

Standing before Love Chapter 682

In the car on the way home, the silence left Leon swallowing his words multiple times. Heather's expression was such that he dared not address her even though he could never have predicted how things would progress.

"Send me back to the Langston Residence," she told him. She didn't wish to pour all of her frustrations on him because after all, he couldn't entirely be blamed for the situation.

Only because she spoke up first did he dare answer her. In the end, Leon worriedly told her, "All of this was my fault, Heather. I'll fix it. Don't take my grandpa's words to heart."

He wanted to comfort her even though the empty words of reassurance made him feel guilty; after all, not everyone could change his grandfather's mind.

Seeing through him right away, she shot him a cold glance. "How are you going to fix it? You have no strength to oppose your grandfather's might." Right now, they were caught between a rock and a hard place.

"The matter of our engagement concerns only us. It is no one else's business." He was well-aware of his rights even though he knew what his grandfather was capable of.

Right now, Heather's head was pounding so hard that she felt like it was about to explode. "Whatever took place in the study wasn't a discussion, Leon. Haven't you understood him by now?" Given that the situation had progressed to such a point, there was no use saying anything else.

"Don't worry about it, Heather. I have a way to fix things," Leon repeated calmly, but his confident demeanor only made her more worried.

"How are you going to fix it? You can't do anything stupid!" Heather told him trepidatiously. Knowing his temper, she was afraid he would do something to sabotage himself.

"Don't worry about me. I only regret forcing you to help me," he said apologetically. If he knew how things would turn out, he would never have dragged her into this mess with him.

“Don’t apologize to me. It’s not your fault. If anything, it’s my fault.” Right now, she didn’t want to hear his apologies. His behavior was making her feel uneasily like he had something up his sleeve.

“Let’s drop it,” he finally told her, much to her surprise. “I want to talk about something lighter.”

Cautiously, Heather studied him, but they were still within the dim interior of the car and she couldn’t tell what he was thinking. All of the sudden, she had the impression that she was growing further and further away from him.

“Promise me not to do anything stupid,” she enunciated clearly. It wasn’t a request—it was a plea.

Finally, he turned and gave her an oddly playful smile.

“I care too much about myself to do anything stupid, Heather,” he answered carelessly, which only made her even more nervous.

The worry on her face was so obvious that he couldn’t help laughing, simply because she was too adorable when she looked like that.

Leon loved it when Heather worried about him, since it let him know that he held a certain place in her heart. Fervently, he wished he could stop time and take a picture of this moment so that he could preserve it. There was nothing he wanted more than to be by her side for just a little while longer.

From how things looked right now, he no longer had any reason to stay by her side. Suddenly, he felt a little sad, but some things were decided, and he could not look back.

“You’re acting very weirdly and it’s scaring me, Leon,” she told him frankly. No matter what he said, she was not at ease with his behavior. For some reason, she just felt like he was not acting like he usually did.

“Do I turn left or right at the next junction, Heather?” he asked, seemingly in his own world and not registering her concern for him.

“Right,” she answered definitively.

“Thank you,” he answered with a slight smile, but she preferred it when he was grinning broadly or hopping mad with rage, and not when he was like this.

“Have you gone mad? Why are you thanking me?” she asked him, pained. She had no idea how to describe what she was feeling right now.

There was one thing she was afraid of, which was that he would one day put away his frivolous attitude. Having heard rumors about him, she knew what he was like in the past.

After having spent so long with him, she found that she was increasingly becoming unable to tell which one was the true Leon—the frivolous one or the one from before she met him.

And now, she felt like he was slowly reverting to his character from years before. When she thought back to the first time they met, she realized that they had heard of each other’s deeds long before they knew each other.

“Can’t I be a little polite, Heather?” he asked, sounding simultaneously helpless and affectionate. He didn’t know what she was worried about.

In truth, Leon thought he hid it well, but it seemed that he was wrong and that she could see through him at a glance. If anything, she was even close to guessing his plans.

“You know good friends don’t have to be so polite with each other,” she told him lightly. More and more, she was realizing the gravity of the situation. Was all of this his plan? Was he trying to say goodbye?

“I often apologize to you. It’s not so strange if I thank you occasionally,” he said with faux innocence. His eyes were clear, making her further confused as to whether to believe him. Yet, as if he was trying to change the topic once again, he reminded her, “We’ll reach the Langston Residence in 20 minutes.”

“Okay.” Heather’s voice was clear and unemotional, but Leon knew she was hiding her feelings.

It was obvious to him that her heart was currently in turmoil, but he had no idea how to hide his tracks or his innermost thoughts from her.

“Am I less annoying sometimes than at other times?” he asked, smiling so beatifically that she forgot to answer him for a moment.

After a beat, she recovered from his smile and hummed. "You've never been annoying. I'm the one who's been annoying." She had to admit that her personality was, in actual fact, the more grating one.

"No way. How could the person I loved be annoying?" he responded casually. "What do you think I should do if I accidentally love you for the rest of my life?"

It was jarring to see how serious he looked despite the levity of his question and his tone, and Heather had no idea what to make of it.

"Don't love me for that long." She felt uncomfortable right now and even a little jealous at the idea that he would fall in love with someone else in the future.

At the end of the day, she was an ordinary woman. After having him love her for so long, she was used to him and genuinely a little reluctant to give him to someone else.

"You like the version of me that loves you," he teased, even taking his eyes off the road to do so.

"You're a good man. There are plenty of reasons why someone would be moved by you. I'm honored to have your love and, sometimes, even selfishly wonder how nice it would be if you could keep loving me." She had to take a good and honest look at herself. While she knew that it wasn't right for her to think like that, she couldn't help herself.

"Silly Heather. Do you know you're moved by me and even feel possessive of me?" he asked, his voice pained. "Yet, you love Matthias and are so certain of it." He thought he would be able to stay by her side forever, but it turned out that he couldn't.

"I'm not moved by you or Matthias because I don't even know what being 'moved' feels like. Maybe all I know about finding a romantic partner is following the clues and coming to a logical conclusion," she answered self-deprecatingly but honestly. Maybe he was right and she did feel 'moved,' but it was too minor for her to take into account.

Seeing through her lie at once, he asked incredulously, "You're not moved by Matthias? Why would you treat him so differently if you weren't, and why would you be together? You have such a complicated relationship and seem, on the surface, completely like a pair who shouldn't be dating. Is this your so-

called ‘following the clues’?” In truth, he had known for a long time that she was moved by Matthias.

“I know. Perhaps that’s why I’m destined to be single for the rest of my life,” she joked, smiling so unnaturally that it looked worse than her crying.

“That won’t happen. I can tell how much he loves you. In fact, he might even love you as much as I do and be willing to abandon his family for you,” he reassured her, almost speaking to himself rather than to her. For her, he would renounce his entire family as well.

“I don’t know about that…” she mumbled vaguely, not understanding his meaning but not having a better response.

“You’re too cautious, Heather. You don’t let others approach you, and you hide yourself in your heart so deeply that, even now that you’re in love, you think about running away rather than growing closer to the object of your affections. Only cowards run away from love.” As he said that, he couldn’t help thinking of the preposterous things he did all those years ago. Even back then, he had known that she was running away from him, and yet he stubbornly insisted on finding ways to provoke her, ultimately causing his own downfall.

While he didn’t exactly look forward to seeing her with Matthias now, he still hoped she could find love and thus could only give her such advice as she tried to run away once again.

“Whatever is mine will be mine, even if I run away,” she opined with a brilliant smile. “But I know that I’m being ridiculous by running away and constantly denying our relationship even while I hope he’ll be able to withstand whatever I put him through and get me back.” She hated that she did that. Love shouldn’t have to be so difficult, and her behavior was hurting not only herself but Matthias as well.

“You’re not brave enough, that’s all. Everything you just said is an excuse for you to run away,” Leon answered, hitting the nail on the head. After so long, he finally understood the real Heather.

“I don’t want to listen to all of that, Leon. Let’s drop the topic.” How could a 20-minute ride take so long that he managed to give her such a thorough dressing-down?

Pushing away the sorrow and grief that was starting to permeate his heart, he told her lightly, "You're the only one who can be brave for yourself, Heather. If, in the future, I'm no longer by your side, you must learn to be brave."

"Did you stay by my side for so many years so that you could understand me so well?" she asked with a slight frown on her face. She didn't want him to leave, especially at such a helpless moment, but she didn't know how to get him to stay.

Standing before Love Chapter 683

In the unhappy atmosphere, they ended their discussion. Leon knew this was Heather's way of protecting herself; in fact, she had hurt him many times by acting just like this.

For the last few minutes of the journey, they remained in silence and did not speak even as she exited the car. This time, he stayed in the driver's seat throughout the entire process and did not get out to see her to the door.

While Heather could hear the car idling behind her, she didn't turn back. Only after he had driven and she had walked very far away from each other did she frailly look over her shoulder at the long, empty stretch of road.

Resigned, she turned to face forward once again, thinking that she understood Leon so little now. Perhaps she never really knew him. After so long, she finally understood one thing, which was that the friends and family she surrounded herself with wouldn't necessarily stay forever.

Self-deprecatingly, she smiled, thinking about the fact that the people by her side were leaving her one by one. Her existence was becoming more and more detestable and at this rate, she didn't even know why she kept on living.

When she entered the hall, it was empty. There wasn't a single person, so she walked into the living room alone and threw herself down on the couch. Only after taking in the familiar fragrance of the air did she feel like she had returned home. No matter what she thought of her family, at the end of the day, this place was still her home.

Somehow, she fell asleep on the couch and was discovered by the butler in the middle of the night. Instead of waking her up, he found a warm blanket and gently covered her with it.

Well-aware of how lightly she slept, he tried his best not to wake her up. In fact, he didn't even try to lay her down into a more comfortable position for fear of waking her.

At around 4 or 5 AM, the living room grew chilly enough to wake her up. As she rubbed her arms, the blanket slid off her.

Opening her eyes, Heather took in her surroundings as well as the blanket in her lap. The previous night's memories were a little hazy and she had no idea who put this blanket on her.

Since it was still early, she stood up uncomfortably from the couch. Her back ached sharply and she scarcely dared believe she fell asleep sitting up on the couch.

After picking up the blanket and depositing it on the couch, she surveyed her surroundings. Since she couldn't see anyone else, she decided to retreat to her room. After all, she had yet to remove her makeup.

At this hour, silence was paramount, so she stepped lightly and crept slowly up the stairs. Finally, she reached the second floor, but she still had to cross the corridor to get to her room and she was afraid of waking the others up with her footsteps.

Nonetheless, her carefulness meant she was successful in her mission. Quietly, she opened the door to her room, which looked like it always did despite how long it felt like she hadn't come home.

Now that she had returned to her own familiar, comfortable space, she felt inexplicably tired. All of a sudden, she felt like her strength had left her body.

Her bed was only a few steps away from her but she couldn't lie down just yet—she had to clean herself first. Hence, she dragged herself to her bathroom, feeling so devoid of energy that she might fall to the ground asleep in the next second.

Warm water flowed from her showerhead and she shut her eyes tightly underneath it. She loved the feeling of being cleansed by water. If it weren't for the fact that she was so tired, she would have soaked herself properly in the tub.

By the time Heather left the shower, she was lightly fragrant with the familiar scent of her body wash. Heavily, she threw herself down onto her bed. Its softness enveloped her and as she lay there, she let out a child-like smile.

No matter what terrible things took place during the day, everything would be fine once she returned home and lay down in her own bed. With child-like stubbornness, she burrowed underneath her covers, determined to enjoy this comfortable moment.

By now, it was already 5 AM. Inexplicably, she had lost her sleepiness, so she stared aimlessly at the ceiling, wondering if she would fall asleep in a bit. At any rate, she felt comfortable right now.

It had been a long time since she felt so comfortable and only now did she understand one thing, which was that she would only feel comfortable in her own bed. Never would she be comfortable with sleeping at others'.

It was ironic that the one place she was trying to avoid was also the one place that gave her peace of mind. It seemed there were many things she wouldn't understand until their time came.

With her eyes open, she awaited dawn's approach. It would likely take a while before the sky lightened completely. If she looked out of the window right now, the sky outside was still inky dark and she hoped she would fall asleep before it grew light since she didn't want to be disturbed by the sun.

Sometimes, Heather wondered what lives the people her age were living. If her life were to become commonplace, what kind of ordinary folk would she be? It was a question that popped up in her mind from time to time.

Recently, the thought was stronger than ever before. She could already imagine the future that awaited her but, given that life was giving her less and less to live for, she couldn't accept that she had to continue on this path. By now, she was even thinking about giving up everything before her.

The life she longed for the most right now was to run away from her current difficult circumstances to the countryside where she could lead the carefree life of a farm owner.

Of course, she didn't tell anyone about that fantasy, since it would never come true, anyway. When everyone, including herself, had accepted that she would

become an outstanding businesswoman, her future was already fixed in stone and all of her thoughts had to revolve around that idea.

Any seeds of hope could only sprout in her heart and nowhere else. Nowadays, she felt like she was becoming less and less like her old self. When did she become so weak and cowardly?

It turned out that such idle thoughts were best for inducing sleepiness because not long after that, she fell asleep. By the time she woke up, it was already past noon and she was immensely surprised that no one had come to wake her.

After rising, Heather cleansed herself once again by soaking in the tub this time. As warm water enveloped her body, she shut her eyes. Perhaps it was a bad idea to take a bath so soon after waking up, since her body very quickly softened once again.

Finally, she dragged her limp body out of the tub. She felt like, if it weren't for the fact that she was hungry, she could actually have returned to bed and continued sleeping.

Carelessly, she put her hair up in a bun. In an instant, she felt refreshed, so she left her room. The moment she stepped outside, she could feel how chilly the air was even through her thick sleepwear.

It surprised her to feel how cold the weather was and she looked around her before going downstairs. Only the butler and the servants were in the hall and when she peered out of the door, the world outside was blanketed in white. It turned out that it had snowed while she slept.

The moment Heather saw snow, her mood lightened. This year's snow was particularly thick, and she suddenly recalled that it always snowed when she was young.

After she grew up and especially while she was abroad, she rarely saw snow. Yet, she had an obsession with it, so she decided now that she would go outside after filling her stomach with food to have a romp in it.

Percolating with childlike wonder, she told the butler, "I'm a little hungry. Have the kitchen make me some tea." It would not be realistic to have them prepare a proper meal right now. Some simple refreshments would suffice and she believed the butler would understand her.

“Of course, Miss Heather.” With a bow, the butler left, having long awaited her arrival.

Lately, Robert had been particularly indulgent toward her. Even the rest of the Langston Family found it intolerable. No matter what she did, he would stand by her side.

Even though she was acting incredibly strangely during this period, no one in her family—not even the usually arrogant Blake—dared say anything about it.

Of course, the rest of the family speculated on exactly what Robert did to Blake. At any rate, he no longer dared bad-mouth her and was even either intentionally or unintentionally avoiding her.

However, Heather herself noticed none of this. In recent times, all of her thoughts were dedicated to Myra’s kidnapping, and she had no energy to invest in the matters of Langston Group nor the Langston Family.

Subconsciously, she looked toward the dining table. Despite how large it was, it was currently as silent as the hall where the servants were tiptoeing around her.

For a moment, she thought about seeking Robert out, but she didn’t know what she could say to him. Meanwhile, her cell phone was in her hand but no one was looking for her. Matthias, especially, hadn’t called her in a long time and she genuinely felt like asking him what on earth he was up to these days.

Sitting down on the couch, Heather looked at the coffee table before her and reached out to gently touch it. It seemed simultaneously familiar and foreign, and she was startled to realize that all of the furniture in the hall had changed at some point unbeknown to her.

At this moment, the butler exited the kitchen with a plate of light refreshments in his hand. He walked right up to her and, with a polite smile on his face, handed the plate to her.

Bidding him sit opposite her, she said, “I have something to ask you.” How was it that her familiar home had changed so drastically within a few days? It made her feel incredibly unsettled.

“What’s wrong, Miss Heather?” While he didn’t know what she was about to ask, he was a little alarmed by her sudden gravitas, since that could only be bad news.

“Has the hall been renovated?” She looked at the slightly pastel walls around her. From what she last remembered, the walls of the hall were white.

“Did you only just notice, Miss Heather?” He was astonished, for he had assumed that she figured it out long ago.

“What materials did they use? There isn’t the slightest smell of paint. Or has all of the furniture been switched for newer ones?” She felt so incredibly confused. While a renovation wasn’t exactly a huge issue, the accumulation of small issues gave her a bad sense of foreboding.

“All of this happened recently, Miss Heather. Perhaps because you haven’t been home much recently, you didn’t notice.” He had no idea how to explain things to her since there wasn’t actually a need to report such things to her.

“I need to know when this happened and why.” She wasn’t comfortable with the fact that all of it happened so inexplicably.

“It was Old Master Langston’s orders,” the butler answered in similar confusion, not understanding the weight her question carried or why she was reacting so strangely. “Perhaps he was bored of the previous wall color and wanted a new coat. As for the furniture, he said they hadn’t been changed in a while and that it was time to change them, anyway.”

“I’m going to find Grandpa.” No longer did she feel like eating. Feeling like she understood what Robert was trying to express, she decided that she had to go and seek him out right now.

“Please don’t, Miss Heather. He only just fell asleep and you know how rarely he gets to rest in the afternoons. You mustn’t wake him.” The butler tried to stop her, but the expression on his face wasn’t natural enough and Heather was immediately suspicious.

Standing before Love Chapter 684

The butler was never a good liar. At this moment, Heather halted her steps. This matter shouldn’t be rushed, so she went back to sit on the couch.

Nevertheless, she felt flustered and uneasy because she had a hunch that a crisis was approaching the Langston Family due to Robert's actions.

"Sit down," Heather ordered the butler.

The butler took a seat across Heather. Seeing Heather's serious look, the butler had an ominous feeling that he was about to be interrogated.

"Was it Grandpa's order to renovate the house?" Heather asked in an unsettled tone.

The butler knew this wasn't a simple matter when he heard Heather's tone, and he didn't know how to respond to Heather because no matter what he said, she would surely catch him tripping.

"I know you won't lie to me, so please tell me the truth." Heather threw the butler a faint smile, one that was as cunning as a preying fox's.

"Miss Heather, it was indeed Old Master Langston's order," the butler replied honestly as he didn't dare to bluff Heather.

"Then, can you tell me why Grandpa wanted to renovate the house all of a sudden?" Heather thought it was rather unnecessary since the house was still pretty new.

"I'm not too sure either." The butler's eyes flickered. In fact, he had the same question before this, but he didn't dare to question Robert.

The butler felt uneasy as Heather continued staring at him. No one would be able to bear being stared at with such a gaze. Perceiving that the butler wasn't lying, Heather reckoned Robert did not tell anyone the real intention of him doing so. This made her more anxious to get the truth from Robert as soon as possible.

"Did something happen in the Langston Family lately?" Heather asked the butler, thinking that he should understand the intention behind her question.

The butler lifted his head to look at Heather. This time, he really didn't know how to reply to Heather. Numerous things had occurred recently, but Robert had instructed him to not tell Heather.

“What is it? Do you find it inconvenient to tell me?” Heather wore a cold smile which sent a chill down the butler’s spine. Seeing Heather’s expression, the butler didn’t have the guts to carry on with the conversation.

He turned away as he didn’t dare to face Heather. Knowing Heather’s finesse, the butler knew for sure that he was dead meat. But at the same time, he wondered why she would take things so seriously out of the blue.

“Look at me,” Heather commanded.

In the butler’s eyes, Heather was actually very similar to Robert. It was difficult to deal with them when they got serious. As the butler was forced to look at Heather, his mind was so messy that he didn’t even have the courage to speak up.

“Are you keeping something from me?” Heather gradually lured the butler into telling her the truth as she knew nothing would be able to escape from her sharp eyes.

“Not at all,” the butler denied it immediately, raising Heather’s suspicion even more.

“Are you sure?” Heather asked again. She knew the butler was lying because she could see how flustered he was.

“Miss Heather, what exactly would you like to know?” the butler asked helplessly. He was actually regretting not avoiding Heather earlier.

“I want to know what happened in the Langston Family recently. Is there something that you can’t tell me?” Heather’s tone was hostile. She hated to be kept in the dark, especially by her family.

“Miss Heather, I really don’t know how to answer that. Nothing out of the ordinary has happened in the family recently. Everything is fine.” The butler’s deliberate emphasis made it seem like he was trying to cover something up.

“Great. I’ve understood your meaning.” Heather gazed at the butler with a half-smile. She was torturing the butler mentally as he was the only one that she could approach.

This was because her tricks wouldn’t work on Robert, and as for the other members of the family, she had no interest in getting into a conversation with

them. Back then, she spent a great deal of effort to become close with Everly, but the outcome was far from her expectation as she had even found out about her little secret. Currently, Heather had a visceral dislike for the Langstons.

Besides Robert, the only person whom Heather felt close to in the entire Langston Family was the butler. More often than once, Heather respected the butler as an elder. But that wasn't the case now. All Heather wanted was to obtain the information from him. Nevertheless, she was rather disappointed with the butler's reaction as she didn't expect that even he wouldn't side with her at this moment.

"I guess I can only ask Grandpa then." Heather sighed. She didn't want to disturb Robert's peace, but she desperately needed an answer now.

Heather's fear was becoming more intense as she had never thought that there would be a day Robert could be this irrational. She had heard of many stories about Robert's difficulties throughout the years. If Robert was the one bringing the problems to himself, then Heather thought her sacrifices in the past few years would be meaningless.

"Please don't go looking for Old Master Langston. His health has been very bad recently, so please don't disturb him anymore, Miss Heather," the butler pleaded in agony. The last thing he wanted was to see Robert and Heather turning on each other as they did now.

"What did you say? Why didn't you tell me earlier that Grandpa's health is becoming worse?" Heather stood up from the couch agitatedly, wanting to see Robert right now.

"Miss Heather, please don't go to Old Master Langston. I'm begging you." The butler grasped Heather from behind. In fact, he had never stepped out of line like he did now.

"Let go of me! I want to go see Grandpa!" Guilt-stricken, Heather couldn't calm down at all.

"Please don't. Old Master Langston has ordered to refrain you from going to him," the butler said in a quandary. This wasn't his intention, but since it was Robert's order, he could only obey.

“Why? Why doesn’t Grandpa want to see me?” Heather refused to believe. Robert doted on her so much, so how was it possible that he didn’t want to see her at this point when he was being tortured by his illness?

“Please stop asking, Miss Heather. Old Master Langston really doesn’t want to see you.” The butler had no choice but to put it in a harsh way as he couldn’t allow Heather to do as she pleased.

“Give me a reason.” Heather broke away from the butler and stopped insisting on seeing Robert as her rationality had temporarily overcome her impulse.

“Old Master Langston has exhorted me to not let you go and see him,” the butler answered carefully, but Heather was very dissatisfied with his answer.

Turning around, Heather was planning to break into Robert’s room. She knew Robert must be upstairs in his room at this time.

“Miss Heather, please don’t! Old Master Langston doesn’t want you to see him in his current state.” The butler was close to kneeling down before Heather. He knew Robert was the one Heather cared for the most, and no one could predict what Heather would do next.

“I have to go. I want to see Grandpa,” Heather said in distress. At this moment, she felt extremely unfilial as she had not even noticed that her grandfather was terribly sick.

“Miss Heather, please obey Old Master Langston’s order and don’t provoke him. He can’t afford to be angry in his current condition,” the butler urged Heather from behind. He was very worried that he wouldn’t be able to stop her.

With that, Heather suddenly felt like her legs were a thousand times heavier as she couldn’t take a step forward anymore. Biting her lips, she didn’t know how to express how she was feeling at this moment.

Just then, she recalled a promise Robert made with her when she was still a kid. “Heather, I don’t want you to see me being weak. Can you promise me to not be at my sickbed in the future?”

Heather held back her tears as she recalled their agreement. It was only then did she realize that Robert was very sick and he might not survive the illness

this time. She resented herself to the core for having a conflict with him some time ago.

“Fine. I promise to not see Grandpa, but I’d like to hear his voice.” Heather agreed to not see Robert’s pathetic look as he was being tormented by his illness, but she longed to hear his voice and talk with him once more.

“I…” The butler was in a dilemma. Although the request didn’t seem to go against Robert’s order, he was worried that it would anger him.

“Please.” Heather didn’t dare to look at the butler. She was afraid that she wouldn’t be able to hold back her tears.

Heather was not as strong as she had imagined. In fact, she could easily cry since she had been a crybaby ever since she was young. If it wasn’t for Robert’s dedicated guidance, she wouldn’t be who she was now.

The butler nodded as he knew he wouldn’t be able to stop Heather. Moreover, her request wasn’t too much, so he decided to just let her be.

Heather began to walk up the stairs. Every step she took was heavy. She had not thought that this day would arrive this fast, and neither did she know the reason why Robert’s health deteriorated all of a sudden. Because of that, she even suspected she was the cause of his illness. The closer she walked to the room, the more she reprimanded herself. She abhorred herself for being wilful.

When she arrived at Robert’s room, she stared at the door, knowing that she could only stay outside the room. She reached out her hand and knocked on the door.

“Who is it?” Robert’s shaky voice emerged.

“Grandpa, it’s me,” Heather answered from the outside with a voice loud enough for Robert to hear. “I’m not coming in, Grandpa. I’m just going to stand out here to talk to you.” Heather couldn’t live without Robert—she just can’t. At this point in time, she resented God for delivering such a heavy blow to her once again.

“You’re still as disobedient as ever, Heather,” Robert croaked in resignation. He even felt exhausted just by speaking. His current state was similar to that

of a disabled person, so naturally, he wouldn't want Heather to see him in this state.

"I'm sorry, Grandpa. I've made you worry." Standing outside the room, Heather was guilt-stricken. She had no way to help Robert recover, and she felt helpless because she couldn't control life and death.

"My greatest distress is that I can't see you get married." As a matter of fact, Robert had regrets too; he didn't want to pass on just yet, for he had yet to see Heather in a beautiful white bridal gown.

"Grandpa, I've already found a suitable candidate. Will you be able to come to my wedding?" At this moment, Heather could no longer think rationally. She was even willing to throw a wedding for the sake of Robert.

"Silly girl, you and Matthias have not confirmed your relationship yet. How can you rush into marriage? You guys don't know each other well enough yet." Although Robert was rather fond of Matthias, he was still not convinced enough to let Heather marry him yet.

"Grandpa, I know you're worried that the complications between the Langston Family and the Locke Family would affect my relationship with Matthias. To be honest, I'm not that fond of him either." Tears streamed down Heather's face silently. She didn't want to be entangled with Matthias anymore because Robert wouldn't be able to hold out any longer.

Standing before Love Chapter 685

Separated only by a door, Heather leaned against it. She felt like all her energy was sucked out at once. Just as she said, she was not that fond of Matthias. When faced with a dilemma, she had abandoned him without hesitation.

"Go away!" Robert spat the two words arduously. He didn't want Heather to continue speaking. In addition, he didn't want his health to affect Heather's future.

"Grandpa, I'd like to get married. Will you come and give me your blessing?" Heather had made up her mind. At this moment, she wasn't asking for his consent; she was informing him about her plan.

“Heather, who are you marrying?” Robert’s voice was tinged with anxiety. He didn’t know what Heather’s plan was, and he couldn’t allow her to mess around.

“It’s someone whom you’ve met before, Grandpa. We’ve known each other for many years and we know each other well. He will bring me happiness.” Heather couldn’t think of another suitable candidate now. All she needed was someone whom she could marry.

“Heather, I don’t want to see you being like this.” Robert was drained by the conversation with Heather today. Heather’s current state made him even more anxious. He knew what was on her mind, and because of that, he had all the more reason to stop Heather from acting irrationally.

“I really plan to marry him. I’ve met his parents last night,” Heather said calmly as if the matter had nothing to do with her.

Robert didn’t believe this kind of coincidence at all, and he thought Heather was lying to him. He attempted to get down from the bed, but he couldn’t even muster the slightest bit of strength to leave it.

“I’m not lying to you, Grandpa. Initially, his grandfather planned to come over to propose the marriage, but I turned him down because I thought we’re progressing too fast. I spent the entire night yesterday thinking about how to bring this up to you. You won’t be angry at me, will you, Grandpa?” Heather said in a casual tone, which made Robert even more uneasy.

“Heather, what exactly happened between you and Matthias?” If truth be told, Robert had already accepted Matthias as his grandson-in-law, so he was confused by Heather’s sudden change of plan. He hadn’t even figured out who the ‘he’ Heather was referring to. He guessed it was Leon, but thought that was unlikely because Heather had said that it was impossible between her and Leon.

“Grandpa, Matthias and I are not suitable for each other at all. These past few days got me thinking. I’ve realized the one that truly suits me was right by my side all this while. I don’t want to make the same mistake of letting him go again.” Heather had made up her mind to marry Leon as if she had been enchanted. She deemed that would be the perfect outcome for everyone.

“Are you referring to Leon?” Robert probed. According to Heather’s description, he couldn’t think of any other man besides Leon.

“Yes, Grandpa. You’ve met him, and you like him too.” Heather recalled Robert’s praise toward Leon back then, so she believed that Robert would like Leon as his grandson-in-law too.

“Heather, you should marry someone whom you love, not someone whom I like.” Robert’s mind was clear. He would be happy with that person as long as Heather was happy because she would only be truly happy when she married someone she loved.

“Who says I don’t like Leon, Grandpa? We’re fond of each other. It’s just, we took some time to affirm our feelings.” Heather indeed had feelings toward Leon in the past, so now, she just had to recollect those feelings.

“Heather, please don’t make me worry.” Robert was still convinced that Heather was bluffing him. He knew her well—she wouldn’t possibly be in an ambiguous relationship with Matthias, but at the same time, have feelings toward Leon out of the blue.

“Don’t worry about me, Grandpa. You should come to my wedding with a joyful heart.” Heather wiped off the tears at the corner of her eyes. Since she had already made up her mind, she figured she shouldn’t hesitate any longer.

But how could Robert possibly be happy? With his face darkened, he was dying to open the door at this moment and have a good talk with Heather. However, he couldn’t stand up at all, for he was already a disabled man now.

“Heather, do you want to drive me mad?” Robert retorted in annoyance. He was annoyed at his disability; he was annoyed at Heather’s nonsense.

“Grandpa, aren’t you happy for me that I’ve found a decent man?” This time, Heather even lied to herself to self-affirm that she would be happy being married to Leon just to persuade Robert to be glad for her.

“Heather, I know you did this out of filial piety, but I’m not happy at all seeing you compromising.” Robert still deemed that Heather was compromising her happiness. She had already suffered enough throughout the years, and Robert thought he had no right to make Heather compromise again just for his sake.

“Grandpa, I’m really not making this decision because of you. I know what is good for me when it comes to my marriage. You should know that my parents have disliked me ever since I was young because as a woman, I’m not

qualified to inherit Langston Group. They had an unequal marriage, which caused me to fear marriage even more. You know me—I would never simply marry anyone. However, the person whom I'm willing to marry has appeared, so I think I should hold onto him. You wouldn't want to see me being alone the whole lifetime either, would you?" Heather even managed to persuade herself with these words, so she was confident that Robert would be persuaded too.

What followed next was a moment of silence as Robert was at a loss for words to refute Heather. Perhaps what she said was true. Robert recalled the day when Leon came to visit Langston Residence, his eyes were filled with affection when he stared at Heather while Heather didn't seem to dislike him either. Just as Heather said, Leon was the one who could bring happiness to her.

As such, Robert remained silent for a while. Heather thought it would be meaningless for her to continue waiting on, so she said to Robert from the outside, "Rest well, Grandpa. I'm going to my room now."

Robert sighed as he heard the footsteps of Heather leaving. This time, he was perplexed too. He had perceived everything Heather had done, but sometimes even he couldn't understand her real thoughts.

After walking some distance away, Heather turned to look at the closed door and felt depressed all of a sudden because she knew Robert couldn't possibly open the door and walk out again this time around.

She was reminded of Robert's strong figure when she was still a kid. At that time, Robert was like a mountain to her; but now, he was old and weak. Heather had an indescribable feeling as at this moment itself, she had to mature up because she was about to lose her shield. In the past, whenever she had issues that couldn't be resolved, she could just go home and tell Robert about it, and things would work out, but now, she had lost this privilege.

Heather didn't feel like going back to her room. She didn't even feel like staying in the house—she wanted to go out. If she continued staying in Langston Residence, Heather felt like she would go crazy. If one day Robert wasn't around anymore, it would be meaningless for her to come back to the residence.

In fact, Heather had thought of this possibility in the past too, but she didn't expect it to happen this fast. Staring helplessly at the floor, Heather did not know where to go.

She shook her head as her vision became blurry. She felt like her head was splitting and she hated herself to the core. Everything that had happened today was like a punishment to her. Feeling like she had brought misfortune to those around her, Heather blamed herself for everything.

With a loud thud, Heather collapsed onto the ground. Hearing the ruckus upstairs, the butler lifted his head only to see Heather lying on the ground. Without thinking, he quickly ran upstairs in a fluster.

When he approached Heather, he was appalled when he saw Heather lying on the floor with her eyes closed. She had always been in the pink of health, but this time, she actually passed out at the stairway today. The butler didn't even dare to walk up to touch her.

What should I do? The butler was at a loss. He couldn't let Robert know about this. Panic-stricken, he took out his phone from his pocket and called the ambulance.

The butler's voice quivered on the phone as he reported their address while the doctor pacified him. After hanging up, the butler carefully held up Heather's upper body, worrying that any careless act of his would harm her.

"Miss Heather," the butler called out cautiously.

However, Heather had completely lost her consciousness, and it didn't help at all when the butler pressed her philtrum. As such, the butler began to panic. Other than Robert, the person whom he cared about the most in the Langston Family was Heather, and he was distressed to see Heather in such a state.

"Miss Heather, what happened? Please wake up," the butler called Heather's name non-stop. He was worried sick seeing her pale countenance.

The other servants started to become nervous too. They gathered at the stairway and surrounded the scene, which made the butler even more vexed.

"Don't gather around here. Miss Heather needs some fresh air. Go out and check if the ambulance is here," the butler commanded the servants. He didn't want to make a big scene lest Robert became alarmed.

However, it would take a while for the ambulance to arrive. Because of this, the butler was like a cat on hot bricks. Worrying that Robert would hear the noises, he pondered if he should move Heather downstairs first.

“Do any of you have medical knowledge?” the butler asked the servants as he didn’t dare to act recklessly.

“I’ve learned some before, sir.” One of the servants who looked relatively young stood out. He didn’t strike out of the crowd as he had an average appearance.

“Is it possible to move Miss Heather downstairs now?” the butler asked the servant.

“Yes, but we have to be very careful,” the servant answered timidly. He was an honest man who wasn’t good at using high-sounding words.

“Come and give me a hand then. Let’s carefully move Miss Heather downstairs.” The butler felt if they continued staying on the second floor, Robert would soon notice the incident.

The other servants surrounded Heather lest she would bump around while the two shifted Heather to the first floor. In no time, Heather was placed on the soft couch, which was much more comfortable than the cold floor.

Looking at the time, the butler figured that the ambulance would arrive soon. However, he was worried that the sound of the ambulance might alarm Robert. At this thought, the butler decided to go upstairs and stay by Robert’s side. He had to think of a way to make Robert fall asleep so that the latter wouldn’t hear the ambulance.

Standing before Love Chapter 686

Once the butler left, the servants were left leaderless. They stared at Heather, who was lying on the couch, looking resigned as they were at a loss of what to do. Worried about Heather’s condition, they stared at each other. What’s taking the ambulance so long?

They glanced up the second floor, but the butler had already disappeared. Although Heather seldom showed herself in the Langston Residence, the servants deemed her an important person because she was the granddaughter whom Robert cared for the most after all.

Robert was already in such a terrible condition, so the servants were worried that if something happened to Heather, Robert might vent his anger on them. As such, the servants were distressed about their circumstances. Robert's temperament was rather unstable lately. Therefore, anything that had to do with Heather would make him blow up instantly.

Meanwhile, the butler was already by Robert's side. After the conversation with Heather, Robert couldn't fall asleep at all right now. He looked at the butler arduously and wanted to say something, but his throat hurt so much that he couldn't speak up.

"Old Master Langston, please take some rest," the butler advised. The ambulance would arrive soon, and in Robert's current state, he could be very sensitive to the sound of the siren.

Blinking, Robert just couldn't fall asleep. His energy was already depleted in the conversation with Heather just now. With that, he could only lie down weakly, yet he wasn't able to doze off.

"Old Master Langston, is something bothering you?" The butler could tell that Robert was in a bad mood, and he reckoned that the latter was irritated from the talk with Heather earlier.

"Where's Heather?" Robert asked in difficulty. His lips were dry and peeling, as if the water in his body was completely drawn out.

"Miss Heather went back to her room." The butler told the lie naturally. Robert had always trusted him, so he didn't suspect a thing.

After that, Robert seemed to be slightly relieved. The butler knew Robert was worried about Heather and thought if he should talk to Robert about her.

"Old Master, Miss Heather is much more mature now. Please don't worry about her." The butler put in a good word for Heather since Robert would only be at peace if Heather was fine.

However, Robert shook his head. "I will always be worried about her." At this time, Robert's throat hurt intensely with every word he spoke. He wished to continue talking with the butler, but his body just wasn't able to let him continue.

The butler didn't want Robert to be tortured like this, so he said, "Old Master, please take a nap. Who knows, you might feel better after waking up." The butler smiled while he said that. Oh, how I wish Robert would recover. If Robert really passed away one day, the butler wouldn't know what he should do either. He could retire at this age, but he would feel empty in his heart.

The butler had devoted his entire life to the Langston Family. He never had the idea of leaving the family someday because he believed that he would breathe his last breath in the Langston Residence. However, that seemed to be impossible now. Thinking of Robert's current situation and the other members of the Langston Family, the butler thought it was unlikely that anyone would ask him to stay. Perhaps Heather would, but the butler knew that once Robert was gone, Heather wouldn't possibly continue staying in the Langston Residence either.

The butler was feeling perplexed regarding his future. He didn't know where else he could go in the future if he couldn't stay in the Langston Residence anymore. But right now, the only wish he had was for Robert to get well quickly and survive the illness no matter how serious it was, just like last time.

"I'm afraid I won't wake up anymore once I sleep," Robert croaked thirstily. He was dying to have some water, but the doctor had exhorted that he shouldn't drink anything before his respiratory system recovered.

"Please don't think that way, Old Master. Everything will be fine. Please don't worry." The butler didn't know how to comfort Robert seeing that even Robert was about to give up on himself. If that was the case, how would Heather be able to handle that blow?

Robert closed his eyes and shook his head incessantly. Just then, an ear-piercing siren came forth from the outside—the ambulance was finally here. TV shows had always depicted that ambulances would arrive within 5 minutes, but that was nearly impossible in reality.

Needless to say, the old man was alarmed by the ambulance's siren. He snapped open his eyes immediately with a terrifying look in his eyes. He was very disturbed by the sound of the siren, so he asked in distress, "An ambulance?"

The butler moved forward and gently placed his hand on Robert's chest. He could feel Robert's heartbeat accelerating all of a sudden.

“Old Master, Mr. Zach, one of the cooks, had a heart attack. Please don’t worry about it.” This was the best excuse the butler could think of.

Robert looked at the butler in suspicion as if he was trying to catch a trace of him lying from his expression. However, the butler wore a calm look, which successfully made Robert disperse his suspicion instantly.

After that, the butler continued staying beside Robert for some time. He knew Robert was prone to suspicion, so he had to behave as naturally as possible lest Robert would see through him.

“Get out,” Robert commanded the butler. Nowadays, he preferred to be alone and didn’t like having someone in his room—not even the butler. In fact, he still had a lot to say to the butler, but his body wouldn’t allow him to do that at all. Feeling vexed, Robert rather not see anyone.

Currently, Robert’s temperament was very unstable. Naturally, the butler had to obey Robert, so he obediently walked out of the latter’s room. His little bluff earlier managed to convince Robert, so he didn’t have the need to stay longer.

When the butler went downstairs, Heather was already being carried into the ambulance. Seeing the ambulance disappear out of his sight, the butler couldn’t help but wonder who tagged along to the hospital. He was restless as he couldn’t go to the hospital because he worried Robert might summon him at any time.

As such, he could only leave Heather’s matter to the servants, who were ordinary in the usual days. Presently, there was no one else in the Langston Family who could be in charge of the situation. In addition, the relationship between Heather and the other members of the Langston Family was hostile to begin with.

In the hospital, Heather was lying on the bed with her eyes closed. The servant who had little medical knowledge stayed beside her. It had been more than an hour since she was admitted to the hospital, but she hadn’t regained consciousness.

In the meantime, none of the Langstons came to visit her. Truth was, the butler didn’t dare to inform any of the Langstons as he was worried that they would be gloating instead of caring for Heather. Besides, he was worried that they would let the cat out of the bag in front of Robert.

Just then, the butler thought of Matthias and felt like it was most appropriate to inform him about it. The butler called Matthias without wasting more time as he didn't want Heather to wake up surrounded by no one she was familiar with.

Matthias was in a board meeting when he received the butler's call. Looking at the unknown number on his phone, he ignored it without hesitation.

Staring at the phone, the butler thought he was being too abrupt. After all, Matthias wouldn't know of his existence at all. At this thought, the butler decided that it was more appropriate for him to send a message to Matthias.

A moment later, Matthias received a message from the unknown number earlier. His expression changed immediately after he read the content. He sprang up from his seat with anxiousness plastered all over his face, while the other board members were dumbfounded by his sudden action.

Mr. Harlow, who was in the middle of his speech, clammed up immediately and looked at Matthias in puzzlement as he thought some of his words had annoyed Matthias.

Standing before Love Chapter 687

The board members were left astounded as they watched Matthias disappear from their sight without any explanation. Such a situation had never occurred before.

Lara gripped the ballpen tightly as she watched Matthias leave in a hurry. There was only one person in this world that could make Matthias be as flustered as he was now—that person was Heather.

Lara's hate for the woman named Heather was gradually increasing. She couldn't understand what exactly was so good about Heather that could make Matthias behave this inferior. In fact, she might not abhor Heather that much if Heather and Matthias came out as a couple, but she had witnessed over and over again how mean Heather was to Matthias.

No one could withstand the person of their dreams being fooled around as such by another woman. Lara thought Matthias was out of Heather's league, and she was determined to teach Heather a lesson.

In order to reach the hospital in the shortest time, Matthias dashed out and hailed a cab. Being a bundle of nerves, he didn't want to waste any more time to get his car from the basement.

Matthias loosened his tie in the cab as he felt like he couldn't catch his breath. He was distressed at the thought that Heather was lying alone in the hospital at this instant. She was always a healthy person, so why would she be admitted to the hospital by an ambulance all of a sudden?

Matthias was dying to be able to fly to the hospital in the blink of an eye. He resented himself for suppressing his feelings and being in a cold war with Heather for the past few days. It was merely a few days since he stopped contacting Heather, yet such a big incident had happened.

Looking flustered, Matthias had completely lost his usual resolute and domineering stance. All that was in his mind was Heather—he couldn't even think straight right now. At this point, he didn't even doubt the authenticity of the message.

Matthias pressured the driver all the way. If it wasn't for his compelling aura, the driver might have started a quarrel with him already.

"Overtake that car!" Matthias took out all the cash he had and passed them directly to the driver. "Bring me to the hospital in the shortest time possible." Matthias believed that no one could resist money.

True enough, the driver panicked when the pile of cash was passed to him all of a sudden. He didn't know whether to accept the money; he only knew that he had bumped into a rich lunatic today.

Seeing the driver hesitate, Matthias directly put the money in front of him. "Get to the hospital in 10 minutes and this money is all yours." Matthias couldn't wait for a second longer. The hospital was actually not too far, but he felt as if it was a galaxy away.

"Sir, there's a traffic jam as it's peak hours now. We won't even be able to arrive in half an hour, let alone 10 minutes," the driver said in resignation. As much as he would like to earn the money, he had to admit that he didn't have the ability to take it.

"How much would you like? Just tell me." Can't such a simple matter be resolved with money?

“Sir, this really isn’t about money.” The driver was an honest man, and Matthias’ actions started to make him uncomfortable.

“Cut the crap and get going.” Matthias’ tone became sullen. With that, the driver didn’t dare to talk to Matthias anymore because his gloomy expression was too terrifying.

He couldn’t care less and sped all the way. On the other hand, Matthias was unsettled in the back seat as he regretted not getting his own car in order to save time.

Given their current speed, it would take another 15 minutes before they could arrive at the hospital. Every minute was like torture to Matthias, and he had never felt time move so slow before. Every second seemed to be lengthened. He was almost driven crazy as he had no idea what was happening with Heather.

It was only when the car finally arrived at the hospital’s entrance did Matthias stop being anxious. He quickly got out of the car without collecting the money which he left in the passenger seat earlier.

“Sir, your money!” the driver yelled at Matthias, but the latter had already left. In Matthias’ eyes, that amount of cash meant nothing to him. With that, the driver shook his head as Matthias disappeared from his sight.

Matthias ran into the hospital as he didn’t want to waste another second. At this moment, he only wanted to be at Heather’s side immediately and had completely lost his rationality. Panting heavily, he opened the ward’s door. He looked at Heather only to find that she had already regained consciousness while Leon was sitting by her with a gentle smile.

Leon smiled friendly at Matthias when he saw him. He didn’t particularly hate Matthias. In fact, he liked him sometimes, and they might have been close friends if they weren’t love rivals.

Heather, on the other hand, wore an indifferent look when she saw Matthias. She thought it was ironic that Leon was the first one she saw upon waking up as she expected Matthias to rush over first.

It seemed like even God was teasing them. Staring at Matthias, Heather thought they were indeed not meant to be together. To a certain extent, they

were the same kind of people—the kind that would even lie to themselves. Heather was feeling rather complicated the moment she saw Matthias again.

“Hey, Matthias,” Leon greeted Matthias endearingly. Even Heather didn’t know they were actually on a first-name basis already.

“Hi, Leon,” Matthias answered in a cold and hostile manner as he seemed to have sensed the ambiguous atmosphere.

“Why are you here?” Heather asked unkindly.

Having witnessed her tone of speech, even Leon was taken aback. Neither did Matthias expect Heather to say that the moment they met. He smiled hastily, perceiving that he was given a cold shoulder.

“I heard you’re hospitalized, so I came because I’m worried about you.” Matthias was actually startled for a moment and even had a sense of guilt. As a result, he didn’t have the guts to look Heather in the eye.

“Thanks for caring. I’m fine.”

Matthias felt bitter at Heather’s formal remarks. He had rushed as quickly as he could to the hospital, only to end up being treated badly by Heather. At once, he found himself to be extremely pathetic.

“It seems like I shouldn’t have shown up.” Matthias couldn’t possibly allow Heather to continue trampling upon his dignity. No matter how fond he was of her, his fondness was built on the basis of equality.

On the other hand, Leon felt rather awkward. He had never thought that he would personally witness a conflict between this couple. Frankly, he was quite envious of their exchange.

“Aren’t you supposed to be busy at this moment, Matthias? You definitely shouldn’t waste time on me.” Heather was being increasingly mean as she couldn’t wait to draw the line with Matthias.

Heather felt like she was a cruel person; she could be cruel to herself, so of course, she could be cruel to others too. Even Leon was shocked at Heather’s words and thought she was being too much.

“You’re right. I still have an important meeting and indeed shouldn’t waste more time here.” Matthias couldn’t control his emotions at all as he felt embarrassed being treated harshly by Heather.

“See you then,” Heather said nonchalantly with a bold face. It seemed like every expression of hers was mocking Matthias.

Soon, the door was closed with a bang—Matthias had really left. Leon looked at Heather in puzzlement. Thinking that Heather had crossed the line this time, he was about to chase after Matthias.

However, Heather read Leon’s mind and stopped him from doing so. “Don’t go. I don’t wish to see him,” Heather said word by word as if she was extremely dissatisfied with Matthias.

“Heather, what is this about?” Leon felt sorry for Matthias. Even though Matthias was his love rival, he shouldn’t have borne Heather’s unreasonable anger.

Heather smiled coldly. “Leon, would you like to marry me?” Before this, she couldn’t find the right time to bring this up but now seemed to be the best opportunity.

“Heather, have you lost your mind?” Leon couldn’t take it at all hearing this question. The things she said were increasingly strange as if she had become crazy.

“Don’t you wish to marry me?” Looking extremely weak, Heather lay on the bed with a pale countenance. Even then, she seemed to be able to stir up a fight at the slightest whim.

Leon was stirred up at once and looked at Heather indignantly. “I want to marry you. Heck, I’m dying to marry you, but so what? You will never marry me in this lifetime,” Leon grumbled in a venting manner.

Heather smiled brighter and shook her head. “Let’s get married, Leon,” she said in a relaxed manner.

Leon knew how serious this statement was. Despite being thick-skinned all the time, he didn’t dare to simply say such words to Heather. How ridiculous it was that Heather actually said it out so casually this time.

“Please don’t talk nonsense, Heather.” Leon was rendered speechless as he felt like he was being fooled by Heather.

“I’m not talking nonsense—I’m being serious. We’re a perfect match,” Heather stated in a weird tone as if she was a third person talking about the marriage of others.

Leon guffawed. “Are you kidding me, Heather? We? A perfect match? You must have lost your mind! You and Matthias are a perfect match. Go find him if you wish to get married. Don’t tease me like that.” Leon was nearly driven crazy by Heather. How could she be this calm? If it wasn’t that Heather was lying weakly in the bed, he would surely have retorted her. He could bear with just about anything, but he couldn’t stand her sarcastic remarks.

“Will you bring me happiness?” Heather lifted her head and stared at Leon. She could tell Leon’s heart was flustered as she knew the man wouldn’t be able to accept her sudden proposal.

“Yes,” Leon blurted instinctively as if he was enchanted. His lifetime goal was to bring Heather happiness and make her the happiest woman in the world.

“It’s the best outcome for a woman to marry a man who can give her happiness,” Heather said nonchalantly. With her eyes losing focus, she wasn’t sure if she actually meant what she said.

“Please stop joking around with me, Heather. It’s impossible for us to get married.” Leon thought this was too absurd. Why would she bring up such an unacceptable proposal the moment she woke up?

“Why can’t we get married? Is it because of Matthias? I don’t love him and have never thought of marrying him,” Heather said in a cold tone as if Matthias was a stranger to her.

“You don’t love him, but aren’t you fond of him?” Leon asked seriously, for he thought Heather was lying.

“I’m fond of him, but not to the extent that I want to marry him. You’re the one whom I wish to marry,” Heather replied without hesitation as if she was telling the truth.

“Calm down, Heather. Please don’t take what happened yesterday to heart. I’ll handle everything so you don’t have to feel pressured. I don’t need your

sympathy.” Leon thought yesterday’s incident had provoked Heather; otherwise, she wouldn’t have proposed to marry him.

Standing before Love Chapter 688

A gust of chilly wind blew into the ward. It seemed that the window wasn’t properly shut, and the wind had blown it open. Tugging on the blanket that she had on herself, Heather felt much more awake upon the stimulation of the cold wind.

Aware of the cold, Leon instinctively walked toward the window and opened it wider. The wind crept into the curves of his neck and the strands of his baby hair near his forehead started to dance along with the wind. Not long after, he shut the windows tight.

After bathing himself in the chilly wind, Leon felt more awake now. He then trotted back toward the hospital bed. At this moment, a dreamy blush flushed on Heather’s cheeks.

“Leon, do you not know me well enough?” She was confident that he would comply; she knew that she was the more domineering one between them, after all.

“Heather, stay in the hospital and don’t overthink.” At this point, he was unable to look at her straight in the eyes. Though he had fantasized about getting together with her numerous times, he couldn’t bring himself to take up the offer now that the opportunity was laid right in front of him.

She could see the hesitation in his eyes. With a flirtatious smile, she said, “Alright. Will you be visiting me tomorrow?” At this moment, she was acting like a little girl who craved love; even the look in her eyes seemed seductive.

“Of course I’ll come,” he answered. Unable to resist her beauty, he turned to look at the view outside the window.

“I’m going to rest, so you can head back for now.” She was lying on the bed with content plastered all over her face. She looked like she had just accomplished a big project, and she could finally take a rest.

With his back facing her, he nodded. Her kind actions toward Leon today were making him nervous. He knew that he would say yes to everything she said once he was looking at her; he just couldn’t bring himself to reject her.

Heather then watched Leon attentively as he left the room. The moment the door shut once again, she sighed to herself. She recalled how she treated Matthias earlier when Leon was in the same room. Thinking that she must have hurt Matthias' self-esteem, she supposed that he would not be coming to visit her any soon.

However, she had underestimated him this time. Just as Leon left, Matthias came in right after. It was so coincidental that they didn't bump into each other. As a result, Heather couldn't even catch a break without entertaining the two.

After Matthias left the hospital earlier, he realized that he had acted too rashly. After all, she was ill now. Despite her usual strong-headed and stubborn demeanor, she was still sick. The initial reason he came to the hospital was to check on her and show his concern. Hence, he started regretting fighting with her, as he should've been more patient and understanding.

Just as Heather lay down, she saw him pushing the door to come in. At this moment, since she was really worn out, she was reluctant to sit up in bed, so she remained in her lying position.

"President Locke, why'd you come again?" She continued using a hostile tone to agitate him. She was now eager to do whatever it would take for him to dislike her. She was obviously crossing the line, yet she wouldn't let her guilt show.

"The meeting has already ended, so there's no use going back now." It seemed that he had found himself a solid excuse.

After all, she didn't like it when he'd comply with her. Perhaps it was better for him if they weren't together. It didn't make sense for him to keep bearing with her shenanigans; there was no reason for him to do that.

They were bound to hurt each other as long as they were together, and she didn't want a relationship like this. There was a long future ahead, so she thought that he deserved a better woman, not someone as prickly as she was.

"I'm going to rest." She continued to drive him away as she just wanted to settle this quickly.

Nevertheless, she wasn't sure that she would be soft-hearted. After all, meeting him was unplanned, an accident. She truly didn't want to continue

facing him, because she was afraid that her plan would go down the drain if she were to slip.

“I’ll stay by your side.” Obviously, he had no intention of leaving and began to inch closer to her.

Matthias’ level of shamelessness was about to reach Leon’s. To Matthias, loving someone meant giving them exceptional treatment. That was why he was able to bear with Heather so much that it was beyond her expectations. Getting a chair, he then sat down next to her bed, looking down at her with an adoring gaze.

With a frown, she said helplessly, “President Locke, I can’t rest with you by my side.” Seeing that he seemed like he wanted to hang around, she couldn’t be at peace.

“If you’re really tired, you can definitely rest no matter how many people are around you.” Exceptionally persistent today, the man disregarded her hostile tone.

“I just want to be alone quietly,” she said, dissatisfied. He sure is becoming more and more full of cr*p!

“You are alone. You can treat me like I’m air,” he said nonchalantly. The warmth in his gaze was about to melt her.

“You’re harassing a sick patient.” Baffled, she looked at him. Now that Leon had left, she had no idea what she could use to agitate him and drive him away.

“Since you know that you’re a sick patient, you should know that a patient requires someone to take care of them,” he argued, sounding like he was full of facts.

Immediately, she pulled the blanket up over her head, covering her face. She really didn’t want to see him. Besides, continuing the argument wouldn’t be of any use anyway. Seeing that, he took it as her complying. At once, he smiled at her actions. Since when did she become so childish?

She must be truly exhausted because she had fallen asleep in no time. Living in different time zones truly messed up her body clock, so she wasn’t capable of bearing more blows. Patiently, he waited until she was deep asleep before

he tentatively pulled down the part of the blanket that she used to cover her face. He made sure to be very careful so that he wouldn't wake her up.

Though she had always been a light sleeper, she was deep into it this time. Seeing her pale face, he felt his heart ache a little. Although he knew that she had been hiding a lot from him lately, he felt it would be disrespectful for him to pry into her personal affairs.

In the end, he could only just let it be. He believed that she would explain it to him if she truly cared for him. Thus, he waited. The more he waited; the more agitated he became. This wasn't like himself.

As he continued the wait, he didn't expect that the next thing he heard about her was the news of her getting admitted to the hospital. Owing to that, he regretted the actions he had done in the past few days.

From this incident, he learned that abstaining from an act was wrong. When it came to the person he loved, the right thing to do was to give her unconditional love—everything else was wrong. He was willing to bear with all her shortcomings, and he'd even change his future plans for her. However, he had been doing all these without telling her as he valued action over words.

The moment Heather's face was visible to Matthias, he gazed at her lovingly as he really wanted to touch her face. Craving for intimacy was an effect of love. In both mental and physical means, he was suppressing his urges and desired her greatly.

There had been numerous times where he had the thought of having her. Nonetheless, he wanted to wait till she was willing. He was willing to belittle and humble himself because of his love for her. The same couldn't be said for merely liking someone as it was much simpler. At this moment, he had finally realized the difference between loving and liking someone.

However, she was still struggling in her own thoughts, so he couldn't exactly pinpoint how long he would have to wait for her to finally fall in love with him.

There were a lot of words he wanted to say to her. So, in a very soft and gentle voice, he said sotto voce, "Heather, if I take a step back, will you be willing to accept me?" He knew that they were both strong-headed. Since she didn't want to give in, he was willing to take the first step back. In fact, he had been giving in to her more than once. Now, all he hoped was for her to just stay right where she was so that he could make her fall for him slowly.

Matthias' voice had appeared in Heather's dream multiple times before. As she was still in a blur state, she couldn't differentiate whether she was in a dream or reality. All she knew was that he sounded very close to her—so close she would be able to touch him if she reached out her hand.

At this moment, she saw the painful expression on his face, which was the opposite of what she wanted—she wanted him to be happy. That was why she didn't want him to continue wasting his time on herself. Aware that she loved herself more than him, she knew that she'd bring him more harm than happiness. Here and now, she just wasn't able to give him a blessed life.

As she had always been escaping when it came to love, she knew that she was a failure. Many people happened to be able to love one person throughout their entire life, but she had been running from it, not once, but multiple times. Since she was unable to love anyone at all, she pictured herself to be alone in the future.

When faced with love, she always lacked courage. After missing the chance to get with Leon, she was going to repeat the same mistake with Matthias as well. She just couldn't learn to face love with courage.

In the dream, she reached out to caress his face. She was smiling at him, and she even took the initiative to kiss him on his lips. "I'm scared that I'll really fall in love with you," she said faintly.

That made him think that he had gotten an answer. Hence, he leaned closer, but he couldn't hear anything. He had the urge to wake her up and have her say it again, but he knew that it was inappropriate.

Therefore, there was nothing he could do but sit upright. Love filled his eyes, but a tinge of pain could be seen. She was right in front of him, yet she felt so distant as he couldn't even touch her.

"Heather, if we could go back in time, I'd definitely fall in love with you at first sight," he said to himself. If people could go back in time, imagine how great the world could be!

At this moment, the tone of the sky had changed; a rainstorm was coming. A rainstorm in the winter was exceptionally cold. Leon didn't bring any umbrellas when he headed out, so he stayed in his car and looked up at the gloomy sky. The weather made him more depressed.

Meanwhile, Matthias, who was still by Heather's bedside, carefully stood up, trying hard to not make any noise. He was going to pull the curtains as the weather outside seemed scarily gloomy.

The sound of the curtains being pulled woke her up. With her eyes squinted, she could see the back of Matthias' figure. She then blinked a few times as she was still unable to tell whether she was dreaming or was back to reality.

When he turned back, she faked sleep as she lay on the bed. Since she couldn't face him, she might as well not do that altogether. He was exceptionally gentle and soft today; even the steps he took were light and silent. Heather felt like he would be a good boyfriend in the future.

The tenderness that Matthias was showing her had fulfilled her fairytale dream—something Leon failed to compete in. This might also be the reason why she had feelings for Matthias instead. After all, who wouldn't want a boyfriend who could make their fairytale dream come true? With him by her side, she felt at home. How great it would be if there weren't any disputes between the Langstons and the Lockes!

As she was still faking to be asleep, she couldn't see him properly. In fact, she could barely see his figure. She thought that he seemed to be more and more good-looking. She foresaw that she wouldn't get bored of him even if she had to stare at him for another decade or two.

Standing before Love Chapter 689

How was it possible that a man could be so good-looking? There were plenty of handsome and attractive men around Heather, but no one had attracted her the way Matthias did.

Thinking that she might not be able to see this tender, attractive face of his in the future made her feel horrible. What a greedy woman she was; did she desire to own the whole world? Unfortunately, his world would have nothing to do with her soon. She didn't have the guts to open her eyes wide as it would be harder to let him go after seeing him clearly.

On the other hand, Matthias had been keeping her company by her bedside all this while. He had even turned off his phone so that he could take care of her without any distractions. Besides, he wouldn't want any potential noise to disturb her.

If it wasn't fated that they met, it must be a sin. The strong wind was blowing outside the window. As she listened to the sound, she was getting more and more anxious. The weather outside sounded as bad as she felt right now.

As the day passed, here came the night. Even then, he didn't seem to have the intention to leave. On the extra bed in the ward lay Matthias who had himself crouched up into a ball. It must be his first time sleeping in such an awkward position.

Throughout the whole time, she had been awake as she couldn't fall asleep. Even though her body was truly tired, she just couldn't rest in peace. With him by her side, she felt even more uneasy. By midnight, guilt and self-consciousness had devoured her whole.

Meanwhile, he was sleeping soundly on the extra bed in the ward. He must have been very tired lately since there had been so much going on at Locke Group. Moreover, it was a special period of time. Therefore, she actually felt sorry for him.

Carefully, she got out of the bed as quietly as she could, not wanting to wake him up. Standing before him, she still couldn't see him clearly as it was dark. Fortunately, the extra bed was quite short, so she could crouch down by the side.

With her decent night vision, she leaned closer and left a kiss on his forehead gently. Perhaps it wasn't enough, for she was still thinking of his lips. Tentatively, she planted a kiss on his lips too. She wished that the kiss would leave a mark. If that was the case, she would've kissed him all over his body.

Despite locking in her decision, she still couldn't let go; despite the very out-of-the-line decision she made, she was still being greedy. She was beginning to hate herself more and more because she felt like she was exploiting his love for her even though she knew it wasn't right. She was about to give herself to someone else, yet she still desired to own his heart.

"People who love each other won't always be together." Heather said by his ear sotto voce, "Because there are too many deserters in love."

It was also something she was telling herself because she was the deserter who took off before she could fall deeper in love. A person as selfish as she was did not deserve love.

After doing all that, she carefully went back to bed. Throughout her actions, he had been asleep. It was better that way; it was better that he didn't wake up, didn't hear her conflicting words, and didn't love a selfish woman like her.

As the ward wasn't warm, Matthias was woken up by the cold. His first reaction upon waking up was to take a look at Heather, who was lying in the hospital bed. Fortunately, she seemed to be in a deep sleep. He didn't set the air conditioner to a high temperature as he was worried that she'd feel hot and stuffy.

At this moment, the extra bed that he was on made a squeaking noise. Alarmed, he looked toward her on the bed with a concerned look as he was afraid that he'd wake her up. Though he was happy that she seemed to be in a deep sleep, he was still worried about her condition since she had slept for such a long time.

Hence, he decided to look for a doctor at work as he was concerned about her current condition. Having accompanied her for a whole day yesterday, he had forgotten to ask the doctor regarding the reason for her sickness.

After getting out of the door, he carefully closed it back shut. As soon as he left, her eyes shot wide open. Initially, she had already fallen asleep in a daze, but she was woken up by the noise made when he got up.

Assuming that he went to look for the doctor, she started contemplating what to do next. It wouldn't be realistic to continue acting like she was asleep. Besides, Leon would be here to visit soon. She just couldn't bring herself to say mean things to him now.

Yesterday, she had even had a plan plotted when Leon arrived tomorrow. She was going to invite Matthias to their wedding to agitate him further. But after just one night, she had already changed her mind. She wasn't able to bring herself to be so cruel to Matthias. However, if Leon didn't make it today, there would be a high chance Matthias might stay by her side until she got discharged.

Now, she had truly hit a bump. She was contemplating whether she should send Leon a message telling him not to come over today. After all, their wedding wasn't in a rush. She could even follow Robert's wishes and get engaged with Leon first.

Just yesterday, she was saying confidently that she wanted to get married to Leon and have Robert attend their wedding. Now, she had changed her mind. Alas, women just couldn't be cruel in front of the man they loved.

At this moment, she felt like she had sunk into a whirlpool, and she was getting deeper and deeper within. With that, her original plan could use a fix. To be frank, she didn't know what she was thinking either. It seemed that there was still a slight chance to get engaged, but getting married... Heather couldn't bring herself to think any further.

She was only having such trouble making the decision because she liked him. But before she could come to a conclusion, he had already brought the doctor to her ward. At once, she shut her eyes and slept in a straight position. She was afraid that he'd notice something was off.

The doctor approached the bed to take a look at her complexion before telling him with a troubled look, "Let's talk outside." The doctor spoke so softly that even Heather, who wasn't actually asleep, couldn't hear it clearly.

When they stepped out of the ward, Matthias looked at the doctor with a worried expression. "How is she right now?" The uneasy look on the doctor's face made Matthias feel like Heather's condition was concerning.

"Her complexion seems better than yesterday. However, things are still not looking good. Further assessments are required," the doctor said with a frown.

"The reason why she fainted can't be determined yet?" He seemed a little irritated. The doctors in this hospital are so useless!

"There are still some tests arranged for Miss Langston today. When the results are out, we can determine the cause." The doctor didn't dare to offend Matthias as he was someone who held a lot of power in Bradford City.

"Will all the results be out by today?" His tone was so cold that the doctor wouldn't dare to say no to him.

"We can speed it up," the doctor spluttered like a yes-man. Truth was, the results of the tests couldn't be obtained so easily. Nonetheless, Matthias was not someone the doctor could afford to offend. The doctor figured that he could prioritize Heather and let her tests run first.

“I must know why she fainted by today,” he demanded. Obviously, he wasn’t a friendly person. All he did was pressure the doctor consistently. As it was a matter concerning Heather’s health, he was a little irritational. He would even use his authority to get things done if he had to.

“Understood, understood.” The doctor nodded.

Earlier on, the doctor was sleeping in the duty room when Matthias had suddenly barged in. He was completely immodest as he had even threatened the doctor. It was still early in the morning, so the doctor was still a little groggy and blurry. Who knew that he’d be so unlucky to have something like this happen to him? It seemed that today just wasn’t his day.

“Thank you, doctor,” said Matthias without forgetting to fake a polite thanks, sending chills down the doctor’s spine. This only happened because Matthias’ pretentious smile could be a bit scary. No wonder he was called The Smiling Tiger.

All Matthias wanted now was for Heather to be as energetic as she used to be. He was truly worried about her condition. Her health was his only concern at the moment—nothing else mattered.

After the doctor left, he pushed the door to her ward open gently and tentatively. He was still careful not to make any loud noises as he knew that it wasn’t easy to have a good sleeping environment in the hospital.

At this moment, he was trying his best not to wake her up. That was how much he loved her; he loved her so much that he was about to lose himself. Neither did he bother about Locke Group, nor did he bother about other people’s feelings. All he cared about now was Heather alone. Anything or anyone else was not of his concern.

He had never been so stubborn before. For the time being, he had forgotten his identity as the acting president of Locke Group and he was just a normal man who loved Heather boundlessly. Getting back to the cold chair, he looked at her clean, pure face as a satisfied smile adorned his lips.

“Heather, you’ll be fine. I won’t let anything happen to you,” he said meaningfully. He wanted to grab her hand so badly, but it felt like there was an invisible wall separating them.

On the other hand, she had heard everything he had said. She initially thought that he had been practicing on how to give her up this whole time but it seemed she was overthinking the situation. Now, she could clearly feel that he loved her more than he did previously. Her fainting was just a small accident, but he was worried as ever. He is just so adorable!

Besides, she knew her own body well. Since she had a bit of going to regular check-ups, she knew she wasn't facing anything serious as she took disease prevention very seriously.

At this moment, she wanted to open her eyes; she wanted to stare at him; she wanted to talk to him. Why am I so stubborn? She felt like there were two versions of her right now, fighting within her mind. Neither version of herself was going easy on her.

As time passed slowly, both Matthias and Heather suffered. Matthias had to take care of Heather as he was worried that she might not wake up, or wake up anytime soon. Meanwhile, she was acting asleep. As much as she wanted to open her eyes, she was also scared to face him.

The two conflicting people stayed in this stalemate situation for a long time. At this point, Matthias even forgot about being hungry, so he and Heather stayed with empty stomachs together.

Yesterday, the doctor had instructed Matthias to not wake her up, so he listened. That was why he hadn't left her side ever since. Though he was also worried that she might get hungry, the doctor did say that she was more tired, so deep sleep was what she needed most.

Once again, love was brewing between them. She wished that she could freeze the moment so that he could be by her side until the end of time. If it wasn't for Leon's arrival, the peaceful silence between them wouldn't be broken. Today, he came very early as he didn't sleep a wink last night.

Since he couldn't sleep, he stayed awake all night and made his way to the hospital first thing in the morning. After thinking it through for the entire night, he still couldn't calm himself down. He had a lot to say to her.

What Leon didn't expect was that Matthias was already by her side before he arrived. If a queue truly mattered, he was actually the one who came first. Nevertheless, Matthias was always one step ahead when there was a chance.

It was at this moment that Leon finally understood why he had lost to Matthias.

Standing before Love Chapter 690

The door was pushed open from the outside. At once, Matthias noticed the dark circles around Leon's eyes as it was rare to see him in such a worn-out state.

At this moment, the two men stared at each other, trying to guess the situation of their respective opponents. It seemed that both of them had already sensed that they were hiding secrets from each other. The thing was, those secrets were all related to Heather. Because of her, both Matthias and Leon weren't themselves anymore. Wasn't it weird that she had such a powerful effect?

At times, Leon would wonder whether she was the woman of his dreams or a witch. Having thought about it for some time, all he could come up with was that he didn't dare to imagine a life without her.

"You're here early today," Leon said casually with a cheeky smile on his face.

Matthias offered him a smile in response too, but his mood was hard to read. "I've been here all night." It was like a declaration of ownership rights just for Leon to hear.

With a nod, Leon said nothing further. After all, Heather and Matthias were originally a pair already. With that thought, Leon felt like there was nothing for him to say as he didn't have anything to win Matthias with. Besides that, he couldn't possibly take Heather's words from yesterday seriously.

Lying on the bed, Heather didn't dare to wake up as she heard the awkward conversation between the two men. However, she saw that the sun would be fully up soon, so there was no logic for her to continue sleeping. Moreover, the doctors would start checking up on patients in no time, so escaping wasn't the best option now. Therefore, she tried to plan a time to wake up.

As she lay on the bed, she could feel time passing as she was contemplating when to get up. She then thought of how to wake up more naturally, but she couldn't really recall how she'd wake up every morning. It was just not natural when one wanted to do something very natural on purpose.

At this moment, her eyelashes fluttered before she slowly opened her eyes. How could nobody notice that she was up? Thus, she contemplated whether she should make a sound. However, it must seem a little odd if she did that.

“Heather, you’re finally awake.” Matthias had sharp eyes. He was the one who noticed that she woke up despite the fact that she didn’t make a sound.

Looking toward Matthias, Heather saw Leon standing next to him. She noticed that Leon seemed to have something to say, yet he kept it to himself. It made her feel bad for him. In TV series or novels, love triangles had always appeared numerous times. At this moment, she realized that she had also become a part of the said triangle. She didn’t know what to say all of a sudden.

“Is the doctor here?” She suddenly had the urge to ask that out loud, so she simply blurted without thinking much.

“No,” Matthias replied blandly, knowing her intentions very well.

Meanwhile, Leon seemed to be very stumped by her sudden question. He was even impressed that Matthias answered it as if it wasn’t a little out of the blue.

“What time is it now?” This was a question she wanted to ask for a very long time.

Since the situation was so awkward, she didn’t really know what to say, so she resorted to asking random questions. At least she was able to take control of the situation for the time being as she feared that either Matthias or Leon would say something that would lead to an argument, and she was not in a state that was capable of handling that. She was afraid of unforeseen circumstances.

This time, Leon was quick to answer. “A quarter past seven.” As he answered, he was also surprised that it was so early. Usually, he’d still be in his bed at this hour.

“That early?” At first, she thought that it was already eight in the morning. If that was the case, the doctor should be on his way to check up on her.

“Are you still sleepy?” Matthias was concerned. He thought that she might not have had a good sleep.

“No, I’m not.” How could she be in the mood to sleep now? Plus, lately, she had been quite the short sleeper.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the ward was becoming more awkward. Even Matthias, who was usually good at talking, didn’t know what topic he should continue with Heather because she appeared uninterested in talking with him.

As for Leon, he seemed to be an outsider as he watched Matthias and Heather chat awkwardly. Leon couldn’t find an appropriate time to join the conversation either. It looked as though the three of them were talking to themselves, and if this continued, all would fall silent soon.

“Heather, you must be hungry. I’ll go out to buy you some food.” Leon got himself an excuse to head out.

The situation that the three people were in was far too awkward, and Leon didn’t like it. At the time that he wanted to fight for her the most, she didn’t seem to be giving him a chance. Now that she was presenting herself to him on a silver plate, it was hard for him to accept.

After Leon walked out, Heather and Matthias remained quiet. The both of them were either looking outside the window or at the surroundings; they were unable to look at each other as none dared to take the initiative to speak up first.

Who would’ve expected that there’d be a day where they’d look at each other for so long and still be speechless? He had thought of numerous adjectives, but none seemed to describe the current situation he was in.

On the other hand, Heather felt that her body had become one with the bed after lying on it for so long. She suddenly felt admiration toward people who could sleep in or laze around in bed and not feel tired.

After too much sleep, the body might not be in the best state. At this moment, she felt that her whole body was sore and in pain. She would definitely be up for a full-body spa after getting discharged. She then started to move her body slightly as staying in the same position was more tiring than she anticipated.

“I’ve already asked the doctor to come over when he’s on duty,” said Matthias awkwardly. Even the way he spoke to her sounded unnatural now.

“Okay,” she replied faintly. The two were acting so distant that it was almost scary.

As if on cue, the door of the ward was pushed open promptly after the exchange of words. Following that, an old doctor came in with several younger doctors around him.

Taking a glance at the time on her phone, she figured that the doctors must've not had the time to get breakfast since they came so early. Her gaze then swept past Matthias, thinking that he must have pressured the doctors. She had already heard of his reputation as someone with drastic yet effective measures when dealing with business.

The way Matthias instructed the doctors was more like a threat instead of a simple command. At this moment, she couldn't help but smile a little thinking of his actions. It made her happy. She liked seeing how cruel he was toward others, yet acted affectionately and caring when it came to her. The stark contrast made his feelings toward her seem extra prominent. He was really able to fulfill her fairytale fantasy that had always been buried deep down.

At this moment, the older doctor stood by Heather's bedside to take a good look at her. She seemed to be more energetic today. “Miss Langston, do you feel better today?” the old doctor asked in a friendly tone.

In response, she nodded. She seemed to be speaking less these days. Meanwhile, Matthias was just awkwardly standing by the side. He recalled how Leon had gone to get breakfast, thinking how smart he was to escape the awkward situation quickly.

“Can I get discharged today?” Heather asked. She didn't like the everlasting smell of disinfectant in the hospital. Hence, she didn't want to stay here any longer.

Pushing the pair of glasses resting on his nose bridge, the old doctor said, “We'll have to wait until the test results are out.” Obviously, the doctor had to make judgments not only based on her complexion but also from the tests run data.

At this moment, she furrowed her brows. She didn't like the idea of tests, nor did she like the idea of being in the hospital in the first place. That was why she wished that she could leave as soon as possible.

Matthias knew that she must be displeased, knowing her temper. In fact, he had already noticed how she didn't cope very well in the hospital. At times, her thoughts were all written on her face. She could be simple or complex, depending on the situation.

While the old doctor asked a few more basic questions on how she felt and so on, the younger doctors surrounding the older doctor would take a peek at Heather from time to time. Though her complexion was not the best, she still looked so beautiful that one would be shy to keep their eyes on her. Matthias liked how she looked simple and clean now. Her baby-like flawless skin was so alluring.

After the doctors left, the ward had fallen back into silence. There were several instances where he wanted to start a conversation with her, but he had yet to succeed.

The silence was a little unbearable for Heather. The more cautious he was, the more guilty she felt. She wanted to talk to him too, but she just didn't know how. As such, she felt like a failure once again

At this moment, she was beginning to feel hungry. Nibbling on her lower lip, she wondered where Leon went to buy breakfast as it was taking too long. Besides that, she was in a dilemma as she wasn't keen on asking Matthias to get her breakfast as well. All she wished for at the moment was for Leon to be back soon.

The atmosphere was too awkward, so Matthias figured he could turn on his phone that had been off since last night. He figured there must have been many people looking for him. Not long after the phone was turned on, the notification pings started ringing nonstop. Even Lara, who was always calm and composed, had bombarded his phone with a string of text messages.

He felt his head ache as he looked at the messages on his phone, reckoning that they were from the company. As he wasn't going to leave the hospital just yet, he simply deleted them all without even reading. At times like these, he didn't want to be affected by any other factors. He wanted to make sure that he got to see her recover until she was discharged with his own eyes. Therefore, he was not planning to go anywhere now.

On the other hand, Heather watched him as he focused on swiping on his phone. She wondered if there was an emergency that he had to tend to. With that thought, she spoke up. "Is there something urgent back at the company

that you have to deal with?" She hoped that he would depart as soon as possible to not extend the state of suffering that both of them were in right now.

"No," he answered concisely, fully grasping the meaning behind her words.

It seemed that he really wasn't going to leave. Since that was the case, she went back to remaining silent as her gaze was trained on the ceiling. She just couldn't find any topic to talk to him about.

"Leon went out for quite some time. I think he might be lost." Matthias suddenly brought Leon up. He was actually looking for an excuse to get some fresh air. Besides, there was an important call he had to make.

"He shouldn't be. I reckon he might be stuck somewhere seeing some pretty nurses," Heather said in a teasing tone.

As she spoke of the devil, the devil appeared. At this moment, Leon pushed the door of the ward and came in. In his hand was a bag. He seemed to have brought a cartful of breakfast back. Alerted, Matthias stepped forward and took over the food from Leon.

He might have overbought a little too much. The portion was sufficient for a group of 30 people, not to mention there were only three of them.

"Why did you buy so much?" Matthias asked as he was confused. No wonder he had taken such a long time.

"I didn't know what she feels like eating today, so I bought everything that she likes," Leon told Matthias. Truth was, Leon had actually been taking his time outside.

Standing before Love Chapter 691

Hearing that, Heather forced a smile. Of course, she wouldn't buy Leon's words—he must have been dawdling out there.

"This is too much! She wouldn't be able to finish it." Matthias was disturbed hearing Leon's words. Since when is he so good at pleasing Heather?

Leon grinned. "It's okay to waste. Just throw it away if you can't finish it."

Seeing Leon's cheeky face, Matthias suspected Leon and Heather were keeping something from him as he felt the atmosphere between the two had changed.

Initially, Heather was feeling a little hungry, but she had instantly lost her appetite when she saw Leon bring in so much food.

"I'm already full just by seeing these," Heather said in a disgusted manner.

Leon feigned a sad look. Any other girl would be touched but only Heather would take his kind intention for granted.

"Have some porridge." Matthias took a bowl of porridge. Porridge would be more suitable for Heather because it was friendly to one's stomach.

However, Heather shook her head. "I don't want porridge. I want to have some meat," she said in dissatisfaction. Did Matthias really think she wanted porridge after starving for so long?

"No can do. Have some porridge to warm up your stomach first." Matthias put on a stern face at once. He knew he couldn't be too kind to Heather—she didn't even acknowledge herself as a patient.

"Leon, I'd like to have some meat." Heather turned to look at Leon, thinking that she could only rely on Leon now since Matthias was being so unreasonable.

"I agree with Matthias, Heather. It's better for you to have some porridge." This time, Leon sided with Matthias firmly.

Matthias put on a victorious smile, which made Heather even more annoyed that she lost her appetite all the more.

"I have no appetite and don't feel like eating anything." At this moment, Heather was as stubborn as a kid and was difficult to deal with.

"You must eat some since there are still a few examinations you need to go for. You need the energy to walk around," Matthias exhorted as he had already studied the examination schedule provided by the doctor.

"I can go for the examinations with an empty stomach. I shouldn't eat too much now anyway," Heather refuted.

“The examinations which require you to have an empty stomach have been completed yesterday. You should eat before you go for the examinations today.” Matthias was like a stern parent as he wouldn’t even give Heather any chance to bargain.

As such, Heather gave up on arguing with Matthias. Jerking her nose, she reluctantly took over the plain porridge from Matthias. Oh Leon, you indeed have good taste, buying plain porridge which has no taste at all.

On the other hand, the feeling of being a third-wheeler grew stronger as Leon watched the interaction between Heather and Matthias from the side. Heather’s proposal yesterday to marry him must be a joke!

Under Matthias’s stern gaze, Heather forced herself to eat the plain porridge which was tasteless. After finishing half of it, she put the bowl of porridge on the table and refused to eat anymore.

“Have some snacks.” Matthias had already prepared them for Heather in advance.

Although the porridge wasn’t filling, Heather had gobbled a bowl in one go, so she was feeling a little bloated and wasn’t interested in having snacks.

“I’m full.” Heather didn’t feel like eating anymore. Moreover, she had lost her appetite even more having two men staring at her without eating.

“Porridge is not filling. Have some more snacks,” Matthias cooed in a gentle tone as if he was placating a child.

“You guys can have it. I’m full,” Heather emphasized again. It was true that she didn’t have much appetite even though her stomach was growling before Leon brought the breakfast over.

Seeing Matthias persistently stand beside Heather with a determined look, Leon thought Matthias and Heather were indeed the same kind of people—both of them were equally stubborn.

If the two of them really get together, they might face lots of conflicts in the future. Leon’s thoughts ran wild. Seeing how persistent Matthias was, Heather didn’t want to go against Matthias, so she took over the snack from him.

Heather didn't like how stubborn Matthias was. Nonetheless, she reckoned no one else would dare to be this stubborn when faced with her. To think about it, it was actually a good thing that Matthias was able to control her.

Meanwhile, Leon decided to stop being bothered about them and started lowering his head to eat his food. Matthias was actually impressed at Leon's good appetite because the latter was having fried noodles early in the morning. What was even more surprising was that Leon had bought steak.

The steak was served together with the fried noodles. Matthias had never seen someone eat steak with fried noodles before. After all, he himself preferred to have a light breakfast instead.

The ward was so quiet that there was only the sound of chewing. Unlike Leon who was cramming down the food, Matthias ate elegantly while Heather ate reluctantly.

The atmosphere in the ward was filled with the aroma of food. The room became warmer compared to it being ice cold not long ago. The three of them savored their breakfast quietly. After slowly finishing a piece of snack, Heather put the snack box on the table beside her.

Matthias observed Heather as she ate. Is it so hard to eat something? Since when did she become so contentious?

It was going to be 9 o'clock soon. It felt like time passed quicker in the hospital. If he were to be in the company right now, the morning meeting would've just ended by this time. Recently, the Locke Group had been especially hectic. There were a lot of matters which Matthias had to go through personally every day, and he was drowned by all sorts of documents on a daily basis.

"I'm done," Heather said while darting a glance at Matthias as she was afraid that he would be dissatisfied again.

Looking at the leftover snacks, Matthias then glanced at Heather while wearing an unfriendly look. "Do you really have no appetite?" he asked Heather seriously.

"Yeah, I don't feel like eating anything," Heather answered in confidence. Unspirited, she felt weak in her body.

After finishing his breakfast, Leon gave an excuse and slipped away again. Heather was resigned as she watched him leave. She even doubted if he was truly fond of her. She couldn't understand at all. Leon would always hide away from Matthias when he saw him. Hadn't he thought of competing against Matthias at all?

Once again, Heather and Matthias were left alone in silence. Heather was fed up with the atmosphere being this, so she was eager to find an excuse to make Matthias leave.

"Leon will accompany me to the examinations later. You can go back to the company now." Heather spoke straight to the point. It was better for Matthias to leave now, lest she couldn't control herself with him around.

"Leon is too careless. I won't be at ease to let him look after you on his own. I'll be less worried if I personally bring you to the examinations." Matthias refused to leave and attempted to find every reason to stay.

"I don't feel like seeing you now." Heather had no choice but to provoke Matthias by being mean.

However, Matthias smiled and didn't take her words to heart at all. As long as Heather allowed him to stay by her side, he wouldn't mind her crossing the line.

"President Locke, why do you want to make yourself suffer by staying here?" Heather continued questioning him upon receiving no response from him.

"I don't think I'm suffering. To be able to stay by your side is something that makes me happy." Matthias deliberately softened his tone when talking to Heather. He wished Heather would be comfortable staying around him.

"Matthias Locke, don't you understand yet? You and I are not related at all. I don't want to keep seeing you in my life." Heather was being extremely harsh, thinking that any ordinary person wouldn't allow their dignity to be trampled upon like this.

"All I know is that you're sick and not in a good mood. Don't worry. I don't blame you," Matthias said while comforting himself. Nevertheless, he knew her sickness wasn't the only reason this time around.

“Matthias, Leon and I are getting married. Will you give us your blessing?” Heather cruelly told Matthias about the news, but she regretted it the moment she said it.

Matthias stared at Heather in disbelief with the corner of his lips twitching. He didn't believe this was true. How could Heather possibly marry Leon? This couldn't be true!

“Heather, your joke isn't funny at all,” Matthias replied while forcing a calm look. He didn't believe Heather would marry Leon.

“You can ask Leon when he's back later,” Heather said firmly. She was willing to lie until the end this time.

“Why?” Looking agonized, Matthias didn't know how to describe his current feelings after perceiving such shocking news from Heather. He was dumbfounded and really wished to ask Heather why she would treat him like this. This was ridiculous.

“He's able to provide me with a happy family.” Lowering her head to look at the snow-white blanket, Heather didn't even dare to look at Matthias as she knew she was being too cruel to him.

“Can't I provide you with a happy family?” Matthias didn't know why he lost to Leon, nor did he know what he had done to provoke Heather.

Why on earth did she make such a decision? Matthias racked his brain as he couldn't understand where exactly he was lacking. What was more, he couldn't understand why Heather would make such a sudden decision. She was not an impulsive person, after all.

“We are not compatible, Matthias,” Heather said with an apathetic expression. She didn't want to drag things on and would rather cut things clearly.

Matthias walked up to Heather and lifted her chin. “Why don't you dare to look at me? Are you feeling guilty?” Matthias refused to believe that Heather's feelings toward him were fake. He knew she must have had some compelling reasons to do so.

“I just don't want to see you.” Heather's tone was becoming increasingly cold. Even her gaze at Matthias was as if she was staring at a stranger.

Matthias attempted to catch some clues from Heather's expression as he didn't believe she was this kind of woman. Furthermore, he didn't want to believe that Heather had toyed with his feelings.

"Give me an explanation." Matthias didn't want to listen to Heather's excuses anymore. He wanted a genuine explanation from her.

"There's nothing to be explained about. Leon and I love each other. Isn't marriage something meant for two people who love each other?" Heather looked into Matthias' eyes and smiled coldly.

"You guys love each other?" Matthias laughed sarcastically. "Do you know how to love someone? Do you even know what's the essence of love?" Matthias finally blurted the words which he had kept in his mind for some time.

Nonetheless, Heather ignored Matthias' mocking and answered nonchalantly, "So you know what's the essence of love then? Are you sure you're in love with me?"

If love meant giving up yourself or anything else just for that one person, had Matthias loved her to this extent? Heather didn't even dare to contemplate it. Since she couldn't receive genuine love, it didn't matter anymore who she married.