

Surprise 251

Chapter 251 No Room For Others Between Them

Scott glanced at her. "Is that so? In that case, I won't insist on you staying. Are you still coming over tonight?"

"Yes." Courtney nodded, concealing the sorrow in her eyes as she lowered her head. "Tina, let's go."

When they were about to leave, Jordan suddenly tugged at the corner of her clothes and cried with much difficulty, "Mommy..."

The atmosphere at the dining table instantly froze, but Alexander seemed indifferent.

It was not the first time that Jordan called her 'Mommy' although he seldom addressed her as such in front of others. Alexander, who seemed unfazed by the incident, hoped to see how she dealt with the situation.

Nevertheless, Scott's expression became cold. "Jordan, you shouldn't address a random person as 'Mommy'."

Jordan, who suddenly felt aggrieved, tightly held onto Courtney's clothes without any intention to release it—even if his little hand was reddened. He sobbed, "Great-Grandpa is bad. I want Mommy..."

At that moment, the entire atmosphere in the dining room was indescribable as the maids looked at one another with complex expressions.

"Jordan." Courtney's tone revealed that she was caught between a rock and a hard place. In fact, she hoped that she was able to just take Jordan away from there at that point of time. Why are we putting a 5-year-old child through all these complicated situations? "If it is possible, I would like to take Jordan to my place for two days." She forced herself to ask for something that even she herself thought was impossible.

"No. Do you think that it will be appropriate for Jordan to just leave with an outsider?" Scott's expression was cold.

Upon hearing that, Jordan cried even louder.

Scott snapped at Alexander. "Alex, take Jordan away and calm him down!"

Alexander sat firmly on his seat without budging. There was an impassive expression on his face even after he was scolded by Scott. He shrugged his shoulders and calmly replied, "I can't calm him down. Nobody is able to calm him down when he starts crying."

"You are trying to piss me off, aren't you?" Scott's body trembled in fury. He immediately rose to his full height, approached Courtney and grabbed Jordan's arm before tearing the young child away from her embrace. With a cold expression, he instructed, "Miss Hunter, you may leave now."

No matter how reluctant she felt, she had to force herself to leave.

Her heart ached when she saw Jordan crying his eyes out until he had breathing difficulties.

After leaving the Duncans' ancestral home, Courtney buckled up her seat belt and drove away from their house.

Tina's sobs were heard from the backseat. "Mommy, Jordan cried so badly. Are we really not going to care about him?"

Courtney fixed her gaze in front, but her fingers were clutching the steering wheel for dear life. "It is not that I don't care about him; it's just that I am not in the place to care for him now. Once the lawyer hired by your daddy returns to the country, I will find a way to bring Jordan home."

Tina snuffled and her red eyes made her look like a little rabbit. "Mommy, why did I was with you when Jordan followed Mr. Alexander? Did Daddy and Mommy give Jordan away when he was still a baby?"

A child's mind was simple and it had a rather fixed way of thinking. Without much life experience, they did not know that there could be one too many coincidences in life.

Tina had always thought that she and Jordan were both Elijah and Courtney's children, but for some reason, he had left them when he was still a baby.

Courtney did not know how to explain the situation to her. After keeping quiet for a long time, she explained in a small voice, "That was because I wasn't careful enough when I gave birth to you two. I accidentally lost Jordan."

Tina did not reply.

After Courtney left, the dining room in the Duncans' home was in a state of mess.

Alexander seemed to have decided not to care about everything around him and he had no intention to calm his own son down. The maids around them were flustered. Jordan bawled even louder; it did not matter who came close to him and it stopped everyone from having the courage to get near him.

"You guys are useless." Scott slammed the table. As he also felt disconcerted, he bent over and tried to coax Jordan. "Jordan, you are a good boy. Please stop crying... Okay?"

Jordan snuffled and his cries came to a sudden halt. Just when everyone thought that Scott had miraculously succeeded in calming the boy down, his little hand gave the older man's face a slap while he stomped his foot in fury. "Bad guy!"

Everyone in the room was aghast as their eyes widened. Even the butler, Harry, was shocked as he watched the scene before his eyes in disbelief.

Scott had been thriving in the business world all his life and he gained respect from everyone wherever he went. Now that he was an extremely old person, he was now embarrassed by his great-grandson when the latter gave him a slap. It was obvious to everyone that Scott's expression had darkened.

"Old Master Duncan, Jordan is still young." Mikayla immediately stood up and tried to console him.

Alexander remained calm. He took a sip of water and placed the glass on the table while he watched everything that happened before his eyes indifferently.

Scott took a deep breath with his brows furrowed. After a moment, he bent over again and forced a smile on his face. "Yes, I'm the bad guy. Jordan, you can whack me as much you like if you are able to calm down after hitting me. I will not be angry at you and I won't cry as well. Therefore, Jordan, please stop crying and you have to finish your meal."

Everyone in the house was astounded. Even Harry's eyes widened at his reaction.

As expected, Scott was practically unprincipled when it came to pampering his great-grandson. It was not obvious in the past because they had not spent much time together and they never had to experience such a peculiar moment.

"I want Mommy..." Jordan sobbed. His little hands hit Scott and pushed him away in resistance while he himself took two steps back. The boy's tear-stained face seemed to have made him look extremely pitiful.

Scott sighed. He finally understood what Alexander meant by 'nobody is able to calm him down when he starts to cry'. Nobody except Courtney is really able to calm the child down.

The maid took Jordan away. Although he continued to cry, at least the people in the dining hall had a peace of mind without him crying in front of them.

However, everyone had lost their appetite to eat by then.

Now that the atmosphere in the dining hall regained its silence, the aura seemed to be stiffer. The tactful Mikayla cast a glance at everyone and rose to her full height. "Old Master Duncan, Alex, I'm full and I have something else to attend to. I shall take my leave now."

Scott politely uttered, "You are full after eating so little? There are still some dishes in the kitchen that haven't been served."

"It's fine. I have a small appetite and I'm on a diet now. Let's chat again some other time." She politely smiled. "By the way, I have something else to do tonight, so I won't be coming over later."

With that, Scott nodded and Mikayla left the Duncan Residence.

After getting into the car, she tapped open the call log on her phone and stared at the number for some time before mustering the courage to make a call. "Hello, it's me—Mikayla."

Before the person on the other end of the phone could even respond, Mikayla continued speaking, "Are you free? I noticed that you didn't have a proper meal earlier. Let's have lunch together. I don't mean anything; I just have something I wish to discuss with you."

The call lasted for a short while. After hanging up on the call, she picked a kraft paper bag from the passenger seat and took out a parentage testing report. Her initially cold eyes were tainted with shreds of darkness.

Life was full of uncertainties. She initially thought that Britney had lied to her, but when the evidence was presented in front of her, she had no choice but to believe in the existence of fate in the world. The two people, who had been brought together by fate, had no room for a third person between them.

## Chapter 252 I Was Being Taken Advantage Of

Courtney handed Tina over to Oliver. "Tina hasn't had lunch yet; do take her out for a meal. I have an appointment with someone for a discussion. I will be back later."

"Alright." He nodded. "Courtney, who are you meeting with?"

She paused for a moment. "Mikayla Lewis."

In an open-air café on Kyoto Road, the metal tables and chairs emanated rich French vibes and the maple leaves of the early autumn hung high above them, indicating that the weather in Melrose City had become cooler.

Mikayla was drinking coffee in her beige coat, looking as exquisite as when Courtney first saw her. Anyone who laid eyes on Mikayla would get the distinct impression that she was raised and pampered like a little princess from a young age.

Courtney looked around when she arrived at the place.

"Over here." Mikayla's voice came from a spot near the wall. Courtney raised her head and saw Mikayla waving at her, so she went over and took a seat.

"I've ordered a caramel macchiato, a black forest cake, and a salad for you. Is that alright?"

Courtney nodded slightly. "Thank you. You told me on the phone that you have something to discuss; let's just get straight to the point." She did not find her relationship with Mikayla close enough to the point of having lunch together. On top of that, the two of them had just left from an incredibly awkward lunch without even greeting each other.

Mikayla pursed her lips. "Please don't get me wrong. The reason I asked you out this time is different than before. I apologize for my previous impoliteness."

Mikayla seemed sincere but Courtney still thought that she was provoking her. "There's no need for that. You have now gotten what you want, so apologizing at this point only sounds sarcastic to me."

"You have misunderstood me." Mikayla immediately explained, "I've really given up on Alex and he is just like a big brother to me. I really hope that both of you can make up and get back together, just like how you guys were in the past. I hope that my presence did not affect your relationship with him."

The more Mikayla talked, the more ridiculous things sounded. Courtney frowned as she muttered, "Miss Lewis, are you pulling my leg? I'm afraid I don't have that much time to joke around with you."

"I'm being serious. I will be transferred back to the headquarters in France after some time and my parents will migrate there together with me, so I don't think I will come back often after that."

Mikayla's expression did not seem like she was lying. However, Courtney was puzzled. "You are going to France? How about your marriage?"

Old Master Duncan would never allow Alexander to go to France with Mikayla. However, if the latter would not be going, were they planning to have a long-distance relationship after marriage?

“The marriage is a lie.” Mikayla smiled. “Alex asked for my help because he wanted to use me as an excuse to deal with Old Master Duncan. If my guess is correct, Alex is going to tell him the truth since Old Master Duncan has mentioned the official engagement date today.”

Courtney was stunned to hear that. Is Alexander and Mikayla’s marriage actually a lie? “I’m sorry?” Based on her understanding, Alexander was not someone who would use such childish means to lie to Old Master Duncan.

“It’s the truth.” Mikayla fished out a kraft paper bag from her handbag before placing it on the table. Pushing it toward Courtney, she murmured, “Also, I found out about something and I think that it would be quite impossible for me to come between the two of you. However, I’m a little curious so I wish to figure it out.”

Puzzled, Courtney took out the documents from the bag under Mikayla’s gaze. When she saw the title ‘parentage test report’, her expression changed.

“Before this, I did not understand why you are so committed to taking care of Alex’s son, but now I understand.” Mikayla’s voice came from opposite her.

At that instant, Courtney felt her blood run cold. Accidents tended to happen when one least expected them. She initially thought that the secret could be kept hidden forever—nobody would know about it as long as she did not tell anyone.

“I still want you to tell me in person. You, your daughter, Alex, and Alex’s son—what’s the relationship between the four of you and what happened?”

Courtney was so nervous that her fingers, which were clutching the documents, turned pale. When she finally calmed down, she asked, “Does Alexander know about this?”

Mikayla shook her head. “I didn’t tell him because I’m not sure what the consequences will be if I do so.”

“What else do you know?”

“I only know how it happened. Someone told me that Alex found a surrogate mother to give birth to his child many years ago, in order to fulfil his grandfather’s request to get married and have a child. Jordan is the child that the surrogate mother gave birth to. However, I am curious as to how you—the young lady of the Hunter Family—ended up as a surrogate mother.”

Since it has come to this... Courtney furrowed her brows with a thoughtful look on her face. She realized that Mikayla had discovered almost the entire truth but since she did not tell Alexander anything, she must have her own concerns and Courtney was able to guess what it was.

Courtney kept the parentage testing report into the paper bag and sealed it before replying, “Mikayla, I can satisfy your curiosity but I need to make sure that you can keep it a secret if I tell you about it.”

“Keep it a secret?” Mikayla was stunned. “You are not planning to tell Alex about this?”

“That’s my business.” Courtney seemed distant. “If you are not going to tell Alexander, I can also make sure that your secret will continue to remain a secret.”

Upon hearing that, Mikayla frowned. “What secret?”

“The truth about the fire.”

Hearing that, Mikayla’s face paled. “You—”

“I found out about everything within one week from the fire but I kept it a secret.”

“Are you threatening me?”

“This is not a threat but an exchange of secrets. I don’t think that we are close enough for you to meet me in person just to pass me this document and understand my relationship issues.” Courtney poked the paper bag with an impassive expression. “However, since you have brought this up, you should have your reasons; just tell me what you want.”

“I only—” Mikayla furrowed her brows and after a while, she sighed. “Alright; I admit that I have my reasons but they bring no harm to you. I came to find you because I think that we share a common interest. Otherwise, I would have sought Alex out instead.”

Courtney looked at Mikayla impassively without saying anything.

“Let’s put it this way. I didn’t know anything initially. I thought that you and Alex were merely dating each other like an ordinary couple, but someone specifically told me about the complicated relationship between you two.”

“Who?” Courtney frowned. Other than the butler back then, she did not believe anyone else knew about this.

“Britney.”

Hearing that, Courtney’s expression fell. “Britney Price?”

Ever since her relationship with Alexander had been confirmed, Britney had disappeared from their world and they had not seen her for close to six months; it was as if she had never existed. The last time Courtney saw her was during a cocktail party in Shanghai, where she saw Britney from a far distance away. Britney actually knows about the incident that happened six years ago and she even told Mikayla about it?

“Also, the fire was actually all her idea. It was only after everything happened that I realized I was used by her.”

## Chapter 253 You Must Get Married

“In the beginning, I honestly did not mean to hurt the two children. She merely told me to make it look like an accident with some smoke. Then, I would just have to carry Jordan out. However, I didn’t expect a true fire, let alone such a big one that burned down the kitchen. Just thinking of it makes me scared now. If I hadn’t charged into the fire to carry Jordan out, I would have regretted it for the rest of my life.” Mikayla appeared especially fearful at the mention of the incident.

Courtney regarded her with a thoughtful expression. “In that case, Britney was just trying to commit a crime by using you at the time. On one hand, she can blame me for not rescuing Jordan and on the other, she could have murdered him. In the end, if Alexander were to investigate, you would be the culprit. Furthermore, you do not have any evidence to prove that it’s Britney’s doing because she would have been attending the Ivory Bear Awards at that time.”

Mikayla nodded and she wore a complicated expression. “I was careless.”

Courtney inhaled deeply as she felt a chill run down her spine.

There is no reason for Mikayla to lie, whereas Britney has a motive to frame her for the crime. Well, if it’s true that Britney planned and instigated Mikayla to start the fire, it means that my doubts from before are founded. For instance, why would a young miss with high social status stoop so low to hurt two children by working with a pastry chef? Furthermore, she didn’t care if others might suspect her odd behavior and she ran into the fire at the last minute to rescue Jordan.

Courtney didn’t need to think twice to believe Mikayla’s story.

Britney has the courage because she’s different from Mikayla. She has been involved in the entertainment industry from the tender age of 16 or 17. She has witnessed all kinds of shady businesses and she is acquainted with all sorts of people. She is, no doubt, capable of committing such a crime.

“Well, do you believe me now?” Mikayla asked. “I have been feeling unsettled lately and I have the constant feeling that Alexander knows about these things, but he hasn’t exposed me. I honestly can’t go on living feeling this way anymore, which is why I will not endure it any longer. I want to do something to make things right.”

“Which is why you want Alexander and I to reconcile and get back together, just like before you came along?” Courtney chimed in.

Mikayla hummed in response. However, Courtney let out a helpless sigh. “That’s not quite possible.” Her initially tensed and guarded emotions relaxed gradually, whereas her stiff back eased back against the chair. “I believe what you said earlier but that’s not the only issue between Alexander and me. Since you are aware of Jordan and Tina’s identities, you should know that this is a complicated issue—it’s not as simple as one might assume.”

“You just have to inform Alex. I can tell that he really likes you and if you were to tell him that you are Jordan’s biological mother and that he has a daughter too, I’m sure it’ll be a happily ever after for everybody! When that happens, someone like Britney won’t have the chance to take advantage of the situation.” Mikayla’s thoughts were simple and straightforward, and she seemed keen to address the issue as soon as possible.

“I haven’t figured it out yet but he will know about it. Before that happens, I hope you’ll keep this a secret for me.” Courtney forced a smile which looked especially awkward. When I first started dating Alexander in the beginning, I didn’t know that he was the man from before. Later, I’ve imagined the situation countless times. However, how could I possibly fall for him if I’d known in advance?

Mikayla hesitated before she answered Courtney with conviction, “I will not say anything. Previously, I’ve honestly had second thoughts whether I should have told him. However, as I continued to delay

things, I no longer had the courage to inform him. Well, you are well aware that talking about it would involve speaking about Britney and me. I feel that Alex knows that I am involved in the fire but our friendship might not survive it if we were to talk about it openly.”

Her answer was well within Courtney’s expectations.

Everybody wishes to have a perfect image in the eye of the person they once loved.

“Well, I’m keeping this. Thank you for asking me out today to chat about this matter.” Courtney let out a sigh of relief while pointing at the paper bag.

“I owe you an apology. In all honesty, I’m just too used to relying on Alex. I have a clearer mind after I’ve thought about things upon returning here. Besides, my brother has been counseling me many times. Please don’t take my actions in the past to heart.” Mikayla pressed her lips together in embarrassment. Her slim and fair fingers were interlocked on the table as she explained this to Courtney in a rush.

Courtney smiled lightly. “You didn’t do anything wrong.”

Mikayla’s actions are nothing compared to what Britney has done. To be honest, she’s merely a spoiled princess. She might be doing great in her career and she might look pretty, but she’s rather naïve when it comes to relationship issues. Otherwise, I guess she wouldn’t have failed in her previous marriage.

The two of them shook hands and made peace; it was an unexpectedly peaceful lunch.

“In that case, when are you headed to France?”

“Why? Are you in such a hurry for me to leave? Are you afraid I might go back on my word?” Mikayla smiled cheekily as she teased.

“I’m just afraid that somebody might expose what you did in the past.” Courtney rolled her eyes. “Didn’t you mention that Britney expects you to obey her?”

“She’s just a small-time artist; all I need to do is to ask my brother to make life difficult for her. It’s not an easy feat to survive in the entertainment industry. Do you see her having the time to chat with me about working together?” Mikayla smirked and she seemed to hold Britney in contempt. “I’m leaving by the end of this month. You should see me off when the time comes; I’m sure Alex will be shocked.”

Courtney shook her head. “Will he be shocked? I’ve never seen more than three expressions displayed across his face.”

“Just give it a try.”

Courtney was rendered speechless by her insistence.

The board game had been set up in the living room of the Duncans’ ancestral home. Scott and Alexander sat facing each other with their respective black and white pieces.

“After this round, you should drop by the Lewis Residence to invite Mikayla’s parents over. I’ll discuss the engagement issue with them.”

Alexander straightened this back. “I do not plan to get engaged with Mikayla. You are overthinking things.”

“Haven’t you been together with Mikayla for a very long time? What do you have in mind if you aren’t planning to get engaged with her? I’m telling you—the Lewis Family are well aware about you and Courtney. You need to get engaged with her to put them at ease.”

“In that case, forget about it because I do not plan to get engaged with Mikayla.” Alexander moved his white piece to block Scott’s attack. “I merely said that during lunch so that I wouldn’t embarrass you in front of the crowd; I didn’t want you to feel humiliated. Besides, she’s just like a younger sister to me.”

“Younger sister? But that’s not what you said to me in the past.” Scott frowned deeply while looking up at Alexander.

“What did I tell you?” Alexander asked seriously.

“Well, you—” After racking his brain, Scott realized with a start that Alexander had never confirmed his and Mikayla’s relationship status despite often hanging out together.

Scott slammed the table hard and the pieces on the chessboard bounced up. “You’re being absurd! Do you think that you are able to fool me just because I’m old? You have to get married by the end of this year!”

#### Chapter 254 The Person Who Ran Away From Home

Alexander looked particularly calm. “In that case, are you trying to embarrass me or Mikayla?”

“How am I embarrassing Mikayla? Furthermore, her mother has brought it to my attention several times—as long as we get the greenlight from you, we can even have the wedding tomorrow. Please do not pass the buck.” Scott looked especially livid.

“Mikayla is returning to France at the end of the month. In fact, apart from her older brother, the whole family is migrating. I think it’ll work if you wish for me to migrate with them; France isn’t too bad, after all.”

“What?” Scott’s expression fell and he stood up abruptly from the chair. After pacing around, he turned around to slam his palm against the table. “I don’t care if Mikayla leaves but you will have to get married by the end of this year. You are already in your thirties yet you have not settled down. What does it look like to the public especially when you are off gallivanting with a married woman?”

“Are you saying that I can get married to anybody?”

“Yes! Anybody but Courtney!”

Alexander folded his arms while glancing at his surroundings. In the end, he dragged Hannah out, who had been eavesdropping at the entrance. “In that case, I choose her. You know her background thoroughly; she can just be my live-in child-bride.”

“What?” The color drained from Hannah’s face.

Scott’s expression soured when he caught sight of Hannah. “You brat—”

Harry looked frightened but he tried to smooth things over. “Young Master, please stop joking around. Miss Hannah is your aunt—you’d be committing incest while breaking the law in terms of her age.”

Alexander answered indifferently, “She’s Grandpa’s adoptive daughter, so I am not related to her by blood. As for her age... Well, Grandpa requested me to be married by the end of this year. If he doesn’t mind, I am happy to wait. How old are you this year?”

Hannah was at a loss for words and she seemed to be in a daze. She looked like a damsel in distress when Alexander grabbed onto her frail arm. “I’m t-thirteen,” she stuttered.

“She is thirteen this year, which means I’ll have to wait five years for her; that’s not too long,” Alexander commented and looked at Scott calmly.

Scott, on the other hand, was fuming at that point and he almost smashed the scented rosewood table into pieces. “You must be mad! Are you insane? Do you think you’re making any sense?”

Alexander adjusted his suit after releasing Hannah. “You claim that everything I do doesn’t make sense. In that case, what else can I do?”

“Get lost!” Scott slammed his fist on the table loudly and nobody in the house dared make a sound. His booming voice reverberated throughout the large house as he roared, “From today onward, you shall not set foot within the Duncan Residence if you aren’t aware of your mistakes.” Scott was truly furious this time.

No one had the courage to stop Alexander when he was leaving. Initially, Harry wanted to advise him against it but Scott barked loudly, “Whoever has the courage to stop him shall get lost with him.”

Harry turned around and he saw Scott sitting on the old-fashioned wooden chair while staring daggers at them. “Who did the brat take after? His father used to be so good-natured. Why does he have such a horrible son?”

Harry and Hannah exchanged glances before finally turning to Scott.

Well, I suppose the trait has skipped a generation.

After taking Hannah—who had been scared witless—away, the servants served some chrysanthemum tea to ease Scott’s anger, whereas Harry tidied up the board game at the side. “Young Master is just young and reckless. You don’t have to take him seriously, Master.”

“Is he still young? He is already in his thirties but he is so unsure about marriage. Is it wrong for me to want him to get married? With his identity and status, are you aware of the gossip and scandal which surround him since he isn’t married? Does he treat the accidents happening to Jordan as a joke?” Scott’s expression turned frosty at that point. “That brat has always had a cold and distant personality ever since he was a child. I’m not even sure what he will do in the future if he doesn’t get married sooner to have a wife to keep an eye on him.”

“In all honesty, it’s not a bad thing to keep a distance. When Mr. Jeffrey was alive, you always thought that he was indecisive and soft, didn’t you? Later, it was also due to these factors that...”

At the mention of his only son who had passed away many years ago, a trace of pain flashed through Scott's eyes. There was a visible change in his gaze too. The originally vigorous old man suddenly looked utterly dejected.

"Jeffrey was such an outstanding child. Previously, I was overjoyed when he told me that he'd be getting married to Mindy. Who would have thought such a thing would have happened later on? It was a sin."

"It's my fault. I shouldn't have brought up the sad past," Harry murmured regretfully. "Master, stop thinking about it. You haven't completed the game; please continue."

"No. I am tired and I want to take a nap." With that, Scott stood up slowly.

Harry sighed quietly as he watched Scott make his way to his bedroom.

Mr. Duncan has been through hell and back. He lost his father when he was a child and his son passed away when Mr. Duncan was in his middle age; now, his grandson doesn't get along with him. The family has yet to have a warm and peaceful time all these years. In hindsight, I recall it used to feel like a home just a few months ago when Mr. Alexander and Miss Hunter were dating. I even thought that things would take a turn for the better.

Later on, Courtney returned home after buying some ingredients from the supermarket. She started speaking as she opened the door, "Oliver, I need to head to the Duncan Residence to cook for Jordan so I've bought some ingredients back. If you're hungry, cook some noodles for Tina and yourself. I'll be back soon—" Before she could complete her sentence, she noticed that there were more than two pairs of shoes scattered in the hallway, two of which were obviously men's leather shoes.

Just as she froze, a tiny figure charged toward her leg and held onto her tightly. "Mommy..." the figure greeted her weakly.

"Jordan?" Courtney was dumbfounded and bewildered. "Why are you here?"

"Well, I said they came over uninvited but he claims that you invited them both," Oliver answered from the living room.

Courtney looked up to see his exasperated expression as he glared at Alexander in frustration. "Do you have anything to say for yourself? Pack up right now and leave."

"What happened? Hannah, why are you here?" Courtney noticed a row of people sitting on the couch when she carried Jordan into the living room. From left to right, in descending height, were Oliver, Hannah and Tina. They were all glaring at Alexander, who was sitting on the single seater. They looked as though they bore a deep grudge against him.

This is truly confusing. Just as she was trying to figure things out, Jordan pried her hands away to run to the couch. He squeezed onto the seat of the couch to glare at Alexander too. What's happening? "Spill the beans—what's going on?"

Courtney returned after washing her hands. She stood in front of the coffee table and blocked their view of the television. "Who will go first?"

"Me!" Oliver raised his hand while maintaining a righteous expression. "I brought Tina back after a meal and I saw this little girl squatting in front of our house." He pointed at Hannah who sat beside him. "She

claimed that she's Tina's friend so I let her in but in the end, she refused to leave. After trying to clarify the situation, I realized that she had run away from home. I was just about to call the police but before I managed to do that—" Oliver shot an icy look at Alexander. "—he brought that little one over while claiming that they have your permission. He says that from now on, dinner will be at our home. Did you agree to it, Courtney?"

"Your home?" Alexander's deep voice rumbled and he squinted at Oliver with a menacing and cold expression. He was obviously unhappy with Oliver's choice of words—"our home".

Chapter 255 Has He Gone Mad?

Oliver frowned deeply as he deliberately made a jeering remark. "That's right; our home."

Alexander's expression darkened straight away. "Oliver, have you forgotten about something?"

Before Oliver could answer, Courtney glared at Alexander warningly. "I wasn't asking you; kindly shut your mouth."

With that, she looked at Hannah. "One at a time now—tell me, Hannah; why are you here?"

Hannah pouted while looking sorry for herself. She pointed at Alexander, who was sitting across from her. "Well, it's all thanks to him. He has gone mad; I cannot believe he actually told Dad that he wants to marry me. I'm underage, for God's sake."

Pfft! Oliver spewed out the water he was drinking while he stared at Alexander in disbelief. "I knew that you were a pervert, but I didn't know that you've lost your mind!"

Alexander scowled while looking at the splashes of water across his sleeve. He glared at Oliver threateningly.

"Go on," Courtney encouraged as she regarded Hannah. Truth was, Courtney was surprised but she had to allow the young girl to finish her story.

"Dad asked him to get married to Mikayla. Alexander was reluctant so they argued. Dad says that it doesn't matter who it is but he has to get married by the end of this year. Then, Alexander dragged me from the entrance while announcing that he wants to get married to me. He's obviously gone mad, hasn't he?"

Upon hearing that, the two little ones, who were seated beside each other on the couch, regarded Alexander like he was indeed an insane person. Tina looked scornful whereas Jordan wore a contemptuous expression.

Alexander cleared his throat before explaining, "It was just a random comment."

"You randomly claimed that you want to marry a 13-year-old teenager? It is no wonder you scared her so badly that she ran away from home." Courtney rolled her eyes at him in exasperation. She looked at Jordan without waiting for an explanation from Alexander. "What about Jordan? Why is he here?"

Jordan might be able to utter some simple words but he could rarely complete a sentence. Therefore, he wrote on his drawing board after he heard her. ‘Daddy got into an argument with Great-Grandpa and he got kicked out of the house.’

“Serves you right!” Hannah muttered furiously after reading that sentence.

Alexander glared at Hannah and she immediately ducked behind Oliver, afraid to utter another word.

After a round of questioning, Courtney finally got a better picture of what was going on. Well, it all stems from the fact that Alexander has lied to Mr. Duncan by claiming that he is dating Mikayla. In the end, Alexander spilled the beans when Mr. Duncan was about to set a wedding date in excitement. After angering Mr. Duncan, Alexander vented his frustration by dragging poor Hannah into his mess, which is why we have this situation right here.

“Why are you here after having a fight with Mr. Duncan?” Courtney gave Alexander a sideways glance. “I’ll honor my promise to prepare dinner for Jordan but you’ll have to leave after that.”

Alexander leaned against the couch, as if he was expecting nothing less from Courtney. “Sure, but Jordan and I do not have a place to stay tonight. It doesn’t matter to an adult, but a child might fall ill and get admitted to the hospital the next day after being in the cold the whole night. I’m afraid you’ll have to send your meals to the hospital tomorrow,” he answered calmly.

“You—” Courtney stared at Alexander in disbelief. “Your grandfather merely kicked you out of the Duncans’ ancestral home. How can you possibly not have a place to stay?” Isn’t it ridiculous for the richest man in Melrose City to complain of being hard up?

“I didn’t take my phone and wallet along, so I am left with nothing but a car.” Alexander cocked an eyebrow at her, as if unfazed whether she believed him or not. Then, he placed the car keys on the table, its shield logo shining brightly.

“Stop pretending.” Oliver glared at him. “You’d be able to afford a condominium for a bachelor with that car of yours.”

“If you are able to sell me an apartment, I’ll pay you a 20% commission. My requirements are basic—no less than 200 square meters, a balcony that is connected to the living room and the bedroom has to have an en suite bathroom.”

“What is wrong with you? Courtney, will you just look at him?” Oliver threw Alexander a disdainful look. “Anybody who takes in such a spoiled brat is a fool.”

Courtney pressed her lips together. “Oliver, tidy up your room tonight because he’ll be sleeping with you.”

“What?” Hearing that, Oliver almost blew his top. “Why though? I don’t want that.”

“Nor I,” Alexander chirped.

“In that case, you can stay at the subway station if you’re not happy with the arrangements. The house only has three bedrooms—Jordan and Tina will be taking one, whereas I am occupying the other one. That leaves the last room for you two, so the both of you will have to figure it out.”

Oliver pointed at Alexander. "Well, let him sleep on the couch. Isn't the couch empty?"

Courtney's tone was icy when she glared at Alexander. "I don't want to be scared to death by a stranger when I'm up for a cup of water in the middle of the night."

She efficiently blocked suggestions involving the couch.

After dividing the rooms, Hannah looked upset because she was left out. "What about me?"

"You need to go home," Courtney answered while looking at her. "Are you waiting for Harry to call the police if you don't? I don't want the police knocking on my door in the middle of the night."

"I don't want to go back." Hannah held Tina tightly; she looked as if she was holding onto her lifeline. "I'll end up as a child-bride if I were to go home. I am willing to sustain bodily injuries but I can't abandon my dignity."

Courtney wasn't sure how to explain to a 13-year-old girl that Alexander was merely using her as an excuse. Nevertheless, with Hannah's unreasonable outburst, Courtney vented her frustrations on Alexander. "Mr. Duncan, kindly attend to the issue that you've stirred up."

Therefore, Alexander glanced at Hannah while analyzing the situation in a concise manner. "If you think that interacting with me is dangerous, don't you think that living with me here would pose an even larger threat?"

He sounded especially eerie and it sent shivers down Courtney's spine.

True enough, Hannah was scared witless as she cried and sobbed openly. "What happened to logic? I am your aunt. Mr. Harry says that you are committing incest!"

"You should go back once you're done crying. Besides, Harry will be arriving soon if you wait any longer. Being dragged back home and going back on your own will are two vastly different things," reminded Alexander in annoyance.

Hannah stopped crying immediately. "Fine; I'll leave." She sniffed loudly while picking up her bag. Then, she waved at everybody while glaring furiously at Alexander. In the end, she opened the door and left under everybody's scrutiny.

Does the little girl have a flair for the dramatic?

The door shut with a loud thud and there was complete silence in the house. Courtney stared at the four of them, feeling utterly annoyed. "I'll go prepare dinner," she murmured, finding an excuse to lock herself in the kitchen.

I know very well what Alexander is trying to achieve. Mr. Duncan would never leave his grandson without a place to live no matter how angry he is. I want to look after Jordan, so I don't mind having an extra person in the house. I just have to suck it up and accept that Alexander comes with Jordan as a package. Besides, I have a feeling that Alexander won't be staying long.

Just as Courtney was preparing the vegetables for cooking, she heard the kitchen door open. A tall figure walked into the kitchen and he closed the door behind him. Alexander's voice then came from behind her, "Did Mikayla tell you everything?"

Courtney's heart skipped a beat and her half-peeled carrot fell into the basin of water, resulting in a splash of water.