

Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1231

Chapter 1231

“But who could be threatening her? My mother?” Josiah asked.

“I think that’s the most likely answer,” Meredith answered.

Josiah kept quiet momentarily before saying, “she had been with my mother since she was a child. And my mother has been treating her like her own daughter. I don’t get why my mother needs to threaten her. But I’ll just ask her since you have this doubt.”

Just when Josiah was about to turn around to go downstairs, Meredith pulled him back. “Wait, she is asleep now. Furthermore, she won’t admit it if you just ask her so directly.”

“I just need her to get Ivy to come back. No?” Josiah said.

Everything would return to square one if Mrs. Shelby was the one who requested Ivy to come back. It would not help to prove Meredith’s assumption.

Meredith pulled Josiah’s sleeve and gazed at him. “Josiah, I want to go look at the annex. Can you go with me?”

If Josiah went along, no one would dare to stop her. If she went alone, then there was a possibility that she would be blocked.

“Are you suspecting Ivy is being locked up? In the annex?” Josiah was startled. Then he scoffed and knocked on her head. “Have you been watching too many mystery movies?”

“Feel free to think so.” Meredith pulled his sleeves again, “So can you go to the annex with me?”

“Are you going to pout until tomorrow if I don’t go?” Josiah poked Meredith’s lip with his index finger. “Come on, I’ll go with you.” Then he took out a trench coat from the wardrobe and placed it on her. “It’s cold outside. Put it on.”

Meredith put on the trench coat and made a quiet signal at Josiah, “Sshh...don’t let anyone know that we are going to the annex.”

“Alright. Let’s keep quiet.” He put his hand around her. Just before they went out of the door, something suddenly popped into his mind. He lowered his head and said, “But you have to promise me one thing.”

“What?” Meredith asked.

“If you did not see the mystery plot you imagine, you have to let me sleep with you tonight,” Josiah said.

Meredith rolled her eyes to show how speechless she was. Nevertheless, her heart was rushing to go inspect the annex, so she nodded without feeling forced. “Alright, I promise you.”

In order not to spook anyone, they left from the back door and headed to the annex from the backyard. The mansion was huge. It was at least half a mile from the main building to the annex.

The weather was colder at night. Within a few steps of walking, Josiah pulled Meredith into his trench coat. He was afraid she was cold.

Nonetheless, Meredith did now realize how protective Josiah was. All she could think about was the annex.

As they entered the living hall of the annex, they saw the yellow dog Lily said. It was sleeping in one of the corners. Luckily the yellow dog did not bark when it got spooked. It just looked at Josiah and Meredith with alerted eyes while putting its tongue out.

Josiah looked at the yellow dog and asked, “How come I didn’t know there’s a dog in here?”

“This is one of the suspicious points too.” Meredith said, “Lily said this is Mrs. Shebly’s dog. But why does she want such a big dog? And it is being leashed in the house too.”

“My mother does like dogs,” Josiah said.

“Let’s go in.” He pulled Meredith further in and asked, “Where do you want to search first?”

“The basement,” Meredith answered, “the basement is the most suitable place to lock up someone. I was being locked up in there and got bitten by a dog in the past.”

Josiah’s heart ached. He looked at her sadly and felt sorry for her experience.

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Chapter 1232

As Josiah stopped walking, Meredith quickly apologized, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't rake up old grievances, especially not now. Let's hurry and go have a look."

However, Josiah grabbed her arm and looked at her from a condescending angle while feeling sorry, "Edith, I didn't say you can't rake up old grievances. I'm just scared you will ignore me again when you do that."

"And I didn't let the dog in to bite you. I also didn't send someone to the psychiatric ward to hurt you. And..."

He coughed and felt embarrassed to talk further. Truth be told, those explanations were just meaningless but he could not help it and explained it over and over again. He was not a man who was afraid to deny his own doing.

His only wish was to diminish his bad image in Meredith's heart and hopefully one day she would forgive him.

Meredith saw the guilty look in his eyes, she simply said, "It's not important anymore."

Everything was in the past. The damage had been done.

Josiah inhaled lightly while feeling very helpless. He put his arm around her shoulder. "Come on, let's go to the basement."

The other reason that made Meredith convinced Ivy was being locked in the basement was that the yellow dog was being leashed beside the entrance of the basement. Obviously, someone did it to avoid people from going down the basement.

Both of them bypassed the yellow dog and slowly walked down to the basement. However, there was nothing in the basement. It was so empty that there was not even a thing down there.

Meredith was stunned. Josiah looked at her and said, "Maybe you are really overthinking."

She looked at him and walked to the other side of the basement. The area of the basement was huge and it was separated into different compartments. However, each compartment was empty and there was no place for anyone to hide.

She was not about to give up. "Let's search upstairs."

"Okay." Josiah nodded.

Both of them used the lift from the basement to reach the second floor. The gym was on the second floor. After searching the area, they did not find anyone. Then they went to the third floor. The result was the same. They could not find anyone.

After searching the entire building, Meredith finally gave up. she said, "Maybe I really did overthink."

Josiah put his hand on her shoulder and touched it. "I will send someone to investigate every possibility that you mentioned, shall we return now?"

She looked at him with disbelief, "You really believe in me and you will find someone to investigate?"

"Yes, I believe in you."

Even if he did not believe in Meredith, it was not a difficult task to get someone to investigate the matter. At least, it was essential to find Ivy's whereabouts first. To see what was she trying to do.

Both of them returned to the main building. Meredith stood in front of her door and turned around to face Josiah. "Thank you for accompanying me. Good night."

Josiah quickly extended his hand out to stop Meredith from closing the door. He looked at her, "Meredith Leighton, I've done what I promise you. what about your promise? Aren't you supposed to keep your side of the promise too?"

It reminded Meredith that she had promised to let Josiah stay with her tonight if they failed to find Ivy in the annex. Hence, she lowered her voice, "Hurry up and come in. Don't let anyone see you.

II

Josiah bent over and whispered into her ear, "Why? Are we having an affair?"

"Nonsense. Are you coming in or not?" Meredith asked.

"Yes." He moved sideways and slipped into the room from the small opening. As he turned his body, he trapped her between his body and the door. Then he used his finger to lift her chin. "No wonder Mother thinks you are not right. You are feeling guilty."

His breath was making Meredith nervous so she pulled his collar with both hands and said in a low voice, "Josiah Shelby. I agreed to let you sleep with me but I never said you could do anything to me.

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Chapter 1233

“So we are just going to sleep and do nothing?” Josiah asked.

“Yes!” Meredith pointed at the door. “If you are not satisfied with it, you are more than happy to sleep in the study room.”

“Nope. I’m good.” He bent down and carried her in his arms.

“Josiah Shelby, you—”

He said he was good with the arrangement but his action stated otherwise.

Then he placed her in the middle of the bed while his muscular body pressed onto her body, “If you can reject it.”

Before Meredith reacted, he had already started on it. she needed to admit that Josiah was really an expert in that area. She was not his opponent and she could not withstand his enticement.

He knew all of her sensitive areas and which part she could easily be triggered, within a moment, Meredith insisted no more and Josiah got what he wanted.

Once again Meredith woke up late due to a night of satisfaction. It was rare for her to wake up with Josiah hugging her. she closed her eyes and was reluctant to get out of bed since it was too comfortable.

At that time, Josiah was awake too. He hugged her tightly while looking for her lips and mumbled, “Good girl. It’s a tiring night.

Let’s sleep in.”

Meredith avoided his lip and asked with a blurred mind, “what time is it?”

After last night, she was feeling tired too, and did not feel like getting up. However, she still needed to head to work so sleeping in was not an option.

Josiah did not look at the time so obviously, he did not know what time it was. He could not be bothered to know the time too. He just said, “Who cares what time it is? Go back to sleep.”

“No, I can’t. I need to go to work.” Meredith took out her hand from the blanket. After searching for a bit, she finally found her phone.

It was nearly 8 p.m. she quickly struggled to get out of Josiah’s arms to get up. she said while feeling annoyed, “You are such a troublemaker. Always causing trouble for me.”

The result was always the same. Working her out so tiringly and causing her to wake up late.

Josiah supported his head with a hand and looked at her with an innocent look. “The company does not record your attendance. Why are you afraid to be late?”

“Do you think I have no principles like you? Don’t you know a crooked stick throws a crooked shadow?” Meredith asked.

“Nonsense. I was never late to work when I’m not with you,” Josiah talked back.

He did not lie about this. Ever since he was a kid, he has been a strong person with a strong sense of time, without any special reason, he would not be late to work. Because of that, the employees of the Shelby Group did not dare to be late too.

There was nothing to fight about on this point.

Once Meredith freshened up and put on her clothes, Josiah was also ready.

“I’m going to look at the kids.” As she finished talking, she was already at the door.

while she was far away from the kids’ bedrooms, she heard Nia’s voice coming from Cooper’s bedroom.

“Cooper, you look nice in it. But I also look nice in this too. Thank you, Aunt Ivy.”

Aunt Ivy? Meredith stopped walking when she heard that name. Then she strode to the bedroom.

It was really her. The one who had been missing since three to four days ago.

She was squatting in front of Cooper and Nia, helping them to tidy up the new clothes they were wearing. Cooper and Nia were looking very happy and liked their new clothes very much.

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“Mommy, look. Aunt Ivy bought new clothes for me and Cooper,” Nia said happily to Meredith.

At that time, Ivy stood up straight, she looked like it was very difficult for her to do that and her face looked quite pale.

Meredith looked at her and then at the parent-child outfit on the kids.

Ivy also looked at the kids’ clothing. She said, “Please don’t be awkward. I saw these when I was shopping yesterday. It looks nice so I bought it to wear during the New Year.”

It was a set of four pieces of parent-child outfits. The adult ones were placed on the sofa.

Meredith was not shocked by the outfit, she was shocked by the information she heard, “Miss Landers, you were not in the mansion because you went outstation?”

“Yes, I went to Delmas Town to handle something. I also bought these there.” Ivy took the adult clothes from the sofa and said with a boastful tone, “Look, these are mine and Josiah’s. Isn’t it nice?”

It was a shocking revelation to know Ivy was not in the mansion these few days because she went to Delmas Town. Could she really feel guilty like Josiah said and went away for a few days to hide?

“Josiah, you’re up.” Suddenly, Ivy bypassed Meredith and walked toward Josiah who was behind Meredith. She took the male design and displayed it in front of his body to try to see if the clothes fit. She smiled, “I brought this parent-child outfit from Delmas Town. Try it on to see if it fits.”

There was no flaw appearing in her emotion and conversation.

Meredith looked at Josiah unconsciously, she wanted to use her eyes to ask Josiah why was Ivy back in the mansion so suddenly but Josiah thought she was unhappy Ivy bought the parent-child outfit.

When Ivy was trying out the clothing on him, he pushed her away coldly. He said with a deep voice, “I don’t need it.”

Ivy fell to the ground even when Josiah only pushed her so lightly.

He frowned, “Miss Landers, please don’t fake it.”

“Josiah...” Ivy felt embarrassed.

“Cooper, Nia, come on. Let’s go downstairs to have breakfast.” Meredith did not want the kids to see the unsettling moment between the adults so she quickly took Cooper and Nia along with her to leave the room.

Now, only Josiah and Ivy were left in the room. Ivy felt the unfriendly glaring from Josiah, she lowered her head and pretended to feel guilty.

“Miss Landers, are you feeling guilty because you drugged me and ran away for three to four days?” Josiah stared at her and asked coldly.

Meredith’s assumption and his plan to find someone to investigate Ivy’s location were no longer necessary as Ivy had now shown up again. It was meaningless too.

Looking at how pretentious and guilty this woman was, Josiah could feel his anger slowly mounting.

“Speak. Were you the one who drugged me or it was my mother?” Josiah asked again.

Ivy took a deep breath and raised her head to look at Josiah. “It was me. But...you shouldn’t blame me. You keep on ignoring me. I did it so I could be in your heart as soon as possible.”

Josiah looked at her and remembered what Meredith said last night. Then he asked again, “Then why did you let Meredith enter the study room?”

“Do you think I want that to happen?” Ivy smiled bitterly. “I didn’t expect her to barge into your study room. If she didn’t..Josiah, I’ll be your woman by now.

“Meredith Leighton, I hate her!” Her expression turned from bitter to anguish, she gritted her teeth. “If it weren’t for her, the plan won’t fail.”

“So you don’t feel remorse or sorry for drugging me?” Josiah asked.

“Is it wrong to love someone?” Ivy gazed at him. “I’ve loved you since we were kids. I came back for you. But you don’t appreciate me at all...what a disappointment.”

There was no sign of remorse found on her face. Josiah sneered, “ Guess Meredith was wrong about you. she is too kind to think that you are actually a good person.”

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Josiah could not be bothered to listen to Ivy's crazy talk anymore.

He turned around and left the bedroom.

Meredith was just on her way up. She pulled him into the bedroom. "Did Ivy really go to Delmas Town?"

Josiah stretched his hand out and rubbed her head. Then he sighed, "Edith, you are too kind."

"What do you mean?" Meredith did not understand.

"It means she is not as good as you think she is. And not so great as you think, she went to hide in Delmas Town because she felt guilty."

Meredith found it hard to believe. "Are you sure? What did she say? I

"She said she hates you. Hates that you robbed her chance." Josiah used his hand to rub her head again. "But you don't have to care what she thinks. All you need to do is stay beside me."

After what Josiah said, her hopeful heart suddenly dimmed. She really thought that Ivy did it because she had no choice and that she did not want to marry Josiah as much as she said she wanted to. It was just too bad...

"Alright, don't look so disappointed. Let's have our breakfast," Josiah cheered her up.

"Aren't you disappointed?" Meredith asked.

"I never thought she did it because she had no choice. I also don't think she purposely gave the chance to you." Josiah smiled bitterly. "Have you forgotten how she became pregnant with Cooper?"

That sounded solid. It happened in the past before. Ivy drugged Josiah and became pregnant with Cooper. It was no wonder Josiah did not trust Ivy.

"Okay." Meredith shrugged her shoulder and went downstairs together with Josiah.

When both of them disappeared from the staircase, Ivy's body went soft. She used one hand to support her body while the other hand wiped away the cold sweat on her forehead because of pain. Slowly and slowly, she headed back to her own bedroom.

Mrs. Shelby's voice appeared in her ear.

"If you dare to tell Josiah or anyone about this or let them see the wounds on your body, I swear you will never have the chance to see your little rascal anymore!"

Ivy closed her eyes in an attempt to block the evil voice away from her head. It took her a lot of effort to return to her bedroom. She carefully took off every piece of her clothes. Her wounds were exposed to the air one by one.

She inhaled deeply in pain and took the ointment to carefully apply it to her wounds. It was so painful that her sweats kept on dripping down her forehead. After much effort, she finally finished applying the ointment to every wound.

Knock! Knock! Someone was knocking at her door, she quickly put down the ointment and shouted at the door, "Who is it?"

"It's me, Miss Landers." It was Suzy's voice.

Ivy stopped what she was doing and said, "You may come in."

Suzy was holding a tray of food when she came in. She said, "Miss Landers, I know it's inconvenient for you to go downstairs to have your breakfast so I brought it up for you."

"Thanks, Suzy." Ivy continued to store away her medicine.

Just when Suzy was about to leave the room, Ivy called upon her, "Do you think I can go out today?"

Suzy glanced at her and asked with doubt, "Why on earth do you want to go out when you are badly wounded?"

"I just want to go to the hospital to see a doctor," Ivy explained.

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Chapter 1236

"See a doctor in the hospital?" Suzy thought for a while. "If that's what you want, I can send you a doctor after sir leaves the house."

"My wounds hurt painfully. I'll like to go for an x-ray in the hospital," Ivy explained.

"Those are just wounds and bruises. They are most probably infected. You don't need an x-ray." Suzy stared into Ivy's eyes with squinted eyes. Then she said with a serious

tone, "Are you just trying to use it as an excuse to do something else? If Mrs. Shelby finds out about it, it will be another round of pain for you."

"Suzy, I know. So can you please don't tell it to Mrs. Shelby?" Ivy begged sincerely.

"Miss Landers, let me remind you. without permission from Mrs. Shelby, you'll never succeed." Suzy said solemnly, "Rather than wasting your time doing the unnecessary. Why don't you finish what Mrs. Shelby instructed and wait for her to fulfill your wishes personally."

Ivy smiled bitterly. Having Mrs. Shelby fulfilling her dream would be the hardest thing to achieve in her life.

After waiting for a long time, Meredith did not see Ivy coming down. She asked, "Why isn't Miss Landers coming down for breakfast?"

Lily replied, "I heard Suzy say Miss Landers is too tired from flying in the night to come back here. So she sent the breakfast up for her."

II

"Oh, I see." Meredith nodded.

"Mommy, this is delicious." Nia pointed at the sweet pastry on the dining table. "It's matcha flavored."

"Really? Then I should try it." Meredith took a piece and bit it. "It's really delicious, who made it?"

"Daddy ordered it from a store," Nia said.

"Is it? You ordered it back?" Meredith asked Josiah.

"Why? What's weird about it?" Josiah asked.

"It is weird. You never care about these little things in the past," Meredith replied.

"Here, have more if you like it." Josiah put two more sweet pastries on her plate.

"It's enough. I can't finish these." Meredith wanted to pass the pastries to Nia and Cooper. Then she saw Cooper was putting more pastries on his own plate.

'Didn't he have enough already? Why is he still taking more?' Meredith wondered.

She guessed, "Cooper, are you going to take these pastries for your mommy?"

Cooper looked at her and nodded.

Even though he did not look like he was close to his mother, he still thought of her. Meredith was touched by Cooper's little thought and rubbed his head. "Go on, she is upstairs."

Cooper took the pastries upstairs. Meredith looked at his back as he left. Suddenly, a thought came into her mind and she followed him. "Mommy, did you have enough?" Nia asked.

"Yes, I'm going to change my clothes and get ready to go to work. Take your time to eat," Meredith replied.

She was already at the entrance of the dining room when she was halfway talking. Then she tiptoed upstairs, when she passed by Ivy's bedroom, she heard the plate falling down the floor. It was then followed by Ivy's angry yelling, "Go away! I don't want to see you!"

Meredith was shocked. From the slightly opened door, she saw Cooper being pushed to the floor and the pastries were scattered on the floor.

Despite that, Cooper did not cry. He stood up and slowly picked up the pastries from the floor. Meredith thought Ivy who was feeling angry would push Cooper out of the bedroom. However, the expression on her face suddenly changed. She squatted down and helped Cooper to pick up the pastries, she looked apologetically. "I'm sorry, Cooper. I didn't mean to be fierce at you. I'm just...

scared to see you."

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Chapter 1237

It was like Cooper had gotten used to how Ivy treated him. He shook his face indifferently.

"Thankyou for the sweet pastries. It's matcha, my favorite." Ivy forced a smile on her face and touched Cooper's head. Then she picked up the pastries and ate them.

Cooper took the pastries back and said lightly, "It's dirty."

"It's okay. It's not dirty." Ivy continued to eat it and said, "Cooper, can you go play with Nia? Mommy wants to be alone."

Cooper nodded.

Since Cooper was on his way out, Meredith quickly left the door. However, she had more doubts in her heart. Previously, she had felt there was something wrong with Ivy's attitude toward Cooper. Ivy ignored and rejected Cooper while also feeling bad because of her action. Due to that, Cooper was reluctant to be close with her.

Meredith wanted so badly to go into the bedroom and asked why Ivy treated Cooper in that way. Then again, she realized Ivy would not tell the truth even if she asked. Her answer would always be the same, that she wanted to marry Josiah and had Cooper recover.

Thus, she let it go for now and avoided spooking Ivy from accidentally exposing her true motives.

During dinner time, Ivy finally joined everyone for dinner. Mrs. Shelby was also sitting at the dinner table. Like previously, Ivy sat beside Josiah and took very good care of him. She had completely treated herself as Josiah's fiancée.

Meredith secretly monitored Ivy's movement but there was nothing weird about it.

As always, Mrs. Shelby only joined the dinner because she had something to say. After a few bites, she said, "It's the New Year next week, old sir Shelby called and requested all of US to spend the New Year in Delmas Town."

Then she looked at Josiah. "Let Mister Wesley arrange the plane. We will leave on the day after tomorrow. And also take the time to arrange your work."

Josiah replied, "We can fly back anytime we want with the private jet plane. There's no need to make a special arrangement. But..." Josiah looked at Meredith, "We can go back for the New Year but Meredith is coming with US."

"No." Mrs. Shelby objected to it without any delay. "Josiah, don't forget you are marrying Ivy next month. It's only appropriate that you, Ivy, and the kids go back together."

"Mother, the wedding is canceled on the very night you and Ivy drugged me," Josiah refuted.

"You—" Mrs. Shelby was furious. "I don't agree with it."

Before Josiah could say anything, Meredith spoke first. "Mrs.

Shelby, I want to go and visit old Madam Shelby."

Not only was Mrs. Shelby shocked by it, but Josiah was also surprised too. Normally, Meredith would follow as she was told, especially on this matter.

Had her thoughts changed? Was she starting to act in concert with Josiah now?

Josiah was pleased with the improvement Meredith made.

On the other hand, Mrs. Shelby was so angry that she could not find words to talkback. Ivy suddenly said, "If you want to visit Old Madam Shelby, you can do that after the New Year."

Meredith looked at Ivy and the polite smile on Ivy's face. "I promised old Madam Shelby that I will bring Nia back to spend the New Year with her.

"Miss Landers, you don't have to worry about a thing. I will just be there for a few days. It won't affect you and Josiah."

Instantly, Josiah was unhappy. He lowered his head and looked at Meredith. "Meredith Leighton, what do you mean by not affecting me and Miss Landers?"

Meredith secretly kicked his leg under the table to hint him to shut up.

Josiah was speechless.

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Chapter 1238

After the dinner, Josiah dragged Meredith into the bedroom and pushed her against the door to question her, "Meredith Leighton, what is the meaning of that? I thought you have made some improvements. That you are now on the same side as me. But..."

"Stop!" Meredith used her finger to press on Josiah's lips. "Can you please listen to me first?"

He took her finger away and stared at her coldly, "You better give me a solid reason. Or else I'm not letting you off so easily."

Meredith challenged him, "what are you going to do?"

"ΓT sure you know what I mean." Josiah used his finger to lift Meredith's chin, "Do you want to try it now?"

“Alright, alright. Enough with the jokes.” This time, it was Meredith’s turn to take Josiah’s finger away, she stared at him. “Even though you kept telling me I’m overthinking this, I still think Ivy did not act willingly. I want to use the chance to monitor her when we are back in the old house.”

Josiah was lost in words. “You have been monitoring her all these while, have you? What did you see?”

“I think the relationship between her and Cooper is very weird. Like she is not Cooper’s biological mother at all,” Meredith said.

Josiah panicked and grabbed Meredith’s shoulders with both hands. “Are you crazy? I have enough trouble with Ivy. Are you going to get another woman involved in this?”

Although Meredith thought it was a wild imagination, she could not help and tease him. “Who knows? Didn’t your issue with Ivy just popped out recently?”

“Ivy...” Josiah coughed, “it was an accident. I know about that. But other than that, there were no other women in my life anymore. So this assumption is not valid.”

“Oh.” Meredith continued, “But I still want to go back to Delmas Town with her.”

“Edith, it’s really not necessary...” Josiah said helplessly.

He really did not know what kind of difficulties Ivy could be facing and what kind of secret Ivy had that was worth Meredith looking for.

“Please.” Meredith put her palms together and begged cutely.

Obviously, Josiah could not reject that. “Then we need to make a deal. Promise me you won’t be mad no matter what Mother tries to do to make me get along with Ivy,” He reminded.

“Don’t worry. I won’t get mad that easily,” Meredith replied.

She has now known Josiah’s attitude toward Ivy. It was not possible for her to get angry especially when she knew how suffering Josiah was.

However, her generosity was not appreciated by Josiah. He said unhappily, “That’s right. Miss Leighton is so generous and kind as to allow her husband to find more lovers. You are definitely the best wife ever.”

Meredith knew Josiah was unhappy, she raised her hand and poked his chest. “Alright, don’t be so grumpy.”

“I can allow you to go back to Delmas Town. But I have a condition,” Josiah said.

“Spill it,” Meredith replied.

“I’m sleeping with you again tonight,” Josiah said.

As expected, Meredith knew Joshua would request this as always. G guessed this was the task he wanted to complete every day. In order to return to the old house with everyone else, she had no choice but to agree with him.

Since Meredith was being so nice, Josiah requested another thing, “ Can you make me a cup of coffee?”

“Why are you drinking coffee during nighttime? Aren’t afraid that you have trouble sleeping?” Meredith asked.

“No worries. As long as my wife is with me, I won’t have any trouble sleeping.” Josiah was not bothered by it.

Thus, Meredith went downstairs to get him a cup of coffee.

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Chapter 1239

Well, of course, Meredith did not make Josiah a cup of coffee, she warmed up the milk for him instead, when she was about to leave the dining room, coincidentally, Mrs. Shelby left her bedroom.

From the look of it, Mrs. Shelby deliberately came to look for Meredith.

“Mrs. Shelby,” Meredith greeted.

Mrs. Shelby glanced at the warm milk. Meredith could not help and gripped the tray tighter. The burn on her hand had not recovered. It would be worth it if Mrs. Shelby knocked the warm milk and burnt her hand again.

“Put down the milk.” Mrs. Shelby looked at the coffee table beside.

Meredith could only put down the warm milk and looked at her politely. “Mrs. Shelby, I know what you want to say to me. But I’ve decided to follow Josiah and the kids back to Delmas Town.

Nothing you say could change my mind.”

The anger sparked in Mrs. Shelby's heart because of what Meredith said. "Meredith Leighton, I see that you are getting bolder now that you have Josiah on your side."

"Mrs. Shelby, Josiah has always been on my side." Meredith replied seriously, "The only reason I chose to back out is because of Cooper's illness. But once I know how miserable Josiah was because of the marriage with Miss Landers, I..."

"It's just an excuse!" Mrs. Shelby cut her off, "You don't have to pretend to be mighty in front of me when you are just a slut! I despise you."

"Since this is what you think, then there's nothing else I need to explain," Meredith finished talking and was ready to go upstairs with the warm milk.

"Do you think it's appropriate for Josiah to bring two women back to Delmas Town to celebrate the New Year? what would the others talk of him?" Mrs. Shelby asked.

"Even if it is inappropriate, I shouldn't be the one who backs out of it. Isn't that what Miss Landers should do?" Meredith paused, "Unless Josiah marries her."

"You know, sooner or later both of them will get married," Mrs. Shelby counteracted.

"Then we could talk when they do." Meredith nodded at her. "Mrs. Shelby, I don't want to offend you but can you at least be fair?"

Treat me with a little respect."

Mrs. Shelby was lost in words.

"I'm sorry. I'm going upstairs." Meredith picked up the tray and went upstairs with the warm milk.

When she was back in the bedroom, Josiah was sitting on the sofa reading a financial magazine. He glanced at her when she was in the room, "what took you so long?"

Meredith did not tell him Mrs. Shelby stopped her to have a talk when she was downstairs, she put the milk in front of Josiah." Coffee makes it harder for you to sleep. Here's your warm milk."

"My wife is so thoughtful. If I said I want to drink poison in the office, they would give it to me immediately," Josiah said.

"Don't you get it? It means that you are a terrible person to your employees," Meredith said.

"You're right. Everyone is scared of me but not you." Suddenly, Josiah lamented.

“So is Mister Josiah happy to see this warm milk? Or are you unhappy?” Meredith asked.

“Of course, I’m happy.” Josiah extended his hand out to hold Meredith’s neck and pulled her forward to give her a kiss. “Thank you.”

Then he let loose of her and took the warm milk and drank it.

“But, why is this milk cold?” Josiah asked.

Meredith touched the cup. “It’s not?”

Even though she was just stalled for a couple of minutes, it was normal for the milk to cool down very fast because the weather was getting colder. At first, she wanted to replace another for Josiah, then she thought that Mrs. Shelby was downstairs. In order to avoid further conflicts, she could only change her mind. “It’s good that it’s not hot anymore. It won’t burn your mouth.”

“But it’s better to drink warm milk at night,” Josiah said.

“Oh, if you don’t want to drink, then just leave it there,” Meredith talked back.

Josiah pulled her back and looked at her. “Edith, I was just complimenting how caring you were, why did you do this to me now?”

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“What?” Meredith asked.

“Aren’t you supposed to say that you will get me a new one?” Josiah asked.

“I’m sorry. I don’t love you that much yet.” Meredith smiled at him and left immediately.

Josiah put down the milk and followed her into the bathroom.

Meredith did not expect Josiah to follow her. She turned around and looked at him in alert, “What are you trying to do? I’m warning you...”

Before she could finish talking, Josiah carried and placed her on the sink to sit and kissed her. Meredith was lost in words. After kissing her for a while, Josiah let go of her and said, "The milk is not nice so I need to find something else to do."

"Josiah Shelby, can you please look for other things to do?" Meredith was forced to sit on the sink and pushed him away with her hands. "Get out of here. I want to take my shower."

"I'll shower with you," Josiah offered.

"I don't need it. The weather is so cold now. It's not fun to shower together," Meredith rejected.

"The heater is on, isn't it?" Josiah asked.

Meredith thought for a while and nodded. "You're right. Then can you please go get another towel? There's only one towel in here."

"Okay. Wait for me." Josiah lowered his head and kissed her lips.

Meredith gave him an alluring smile. "Hurry up."

Without any doubt, Josiah did move quickly. However, he was still not fast enough to beat Meredith from locking the door, when he heard the sound, he finally realized he was fooled. He turned around and knocked on the door angrily. "You little liar! How dare you?"

"If you are unhappy, you can go sleep in your study room," Meredith said with a smile.

Josiah was speechless. He pressed against the door and threatened, "Just you wait. You will beg for mercy later!"

Meredith did not care about the threat, she turned around and took her shower. Josiah stood at the door and saw the looming shadow on the glass door. His throat suddenly felt thirsty and dry.

To calm himself down, he coughed and went back to the sofa and drank the milk. The milk was colder now. Hence, he went downstairs to make a new one.

When he was downstairs, he saw Ivy standing in front of the car from afar, she was using a teaspoon to stir the milk but her eyes were looking blurred, not knowing what she was thinking.

Josiah hesitated and still approached the bar. Ivy finally regained her senses when she heard footsteps. She smiled at him and greeted him, "Josiah, why did you come down? I..."

She took the milk and pass it to him. "I made this warm milk for you. Drink it while it's still hot."

Josiah looked at the milk and touched the glass. It was cold. He wondered how long she had been standing there or if she did warm up the milk or not.

"The milk is cold," Josiah told her.

Ivy was stunned. She touched the glass and it was really cold.

"I'm sorry. I must have spaced out and thought I have already warmed up the milk."

Josiah looked at her panicked face. He did not understand how absentminded could she be to think that she had already warmed up the milk.