don't know what's on his mind. It's such an important family dinner, but he didn't even plan for it and actually wanted to just wing it?! How naïve!

"So, you don't know anything about them. Does that mean you have no idea what they're going to talk about?" Heather seemed to have caught the gist of things.

Meanwhile, Leon awkwardly looked at her. He felt quite mortified to admit it, so he forcefully smiled. "Yes, I don't even recognize some of them. I can't even prepare for anything."

It was exactly as she had predicted. This is troublesome! "How about their details? Have you prepared their personal details?" She held onto the last shred of hope.

"I don't have their details. All of their details are encrypted and I haven't been successful in accessing them." His words dashed her hope once again. Since he'd said so, then it looked like there was no way of preparing for it then.

“I’m guessing we can only wing it tomorrow?” Heather asked in a stiff manner. She had the feeling that they were treating everything as child’s play. Our situation right now sounds like a joke!

“Yes,.” Leon nodded his head with discomfiture. In fact, it was quite mortifying to mention it out loud.

“What you’re intending to say is that we will have to wage a battle tomorrow without any armor at all,” Heather self-mockingly exclaimed. It was at this moment that she kind of regretted her decision to work with him. Can I change my mind and break this deal?!

Meanwhile, Leon’s handsome face immediately scrunched up and he looked especially pitiful. “Heather, do you remember when we first joined forces with each other? We were unbeatable in school! I’m sure we will safely get through this too!” He tried to comfort her, but she didn’t feel any better at all.

She gave a slight smile and snorted, “Hehe.” The words he spoke did not provide any comfort or relief whatsoever. “Previously, we operated a company by simulation, but I’m supposed to meet your family members as your partner now. Are these even comparable?!”

At that instance, Leon was completely at a loss for words. He knew that whatever he said, Heather would have a comeback waiting for him and he was almost convinced by her words. To put it simply, he hadn’t realized the extent of the problem.

“I would like to confirm something. Are you quite confident that we will safely get through everything tomorrow?” Heather couldn’t see a hint of anxiety on Leon’s face. He seemed to be quite composed and confident in himself.

“Yeah. I feel quite safe with you around. I trust that the old man will like you very much.” Leon placed both of his hands under his chin. He himself had tremendously liked her, so he was quite sure that there wouldn’t be anyone in this world who would dislike her.

When one was infatuated with the other, one would be under the impression that the whole world felt the same way too. However, in actual fact, it was impossible to be liked by everyone. After all, one could never have the same appeal as money.

“My guess is that he will find it quite hard for him to like me. Your family would naturally want your bride to be from a similar background so that both of your families would be well-matched with each other. Do you think our families are of similar background?” Heather revealed a realistic problem.

“A similar background?” Leon had never considered this problem in depth. He found her quite outstanding, so he assumed that his grandpa would surely like someone who was outstanding.

“Yea. You need to understand that your family is descended from European nobility. Think of the high-quality education you’ve received since you were a kid. Therefore, your other half definitely has to be someone of a similar social background and not someone like me, who hails from a corporate family background.” She wasn’t sure whether he had carefully considered this problem over the years from dating other women.

“Well, who do you reckon has a similar background with my family?” Leon couldn’t help but question her. To him, it wasn’t necessary to consider so much while getting together with someone.

His question had managed to stump Heather and she wondered, What sort of woman would be a good match for Leon? She realized that it was quite hard to answer this. After all, she wasn’t quite sure of his family background and the actual power they possessed.

It looked like he wasn’t actually trying to call a bluff. After some hesitation, she replied, “You should ask your grandpa for the definition. All I can tell you is that it definitely wouldn’t be a family like mine.”

Heather wasn’t trying to belittle her family, but the two families were vastly different from each other. If they decided to get married, then it would be very likely that both families might not approve of each other.

“The old man has never explicitly mentioned this to me, but I’ve previously talked about you in front of him and he was full of praise for you.” Leon recalled the past—he’d always mentioned Heather in front of his grandfather—and Dave had liked her very much back then. Dave couldn’t stop praising her and had even instructed him to learn from her.

“Full of praise? Was that because of my results or because of my talent at doing business?” Heather could immediately tell that he’d solely praised her because she had great results.

"Heather! You must be more confident in yourself. Even if you're not a good catch for me, you shouldn't belittle yourself this way too!" Leon mentioned quite solemnly and he didn't seem like he was trying to crack a joke.

Meanwhile, she glared furiously at him. We haven't even discussed much and he's already back to being naughty. At this moment, her expression turned solemn. He's behaving more insolently just because I've allowed him to.

"I'm not the least bit interested in you at all," Heather coldly replied. Meanwhile, Leon merely smiled at her, but in fact, he was quite hurt by her disdain.

"I know! I know! You're attracted to someone like Matthias!" He brought up Matthias' name. Most of the time, he envied Matthias for successfully gaining her affections.

After all, many had tried to win her heart but failed to do so. This was also despite Matthias and Heather's horrible initial encounter. Somehow, relationships were quite amazing in this sense where it could boggle one's mind. Two people who were initially opposing each other had ended up falling for each other. On the contrary, Leon, who'd been deeply attracted to Heather ever since he knew her, was unable to gain her affections. He didn't know what went wrong. In fact, for a period of time, he'd sensed that she had responded to his affections and started to fall for him too. Why is it so hard to have a breakthrough in our relationship?

"Don't mention anything else to me." While Heather was dealing with business, she refused to talk about anything unrelated to it. Furthermore, she didn't want to talk about Matthias because she had maintained her reservations against him.

Besides, she didn't want to talk about him with Leon. Upon Matthias' name being mentioned, she couldn't help but feel guilt. She knew that she shouldn't have done anything that would hurt his feelings, so she was quite disappointed with herself.

Leon immediately fell silent when he saw Heather's sudden darkened expression. He knew he would be courting trouble if he even dared to tease her right now. "Heather, there's really no point in discussing the family dinner tomorrow night. Why don't we talk about how the headlines should be reported?" Originally, the news was supposed to be released for today's

headlines, but it had been delayed. If it was further delayed, then it would definitely raise suspicions of fabrication during tomorrow's dinner.

"I reckon there's no use in creating a topic or scandalous news at this point. I mean, we are already walking on a tightrope. It would seem quite intentional if the news broke right before the family dinner." Heather disagreed with the suggestion of using a piece of sensational news to prove that she was in a relationship with Leon. It would seem overly intentional and could trigger suspicions.

"Then, what's your plan?" Obviously, he was agreeable to all of her suggestions.

"I don't have anything in mind. We'll have to think on our feet tomorrow," Heather rebuked Leon with his own words.

Meanwhile, he pursed his lips in response. Indeed, there's nothing we can do for the moment. Suddenly, both of them found themselves in an awkward state. They stared at each other in speechlessness without knowing what to say to the other party.

"So..." Leon paused before he spoke.

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The situation became quite tense at that moment. While Heather considered in her mind how to broach the subject with Leon, he was also trying to figure out what to do next. Both of them looked at each other while looking lost.

"Heather, as far as I'm aware, you recently seem to be overly close with a particular hotshot detective," he asked tentatively. He was considering whether he should mention it since it was something private.

Meanwhile, she was slightly taken aback before she gave him a strange look. "Looks like you've been following my tracks," she said this with a hint of annoyance.

Leon never expected Heather to say those words. I really need to be careful with my words around women. He felt like he had fallen into a trap once again. At that moment, he responded by looking at her with a dumbfounded expression "I swear I didn't secretly trail you! Heather, someone took a photo of you with the detective."

Upon hearing that, her expression slightly changed. She persisted and asked him, "When did this happen? Where's the photo?" Zayne and I are usually careful, so how did that person manage to get a photo of us?

He raised both hands and replied in fear, "Heather, please remain calm for the time being. I only took a look at it, but I didn't retain the photo."

Heather was slightly doubtful as she didn't trust Leon's words. It was hard to trust someone once they'd broken that trust. He gave an awkward smile as he noticed her distrust and he acted as if a smile could conceal everything.

"Heather, can you please trust me? There's no need for me to lie about this." He felt quite dejected at being doubted by her because it was quite an uncomfortable feeling.

She reluctantly nodded her head because she was much more concerned about the photo. "Where did you see that photo?"

Leon looked at her with a torn expression and it seemed like he had qualms about mentioning it. However, Heather's eyes bore into him and he had no choice but to speak the truth. "It was from a reporter. I don't know how he obtained that," he replied gingerly as it was something that happened a few days ago.

"Reporter? What's his name?" She continued with her interrogation and was insistent on getting a conclusive answer.

Leon looked at Heather with a slightly ugly expression. "I don't remember his name. All I can distinctly remember is his features."

After all, his answer fitted with his personality; he was the type of person who rarely remembered a person and he could at most recall the person's looks.

"Sketch it out for me. I want to seek him out." Heather felt that she should resolve this issue before the family dinner. She didn't want to encounter any blunders then.

"Heather," Leon suddenly called out her name. "That issue isn't the priority right now. We should focus on tomorrow night's family dinner," He tried to gently express his thoughts.

“You can’t provide any useful information for tomorrow’s dinner, so it’s a waste of time to continue our discussion on that.” She gave her justification since she was speaking the truth.

“Then, are we going to spend the rest of the time tracing this unknown little reporter?” A displeased Leon voiced out his thoughts since he felt that Heather had her priorities mixed up.

Meanwhile, she responded quite matter-of-factly, “This is quite important to me and it could have an adverse effect on tomorrow’s dinner.”

He looked her in the eyes. Since he was convinced by her words, he knew that he couldn’t seem to ever reject her request.

“Okay, I’ll show you where to find him.” Leon didn’t have anything urgent to do, so he decided to head with her to see the reporter since she was so mindful of that.

“Do you know where to find him?!” Heather suddenly felt slightly awkward as this hadn’t crossed her mind.

“Yes, I know his workplace. We should be able to catch him there at this hour,” he replied while he looked at the time. Tabloid reporters like that man usually worked overtime.

“Let’s go now!” Heather was suddenly full of energy. She didn’t know whether anyone else had seen the photo so she was worried about Matthias finding out. Actually, come to think of it, it doesn’t matter even if he realizes this. She wasn’t sure of the reason for her worries, but she maintained an apprehensive feeling.

“There’s no rush for that.” Leon wasn’t sure why she was so frantic. She’s normally the most level-headed one.

Heather then glared at him. Obviously, he wasn’t anxious about it, but it was a different story for her. She considered it for a moment before she decided to inform Zayne about this.

Based on Zayne’s professional acuity, he should have in fact realized this. By then, the list of suspects in Heather’s mind grew and Zayne’s name was included in it. She suspected him of hiding something from her.

After all, if Leon had lied to her easily, it would be quite plausible for others to lie to her as well. Right now, the general trust she had in people had greatly decreased.

“Leon, do you have something that you’re purposely hiding from me?” Heather was annoyed by Leon’s apparent calmness. She sensed that he was hiding something from her.

“Heather, I honestly haven’t hidden anything from you. I’ve told you everything that you need to know.” His brows were furrowed into a single line. How can I explain myself?!

“Right now, you’re rather low on my list of the people I trust,” she replied with a displeased expression. Upon recalling the things that he had done before, she felt a burst of anger

“Heather, I’ve only made one single mistake, so could you please not treat me like this?!” Leon’s expression was quite forlorn. He felt like he was banished into the dungeons with no sign of escaping at all.

“You deserve it! Think of all the things that you’ve done to me!” Heather mentioned angrily, “I used to trust you so much, but I didn’t expect you to lie to me. You made use of me and our relationship became merely a business interest in your eyes.” Her anger continued to rise as she aired her grievances and her expression turned quite savage. If looks could kill, he would have immediately dropped dead since she was quite disappointed in him.

Meanwhile, Leon was quite aware that he had mentioned the wrong thing. “I’m sorry, Heather.” Right now, other than apologizing for his bad behavior, he knew it was a wise idea to keep his mouth shut. The more he said, the more there was a chance he would be at fault.

Heather focused her eyes on his face and there were a lot of words that she wanted to say but couldn’t. She merely shook her head at him. “Stop apologizing to me. I don’t need your apology.”

Upon hearing his apology, her mood worsened. She knew that he was quite good at understanding women, so she wasn’t sure whether his apology was sincere or simply perfunctory.

“Heather, I have honestly realized my mistake. Could you please forgive me and stop being mad at me?” Leon was close to tears. Previously, he had

thought that Heather was different from the women he generally met but right now, he realized that women were essentially similar.

She didn't answer his question and was reluctant to do so. Obviously, Leon is just being perfunctory. He's not the least bit sincere.

"Get in the car." They arrived at the garage and Heather didn't want to continue wasting her time talking about irrelevant stuff with Leon.

He removed the car keys and unlocked the car. She then opened the door to the passenger seat and climbed in. Soon after that, he hopped into the car as well and by then, she had already buckled her seatbelt.

There was a slight noise being generated from the car as he started the engine. Meanwhile, Heather glanced at her watch; she was quite worried about the current traffic condition at this time of the day.

Indeed, as per her expectations, the road was quite congested. The traffic at this time of the day was horrible beyond words. She then furrowed her brows. Unfortunately, it was the peak traffic after work that they encountered and the incessant car honks increased her frustration.

"Heather, it's winter right now, but why is your temper so fiery like you're in the peak of summer?" Leon looked at the slightly testy look on Heather's face. She seems to be turning more bigoted in her ways. Furthermore, he suspected that perhaps this was her true personality.

In response, Heather shot a cold look at Leon. "Focus on your driving!" She finally understood why the cab drivers were generally quite foul-mouthed. Surely one would not be able to control their temper while being stuck in such congested traffic.

"Hey, since we're stuck here anyway, why don't I tell you a joke then?" He tried to lighten the mood, but she didn't seem to buy it.

Leon decided to continue with his jokes despite noticing her impassive look. "One day, two tomatoes went shopping together. The one in front kept turning back to talk to the tomato at the back, but the latter didn't respond. Suddenly, as the skies darkened, she finally mentioned coolly, 'I thought we're tomatoes, so we're not supposed to talk right?'"

Upon hearing his joke, Heather merely replied, “Hehe.” In actual fact, she hated gags as it just wasn’t funny to her at all. Meanwhile, he finally turned to glance at the congestion in front of him after noticing her look of annoyance. I thought it was quite funny.

“The car in front has moved,” she reminded him kindly. Actually, she was quite tempted to switch positions with him. Under such congested traffic, it was important to sneak in between cars, but his old-fashioned way of driving would obviously waste a lot of time in getting to their destination.

As soon as The Apple Gazette came to her mind, Heather couldn’t seem to control her anger. She seemed to be at odds with this tabloid ever since she returned to Bradford City, but never expected that they had the guts to secretly take photos of her.

She decided that as soon as she arrived, she would first identify the reporter to learn more about the details. Then, she would destroy the company. In fact, she harbored an intense dislike of The Apple Gazette. I wonder who gave them the guts to go against me over and over again.

“Heather, based on the snail speed we’re going at, it might take us at least two hours to get there.” Leon estimated the time. They were currently stuck in the outskirts of town and it was generally difficult to head into town at this time of the day.

“You’re exaggerating. It will take us about one hour to get there,” Heather responded while she glanced at the time. She estimated that the congested traffic would clear soon and the drive would become much easier then.

“Heather, actually there’s something else I forgot to mention.” Leon hesitated for quite a while before he decided to be honest with her.

She glanced at him and asked, “What is it?”

While slowly driving the car, he mentioned, “Actually, I’m not too sure about the reporter’s actual identity. He was the one who told me that he worked for The Apple Gazette, but I didn’t confirm that information. I was thinking earlier that if he was actually lying about it, we would be wasting our time by going there.”

Heather gave Leon a searching look. “Why are you only mentioning such a piece of important information now? I told you to sketch his looks for me!”

“You wouldn’t be able to find him right now with just a sketch!” Hr felt that her plan would take longer to execute, so it was much easier to head to The Apple Gazette to have a look for themselves.

“Zayne’s the expert in this. He’ll be able to find that reporter in the shortest possible time.” Heather wondered, Why didn’t I notice this dumb side of him before?

“I’ve tried the way you mentioned, but I couldn’t come up with any information.” In fact, Leon had previously taken a photo of the reporter and searched for him on the computer database. As his efforts were futile, this was the reason why she came to this conclusion.

Nevertheless, he no longer had the photo of the reporter on his phone; he wasn’t sure when he had deleted it, but if he hadn’t succeeded in identifying the person with an actual photo, using a sketch to search for that person sounded like an impossible mission!

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Both of them silently communicated via eye contact. At that instance, Heather found the situation quite ridiculous. How can Leon be so confident?! She then rebuked, “Zayne will figure out a better solution.”

Meanwhile, Leon did not know Zayne that well, but he reckoned that he was as good as the detective in terms of investigating someone’s background. As a result, Leon was quite sure that Zayne would not be able to find any substantial information.

“I just want the sketch from you. Stop talking so much,” she replied with an annoyed tone. “Let’s switch positions.” The congested traffic in front of them was quite frustrating and she reckoned since there was so much time to spare, she might as well ask Leon to sketch the reporter’s features.

He begrudgingly switched positions with her. It was quite awkward for them to switch positions in the car. From the outside, she looked like she was in his arms. Meanwhile, he tried hard to maneuver his position; their current poses were extremely intimate and he could feel his heart beat frantically.

Heather heard his deepened breaths by her ear and she warningly coughed twice. As such, Leon finally regained his senses because her body fragrance had previously made him feel quite lustful.

“Heather,” he spoke awkwardly.

Meanwhile, she responded coldly, “Hurry up and produce the sketch.” Then, she flung a piece of paper and a pen at him. In fact, his drawing skills were quite mediocre and added to the fact that there wasn’t much equipment available, he was quite worried that his end result would be a flop.

Leon stared at the pen in his hand and he said dejectedly, “Do you have a pencil?” At least with a pencil, I can come up with a decent graphite drawing.

Meanwhile, Heather rolled her eyes at him, “I told you to do the sketch while we were at your place, but you refused. Right now, only this pen is available and you have no other option.”

After noting her cold and indifferent tone, he felt that his life was quite miserable. It seemed that every move he made was now offensive to her.

He decided that he couldn’t allow her to persistently dislike him. As such, he took the pen in his hand and begrudgingly started on the sketch. He tried his best to come up with an accurate sketch of the person’s features; he closed his eyes and recalled the person’s looks as his hands moved deftly to sketch it.

Suddenly, the cars in front started to move. Leon freaked out slightly at the sudden movement. My sketch is nearly ruined! Meanwhile, Heather maintained her concentration on the cars in front of her unblinkingly. As for him, he resignedly looked at her side profile and lamented, Well, there’s no way I would lose my temper at her.

He couldn’t help but to remind, “Heather, can you be more careful while you’re driving? I’m sketching here.” He found that women were generally complicated beings and he realized that it was getting harder for him to comprehend what was on their minds.

She shot him a look as she realized in her heart, I was extremely rude earlier. I need him to come up with a good sketch of the reporter’s features so that we can all benefit from it. Then, she nodded in response.

Meanwhile, Leon continued his effort on his sketch. He previously didn’t pay much attention to the reporter’s looks. Now that he tried to recall it, he realized that the person had a general face that wasn’t memorable.

He now found it quite difficult to come up with a three-dimensional sketch of the reporter's features. A handsome person would leave an impressionable memory to one and the same thing applied to an exceptionally ugly person as well. However, it was exactly such an unassuming, ordinary person that one found it hard to recall any details at all when needed.

At that point, Heather noted Leon's torn expression. She stared at the piece of paper in his hands; he had sketched a figure right in the middle. She squinted and thought, Gosh, I can't believe Leon's drawing skills are worse than mine!

"Why don't you try sketching him using your phone?" She couldn't help but point that out. The drawing he produced with the pen had quite a baffling effect.

Leon's brows furrowed into a single line. "Heather, you should have suggested that earlier!" Right now, he had a faint suspicion that she was intentionally toying with him. I'm just about to complete the drawing, but now she's suggesting that I sketch using my phone?!

"I'm starting to worry about your level of intelligence," Heather mocked. He doesn't seem to be using much of his brains lately, though?

Meanwhile, he scrunched up the paper in his hands with displeasure. I can't believe I made such a silly mistake. As for her, she tried hard to stifle her laughter as she observed from the side. It was in fact an impulsive move that made her fling the paper and pen at him.

At this moment, she knew that he must have felt rather gloomy, so she considered whether to comfort him. She noticed that he had maintained his silence with a downcast face and after further consideration, she decided not to do anything.

Heather couldn't sense Leon's ulterior moves and tactics at all while she was with him. Furthermore, he kept making careless mistakes, so how could someone like him possibly cross the line and make such a drastic move?

She stared at his flawless side profile as the emotions swirled within her. Now, she was keen to have a heart-to-heart talk with him, but she no longer trusted him deep in her heart.

Meanwhile, Leon was busy sketching on his phone, so he didn't notice the complicated look in Heather's eyes. His eyebrows would usually be furrowed

whenever he was focused on work and at that moment, his hands moved swiftly as he sketched.

Leon finally grasped the technique as he found himself becoming quite adept at sketching. Soon, a portrait materialized. However, he noticed that it was different from the image in his mind, so he continued to make changes to it.

As the traffic congestion started to clear, Heather drove forward at high speed. It took some time for him to lift his head and finally, he managed to complete the sketch in his hands on his phone.

He reached out to place his phone in front of Heather, whose full concentration was on driving, and she quickly glanced at it. Then, her mouth curved into a smile. Leon's drawing skills are actually quite acceptable.

"Send that to me." She had requested for Leon to do so as she wanted to quickly send the drawing to Zayne.

"Sure," Leon responded while he clicked on the Messenger app.

While they were both abroad, their main form of contact wasn't Messenger. In fact, he had downloaded it purely because of her. Nonetheless, from his usage of the app, he had realized the convenience of the application. Besides, it was also quite convenient for him to look for a date on it.

Meanwhile, Heather drove with one hand on the steering wheel while she used her other hand to send the photo of the sketch to Zayne. She also attached a voice message with the image.

"Zayne, hurry up and find out who this person is. Apparently, he claimed that he works as a reporter for The Apple Gazette," Heather briefly summarized the details.

Meanwhile, Zayne was currently enjoying his afternoon tea despite it being almost dinnertime. He had a tendency to enjoy his leisure time.

As soon as he saw Heather's text message, he lost his mood to enjoy his tea. It was quite a sudden assignment and he had been quite free for the past couple of days.

"I must get the result by today," she said in her voice message that was sent following that.

He stared at the word must in her text with a dumbfounded expression. Investigating someone's identity isn't as easy as she thinks. It's also much more complicated if one intentionally hides their identity.

"Sure, Miss Langston. I'll try my best. You should know that I'm not exceptionally skilled at tracing work." Suddenly, Zayne missed his personal assistant because he tended to hand such jobs to the latter to handle, but now he had to deal with it himself.

Ever since he arrived in Bradford City, Zayne had been doing all sorts of tracing jobs but in fact, he was much more adept at making inferences instead. Why am I wasting my talents on tracing work?!

"Can you arrange for your personal assistant—the one who's skilled at tracing—to come to Bradford City?" Heather tried to incite his egoism by intentionally praising his personal assistant. She knew that suddenly saying this would surely trigger displeasure from him.

Indeed, as soon as he heard her words, his expression soured. Don't tell me Heather has a higher regard for Blair?! He refused to allow this to occur as he was the infamous detective after all!

"Miss Langston, I'm quite hurt by your words. Don't worry, I'll definitely investigate the true identity of that person by today!" At that instance, Zayne's fighting spirit was suddenly ignited. I'll show Blair that I can solve a mystery even without her help!"

It was out of curiosity when Leon moved closer to Heather and shot her a look. Wow! I can't believe that Zayne, the infamous detective, can be so adept at putting up a front! Heather can easily win his favor with merely a few sentences.

Soon after that, they arrived at The Apple Gazette with an anxious feeling. In her mind, she hoped that everything would proceed smoothly whereas for him, he hoped that everything was just the result of him overthinking.

Once they had parked the car, both Heather and Leon exited the car one after the other. Leon led the way in front while Heather trailed along behind him. Their expressions were quite somber, indicating that they were not to be messed with.

They then made their way into the press office. Some of the older employees recognized Heather as soon as she walked in. The past memory of the terrifying moment when she had exerted her dominance was etched in their memory and they clearly remembered how she'd nearly razed the whole building to the ground.

Heather coldly swept her eyes across the room as she met the gazes of everyone. Meanwhile, Leon sensed the tense atmosphere in the room and he whispered in her ears, "Heather, they seem to be quite frightened of you."

Heather replied softly, "I have kicked up a fuss here before."

Meanwhile, he cast his eyes across the room and he could sense the fear in everyone's eyes. What did she do to them anyway? They're so frightened of her. It must have been quite an interesting scene!

"Have you found the reporter?" She didn't want to continue the casual conversation with him as she was much more concerned about their priority.

"Nope." He was intently searching for the reporter with his eyes, but his efforts were futile. There were not that many people in the room but that unassuming face was not among them.

Heather turned to the crowd and asked, "Is everyone here today?"

A perplexed Leon glanced at her. Her words seemed to contain a trap. Meanwhile, the bunch of reporters of The Apple Gazette looked at each other in speechlessness. Perhaps, it was because no one could seem to comprehend the meaning behind her words.

"How many reporters are there in total in this company?" he asked quickly as he reckoned that it was easier to get an answer this way.

However, unfortunately, no one bothered to answer his question for a while. Heather then revealed a smile and mentioned to Leon, "Let's go and talk to their editor-in-chief!"

He felt quite embarrassed as a result. How can these people be so rude?! I mean, shouldn't they show me some response at the very least, based on my good looks?!

Heather and Leon strode directly into the chief editor's office. She pushed open the door from the outside and noticed that it was a stranger's face inside the room; this wasn't the editor-in-chief she had met the last time.

Maybe Matthias had fired the old chief editor after the previous incident, which explained why there was a new one here. At the moment, Heather and Leon had suddenly appeared and they seemed to exude an unfriendly vibe, which caused the new editor-in-chief to stare at them in confusion.

After some time, he finally realized that it was this woman here who had caused the old editor-in-chief to lose his job. He suddenly felt quite anxious as he was worried whether they had done anything to offend her again.

"Chief," Heather softly called while the new editor-in-chief felt beads of cold sweat appearing on his forehead.

"I would like to ask whether this person works for you." She unlocked her phone and showed him the picture. Although the style of drawing wasn't fine enough, it was sufficient to identify the person by their rough features.

He focused on her phone screen before he adjusted his glasses. Then, he replied with a nervous voice, "I've never seen this person."

Leon, who was next to Heather, retorted, "Look carefully!" His slightly harsh tone had increased the new editor-in-chief's anxiousness.

"I really have not seen this person!" the new editor-in-chief replied in frustration. Who's this handsome young man anyway?

Heather shot a disappointed look at Leon. Looks like that person was lying after all. Perhaps he's not a reporter at all. Meanwhile, he couldn't hide his frustration either. Another dead end again! I wonder how Zayne is doing with his investigation.

Her only hope now was on Zayne. She stared at the photo on her phone and thought, This sketch should be sufficient, right?

Meanwhile, all of the employees at The Apple Gazette kept their eyes on the editor-in-chief's office. Somehow, everyone felt like Heather was here to create a scene. She finally walked out of the room and everything seemed quite calm and peaceful. There wasn't any sign of disagreement from her.

At that point, Heather glanced coldly at the people waiting around to catch the commotion. The room suddenly turned silent and everyone lowered their heads to focus on their work on hand. She had disliked such nosy people and she coldly snorted at them before turning her back to leave the place.

Leon followed closely behind her. Meanwhile, the skies had already darkened and the time seemed to zoom past when they both entered the car. However, she slightly hesitated before she slid into the driver's seat. He was lost in his thoughts as he tried hard to recall the details of that person.

"We've hit another dead end. Our best bet is our hotshot detective then," he casually mentioned.

By that point, Heather was also dispirited as she stared at him and answered, "How about we head over and see Zayne now? He might need some help."

Leon found her suggestion quite unbelievable. She's actually bringing me to see Zayne?! I thought she wanted to keep his whereabouts a secret?!

"You should try and recall as much as you can while I'll drive us there now," she elaborated as she did not want to delay the matter. That was the reason why she was extremely keen to head over to Zayne's place as soon as possible.

Heather didn't give Leon a chance to rebuke her. It now seemed that going to see Zayne was the only move they could make. In fact, Leon was quite reluctant to meet Zayne, but since she was the one who initiated the suggestion to see Zayne, Leon could only force himself to agree to it.

Standing before Love Chapter 668

Although Leon was aware that Heather had been privately keeping in contact with Zayne recently, he had no idea where Zayne currently was. While they were on the way, Leon stared at the scenery outside with curiosity and he noticed that the route they took was further away from town.

The route they took looked much more remote than his mansion. In fact, there were plenty of places to hide in the outskirts of Bradford City and it certainly wasn't an easy feat to locate someone.

“This is quite secluded and not many people would make their way here.” Leon wondered why he had never chosen to search for a place here to stay, especially when he loved the style of houses here.

“You’ve been giving comments all this while. Don’t you find it amusing?” Heather had to bear with his verbosity throughout the whole journey. How can he come up with many flighty thoughts all of a sudden?!

He laughed out loud. “I didn’t want you to feel awkward.” Previously, when they were together, there was no awkward moment at all despite not saying a word to each other. However, the current awkwardness was quite hard to bear.

“By the way, don’t you think that your incessant chatter is rather awkward as well?” As she was still upset with Leon, she vented at him as well.

Meanwhile, upon hearing Heather’s words, he was rather abashed. He scratched the back of his head while looking quite lost. It seemed that she was the only one who would be able to render him into such a state. However, as he hadn’t realized his problem up until now, it made her annoyed.

“Heather, does Zayne live in this area?” Leon tried to change the topic as he surveyed the area while standing at the entrance of the housing estate.

“Hey! You’ll be mistaken as a thief by the security guards if you keep behaving like that!” Heather approached him and tugged on his sleeve because she could no longer tolerate his embarrassing behavior.

Meanwhile, Leon stared innocently at Heather. “Heather, I didn’t even do anything!” He reckoned that his good looks would give him indemnity where obviously no one would regard him as a thief.

She shot a disdainful look at him. “If you have a mirror in front of you now, I’m sure you’d be able to see your furtive look right now!”

Leon immediately reached out for his phone and switched on his front-facing camera. Then, he stared at his reflection on the phone. I’m as good-looking as before! There’s no hint of furtiveness! He was quite keen to talk to her about life in general.

However, Heather had already left without making a sound. She walked in front and left him trailing far behind her. Seeing this, he hurriedly rushed up to her. "Heather, wait up! Don't leave me behind!"

She didn't even bother to turn around to look at him. Luckily, his legs were long enough for him to quickly catch up with her. When he was about to say something, she interrupted, "Shh! Keep quiet!"

Leon hadn't even said anything, but upon hearing Heather's words, he was forced to swallow his words. He noticed that she shuffled around each block, but he wasn't sure what she was trying to achieve. "Heather, do you know which block he's staying at?" he asked with curiosity. She's behaving in such a strange manner. Surely, she has to explain what's going on to me!

"I'm just worried that we have been followed here by someone," Heather carefully replied as she had enough of being trailed by the press.

In fact, she felt quite frustrated in regard to her whereabouts being tracked. Why am I always followed by someone or secretly photographed each time I have some private matters to deal with?!

"Heather, what you're doing right now is useless," he replied solemnly.

Trailing after a person was a skill and if someone was adept at it, they definitely would not be confused by Heather's current manner of throwing them off. Leon patted her on the back and sincerely advised, "Heather, the other party is hiding behind us while we're out in the open. It's easy to overcome any outright moves directed at us, but it's the tactics behind our backs that we can't prevent. We should just behave naturally and head inside to see Zayne."

Heather stared at him with caution. He sounds quite wise. Shortly after that, she nodded at him. "Alright then, let's go in to see Zayne right away."

Leon felt quite relieved to hear her words. Phew, finally, there's no need to continue walking around in circles! She seems to be quite foolish lately.

She led him to the first block. Zayne was a big fan of the number one, so he chose to stay at block one and his apartment number was 101. Because of that, she had previously made snide remarks about it.

Upon arriving at Zayne's doorstep, Leon had slight reservations about entering. At this moment, Heather noticed his strange expression and asked, "Don't tell me you're feeling nervous?!"

He responded by shaking his head. "It's because the mystery is about to be revealed, so one would naturally behave quite out of the ordinary at this point." He reckoned that his curiosity would soon be satiated and he couldn't help but laugh in excitement.

"You're quite a big fan of Zayne!" Heather recalled that he had high regard for Zayne a few years ago and this thought suddenly popped into her mind.

"Well, I did look up information about him to get to know him more when I was younger," Leon responded as he reminisced about his sophomore year of high school. At that time, he was quite impressed with Zayne and had purposely gone to look for the latter.

Unfortunately, Zayne had left the location moments before Leon had arrived, so the two of them were unable to cross paths with each other. Leon currently had an indescribable feeling of being able to meet Zayne in such close proximity.

"Star-struck?" Heather had struck a chord, which caused Leon's expression to turn. It was such childish behavior and he felt quite awkward now that he reminisced about it.

"Hehe! There's no need to feel shy. It's not a big deal!" she teased. Back then, Leon was still a kid when Zayne had gained worldwide recognition, so it was natural for him to look up to Zayne.

Heather knocked on the door and it took some time before Zayne opened it from the inside. As soon as the door was opened, Leon felt his breathing slow down. He glanced at Zayne with a nervous expression; the latter was currently dressed in loungewear as he was in the midst of brushing his teeth. Zayne was like the regular middle-aged neighbor from next door, which was completely different from what Leon had imagined.

"Miss Langston, you have such perfect timing! I was just brushing my teeth!" Zayne said inaudibly with a toothbrush in his mouth.

Meanwhile, Heather found Leon's shock to be rather amusing. Truth be told, it was arduous to link Zayne to the man in front of them as the same person

because not many people realized that Zayne was in fact quite a comical character.

“Zayne, have you solved the assignment I gave you?” Upon seeing Zayne, Heather immediately interrogated him. Her expression seemed to imply that he had been slacking off at his job.

At this moment, he smiled to appease her and replied, “The day hasn’t ended yet, so is it necessary to come over to call me out?!” He had completely overlooked the handsome young man standing next to her.

This was the first time that Leon had ever experienced the feeling of being ignored. My looks can usually attract everyone’s attention, regardless of gender and age! So, it was unexpected that Zayne didn’t even bother to say a word to him.

After Heather and Leon had walked into the apartment one after the other, Zayne finally turned his attention to Leon. However, soon after that, he redirected his gaze at her and asked, “Why did you bring Leon along?”

Zayne knew who Leon was after all. Leon didn’t expect that he wouldn’t even have the chance to introduce himself, which made it a hard pill for him to swallow.

“I brought him along to provide you with more clues.” Heather pursed her lips. She behaved as if she was the lady of the house and plopped down on the couch lazily.

Meanwhile, Leon stood there unmoving like a mountain. As a result, Zayne shot a perplexed look at him and immediately made the connection. “Were you the one who produced the sketch?”

Leon nodded. His childhood idol was indeed quite extraordinary as he had quickly connected the dots. Armed with this knowledge, Leon felt quite excited—as if he had regained his childhood passion.

“Your drawing skills have room for improvement,” Zayne responded with disdain as he had a hard time deciphering the sketch. Furthermore, the person in the sketch had an ordinary face, which further complicated the investigation.

At that moment, Heather couldn't contain her laughter by the side. She found Zayne and Leon's interaction quite amusing. She'd previously envisioned this scene in her mind, but she never expected that it would be realized.

"Gosh." Leon sighed as he had no idea how to initiate a conversation with Zayne.

"In the past, did you purposely fly from Italy to Japan just to meet me?" Zayne brought up the past that Leon was quite reluctant to recall.

At that instance, Leon was mortified. Heather had mentioned that particular event earlier when they were at the entrance and now Zayne did the same thing too. Great! This incident will probably be immortalized forever!

"Hahaha..." Heather burst out in laughter. This is too comical! These two silly billies make everything much more comical when they're together!

At this moment, Zayne shot her a look of annoyance. "Are you here to supervise my work or to be a spectator of a joke?" He was extremely offended by her attitude. What's so funny about the conversation between me and Leon anyway?

"I can't help it. The chemical reaction you guys produce when you're together is just way too explosive! This is so funny!" It had been ages since she'd laughed out loud. Suddenly, she realized that she was no longer as tense as before after a good laugh.

"Hey! What are you on about?! How can there be a chemical reaction between us?! We're both of the same gender!" Leon retorted sternly as he insisted on maintaining his masculinity.

Zayne, who was standing by Leon's side, was clearly aware that it was important to uphold their position as red-blooded males at this moment. "Miss Langston, watch your words. There are some things that you can't joke around on."

At that moment, Heather curled up in bed as she knew that the best solution now was to keep her mouth shut and remain silent. She lifted her brows at the two men and shot a perverse look at them.

At this moment, Zayne and Leon stared at each other in speechlessness. Both of them couldn't believe that she was behaving as such, so they decided

to ignore her. Next, Zayne turned to Leon and said, "Let's head into the bedroom. My tools are in there."

As soon as she heard those words, Heather couldn't control her perverse thoughts and she couldn't help but interrupt, "The tools are inside. Oh, I didn't realize that you guys preferred using tools." At that moment, she no longer maintained her regal, lady-like look and she behaved exactly like a hooligan. Moreover, she purposely emphasized the word "tool".

In response, Zayne turned around to glare furiously at her. I'm 100 percent straight! I'm frustrated with the way she is teasing me.

A helpless Leon took a step forward. He knew that if they continued to react to Heather's teases, it would definitely worsen, so he naturally dragged Zayne away with him too.

Both men entered the bedroom one after the other. The room looked quite cold and devoid of any human touch. While there were two rooms in this apartment, one of them was mainly used for work while the other was the actual bedroom.

In the room, there were multiple appliances in the room and the most eye-catching one was a single desktop. It was such a surprise that Zayne still used a desktop for work, but that was also understandable because it was much more professional to use a desktop. The only downside was that it would be hard to carry around.

"Leon, I trust that your computing skills are great." Zayne seemed to know a great deal about Leon.

"It's average," Leon responded with humility.

Then, Zayne patted Leon on the back. "There's no need to be modest. I suppose you're currently at the level of a hacker."

In fact, Zayne was quite happy to have Leon over because he was in need of a hacker's help now. With Leon's help, Zayne was confident that it would simplify his work of deciphering the reporter's identity.

"How can I help?" Leon caught the hint and realized that Zayne was requesting his help.

Meanwhile, Zayne beamed widely at Leon. As soon as Leon noted Zayne's smile, Leon deduced that the following task that he was about to do would definitely be difficult. At that instance, he realized that Zayne and Heather were quite similar in terms of their cunning behavior. Not to mention, the way they smiled was terrifying.

"I'll leave this desktop in your hands then." Zayne's computing skills were not as good as Leon's, but he was mainly skillful at figuring out different solutions. He could come up with some tricky ways that usually came as a surprise to most people.

Leon sat silently in front of the computer and switched it on. The desktop powered on at lightning speed, making it obvious that the device would be quite efficient for him to complete the work.

"So, what's next?" he asked as he wanted to know the job details.

"Next, you just have to follow my instructions." Zayne didn't plan to reveal everything at one go to Leon. There seemed to be an inexplicable, mysterious vibe behind Zayne's smile.

"Zayne, have you been in Taiwan all these years?" Leon asked out of curiosity. Since I have the chance to meet him, I might as well get him to answer all the questions that I had from the past.

"Is my whereabouts so concerning? Why are you curious about that?" Zayne's blunt reply resulted in an embarrassed Leon.

"Well, I merely thought that you were quite inactive on an international level throughout the years."

Over the years, Zayne had indeed kept a low profile and he'd led a completely different life to what Leon had predicted back then.

Standing before Love Chapter 669

The encounter did not transpire as per Leon's expectations and he was quite disappointed as a result. Nonetheless, he realized that disappointment was a common thing one encountered in life, so he didn't remain dejected for long.

Zayne had noticed everything and stared at Leon for some time before he spoke, "Perhaps it's because I haven't had to personally deal with many cases over the years."

Leon couldn't help but curve his lips into a smile as soon as he heard Zayne's reply. After all, he had grasped Zayne's dark sense of humor.

"I think so too." The topic had ended with Zayne's answer. Leon didn't continue to pursue the matter as he felt that he should respect Zayne's privacy. Zayne's private life had nothing to do with him anyway.

Both of them busied themselves with their own tasks tacitly while Heather remained outside the room. She stared at the tightly shut door with a look of realization, Looks like it was a good idea to bring Leon with me. I should have known that it would be perfect to get them to work together!

Leon's outstanding computing skills are exactly what Zayne needs! She smiled self-mockingly. How could I have overlooked something so simple?! I don't even know what's going on with me lately! Most people reckoned that someone in love would usually end up behaving in a foolish manner. With that in mind, she asked herself, Is it actually because of my relationship?!

Heather's attention was suddenly disrupted by the soft sound of her cell phone ringing. The sound was an indication that she had received a notification on Messenger and it was only yesterday that she'd intentionally chosen this ringtone.

She thought that it would be Matthias on the other end, but as soon as she clicked into Messenger, surprisingly, it was the strange old man who had contacted her before.

'Miss, have you resolved that frustrating incident you had?' For some reason, she was slightly annoyed by that man's blunt question.

She didn't like someone taking such a close interest in her personal life and even felt that there was something odd with him. However, she couldn't quite decipher his true identity at the moment.

'Why are you so concerned about my personal matters?' Heather replied in a rude manner. He was the one who spoke bluntly first!

Meanwhile, he wrote almost instantaneously, 'It's because you're the new owner of the wooden sword that I treasure the most. That's why I feel like I'm obliged to help you endure your difficult moments.'

Heather could catch a hint of pity from his voice, which triggered her even further. I don't need pity or compassion! No one has the right to treat me like that!

'Difficult moments?! Perhaps I have a different comprehension of the situation then. I don't think that I'm going through a difficult life at the moment!' She couldn't control her annoyance toward this con artist whom she reckoned was just trying hard to gain recognition.

She was prepared to delete his contact right there and her tone of voice turned quite cold with a hint of anger when the other party replied calmly, 'Do you believe in fate?'

While staring at the old man's message, Heather couldn't help but think, This is dumb! It's as if he's asking whether I know the company Amway?! Obviously, yes!

She vehemently refused to answer such a pointless question and reckoned that it made more sense to block this person's contact. Somehow, she didn't even know why but she'd approved this stranger's contact because of the wooden sword.

However, Heather now reckoned that she should delete him from her contact list. As she was careful with maintaining her privacy, she disliked having strangers on her Messenger.

Before she could even do so, he quickly sent another message. 'Your best friend is currently experiencing an ordeal, but you can only watch as she suffers. This feeling of yours has completely destroyed all the self-confidence you once had.' He mentioned this sagely, which stopped her in her action of blocking him.

'Best friend'. Heather stared at those two words and she suddenly felt an unexplainable sense of fear. He must be quite a character!

She was about to inform Zayne about this, but before she did so, she quickly replied, 'Why are you saying this to me?' She had tried writing inconspicuously to prevent the recipient from realizing the issue with her

words. Now, she was full of curiosity as she realized that it was something that could no longer be justified as sixth sense.

After Heather had knocked on the door, Zayne opened the door from the inside within seconds. In the room, Leon's eyes were fixated on the computer screen as his fingers whizzed deftly on the keyboard.

She was about to say something when Zayne placed a finger on his lips to signal for her to remain silent as he shook his head at her. He indicated for her to talk outside the room.

Both of them walked out of the room one after the other and left Leon, who was currently focused on his work, in peace. Meanwhile, Zayne crossed his arms in front of him and stared at Heather; he was quite confused at her sudden disruption of his work.

"Heather, do you have a question you want to ask?" He noticed that she seemed to be lost and he was quite keen to know what was troubling her.

In response, she gave him a rather forced smile. "Do you believe in Metaphysics?" She used to scoff at Metaphysics and he was clearly aware of that, which was why he found it strange for her to suddenly ask about this.

"Metaphysics? I'm half-convinced." Zayne generally maintained an idle observing attitude toward Metaphysics; he had never personally experienced it, so he couldn't confidently state its non-existence.

"Let me show you this conversation." Heather took out her phone and placed it in front of him as she said those words. She clicked on the conversation she had with that man to show him with the hopes that he would be able to analyze the situation for her.

Zayne immediately took her phone in his hands and quickly scanned through their conversation. After that, he stared at her with a confused expression. "What does this have to do with Metaphysics?" He could not find any link to Metaphysics at all from their entire conversation.

"Not long ago, I was browsing at the flea market and he gifted me with a wooden sword. Since I don't like to receive gifts, I insisted on paying the market price for it," she briefly explained to him.

Meanwhile, he rubbed his chin and asked, “So, this is the guy who gave you the wooden sword? Do you mean to say that there is a link to Metaphysics because of the wooden sword?” He revealed a smile, but it was quite obvious that he was dumbfounded. “My darling Heather, you must be extremely tense lately. There’s nothing wrong with your conversation, so please don’t overthink everything,” he comforted since he knew what was on her mind and he immediately dismissed it.

“Then, what is his motive?” Heather calmly rebuked. Although she remained quite wary about the situation, once her suggestion was dismissed by someone, she would contrarily turn to the other side and insist on her thoughts.

Zayne returned her cell phone back to her. “Your best friend is currently going through multiple ordeals. This sentence itself could refer to anything at all or it could be just a gimmick to lure you in. It’s quite common for con artists to say that. As for the next sentence, you can only watch on as she suffers—I mean seriously?! Then, tell me, what’s all this right now?! You’re frantically rushing here and there to resolve the problem. As far as I can see, you’re not standing idly and watching her suffer! Well, as for the last sentence that he mentioned about your self-confidence being affected, this is all just a psychological deduction on his part, so there’s no need for you to take all this to heart.”

He patiently explained everything to Heather as he felt that those words from the old man had meant nothing. Besides, she was a whiz at psychology studies, which made Zayne believe that she wouldn’t be shaken by a few ambiguous sentences.

“I get your point. I understand that scientifically speaking, all of his words are a strong indication that he is playing a psychological game. I suspect that he might even be fully aware of my identity, which is why he intentionally prepared all these words to get closer to me after the previous encounter in order to trick me.” Heather analyzed the situation based on her knowledge of psychology. She was able to figure things out herself; however, she needed a detective’s hunch rather than a psychological point of view now.

Zayne had immediately caught the gist of things. In response, he revealed an awkward smile. “Heather, I hardly depend on my hunch even when solving mysteries.” Meanwhile, he wasn’t sure why she was so mindful of a con artist. Don’t tell me she’s so easily swayed nowadays?!

“Look at the last message.” She handed over her phone to him once again. It was moments earlier that the other party had sent a long text in reply to her previous question.

He focused his attention on the phone; there were a bunch of words packed closely together and it looked slightly blurred.

‘I told you that our encounter was part of fate. I experienced countless ordeals when I was young and I was also once tormented by the fact that I couldn’t help my best friend. At that time, the guilt overwhelmed me and shattered my self-confidence. Back then, I didn’t manage to save my friend, so I really wish that you’ll succeed in helping your friend. Otherwise, you’ll surely regret this for the rest of your life.’ That person had tried to cajole Heather by returning to the topic of ‘best friend’ and continued to convince her from there.

Upon reading that message, Zayne frowned and was quite disdainful. “This person’s out of his mind!” That guy’s spouting all sorts of nonsense! What the heck!

Meanwhile, she stared at him. Her sixth sense told her that things were clearly not what they seemed to be, but she was struggling with her logical thoughts. Evidently, her logic indicated that the sender of the messages was clearly insane!

“Forget about it. I believe he must have some ulterior motive, but let’s just wait and see since I can’t seem to figure out what’s behind his back right now.” She decided against deleting the person’s contact.

He suddenly jeered, “Are you sure you’re not going to delete this person’s contact?” He was keen to do it on her behalf and remove this person who spouted endless nonsense.

“No, it’s actually quite interesting.” She revealed a relaxed smile as she pretended that nothing had happened since she didn’t want to disrupt the initially comfortable atmosphere.

Heather then took her phone from Zayne and deleted the entire conversation she had with that man. Out of sight, out of mind! She didn’t want to continue the topic with that person because she was quite sure that she wouldn’t be able to stop herself from deleting him or blocking him otherwise.

Meanwhile, Zayne had no idea what was on her mind. Actually, he realized that she was no longer the same Heather he remembered from their reencounter.

Not only did Leon feel that her emotional intelligence had significantly decreased, even Zayne reckoned that she'd flushed her brains down the drain. Overall, she seemed to behave in a stranger manner; she was no longer a force to reckon with in the corporate world.

"You should continue with your work. I want to know the person's identity by tonight!" It was something that she insisted since it sounded like she would not head to sleep until he deciphered that person's identity.

"Hey, I could also find out the identity of that old man while I'm doing this!" Zayne willingly volunteered for the job.

"That would be great!" A pleased Heather smiled at him. In fact, she had the exact same notion in her mind, so it was just perfect that he'd volunteered for it.

"Hand me your phone. I need to take a look at his details." He turned to her.

"Sure." She handed over her phone and noticed that he suddenly smiled at such an odd interval.

At that moment, Zayne had her phone in his hands and it wasn't long before he walked off into the room with the item. Then, the door slammed shut.

Suddenly, Heather slightly regretted her decision. I can't believe I handed Zayne my phone?! Why does everything seem so surreal?!

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After taking Heather's phone with him, Zayne's facial expression slightly changed. Leon, who was busy, raised his head to look at Zayne and saw her phone in his hands.

She had never allowed people to touch a personal belonging such as her phone, so he was curious as to how Zayne managed to have her phone.

When Zayne had noticed Leon's gaze, he gave an honest smile, which made Leon confused. However, this was not Leon's main concern. As the search

was about to come to an end, he quickly returned his focus to the laptop again.

Zayne walked to his working desk and placed the phone on the table. He looked at the profile picture of the person on Messenger, which was a picture of a wooden sword. The person seemed to love wooden swords.

He quickly clicked into the man's Facebook profile and immediately saw a link that would bring the viewer to motivational pages. Zayne's expression slightly changed because after perusing the entire profile, he could not locate any pictures whatsoever.

His face darkened. If there were photos, it would be easier for him to track. However, since there were no photos at all, it would be more troublesome with just a Messenger account.

When he shot a glance at Leon, he noticed that Leon was close to tracking their target. Not wanting to be too slow, Zayne quickly started on his work as well.

Both of them were like opponents in an online game with their tapping keyboards being the only sounds in the room. Even though he was not excellent at tracking people down, he was not someone who would easily admit defeat either.

As long as he could track this person on Messenger, he would not lose the game. He thought about the various different techniques that his assistant had used to track people down.

When he first talked to Leon, Zayne had his reservations. He would show his capabilities this time around and learn more about the true identity of that old man.

Soon enough, Zayne used a trick to obtain the pictures of the person on Facebook. Even though it was only a few pictures, it was enough for him.

He looked at the old man who was stroking his beard in the picture. It was a decent-looking man, but even up until now, Zayne was confident that he was a scammer.

How do I prove that I'm moving forward with the investigation? Through the pictures, he quickly discovered the old man's identity. It was not the complete

information about his background as the one listed in the profile section was limited.

Upon seeing the limited information, Zayne felt troubled. because it was not an easy task for him to unearth more information that lay underneath. It was only now that the real task had started as he copied the information that he discovered.

On the surface, the man's identity seemed to match with Heather's description. It was just that Zayne was unclear whether the man had secretly done some illegal activities or not.

He believed that many ordinary people were hiding under the hood of the peaceful society. Since many of their crimes were not even recorded, he could only make some deductions based on the clues that he found.

The old man looked like he was a law-abiding citizen, but in reality, Zayne did not believe that he was merely an ordinary citizen. That old man must have done something that no one else knew about.

Call it a detective's instinct or whatnot, but the old man's picture and behavior had made Zayne suspicious. In reality, he had studied a bit of physiognomy that often brought upon some unexpected effects when he was trying to find the root of a case.

The old man's face made him quite uncomfortable. With a face like his, it was impossible that he was just an ordinary citizen, which created more suspicion about his identity. Of course, Zayne cared more about the evidence. He would not simply give any conclusions based on the old man's looks without further evidence.

While he was still troubled about the old man's life, Leon had already tracked the person who proclaimed himself as a reporter, based on the methods that Zayne told him. Leon stared at the picture fixedly—the man looked exactly like how Leon had remembered him..

In the picture, the man had a pair of morose eyes that looked exactly the same as he was in real life. Leon had already noticed that the man's eyes had a different expression from an ordinary person back then.

Then, he stood up from his chair. After spending such a long time tracking the person in complete focus, his entire body became sore. It was better for him

to walk around every hour when he was working at the computer for that period of time.

Hence, Leon was quite impressed by programmers who had to face the computer for such a long time, but there were also many cases of them suddenly dropping dead.

“I’m done,” he spoke as he stretched his body while walking over to Zayne.

Once again, his gaze fell on Heather’s phone again. Up until now, she had never entered the room to take her phone back and it seemed that she trusted Zayne a lot.

After all, a phone would contain a lot of private information. On top of that, Zayne was a detective. It was reasonable that one would feel anxious if he had obtained their phones. Upon seeing that Zayne was still busy, Leon did not utter another word and instead sat next to him and quietly watched him.

Leon liked the pair of eyes that Zayne had. Like his compatriots, he also had dark black irises. While Leon had met many people with black irises, it was rare to come across someone with completely black irises like Zayne’s.

Zayne’s irises were as dark as night and it was a color that Leon loved the most. Even Heather did not have such eyes.

Leon had once observed her eyes, which were slightly brown. Of course, her eyes could not be compared to anyone else and he had also loved it. However, in comparison, he would have much preferred Zayne’s eyes.

By the time Zayne had noticed Leon, Leon was already looking at his eyes for a long time. After noticing the curious look in Leon’s eyes, Zayne squinted. “What’s wrong?”

Unable to help himself, Leon blurted out his thoughts. “Why do you have such dark black eyes?”

Upon hearing that, Zayne smiled, not expecting him to ask such a question. After rubbing his nose, he replied, “My eyes are different from the average adult. I have a pair of black eyes that makes me look like a child and it’s probably the facial feature I’m most proud of.”

Leon firmly nodded in agreement to Zayne's words. "Yes, they are as dark as night. I love them."

When Zayne heard Leon's compliments, he was over the moon. With a nod of his head, he added, "Actually, many kids have such eyes. So, people would feel more simple and pure when they look at eyes like mine." The topic had aroused his interest, so he explained more to Leon.

This scene made Zayne recall the first time he met Heather and she had also mentioned his eyes back then. It was the same type of observations that both she and Leon had shared.

"Yes, they are gorgeous, so much so that I can't even describe what I feel." Leon could not find any adjectives to describe Zayne's eyes as words failed him.

"Actually there are many people who have similar eyes like mine." Zayne, however, did not feel that it was a special thing because in fact, he preferred blue eyes.

Leon shook his head. "I don't think so. The black in your eyes is not something an ordinary person could compare with." He thought that it was the greatest part about seeing Zayne in real life.

Zayne merely smiled without saying anything else. Since he had not finished his task, he threw himself back into the investigation. He was quite stubborn most of the time and his nature was both an advantage and a disadvantage to his job. It made him persevere to find out the truth, but it also led him to dead ends.

While looking at the old man's photograph, Leon assumed that Zayne was investigating this person. Even though Zayne did not know who this man was, he seemed to treat him with importance.

"I'm heading outside first. I'm worried that Heather might become bored from waiting outside." As he sensed the slight awkwardness in the room, Leon felt that it was better to accompany Heather outside.

When he walked out of the room, he saw Heather asleep on the couch and removed his sweater. As he gently walked toward her, he covered her body with his sweater..

Even though he was being gentle and light, she still woke up as a result of his actions. With a pair of dazed eyes, she greeted, “Leon.” Her voice was quite thick as she had just woken up.

“Heather, are you tired?” Leon could understand the fatigue she had been feeling for the past few days.

“No.” She immediately rose from the couch and the sweater slid from her body.

He reacted quickly and caught it, but he did not know why she was being stubborn. Nevertheless, this was her character—she was a stubborn person who would never admit defeat.

“Heather, I already discovered the person.” Leon told her this piece of good news.

“You’re pretty quick,” she commented as she looked at her watch. If I knew that Leon could reach this stage after being instructed by Zayne, I should have brought him over sooner.

“I bet you can’t guess his true identity.” Leon was trying to make her curious about it. His tone seemed slightly prideful amidst his childishness, as if he was still a child, but he had always been like this.

“Of course I can’t.” Heather was in no mood to play games with him and she only wanted him to quickly reveal the truth.

“He’s an American and he always accepts jobs that are associated with photography abroad. Logically speaking, he should be in the United States right now. I think the reason for him being here is because a local had hired him.” Leon deduced that the man was hired by someone to Bradford City to follow her and take pictures of her.

“Your deduction seems reasonable, but why did he show you that picture?” Heather thought that it was extremely weird. It was as if the enemy had deliberately tried to reveal himself.

“I have no idea either. Perhaps Zayne can uncover the reason.” It was better for Zayne to continue the work from where Leon had left off since he was only responsible for tracking that person down.

“In that case, we might need to wait. He is probably still investigating another person for me.” With that, Heather looked at the tightly shut door. There was no movement in the room—it seemed like Zayne had encountered some difficulties.

“You asked him to investigate an old man?” Leon asked with curiosity. He could not imagine why a person like an old man would have a connection with Heather.

“Yeah, he’s a weird old man.” She stopped after the brief explanation. She did not want to divulge too much information to Leon and she would not tell anyone the full picture either.

Leon was intelligent enough to know about this. Upon seeing that she refused to explain further, he changed the subject. “Heather, it seems like you encountered many things over the past few days.”

Heather raised her head to look into his eyes as the invisible barrier still stood between them. Many things simply could not return to the past and she could only swallow what she wanted to say.

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The atmosphere was making them both feel bad. While Leon was uncomfortable with Heather not telling him everything, he could not even complain about it because he knew that he deserved it.

He now slightly regretted his decision to accompany her here. He felt that she might be even more comfortable being alone and that his presence had made her feel confined.

Meanwhile, Heather shifted her gaze elsewhere. In the past, she had been the most at ease when she was with him, but now, Leon’s figure was like a heavy stone that rested upon her heart. The barrier between them really ruined their friendship.

Both of them hoped that Zayne could quickly walk out of the room to resolve the awkwardness between them while Leon constantly looked at the door.

Without a phone in her hands, Heather could not even find something to pass the time. Looking at the huge television in the living room, the only remaining

option for her to salvage the awkwardness hangin in the air was to switch the device on.

Leon had initially lowered his head to look at his phone. Upon hearing the sound of the television, he turned to look at it—there was an advertisement playing at this moment.

After he noticed that her eyes were glued on it, he shot a gaze at her from the corner of his eyes. When he saw her attentiveness, he felt even more ashamed of himself.

Even though Leon did not think that his previous actions had badly hurt her, Heather's subsequent attitude made him feel really remorseful. The relationship that he spent so long to nurture was destroyed easily just like that.

He felt that he should take the initiative to do something. After he thought about it, he walked to her and sat down beside her without much space between them.

He could even smell the fragrance from her body, but he could also feel her stiffen.

"Heather, I used to think that what I did was not a big deal. It's only now that I realize how wrong I was," he spoke in a low voice that had a tinge of sorrow.

"Do you really think that you are wrong?" Heather gently asked Leon as she still did not see an earnest remorse in his eyes.

He nodded. "Heather, I think I've done something that I should have never done. I seem to have destroyed our friendship and your trust in me." When he recalled the huge effort he had thrown in back then, he hated himself. After a pause, he continued, "I spent such a long time nudging you to open up to me. I've even wasted all the hard work I did in the past."

After hearing Leon's words, Heather felt slightly wistful. She had no idea what to tell him and his current behavior made her ask herself whether she was being too sensitive. She somehow thought of Myra at this moment. Back then, I did such an awful thing to her and destroyed her first love. What I did was much worse than Leon's actions.

Heather considered whether she should forgive him. Now that they were in a crisis, she felt that she should not have an argument with him at this moment.

Thinking about how well he had treated her back then, her resolve wavered even more.

“Don’t think too much into it. We are still friends. It’s just that we have different bottom lines and different perceptions on things,” she consoled. In fact, she could understand why Leon would do something like that—in his world, doing such a thing would not hurt their friendship at all.

“Heather, I thought I’ve already lost you,” Leon responded as he looked into her eyes while trying to distinguish the truth in her words.

“No, it’s just that I need more time.” When Heather heard his sad words, she felt awful about it and somehow remembered Matthias. I always have so many rules that hurt those around me. I also test their bottomlines often, but I always push the blame on others.

“Heather, I know it’s going to be difficult for you to accept this, but I really know where I messed up now. Can you please don’t give up on me?” Leon even stretched out his hands to grab her arm like a child.

She did not push him away, but she did not know what to tell him as she looked at him. She saw the panic in his eyes and knew that she had really shocked him this time around.

They were so focused on their conversation topic that they did not realize Zayne’s arrival to the point where they never heard him opening the door. Looking at their weird posture, he could not help but frown.

In fact, he was quite curious about the relationship that the two of them had. It was too close to say that they were just friends, but it was way overboard to say that they were lovers.

He touched his beard as he thought about it. Logically speaking, such a situation would not happen to Heather and it was true that he could not even see a hint of romantic interest in her eyes.

On the other hand, it was obvious that Leon had suppressed his deep love for her. Even though he hid it well underneath his eyes, Zayne quickly saw through him.

Zayne joked, “Am I disturbing the both of you?”

Leon finally released his grip on Heather. Even though he was usually thick-skinned, he felt slightly embarrassed at this moment. The way he looked earlier was just too humiliating.

She also shifted her body to keep a distance from him. After all, it seemed rather inappropriate to have such intimate behavior with him in front of Zayne.

Zayne also went to the couch and sat on the other side next to Heather. Then, he took the remote and switched to another channel. Tilting his head, he asked, "Why do you like to watch advertisements? Why do we even switch on the television? It's all because of the prime time series at eight."

With that, he changed the channel to one that was airing a television series. While she had no interest in television series, he had enjoyed it a lot.

A detective series was being played on the screen. Leon did not expect for Zayne to like detective series as many of them were so exaggerated that they were different from reality. Because of that, he thought Zayne would regard these films in disdain.

"Heather, it's not cute for a girl who dislikes television series," Zayne continued to tease her.

However, she merely replied coldly, "Did you find out about the person I asked you to investigate?"

Upon hearing that, he shrugged. "I've found him, but there are no criminal offences. I just think that he looks quite different, as if he is hiding something." He still had not found any concrete evidence to accurately prove his suspicions.

"I don't remember much about his looks. I've met many people in my life and I don't think there's anything special in his looks. Actually, he's so ordinary that I would just forget about him after taking just one look." Heather even suspected whether Zayne had even found the correct person.

"No, no, no. I'm talking from a physiognomy perspective. You don't know much about this, Heather." He knew very well that she did not have any exposures in the subject and that she was quite disdainful about this.

“Really? Is there really a scientific proof of physiognomy?” Heather had lived abroad for many years, so she did not study about this topic at all. On top of that, she was not interested in it anyway.

“Of course,” Leon replied. “Physiognomy is a complicated subject.” He was quite interested in the subject, but he could not find a good teacher.

Zayne nodded in approval and shot Leon a look of encouragement. “Very well said. It’s complicated knowledge.”

“Let’s stop talking about it. I would like to know what exactly you have found out.” With that, she looked at him as she did not want to discuss physiognomy at this moment. She just wanted to know the truth.

With a troubled expression on his face, Zayne answered, “I didn’t find out about anything. His life is quite ordinary and I can’t even find anything suspicious about him.” It was the most troublesome to investigate an ordinary person. It’s just like finding your life partner. If you are finding your partner based on your feelings without any specific requirements or red flags, it’s the most difficult. What does it mean by no requirements? And what are the ‘right’ feelings?

“In that case, for the time being, it shows that he’s not with the same group of people who kidnapped Myra,” Heather responded after she thought about it. The first possibility she wanted to eliminate was this. As for the other related matters to him, it was unimportant to her.

“So, this is what you care about the most.” He stared at her in speechlessness. It’s so difficult to guess what women are thinking!

“Now, I’ll suspect whoever I meet to be a part of the gang who kidnapped Myra. It’s a natural thing.” Heather thought that it was completely reasonable for her to think that way and she had no idea why Zayne was so shocked.

Zayne nodded in agreement. “For the time being, it’s impossible for him to have any connections to the kidnappers. The worst case scenario is that he’s just a scammer.” He suddenly understood the situation. I have to prioritize the kidnapping case the most. As for the potential scammers who have set their eyes on Heather, it’s not that important. Judging by her intellect, she would not be deceived.

Upon seeing that he could not contribute to anything in their conversation, Leon merely looked at the television in silence. The detective series was not as boring as he thought. Even though it was rather exaggerated, it was also quite close to the actual scenario in real life.

“In that case, let’s ignore him,” Heather concluded. “If he really is a scammer, he will definitely find ways to get to me if I ignore him. He might even look for different ways to catch my attention.”

Zayne smiled. “You’re right; it’s a usual tactic of the scammers. Since it’s more likely for you to scam people rather than the other way around, I’m not worried about you at all.”

Even Leon, who was next to them, nodded after he heard those words. “How is it possible for anyone to scam Heather? She’s an exceptionally bright and talented woman.” He just wanted to increase his visibility, so he tried to make some jokes to attract their attention.

However, upon hearing that, Heather was slightly annoyed and she shot a cold stare at Leon. “Your words sound more sarcastic instead.” With that, she looked at him with an understanding gaze, making him feel awkward in an instant.

Zayne merely looked at their interactions with curiosity. It seems like Leon has done something that let Heather down. This looks pretty interesting. What if Heather did something that let Leon down? What would they be in that case? At least it wouldn’t be like this. I suddenly feel slightly sorry for Leon.

Leon scratched his head and laughed to mask his awkwardness. “Heather, I spoke too fast earlier without thinking about it and it was wrong of me.” When dealing with Heather, we must remember to obediently admit to our mistakes.

Zayne did not expect that Leon understood Heather well and immediately admitted to his mistake. Now that he had already apologized, even if she was still annoyed, she could not say anything else.

After noticing that Zayne had just watched the drama unfold between her and Leon with a sly smile, she felt even more annoyed and lectured Zayne as well. “You have been losing your detective’s intuition lately. It seems like you really need an assistant when you are tracking people down.”

After hearing her disdainful tone, Zayne's temper immediately rose. I can't believe that she dares to say something like this. On top of that, she said that in front of an outsider!

Leon was trying to suppress his smile since he never expected Heather to aim for Zayne this time. I'm safe, but not Zayne as the vicious Heather reveals her fangs.