

Surprise 326

Chapter 326 Mom Will Be Happy for Me

“Don’t worry, you can count on me. No matter what James has done or what he’s planning to do, all his plans will be ruined once the newspaper reports about the drug cartel.” Oliver’s confident voice rang from the phone.

Alexander nodded thoughtfully. “In that case, be careful.”

“Don’t you worry. What could go wrong anyway? I have the future special troops with me—they are the strongest in school. I’m sure we can catch them this time.”

After hanging up the call, Alexander looked at the huge pile of documents in front of him with a cold expression. Over the years, even though James never had a formal position in Sunhill Enterprise, all the evil deeds that he had committed were done here.

“Young Master.” A maid knocked on his door. “Miss Hunter and her family have arrived and they’re chatting with Old Master Duncan at the forecourt. Would you like to have dinner soon, or shall we wait for a while?”

Alexander nodded. “You may start preparing now.” With that, he rose to leave the kitchen and walked toward the yard. He could even hear them chatting before he arrived at the door.

“Courtney grew up in the Somerfield Family before leaving for the Hunter Family. To me and my wife, she is as good as my daughter.”

The speaker was, without a doubt, Courtney’s uncle, William Somerfield.

After Alexander had an honest discussion with Courtney the last time, she finally treated this matter with all seriousness. Hence, when Scott wanted to meet her family, she no longer rejected him and agreed to his request.

As William had a rather unique identity, making it inconvenient for him to show up in public, they had arranged for him to have a meal in the Duncans’ ancestral home instead. The plan was only agreed after they discussed it with him and Alicia.

Scott spoke in a loud and cheerful voice, “That’s right. Both of them have similar experiences as kids. Since young, Alexander didn’t grow up with his parents as well. Instead, he grew up with me, which turned him into a cold and indifferent person. After so many years, I have never seen him fall in love with other women except for Courtney. He has fallen for her and I have taken a liking to her myself. Don’t you think that fate has brought us together?”

Courtney sat next to her aunt, Alicia. As there was no opportunity for her to join the conversation at moments like this, she merely watched William and Alicia have small talk with Scott as the three elders tried to gauge what the other family was like.

Alicia was obviously quite dissatisfied with the Duncan Family. Ever since she arrived, she looked stony and didn’t speak much to Scott.

Just as Courtney started panicking, she saw a familiar figure by the door and quickly stood up. "Alexander."

Everyone looked toward the direction of the door as well.

"Alexander's here. Come here, Alex." Scott waved to Alexander in displeasure. "Why did you only arrive after so long? It's been a while since Courtney's uncle and aunt have arrived."

Alexander did not bother to provide an explanation as he sat next to Scott. His seating position was directly across Courtney with a long tray of teapots and teacups between them. Upon noticing the message she was trying to send with her facial expression, he frowned.

"The kitchen is preparing the meal now. I'm sure we can eat soon. Should I ask the kids to come down first?" As he wasn't used to breaking the silence, it took a lot out of him to say such words.

Alicia shot a glance at Alexander before responding coldly, "There's no need to hurry. It's as clear as day that you don't usually take care of the children. If the kids are here when the food is not ready, they won't be able to wait long. They'll make a mess when it's really time to dig in."

He was immediately at a loss of words as the atmosphere tensed up. Courtney cleared her throat. "Aunt Alicia, Tina and Jordan are obedient kids and seldom throw tantrums."

"How can that be?" Alicia looked at her. "Kids who throw tantrums when they are younger are smarter. I see that both of them are quite lively at my place. Why are they so well behaved here? Don't tell me that the rules here are too strict and so many that they have to dumbly follow them."

When Scott heard this, he was exceptionally displeased. "Without rules, they will not be successful. Alexander was raised with rules as well. On top of that, the kids are no longer young—they are almost six years old. How could we allow them to behave in a coltish manner?"

"Mr. Duncan, I think you might be wrong this time," Alicia spoke steadily as she looked at Scott. "You just mentioned that you were the one who brought Alexander up and he is quite cold and indifferent. You can't implement your set of rules on Tina since she grew up abroad. So, I think it's better if she comes back to my place after the meal so that she can relax afterward."

If what she said in the beginning tested his limits, her current words obviously taunted the old man. Fortunately, he was someone with lots of life experiences. Even though there was displeasure on his face, he chose to remain silent.

As if to relieve the tense situation and prevent the conversation from turning awkward, it was at this moment when someone from the kitchen told them that the meal was ready.

Before the meal, Courtney pulled Alicia into the yard. "Aunt Alicia, what are you doing? Why are you suddenly saying these things? You made the atmosphere quite awkward. And why do you want to bring Tina away?"

"What do you know?" Alicia knocked on Courtney's forehead. "You better keep a distance from the Duncan Family before marriage, especially the kids. Let me advise you—before marrying Alexander, you better take care of Tina yourself. If you don't have the time, you can bring her over to me. Don't let them think that you have brought a burden with you."

Courtney was delighted to hear that. “You’re worried that they might look down on me because I’m bringing a child along?”

“If they dare to do so, I’ll teach them a lesson! They should look at themselves—Alexander has a kid himself too!” When Alicia stood up for Courtney, the latter felt a surge of warmth in her heart. She hugged Alicia’s arm and affectionately leaned toward her aunt. “Well, since he also has a kid, it makes things fair for both parties. Hence, you don’t have to complain about this anymore.”

“So it’s true; when a daughter gets married, she’ll forget her own family indeed. You haven’t even married him, yet you are already taking his side,” an exasperated Alicia noted as she lovingly pinched Courtney’s cheek. “If I don’t do this, they will think that you are easily bullied. If your mom in Heaven knows this, she won’t be happy.”

Courtney subconsciously looked to the sky and saw the countless stars. “I’m sure that won’t happen. If Mom knows this, she will be happy for me.”

It wasn’t easy for her and Alexander to be where they were today; it was as if they were fated to endure many tribulations over the course of six years to be finally together. She even decided that she would eventually come clean with the truth.

When it was time for dinner, Alicia’s tense expression had noticeably calmed down a lot, mostly because of what Courtney had said earlier. Apart from that, it was probably the result of the two kids around who continued to make the adults laugh. Since it was a peaceful and happy atmosphere, there was nothing for Alicia to complain about.

After dinner, Tina came to the table while the rest of them chatted with each other. Then, she suddenly asked, “Great-Aunt Alicia, is Mommy going to marry Mr. Alexander?”

Alicia looked at Tina and asked gently, “What’s wrong? Do you think it’s not good?”

“I guess it’s fine.” Tina deliberately gave Alexander a sideways glance. “The number of people who want to marry my mommy will reach France if they line up. It all depends on how Mr. Alexander’s performance is if he wants to marry her.”

Alexander immediately shot a glance at Jordan, hoping that the boy would save the situation for him. Looking as if he understood what Alexander meant, Jordan pulled Courtney’s hand and seriously advised, “That’s right, Mommy. You should... seriously consider it.”

Alexander’s expression immediately changed as he felt that he had raised an ungrateful b*stard.

Chapter 327 It’s Snowing

With a smile on her face, Courtney touched the tip of Jordan’s nose. “What if I don’t consider marrying your father? Then, you won’t be able to see me in the future.”

Upon hearing that, his expression instantly changed whereby he yanked her arms and climbed on her. “Mommy, you can’t do this.”

She hugged him and patted his back in helplessness. “I was just joking.”

As Courtney originally thought that Jordan would say something, he leaned against her shoulder instead and replied in a muffled voice, "It's fine if you don't want Daddy, but you can't abandon me."

When William and Alicia heard that, they both laughed out loud.

Alicia meaningfully looked at Alexander and joked, "Even though you're the one who brought Jordan up, he's much closer to Courtney in these six months. To be downright honest, if you treat Courtney badly in the future, it's highly likely that your son will take her side instead of yours."

Scott could tell that her words were said in jest, so he didn't treat it seriously and chuckled. "In the future, if Alexander wrongs Courtney, she will stay in the Duncan Family while we chase him out. I don't have such an embarrassing grandson."

Since he was the butt of everyone's jokes, Alexander's face darkened as he stared at Jordan and insisted, "Come here, Jordan."

However, Jordan continued to remain in Courtney's embrace and returned his father's glare. "You are fierce, Daddy. Mommy won't like you like this," he said with a snort.

Everyone else exchanged glances before they burst out laughing in unison.

Now that she was surrounded by the family's warmth, she clearly noticed the morose cloud in Alicia's eyes dispersing as Alicia seemed to have accepted the Duncan Family.

Once dinner was done, Scott had personally seen William and Alicia off at the door. His attitude was clearly indicative of how much the Duncan Family valued Courtney.

"It's okay. You can go inside now since the wind is quite strong out here."

Alicia waved to them from the car and asked them to head back, but a stubborn Courtney stood by the door until the vehicle turned into a black dot and vanished into the night. Only then did she go back inside the house.

As it was quite late, she stayed the night at the Duncans' ancestral home. It was without a doubt that the two kids were the happiest and even wanted to sleep in the same room as her. She and the kids had entirely occupied the bed while Alexander discussed business matters with Scott in the study.

Courtney held each of them in her arms as she told them bedtime stories before they slept.

"There was a white rabbit and a black bunny in the past who met in a forest..."

Scott had finished reading the documents in front of him late into the night. Apart from being furious, there was also a solemn expression on his face. "Since you have already shown me this, I bet you have already done something, haven't you?"

As soon as he heard the question, Alexander straightened his posture on the other end of the study table and nodded.

"Yes, I've already taken action. If I'm not mistaken, the reason why his evil deeds have not been exposed is because someone is protecting him from behind the scenes. I've kept it a secret for the time being while I asked Josh to look into the matter."

“Have you discovered who that person is?”

“Nelson Abott from the police force.”

As soon as Scott heard that, he took a deep breath and slammed his fist into the table as he swore, “That b*stard.”

Back when Nelson was still working in the Criminal Investigation Department, he had carried a lot of favors for the Duncan Family. It was Scott who used his connections to get Nelson promoted some time later. Now that he had made a name for himself, no one expected him to have the nerve to be involved in drug cartels and keep the crime a secret.

Alexander added solemnly, “He is now the biggest drug lord in Melrose City. Hence, once the case in East Melrose is reported by the media, he will be notified of it. Even though he might not be able to suppress it by then, I’m worried that he will deliberately release some news to allow those pivotal people involved to escape.”

Knowing how serious the matter was, Scott frowned deeply. Even though he wanted to help James as a family member, he knew that it would not work out.

After a while, he said in a low voice, “When that happens, try to keep his relationship with our family as distant as possible. Don’t let someone like him destroy the good reputation of Sunhill Enterprise.”

“Got it,” Alexander firmly replied.

Since he had already passed the matter to Oliver to handle, he had already meant to resolve it privately. This was one of the main reasons why he didn’t want to officially report the incident.

Once that happened, the police would have no choice but to release James’ name. As the current president of the Sunhill Enterprise, he would definitely drag the company with him, thereafter causing the share prices to fluctuate. However, if Oliver manages this incident, it would be much easier as they could avoid reporting James’ name.

Alexander left the study to return to his room when the discussion with Scott ended.

As soon as he opened the door, he saw Courtney and the two children in bed sound asleep.

Tina cuddled her sheep plushie as she lay on Courtney’s left arm and had also kicked her blanket away whereas Jordan was on Courtney’s right arm and in a deep sleep. In the short moment that I’m away, these two kids have already taken my place.

When Alexander recalled the dinner earlier, he felt aggrieved upon the thought that the two kids didn’t take his side at all. As he watched them asleep like pieces of dead wood, his eyes flickered.

Although Courtney was also sound asleep, she vaguely felt someone taking the weight off her arms. Then, she quickly snuggled into the blanket.

She turned and scooted into a familiar embrace.

Initially, she was having a good dream, but she heard a low voice saying, “It’s snowing outside.”

“Let it be...” she responded with a pout since she was too lazy to move.

The sentence took some time to sink in before she suddenly opened her eyes and asked in shock, “It’s snowing?!”

When she suddenly lifted her head, she knocked into Alexander’s chin. He couldn’t stop himself from grunting because of the impact. Then, he touched his chin and nodded. “Yeah, it just started snowing.”

Courtney didn’t care about his complicated expression of trying to suppress the pain; she quickly pushed the blanket aside to run to the windows while in her pajamas.

With a loud sound, the sound of the curtains being yanked to the side rang clearly in the room.

There was a heavy snowfall outside the window that landed on the spot below the dim lamppost, in between the dried branches, and on the stone pavement. It was the most beautiful sight she had ever seen since she returned to Melrose City.

“Where’s my phone?” Just as Courtney was about to dive into the bed to search for her phone, she found herself diving into a warm flannel blanket instead.

Alexander held the edges of the blanket and as a result, he had completely wrapped her up.

As he hugged her, he chastised, “Your clothes are so thin. Are you planning to catch a cold?”

“It’s not cold at all.” Courtney blinked. “The heater is switched on, anyway. Let me take my phone now. I want to take a picture to show Cameron.”

“Why do you always want to show her everything? If you are able to escape from my embrace, go ahead.” Alexander looked jealous.

“You said so yourself.”

With that, she gave a mischievous smile. From beneath the blanket, she stretched her arms toward his waist.

Of all the places on the lower part of his body, the only ticklish area was his waist. This was something that she had discovered after repeated practical experiments whereby she would always manage to tickle him.

Before Courtney could even stretch her hand out, the blanket suddenly tightened around her. She raised her head and saw Alexander’s vindictive expression—he was clearly prepared this time.

She panicked and said, “You can’t do this. I dare you to loosen your grip on the blanket.”

Chapter 328 Hero Syndrome

In the midst of her struggle, Courtney accidentally stepped on the carpet and lost her footing before she stumbled into Alexander. As a result, both of them fell onto the bed.

As the snow fell heavily outside, his eyes became glassy as he felt her soft body pressing on him.

However, she knew nothing of this. After escaping from his trap, she inserted her hands into his pajamas and eagerly tickled his waist. While doing that, she complained, “Who asked you to mess with me?”

A huge hand suddenly grabbed her shoulders and turned her over as he pinned her to the bedsheet.

“You can’t play dirty like this, Alexander...” Courtney exclaimed.

However, she realized that there was something off in Alexander’s expression and it distracted her for a moment.

As his gentle breath spread over her ears and landed in her eardrums bit by bit, her breathing fastened as well. Without any hesitation, she pulled him toward her.

Amidst the entanglement, both their pants reverberated in the room.

The snow outside landed on the thick branches of plum blossom trees. As some of the flowers started to bloom, it made one feel like they could smell the lovely fragrance.

After a night of snowfall, the entire Melrose City was blanketed in thick snow, which had happened during the earlier part of the night.

Somewhere around the warehouses in East Melrose that belonged to the Sakura Group, a group of young people in plain clothes had set up an ambush for the entire night.

In a public washroom opposite the warehouse’s entrance, a woman asked in a low voice amidst the darkness, “Are you sure it’s here?”

“Yes.” Oliver stared at the door of the warehouse intently. “I have already checked this place before. Someone will transfer the drugs out at this hour every week and sell them at the dozens of entertainment clubs in Melrose.”

“It’s 2:10 AM now and everyone is still in plain clothes. It won’t suffice to continue waiting.”

“Give it more time.” He frowned. “They will definitely come.”

Tessa squatted even lower. The thermometer in her hand read that tonight’s temperature was currently 5 Fahrenheit. Under such circumstances, if they continued their ambush mission without moving at all, they would all be in deep trouble.

“This can’t be.” Then, she spoke into her earpiece, “Hey, John.”

After a few beeps, John’s voice rang in her earpiece. “Roger. Please give instructions, Tessa.”

“Why don’t you bring the rest of them to retreat first? The temperature will only drop even further and we didn’t wear our warm clothes either. In order to prevent any accidents from occurring, bring them back first.”

“What about you, Tessa?”

“I’ll wait for them here. If there’s anything, I’ll inform you.” Tessa knew what John’s response would be, so she immediately added, “Cut the crap. Just take my orders and retreat. Quickly leave.”

He could only reply to her, “Roger.”

Now that it was nightfall, they couldn't see anyone around. However, the rest of their team from the Blue Eagles Program retreated five minutes later, leaving only Tessa—their leader—and Oliver waiting in the washroom.

"Are you cold?" She shot a glance at him. "If you are freezing, you can head back to take a rest. I'll wait around here. Since the morning is arriving soon, I guess no one will be coming."

"No." Oliver sounded as though he was in denial. "You can just leave with the rest of the team. I have already told you that it's enough for me to stand guard alone."

"Are you done?" Tessa looked annoyed as she chastised him in a low voice, "I can take the risk with you, but I have to be responsible toward my team. They can't bet on their lives based on your decision. Oliver, don't you think you just want to be a hero? After this case, I'll report you to the higher-ups."

"Suit yourself. No matter what, I won't be in the same team as you for the next training."

"You..." She was so enraged that she could not speak clearly. After a while, she kept her gun away and huffed, "Fine. Since you don't want to be in the same team as me, I'll return now to apply for your transfer. You can go to Kyoto as I've had enough of your games. I must be out of my mind to suffer with you here in the cold."

With that, she really gathered all of her items and left without a second glance.

Oliver gritted his teeth. His face was so cold that he had turned slightly purple. After waiting for another half an hour, he couldn't withstand both the cold and hunger, so he reached into his pocket and felt something hard.

He took it out and realized that it was a packet of hardtack.

Upon that sight, he froze and subconsciously looked with a conflicted feeling at the direction in which Tessa left.

It was easy to understand why she had arrived at such a decision. After all, they were merely undergoing training as students. Both the university and the military had already done a good job on the safety precautions, so it was impossible for anyone to be injured. However, since they found an opportunity to catch the real drug dealers, they decided to take advantage of the loopholes.

While Oliver was deep in his thoughts, he heard the sirens blaring and its noise was especially loud in the night.

The area outside the warehouse was full of snow whereby the street lights had brightly lit up the entire area. A white van stopped at the entrance before two burly men emerged from the driver and front passenger seats. Then, three more people alighted from the backseats to open the retractable door of the warehouse.

"Guys, after this deal, we can all prepare to head home and celebrate the new year."

"Hey, the amount of our bonuses depends on this. If we are doing this line of work, I would like to work with Alfie since he is the most trustworthy."

“I don’t mind following Alfie. He is reporting to other people too, so the exact amount of our bonus actually depends on them.”

“Who is Alfie reporting to?”

As the group of burly men chatted with each other, another figure emerged from the van in a black raincoat and had shielded his identity by wearing a pair of sunglasses and a mask.

“Alright. Stop chatting and quickly move the stocks out. This is the last batch,” the man said coldly.

“Hey, are you afraid now?” One of the burly men scoffed. “In our industry, we work with courage. Why are you doing this when you are so timid? If you are really afraid, you can quit.”

“If any one of you says any more rubbish, all of you can just leave.”

“Hey, what are you complaining about?”

Upon seeing that they were about to start a fight among themselves, Oliver frowned as he wondered when he should attack.

If they were to fight, he wouldn’t be able to sustain a punch from them. However, he was already well prepared with the opportunity to strike for this mission.

The man in the black raincoat was eventually chased out by the group of burly men, so he walked toward the washroom.

Oliver crouched against the corner of the wall as he prepared his dagger and bandage soaked with medication. As soon as the man entered, Oliver grabbed hold of his neck and covered his mouth with the bandage. He fell limp after struggling for about five seconds.

“Trash.” Oliver clicked his tongue and pulled the mask from the man’s face. However, he froze when he saw who the man was.

He was Mr. Vinsmoke from the Sakura Group.

Oliver had previously discovered that Mr. Vinsmoke was dealing drugs with James, but never expected that Mr. Vinsmoke would be personally involved in the cartel. I guess he is being really careful.

After changing into Mr. Vinsmoke’s clothes, Oliver tied the man and hid him in the storeroom of the washroom. Then, he walked out alone in the black raincoat and blatantly approached the opposite warehouse.

It was still snowing outside, and when the snow fell on Oliver, he looked like he was about to seek his revenge in the snow.

Chapter 329 What If I Die?

Now that he stood at the door of the warehouse, Oliver clearly saw the faces of the five men.

The strongest one out of them was known as Tiger, who wore a black jacket and looked like he was the group leader. He never helped with anything, yet he instructed his men to work. The rest of the group were emaciated, which made them look like drug addicts.

“Why did it take so long for you to head to the washroom? Come and help them.”

Tiger shot a glance at Oliver. “Didn’t you want the warehouse to be cleared? Get moving now.”

Oliver nodded and walked inside.

However, Tiger’s doubtful voice rang behind him. “What the hell? He’s willing to help us tonight. Did the sun rise from the west this morning?”

After moving a carton of stocks, Oliver stood at the end of the van and looked at the rest of the goods. This amount of drugs is enough for them to be imprisoned for the rest of their lives.

“Mr. Corbyn said that we should clear all of the stocks before the new year. Then, we will manufacture another batch for the beginning of next year to start off the year well.”

Tiger’s voice rang again from the front of the car. His words caused the rest of his men to be hyped up.

From the corner of his eyes, Oliver noticed the tools used to manufacture drugs located at the cranny of the warehouse. The cartel was well-equipped, especially with the measuring cups and other equipment. Since they had also manufactured the drugs themselves, they would’ve earned a lot of profit.

Just as he was thinking about it, a familiar voice rang in his ears.

“Where are you?”

Five minutes ago, he had sent a distress signal to Tessa, but it had been delayed. As a result, he wondered whether they had used signal blockers, but was only now receiving a signal.

Oliver lowered his voice. “Warehouse. They’re here.”

“We will be right there.”

Before he finished speaking, someone suddenly pressed on his shoulders. Then, Tiger’s voice rang from behind him. “Who are you speaking to?”

At this instant, Oliver quickly ransacked his brain to think of an excuse, but he heard someone yelling from the washroom just as he was about to say something.

“Tiger, bad news. Mr. Vinsmoke has been tied up in the washroom.”

Oliver quickly shook Tiger’s hand away moments before the man returned to his senses and thereafter stabbed Tiger’s ribs sharply and accurately with a military dagger.

“Aaaahhh!” Tiger screamed and clutched his stomach as he collapsed to the ground.

Upon hearing him shrieking, the remaining four burly men rushed out. As soon as they understood the situation, they immediately understood what had happened. “Attack! Don’t let this brat live!”

The five of them—including the one who went to the washroom—pounced on Oliver.

Even though he was one of the top students in the Public Security University, he was exactly what Tessa had described him to be—extremely weak in combat. Upon seeing them rushing toward him, he quickly grabbed the powder that he brought with him.

Before Oliver came, he had obtained from the laboratory a bag of powder that would cause itch. Even though it would take some time for the powder to take effect, it could still cause injuries to their eyes. However, after what seemed like eternity, he still couldn't locate anything and it was only at this moment when he remembered that the bag was in his coat, which he had removed to cover Mr. Vinsmoke.

In the moment of emergency, a few gunshots rang from south-east of the warehouse.

Oliver covered his head and squatted on the ground, but the impact that he had expected didn't land on him. The burly man who charged toward him collapsed on the ground and grabbed his elbow as he groaned in pain after being kicked.

The moment Oliver raised his head, he saw Tessa stepping on the man's face. She looked as cool as a heroine when she turned to ask, "Are you alright?"

"I'm fine." He shook his head and slowly rose to his feet as he held the car for support.

The five burly men and Mr. Vinsmoke had been ordered to face the wall and squat three minutes later. Her teammates stood on each side of the line and flanked the suspects with a fierce glare as they trained their guns on them.

In fact, they were the only ones who knew that the guns used in the training were fake. Apart from making loud noises, the most the weapon could do was hit someone like a brick.

"Is everything here?" Tessa looked at the boxes that were at the back of the van.

Oliver nodded. "Yeah, they are all here. These are the same boxes that I saw last time."

Upon hearing his reply, she used her military knife to open one of the boxes. However, she froze when she saw the contents. "This is..."

It was a box of Peppa Pig watches.

He immediately frowned and quickly opened other boxes. After he poured out all the contents of the boxes, he could only locate Peppa Pig watches.

Meanwhile, she looked at him with confusion.

Oliver paled before he threw the paper boxes away. Then, he approached the few burly men with a military knife in his hand before grabbing the collar of their leader, Tiger. "Where's the stuff?"

Tiger gave a blank look. "What stuff?"

"Stop feigning innocence with me." Oliver slapped him without considering anything. "Where's the K powder?"

"What?" A confused Tiger blinked. "K Powder? How would we dare to deal with that? We are just selling toys. You have misunderstood us."

“F*ck you—”

Tessa held Oliver back just as he was about to land another blow on Tiger

“Forget it.” She frowned and asked Tiger, “Since you guys are selling toys, why did you run away when you saw us? Apart from that, how could you even afford to rent the warehouse here if you only sell toys?”

The Sakura Group’s warehouse was located at East Melrose, which was the closest central warehouse of the city. The rental was quite exorbitant and its access was sealed off to the public, so without the help from Mr. Vinsmoke, they wouldn’t have been able to rent the place.

With those prerequisites, it was impossible for the burly men to rent this warehouse just to store some worthless toys.

“They are just toys. If you don’t believe me, I can open them for you.”

With that, Tiger carefully appraised Tessa’s face.

“Sure.” She looked at him. “Here, open them one by one in front of me.” Something is definitely wrong with the toy watches.

He walked to the van in hesitation and opened the nearest box. After taking out a watch, he opened the lid of the watch in front of Tessa and Oliver. “See, this is just a normal watch.”

As soon as Oliver scooted closer to have a look, he saw a glimmer of light.

“Be careful!”

Before he could even avoid the object, Tessa had already pushed him aside.

He only heard her grunting before he saw her face distorted in pain. However, she snatched the dagger from Tiger’s clutch and brought him to his feet. Upon seeing this, the rest of her team also came to her support and helped to place the handcuffs on him.

“Are you fine, Captain?”

Tessa nodded even though beads of sweat swam down her forehead.

Oliver’s eyes were sharp; he saw blood oozing from the crack of her fingers as she clutched her abdomen. As the blood dripped to the ground and sank into the snow, he immediately blanched. “You are injured, Tess.”

“Captain...”

“I’ll hand this place over to you guys. I’m sure there’s something wrong with the stocks here, so bring them back for an examination while I’ll send Tess to the hospital,” he announced hastily and quickly carried Tessa in his arms to run to the infirmary.

In the snowy night, Tessa, who had been strong and fierce for the past 19 years, leaned against Oliver’s shoulders. She laughed out loud while he was still running. “Hey, don’t freak out. I’m really alright. It’s just a superficial wound; it’s not even as serious as the injuries I’ve received during training.”

He panted as he increased his speed. "Shut up. Your injuries were sustained during your training, but this time, it's because of me. It's two different stories."

"What if I die?"

Oliver's face immediately paled as he commented in a fluster, "You just said that you are fine."

"It's just a hypothetical question." Tessa's voice became weaker and what she said wasn't making much sense either. "Oliver, you just called my nickname..."

Upon hearing that, he remained silent.

Chapter 330 I Don't Bite

"Tessa! Tessa! Stay with me! Don't sleep!"

Oliver continuously called out Tessa's name throughout their entire journey to the hospital. By the time he finally arrived on foot, it was close to dawn.

"Doctor! She was stabbed on the left side of her chest about twenty minutes ago."

After Oliver accurately described the size of Tessa's wound, the type of weapon used, and her condition, the emergency room physician hastily rushed Tessa into the operating theater. Meanwhile, Oliver sat frozen like a statue in front of the theater for the entire two hours of surgery in which he did not move from his spot at all.

At nine o'clock in the morning, Courtney finally arrived at the hospital.

She overheard from the conversation between Harry and Scott earlier in the morning that James was taken into police custody. Furthermore, she had also heard about it on the morning news and realized something terrible happened at the storage center.

Meanwhile, Alexander had gone to Sunhill Enterprise early in the morning. She called him, only to discover that it was a plan secretly concocted by him and Oliver. Instantly, she fumed and unleashed a tirade at him over the phone.

"Oliver can be forgiven because he's still young, but how could you have gone along with his nonsensical decision?! How could you not inform the authorities on such a major issue but instead allowed him to take matters into his own hands? What would you do if there were major consequences because of this?"

Meanwhile, Alexander remained silent and allowed her to vent her anger. Then, he replied, "I'll head to the hospital once everything is settled at the company. Could you go over and take a look first? Oliver's unharmed but the team leader in his group has suffered some injuries."

As soon as Courtney arrived at the hospital and heard that Tessa was only stabbed because she wanted to shield Oliver from harm, Courtney's anger simmered. "Can't the two of you use your brains before taking any action?! This is such a major issue! Tessa's only nineteen years old! What if things end up badly?! If something goes wrong, how are you going to explain this to her parents?!"

He stood at the entrance to the ward and while she raged at him, he hung his head low and listened to the lecture without a single rebuttal.

“Are you imitating Alexander?!” Then, she pinched him on the arm. “Men are all the same! All you do is keep silent and act dumb when you’ve made a mistake!”

As soon as she said that, Courtney slapped him with her bag. “Why are you still standing here?! Go and get some food! Buy something that’s suitable for a patient.”

It was only at that moment when Oliver came to his senses and replied, “I’ll do that right away!”

Meanwhile, Courtney heaved a sigh in helplessness as she looked at the back of the awkward teenager sprinting off. He usually analyzes problems in a logical manner with a clear thought process. Besides, he is as mature as an adult. Why is he so clueless when it comes to relationship matters, though? He’s been standing guard by her side the whole night and it’s fine that he doesn’t feel the need to eat or drink, but he should at least get something for the poor girl! Gosh! He’s slow in his learning indeed!

Inside the ward, the whole room was white. She already knew when she arrived that the operation had ended and Tessa was hitherto transferred to the normal ward, which was why she wasn’t too worried. She even bought a bouquet of flowers while on her way to Tessa’s ward.

As soon as Courtney entered the room, she saw the young girl reading a book on military weaponry lifting her head and staring at her for quite some time. Then, the young girl broke into a smile.

“You’re... Oliver’s sister.”

“Yes. Do you still remember me?” Courtney smiled and placed the bouquet of flowers by Tessa’s bed. “My name is Courtney and I’m only older than you by a few years, so you can address me by my name like how Oliver does.”

She didn’t mean anything much by saying those words, but Tessa somehow had a wild imagination and suddenly blushed in the color of beetroot. Subsequently, Tessa lowered her head and tightly gripped the bedsheet. “I-I’m just Oliver’s comrade and classmate. We’re n-not...”

Courtney was caught by surprise, but she didn’t make things awkward for Tessa either. She merely smiled and responded, “You can address me directly by my name. We’re quite close in age anyway.”

“Oh?!” Tessa hesitated for a moment. “I think I should still address you in a more respectful manner.”

“Is your name Tessa?” Courtney asked.

Tessa nodded. “Yup, everyone addresses me as Tess. My given name is Tessa Reid, though.”

“I heard that you were injured this time because you shielded Oliver from harm?”

“No.” She shook her head and corrected Courtney, “He’s a member of my team, so it’s my duty to protect him.”

“Is that true?” Courtney raised her eyebrow quizzically. “I guess I must be mistaken then. My friend previously wanted to introduce a girl to Oliver, but I thought that the two of you were dating each other, so I rejected her. I should give my friend a call as soon as possible and make arrangements.”

“Umm...” As soon as Tessa heard that, she panicked and nearly leaped out of bed.

However, Courtney had reacted quickly enough and grabbed Tessa by her arm. “Don’t move! Be careful of your injury.”

“Don’t make any arrangements!” Tessa was frantic. “Oliver isn’t allowed to date anyone.”

At this moment, Courtney teased, “Why is that so?”

Meanwhile, upon hearing Courtney poking fun at her, Tessa blushed redder and admitted with a flourish, “It’s because I like him.”

As soon as she finished her words, the door was pushed open from the outside with a resounding bang—it was Oliver entering with a bag of food. However, it was likely he never eavesdropped on the conversation because he strolled in nonchalantly and placed the food by her bedside before asking, “What do you like?”

Then, Tessa bit her lower lip and stared at him for a few seconds. “You.”

Oliver was about to lean forward when he suddenly froze; it was a position he remained in for quite some time.

Meanwhile, Courtney teased him from the side, “Give a response, Oliver.”

“Huh?!” He seemed to be in a stupor as he slowly stood up. Then, he gave an answer that didn’t make sense. “There’s no soup. I’ll go and get you some soup.” As soon as he said that, he hastily ran out of the room.

Tessa yelled at his back, “Stop pretending! I’m sure you’ve known this for quite some time now. If I didn’t like you, why would I even shield you from being stabbed?”

Her voice boomed as she yelled with passion. She didn’t sound like an injured girl who had just endured six stitches to her wound.

It was only then when Courtney finally realized why Tessa was described as a valiant cub.

She found herself thinking about Oliver and Tessa—one was less agile but brainy whereas the other was adept at fighting but overly simple-minded, which made them a perfect match for each other. Courtney could even envision a campus love story between them whereby the domineering cute girl wooing the cool brainiac.

“Courtney, why did he flee at such speed? I don’t bite.” Tessa frowned as she was significantly unhappy.

“You looked like you were about to devour someone.” Courtney couldn’t help laughing out loud, although she gave Tessa a thumbs up. “I still think that you did great, though!”

“Well, even so, he’s not interested in me.” Tessa seemed slightly dejected as she lowered her head and tightly gripped the bedsheet, after which she heaved a sigh. “Courtney, what sort of girl do you think Oliver prefers?”

Upon being asked this question, Courtney was momentarily silent. Suddenly, something flashed across her mind and her eyes brightened. “I’ve heard him mentioning this before, so I have some insight.”

“Really?! What is it?”

She couldn't fully recall the exact details, but she distinctly remembered asking him about this when they met up for tea at the Public Security University earlier. That was the reason why she remembered what he said that day.

“He said that he prefers someone like his mom,” she repeated with confidence.

“Huh?!” Tessa couldn't quite believe her ears and her surprise was evidently portrayed. She stammered, “H-His mom?!” What?! I couldn't tell all this while that he has an Oedipus complex! This seems kind of perverted.

Meanwhile, after running out of the hospital, Oliver suddenly sneezed twice. He somehow felt a cold breeze on the nape of his neck and quickly zipped up his hoodie.

He lamented in his heart, The weather's much colder after a bout of snowfall. As it had just snowed the night before, the bitter cold made him feel like his bones were frozen.