

## Chapter 419 I Won't Stop

Since there were so few people in the cafe, Howell didn't even pretend to be polite, pounding his fists on the table as he asked, "Are you trying to bankrupt the Sherman Group? Is that why you're doing this? How can you be so heartless, Melissa?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," Melissa sipped at her coffee.

She had forgotten to add sugar and the bitterness lingering on the tip of her tongue made her more sober.

"Stop playing dumb," Howell frowned and added, "I can't think of anybody who'd want to slander Arielle apart from you."

"Slander?" Melissa laughed as if it were the funniest thing she had ever heard before her smile faded away into an expression like pure ice.

"Howell, you can say what you like, but look at all the evidence. You know it's not slander."

"So you admit you did it?" Howell countered.

"Of course, it's me who did it," Melissa said with a shrug. She leaned back and gave him a piercing glare, though she couldn't help an ironic grin spreading over her face. "I worked hard to get all the evidence I could. There's no way Arielle can restore her reputation ever again."

"You!" Howell's fury burst through in his words. "Take it down. Take it down as soon as you can. You can correct your mistake before the media get hold of the evidence."

"And why do you think I'd do that?" Melissa asked. "Did you ever ask Arielle to stop bullying me back then? You have no right to come and make demands of me now."

"It's not the same thing at all!" Howell tried to keep his shouting down as another customer came in. He leaned in closer and hissed, "The repercussions of what you have done won't just hit Arielle. It will affect

Of course. All of this was for the Sherman Group.

"Well, that's easily remedied," Melissa replied. "You put out a statement that you had no idea any of it was going on. You publically end your relationship with Arielle. Then everyone will know it has nothing to do with the Sherman Group, and it might just survive this. I've also got the contract with the Green Group. Maybe the Sherman Group will get a step up from this."

Howell said nothing, but she could see the thoughts flickering behind his eyes.

He was definitely thinking about it.

He was thinking through the pros and cons of her suggestion before saying anything. Of course, he knew in his heart what he should do next.

He was so heartless.

Melissa had got what she wanted, but still, somehow it made her feel sad.

She didn't know how her mother could have spent so many years with somebody so heartless. All that time with Howell had culminated in her dying in a mental hospital.

Melissa resolved to ask Howell all about her mother.

But first, she took out the contract, laying it before them on the table.

"Howell, I'm not taking any of it down. I've done what I've done, and I stand by it. I am going to make this matter big news. I need Arielle to know what it's like to lose everything, to have no reputation and nowhere to go. As for this contract, it's up to you whether you want to sign it or not."

Howell's eyes exploded like flares at the sight of the contract.

He gripped onto his bank card and swallowed.

Melissa had the complete support of the Mayfield family. He couldn't go up against that and win. There was no way back. He would end up losing

the whole Sherman Group if he tried.

So the only way to save the Sherman Group would be to sign this contract. It was the only straw they had to cling to.

But he held back from his first impulses, frowning and saying, "What assurances can you give me that this is a genuine contract? What if you're trying to fool me?"