

Surprise 361

One Night Surprise Chapter 361 Feeling Sad When You Lose Someone

From the sound of it, Elijah seemed to be in low spirits. Hence, Courtney teased him on purpose to liven up the mood. "Duh, I know it's you. It's not like there's no caller ID. We still have to end this nicely even though we're divorcing, right?"

"Yeah, let's end this nicely." He chuckled.

After a moment of silence, he said softly, "I know Lilian brought you to the place where you used to stay. Please don't take it to heart. She's never done something so outrageous before."

"It's fine. She probably thought it would be more convenient for me to stay there. I'm more curious to know if you penalized her for doing so. You didn't, right?"

"I did. I suspended her for a month."

"Dude, can't you be more forgiving?" She put her palm on her head. "She's been with you for almost eight years. Why are you being so harsh over such a small matter?"

"She requested it."

"Huh?" She gave up. "How stubborn. She's really something, isn't she?"

After chatting for a while, she finally hung up the phone. As she recalled her conversation while sitting at the side of the bed, she sighed.

Meanwhile, Alexander was staring at her from the laptop screen. Seeing this, he questioned, "What's wrong? Are you feeling guilty after taking your ex-husband's call?"

Stunned, she realized that the video call was still on. "Were you listening to us the whole time?"

"Mm-hmm." He nodded. "End this nicely?" he said unhappily through gritted teeth.

"How else should we end this?" Grabbing her neck, she joked, "Should I pick a fight with him all the way to the notary office?"

Hearing this, he was at a loss for words. Noticing his silence, she laughed. "You're speechless, huh? You must be really free since you're picking on me. Aren't you busy with the company nowadays?"

"We're preparing for our annual dinner."

Every year, Sunhill Enterprise would have an annual dinner in January, and they would book the entire top floor of the Purple Peak Hotel, Melrose's largest hotel. The most fascinating item of the event was that they would invite numerous artists every year as a form of marketing for the company.

This time of the year should be the busiest for the company. Hence, she couldn't believe that he still had time to be jealous.

"I sighed because of Lilian. She's been with Elijah for nearly eight years and started working for him right after graduating from Yale together. Everyone except him knows how she feels about him," she explained to comfort him.

"Men are not as observant as you think they are. We don't notice things like that."

Upon hearing this, she frowned at him. "Perhaps you're right. I think he really doesn't know. Lilian's been his sidekick for too long. It never occurred to him because she's always there for him. Would you develop feelings for someone you've gotten used to having around?"

After keeping quiet for a moment, he replied, "Maybe when I lose her."

Dumbfounded, she realized something. "That's true. When you lose someone..." she mumbled after regaining her senses. No wonder she requested a one-month leave. How smart of her to use this trick!

Across the screen, Alexander, who was far away in Melrose, felt his heart ache as he saw the worried look on her face. She went all the way there to finalize her divorce, yet she's still so worried about him.

After he hung up the video call late at night, he phoned Josh. "Reschedule everything for the next two days and book me a flight ticket for tomorrow."

"To where?"

"New York."

Hearing this, Josh was speechless.

As for Courtney, she had trouble sleeping the whole night. Though she didn't want to admit it, she couldn't deny that she couldn't sleep without Alexander beside her.

The next morning, she carried her bags and went to the therapy center. As soon as Cameron saw Courtney, she let out a shout of joy before jumping out of bed and rushing toward Courtney.

"Chef Keller's mac and cheese! United's ramen cup noodles! Herdez's salsa dip!"

"My gosh!" Cameron hugged Courtney so tightly that she couldn't breathe. "Do you miss me or the junk food back at home?"

"How dare you call them junk food! Be careful. Chef Keller might sue you for defamation."

Enthusiastically, Cameron took the bags of treats that Courtney brought all the way here. Then, she pulled Courtney to sit by the bay window, where the sun was shining brightly.

"You're the best."

"Wouldn't Gale buy them for you if you asked?" Courtney blinked and looked at Cameron knowingly. "I bet you didn't ask him to buy these things because you wanted to seem virtuous to your future mother-in-law."

"Nah." Cameron denied. "I'm just worried he wouldn't know what I want since he's used to having exotic delicacies."

Too lazy to argue with Cameron, Courtney changed the subject. “Fine, then. Stop complaining after hitting the jackpot with Gale. So, what did the doctor say?”

Cameron grinned when Courtney brought this up. “The doctor said I’m in a stable condition. If my illness doesn’t relapse, I’ll be discharged home after the mid-winter holiday. Then, I’ll be able to make it to your wedding.”

“That’s great!”

Then, Cameron took out a sketchbook from the drawer under the bay window. “Look. I designed the wedding dress and bridesmaids’ dress.”

“Really? Let me see.”

Courtney took the sketchbook excitedly. A perfect wedding was every girl’s dream. Naturally, the wedding dress would be the highlight of that dream.

After flipping through a few pages, Courtney lifted her head slowly and glared at Cameron. “Are these my wedding dresses?”

There were different styles of dresses with long and short designs, different shades of colors, and various fabrics. However, they were all the bridesmaids’ dresses. There was not a single wedding dress.

“Aren’t all wedding dresses the same?” Cameron batted her eyes innocently. “I can draw one for you now. It’s not easy to make a bridesmaid’s dress stand out!”

“Why do you need to stand out when you’re just a bridesmaid at the wedding? Are you trying to steal my spotlight?” Courtney grabbed Cameron’s face and squeezed it hard.

“Umm... I’m sorry... I was wrong...” Cameron uttered. Finally, Cameron broke free from Courtney and pulled out another thick sketchbook from under the cushion she was sitting on before handing it to Courtney. “Here.”

Suspiciously, Courtney opened the book and warned, “I’m going to tear your mouth off your face if you’re letting me see more bridesmaids’ dresses.”

“Suit yourself.” Cameron pouted. “How dare you forget about your friend after getting engaged! Do you know how much my design costs? Pay up now!”

As Cameron was speaking, Courtney was already flipping through the pages. Gazing at the first page, Courtney was in awe of the glittering design and couldn’t take her eyes off it.

Cameron had designed a total of six wedding dresses and twelve evening dresses. “I thought you might need at least four wedding dresses if you were to hold a wedding here and back home. It’d also be convenient to have a few backups if anything happens. So, choose four from the six designs. As for the evening dresses, you can choose a few more sets since you’ll need them for the dance anyway.”

All this while, Cameron had always loved to joke and rarely spoke so seriously, so Courtney was not used to it. At that moment, there was a tingling sensation in Courtney’s nose as her eyes welled up with tears.

One Night Surprise Chapter 362 Getting Spoiled by You

“Oh, my God! You’re not going to cry, are you?”

Noticing that Courtney was acting strangely, Cameron poked Courtney’s shoulder. “Why are you getting emotional over such a trivial matter? If so, you’ll have to bow down before me after I finish making the wedding dress and place it in front of you.”

“Dream on!” Courtney glared at Cameron. “I’ll never bow down before you.” The feelings Courtney had when she was deeply moved by Cameron’s gesture were now gone.

As Cameron touched her nose, she smiled. “Anyway, I only have one request: You have to make me the maid of honor. Then, you can’t get mad at me for bullying the groom.”

“I only have two bridesmaids. If you’re the maid of honor, then Natasha will be the deputy. What’s the point?”

“Even so, I’m still the maid of honor, so my bridesmaid dress has to look different. I’ll design my own dress. As for hers, you can buy it from wherever. I don’t care. How else will I be able to show off my status?” Cameron stated arrogantly.

As Cameron mentioned Natasha, Courtney couldn’t help but notice the bitterness in her tone. With that, Courtney chuckled and teased, “Do you hate her that much? Because of Bill?”

“Bah!” Cameron rolled her eyes. “So he accepted her as his apprentice. So what? It has nothing to do with me.”

“So, are you bothered by her relationship with me? That we’re close like sisters?”

“Rubbish!”

“Then, are you bothered by the fact that Jordan and Tina like her?”

“Pfft!” Infuriated, Cameron shot daggers at Courtney. “Are you done yet? I’m getting out of here right now!”

Hearing this, Courtney burst out with laughter. “Didn’t you say you didn’t mind? Did you think that things would change after your hospitalization? Is that why you suddenly cooperated with the doctor to go for treatment?”

“No.” Cameron denied.

Seeing how Cameron was trying to cover it up, Courtney didn’t refute, but she knew the truth.

Cameron was a restless person. Though she promised to cooperate and get hospitalized for treatment, she was always tight-lipped about her past and never told the doctor the truth. Hence, after two months, Gale had no choice but to call Courtney for help.

After that, Courtney paid little attention to Cameron every time she called her. Courtney would always mention Natasha and tell Cameron how great Natasha was. Natasha had basically replaced her, and this caused her to feel threatened.

Compared to all the pain Cameron buried in her heart, she cared more about her friends and lover. Hence, she was willing to talk about her past even if it caused her agony.

Once she told the truth, she would be treated and not be troubled by it again.

In the afternoon, Gale came back. So, the three of them had a nutritious yet bland meal in the therapy center's ward.

Once the nurse walked away, Courtney took out the salsa dip from the first drawer. "I finally understand why you insisted on the phone that I bring some salsa dip. What kind of food is this?"

"Give it to me." Cameron's eyes sparkled. "Hey, leave some for me. I'll be staying here for another half a month!"

"Are you sure you can have this?" Courtney asked suspiciously.

"No." Just as Gale said so, he took the bottle from Courtney and kept it. Then, he went on with a straight face, "The therapy center prepared the meals specifically to your condition. You can't have any junk food until you get discharged."

"This isn't junk food."

"You still can't have it." With that, he wrapped his arms around the bottle and refused to take it out.

Poor Courtney barely managed to dip her spoon into the bottle. Before she could get a spoonful of the dip, he had already snatched it away. Silently, she licked the spoon and swore that she would never come back during mealtime.

"Gale!" Cameron fumed. "Are you out of your mind? Courtney brought it for me!"

"She didn't know you can't have stuff like this. Otherwise, she wouldn't have brought anything for you."

Gale was always goofing around, so Courtney didn't expect him to be this scary when he was serious. When he mentioned her all of a sudden, it put her in a difficult position.

Moments later, glancing at Cameron's nervous gaze, Courtney pointed to the cupboard by the bed and said to him through gritted teeth, "There's another bottle in there. There are also some snacks under the bed and lemon curd under the pillow. Oh, there are instant noodles in the toilet's locker too."

After taking a deep breath, he searched for those snacks. He then locked them in a cabinet specially prepared to keep snacks that she smuggled into the therapy center as Cameron watched.

At that moment, Cameron's face turned dark and looked like a deflated balloon. Staring at Courtney and Gale, Cameron said, "Unfriend. Break up."

Pushing the plate of food to Cameron, he replied, "I'll never break up with you. Not in this lifetime."

"No one could ever eat this," Cameron stared at the food in front of her as if she was looking at a pile of sh*t.

Just as Cameron said so, Courtney watched as Gale held the spoon and took several mouthfuls of the food. The whole time, his face was so emotionless that no one could tell if the food tasted good or otherwise.

Soon, he had finished nearly half the plate of food. Hence, Cameron finally ate the food out of spite. She gobbled down the food as if she was competing with him.

As Courtney watched the both of them gobbling down the food, she wondered if she had lost her sense of taste. Is it possible that the food would taste nicer after having a few mouthfuls?

Hesitantly, Courtney put a spoonful into her mouth. After a long while, she swallowed it reluctantly as she watched Gale trying to coax and threaten Cameron to eat the food.

How sweet! I can't believe that a pampered young master would come all the way here just to accompany her and eat such unappetizing food with her. He must truly love her.

After eating, Courtney figured that Cameron was still mad at her and Gale; she covered her head with the comforter and ignored both of them. Smiling helplessly, Gale walked Courtney out.

"It seems to me that you've spoiled her. I can't believe that she'd get so mad at you for doing things for her sake." Even Courtney couldn't stand it.

"It's okay." He shrugged. "She just likes the feeling of being tolerated without a bottom line. In fact, she'd always make a big fuss but end up eating her food obediently."

"You're hopeless." Clicking her tongue, she eyed him and teased, "Since when did you go crazy?"

"You seem to be in a good mood. Your divorce must be going well." Gale laughed.

"Yup. I'm having dinner with Elijah tonight. We'll chat, and then we'll go to the notary office to apply for divorce tomorrow."

"That's great."

Watching her beckon a taxi, he dropped his smile. Then, he stepped forward quickly and called after her. "Courtney, don't worry about Cam and I if you get into any trouble. Just remember that Alexander's waiting for you to go home."

One Night Surprise Chapter 363 One Night Surprise Chapter 3633 Still So Cheeky

For a moment, Courtney was stunned, then she looked at Gale, feeling puzzled.

The car just happened to arrive, so before she could ask what he meant, Gale opened the car door for her.

"Get in. I wish you all the best."

She smiled. "Thanks."

As the taxi disappeared around the corner, the faint smile on Gale's face gradually disappeared, and the remaining bit of shimmer in his eyes grew cold.

Alexander was his best friend. Of course, he hoped that his friend could find the greatest happiness in life, but he still had to think for his sake.

Elijah was so enthusiastic about arranging Cameron's treatment, so Gale didn't suspect anything until he overheard the conversation between Cameron's deputy attending doctor and the nurse on Christmas Eve.

"Let's reduce the dosage of the medicine for the time being. Mr. Grant said that he hopes that Miss Miller's treatment can be extended as much as possible so that she can stay in the hospital for a longer period of time."

"Why?"

"Don't ask any more questions. Since it's harmless to the patient, we'll just do it accordingly."

When Gale heard this, he pondered for a long time. He could only think of one reason why Elijah would deliberately lengthen the treatment process and delay Cameron from being discharged from the hospital—it was for Courtney.

Courtney had nothing to worry about when she returned to Melrose City, and she now had a new life there, almost completely disconnected from the years she spent in America. So, Elijah was using Cameron's illness to help him hold onto the last connection between them.

As long as Cameron stayed in America, Courtney would certainly ask him about her situation.

He's so cunning. Gale worried about Alexander for several days, and he even urged Cameron to cooperate with the treatment and strive to meet the standards of the indicators in the future physical examination so that she could be discharged early and not trouble Alexander.

But despite his considerations, he didn't expect that Elijah would have this trick up his sleeves.

His marriage with Courtney was still considered legitimate. In America, the divorce procedures were quite cumbersome as they must go through court proceedings, and the divorce would only be approved within a minimum of six months after the application date. If any marital problems weren't resolved within this period, it would be delayed. The divorce lawsuit could last up to three to five years for many people.

Who would've thought that Elijah isn't as much of a gentleman as he appears to be!

When night fell, Courtney took a taxi to the French restaurant where Gale had reserved a table. The interior was decorated in French-style decor, and as soon as she entered, she could feel the elegant atmosphere.

Elijah waved to her from the window. When she reached their table, he pulled out a chair for her like a gentleman.

Handing her jacket to the waiter, Courtney whispered, "Why did you choose this place? When I first entered, I thought the waiter was going to stop me from coming in. I'm a little too underdressed. I'm not embarrassing you, am I?"

Elijah gave a slight smile. "What, now? Are you still traumatized by your first time here?"

A few years ago, Elijah had invited her to dine at this restaurant too. At that time, Courtney didn't know that there was a dress etiquette for this restaurant. She went there right after work and was wearing a T-shirt and jeans, so the waiter stopped her, utterly humiliating her.

At the mention of that embarrassing incident, Courtney sneered, "Let's not bring up the past. Don't you see that they've been keeping up with the times? I didn't wear a dress today, but they still let me in."

Elijah looked at the wine menu and said casually, "Of course. Who would dare to stop a friend of the restaurant owner?"

"What?" Courtney was stunned for a few seconds before she understood, then she asked in astonishment, "You bought this restaurant?"

Elijah didn't deny it.

"Tsk, tsk." Courtney looked wistful. "This century-old authentic restaurant is going to be wrecked by you. What a shame."

"Regardless of whether or not it would be wrecked, let's talk about that after you order your food."

Elijah called for a waiter, then handed him his menu and ordered the usual.

Courtney opened the menu and pretended to look through it. It was all in French; there wasn't even a single English sentence. It filled her with anger, just as it did back then.

After a long time, she saw Elijah staring at her from the corner of her eye, appearing as if he was waiting to see her make a joke of herself. Enraged, she immediately closed the menu and stopped looking.

"Since you've bought this restaurant, that means I can order anything I want, right?"

Elijah's eyebrows twitched.

"What would you like?"

"Spicy beef soup."

Upon hearing this, the waiter next to her was stunned. Even though Courtney's explanation was quite accurate, how could a proper French restaurant possibly sell spicy beef soup?

Courtney leaned against the chair, looking slightly derisive.

"Mr. Grant, your restaurant isn't that good after all! You don't even have spicy beef soup!"

Elijah glanced at the waiter, then mumbled fluently in French. Courtney only understood two words—'slightly spicy'.

The waiter nodded and solemnly walked away.

Judging from the waiter's expression, Courtney reckoned he wasn't going to the kitchen to place an order, but rather, he looked like he was going to the pillbox, as he had the face of a brave man about to fight for his life.

Amused, Courtney laughed. “He probably doesn’t understand what you’re talking about. He might just bring me a bowl of salad with meat.”

Elijah looked helpless.

“You’re about to get married, yet you’re still so cheeky. When you go out to eat with him, are you this shameless too?”

“He’s all right. We’ve even eaten at roadside stalls before. He’s actually not as pretentious as he seems. He’s quite open-minded, so it’s pointless for me to pull such shenanigans with him. It just makes him think I’m an idiot.”

Courtney lowered her head and drank her water, not noticing the complex look in Elijah’s eyes.

When Courtney first met him back then, he was still a poor boy trying to make it as an entrepreneur. Later, he became financially successful, and his company managed to survive the toughest times. His pride grew, and the places he brought her for meals became increasingly prestigious. Every time, it made her feel like she was sitting on needles.

At some point after that, she couldn’t understand the menu and asked the waiter if they had any fried rice, which confused the waiter. In the end, Elijah asked for the manager of the restaurant and forced them to cook her a plate of fried rice.

It was from that time onward that teasing Elijah at high-end restaurants became one of Courtney’s greatest pleasures. She simply felt that Elijah lived life too seriously. Every detail of life was rigidly stitched in accordance with his rules, so she figured he had to have such experiences to bring some excitement to his life.

“Are you used to not having Lilian around?” Courtney suddenly asked.

Elijah concealed his complex emotions and said faintly, “It’s still all right. The new secretary she found is quite efficient. Although she’s a newbie, she’s not much different.”

“If you teach your disciple well, they’ll overtake you someday. Why doesn’t Lilian have a sense of vigilance?”

Courtney was trying to signal Elijah, but he didn’t understand at all. “I’ll be glad if she has her own goals, since she has the ability to achieve them.”

After a moment of silence, Courtney couldn’t bear it, so she made her message clear.

“If she leaves, you’ll have no one around you anymore.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 364 Afraid You’ll Be Kidnapped

When he heard this, Elijah raised his head. After a few seconds of silence, he asked, “If I asked you to stay, would you consider staying?”

Courtney froze.

“You can’t keep a person who wants to leave from leaving.” Elijah narrowed his eyes. “Since I already know the outcome, there’s no point to keep trying.”

His remark left Courtney at a loss for words. Having been placed in an unusual position, she could no longer speak for Lilian.

This was Elijah’s character. He always spoke and did things in a straightforward manner, never dawdling.

“You’re making me feel very pressured. I feel as if I had cheated on my marriage.” Courtney looked at him. “You’re not going to say that I cheated in court, right?”

“Didn’t you?” Elijah stared at her, inexplicably seeming innocent.

“Hey...” Courtney sucked in a breath of cold air. “Don’t joke about this...”

“Miss, your dish.”

The waiter brought her the spicy beef soup in a deep dish plate. Looking at the deep porcelain plate in front of her, which was bigger than her face, Courtney glanced at Elijah, then both of them burst out laughing.

“After submitting the divorce application, there will be a six-month review period. If there are no problems, you’ll have to come back for the court hearing.”

“Okay.”

While Courtney and Elijah were at the restaurant having a friendly talk about their divorce, Gale was in the therapy center, looking worried because of his concern for his good friend’s relationship.

Cameron only needed to ask a few questions to pry all the thoughts in his mind.

“So, you’ve been acting so suspiciously the past two days because you’ve been thinking of this? You think Elijah is using my illness and the divorce to hold Courtney back so that she wouldn’t leave so easily?”

“That is indeed what he’s doing. Otherwise, why would he ask the doctor to extend your treatment time?”

Cameron fell silent as she stared unblinkingly at Gale.

“Why are you looking at me like that?”

“I think that something’s seriously wrong with your brain.” Cameron suddenly threw the pillow in her hands at his face.

As Gale was unprepared, he fell off the bed after suffering the impact of the pillow being thrown at him so suddenly.

Cameron dragged him by the collar to the ward of the deputy attending doctor, then asked him about what he told the nurse that day. The deputy attending doctor was shocked, but he answered, “Extending the duration of the treatment was one of the two treatment options given to Mr. Grant by the attending doctor. The quicker treatment would produce more side effects, while the slow treatment

would lead to lesser side effects. Mr. Grant chose the long-term treatment. The difference between the two methods isn't very obvious, so most patients would choose the faster treatment to save manpower and money."

Gale was stunned when the deputy attending doctor explained this.

Cameron slapped his head in a huff and said disdainfully, "You judged a noble person with your despicable mind, and you're still here making a fool of yourself. Let's go back."

With his mind in a haze, he trailed after Cameron as they went back to the ward. When they were halfway there, he suddenly slapped his own forehead. "Then, it seems like I caused trouble again."

"What did you do?"

"I told Alex about it..." Gale grimaced. "He may be coming in two days."

After hearing this, Cameron frowned slightly as she stared at Gale, looking disappointed.

"You're useless. You're always ruining everything..."

"What should we do now?" Gale was truly panicking. "He still hasn't settled scores with me when I caused trouble last time. This time, I'm doomed. I'm really doomed..."

"I can't help you. Just prepare for the worst."

Cameron rolled her eyes at him, then slammed the door in his face with a bang, shutting him out.

Great. Now I've offended everyone.

The following afternoon, Courtney and Elijah filed a divorce application at the divorce notary office in New York. The basic paperwork was complete, so if there were no hiccups, the process could be completed within six months.

"Is there anywhere you want to go? I'm free these two days, so I have time to relax with you and talk about both of you."

After leaving the notary office, Courtney and Elijah walked down the steps side by side.

Just as she was about to answer Elijah, she suddenly saw a tall figure standing against the wind on the road under the steps. His eyes were filled with gentleness as he stared at her.

"Alex?" Courtney exclaimed before she rushed over and crashed into his arms.

Alexander stumbled after being knocked into, barely able to stand upright. He helplessly stroked the back of her head. "Are you that happy?"

"Of course I'm happy." Courtney raised her head. "Why are you here?"

"I was afraid you'd be kidnapped."

"So, you don't trust me?"

“I’m afraid I’m the one he doesn’t trust.” Elijah’s voice sounded from the side, and only then did Courtney realize that there was someone else there. Blushing, she freed herself from Alexander and gave a sheepish smile.

“President Duncan must be worried that I won’t let you go. That’s why he came all the way here to keep an eye on me.”

Elijah spoke with a sting in his words, and Alexander wasn’t any better, because he retorted, “You can never be too careful. Mr. Grant, although you’re American-Otharian, you grew up in Otharia, so you must’ve heard the old saying too.”

“Now that you’ve said that, I wouldn’t be living up to your expectations of me if I don’t do something, would I?”

“I’m afraid it’s too late.”

The two of them continued to wage a tit for tat, as if they were in a war zone.

Courtney couldn’t bear to listen anymore, so she nudged Alexander with her elbow. “That’s enough. What are you talking about? Elijah’s not that kind of person.”

With that, she smiled at Elijah. “He’s just joking.”

Elijah’s expression was gloomy. “It’s not very funny.”

Alexander was blunt too. “I never joke around with anyone.”

When Courtney heard this, her face darkened, and she let out an inward sigh.

It isn’t easy being the peacemaker.

Because of Alexander’s arrival, he had to be added to the afternoon’s itinerary. Originally, Elijah had planned the day’s activities, and Courtney had also promised him early on. It wouldn’t be right to not go, but Courtney dared not even think about the scenario of the three of them walking together. It was simply too scary.

“I’m not going. You guys can go ahead if you want to.”

Before she said this, she figured that if she didn’t go, then these two men would likely go back to their own places. As long as they were separated, everything would be settled.

However, the unexpected happened.

Elijah didn’t say anything to her. Instead, his gaze landed on Alexander. “If Courtney’s not going, then what about you, Mr. Duncan? Would you like to join me for a drink?”

A drink? Courtney’s heart dropped.

She watched as Alexander gave him a slight nod.

“Sure.”

Courtney’s heart was pounding as she asked weakly, “Then, how about I go too?”

Elijah glanced at her.

“You’d better not go. I’m afraid we won’t be able to take care of you.”

Without waiting for Courtney to refute, Alexander nodded thoughtfully. “Go back to the hotel and get some rest.”

Courtney was stunned. She looked at Elijah, then at Alexander. Both of them had serious expressions on their faces, instantly making her perplexed. What are the two of them up to?

One Night Surprise Chapter 365 Who Did She Have Tina With

Just like that, Alexander and Elijah left her at the entrance of the notary office.

As Courtney stared at the sedan that was disappearing into the distance, the corners of her lips twitched, and her expression was filled with complex emotions.

Alexander actually isn’t here to look for me but Elijah, right?

Since it was still early, she went to the therapy center to visit Cameron.

“What do you think they’re up to? They don’t even know each other well. I think they’ve only met each other a couple of times in Melrose City.”

Cameron was extremely quiet today. Sitting by the bay window looking through a magazine, she didn’t even raise her head as she said, “According to my understanding of Elijah, there’s a high chance he’s trying to see how sincere Alexander is about you. As for Alexander, you should know him better than I do.”

Courtney truly didn’t understand him that well, so she felt a little embarrassed.

After a long time of not getting a response, Cameron looked up. “Why aren’t you saying anything? You don’t know what he’s trying to do?”

Courtney looked ashamed, but she mustered the courage and explained, “Alexander is the kind of person who you’ll never know what he’ll do next even if you spend your whole life with him. He goes against conventions, and he has an irregular style of conduct. He runs his business the same way too, so it’s not that easy to guess.”

Cameron clicked her tongue. “I kind of get it now. You don’t like someone like Elijah, who’s stereotypical and easy to understand, but you like someone like Alexander, who can always give you a sense of freshness with how unpredictable he is?”

“Damn you. How did you steer the conversation to that topic?”

“I’m just curious. Elijah is definitely ranked in the top three for the most excellent men I know, but you don’t like him. How good is Alexander that you’re so dead set on being with him?”

Cameron closed the magazine, then inched closer to Courtney.

“It’s not that I don’t want you to be happy, but I recently read a book that says that if you can think of a possible reason for divorce before getting married, then there’s basically a 99 percent chance that it’ll be the reason that leads to your divorce. This is the intuition of a woman.”

“What do you mean?”

“What I mean is, if you get divorced from Alexander in the future, what do you think would be the reason?”

Courtney was slightly stunned. She felt as if Cameron had dug a hole for her to jump in. “If I answered, would it mean that we would definitely get divorced?”

“It’s just a gossip column. How could it possibly be accurate? I’m just casually bringing it up. Just tell me what you think.”

Under Cameron’s constant urges, Courtney pondered for a while before thinking of a possible reason.

“I guess it doesn’t feel genuine.”

“Can you be more specific?”

“What’s the relationship of an ordinary couple like? Or what’s your relationship with Gale like? You go on dates, go shopping, and you squabble and make up. It all feels very genuine.”

Upon hearing this, Cameron nodded pensively, then asked curiously, “So, you and Alexander haven’t gone on a proper date before?”

This poked a sore spot, so Courtney glared at her with dissatisfaction. “Don’t open another can of worms, okay?”

Alexander was always busy working and never had any free time, so asking him to think about what usual couples did would basically be forcing him to do something against his will.

Courtney never expected him to, but it didn’t mean she didn’t want it.

It would be a shame to not even do the simple things that couples usually would do.

Courtney and Cameron talked without any scruples, and they said whatever was on their minds. However, someone was outside the ward listening through the door crack, feeling as if they finally had the opportunity to redeem themselves.

Meanwhile, the night life enveloped New York with soothing music at a jazz bar in Queens, where Elijah and Alexander were sitting, each with a glass of whiskey in front of them.

“I wonder if I’m going to get an invitation to the wedding.”

As soon as Elijah spoke, he started off with a somewhat sensitive topic.

Alexander glanced at him and answered calmly, “Courtney doesn’t have many friends. The guest list was drawn up the other day, but I didn’t look at it. You’ll have to ask her about this. After all, you’re her friend.”

“How would you introduce me if I went?”

His tone was slightly provocative.

As Courtney's friend, it was only reasonable for Elijah to be invited. Not to mention, Courtney had always introduced him as a friend, so his intentions for asking this question were obvious.

Alexander's eyebrows furrowed slightly, then he took his time saying, "Mr. Grant, you may not know much about Otharian weddings, but there's no need to introduce guests at the wedding."

"Really?"

Elijah smiled nonchalantly. "When Courtney and I got married, we still did the introductions."

Alexander's expression changed slightly

"If you still have any intentions toward Courtney, I advise you to put them aside before it's too late. Don't betray her trust in you."

"You know that she trusts me?" All of Elijah's remarks were intertwined. He had pretty much set up a trap that one couldn't get out of, and he easily steered the conversation in the direction he wanted to go in.

"As a man from a traditional family, do you really not mind Courtney's past with me?"

"It was just a marriage of convenience, and it was a decision she had to make to continue staying in America."

"In a marriage, men's doubts aren't any less than women's."

Elijah cast him a profound glance, and his tone was gloomy.

"Courtney was the one who said that it was a marriage of convenience, and you chose to believe it. But, for someone like you who only ever trusts your own eyes and evidence, will you really believe that it was just a marriage of convenience? Even if you believe it, do you dare to say that you've never been curious that before I came into the picture, who did she actually have Tina with?"

The main point of his remarks was in the last sentence.

Indeed, Courtney had never told Alexander who Tina's biological father was.

Her relationship history was growing richer by the second. The young master of the Graham Family in Melrose City was her first love; the upstart of the financial industry was her legal husband; and there was an unknown person in the middle, whom she had a child with.

Alexander's grip on the whiskey cup tightened, causing his knuckles to protrude.

"What are you trying to say?"

Elijah's eyes grew cold. "If you have a hint of doubt about Courtney, or are trying to explore her past, then I advise you to let her go."

"This is between me and her. It's not your concern, is it?"

"The moment you do something to hurt Courtney, you'll know whether or not it's my concern."

Elijah's tone was cold and contained a strong sense of caution. His usual humble persona seemed to have changed in an instant.

Alexander looked tense, and the words he said echoed in his mind for a long while.

What is it that she can't tell me about Tina's birth? He believed that he had been honest enough with her, but she seemed to have been hiding something from him.

Alexander's phone suddenly vibrated in his pocket, breaking the rigid atmosphere between him and Elijah. When he saw the caller ID, he answered the call.

"Hello?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 366 You're My Wife Even Without a Certificate

Courtney stayed in the therapy center until it was dark. During dinner, the nurse came over to ask if she wanted to stay for dinner, but she hurriedly refused and gave a random excuse before leaving.

After trying the food that tasted like cardboard once, she didn't want to eat it a second time.

On the way back to the hotel, she walked around a supermarket and bought a bunch of snacks. Sitting at the desk, she started a video call with the two little ones.

"Mommy, do I look good?"

On screen, Tina was wearing a pink tulle dress with a crown hairpin on her head, looking just like a lively flower girl. Jordan, on the other hand, was wearing a white suit, and he had on the same look as Alexander. He was simply a miniature version of his father.

Courtney was amused. "You both look really good."

"Mommy, have you seen Daddy?"

Tina looked curious. "Has Daddy promised to divorce you?"

"He has." Courtney chuckled helplessly. "Why are you so nosey?"

"Because it's about your lifelong happiness, Mommy!" Tina's tone was naive, and she smiled her innocent smile. "We only meet Daddy a few times a year. Every time he left, I almost couldn't recognize him when he came back. So, don't force yourself to stay together with him."

Courtney didn't want to explain too much about what happened back then, so she went with her line of thought and teased, "If he doesn't agree, what can you do?"

"He won't. I've already settled it with Daddy."

Upon hearing this, Courtney was stunned. "You've already settled it with him?"

Tina then told her about the phone call she had with Elijah before she left for America. "Daddy promised me that he wouldn't make things difficult for you. He'll give you his blessings, as long as I can go back to see him often."

It was only then that Courtney understood everything.

No wonder Elijah wasn't surprised when she mentioned the divorce to him earlier and had agreed without asking anything.

Courtney's heart was filled with unspeakable emotions.

Elijah always looked after her and had done everything in her best interests. Although she didn't do anything wrong, she felt a little ashamed for some reason.

It wasn't necessarily a good thing for a person to be good to another. After searching all over and realizing that there was no way to repay their kindness, their goodwill would become a burden.

Just as she was pondering it, the doorbell rang in a hurried manner, so Courtney didn't have time to turn off the computer before she rushed over. The moment she opened the door, the strong scent of alcohol wafted over.

Alexander hugged her and placed a random kiss on her forehead as he muttered, "You smell nice."

"How much did you drink?"

Courtney pushed him away, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

"Do you still know who I am?"

"My wife."

His husky voice painted those two words with a thick sense of ambiguity, causing Courtney's face to turn red in an instant. "W-Who's your wife? We aren't officially married yet!"

"You're my wife even without it being official."

Alexander trapped her in a bear hug once more.

Courtney almost toppled over from his grip, and she exerted a lot of strength to hold him up before finally bringing him to the sofa.

"My God, how much did you drink? Sit down first."

Alexander sat down, but he grabbed Courtney's arm and refused to let go. His usually cold face was now heated and flushed. It was like he was a completely different person.

"I'll pour you a cup of tea. Let go of me."

"No."

That one word was spoken in a strong nasally voice, and his extremely coquettish tone made Courtney tremble and look at Alexander in surprise.

Is this still him?

She held herself up on the sofa and settled down before sitting down and asking,

"Did you become like this after drinking with Elijah?"

Alexander nodded, indicating his admittance.

“What about Elijah?”

She was well aware of Elijah’s alcohol tolerance. In America, Lillian would be the one drinking at social events, while he simply couldn’t drink at all.

However, Alexander misunderstood her. His head snapped up, and blood vessels were clear in his eyes.

“Are you worried about him?”

“It’s not that. What exactly did you two talk about?” Courtney felt that it was truly a hassle to talk to a drunk person as she would easily trigger him.

Still bothered about her concern for Elijah, Alexander suddenly got up. Before Courtney could recover, she was pushed onto the sofa.

He used quite a lot of strength, causing her to grunt in pain.

Alexander leaned over and peered at her face. Seeing her pained expression, he suddenly felt guilty.

“I’m sorry, Courtney. I’m sorry...”

Courtney sighed inwardly. “What are you doing?”

“I won’t ask about anything you don’t want to say.”

Alexander’s voice was a little muffled, and his breathing was heavy, so his reply wasn’t clear, and Courtney only heard fragments of what he said. He muttered something rather long, but only the last few sentences were audible.

“No one loves you more than I do.”

Courtney was stunned for a moment. She figured Elijah must’ve said something for Alexander to be acting like this.

She placed her hand on Alexander’s back and patted him consolingly.

“Don’t think too much.”

The air was filled with the scent of alcohol, and it seemed to be intoxicating Courtney as well. The atmosphere between the two of them was steamy, and Alexander’s eyes lost its usual calmness; all that was left was a rich sense of desire.

Lust was part of human nature. At this moment, he wanted to possess her body and mind.

The moonlight outside the hotel was dim; the neon lights were still glowing, and the bustling world made human emotions seem like a drop in the ocean.

After everything was settled, Courtney and Alexander returned to Melrose City. Before they left, Courtney handed Lillian a wedding invitation.

“I hope you can come with Elijah.”

Lilian didn't understand what she meant. After Courtney and Alexander walked through the airport security gate, Lilian opened the invitation and saw her and Elijah's names written side by side. Her eyes narrowed, and she closed the invitation in a panic, afraid that it would be seen.

After a while, she laughed at herself.

Initially, she thought she had hidden her feelings well, but it turned out that others could clearly see it.

After returning to Melrose City, Courtney was fully immersed in the wedding preparations. Because their wedding would begin from Alicia's house, Alicia let Courtney move in right after she came back from America.

Courtney was about to dawdle and ask to move in a little later, but Alicia started to talk about that night in New York.

"You guys could at least turn off the video. The two children were still waiting to talk to you on the computer. I only turned around and saw Jordan covering his sister's eyes because I heard him suddenly shouting for me. You two... Sigh..."

Courtney suddenly remembered that she didn't turn off her computer that night.

When she thought of the fact that the two kids might have seen what she and Alexander did on the sofa that night, her face turned as red as a tomato, and her heart nearly jumped out of her throat. She wanted nothing more than to find a hole to hide in.

How could I have let that happen!

One Night Surprise Chapter 367 Are You Scared

Alexander realized that Courtney was cold and indifferent toward him for the past two days.

Initially, he didn't take Gale's phone call to heart, but judging from her behavior lately, it seemed like there was some sense in what he said.

Before getting off work, Josh was called to the office by Alexander.

"President Duncan, you were looking for me?"

Alexander studied him.

"Are you married?"

Josh froze, and his face turned pale. "N-No."

"Then, have you ever dated anyone?"

"No..." Josh broke into a cold sweat. Looking at the profound gaze Alexander was giving him, he instantly panicked and lifted three fingers on his right hand.

“President Duncan, I came to work for you at Sunhill Enterprise as soon as I graduated. Back then, I promised you that I would not consider marriage before I turned thirty-five, so I won’t break my promise. I swear I really didn’t get married.”

Alexander was momentarily stunned. “You made such a promise before?”

Josh froze.

“You... don’t remember?”

Alexander frowned. “Why would I want you to promise me something like that?”

Josh looked shocked, and even a bit sad.

After he graduated, he returned to Melrose City to work in Sunhill Group with Alexander, and he dedicated his whole heart to working there. Later on, for a period of time, Alexander reckoned the internal strife was too complicated, and he knew that Josh’s family was arranging blind dates for him, so Alexander suggested for him to find another way out.

At that time, he was young and vigorous, so he said, “I won’t leave Sunhill, and I won’t consider marriage until I’m thirty-five years old. If I break my promise, I’ll return all these years of salary.” Alexander only allowed him to stay after he gave such guarantees.

He had worked so hard all these years, yet Alexander had forgotten it all!

It made Josh rather angry. When he got married two years ago, he didn’t even have a banquet, but had secretly invited his relatives to have a meal in his house instead. Because of this, he never won when he quarreled with his wife; he had suffered a lot of grievances for this matter.

“There was such a thing?” Alexander asked after Josh remained silent for a long time.

Josh clenched his teeth and forced a smile.

“No, I’m kidding. That didn’t happen. Why are you asking me this all of a sudden?”

When the topic of the conversation was pulled back on track, Alexander pondered for a moment before asking, “What do ordinary couples do in a relationship? Do you know?”

Josh gave it some thought. “Just go on the usual dates.”

“Be more specific.”

“For example, buying breakfast for the girl in the morning and waiting downstairs, going to the amusement park together, having fun and going for dinner at night, going to the movies after dinner, then sending her home afterward.”

Rubbing his chin, Alexander was deep in thought.

“I’ve done most of this.”

He often bought her breakfast, and he would regularly bring her and the two little ones to the amusement park. Having dinner was a sure thing, and they often watched movies together as well. They all lived together, so there was no need to send her home.

Josh saw the problem at once; he hesitated before he spoke. "Breakfast must be special; for example, writing something like, 'Good morning. It's so nice to see you early in the morning' on the milk carton."

Alexander was stunned. "Carry on."

"Don't bring the children with you to the amusement park. Couples don't bring children along on dates. You must also take pictures of her. You must hold her hand on roller coaster rides, and you must go to the haunted house together."

When he mentioned the roller coaster, Alexander's face stiffened a little.

He rode it with Courtney once, and it was a feeling he didn't want to experience a second time.

However, they could give the haunted house a try.

"What else?"

"You must go for dinner at a place that's trending, the kind that's beautiful enough to take pictures at so she can post it on social media. Girls like that feeling. Then, go for a movie."

Josh let out an awkward dry cough. "I don't mean reserving the whole cinema. I mean buying popcorn and Coke together, then watching it with many other people in the cinema."

Alexander frowned.

Do ordinary couples do such excessive things?

"Anymore?"

"Also, when you send her home at night, you must prepare a gift. It's best if it was something that she saw that day which she liked. It can be a doll, a snack, or an accessory. In short, you should show that you've been paying attention to her all day."

Filled with excitement, Josh said, "When I first started dating my wife, I gave her a Peter Rabbit doll that she had her eyes on, and she married me because of that."

Alexander nodded, then his head snapped up after a while.

"Didn't you say you weren't married?"

Josh stiffened, and the smile on his face instantly froze.

Sh*t!

...

On Tuesday morning, Courtney received a call from Alexander right after breakfast.

After informing her aunt, she went out to see Alexander standing in front of the yard, dressed in casual attire.

"You could've just come in. Why did you want me to come out?"

Alexander handed over the paper bag in his hand.

“This is for you.”

“What is it?” Courtney took a look at it. “A sandwich? I’ve already had breakfast.”

Alexander paused for a moment. “Then, go somewhere with me.”

“Where are we going?”

“The amusement park.”

Courtney was stunned at first, then her eyes brightened. “Oh, it just so happened that last night, Jordan and Tina asked me when I’ll be taking them there. I’ll go call them.”

Just when she was about to turn around, Alexander held her in place. “Don’t go.”

“What’s wrong?”

Courtney looked confused.

Alexander said solemnly, “Today, it’ll just be the two of us.”

“The two of us?”

Courtney stared at him in confusion, then reconfirmed, “The two of us are going to the amusement park?”

“Yes.”

Like a magic trick, Alexander brought out a Mickey Mouse headband from behind. “Will you go?”

Courtney cast him a surprised glance. After accepting the headband, she stared at it for a while, then smiled.

“Are you serious?”

Still skeptical, she followed Alexander to the amusement park.

It was a working day, and it was cold as the temperature had dropped from the snow, so there weren’t many people at the amusement park. As soon as they entered, Alexander dragged Courtney somewhere deep into the amusement park.

Before long, the two were standing in front of the empty haunted house. The cold winter wind brushed past their ears, inexplicably making them shiver.

Courtney coughed.

“Are you sure? You just came to the park to go in here?”

She had never seen anyone entering the amusement park just to go straight to the haunted house. She looked doubtfully at Alexander, but she didn’t know where to start with her questions. Did something happen with the company that triggered him?

“Yes.” Alexander held her hand. “It’s okay. Don’t be afraid. I heard this is fun.”

The corners of Courtney’s lips curled up. “Let’s go in, then.”

After passing through the double heavy curtains, they got to the real entrance of the haunted house, which was flooded with an eerie green light.

Courtney felt the grip around her hand tighten, so she turned and saw the nervous look on Alexander's face. He was staring unblinkingly at the door, and he looked like he was about to fall apart.

She hesitated, then asked, "Are you scared?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 368 Not Suited to Everyone

"No."

Alexander flatly denied.

However, Courtney clearly felt her hand on the verge of being crushed.

"Are you sure you really want to go in? Why don't we just forget about it?"

"It's okay. Don't be afraid." Alexander grabbed her shoulders. "You have me. Let's go."

Courtney was skeptical, but it wouldn't be good to refute him, so she nodded after a moment's hesitation.

"All right, then. Let's go in. "

The haunted house wasn't huge; when the two of them exited ten minutes later and saw the light of day again, both of their faces were pale.

Alexander was propped against a garbage can, looking as if he was going to throw up.

Meanwhile, Courtney stood behind him, rubbing her ears in shock because Alexander had frightened her with his screams.

"Are you okay?"

After she recovered herself, Courtney stepped forward and patted Alexander on the shoulder. The moment she touched his shoulder, he shot upright, then he looked at Courtney with a trace of fear in his eyes.

Courtney couldn't hold back her laughter. "Why are you so scared?"

"I'm not scared."

Alexander braced himself and withdrew the fearful look in his eyes, then said stiffly, "I'm disgusted."

It was a reasonable excuse, because the zombies did indeed look disgusting. The special effects makeup was utterly realistic, but Alexander's yelling in the haunted house clearly scared the zombies away.

How is this considered being disgusted? He was so scared that it nearly drove him insane.

Courtney concealed her smile and didn't expose him.

"Okay. It was disgusting. Where are we going next?"

Upon hearing this, Alexander was silent for a while. "The roller coaster..."

As soon as he said this, Courtney widened her eyes and even touched his forehead. "What's up with you today? Are you okay?"

It wasn't as if she hadn't ridden a roller coaster with him before. He could throw up for an entire day, and it was a situation she didn't want to go through again. What triggered him today?

"You don't like it?"

Alexander frowned. The look in his eyes was much more gentle than usual, probably because of the lingering fear he felt.

"It doesn't matter if I like it or not. You can't get on that again, so don't force yourself. There are so many other things to enjoy. Let's go to that one over there. When I came with Tina last time, we queued up for a long time but still didn't get to try it. Since there's no crowd today, let's go play it!"

With that, Courtney grabbed his hand and joyfully pulled him in that direction.

As Alexander trailed behind her, his gaze fell on her hand. His eyes became incomparably gentle and bright, and he couldn't conceal the smile on his face.

Besides all the exciting aerial rides, there were a number of enjoyable programs at the amusement park. The last one was the 5D movie experience, where both of their faces were sprayed with water. When they came out, Courtney lamented, "We should bring a raincoat next time."

As it was a working day, the queueing time was shorter than they expected. After playing every possible attraction, it was only around 3.00PM when they came out, and the sky was still bright.

"Let's go home."

Courtney glanced at the time. "We can make it in time for dinner."

Alexander held her back. "Let's not go home for dinner today. Let's eat outside."

"What?" Courtney looked back at him, feeling a little confused.

She suspected that he must have been busy with the acquisition of the Hunter Group lately, and since Susan wasn't willing to let go, the project was a little tricky. Perhaps he was too stressed out during this period and wanted to get out and relax.

She had nothing to do these couple of days, so she figured she should spend time with him.

At this thought, she happily agreed. "Where are we going to eat?"

After nearly two hours of driving from the amusement park, they got caught up in Tuesday's rush hour when they were close to the city center, so they were stuck in the traffic jam for half an hour before they arrived.

When Courtney saw the crowded entrance of the popular Korean restaurant, she drew a breath of cold air. "Are we going to eat here today? Have you made a reservation?"

Looking at Alexander's puzzled expression, Courtney could clearly tell he wasn't aware that most of these trending stores required them to queue for two hours.

"Hello, a table for two, please."

After Courtney squeezed her way to the entrance, she asked the waiter for a number, then she came back to Alexander and waved the ticket about. "There are fifty tables in front of us. We'll have to wait."

"Fifty tables?" Alexander glanced at the small shop that could only accommodate twenty tables, and his frown deepened.

Meanwhile, Courtney had already found two chairs and was pulling him to take a seat.

Alexander looked slightly impatient. "How long do we have to wait?"

"I guess an hour or two. I can't be sure."

Appearing calm and at ease, Courtney drank the soup the waiter had just served them, then looked back at the bustling store. "Is the food here really good? I've seen a lot of people from Citron Apparel posting about it lately."

Alexander didn't seem to hear what she said, as he was frowning and constantly looking down at the time.

"Is there something you need to do?"

"No." Alexander turned to look at her. "If we wait for too long, we might not be able to make it to the movie at 7.00PM."

Courtney grew excited.

"Are you in the mood to privately experience public sentiment today? Going to an amusement park, lining up at a popular store, and even watching a movie according to the cinema's schedule. Have you given up on your principle of efficiency?"

Alexander was silent for a few seconds, then he asked, "Don't you want to experience life as an ordinary couple? Although I can't waste my time like this every day, I don't think it's a problem to do this once in a while."

Upon hearing this, Courtney was stunned. "You're doing this because of me?"

Before she came back to her senses, she continued, "Where did you... Did you hear this from Gale again?"

That damned Gale really has a loudspeaker as a mouth.

"But I still think this is really inefficient."

Alexander had a serious look on his face, leaving Courtney between tears and laughter. "So, who gave you the idea of going to the haunted house at the amusement park and queuing at a famous restaurant for dinner?"

"Josh."

"I think you can cut his salary." Courtney criticized Josh without reservations for giving a completely unrealistic idea that simply wasn't suited for everyone.

"Who says that everyone's dates have to be the same? You don't like haunted houses, and I don't like famous restaurants. So, what are we doing here?"

"You don't like it?" Alexander frowned.

"Let's go."

Pulling him up, Courtney couldn't help but laugh.

"And here I thought you enjoyed it, so I've been cooperating with you for half a day. Turns out it was all for me. I know of a small scale Otharian restaurant here. It's not very crowded, but the food is delicious. Let's go."

After figuring out what was going on today, Courtney brought Alexander to the barbecue shop next to an office building nearby. The shop was smoky, and the sound of the meat being barbecued on the fire was particularly crisp.

"You scared me to death. You've been acting weird today, and you've been keeping an eye on the time the whole day. I thought you were triggered by something!" Courtney muttered as she grilled the meat, going through the events of the day from beginning to end.

Alexander felt a little downcast. He had spent nearly half a day planning their itinerary but had made a fool of himself in the end.

As he thought about what happened today, he felt indignant and decided to deduct Josh's year-end bonus.

One Night Surprise Chapter 369 Don't Go Back Tonight

Because she knew what had been on Alexander's mind that day, after their meal, Courtney asked him to return the movie tickets before dragging him to the riverbank for a walk.

It was bitterly cold, and the wind along the river was particularly harsh.

Alexander held her hand and stuffed it into his coat pocket. "If I had known you didn't like all that, I wouldn't have wasted my time. I should have stayed home with you today."

"It's all right." Courtney spoke in a gentle tone. "At least I know that you think about me and will think of ways to treat me well. If Aunt Alicia knows about this, she would be happy."

Alexander fell silent for a second.

"Don't tell anyone about this."

Courtney laughed. "What else did you have arranged besides watching a movie today? Honestly, I'm quite curious."

Alexander's gaze fell on the trunk of his car in the distance.

Taking a glance at him, she jogged over. The trunk opened slowly, revealing a huge purple gift box.

“This is for me?” Courtney pointed to herself and asked Alexander, who gave a slight nod, looking slightly embarrassed.

After she undid the bow, she saw that inside was a brown stuffed bear. “It’s cute!”

She took the bear out of the box and had just squeezed it when the bear suddenly burst out laughing.

It frightened her, and with a shake of her hand, the bear was thrown onto the ground.

The fat doll twisted around on the ground, looking like it was suffering a cramp as it continued to laugh.

Courtney was stunned for a long time. Then, unable to hold it back, she held the car and laughed louder than the bear, nearly bursting into tears.

“Is it so funny?”

Alexander felt even more miserable now. He bent down and picked up the twitching bear. “When we left the amusement park today, you stared at the bear a few times, so I thought you liked it.”

Courtney clutched her face, which was aching from laughing so hard.

“If I had known it had such a strange sound effect, I would have looked at it for a longer time.”

Looking ashamed, Alexander hurriedly threw the bear back into the box before exclaiming angrily, “Josh can forget about his bonus this year. His advice is really useless!”

When Courtney saw how enraged he was, her heart suddenly filled with warmth. She passed her arms under his armpits so that she was in his embrace, then tilted her head up and blinked.

“Actually, I quite like it. I like the feeling of you being with me all day.”

Usually, Courtney had the appearance of a successful career woman in the workplace, and it was rare to see her showing weakness. Even in Alexander’s impression, she rarely took the initiative to be so dainty and delicate, so his heart melted at once.

He held her tightly, then leaned forward to place a kiss on her forehead.

“If I had known you didn’t like it, we would’ve done something else.”

“What else can we do?” Courtney pouted. “I can tell that you don’t have an ounce of romance in you, so you must’ve used up all your capacity to be romantic on the day of the proposal.”

The proposal that day was extremely sincere, and it was a wonder that he managed to think about buying ten rings.

Alexander lowered his head to her ear and said in his deep voice, “We can do what we both like to do.”

His remark was so ambiguous that Courtney was stunned at first, then her ears turned red as she hammered his chest in a huff. “I should’ve left you in the haunted house!”

The corners of Alexander’s lips curled up into a warm smile.

Across the river was the bustling Melrose City, which was lit with neon lights. The sky was foggy, and neither the sun nor moon were in sight as the busy world washed away the loneliness of the night.

As Alexander embraced the woman in his arms, he was overcome with emotions and couldn't help but kiss her.

It was a cold winter night, so there was no one by the riverbank. They grew increasingly intimate, and their breaths gradually became heavier.

"Don't."

Courtney stopped Alexander's roaming hands. "I have to go home later."

"Don't go back tonight."

Without waiting for Courtney to come to her senses, he pulled her into the back seat of the car.

...

Nearing the mid-winter holiday, the renovation of Alexander and Courtney's house were nearing completion.

Fiona was efficient, and the renovation team was extremely reliable too. After countless sleepless nights, they finished the renovation of the house in half a month.

"The curtains looked strange and dull because the color was too dark, so I changed them for you. I didn't move the furniture much. There's a passage in the bedroom leading to the walk-in closet next door, which is more convenient. If there's anything you don't like, you can change it."

"I think everything's good. There's no need to change it."

Courtney led Fiona to the sofa. "Get some rest. You haven't had a good rest in half a month. I told you before that I would ask the housekeeper to send someone to keep an eye on the project, but you didn't feel comfortable with it."

"I'm fine. Since I've been put in charge of this, I have to do it well."

Fiona gave her a warm smile. "It's good as long as you're satisfied. By the way, have you told Alicia to come here for dinner at night?"

Now that the house had been renovated, Fiona invited Scott as well as Courtney's family to come over for dinner at night as a housewarming activity.

"I've informed them, but they'll be a little late. Alexander should be arriving early. Sunhill Enterprise is having their mid-winter holiday, and quite a lot of people in the company have to prepare for the annual dinner tomorrow, so he should come back in a while."

"Really?"

Fiona was suddenly in a hurry. "Then I'd better go check on the food for tonight first."

"Don't worry. I'll be here with you."

Courtney knew that Fiona was nervous. After all, they had never lived together for the past years. Although the relationship between the mother and son had eased, she was still unfamiliar with his life, so it was inevitable that she would find it strange.

Shortly after the two of them entered the kitchen, an engine sounded in the courtyard, signaling that Alexander had returned.

Then, Courtney heard him asking the servant in the living room, "Where's Courtney?"

"The young mistress and Madam Fiona are cooking in the kitchen."

Right after the servant finished speaking, Courtney poked her head out of the kitchen. "Alex, come and help me bread the fried chicken."

Behind her, Fiona hurriedly said, "It's all right. I can do it myself. How could he possibly know how to do this?"

"He does."

Courtney giggled, then raised her eyebrows at Alexander. "Right?"

"Yes."

Smiling, Alexander took off his coat, then rolled up his sleeves before walking over. When he entered the kitchen, he avoided his mother's gaze in an unnatural manner and only asked Courtney, "So, what should I do?"

Courtney pulled him to Fiona's side. "Madam, why don't you teach him? I'll call Aunt Alicia to see if they've left."

"Uh..." Before she could stop Courtney, Fiona turned around and saw Alexander standing in front of her. She looked unnatural at once, and she stumbled over her words as she said, "It's okay. You don't need to help. You can... go get some rest."

After she said this, the kitchen fell silent.

The atmosphere was turning tense when Alexander's voice suddenly rang out.

"Should I bread the marinated chicken wings?"

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Fiona had a blank look on her face, then surprise flashed through her eyes. She stared at Alexander briefly before regaining her senses and said hurriedly, "No. Coat it with egg liquid first, then bread crumbs."

"Let me try."

"The disposable gloves are over there. It'll be easier if you put them on."

"Okay."

Courtney was lying on the sofa, but she still picked up on the conversation in the kitchen. Although Alexander spoke very little, it was good enough for it wasn't easy for him to take the initiative to speak.

By dinner time, both families had arrived.

Although it wasn't the eve of the mid-winter holiday yet, it was no less lively right then in the house.

As Courtney and Alexander hadn't had their wedding yet, Alicia proposed that Courtney celebrate the eve of mid-winter holiday at Alicia's house, and once they got married, they could make their own decisions on where to celebrate it.

"Courtney isn't a fussy one. I'm sure that after they get married, they'll be able to live a good life—as long as they trust and support each other, there is nothing else I'd wish for them."

Alicia had always been frank and straightforward in her speech—she didn't mince her words.

"Yes, I know." Fiona nodded. "Courtney is a good child, and I have heard from Oliver that it was not easy for the two to have come together like this—I have always felt guilty that I was never able to take care of Alex well these years, so I'm really relieved and happy that he met Courtney."

"Okay, now. We're supposed to have a happy evening, so there's no need to be so wistful." Scott couldn't bear to see such an emotional scene any longer, so he interrupted. "I mean, who could have an easy life in this world? Aren't we all alright now?"

"Yes." Courtney took over the conversation. She looked at Fiona and said, "When Alex and I get married, you will move in with us and help us take care of our children."

Fiona was stunned for a moment. "No need. I'll just live with Dad."

Scott snorted. "Oh, I'm used to my peace and quiet. You didn't even come back to visit me these last few years, and as a result, I've gotten used to the peace. Enough of that; you just live with them and help look after their children. You can always come back occasionally to visit for a couple of days in the future."

Due to the fact that his adopted daughter had never once visited him in the past years, the old man still held a little grudge in his heart and felt the need to take stabs at her from time to time.

Of course, he was the only one who could say that about her; if other people even dared to badmouth Fiona, they'd be ripped to pieces by him.

From this, Courtney could see that the men in the Duncan family were all protective in nature.

On the eve of mid-winter holiday, Cameron and Gale would return from America. In fact, Courtney was going to pick them up, but Gale stopped her through the call, saying that the Langley Family wanted them to go home for the holidays.

"Has your family accepted Cameron?"

"I told you about this a long time ago—my mother is very understanding, and so is my sister."

"Don't lie to your family, though. There's a chance Cameron's condition might recur."

“I know.” Gale still sounded extremely excited on the other end of the phone. One would even think by the tone of his voice that he was jumping about in excitement. “My parents are very open-minded; as long as I make it clear to them, they would accept it once they understand. If I lied to them and they found out about it later, they would never forgive me—at least not in this life—so I wouldn’t dare lie to them! This time, they’ve really recognized Cameron as their daughter-in-law.”

“Hey, when did I say I’d marry you?”

Cameron’s scolding voice spread from the other end of the phone, and in a split second, she seemingly snatched the phone from Gale. “I’ll go over to yours for dinner later. Who said that I’ll be at their house for the holiday? I’ll stay with you.”

“Okay. My door will always be wide open for you, but I am looking forward to seeing if you are willing to come back and be separated from Gale.”

No matter what, Courtney was sincerely happy for Cameron.

After hanging up the phone, Courtney felt that the heaviness that had been weighing down on her for years had finally been lifted. She looked up to see Oliver sitting on the sofa watching TV, so she called out to him. “Stop watching the TV. I’m going out tonight to buy things for the wedding; come with me!”

“Why don’t you ask my brother to go instead? You two are the ones getting married. Wouldn’t it be weird when I accompany you instead of your fiancé?”

Oliver was smooth to address Alex as his brother, as if he had secretly practiced to call him this way for the past 20 years.

Courtney sat down beside him. “He drank a lot at the Sunhill Enterprise annual dinner last night and only came back in the early morning. How can he have the energy to come with me?”

“Want to take a bet?”

Oliver turned his head to the side and looked at Courtney mysteriously. “I bet if I shout right now, Alex will come down immediately—full of energy, even.”

“That’s impossible.” Courtney looked doubtful. “He didn’t even have lunch—I’m sure he’s really tired.”

Oliver smiled meaningfully, then rolled up the magazine on the coffee table to make a simple make-shift loudspeaker and shouted at the second floor master bedroom, “Alex! Courtney is going to buy wedding supplies. If you don’t feel like going, I will accompany her instead!”

There was no response from upstairs.

Courtney folded her arms. “I told you. He’s probably sleeping like a log—he wouldn’t wake up even if there was a fire.”

Oliver raised his hand and folded his fingers one by one.

“5, 4, 3, 2...”

Before he could say '1', they could hear the sound of a door opening on the second floor. Alexander was standing at the door in home clothes; his hair was messy, but his eyes were clear while he said calmly, "You don't have to go."

Courtney was stunned. "Well, I'll be damned..."

Oliver smiled and leaned on the sofa.

The communication between men never relied on words. He figured that Alexander knew what would happen if he accompanied Courtney to the bridal supply store—the clerk would definitely think that it was the two of them who were getting married. Although it would be just a misunderstanding that could be explained in a few words, knowing how petty Alexander was, he would have never let this happen, especially when it came to anything related to Courtney.

So it was a given that he'd go with her.

Since Alexander had decided to go, Courtney went upstairs to accompany him to get a change of clothes. While Oliver watched the news on TV, his expression gradually turned tense.

"A large amount of ketamine was found in an abandoned warehouse at the foot of Mount Zeke a few days ago. This case may be related to the cracked drug case in Melrose city center two months ago. The police arrested the three culprits that participated in the drug production. According to an oral statement, the leader of the gang's main drug lord and the main culprit of the Melrose drug case are allegedly the same person, but his real name is unknown, and he is called Dragon among the industry..."

Oliver only watched the news quietly. Then, he took out his mobile phone and found a murder case in the suburbs of Melrose half a month ago. In order to avoid social panic, the police suppressed the incident, but he was notified to participate in the case investigation that time.

Dragon was the boss of a famous drug gang, the Red Scorpions. He had been in the industry for over 20 years, and no one knew his whereabouts. His own brother was among the group of people that had been arrested last time, and he was sentenced to death. As a matter of fact, his brother would be executed tomorrow; in revenge and to intimidate the police, he had killed two people.

Both of the victims were students of the Public Security University who participated in the cracking of the drug case in Melrose at the time.

When Oliver thought of this, he felt a pain shoot through his heart, and his eyes welled up with tears.

Those two people were his comrades-in-arms and classmates whom he fought side by side with, and now, they'd died tragically at the hands of Dragon. In order to avoid causing panic, even the news of their deaths was concealed.

Before Courtney went out, Oliver stopped them.

"I heard that a murderer is wanted recently. Be careful when you're out."

Courtney glanced at him confusingly.

"I don't think we'll be so unlucky! It's almost the mid-winter holiday, so watch your mouth! Grandpa is an old man—it's considered a taboo for him."

