

Surprise 311

Chapter 311 Will This Work?

Meanwhile, a woman in a white fur coat had been waiting for a long while inside a booth at a Japanese restaurant. The restaurant's interior was carefully designed to evoke a certain atmosphere.

Courtney's smile slowly froze over the moment the waiter opened the door to the booth.

"This is Belle Smith." Alexander introduced the woman before glancing at her. "And this is my fiancée, Courtney Hunter."

Belle got up from the tatami she had been sitting on and smiled at Courtney. "Nice to meet you."

Courtney squeezed out a smile that was even uglier than a crying face. "Nice to meet you too."

Nevertheless, Alexander didn't notice the look on Courtney's face as he pulled her over to take a seat.

Courtney took in Belle's appearance. Compared to her view from a distance last night, she found it far easier to survey Belle up close. Belle was a pretty woman. Her hair was tied up in a ponytail, and tiny little strawberries were printed on her white fur coat. She looked at Courtney with a somewhat bashful smile. "I've been hearing from Mr. Duncan about how beautiful his fiancée is. Now that I'm meeting you in person, I'm truly in awe."

Courtney wasn't swayed by this. In fact, she felt a little repulsed. She simply sized Belle up, waiting for Alexander or Belle to speak. Anyone would feel awkward after several seconds of silence, so at last, Alexander spoke up. "Belle is a child psychologist. I wanted to ask her a few things about Jordan."

Courtney rolled the hem of her blouse between her fingers under the table. "Really? A child psychologist? Didn't you say before that you got in touch with a German psychologist? Are you from Germany, Miss Smith?" Her tone had an aggressive touch to it. Both Alexander and Belle tensed up at that.

After a moment of contemplation, Alexander seemingly came to a realization, his forehead wrinkling up almost imperceptibly.

"Then, have you taken a look at Jordan yet? What's your opinion?" Courtney spoke up, breaking up the frozen atmosphere.

Belle seemed relieved. "Not yet, actually. I'm just going over the details with Mr. Duncan first. He said that Jordan typically spends more time with you, so I'd like to know how Jordan typically behaves."

Courtney had plenty of experience when it came to doctor consultations because of Jordan's mental problems. After a few simple questions, she realized that Belle was actually a professional. From the looks of things, she's the real deal. Could I have been mistaken? At this point, she started doubting herself.

Cameron had said that Alexander was in touch with Jordan's 'birth mother,' but it was also true that she had never mentioned how the woman looked, or what her name was. Courtney had ended up jumping to conclusions because she saw Alexander and Belle standing together last night.

“Jordan’s condition probably doesn’t have much to do with his illness when he was younger. The most likely possibility is that he suffered a severe fright, or he might have seen news about babysitters abusing the children under their care or something similar. Adults always assume that children aren’t really aware of things because of their age, but that’s not the case in reality.”

Belle had a serious look on her face as she delved into her expertise. “Newborns are like blank canvases. Everything after that depends on the adults around them. If you paint them with a myriad of colors, that’s how they’ll be. And if all you paint on them is black, that’s how they’ll be too. Jordan cutting himself off from everyone is most likely because someone had once threatened him by forbidding him to open his mouth.”

With just a simple explanation, Belle had cut right to the heart of the matter. Courtney balled her fists up. This was more or less in line with what she and Oliver had uncovered.

Back then, Britney had been free to come and go from the Duncan Residence. The babysitter in charge of Jordan’s care, Sarah Jones, had said that she often saw Britney go to the yard to see Jordan. Even stranger still, Jordan rarely kicked up a fuss whenever Britney was around while no one else could coax him to behave.

Initially, the Duncans thought that it was because Britney knew how to cajole Jordan. And it was also because of this that Scott frequently turned a blind eye to Britney’s frequent coming and goings. Later on, when Courtney talked about this detail with Oliver, she suddenly felt great fear.

Back then, probably no one would have thought that a C-list celebrity like Britney would have the guts to do anything to the young heir of the Duncan Family. But, what if she did? And the reality today told them that not only did Britney actually dare to do what she did, but she even had someone else behind her helping to cover it up.

“So, are there any ways to help solve this?” Courtney looked at Belle, reining in her earlier enmity.

“Slowly try to get him to come out of his shell. If you can, try not to treat him with medicine. But if you know what happened to him in the past and can bear a moment of cruelty, you can also choose to reenact the scene and change Jordan’s perception of the past.”

“Reenact the scene?” Courtney was caught by surprise. “Will it work?”

“There’s data backing this up. And the younger the child, the better the effects.”

Alexander’s brow furrowed, guilt showing in his eyes. “But no one knows what happened then.”

All at once, the booth fell silent. Alexander hadn’t been by Jordan’s side three years ago. By the time Jordan came to live with him, the boy had already stopped talking.

After a long silence, Courtney looked up and said, “I know what happened back then.”

Alexander’s expression stiffened, and he looked at Courtney with an inquisitive gaze. This is something that even I couldn’t find out despite my investigations. How did Courtney find out?

“Jordan told me before,” Courtney lied. She had to lie to cover up certain details so that Jordan could get treatment. “From the few fragments he said and the drawings he made, we can draw the conclusion that someone used to forbid him from speaking, and they threatened him.”

Alexander's gaze chilled. "Who was it?"

Courtney's frown deepened. After a moment of hesitation, she shook her head in the end. She shouldn't know so much about this in the first place. If she revealed too much, she wouldn't be able to escape others' suspicions as to why she was so knowledgeable.

"Then we can assume that's the case for now," Belle continued. "If so, then it won't be difficult reenacting the scene, but I'd like to know your opinions."

Alexander and Courtney exchanged looks. Courtney was hesitant. As of now, she couldn't confirm the credibility of Belle's identity. "We'll consider it."

"Okay." Belle had a look of understanding on her face. "All right, then. If you decide to go through with it, you can get in touch with me any time." She then got up and picked up her coat and bag. "I still have other matters to attend to, so I'll be going now. You can take your time with your meal."

"Why not eat together? The food should be coming soon." Courtney was stunned.

"It's okay." Belle's lips pulled up into a smile, one that was a little wry. "I still have to go back to the hospital. The nurse aide will only stay until eight tonight. I still have to return when the shift ends."

At the mention of 'hospital' and 'nurse aide,' Courtney didn't know what to say. After Belle left, she looked at Alexander. "Hospital?"

"Belle's husband has late-stage stomach cancer. The doctors said that he has only half a year left; they don't plan to operate on him because of that. But still, he has to stay in the hospital," Alexander explained briefly. "She has to go over every night to watch over him."

Courtney's expression tensed up. While she was regretting her earlier attitude toward Belle, she didn't notice the complicated look in Alexander's eyes. It looked as though he was mulling over his words.

Chapter 312 You Think I'm Being Unreasonable?

"Is Miss Smith an expert in child psychology? I still think we should consult a few other doctors."

Courtney was troubled by the problems in Jordan's treatment proposal. Belle was too young, which made Courtney feel that she was not too reliable.

"She won't harm Jordan." Alexander wore a mysterious look and added, "So, please don't worry about that."

"Why? Have you known her for a very long time?" Courtney lifted her head and looked at Alexander in puzzlement.

After pondering for a while, Alexander mumbled in a deep voice, "I have something to tell you... regarding Belle."

Courtney's heart jolted. "What is it?"

Alexander paused for a few seconds before he answered, "Belle is Jordan's biological mother." After saying that, Alexander stared into Courtney's eyes to observe any subtle change in her emotion.

Truth was, Courtney had already speculated this when she first met Belle, and she had imagined the truth of it being revealed a lot of times in her heart. However, when she actually heard it from Alexander, she felt like her eardrum was vibrating as if a swarm of insects was buzzing beside her.

Perceiving Courtney's silence, Alexander continued to explain, "I didn't tell you before this because I didn't want you to get the wrong idea. Back then when I looked for a surrogate mother, I never thought that I would meet her again. This time, I actually discovered her current whereabouts by accident. You've seen it just now too."

Hearing that, Courtney forced herself to respond, "You mean the matter about her husband being diagnosed with cancer?"

"Yeah." Alexander frowned. "Initially, I've left this matter for Josh to settle, but her husband is already at the terminal stage and she doesn't want any assistance. Besides that, she has already made up her mind to go study abroad a year later, and her only wish is to see Jordan."

Courtney inhaled slowly as she felt a chill down her spine. If this was a trap, the mastermind had set it up very delicately to use such a tragic story to capture Alexander's sympathy toward the surrogate mother back then.

No man would be able to reject such a request—the husband of the woman who had borne Alexander a child through surrogacy back then was now diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer. The woman didn't want any money from Alexander but her only wish before leaving this land of sorrow was to meet the only person who had blood relations with her.

"Did you agree?" she asked.

Alexander couldn't really fathom Courtney's emotion at this moment. "I'm telling you the truth because I don't want to cause any unnecessary misunderstandings. Jordan will not have any relationship with his biological mother even in the future."

Courtney looked at Alexander. "Actually, you can just tell me what you want me to do."

Alexander's eyes darkened as he became slightly frustrated. "I'm not asking you to do anything."

However, Courtney was irritated by his frustration and clenched her fists so hard that even her knuckles turned pale.

"Sure. You don't want me to do anything. You want me to do nothing and unconditionally trust that this woman who came out of nowhere is the biological mother of your son. You even want to allow Jordan to get along with her for some time? What you want from me is to support you and this woman unconditionally and blindly!"

Alexander's eyes were filled with perplexity toward Courtney's huge reaction at this moment.

"Stop being unreasonable." Alexander furrowed his brows. "Courtney, regarding this surrogacy matter, we've already discussed it many times. If you're disturbed by this matter, then there's nothing I can say."

“Unreasonable?” Courtney felt like laughing. “You think I’m being unreasonable? Let me ask you—how did you prove Belle’s identity? Have you investigated her background? Is she really Jordan’s biological mother?”

Alexander was startled. At first, Courtney thought she had made a point, but her inner defense completely broke down when Alexander showed her a picture of a paternity testing report from his phone.

“Josh personally took Belle for a paternity test, so I’m sure it’s true.”

Right. The mastermind wouldn’t possibly make this trap so simple. The paternity test report was completely unbelievable to Courtney, but to Alexander, that was enough. What other ways could she use to make Alexander doubt the credibility of the report? If it wasn’t that Jordan was her son, she wouldn’t possibly doubt the credibility of the report.

Courtney’s face turned pale gradually.

“What’s wrong with you?” Alexander sensed Courtney’s strange expression.

“Nothing.” Courtney dodged Alexander’s gaze and tried to make herself look calm.

“Actually, a paternity test might not be a hundred percent accurate. There could be mistakes too. Please consider it again. After all, it’s about Jordan, so please don’t make rash decisions. There are many other capable doctors. I don’t think there’s a need to let her treat Jordan.”

Alexander stared at Courtney with a profound look. After a while, he frowned and said, “You’re still bothered by Belle.”

Courtney’s nails sank into her palm, but she couldn’t feel much pain. Staring at Alexander, she said, “Whatever. I only have one thought—I feel that something is not right with Belle, so we shouldn’t simply hand Jordan over to her.”

“Where are you going?” Alexander’s frown deepened as he questioned Courtney, who had already walked to the entrance of the private room.

“I’m going home. You can eat alone.”

After taking a deep breath, Courtney grabbed her jacket and left the room resolutely. She knew it was understandable for Alexander to make this decision. Of course, there wouldn’t be an issue if Belle was really Jordan’s biological mother. However, Courtney clearly knew that the woman was a liar, so how could she possibly remain calm under this situation?

The night had fallen in Melrose City as Courtney walked down the street. Just then, the phone in her pocket started ringing non-stop. Initially, she thought it was Alexander, but when she took out her phone, she realized it was Elijah, so she answered the call.

“Why did you take so long to pick up the call?” Elijah’s gentle voice came forth from the other end.

Kicking the pebbles on the street absent-mindedly, Courtney mumbled, “I didn’t hear it just now. What’s the matter?”

“Nothing. I’ve heard some stuff about Jordan from Cameron. How are you now?”

Courtney’s heart squeezed when she heard that. “She’s indeed a blabbermouth. Why does she have to tell you everything?”

“She’s just worried about you since she’s not able to go back.”

“Don’t you come back too.” Courtney quickly interrupted Elijah. “I’m fine. I can handle my own problems.”

“What about that lawyer?” Elijah paused. “He has been waiting for you in Melrose City for almost half a month. Do you really not plan to meet up with him?”

Being reminded of the lawyer, Courtney frowned deeply but was at a loss for words. Initially, she had already given up on the idea of a lawsuit and just wanted to live a peaceful life with Alexander. However, the current situation made her feel extremely insecure. After contemplating for a moment, she mumbled, “I’ll go meet him tomorrow.”

“Okay.” There was no change in Elijah’s tone. It was calm as usual which gave the others ease of mind. “Courtney, remember that I’ll forever be your support no matter what happens.”

Chapter 313 Did You Invite Her?

Late at night, at Duncan Residence...

Scott had just finished dinner when a servant told him Josh had arrived.

The living room was filled with the aroma of tea. Scott gazed at Josh with his piercing eyes and asked straightforwardly, “You were constantly away from the company previously. Are you running some errands for Alexander?”

Josh was slightly startled. “You’ve found out about it?”

Since Scott had asked as such, it showed that he had already investigated the matter thoroughly and was merely seeking verification from Josh. It had always been like this throughout the years whenever Scott summoned him.

“Tell me. What’s the matter with the woman named Belle Smith?”

Scott had a sip of tea with his brows slightly furrowed, which gave off an intimidating aura. Josh gulped and also took a sip of tea before speaking up as he felt his throat was a little dry.

“Six years ago, President Duncan asked the ex-butler, Louis, to find him a surrogate mother. The original plan was to send the surrogate mother abroad after the child is born. However, the initial surrogate disappeared on the arranged night and Belle was sent to the hotel instead. At first, we wanted to pretend like this situation never happened at all, but Louis had some people to keep an eye on Belle for some time and found out later on that she got pregnant. Since what’s done is done, they decided to allow her to deliver the child.”

Josh explained the strange incident in a few simple sentences. When Scott heard that, his expression became complicated and was even tinged with anger.

“Absurd! This is totally absurd!”

In Scott’s opinion, it was already absurd enough that Alexander did such a thing to please him back then, but the worst of it was—he mistook a person to be the surrogate!

“He’s simply ruining the innocent girl’s life.”

Carefully, Josh put in a word for Alexander. “I believe Louis has compensated Belle too at that time.”

“Compensate?” Scott’s face became even more sullen. “He really thinks he can do as he pleases because he’s rich?”

The atmosphere in the house gradually became tense. At that moment, Josh quickly lowered his head and kept sipping his tea until he was almost full.

The butler standing at the side felt sorry for Josh, so he mumbled, “Master, Mr. Reynolds has not finished speaking yet. Please don’t be angry first and continue listening to the reason why this lady has reappeared.”

It was only then did Scott nod.

Josh secretly heaved a sigh of relief. “Actually, President Duncan realized something was wrong with the incident at that time, so he asked me to investigate it. After gathering a lot of information, I found a woman named Belle Smith. She is already married now but has no children all this while. Besides that, her husband was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer and can only live for half a year more.”

Hearing that, Scott sighed. “Since we know that now, we should help her out.”

However, Josh shook his head. “Before this, President Duncan asked me to transfer some money to Belle, but she refused to accept it no matter what. She said that her husband can’t be cured anymore, so it is meaningless to have the money anyway. She plans to study in England half a year later after she settles her husband’s funeral. She has no children all this while after marrying her husband, so her only wish is to see the Little Master before she leaves.”

Scott croaked, “Definitely.”

“Master, please think over this matter again,” the butler reminded Scott. “If we really allowed the Little Master to meet his biological mother, how would Miss Hunter feel?”

Scott furrowed his brows deeply upon hearing that. This matter was indeed tricky.

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The next few days after meeting Belle at the Japanese restaurant, Courtney spent most of her time attending business meetings and all kinds of dinner events. She even stayed overnight in a hotel most of the days.

Truth was, business in Citron Apparel was not that busy, but she just did not want to see Alexander. Meanwhile, Scott’s birthday banquet was set to be held before Christmas. The invitation letter was sent

directly to the company, which was also a gesture from the Duncan Family toward Citron Apparel so as to facilitate the business partnership in the future.

“President Hunter, please don’t be angry at President Duncan anymore. You should attend Old Master Duncan’s birthday banquet.” Natasha passed the invitation letter to Courtney and carefully observed her expression.

Courtney stared at the golden design on the red invitation card, which appeared extraordinarily eye-catching as the rays of dawn shone through the window and reflected on the card. In fact, she was sulking at herself rather than at Alexander for the past few days. Nevertheless, avoiding Alexander would not solve the problem.

“Did he come again this afternoon?”

“Yeah,” Natasha quickly answered. “Same goes for the past few days. President Duncan would send us afternoon tea, but since you said you don’t want it, he did not send yours.”

“Okay. I see.” Courtney waved her hands.

For the past two days, Courtney had not gone home and Alexander had been coming to Citron Apparel every day with his assistant to send food and drinks to the staff. After these few days, Courtney actually felt helpless as if all her staff had betrayed her and that she was the one who was being unreasonable.

She couldn’t be absent at the birthday banquet, so she rather took this opportunity to lay things out with Alexander. Since things had already developed to this point, she couldn’t allow the imposter to take Jordan away from her.

The next night, the top floor of Purple Peak Hotel—the grandest hotel in Melrose City—had been entirely booked by the Duncan Family.

Because Scott was a man of tradition, the banquet this time adopted a more traditional style. The entire banquet hall was arranged with big, round tables and the main table was closer to the stage. Today, Scott was dressed in a black tuxedo and looked extremely spirited.

The moment Courtney arrived at the hall, Harry invited her to be seated at the main table right next to Alexander. By right, she was not married into the family yet, so she should not be seated at the main table. However, such an arrangement showed that her position in the Duncan Family was already ascertained. The other guests had figured it out too upon seeing the scene which made them look up to this future granddaughter-in-law of the Duncan Family even more.

“Hey Courtney, you’re here.” Scott, who looked stern usually, wore an amiable expression.

Courtney nodded and looked past Alexander, who was sitting beside her, to gaze at Scott. “Where’s Jordan and Tina?”

Alexander’s voice came forth from beside her before Scott could answer. “The nanny brought them to the washroom.”

Frowning subtly, Courtney did not answer but turned to look toward the direction of the washroom.

Initially, Courtney averted her gaze to avoid meeting Alexander's eyes in awkwardness, but she ended up catching sight of an unexpected guest.

There was a table situated at the southeast corner of the hall, which was also the most remote corner. The guests at that table were people who seldom interacted with the Duncan Family but somehow managed to get an invitation to attend the banquet. At that table, some of those people were reporters.

Among that table of guests, Courtney spotted Belle. Dressed in a beige dress, Belle looked gentle and quiet, and she was also staring in the direction of the washroom.

Courtney felt her heart jolt all of a sudden as if a hand seized her heart out of the blue and squeezed it. Then, she instantly turned to look at Alexander and questioned him, "Did you invite her?"

Startled, Alexander followed Courtney's gaze to see Belle.

Just then, voices of children could be heard from the washroom as Tina and Jordan skipped out of the washroom one after another, followed by two nannies at the back.

"Mommy!"

The two kids ran toward Courtney immediately when they saw her. While passing by Belle, Jordan accidentally dropped something he was holding.

At that moment, Belle bent down to pick it up and passed it to Jordan. Seeing that, Courtney clenched her fists as her face darkened completely.

Chapter 314 What Exactly Do You Want to Do?

Fortunately, Jordan did not stay at that spot and darted toward Courtney after receiving the stuff from Belle. He then threw himself into Courtney's arms but still did not speak up because there were too many guests at the scene.

Courtney bent down to caress the two children's heads, but her eyes remained fixed at that table.

While eating, Scott blurted in a profound manner, "Courtney, stay back after the banquet. I have some stuff to talk to you about Jordan."

Hearing that, Courtney darted a glance at Alexander. Although she remained calm on the surface, her nails sank so deep into her palm that she could feel the pain. Perceiving this situation, she reckoned Scott was already made known to the incident, which explained Belle's presence at this banquet.

Not long after the banquet started, Courtney caught Belle heading to the washroom, so she stood up too.

"Where are you going?" Alexander asked while feeding Jordan.

Courtney hummed with a calm look, "To the washroom. I'll be back soon."

Alexander and Scott were not aware of the truth, but she and Belle, on the other hand, knew exactly what was going on. As such, she wanted to know what on earth that woman's intention was.

The washroom was rather far from the banquet hall as it was a few corridors away. When Courtney arrived at the washroom, Belle was washing her hands. She had a thin body, and the reflection of her pale, delicate face in the mirror looked rather languish.

“Miss Hunter.” Belle was startled when she saw Courtney standing behind her in the mirror. Then, she put on a smile and said, “There were too many guests earlier, so I didn’t get to greet you. Sorry about that.”

“There’s no one else here, so you can drop the act.” Courtney walked in and glared at Belle with her cold eyes. “What exactly are you up to?”

Belle frowned. “I don’t get what you mean, Miss Hunter.”

“Are you Jordan’s biological mother? The one who conceived Jordan via surrogacy six years ago?” Courtney asked straightforwardly with enmity in her eyes.

Belle’s eyes glistened as she took a few steps back upon being questioned by Courtney. “Miss Hunter, I don’t have any intention to be your enemy. I’ll be heading to England a year later and only wish to see my son before that. I can’t possibly pose a threat to you.”

“Stop acting.” Courtney’s eyes were as cold as ice. “You’re not Jordan’s biological mother. Who on earth sent you? What’s your motive?”

Belle stared at Courtney’s frustrated look and snorted. “Miss Hunter, I’m already being very courteous toward you. I don’t know what you are being suspicious about. If I’m not Jordan’s biological mother, who else do you think that can be? Could it be you?”

There was a sudden change in Courtney’s expression as she felt her temples twitching. She had an instinct that this woman had already known everything, including the fact that she was Jordan’s biological mother. However, she deliberately acted as Jordan’s biological mother with some unknown intention.

“What exactly do you want?” Courtney lowered her voice, which signaled a warning. “There’s nothing I won’t do for the sake of Jordan.”

“I don’t want anything.” Belle lowered her head to look at her nails, which were covered with a thin layer of nail polish. Her gentleness was shown through details like her pale pink nails. However, the moment she spoke up, the gentle appearance shattered at once.

“I don’t think there’s an issue for a mother to reunite with her biological son.”

Toward the end, Belle still refused to admit that she was a liar. Her statement sounded so reasonable that Courtney actually couldn’t refute her and could only tremble in anger.

On the other hand, at the banquet, Scott was puzzled as Courtney had not come back after leaving for quite some time. “Go check on Courtney, Alexander. She has been away for quite some time.”

Alexander glanced toward the direction of the hall’s entrance and caught sight of the table at the southeast corner of the hall. When he realized that Belle’s seat was empty, his eyes dilated immediately.

After urging the nannies to take care of the children, Alexander left the hall and headed to the washroom. The moment he reached the washroom door, he could hear the voice of a woman exclaiming from the inside.

“Courtney!”

He flung the female washroom’s door open at once, and his expression changed the moment he saw the scene.

Slumped onto the floor, Belle covered her face with one hand as tears welled up in her eyes. She was shocked and was at a loss for words. “How could you hit me?”

Courtney’s hand was still stopping mid-air, and her face was extremely gloomy. She instinctively turned around upon hearing the sound of the door being opened and saw Alexander staring at her with a bizarre look.

“What are you doing?” Alexander’s eyes gradually turned frosty.

Courtney wanted to explain initially but was disheartened when she perceived his fierce attitude. “Will you believe it if I say I’ve done nothing?”

Alexander did not respond but brushed past her without sparing a glance and helped Belle to get up from the floor.

“I’m fine.” Belle stood up staggeringly and quickly pulled her arm out from Alexander’s hand as if she did not want to cause a misunderstanding.

“It’s just a small misunderstanding. It’s nothing serious. I’m fine.” While saying that, Belle continued covering her face with one hand.

Seeing Belle’s weak and pitiful look, Courtney thought it was extremely ridiculous. Truth was, she had not touched her at all just now, yet she looked as if she had been bullied terribly. Courtney had seen so many women lingering around Alexander but this was the most shameless and pretentious one.

“Did you hit her?” Alexander stared at Courtney and hissed in a low voice.

“Yeah, I did,” Courtney blurted out of frustration. “If only you didn’t show up, I would have torn her into pieces.”

“Just because she wants to see Jordan? Courtney, can you calm down?”

“I’m very calm. In fact, you should take a close look at her.” Courtney pointed at Belle and said, “Alexander, can you be more responsible toward your own son? Mind you—it’ll be too late to regret it if something happens after she brings Jordan away.”

“Courtney Hunter.” Alexander raised his voice as obvious displeasure was written on his face.

“Don’t yell at me.” Courtney raised her voice even more and directly interrupted Alexander’s sentence. “I don’t care if you think I’m being unreasonable or petty. I do not plan to be generous with this ridiculous woman at all. Bye.” With that, she left the washroom without turning back.

Alexander’s face became sullen as the blood vessels on his clenched fists bulged.

Belle's voice emerged from the side. "I must have caused you trouble. I'll explain to her."

"That's not necessary."

Alexander called upon Belle and questioned her when she turned around to look at him. "Did Courtney really hit you just now?"

Belle shuddered upon being stared at by Alexander. Nevertheless, she bit the bullet and said, "It's okay. I'm fine."

"I'm asking if she really did hit you just now."

Alexander's emphasized voice echoed in the washroom while Belle felt her scalp tingling.

Chapter 315 This Is the Last Time You'll See Him

"N-No." Looking panicked, Belle stuttered, "I was afraid, so I lost my balance and fell. A-Actually this has got nothing to do with Miss Hunter."

Alexander's face darkened as he glared at Belle.

"I remember I've already told you before this. The prerequisite of allowing you to meet Jordan is that Courtney agrees to it, but what's going on today?"

Alexander had never expected that Belle would show up at the birthday banquet. He did not know what was going on, but when he saw Scott's expression and what Scott said to Courtney out of the blue, he reckoned that Scott had made known of something.

"It's Old Master Duncan who invited me," Belle quickly explained. "I did not come uninvited. Old Master Duncan arranged this so that I can see Jordan from a distance."

"This is the last time you'll see him."

After saying that, Alexander walked out of the washroom, leaving Belle behind. At first, he felt sorry toward Belle for becoming the surrogate mother back then as he had caused trouble to her life. Since she was so keen to meet Jordan, he thought it was understandable too. But given all that had happened thus far, Alexander thought this woman was not as simple as she seemed.

After leaving the washroom, Alexander went back to the banquet hall and summoned Josh.

"Go and confirm Belle's background and identity again."

"What happened? Is there something wrong?"

"Just do as you're told." Looking cold, Alexander shot a glare at Josh. "You're being more and more of a blabbermouth recently. How did Grandpa find out about Belle?"

Hearing that, Josh shuddered and replied nervously, "President Duncan, I..."

"Cut the crap and quickly go investigate. I want results by tomorrow."

"Yes, sir." Josh didn't dare to say anything more and quickly escaped.

Due to the fact that Josh had been by Alexander's side all these years, Alexander had never doubted his capability and neither did Josh mess up any tasks before. As such, when Josh presented to him the paternity test report and all other legit evidence to prove that Belle was Jordan's biological mother, he simply believed it.

After that, due to Courtney's resistance toward this matter, he did not bother to get in touch with Belle again. He barely had any impression toward the woman from six years ago, so he could not confirm merely by his memory whether Belle was indeed the person.

Nevertheless, the incident at the washroom today made him doubt Belle's identity. He was certain that Courtney would not rough up for no reason at all, so he reckoned Belle was lying. As much as she had put up a good act, she still let the cat out of the bag in the end.

After the banquet was over, Alexander sent the two kids and Scott home. After the nannies put the kids to bed, there were only Alexander and Scott left in the living room of Duncan Residence.

"Why did Courtney leave halfway?" Scott took a sip of tea while wearing a puzzled look.

Alexander looked nonchalant. "She wasn't feeling well, so I asked her to go back and rest."

"Is it because of the matter about Jordan's biological mother?"

Scott did not buy Alexander's words and immediately pointed it out. "Courtney is a little too petty on this matter. Jordan's biological mother just wishes to see him. Doesn't she plan to leave for England a year later? Besides, I heard she's a psychologist. So, she might be able to treat Jordan. This child is more introverted than those of his age as if he was a girl."

Hearing that, Alexander frowned. "Grandpa, I still need to think about this matter, so please don't take it upon yourself."

"You think I'm being a busybody?"

"I don't plan to let Belle meet Jordan." Alexander's eyes were tinged with hostility when he mentioned Belle.

Hearing that, Scott glared at him. "Her husband is currently hospitalized because he was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer. Her only wish is to meet Jordan. Moreover, you're the one who caused this absurd incident back then, yet you're planning to turn against her now?"

"Please, just stay out of this matter." Alexander was very firm and did not intend to continue arguing with Scott. "It's getting late—I shall head back first. Have a goodnight, Grandpa."

"You..." Seeing Alexander leaving resolutely, Scott could feel his blood boil.

"There, there. Please simmer down, Master." Harry sighed at the side. "I feel that your arrangement for this matter today is not too appropriate either. How could you allow Miss Smith to attend the banquet? Without a doubt, Miss Hunter would be frustrated to see that. After all, Belle is Jordan's biological mother—his birth mother. As such, do you wish for Jordan to go back to his biological mother or stay with Miss Hunter?"

“Of course I want him to stay with Courtney. Courtney is going to marry Alexander in the future. I can discern this matter well.”

“Well, that’s just it!” Harry said in a serious manner, “Since you hope that Miss Hunter will treat the Little Master like her own son, which mother would allow their son to have another mother?”

Hearing that, Scott was startled. “Then Jordan’s biological mother...”

“Just leave this matter to the Young Master. He’s an adult already so he can handle these matters well. Let’s not mess things up for him.”

Scott nodded in deep thoughts. A moment later, he regained his composure and glared at Harry. “Wait, who exactly do you think is messing things up?!”

Harry’s expression changed immediately. “I-I’m saying I messed things up for not reminding you earlier. Aren’t I to be blamed?”

It was only then did Scott’s expression ease up.

Meanwhile, it was already late at night. In a bungalow at the mid-hill at the outskirts of town, a woman’s sharp, scolding voice could be clearly heard. Following that, a sound of a slap echoed in the house.

“What on earth is going on in your head? I’ve already warned you to not play tricks with Alexander. Just obediently follow my instructions. That’s all I’ve asked. But look at what you did! Who asked you to frame Courtney for hitting you?”

Covering her face, Belle was biting her bottom lip until it was so red that it had become swollen.

“Britney, I just wanted to help you get your revenge. Moreover, Alexander trusts me a lot before this, and he didn’t say much this time either. He merely asked me a few questions.”

“Do you think he’s an idiot?”

Britney was so furious that she really wanted to give Belle another slap. “He’s definitely asking his assistant to reinvestigate the previous evidence. If there’s even the slightest mistake, you’ll be exposed. Do you know that?!”

Belle’s face gradually turned pale as it was only then did she realize the seriousness of this incident.

“Britney, what should we do now?”

“What else?!”

Britney slapped the table and snarled in anger, “Quickly, pack your stuff, go back to your hometown and don’t come back anymore in the next three years! The Duncan Family’s power is so strong in Melrose City that if they discover any mistakes, there’ll be no way you can escape. By then, you’ll even implicate me!”

Finger marks could be clearly seen on Belle’s face. Scared stiff, she sobbed softly with her head lowered.

“Okay. I won’t implicate you, Britney. But I don’t want to go back to my hometown as it took me some great effort to get out of there.”

“Serves you right!” Britney said while glaring at her. “You should bear your own consequences!”

Seeing Britney’s countenance, Belle knew there was no way to turn the tables anymore. Her last hope gradually extinguished too as it was too late to regret it.

Britney was totally driven up the wall. “Get lost immediately! The sight of you angers me!”

Never had she thought that the trap that she had diligently designed using the trump card to sow discord between Courtney and Alexander would be ruined due to this insensible woman who acted recklessly on her own.