

# Surprise 381

One Night Surprise Chapter 381 I Will, if You Want Me To

When Alexander rushed back from the company, Courtney had already been treated by a doctor.

“How is she? Why wasn’t she admitted into a hospital?” As soon as he entered the house, he scolded all the servants at once.

Frightened by his demeanor, the servants said stutteringly, “You ordered us to not let her out, so we didn’t dare to send her to a hospital. Instead, the doctor came for a house visit. He diagnosed that it was a blood clot, and that she would be fine after puking it out.”

“If she’s already fine, then why is she still unconscious?”

“It’s... because of fatigue.”

Under extreme frustration, Alexander smashed all the bowls and plates into pieces.

These two days had been a wreckfest, as all the things in the villa were either smashed or destroyed by Alexander. The servants had grown used to this, but seeing him being this furious was a first. All of them kept their mouths shut, and they didn’t dare to utter a single word.

After scolding everybody, Alexander turned around and entered his bedroom, barring anyone from entering.

In the living room, May slowly sighed. “See? I told you all to prioritize Miss Hunter’s health. If anything happened, we couldn’t bear the responsibility, yet you all chose to ignore my warning.”

“It was the young master who forbade her from going out.”

“Do you guys not see why the young master gave that order?” May spoke angrily. “It’s all because he was afraid Miss Hunter wouldn’t return anymore after leaving. Thank God she’s fine even after not being admitted to a hospital. If her condition was any worse, we would all be on the chopping block.”

Hearing this, the servants all looked at each other with lingering fear in their hearts.

At first, the servants transferred over from the ancestral house because of the wedding, paired with the rumor that the young mistress had a kind temperament. Who knew that they would face this kind of situation when they had just arrived. They truly were stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Inside the master bedroom, the curtains were shut tightly, with the sole light source being an incense burner. Sitting by the bedside, Alexander tugged the blanket all the way up to Courtney’s chin.

Earlier, the instant Alexander heard what happened, an unknown fear overwhelmed him. Immediately, he dropped whatever he was doing and rushed back home.

These few days had been a rollercoaster of emotions for him. Except for work, he did not dare to stop and think about other things because once he did, he would remember how Courtney deceived him for half a year, and that would make his heart ache greatly.

Looking at Courtney's face, one could barely see a hint of color. Together with her scrunched up eyebrows, it was as if she was being enveloped in a nightmare.

Seeing this made Alexander feel a bit guilty.

"Don't leave..."

Suddenly, Courtney reached out and yanked on his collar. Although she said this softly in her sleep, the voice still echoed gently in the gigantic room.

Slightly stunned by her actions, Alexander then grabbed her hands. It was then when he felt that her hands were ice cold.

"It was you who wanted to leave from the start, not me."

His voice was soft, as if he was afraid of waking her, and his sincere gaze held inexplicable emotions within it.

As Courtney's palms were slowly warmed up, she started to sweat a little. Yet, it was as if she had been muddled by the heat, and she started to speak deliriously.

Closing in, Alexander could vaguely hear some words out of her mouth.

"Elijah..."

"Take Tina away, Elijah..."

Just like being doused with cold water, Alexander felt a chill run through his body in a flash.

As his face turned pale, even his tired, fatigue-looking eyes became bloodshot. Staring at Courtney, he possessed a frightening visage at that moment.

Even in her sleep, she wants Elijah to take her and her daughter away?

Just then, the noise from multiple revving engines outside the courtyard broke the silence inside the house.

Frowning, Alexander was going to see what the commotion was about. However, a series of knocks on his door interrupted him, followed by a pressing voice from a servant. "Young Master, bad news! A lot of people have surrounded our courtyard and are saying that they are here to pick Miss Hunter up."

Then, a dark-expressed Alexander looked at Courtney with squinted eyes. She really did have her wish come true! Just uttering a word made him rush over this instant!

At the Duncan Residences front gate were six black cars lined up facing the villa, blocking the entryway to it. Standing outside the gate, Elijah, in his black coat, was accompanied by twenty strong men, all of whom wore fierce expressions.

"What are you doing?"

Standing behind the gate with a face full of panic was May. “Miss Hunter is the young master’s fiancée; how dare you show up here and try to take her away!”

With a stoic face, Elijah said, “The wedding has been canceled, so it’s clear that she’s no longer engaged to him. Also, she has been here for almost a week. That’s long enough, and I’m here to bring her back home.”

“Back to whose home?”

A chilling voice came from inside the villa. Turning around, May saw Alexander walk out of the villa, his face extremely dark.

“And what is your relationship with her, Mr. Grant? Even her family didn’t say a word about her being here, so what makes you have the right to take her away?”

Separated by a fence, Elijah replied leisurely, “But we are still husband and wife by law.”

This sentence pissed Alexander off, to the point where his eyebrows started twitching. Staring fiercely at Elijah, he retorted, “So what? Your divorce is still ongoing. Don’t tell me you two aren’t going through with it anymore. I’m afraid in Melrose City, nobody can trick the Duncan Family and get away with it.”

“Mr. Duncan, I advise you to cool down and think things through.” While maintaining his manners, Elijah, too, spoke with a threatening tone.

“If it weren’t for you keeping Courtney captive in the Duncan Family’s villa, I wouldn’t have had to bring reinforcements. This is already your second kidnapping, including Tina’s incident. I can sue you, but I didn’t. It’s because I didn’t want the Duncan Family to be humiliated.”

“There’s no need to make yourself sound so high and mighty,” said Alexander with a deep tone.

“This isn’t Wall Street. This is Melrose City. Feel free to sue me if you want; you can also try to break into the Duncan Residence if you dare.”

“Since you want me to try so badly, I shall comply.”

Remaining at his spot, Elijah stood motionlessly. Meanwhile, eight strong men with tools in their hands started to take the gate apart. Without much effort, the metal gate’s screws were all removed.

What ensued after a loud bang was the metal gate falling to the ground. Strangely, Alexander just stood by and watched it happen, wearing a still expression without batting an eye.

Curious, Elijah sized him up and quickly knew why he was so calm.

Just as the gate fell down, Josh arrived, bringing with him reinforcements, whose amount rivaled Elijah’s men. They then proceeded to form a line, standing at the spot where the metal gate was.

“Are you alright, President Duncan?”

Sneering, Elijah said mockingly, “So, President Duncan, all these bullsh\*t that you were pulling was because you were waiting for reinforcements to arrive.”

“You brought so many people to dismantle my front gate. So in turn, I called a few people to defend myself. That’s not too much, is it?”

“No, it’s not too much. I hope, for your sake, that these men can block me.”

With a straight face, Elijah raised his voice slightly to a car parked at the side.

“How long are you planning to sit in the car, Mr. Duncan? Are you planning to intervene only when you see me and your grandson’s fight end up on tomorrow’s news?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 382 Get Out of My Way, All of You

The scene made Alexander’s expression change.

At the same time, the car that Elijah was looking at opened its door, and out came Scott. Besides giving off a frosty aura, his face was absolutely livid. After he stood in front of his car for a moment, he marched toward the Duncan Residence’s gate.

“Get out of my way, all of you!”

Seeing who it was, Josh became as white as a sheet and turned back to look at Alexander.

“Grandpa?” Alexander frowned. “This is my own personal problem, so why are you here?”

“So you still see me as your grandfather, eh?” Speaking furiously, Scott continued, “The whole Duncan Family has been shamed by you! Where’s Courtney?”

Frowning, Alexander chose to keep his silence.

“Alright. You don’t want to tell me, huh? I know where she is even without you telling me.”

With a deep breath, Scott pointed at Josh. “Dismiss these people now. Otherwise, consider your position at our enterprise redundant by tomorrow.”

The threat immediately made Josh disperse the people he brought, and the gate’s pathway was cleared up.

“The cancellation of the wedding was your idea. You said you didn’t want to go through the wedding without giving me a reason, then fine. I just treated it as you two fell out and I agreed. But look what you’ve done now!”

As his face reddened with anger, Scott said, “You actually did such a stupid thing as imprisoning a person in your own home. If this incident spread, how can the Duncan Family continue staying in Melrose City? Also, my dignity would be shredded to pieces!”

When Scott was scolding Alexander, Elijah ignored them as he ran inside the house alone and found Courtney. Seeing her full of sweat and speaking deliriously due to the fever, he felt his heart ache terribly. After that, he carried her outside the house.

“You cannot take her.”

As if he didn't hear the old man's words, Alexander wanted to go and take her back there and then.

Avoiding him, the usually warm and gentle Elijah turned around with a face full of rage.

"Remember this, Alexander. What happened today was only the beginning."

In the past, he was too easy on Courtney. He let her do as she pleased, yet she got hurt in the end. If he had known how stubborn Alexander was, he would have done everything in his power to make her leave him so that something like this would not have happened.

The line of black cars left after one another, then the Duncans' courtyard regained its silence.

In the living room, all the servants had been dismissed by the butler, leaving only the grandfather and grandson all alone.

"What happened between you two? You have to provide an explanation based on what happened today."

Scott's tired voice echoed in the living room.

With a sunken face, Alexander replied, "There's nothing to say. This is between me and her."

"What?" Scott laughed in anger. "Do you still think of me as your grandfather? The confirmed wedding was canceled on a whim, and now, I can't even get a single word from you about what happened? You b\*stard!"

Immediately, the butler by his side chimed in. "I think the young master is still in a state of shock about the incident with Miss Hunter. Please talk it out with him patiently, Master."

"Am I not being patient enough? If it were in the past, I would've..."

Feeling a slight shortness of breath, Scott could only stare at Alexander for a while.

"Did you know your mother has fallen sick because of this incident? She has no idea what is going on, and she didn't dare to ask you. Because of this, she went out yesterday morning to the Somerfields' to ask for more information, and she got sick when she came back home."

Hearing this, Alexander was stunned into silence.

Observing his expression, the butler then persuaded Alexander again. "Excluding the rumors spreading in the public, even the whole family is gossiping about you two. You may not care, Young Master, but the Duncan Family still has a reputation to maintain. You have to tell the Master what happened so that we can prepare for any people that are waiting for us to slip up."

There was a constant ringing in Alexander's ears; the problem he had been avoiding all along still reared its ugly head.

It was not until a long while had passed did Alexander sit on the sofa defeatedly.

"What if I said that I found Jordan's biological mother? What do you think about this, Grandpa?"

Slightly stunned by the revelation, Scott then said after a pause, "Don't tell me you fell out with Courtney because of this. Have you forgotten about the lesson last time? What were you thinking?"

“Master, please wait for the young master to finish,” the butler reminded.

Slowly raising his gaze, Alexander wore a complicated expression. “Courtney was the one who mistakenly performed surrogacy under Louis’ blunder back then. Both Jordan and Tina were born to her. She left one child behind and brought the other away.”

The living room once again fell silent.

After an unknown amount of time had passed, Scott came around from this huge shock. “What? C- Courtney is Jordan’s biological mother? And Tina is also the Duncan Family’s child?”

The whole situation seemed almost unbelievable to him.

“Then why?” Scott asked curiously. “What did you two fell out about if this was the truth? Isn’t this good news? It’s a coincidence blessed by the gods!”

Disagreeing with his words, Alexander was visibly gloomy once again.

Noticing something strange about this, the butler commented, “I’m afraid things aren’t what they seem to be, Master. Looking at the young master’s expression, I think that Miss Hunter knew about the kids’ true identity all along. Perhaps, she hid this fact from him, and it broke his heart.”

Frowning, Scott stayed silent for a moment.

“Of course she hid the truth. Otherwise, did you think she was just going to tell you straight that she was Jordan’s biological mother? If she really did say that from the start, how would you have chased her away? By giving her money?”

This sentence from Scott cleared Alexander’s thoughts. Looking at the old man startledly, he began to turn pale in the face.

“You fool!”

Fuming, Scott hit the table. “You made such a fuss just because of this? What were you thinking? As a mother, of course Courtney would come back to find her lost son. Was she wrong in doing so? Who told you about all the ‘schemes’ that she had been planning?”

In the Duncan Family, Scott had the final say and control in everything, so he was one of the selected few that Alexander looked up to and respected in his life. Upon hearing Scott say this, he actually felt a bit perplexed.

“But she contacted a lawyer and was preparing to fight for Jordan’s custody behind my back! She never planned to marry me all along!”

“You f\*cking idiot!” Scott was so livid that he even cursed.

“What’s wrong with leaving a way out for herself? Did she go through with the lawsuit? Did the court summon you? Just because of all these things that didn’t even happen, you made a mess of a wedding that was supposed to go smoothly? I’m starting to think that you’re the one who doesn’t want to marry!”

As the living room echoed Scott's reprimands, Alexander's mind was in a complete mess. With the contents of the message, the evidence obtained by Josh, and the words spoken out of anger by Courtney mixed together all at once, he had already lost his ability to think straight anymore.

"I'm asking you now: What exactly do you want?"

Calming down, Scott asked Alexander sternly, pulling him out of his own messed up thoughts.

Looking at his grandfather with a daze, Alexander repeated, "What do I want?"

"Think about what you really want, and not just push the blame on others. You've always had a clear mind. Yet, when it comes to love, you're like a headless chicken," Scott said as he stared at him, hoping he would rise above this slump.

But it was too late, for things had already spiraled out of Alexander's control.

One Night Surprise Chapter 383 Secret Base

In the Twin Peaks Manor in Melrose City, Elijah was settling Courtney down in the room, letting the doctor in to take a look at her.

"Torture? Alexander's a freaking maniac! Had I not informed Old Master Duncan about him forbidding Courtney from going out, who knows what would've happened today!" Cameron was stomping her feet out of anger in the living room.

Beside her was Gale, who was on pins and needles. "He's not that kind of guy, Cameron. There must be some kind of misunderstanding."

"Shut up." Glaring at him, she rebuked, "Defend him once more and I'll send you back to where you belong. Hadn't you seen how Courtney came back? If it weren't for Elijah, the poor girl would've died from that psychopath's torture!"

Gale scowled. Although he disagreed with her perspective, he couldn't voice his argument as he was currently in her territory.

Shortly after, the doctor came out of the bedroom. Elijah, who was waiting at the door, inquired, "How is she?"

"She's fine." Walking into the living room, the doctor answered, "There's no physical injury, but she's very weak right now, and is having a fever, so she's currently in a deep sleep. Once the fever goes away and she has gotten enough rest, she'll wake up."

Elijah and Gale heaved a sigh of relief in unison, a weight seemingly being lifted off their shoulders.

After seeing the doctor out, Cameron went to check on Courtney in the bedroom, leaving the two men awkwardly sitting in the living room.

As Alexander's friend, Gale felt as if he was in a tight spot, so the best thing for him to do was keep silent the entire time. Though, he couldn't resist. "What are you going to do?"

Hearing that, Elijah glanced at him. "What, are you Alexander's spy?"

"No." Gale clarified, "I just think there must be a misunderstanding amidst this incident. Cameron said that, back then, Courtney had no choice but to deliver the two children, and that Alexander should be considerate about it. But as to why he would suddenly get so pissed off about it is totally questionable. I think it's best if we really look into this."

"So you, too, think that his behavior is questionable?" Elijah was visibly resentful when it came to Alexander. "So what do you think it is that caused him to cruelly treat a woman, who gave birth to his own children, and also had to wander for years on the streets solely because of him?"

Gale was instantly rendered speechless. Just as Elijah said, there was no reason that could explain the sudden change in Alexander's behavior toward Courtney. "I'll talk to him."

"Not that I care whether you do." Elijah then glanced at Gale. "I have made my preparations to file a lawsuit against Alexander, so perhaps you could talk to him about how he should handle that."

"A lawsuit?" Gale sprung up from his seat. "What lawsuit?"

"The domestic violence that took place six years ago, and the kidnapping now."

"Are you insane?" Gale perturbedly continued, "Is that necessary? Think about it. That'll only draw undesirable attention to Courtney. What'll that do to her future? I highly doubt she'll be wanting that."

"She will. For her children's sake."

Elijah had always been a calm, reasonable man, but he was more than willing to charge at Alexander for this incident. Before he saw Courtney, he was still hesitating whether to take action against Alexander, but now that he had seen how low Courtney was willing to go for the sake of her children, he felt the urgency for him to take charge. "Everyone's so concerned about one another's feelings and decided to let Alexander off. But have you ever stopped and considered how Courtney's been living all these years? She doesn't need a future in Melrose City. I will be her future."

Frowning, Gale couldn't help but feel uneasy at Elijah's intimidation. Oh, hell's breaking loose.

Three days later, The People's Court of Melrose City sent a summons to the Duncans' household. The summons listed Alexander's association with rape, kidnapping, and blackmail, and that he was to attend the court to plead for his case in fifteen days.

On the day when the case was filed, the police ran a search in various properties of Alexander in Melrose City. Eventually, they found Tina in the yet-to-operate hilltop theme park that was registered under Sunhill Enterprise's name.

Elijah then brought Tina back to Twin Peaks Manor and arranged impeccable security measures around the manor to prevent any setbacks from occurring.

"The court is in the process of investigating our evidence. After this case, it is possible for us to take custody of Jordan from Alexander. Since the boy's father was bold enough to perform a kidnapping, I'm sure the court will consider it." Elijah revealed the news to Courtney.

Courtney had been weeping with Tina just moments ago. Now that the child had fallen asleep, her eyes were still quite red. "I don't have to take custody of Jordan." She lowered her head, muttering, "I just wanna know whether I'll still get to see him."

"Mr. Morrison said you'll get to do that." Softly, Elijah comforted her. "Don't worry. We'll fight for custody of Jordan. Worse comes to worst, you'll still get to see him whenever you want."

Courtney took a deep breath, seemingly anxious. Even to this day, she couldn't figure out how things ended up this disastrously.

Late at night, under the silence in the manor, Tina just finished showering and was carried to bed by her mother. Assuming she had just gone on an adventure with a squad of policemen, the little girl was now happily playing with the new toy Elijah bought for her.

"Play time's over, Tina. Come get your milk." Courtney fetched a glass of fresh milk for her.

Obediently, Tina grabbed the glass of milk and chugged it down before letting out a burp, giggling about it.

Delighted by her daughter, Courtney caressed the little girl's head. "You haven't seen Mommy for so many days. Are you not afraid at all?"

"What for? Hasn't Mommy been letting me stay with Great-Grandpa?" Tina was obviously talking about Scott.

"Well, that's in the past. But now that you're not with Great-Grandpa, there's nobody you know there. How did you live there the past two days?"

"Daddy visited me every day!"

"Daddy?" Courtney frowned. "Which daddy?"

"Mr. Alexander, of course!" Tina pouted her lips. "I already know, Mommy, that you've been looking for Jordan. I also know that Jordan's my real brother and Mr. Alexander's my real father."

"Did he tell you that?" Courtney was surprised.

"Yup." Tina smiled at her. "Daddy's been playing with me at the hilltop theme park, and we've been having fun these days! Daddy's even promised me that the theme park will be our secret base, and he'll bring you and Jordan there too someday."

Courtney clenched her fists, not knowing how to feel. All these days, the reason Alexander was nowhere to be seen was because he'd been playing with Tina in the theme park?

"But Mommy..." As if something popped up in Tina's mind, she looked at Courtney, confused. "Why did Mr. Policeman bring me back here?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 384 That'll Be Best

Courtney was at a loss for words. How was she supposed to explain to her daughter that her own parents were in the worst of terms, and that the reason Daddy brought her to the theme park wasn't to play with her but to threaten her mother?

"It's getting late. You should sleep, Tina." She fondled her head as she switched the topic.

Although Tina could be mischievous, there were often times where she would be Mommy's good girl. At her mother's instruction, she nodded and obediently went to bed.

Courtney accompanied her to sleep, though she didn't feel a tinge of drowsiness as she tossed and turned in bed the entire night.

Three days later, in the afternoon...

In the VIP room of the Melrose Peridot Golf Club, a waitress in an emerald dress served some tea to a couple of customers before tacitly leaving the room.

"So you're the boss behind the golf club all this time." Alexander remained a straight face, though a trace of self-scorn could be seen on his face when he remembered Courtney's free entrance into the club.

Opposite him was Elijah, who drank his tea before refilling his cup as he calmly uttered, "Just a couple of investments I made in Melrose. Nothing odd about it, is there?"

"A couple, you say?" Alexander's face grew slightly tense. "Many properties under Sunhill Enterprise including hotels and theaters have been receiving various attacks for the past few days. Are you going to deny that it has nothing to do with you?"

Ever since Elijah brought Courtney to his manor, the Duncan Family received a court summons, followed by a tremendous amount of damage that slammed Sunhill Enterprise, and all the damage was deliberately targeted at the company's three main sources of income, in which all the traces of attack pointed toward Elijah.

No one would have expected Elijah to have such domination in his entrepreneurship in the market within such a short time after his return to the country.

Nonetheless, Alexander knew that Elijah didn't achieve such success so easily. After all, it took every competitor of Sunhill Enterprise many years to build up to where they were now. Therefore, Elijah must have made his plans very early on.

"I don't intend to deny it." With a dull face, Elijah continued, "It's just market competition. I'm sure you've had your share of competitors after so many years. Even if I have taken years strategizing how to take a slice from the country's market, I've never expected myself to resort to this."

Alexander was visibly gloomier. "Could've just said you're doing it for her, and I wouldn't even feel weird about it."

The attack that was drawn upon Sunhill Enterprise was no mere healthy competition, where even the figures of market stock were obviously manipulated. Due to fund leverages, Sunhill's shares plummeted. And both of them knew who caused it.

"Honestly, we could have talked it over. But if I hadn't done so, you, Mr. Duncan, would have continued thinking that Courtney is a woman you can take for granted."

Alexander glowered, disagreeing with Elijah's words. "I've never thought of her that way."

"But your actions speak otherwise." Elijah's expression grew colder. "Now that it has come to this, all that's left are the kids. You'll never get custody of Tina. As for the boy, you'd be wise if you listen to what I have to offer."

Alexander clenched his fists. All his life, never had he faced such a formidable opponent like Elijah, who was now grasping Sunhill Enterprise's fate in his hand. One move of his finger could easily bring the company down, and none could tell how much effort the solution would require.

"Hand Jordan over to Courtney."

It was as Alexander expected. Although he had predicted what Elijah was about to say, actually hearing it was extremely nerve-wracking.

In that instant, freezing silence filled the room as the two men gazed into each other's eyes, unwilling to step down.

"Did she ask for this?" Alexander coldly interrogated, "Is taking custody of Jordan her intention, or is it yours?"

Elijah withdrew his gaze. His freezing aura was inexplicably intimidating. "You should know why Courtney suddenly chose to return despite living well in America—to look for her son, and that's her initial wish."

Alexander felt even more perturbed.

"As long as you agree to hand Jordan over to Courtney, I will bring her back to America. It's just one kid anyway. Since you were willing to have a child in order to succeed Sunhill Enterprise back then, I'm sure you can let go of him for the survival of the company. It's not too much to ask from you, is it?"

Having said that, Elijah lowered his head as he toyed with the tea cup without even taking a glance at Alexander. It was utterly condescending.

Although Alexander kept trying to keep his grandfather's advice to talk peacefully in mind, he couldn't help but get tilted by Elijah's words. Annoyed, he sprung up from his seat, seemingly getting aggressive.

"What kind of person I am, what I'd do for the legacy of my company—why do you assume you know them so well? There's no way I'll hand Jordan over. As for my company, it's still too early for you to imply its downfall."

Hearing that, Elijah put down his tea cup and raised his head to look at him. "You're an intelligent man. No matter how competitive you get, it'll eventually end up to be a war of attrition. At the end of day, it's a matter of guts. Merely in this year, Sunhill Enterprise took part in hundreds of investments. Do you think you have the guts to exhaust its resources?"

"That's none of your concern." Alexander leered at him. "You might have underestimated Sunhill Enterprise's position in Melrose City."

Elijah revealed a smirk and a pair of glistening eyes filled with deep ambitions. "We'll see about that."

Bang! The room's door was slammed shut. Instead of hurrying off, Elijah casually stayed in his seat, sipping on his tea as his assistant Lilian entered the room with a troubled face.

"President Grant, Alexander seems to have the intention to resolve this peacefully. Perhaps it's time to tell him that Courtney simply wishes to see the boy every once in a while. I'm sure he'll agree to it."

Even a blind man could see that Elijah's words were excessive for an egoistic man like Alexander—insulting, even. In this case, no matter what he said, Alexander would never agree to it. And Lilian couldn't figure out as to why Elijah, despite knowing the consequences, decided to provoke Alexander.

"It's impossible for him to give up his boy." He toyed with his cup as a surge of coldness flashed across his eyes. "Perhaps Courtney thinks that seeing Jordan from time to time is enough, but it's not a good choice as it will surely eat her up in the long run. She still has decades left to live. There's no need for her to burden herself with Alexander."

"What if our lawyer fails to seize custody of the boy?"

After remaining silent for a second, he relaxingly answered, "That'll be best. The boy is the biggest connection between Courtney and Alexander. Failing to acquire him allows Courtney to finally move on in America."

Upon those words, Lilian frowned in confusion. Elijah was right. He wanted the best for Courtney, but she couldn't help but feel something was lacking.

One Night Surprise Chapter 385 I Just Want My Mommy

Late at night in the Duncans' ancestral home, a child was heard crying nonstop in the room. All the servants in the residence were experiencing a mental breakdown.

"Little Master is still not willing to eat."

Harry was panicking. "Sir, Little Master has been shouting, wanting her mother for days now. He only had some soup, which we even had to feed into his mouth when he's asleep. How long can we keep this on?"

Scott knitted his brow, frowning. "I thought the kid only liked Courtney by chance at first. Now, it seems like their biological connection is nothing to underestimate. He's the closest with Courtney and wouldn't listen to anyone else. What can we do?"

"Why don't we..." Harry assiduously suggested, "Why don't we give Miss Hunter a call? Since she's the mother of Little Master, she'll definitely comfort him, right?"

"No," Scott downright refuted. "Don't you know about the summons the court sent to Alexander? The woman wants to take the kid—my only great-grandson—from me! It doesn't seem like Alexander will remarry, so the kid must stay."

"But Little Master's not eating, and it's getting worse!"

"I'll go talk to him." Scott took a slow, deep breath. His body seemed to have deteriorated due to the recent happenings. His back used to be straight, but he seemed to have started slouching after the new year.

Both Jordan and Scott lived in the same yard, but Scott stayed in the main building while Jordan stayed in the building to the east. Jordan had been crying every single minute for the past two days. And because of that, everyone in the yard couldn't live a restful life.

When Scott walked to the east building, he heard a loud crash as a clay bowl was tossed before him. Along with it was some splatted porridge, and he barely managed to dodge it, causing stains of food on his leather shoes.

"Careful, Sir!"

Unfortunately, Harry's warning came too late as Scott gave him the side-eye.

Sitting by the bed was one of the servants, who looked anxious upon the old master's arrival and hastily stood up. "Sir..."

"Leave." Scott let out a sigh, beckoning for the servant to leave.

In the room, Jordan had been crying to the point where his voice was getting hoarse. If this persisted any longer, he would surely hurt his voice box.

With his sternness dispersed, leaving only pampering love, Scott walked over and held Jordan's hand, trying hard to keep his words benign. "Can Jordan tell Great-Grandpa why he's crying?"

Jordan, who could almost pass out crying, muttered, "I-I want M-Mommy!"

Although Scott already knew the reason, he couldn't help but feel pained at his great-grandson's crying utterance. "Jordan, Courtney will not be marrying your daddy anymore, and your daddy's gonna find a new mommy for you. Anyone that you like. Isn't that great?"

"No." Jordan burst out wailing. "I-I just want my... my mommy!"

Seeing him cry so pettily, Scott had no choice but to carry him into his arms. "Okay, okay... You just want your mommy. Don't cry anymore, okay? Great-Grandpa will have somebody bring you to look for Mommy tomorrow, sounds good?"

Jordan was gasping as he snuggled in Scott's arms and forced himself out when he heard his great-grandfather's question. With his reddened eyes, he looked at Scott, skeptically asking, "Really?"

"Yes, really." Scott caressed the boy's head, comforting, "As long as you promise to finish your dinner, I'll have Harry send you first thing tomorrow."

Jordan hesitantly nodded. "Fine, I'll eat." As he spoke, he withdrew his hands and wiped the tears off his face. He warily rolled out of bed and walked toward the table.

Harry, who was watching by the side, carried Jordan to the chair. The little boy then grabbed a spoon and started drinking his soup as he brushed the tears off his cheeks, the sight pitiful.

Seeing that, Scott quietly sighed. What did I get myself into this time? If he had expected this, he wouldn't have forced Alexander to marry solely to have a child, who would end up suffering this way.

While Jordan was unrestful, Tina, on the other hand, wasn't exactly calm either.

After having returned from the theme park, she was always staying in Elijah's Twin Peaks Manor. Although the first two days were fun, after having ventured around the entire manor, she started to get bored.

"Mommy, why do we keep staying here? Are you fighting with Daddy?"

Taking her medicines, Courtney was surprised to hear Tina's question as she deliberately avoided eye contact with the little girl. "Do you not like it here?"

"It's not that. But this isn't our home, Mommy, and I miss Jordan. And I miss Daddy too!"

At Tina's interrogation, Courtney knew she could no longer hide things from her daughter, so she decided to briefly tell her the truth. "Mommy's not marrying Mr. Alexander. And you may not be able to see your brother again. It's dangerous outside, so you can't go out yet."

Hearing that, Tina was shocked for a while before recovering her senses. "But why?"

Although Courtney understood her daughter was a smart girl, not every matter in the world could be comprehensible for a girl at such an age. Thus, she attempted to explain, "Relationships can be complicated. Mr. Alexander and Mommy no longer fit each other. It's as you said, we fought, and there's nothing we can do to fix it, so we can no longer be together. As for your brother, Mommy will try her best so you can still get to see him, but no promises yet."

Vaguely understanding the situation, Tina stared at her. "But doesn't Mommy love Mr. Alexander? Mr. Alexander told me that he loves Mommy too!"

"But that's no longer the case."

"What? No, Mommy." Tina rapidly shook her head. "Back in the theme park, Mr. Alexander told me that he loves Mommy very, very much, and he wants to marry you! He even said that it won't be just me and Jordan. We'll have little sisters and brothers as well!"

Courtney was stunned, having no comeback. All those times she was in Alexander's manor, he would always leave so early and return so late that they could never meet each other. She had always assumed that he was avoiding her on purpose, not willing to speak with her. Never had she expected him to be playing with Tina in the hilltop theme park. But is what Tina said true? If that's the case, why didn't he tell me that himself? Thoughts started storming in her head. When she remembered the court hearing in ten days, she felt even more overwhelmed as if tornadoes of regrets were coming her way.

"How long are we gonna stay here, Mommy?" Tina pulled on her arm. "I wanna go home. Can you please bring me home?"

When she came to her senses and saw her daughter's pitiful look, she felt a surging sympathy in her heart. But when she recalled Alexander's actions, she couldn't help but fear what would happen to Tina, and she couldn't afford to take the risk.

## One Night Surprise Chapter 386 Nuts

Courtney then fondled her daughter's head, comforting, "Wait a little longer, Tina. Once the court hearing in ten days is finished, Mommy will bring you back to America, and you'll get to go wherever you wanna go."

Tina was dumbfounded. Mommy's going to bring me back to America? If she does, I won't get to see Jordan and Daddy anymore! I can't let that happen!

The next morning, the security guard in the security room in front of Twin Peaks Manor was yawning. All of a sudden, he caught a "giant carrot" tipping its toe, trying to reach the room's door knob.

Seeing that, he opened the door, leaving no support to the "giant carrot" that eventually tripped into the room. Luckily, the guard was swift enough and grabbed it. "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. Thank you, Mister." Turned out, it was Tina sporting her tangerine Sapphire Kindergarten uniform and a matching hat with a logo of a green bean sprout. With her backpack strapped behind her, she looked at the guard with her big, shining eyes. "I'm getting late for school, Mister. Can you open the gates for me, please?"

The guard smilingly looked at the little girl, thinking how good-looking must her parents be to give birth to a girl with such a dolly look. He then nodded. "Sure I can!"

As such, Tina was thrilled. That was easy.

The guard turned around and started pressing buttons on the computer. As he was working the device, he suddenly frowned, turning around to ask, "Are you going to school alone? That's very brave of you, but don't your parents get worried?"

Tina confidently replied, "My parents get busy with work, Mister, so I always go to school by myself. Don't you also have no time to send your daughter off to school, Mister? We've grown up, and it's time we knew how to take care of ourselves."

Hearing that, the guard thoughtfully nodded and couldn't help but agree to her words. As the security guard of Twin Peaks Manor, he had to manage the entire security of the manor all year long, and could only get to see his family when it was shift holiday. "What a smart girl," he praised, beaming. Then, he pressed on a button, opening the gates before escorting Tina to the bus stop. "Be careful, girl."

"Goodbye, Mister."

The guard nodded and happily headed back to the security room, which was when another guard of another shift arrived.

"Why did you leave? I saw you talking to a little girl."

"Ah, must be a daughter of one of us. She wanted me to open the gates for her so she can go to school. I was worried so I accompanied her to the bus stop. She's pretty smart for a five-year-old."

“Really? Why haven’t I heard about anyone bringing their children in?” The second guard suspiciously scratched his head. “Is anyone even allowed to bring their children to stay here?”

“Why not? Except for us guards, though. All the butlers and maids are living with their family here, aren’t they?”

“Touché.”

The guards said nothing more after that.

Under the thick fog in the morning, the bus moved rather slowly as Tina was staring out the window. When the bus reached its destination, she could see the signboard of Sapphire Kindergarten. She took a deep breath before walking toward it. All I have to do is look for Jordan and ask about what happened. Daddy and Mommy love each other. There must be some kind of misunderstanding that made them fight.

Since it wasn’t time yet, the school gates were still shut. Even though Tina was still a child, she knew how to defend herself from evil strangers. As the intelligent girl she was, she headed to the convenience store opposite her school.

When it was close to nine o’clock, a familiar black sedan stopped in front of the convenience store.

Hastily, Tina swallowed her bun and grabbed her backpack, storming out the store.

Harry crossed the road. The pedestrian lights were flashing red, and Tina attempted to shout at him from the other side, but her voice was engulfed by noises from the surrounding vehicles.

Nonetheless, she was stunned by the fact there was only Harry who walked into the school. Is Jordan... not coming?

...

In Sunhill Enterprise, the board of directors was holding a contingency conference due to the fluctuation in market shares.

Alexander slammed a file onto the table. “This is what you’ve come up with in one whole night?”

Everyone was too terrified to make a response. Ever since the mid-winter holiday, their boss had been consistently irked. Every day, there were always people who were reprimanded by the president. And just within two weeks, the manager of the Planning Department had been replaced three times. Basically, anyone who dared to approach him would quickly get booted out.

“Anyone who wants to stop working, pack your stuff at once. I don’t need scrap in my company.” His speech, although not loud and heavy, was overbearing. Every single word of his was of utmost coldness, and every single soul in the room couldn’t help but shiver at it.

Out of nowhere, his assistant Josh entered the office and interrupted the conference. “A call for you, President Duncan.”

“Can’t you see I’m busy here?” Alexander glared at him. “I’ll get it when I’m finished with this crap.”

As Josh was about to add something, Alexander was already reading his documents and listing out the issues within, obviously having no intention to hear about anything else.

To be fair, Sunhill Enterprise was in an utterly turbulent situation.

One hour later, the conference was still ongoing. All of a sudden, noises were heard from outside the room.

“Miss Hunter, please. The president’s having a meeting. You’re not allowed to enter.”

“Let go of me!”

A familiar voice entered Alexander’s ears. Baffled, he swiftly walked out of his office.

Before he could reach for the door, the conference room door was slammed open, followed by Courtney’s rageous approach. Before anyone realized it, a loud smack thundered through the room.

Everyone else gasped, unable to take in what they just saw.

Instantly, Alexander’s right cheek reddened. Staring at Courtney, he was left stunned, and it took him some time to regain his senses.

“Where’s my daughter? Where did you take her?” With her eyes reddened, Courtney clutched his necktie, seemingly about to collapse. “I’ve never asked much from you, Duncan. All I wish is for my kids to grow up safely and healthily, but why do you have to force my hands? You know very clearly that Tina has asthma! She’ll lose her life if it acts up and she’s not sent to the hospital right away! She is all I have!”

Glowering, Alexander dully questioned, “What on earth are you on about?”

As Courtney was about to land another slap, she was stopped by Alexander. “Are you nuts?”

Red veins surged in her glittering eyes. “Yes, I am nuts! Tell me where you sent Tina to! Give her back to me! You took her away once, and now you’re trying to take her away again!”

Courtney was blatantly pointing fingers, raging about Alexander’s unreasonable actions, but he couldn’t comprehend why she would say such things with such a genuine expression. He ignored the sting on his cheek and revealed his stupefaction. “You’re saying you lost Tina?”

Courtney, about to faint from her wails, was shocked upon his clueless behavior, stuttering, “You... You don’t know?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 387 Hanging On

“President Duncan has been in meetings since last night. He never left the company.” Josh’s voice was heard from the door. While the two were arguing, he had already instructed the others to leave the room, requesting them to turn a blind eye as he did so. Sadly, only God would know whether they would.

At that moment, Courtney slowly loosened her grip on Alexander’s tie. As her face blanched, she muttered, “Impossible... Who else could it be other than you...”

Vexed, Alexander rebuked, "You can't even take care of your own daughter and you want to seize custody of my son? You come charging at me whenever shit goes down. You're quite the mastermind, aren't you?"

Courtney gritted her teeth, trying to hold back her tears. "Even if you didn't take Tina away, you don't seem to be concerned at all, jabbering about custody and all."

Irritated, Alexander turned to Josh. "What are you waiting for? Get her out of my sight. And stop allowing nobodies into the conference room. What are you, sick of your job?" Having said that, he left Courtney and exited the conference room.

"Miss Hunter..."

"Don't touch me." She wiped her tears off. "I can walk just fine by myself. I'm only here for my daughter. Since she's not here, I don't have to waste my time here any longer."

As such, she left, leaving Josh standing alone in the room. Nobody's sane in this building, huh.

After walking out of Sunhill Enterprise, Courtney received a call from Elijah.

"Courtney, I've checked the cams. This has nothing to do with Alexander."

Frustrated, she scowled. "Then where is Tina?"

"She seemed to have left home by herself. The security guard thought it was a kid of his coworker and let her out. She took the bus herself, but don't worry, we're following the bus route to look for her."

A few sentences from Elijah alone relieved her anxiety. Remembering how Tina would frequently go out by herself, she heaved a sigh of relief. As long as it wasn't another "kidnapping" done by Alexander, it shouldn't be an issue. She only found out that Tina was missing after she had her breakfast. Initially, she assumed the little girl was only playing in the manor's playground, only to realize something went wrong when Tina never came back.

In the meantime, Alexander was changing to another coat in his office, getting ready to head out before bumping into Josh.

"Where are you heading to, President Duncan? Are you not going to the meeting?"

"There's someone I need to look for." Alexander gazed at Josh with his panicking eyes. "Get some men to follow me."

"President." Josh stopped him. "Are you going just like that? How are you going to find her in such a big city?"

Alexander frowned. "What idea do you have, then?"

"How about this, let me give Mr. Langley a call and have him ask his contact in the police force. Let them check the surveillance records of Miss Hunter's place and see where the girl has gone. As long as she's still in the city, every camera in every district is accessible." Josh sighed inwardly. Boss has always been a

reasonable, level-headed man, but it's like he became another person whenever it's about Courtney. And now he's trying to hide the fact that he's looking for the girl!

After twenty minutes, Alexander received a call from Gale. "How is it?"

"Hurry up, give your butler Harry a call. The girl's in the trunk of one of your cars."

"What?" Alexander instantly glowered as he ended the call to phone Harry.

The reason Harry went to the kindergarten half an hour ago was to manage Jordan's school leaving procedure. Due to Jordan's current physical and mental condition, the doctor said it was not suitable for him to continue going to school. The procedure was rather simple as all it needed was a signature from a guardian and a reason to leave. Done with the procedure, Harry entered the car and ordered the driver to head back home.

"Right, Mr. Harry. Miss Hunter's daughter was here."

"She's still attending school?" Harry was baffled.

By right, with all the incidents going on, Courtney wouldn't allow her daughter to wander off the streets.

"Beats me." The driver shook his head. "Probably, with her uniform and backpack. She asked me why Little Master didn't come to school."

"And what did you say?"

"I just told her that Little Master won't be coming anymore. That's fine, right?"

Harry seemed conflicted. "That's fine. Then what? What did she say?"

"Nothing. She just left."

She just left, huh...

Now, the car reached a viaduct, and a ringtone sounded in the car. Harry took a look at his phone and quickly accepted the call. "Young Mast—"

On the phone, Alexander's nervous voice interjected, "Where are you right now, Harry?"

"I'm on the viaduct and heading back home. What's wrong, Young Master?"

"Stop the car, but slowly. Then check the trunk."

"Huh?"

"Now!" Alexander sounded anxious.

Despite not knowing his intentions, Harry could only obey his order. "Pull over, Brock."

When the car stopped, Harry quickly alighted and suspiciously opened the car trunk, only to be shocked by what he saw. "Young Master, why's Tina here?"

"How is she?"

"She's panting hard. This child..."

“Hospital, now.”

Harry uttered not another word and did as told.

At an emergency room in the hospital, when Courtney received a call and rushed here, the operation had already been going on for half an hour.

Alexander, in his big black coat, was sitting on the couch by the emergency room door, looking tense. Despite his emotionlessness, whenever a hospital staff exited the room, he would hastily spring up from his seat. “How is she?”

“She’s hanging on.” A nurse blurted three words and immediately shut the emergency room door.

Alexander clenched his fists, trembling out of fear in spite of his calm facade.

Compared to him, Courtney was notably calmer as it wasn’t her first time experiencing such a situation.

Tina was born with inherited asthma. When they were in America, although Courtney brought enough money with her, countless trips to the hospital cost her quite the sum. In order to sustain their lives, she had to work an extra job. Even so, five years of money and effort could never thoroughly treat Tina’s asthma.

Seeing Alexander so uneasy reminded her of her first time sending Tina into the emergency room. Despite her hesitation, she eventually uttered, “Come sit. Even misfortune knows its limits.”

Alexander nervously turned around and looked at her. After hesitating for a few seconds, he joined Courtney on the couch, inquiring, “Has this happened many times all these years?”

He knew about Tina’s asthma and made it a condition to trick Courtney into submitting Tina into the same kindergarten as Jordan. Back then, he didn’t put much consideration into Tina’s asthma, nor did he know about the mischievous little girl being his biological daughter.

“Very frequently before she was three, but not so much afterward.” After Courtney said that, her tone grew heavier. “After she was three, she understood not to get involved with extreme sports and visit crowded places, not to go out too much when it’s summer, and always to bring her medicines with her. After all, she’s a kid, and it’s only normal for her to make mistakes. Even so, her asthma acts up at most twice a year.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 388 Cut Ties

Courtney spoke rather calmly, as if she was telling a story of another.

However, Alexander, despite being the listener, couldn’t put himself at ease. Although he didn’t spend much time with Tina, the little girl had brought him massive warmth—one that even Jordan couldn’t give him. A little girl so persistent and optimistic yet was going through so much suffering. Both of his kids—one cursed with a disease while another doomed with mental issues—weren’t born with the best health. He couldn’t help but question what mistake he made in the past that led him to opt for surrogacy.

“Had Elijah always been by your side whenever Tina’s asthma happened?” Alexander was attempting to comfort himself by asking the question. At that moment, he no longer had the desire to fight with Elijah. All he wanted was someone to be by Courtney’s side whenever the child collapsed. And if Elijah had indeed been by Courtney’s side during such critical times, he would admit that his connection with Courtney was far inferior to that of Elijah’s and hers.

Nonetheless, Courtney shook her head. “I didn’t know him yet when I arrived in America. That was when Tina’s body was at its worst. Every single day, I could hardly sleep, fearing that her breath might stop when I woke up the next day.”

Alexander frowned, not knowing what he should say.

“It’s quite problematic as a new parent, not knowing the do’s and don’ts. I had nobody to guide me as well. Eventually, I learned them all by myself, and that’s how Tina grew into how she is now. Sometimes, I can’t help but think that it’s a bad thing for a child to be so mature.”

She herself was too mature for her age when she was little. Due to that, she would never fight and was always forgiving. Sadly, that also meant forgoing the pampering and spoiling she could have possibly received.

Hearing that, Alexander felt the urge to hug Courtney.

Suddenly, the light of the emergency room went out as a bunch of noises interrupted their conversation.

“How is she?” Courtney hastily questioned.

The doctor took off his mask and answered, “She’s fine. We managed to save her. The child’s safe, but for now, she’ll have to be transferred to the ICU for some time. Will one of you head to the reception to manage her hospitalization procedure?”

“I’ll go.”

Both Courtney and Alexander blurted in unison.

“Allow me.” Harry, who had been waiting anxiously at the side, said, “I would have felt extremely guilty had the operation failed. Let me do it. I’ll leave you two to have a proper chat.” When they were on the way to the hospital, Harry was panicking, wondering how Tina crawled into the car trunk. If that cost her her life, he couldn’t even imagine how he should explain himself to Scott, as well as Alexander and Courtney.

After watching Tina get transferred to the ICU, Courtney and Alexander headed to a nearby coffee shop. It was already afternoon, yet the two had yet to have their meal thanks to the emergency. After placing their orders, they remained silent.

Courtney took a sip of her coffee and softly stated, “I know how important Jordan is to you. It’s the same as how important Tina is to me. Thus, as much as I want to take custody of Jordan, I’ve never decided to do so. That, and I know Jordan wouldn’t be willing to leave you.”

Stunned, Alexander suspiciously tensed his brows. This isn’t what Elijah said back at the golf club. Instead of questioning her, he decided to listen to what she had to say next.

“Back then, you guys mistook me for the surrogacy partner. When I knew I was pregnant, my first thought was to abort the kid. I knew I wouldn’t be able to afford raising a child alone as a mere sophomore.”

When she brought up the past, the environment turned somewhat strange, and Alexander couldn’t help but feel awkward. “But you threatened me using your company.”

Courtney took a deep breath. She was visibly still upset by the incident. “What could I do? The closer I got to delivering the child, the greater the remorse I felt. I didn’t want to hand the child over anymore. A child’s life is not as simple as an item’s, and my child’s life at that. Hence, when the doctor told me there was another, I bribed him not to reveal it. And so, I brought Tina out of the country.”

She lifted her head to observe Alexander’s behavior, only to find a weird, indescribable expression on his face. He then stated, “Believe it or not, but I never knew about the threat. It was the butler who made the mistake with the surrogacy and decided to hide it from me.”

Surprised by the revelation, Courtney lowered her head and stirred her coffee. “That’s no longer important. What’s happened has happened, and I gave birth to a pair of twins. You got one, and I respect that. But Tina doesn’t have a healthy body, and I wish to keep her by my side.”

Alexander was visibly perturbed. He had never once mentioned not letting Tina be with her. “So that’s all you wanted to say to me?”

Courtney hesitantly nodded. “The court hearing that’ll take place in 10 days, I’ve decided not to attend it. It’s no good for anyone blowing things out of proportion. I don’t want the children to grow up with people pointing fingers at them. Thus, I offer a peaceful resolve.”

“A peaceful resolve?” Alexander’s heart skipped a beat.

Sensing the relief on his face, Courtney continued, “I’ll bring Tina to America with me, and we’ll come back every six months to see Jordan. I won’t meet you nor will I mention anything bad about you in front of him. All you have to do is send him over to Aunt Alicia. What do you think?”

At those words, the sympathy in Alexander’s heart waned as it was replaced by a burning rage. After everything, all the concerns she had was for the kids, and none for him. A long while later, he coldly glared at her. “Since you’ve signed the agreement with Louis in the first place, the kids, including Tina, should belong to the Duncans and not you. But given her health condition and how attached she is to you, I don’t mind handing her over to you. However, I won’t allow a meeting between you and Jordan. Sorry for troubling you all this while. I’ll compensate you for any loss caused.”

“Compensate?” Baffled, Courtney’s face stiffened.

“Since you’re not attending the hearing for the children’s sake, it’s only right that I compensate you.”

“Who asked for compensation?” Courtney’s face paled as she realized his implication. “Alex, you’re not hearing me. I wanted—”

“Enough,” Alexander interjected. “Isn’t that your intention, to cut ties with me? After everything that has happened, what do you still have left to say? Now tell me, how much did it cost to have you pretending around me for the last six months?”

## One Night Surprise Chapter 389 Nothing to Discuss

Courtney didn't expect Alexander's attitude to remain unchanged after she had told him the whole truth about everything and talked to him calmly and patiently. "Alexander." Her hands clenched into fists as her eyebrows furrowed in pique. "Can't you put your prejudices aside? How many more prejudices are you gonna hold against me because I didn't tell you the truth? Do you honestly think I'd hurt my own child? I don't think I'm going too far in asking for this."

Alexander's eyes were stony. "Yeah, you're not going too far. It's totally reasonable for a mother to ask to see her own child. But didn't Louis make everything clear to you back when you signed the contract? What I wanted was a mother who would never show up in Melrose City—a mother who is nothing but a tool for procreation."

"That's why I said I'm leaving!" Courtney's voice went up a few pitches all at once. "I'm just trying to discuss it with you."

"There's nothing to discuss."

"Okay, fine." Seeing that there was no way the conversation could go on, Courtney had no choice but to meet Alexander halfway. "Just think of this as me being unfair to you by not telling you at once after learning about the truth. I'm not gonna fight for Jordan's custody anymore. After all, I don't want him to feel bad in case he learns about this when he grows up. I'll drop the lawsuit for the sake of the two kids," she said. Then, she picked up her handbag and got up. "I'm going back to the hospital first."

Alexander stood up as well. Then, seeing that she was leaving for real without a backward glance, he ran out after her.

A cool wind whistled past the front of the cafe. Alexander yelled at Courtney from behind, "What makes you think you're so wronged?"

His question stumped Courtney for a moment. Then, she heard the man ask, "You've never thought about anything other than the kids. What am I to you, then?"

Courtney frowned. As she turned around to look at Alexander, she found herself at a loss for a reply.

Alexander looked really exasperated. "You insist you didn't mean to hurt anyone, making everyone think that I owed you for making your life a misery. But you came back at will, and you're willing to do anything to look for your son and to seek medical treatment for your daughter. So what does that make of the six months you spent with me, huh? A springboard?"

Alexander was always taciturn, and he rarely defended himself when something happened. However, he could no longer restrain himself today after being driven up the wall by Courtney. If he kept on saying nothing, Courtney would seriously believe that he was keeping on at her about the kids, and it might be only a matter of time before she went back to America with Elijah.

Courtney looked dumbfounded. "That's never what I meant!"

“It doesn’t matter whether you meant that or not. Think about what you’ve done.” Alexander’s face grew frosty little by little. His voice was cold, but it carried a note of compromise. “Just figure it out before you talk to me about the future.”

With that, he turned around and walked away, looking a little lonely in the bleak winter scenery.

Courtney was stunned for quite a while as she felt a bunch of mixed emotions all at once. Her mind had been preoccupied with Jordan and Tina these days, and it wasn’t until Alexander said so at this moment that she realized what kind of an insignificant but fatal mistake she had made. Alexander was a proud man, so the most unacceptable thing for him was perhaps to be shrugged off by those he valued the most.

At the thought of this, Courtney sniffled, her feelings complicated. It wasn’t anyone’s fault alone that their relationship had come to this point. Alexander was stubborn and arrogant, but it wasn’t like she was without blame for being indecisive.

She was walking to the hospital when a homeless vagrant with a crooked back approached her with an enamel bowl in his hand. “Please have pity on me and give me some money, young lady. I’ve not eaten for days.”

Having seen a lot of such frauds, Courtney replied right away, “If you haven’t eaten, let me buy you something to eat.”

Usually, other beggars would’ve made off on their own initiative when Courtney said so, but the old man today was unlike them. He nodded repeatedly, saying, “Thank you so much, young lady. You’re such a kind person.”

A real beggar, eh? Startled, Courtney looked around and said, “Well then, come with me. There’s a convenience store over there. Just wait for me while I buy you something to eat.”

The vagrant followed Courtney’s gaze and saw the convenience store. Then, he shifted his gaze to the alley next to the convenience store with a hint of malice in his eyes concealed by his ragged felt cap.

Courtney went to the convenience store and bought two large bags of bread, two bottles of milk, and a microwaved boxed meal. After carrying them out of the store, she saw the vagrant crouching in the alley around the corner of the store. “I thought you left already.” She hurriedly walked up to him while waving the bags in her hand. “I bought you some food. It shouldn’t be a problem for these to last you a few days.”

The vagrant took the bags from her. Then, he immediately opened the boxed meal and wolfed it down.

Taking pity on the vagrant, Courtney thought for a moment and lowered her head to take out her wallet from her handbag. Just as she was searching for cash, a dark silhouette slowly emerged from the alley and approached her from behind. Then, he suddenly covered her mouth and nose, dragging her into the dark alley almost at the same time.

Her eyes wide open, Courtney struggled while looking at the homeless vagrant to ask for help, but the vagrant merely responded with a look of indifference. After she was completely dragged into the depths of the alley, he finished the last mouthful of the food, wiped his mouth with his sleeve, and threw the

emptied boxed meal into the garbage bin. Then, he picked up what was left and followed her into the depths of the alley.

...

Meanwhile, Josh was saying to Alexander, "President Duncan, the Hunter Group's showing signs of acceding to the acquisition, but we're now forced to halt some of our projects, so we have trouble with the funding..."

Josh was already tactful enough in saying so. It wasn't just a matter of several projects being forced to a halt: Elijah purposely made Sunhill Enterprise start construction on all of its projects, then dealt a heavy blow to the company by doing everything possible to force the projects to a halt when they were at their most critical stage. Every day wasted at each construction site would lead to tens of thousands in losses, and no one could afford such losses if this situation dragged on.

Over the past few days, many had proposed during meetings that some of these projects be sold at low prices, but such proposals were all vetoed by Alexander. Sunhill Enterprise's share prices were unstable, and they would plummet even further if the projects in operation were sold at this point. Naturally, Alexander wouldn't let such a situation continue to deteriorate, so he had to find a way to make all the projects run normally. "No matter what is put into the domestic market right now, it'd be subject to too many restrictions." Alexander furrowed his brow. "I'll be away on a business trip next month."

"Where are you going?"

"France."

Sunhill Enterprise had intended to expand its market abroad in recent years. However, its traditionalist board of directors thought that the current domestic market was huge enough. Everyone was greedy for a slice of the huge profits, so they had always been reluctant to expand the market, fearing that their market share would decrease. But now that things were looking bad for the company, Alexander had no choice but to make such a move.

Josh was inwardly on tenterhooks. To think that my boss's love rival is so powerful that my boss is forced into playing his trump card! he thought. "In that case, who's gonna run the company during this period of time?"

"I'll leave it to Oliver."

One Night Surprise Chapter 390 Do You Think You're in as Much Trouble as I Am?

Oliver had been staying with Fiona at the Duncan Residence since leaving the hospital. However, Fiona took pity on Jordan, who kept squalling for his mother every single day. Seeing that Scott was unable to calm the boy down, she put him up in her yard so that Scott could get some rest. As a result, though, Oliver felt slighted.

One day, Jordan once again refused to eat dinner. After he sobbed himself to sleep, Fiona made a cup of steaming hot banana oatmeal porridge by blending milk, oatmeal, and bananas together. Then, she popped the baby bottle containing the porridge in Jordan's mouth while he was asleep. It wasn't until she had watched him finish half of the porridge that she closed the door with her mind at ease and let him sleep.

Oliver was jealous when he saw Fiona centering her life around Jordan all day long. “Mom, are you gonna forget about your son now that you have a grandson? I’ll be going overseas in a few months, you know?”

Fiona glared at him crossly. “Oh, come on, why don’t you think about how much trouble you’ve caused instead? You knew who Jordan’s mother was from the beginning. Why didn’t you speak out about it?”

Oliver hung his head at the mention of this. “I couldn’t say anything at the time. Well, I did get to speak afterward, but it wouldn’t be right of me to sell Courtney out, right? She’s my sis, after all.”

“Well, in any case, you should’ve at least told me to let us prepare ourselves.” Fiona sat down on the sofa and looked at her son across from her. This time, she was really angry. “Just look at what you’ve done. You secretly helped that starlet dig into Courtney’s background. If it weren’t for you, nothing would’ve happened to Louis. Alex would’ve found out something, and the situation wouldn’t have dragged on until now...”

At the end of the day, Oliver was indeed responsible for everything that had happened back then. If it weren’t for him, the matter wouldn’t have become so complicated in the first place. Perhaps Alexander would’ve managed to pump the truth out of Louis, and everything would’ve been different.

Oliver felt aggrieved as well, though. “Hey, I admitted my mistakes already, okay? And besides, I’ve been avoiding Alex since the eve of the mid-winter holiday whenever he comes to visit Jordan. Judging by how things look, I’m afraid I’m not gonna be meeting him before I go overseas a few months later. Well, it’s fine that I’m not gonna meet him, though. Otherwise, I’m gonna be in trouble if he sees me and is reminded of what has happened.”

Suddenly, a chilly male voice at the door responded to Oliver’s self-pitying remarks. “Do you think you’re in as much trouble as I am?”

“Alex?”

“Alex!”

The mother and son almost called out to the man at the same time, but Oliver hung his head and hemmed with a look of embarrassment after doing so. On the other hand, Fiona went up to Alexander delightedly, asking, “What brings you back at this hour? Did you meet your grandpa? Have you had dinner?”

“Not yet.”

“I’ll go prepare it, then.” Fiona was overjoyed. Many things had happened these days, so she rarely got to see Alexander even after she had come back to stay at the Duncan Residence. Furthermore, he came here even less often after the wedding was canceled prior to the mid-winter holiday. Even when Fiona occasionally got to meet him, he appeared cold and distant. Also, he lost a lot of weight, which made the outline of his jaw even sharper.

After Fiona left, Alexander went straight up to Oliver, who was snuggling on the sofa. “You’re in a hurry to complain before I even say anything, huh?”

Oliver was feeling guilty in the first place, and his face blanched at once when he heard Alexander say so. “Uh, I didn’t mean to hide it from you, Alex. I just thought the timing was bad; it’d be strange for me to tell you about these all of a sudden.”

“Oh, really?” Alexander gave Oliver a wry look before seating himself across from him. “Bad timing, huh?”

Oliver braced himself and nodded, but Alexander didn’t say anything else after asking the rhetorical question. Terror-stricken, Oliver couldn’t endure it anymore, so he pleaded, “I was wrong this time, Alex. If anything comes up next time, I’ll definitely tell you right away regardless of the timing.”

“Let’s not wait until next time. I’ve got something for you to do this time.”

“Shoot,” Oliver replied without hesitation, thinking that Alexander just wanted him to do some probing again.

Alexander shot a glance at him. “I’m going to France, so I’ll be leaving Sunhill Enterprise in your hands during this period of time.”

“Huh?” A dumbfounded look slowly stretched across Oliver’s face. “You want me to run Sunhill Enterprise? Are you joking?”

“Do I seem like I’m joking with you?”

“No, that won’t do,” Oliver replied categorically in refusal. “There’s no way I can run the company. I’m not interested in doing business, and besides, I’ll be going abroad in probably less than two months.”

“Well, you’re gonna have to take care of the company.” Alexander stared into Oliver’s eyes. “Sunhill Enterprise is not only a family business for us Duncans; it’s also the face of our family. By rights, you should’ve inherited all of this and carried it forward. It’s just that no one had told you about this since you didn’t grow up with the Duncan Family as a child.”

“But I’m not interested in this at all!” Oliver panicked in an instant. “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink, can you?”

“That’s why I’m only asking you to run the company temporarily.” Alexander looked at him with a serious expression on his face. “Just a month or two will be enough.”

Seeing how serious Alexander looked, Oliver recalled what he had heard from Harry and Scott about Sunhill Enterprise’s share prices when he kept Scott company these days, and the look of resistance faded from his face. “Has the company been in a real fix lately?”

“Just rest assured. It’s not because the company’s in a fix that I’m handing it over to you.”

“That’s not what I meant either.” Oliver frowned. He wanted to explain himself, but he didn’t know where to begin. At last, he let out a heavy breath and asked, “Is the company gonna be fine if I agree to run it?”

Oliver had sort of figured it out by this moment. Sunhill Enterprise had a wealth of business management talents, so it would be much more sensible to let any of them manage the company temporarily than to let him—who had never been in the trade before—do so. And yet, Alexander asked

him to take over the company. On the one hand, this was because Alexander could trust him as a member of the Duncan Family; on the other hand, the other reason might have been Elijah, whose fierce attack on Sunhill Enterprise was entirely aimed at Alexander. If the person in charge of Sunhill Enterprise changed to someone else at this moment, Elijah would naturally be less hostile to the company. Of course, it'd be even harder for him to strike if the person in charge of the company became someone on close terms with Courtney.

Oliver's probing gaze fell on Alexander as if to verify his conjectures.

Rather than giving a straight answer, Alexander merely replied, "It would at least buy us some time."

This is proof enough, thought Oliver. He took a deep breath, lowered his head, and thought about it for a while. "Okay, I promise you." After all, he could no longer get himself out of this mess, so he'd better stay in it and do a good deed by finding a way to maintain equilibrium between both sides.

After having dinner, Alexander picked up his coat and went out.

A worried Fiona followed him out. "Aren't you gonna be staying here? It's this late at night already. Where else are you going?"

Alexander turned to look at Fiona. When he thought of how much effort Courtney had put into getting his mother and younger brother to come back, his feelings turned complicated at once. "I've got some work to deal with at my office. You should go back in. It's windy here."

Fiona replied, "You're going back to your office at this time of night? You should take care of your health. You're in your thirties already, after all." She insisted on seeing Alexander to the gate and didn't go back into the house until she had watched him drive away.

After the black sedan left the area where the Duncan Residence was located, Alexander said to the chauffeur, "Head for the hospital."