

Surprise 334

Chapter 334 I Hope You'll Always Be by My Side

After leaving Oliver's place, Courtney dropped him off at his school. On one hand, the school wanted him to follow up and write a report about the topic of anti-narcotics after the military exercise. On the other hand, she felt a little awkward if he followed her home after the truth had been revealed.

Thank God there's the military exercise as the excuse, Courtney thought in relief.

While she was on the way to the kindergarten to pick up the kids after dropping off Oliver, she received a call from Alexander.

"Where are you?"

"On my way to the kindergarten. I'm halfway there now."

"Don't bother." He intentionally softened his tone, sounding very gentle as he said, "Mr. Harry is on his way to pick up the kids. Let's go out for dinner tonight."

"We're having dinner outside? With Grandpa?" Pausing for a moment, Courtney realized that it was New Year's Eve tonight. "Then, I'll go back to change first."

"There's no one else but us."

His voice was especially husky and attractive, which made the blood rush to her face before she spoke.

"Wait for me. I'm going back to change."

"You don't have to change. Just come in comfortable clothes."

"No, this is a date!"

During one of the busiest times of Sunhill Enterprise, Courtney felt as though the sun was rising from the West when Alexander actually took the time out to spend New Year's Eve with her. But now that it turned out to be a date, she felt a stronger need to treat it respectfully by dressing up in her prettiest clothes so that she was the most stunning woman within his sight.

After she got home, she opened up her closet and tried on almost all of her clothes from each season. She even video-called Cameron on the other side of the globe to help her pick out an outfit.

Right now, it was morning in America, and Cameron was seated next to the bed with the sunlight pouring over her face. Looking into the camera, she waved her hand.

"This is too plain. There are only five days apart between Christmas and New Year's Eve, and the streets are still full of festivities. It's weird if you dress up so plainly."

"This one is too flashy. Dressed in red like the others, you'll just blend into the crowd."

"This is not bad, but it's winter over there now, isn't it? Forget it. You might freeze yourself to death."

It took her almost an hour before she finally decided on the outfit: a red and white checkered coat—which was very fitting with the festivity—paired with a beige A-line dress and a pair of knee-high boots. The whole look was very suitable for this time of the year.

The meeting spot set up by Alexander was the busiest place in Melrose, the Skylight Plaza. The place was named such because it had a ceiling LED display walkway which spanned over three hundred feet. As it was New Year's Eve tonight, the starry night LED display was changing dramatically, and the surrounding was filled with joyous music.

"Where are you?" Courtney asked Alexander over the phone. It had just snowed, and the weather report predicted more snowfall for the next couple of days, so it was very cold outside.

"Walk into the ceiling LED display," Alexander answered in the call. "I'm at the end of it."

"Oh, okay." It was so cold that she shivered, then she sniffled as she mumbled, "Why are we meeting outside when it's so warm in the mall?"

Despite her grumbling, she followed his instruction and walked into the display. Following the path, she stepped down from a platform, surrounded by the sparkling night sky on the LED display the whole time.

"Oh, I've never paid attention to it before, but this display is actually quite nice. Let's hang out here for a while after dinner. I think it's a rather suitable spot for the countdown," she said into the phone.

"Sure."

"The night sky filled with stars is so pretty. I don't think there are many stars in the sky tonight." As she trod along the path, she kept speaking into the phone, and when she was almost at the end of the LED display walkway, she looked out and uttered, "I'm here. Where are you?"

When she finished speaking, she had just stepped out of the LED display walkway at the same time, and a two-story high Christmas tree entered her view. Bright decorative lights circled around the tree, together with hanging decorations such as gingerbread man, tiny bells, and presents.

It was no surprise at all for a decoration like this to appear in a plaza during the Christmas season, but what surprised her was the fact that there wasn't a single person around this gigantic tree. It was still bustling with life when she walked into the LED display walkway, but the people had all disappeared without her realizing.

"Alex." All of a sudden, she was a little panic-stricken, and she asked, "Where are you?"

The call ended abruptly, and she heard a dead dial tone. Astonished, she lowered her head to look at her cell phone subconsciously.

The lights danced, and a familiar scene appeared on the LED display across her on the second floor suddenly, replacing the skincare commercial which was playing on loop.

The first thing she heard was a baby voice saying, "Mr. Alexander, I've turned it on. You can speak now."

Tina? Surprised, Courtney turned to the source of the voice.

The background on the LED display was the living room at Alexander's house, and it looked like this video was recorded recently because a decorated Christmas tree stood in the corner of the room.

Facing the camera, Alexander seemed a little stiff despite his usual composed self, and he rubbed his slender fingers on his knees a few times.

“Courtney...” The edges of his lips twitched, and it seemed as if he wanted to put on a gentle smile. Perhaps it was due to his nervousness, he simply looked a little awkward, and Courtney giggled with a hand over her mouth as she saw it.

“There are many things I can’t say in front of you. After several considerations, I decided to record a video like this for you. In March this year, we first met in the elevator of the company. Before meeting you, I was sure that I would be happy to live my life alone and not have anyone affect my life. However, after I met you, my life took on a dramatic turn.” Slowly, the smile on his face disappeared, and his expression turned even more warm and soft. “Maybe it was that first time when you came over to my place to cook for Jordan. I suddenly felt that it wouldn’t be that bad to get married when I looked at you. That thought shocked even myself, and we’d known each other for barely a month at that time. So, it really turns out that time has nothing to do with the love for a person.”

While Courtney was unaware, people slowly started to appear in the quiet plaza.

“After that, I would think about you all the time: when the sun rises or when I look at the moon, when the day is sunny or raining, and even now when it’s snowing.”

At this point, Courtney felt a chill on the tip of her nose. Lifting her head, she saw snowflakes drifting down, and they fell on her shoulders, arms, and her open palms.

“I hope you’ll always be by my side.”

The video stopped playing, and a song which many people had heard before—‘Can’t Help Falling in Love’—suddenly started playing from the Christmas tree.

Without her realizing, children dressed up as the seven dwarfs ran toward her from somewhere. The children dressed in different colored costumes each held a present, all different in size, and they shoved the gifts into her hands.

Before she even had the time to react as she was holding a pile of presents, Snow White, Rapunzel, Elsa, and almost all the characters from Disney appeared before placing a rose and present into her arms.

In the blink of an eye, a small hill made up of piled-up presents stood next to her. Stunned, she held a huge bouquet of deep-red roses in her arms without any idea what was happening nor what would happen next.

Chapter 335 Only a Kid Will Make a Choice

More and more people gathered at the plaza, and the scene turned lively as they held hands and started dancing. Courtney was feeling a little dizzy, and she didn’t know how long it had passed when a man dressed in a white suit finally walked out from behind the Christmas tree.

“What are you doing? Did you prepare this?” She trotted over and punched him playfully on his chest, laughing uncontrollably. “Do you have to make such a big fuss over a new year countdown?”

“This is our first New Year’s Eve together, and I hope that you’ll be the one by my side for every New Year’s Eve in the future.”

“That’s for sure!” Raising her brows, Courtney looked very proud as she added, “Whom else would you like to spend New Year’s Eve with besides me? You must be dreaming!”

“Don’t regret what you just said.” Smiling gently, Alexander grabbed her hand, which had punched him earlier, and went down on one knee while everyone was watching.

All of a sudden, Courtney froze. The light blue, rectangular box looked very expensive, and it popped open with a light snap in his hands.

It turned out that there were ten diamond rings of different designs laid out in a row within the box, and they were sparkling so brightly under the lights that it almost blinded Courtney.

Staring unblinkingly at it, she was dumbfounded although she had already guessed what was happening and was a little moved. “Is this a proposal?” she asked.

Raising his brow, Alexander said with a matter-of-fact expression, “To prevent you from using the excuse that you don’t like the ring which I bought, I had ten pieces custom-made. There must be one which will be to your liking.”

She placed a hand over her mouth as she laughed, whereupon tears of joy welled up in her eyes.

“Pick one.” Alexander gazed at her with affectionate, tender eyes.

Sniffing, she turned away from him deliberately and extended her right hand. “Only a kid will make a choice. I will take all of it.”

“Really?” With a smirk, he put a ring on each of her fingers, and soon, all five of her fingers on her right hand had a diamond ring on it.

Initially, she was merely kidding with him, but she didn’t expect that he would put a ring on each of her fingers. She shrunk backward. “Are you serious?”

Spreading his palms, he flashed her a smile. “There’s still another hand.”

When all ten of her fingers had a ring on it, she pursed her lips. For some unknown reason, it should have been a very moving event, but it turned out to be a little comical instead. Her tear-filled eyes glimmered like stars as she opened up her hands and couldn’t stop herself from laughing.

“This is so tacky. I look like a country bumpkin who had just struck it rich!”

“You’re mine now that you’re wearing my rings.”

“Yes, yes,” she mumbled. “I’ve been yours since a long time ago.”

It hadn’t been a smooth ride for her and Alexander along the way, and it was also a fate bestowed by God. Even though she struggled within herself before, she had straightened out her thinking; if she had to choose a person as her partner for the rest of her life, she couldn’t think of a person other than Alexander. To her, he was no longer one of the options in a multiple-choice question, but the standard answer.

The new year's bell was about to ring, and the people dancing in the plaza danced even more merrily. Then, Alexander brought her to a western restaurant on the higher floors, overlooking the entire night view of Melrose as it glimmered with prosperity.

"I thought you'd bring Tina and the others with you. Isn't that how everyone else proposes, with their friends and family as witnesses and source of encouragement on the side?"

With a soft look in his eyes, he said calmly, "That's because I wish that you'll say yes solely because of me."

Not because of the children or because your aunt and uncle have accepted me; neither should it be because of other reasons nor anyone's influence when you make a decision, but simply because I'm the person you love.

Dumbfounded, Courtney's cheeks turned hot, and she felt her face with her palms, muttering, "Did you swallow honey before leaving the house today?"

Since the proposal earlier, everything he said was oozing with sweetness and didn't sound like him at all.

The waiter came over to deliver the dessert, and he cast a confused look at Courtney. "Uh, Madam, Sir, this is your dessert."

"Thank you."

After he placed down the dessert, he stole a glance every time he took a step away until he finally whispered something to his colleague.

Puzzled, Courtney asked Alexander, "Is my makeup running from the tears? Do I look weird?"

"I don't think it's your makeup which he finds weird," he answered, looking at her hands thoughtfully.

Following his gaze, she came to the sudden realization that she was still wearing all the rings on her hands. Almost blinded when she took a look at them, she then hurriedly hid them under the table.

"Why didn't you remind me about it?"

"Why would I do that? You'll have to eat, after all."

"It's all your fault," she grumbled. "Why did you buy ten rings?"

With a playful glint in his eyes, he said, "Honestly speaking, I didn't expect that you'd wear all ten of them."

Peeved, she uttered, "Are you laughing at me? I'll take them off now."

"No," he warned sternly.

"Hey, can you be a reasonable person?" She gave him a kick in frustration under the table. "It's really heavy, and I can't even lift my hands to eat."

Despite what she said, she actually couldn't bring herself to take them off. Who would be willing to take off their engagement ring on the day of their proposal? Instead, she stole a peek at it every second just to be sure that this happiness was real.

Ding-dong, ding-dong.

The sounds of bells marking the beginning of the new year chimed, and outside the full-length windows of the restaurant, the New Year's Eve fireworks show in the distance flourished in the air, creating a colorful blooming flower in the sky. Mixed with the pleasant sounds of the bells, it ushered in the biggest carnival of the year in the city.

"Quick, make a wish," Courtney urged. "Make a wish before the bell ends."

Upon hearing the sounds of the bells, she instantly closed her eyes and clasped her hands together, making a wish as she would in previous years.

"I wish for Tina to be cured of her asthma soon, Jordan to recover completely from his antisocial syndrome, and Cameron to end her treatment for depression as soon as possible and return to a normal life. May there be someone by Elijah's side to keep him company, and I wish that Grandpa, Uncle William, and Aunt Alicia will all be healthy..."

She had so many wishes, and she muttered them under her breath until the bells stopped ringing. Without missing out anyone, she managed to make all her wishes the second the bells stopped.

When she opened her eyes, she noticed that Alexander didn't move an inch from his position earlier, whereupon she frowned. "Why didn't you make a wish? Don't doubt this; it will really come true."

Chuckling lightly, he gazed at her affectionately. "But my wish has already come true. I don't need to make more."

"It came true? What is it?"

Stunned, Courtney didn't realize what was happening at first. After a while when he kept staring at her, it slowly dawned upon her that his wish was to be successful at his proposal!

The second she realized this point, her face, which was already flushing from the heating of the restaurant, turned bright scarlet all the way to her neck.

This man didn't only have a whole jar of honey before leaving the house today, she thought. He literally bathed himself in honey before going out and is now oozing with sweetness.