

Surprise 431

One Night Surprise Chapter 431 Shouldn't Harbor a Grudge

Generally, each time Linda came to look for her, there was bound to be trouble. At that moment, Courtney recalled Linda's previous threat and how Linda had forced her to attend a blind date. As Courtney had been extremely busy with work for the last two days, she had completely forgotten about it.

"Dr. Hunter, why are you in a hurry? I have the rest of the day off too, so let's go for a drink."

"Chief Hass..." Courtney then forced a smile. "I'm off work now and my two daughters are waiting for me at home. I have to go."

"That's just the perfect timing. I heard that you're great at cooking. How about we head over to your place for a drink?"

Frankly speaking, Courtney was not prepared to invite Linda, who had such an exalted presence, to her home, so she hurriedly rejected by saying, "My house is a mess right now. It's not fit to host any guests at the current moment. I'll definitely invite the gang over for a party once I've cleaned up the place."

"I don't mind. Since I'm rather free, how about I head over and help you to clean up the place? We're all part of a close-knit and large family at Melrose Hospital anyway."

At that point, the two of them went back and forth on this topic for more than ten minutes. In the end, Courtney finally lost her patience. "Chief Hass, I honestly can't attend the blind date on your behalf."

At this moment, Linda's beam widened. "Dr. Hunter, look here. I've already mentioned this before, stop addressing me as Chief Hass. We don't have a huge age gap, so you can just address me by my name."

Meanwhile, Courtney looked at the smile on Linda's face and felt a chill run down her spine.

"Well, the thing is that the patient in the first VIP room needs a qualified doctor to care for him 24/7. I noticed that you seem to know the old man well, so you should be quite familiar with his daily lifestyle. I reckon you would be the best candidate for that role."

Courtney's expression then stiffened, but she solemnly replied after a short while, "Don't worry, Chief Hass. I'll definitely turn up for the blind date tomorrow." It was fine for someone to stand their ground against throwing in the towel in exchange of gaining interests, but if it could prevent a potentially awkward situation, then perhaps it was alright to agree just this once.

After all, she wasn't ready to face Scott yet. As such, it would be a rather tough job to take care of him at the hospital 24/7.

It was almost immediately after Courtney's promise that Linda let Courtney off the hook.

As soon as Courtney arrived home, she sank onto the couch right away. She felt a looming headache when she realized that she had to impersonate Linda and attend a blind date on Linda's behalf. This is such a farce!

At the same time, there was a congratulatory tone for the successful level in a video game that came from the bedroom. Soon, a tiny head poked out of the room. "Mommy, Great-Aunt Alicia has invited us over for dinner at her house tomorrow."

Huh?! A shocked Courtney turned and heaved a sigh before she responded, "I won't be able to join you guys. Why don't you go over with Angie? By the way, bring along the clothes that we bought for Josie."

"Okay." Tina nodded before she retreated to her room.

Soon after that, Angie's head popped up from the room as well. "I'm not going there. Josie treats me like an enemy and she swipes at me as soon as she sees me. I don't want to go."

"That happened when she was a kid." Courtney then shot a look at Angie. "She took a swipe at you because you fought with her for her plushie. You deserved that!"

Meanwhile, Angie's face had an aggrieved look. "She's still a kid now! I don't want to go. Not to mention, Great-Aunt Alicia doesn't like me either."

"So, Angie's actually afraid of Great-Aunt Alicia. Haha!" Tina's laugh reverberated throughout the room and it sounded like Tina was mocking. "Great-Aunt Alicia always has something to say about Angie's hair each time she sees Angie."

"Anyway, I've decided that I'm not going there." A recalcitrant Angie seethed with anger.

By that point, Courtney facepalmed, seemingly exasperated with the situation.

It was at that moment when her cell phone suddenly rang and she glanced at the device to see that it was a daily reminder. There were a few words that read 'visitation day' in blue flashing across the screen.

"Alright, it's fine if you don't want to go. I need to bring you somewhere else too."

A surprised Angie paused in her tracks.

Meanwhile, a curious Tina was behind Angie and she asked, "Mommy, where are you bringing Angie to? I want to follow."

Angie then gave an awkward cough before her expression and tone of voice suddenly became unnatural. "You can't come along with us. By the way, you haven't seen Josie in ages, right? In that case, you should go and visit Great-Aunt Alice."

When Courtney noticed Angie's change of expression, there were mixed feelings.

The date that popped up as a reminder was the day in which Angie's biological father, Regan, was granted his visitation rights. Her father was in fact the fatso who had released Courtney previously on that deserted island.

As night fell, Tina was more than ready to head off to bed after brushing her teeth. Meanwhile, Courtney was in bed and reading a book as Angie climbed into the bed with a pillow in hand. Then, Angie hugged one of Courtney's arms in the silence as she stared at Courtney unblinkingly.

"Can't sleep, huh?" In the end, Courtney closed the book that she was reading before she lowered her head to look at Angie.

Angie's voice quivered as she confessed, "I miss my mom."

This girl has turned out to be a beautiful lady, compared to how she looked when she was in that deserted mountain. Courtney ruffled Angie's hair while lamenting, "Your mom would be excited to see you today. You've grown from a scrawny, dark-skinned little girl into such a pretty young lady."

At this moment, Angie's eyes widened as she glared at Courtney with fury. "Was I very ugly back then?"

"You were."

"Hey!"

"Stop complaining. You said that you missed your mom, right? I'm legally considered as your mom, so how about addressing me with that term just this once?"

"No way!" Angie rolled her eyes, but she didn't relinquish her grip on Courtney's arm. In fact, Angie tightened her grip instead. "You're just slightly older than me, so how could you have given birth to a child my age?"

"Well, it's true that I wouldn't be able to deliver someone of your age, but I did bring you home with me."

"You already have three kids. Do you really need another one?!"

In fact, Angie wasn't that old, but she had a sharp tongue since she was a child. However, once she had said those words, she suddenly fell silent.

Courtney was fairly confident at that point that she knew what was on Angie's mind. Under the warm hues of the lights in the room, she lay down and took Angie into her arms. "That's right. I'm a mom of three kids, so having another child wouldn't make much of a difference. As for him, he doesn't have any kids in his lifetime."

The moment she was met with Angie's silence, she continued, "Back then, before you left Melrose City with me, I asked you whether you wanted to say goodbye to your dad. However, as you had a strong abhorrence for anything related to the deserted island, you didn't acknowledge him as your dad. You're not wrong about that. The truth is that he isn't your dad. Do you resent me for hiding the truth from you all this while?"

"I don't resent you." Angie's muffled voice rang out from underneath the blanket. "Even if you told me the truth back then, I wouldn't have believed it. I made an oath as a child to escape that place, so no one would have been able to stop me from leaving."

"Well, even if you resent me, there's nothing you can do about it." Courtney flicked Angie on her forehead at that moment. "It was your uncle who stopped me from telling you. Since I owe my life to

him, it's obvious that I had to keep my promise. Go to bed now. We have to wake up early tomorrow, you know."

In fact, no one could have known that the fatso from the deserted island wasn't actually Angie's dad, but rather her maternal uncle. He had brought his younger sister and Angie with him back then to seek refuge on the deserted island. The man had claimed that his sister—Angie's mother—was his wife to ward off the unwanted attention of those roguish guys on the island, but it was a shame that he had managed to keep everyone else but Dragon at bay.

The horrible ordeal ended up pushing Angie's mom to commit suicide and leaving behind a young daughter upon her death. As a result, Fatty had been guilt-ridden ever since and eventually entrusted Angie in Courtney's care. He had requested that she take good care of Angie and provide a stable and peaceful childhood without Angie ever learning the truth.

Courtney had kept her word to him and hid the truth from Angie for five years, but now that she was nearly eighteen, she had the right to know what had happened. Furthermore, Angie shouldn't continue to harbor a grudge against her uncle who had been so fiercely protective of her all this while.

One Night Surprise Chapter 432 How Long Do You Plan to Keep This From Me?

It was slightly drizzling the next morning and the light rain made the scorching weather in Melrose City much cooler.

Courtney had sent Angie to the prison and was now waiting for Angie in the car.

In fact, Angie had visited the prison once in the past five years; it was during the mid-winter holiday two years ago that she had returned with Courtney to pay the Somerfield Family a visit. After all, she was Courtney's adopted daughter and followed Tina to address Great-Aunt Alice in the same way.

Courtney had already intended to reveal the truth to Angie by that point, but after further consideration, she discovered that Angie wasn't mature enough and might not be able to handle the shock of it. After a two-year wait and Lilian's multiple disruptions, Courtney was much more inclined to consider Elijah's position and carefully consider her next move before making a decision. As such, it was moments before she left to volunteer at the frontier station that she told Angie everything.

There was a thick layer of soundproof glass that separated the inmates and visitors inside the prison's visiting room. The only method of communication was via a phone.

At this moment, Angie was rather restless as she sat on the chair and waited. The slightly smudged piece of glass had reflected her current appearance as Angie had previously requested Courtney to bring her to a salon to have the braids that she had maintained all these years removed. She was now dressed in a simple white T-shirt that she paired with a denim skirt and her silky, clean long hair complimented the attire.

After waiting for a short while, the prison guards finally escorted Regan into the room. He had lost a lot of weight as compared to before and she almost couldn't recognize him.

Regan paused at the doorway for nearly two seconds and it was only when the shock on his face gradually dissipated that he made his way over with laden footsteps, after which he took a seat.

Angie kept her eyes on the middle-aged man in his prime years with mixed feelings and she tried her best to suppress the tears while signaling him to lift the phone receiver.

The voice on the other end sounded hoarse. "Why are you here? Why did you come all the way here? It's a horrible place to be at. Did she mistreat you or something?"

Even though many years had passed, he still never bothered with any sappiness. The first thing that he did was demand an answer from Angie as to whether Courtney had taken good care of her.

"Courtney treats me very well."

"Since she has adopted you, it's only fair that you call her Mom." A stoic Regan spoke up, but for some reason, he sounded very insistent. "You do look well. It looks like she hasn't mistreated you. Why do you address her by her name, though?"

"How I choose to address her is my own decision. As for you, don't you have something to tell me? It's already been five years." Angie looked at him intently with a solemn expression.

However, Regan frowned in response. "What is there to tell?"

"The truth on whether you are actually my dad or my uncle." Then, Angie's cheeks trembled as she tried hard to keep her emotions in check. "How long do you plan to keep this from me? Do you intend to take this to your grave?"

At that point, he suddenly raised his head and was lost in his thoughts as he noticed her face that bore so much resemblance to her mom. It was like he was staring at his younger sister from back then.

"Courtney has told me everything. You're not my dad! You just wanted to protect my mom from being bullied by the villagers, so you relocated with us to the island. You didn't even plan to stay there for long, which is why you claimed that you two were a couple. Unexpectedly, Dragon had too much to drink that night and you were coincidentally not on the island too. That was why things turned pear-shaped."

Angie's voice was accompanied by the distant crackle of the background noise on the phone but each word she spoke was exceptionally clear.

Each incident from the past was now exposed. Yet, the person personally recounting it was in fact none other than his own niece. It resulted in Regan's emotions suddenly becoming quite turbulent that he couldn't seem to find the right words to respond.

Angie had entered the room for quite some time while Courtney patiently waited for her outside. As Courtney glanced at the time, she estimated that Angie should be out anytime soon and turned to drive the car toward the opposite direction.

There was a notification prompt on her phone at that moment whereupon she glanced at it before her brows furrowed.

Linda's name suddenly popped up on the screen and the message that she had sent was rather concise. There were merely two words in the message—don't forget.

Judging from Linda's dogged persistence, Courtney was extremely certain that Linda would skin her alive with a pair of scalpels in each hand if she didn't turn up to the blind date later this afternoon.

After she replied to the message, she heaved a resigned sigh. Subsequently, she turned her head to look toward the prison entrance.

Suddenly, her cell phone rang. With a frown, she took the call, "I replied to your message, right? I'll turn up to the blind date. You don't need to keep reminding me about that, you know?"

"Blind date?" Courtney jumped in fright when she heard the male voice that followed. She instinctively glanced at her phone screen, but the number shown was an unfamiliar local number. So, it was evidently not Linda on the line. At that point, she finally figured out who it was and voiced out, "Why did you call me?"

The person on the other end paused before replying, "It's the weekend and I found a great restaurant that has just opened. Let's meet up for lunch."

Meanwhile, Courtney paused to recollect her emotions before she spoke up, "I'm busy. Besides, it's not necessary."

"A blind date, huh?" Alexander's tone of voice clearly turned unpleasant seconds after that.

At that moment, she found herself stammering and noticed Angie walking toward her from the side of her eye. So, she decisively responded, "This has nothing to do with you." Subsequently, Courtney hung up the phone on him.

At that moment, a black Range Rover had been parked for quite some time downstairs outside an apartment building. Alexander was at the driver's seat and he stared at the phone in his hand with an extremely ugly expression after his call had been disconnected. Blind date?! I can't believe that she's busy going on blind dates so soon after being back in town!

He drove directly to the office half an hour later.

Eric had just returned from the accounts department and he paused in his tracks when he saw Alexander walking toward him. "President Duncan, I thought you mentioned that you were not coming into work today?"

Alexander glanced briefly at Eric and his cold expression was enough to cause a shiver to run down Eric's spine. Eric then made up his mind to remain silent.

"What was the original plan for today?"

"Well..." Eric walked alongside Alexander as they headed into Alexander's office. "There was a meeting that was supposed to be chaired by the secretarial and legal departments today. It was a unanimous decision made during the previous board meeting. Mr. Menzie will be appointed as the chief executive of the legal department and he will lead the legal team. This announcement has to be personally made by you, after which we'll advise the other departments on their new roles."

“Okay, go ahead.”

“Sure.”

There seemed to be an icy cold air barreling past the scorching hot day in the meeting room where those present felt the hair on the back of their necks standing. Although Alexander looked like he was making a positive announcement about Caleb’s promotion, those sly heads of departments in the middle management could tell that there was a hidden meaning in Alexander’s words.

“I’m sure that those from the legal department must have heard of the board of directors’ decision. Mr. Menzie’s letter of appointment has been approved and following Director Menzie’s strong recommendations, Mr. Menzie will lead the legal department from now on. The rest of the departments should also collaborate with him and assist him in the handover process.”

No one dared to voice their opinions.

After all, those in their current positions within the middle management level were the heads of departments who managed to secure their positions by exploiting their connections with someone from the board of directors. As such, they were quite perceptive to any slight inclination of action from the board of directors.

Caleb was Director Menzie’s stepson and ever since he had joined Sunhill Enterprise, he had been at odds with his own head of department. Nonetheless, he was excellent at his job and had won two large cases within half a year of his employment. Originally, the legal department at Sunhill Enterprise had been barely performing at all; it was merely there for show as it was a shame to get rid of the entire department. The cases that they handled had been dragged on for more than a year without any conclusion. As soon as Caleb joined, it somehow caused the whole department to undergo a total transformation.

The company would definitely have appreciated such a talent and exploited his skills, but since Alexander was in fact at odds with Director Menzie, it caused Caleb to hit a brick wall.

As the tense environment progressed, a young man suddenly stood up from the side. His neatly-pressed suit looked quite expensive and he currently had an undisturbed expression. Although he had a pale demeanor, he was the total opposite and calmly stated, “I don’t want the position of being the head of the legal department. My main purpose in joining the company was to gain some insight on commercial law cases, so I reckon that it would be much better to leave the role of staff management to the professionals. In short, I’m not interested in the position.”

At that point, the originally tense situation stilled as everyone’s gazes shifted to him while they held their breaths.

One Night Surprise Chapter 433 Help Me to Locate This Phone

When Alexander and Caleb’s eyes met, they exchanged sharp looks with each other almost at that moment.

“This is a final decision that the board of directors has made. Don’t tell me you’re turning your nose up at their decision, Mr. Menzie? Or, is it because you’re not content with the mere position of chief

executive of the legal department?" Alexander's sentence was a trap for Caleb and whichever option Caleb chose, it was a case of damned if he does, damned if he doesn't.

However, he wasn't someone that should be underrated either. Maybe it was because he had a straightforward personality or he enjoyed dealing with the riskier side of things. Then, he frowned inconspicuously and calmly mentioned, "Everyone has their own goals. I honestly don't crave this position since this isn't what I came here for. As for what the board of directors have decided, well, President Duncan, you don't have to worry about explaining things to them. I'll sort things out with my dad."

There were a few people who gasped in disbelief at Caleb's elaboration since it was an obvious act of contempt toward Alexander. Despite the truth of Alexander being the president of Sunhill Enterprise, were all of his actions vetted and restricted by the board of directors?

In the end, the meeting ended abruptly whereupon everyone collected their belongings and quickly dashed out of the meeting room. The only ones left were Alexander and his personal assistant as well as Caleb, who took his time to gather his items.

Then, Alexander glanced at Caleb. "Mr. Menzie, are you free now? Let's grab lunch together."

"I've made plans with someone." Caleb didn't even bother to lift his head as he was focused on shoving his belongings into his bag. "I've applied for time off for this afternoon, which human resources have since approved."

"What plans do you have?" Alexander stared at him. "I recall Director Menzie telling me that you hardly go out during the weekends. Even if you do, you would usually be at the library or attending urgent court hearings."

It so happened that Caleb had collected all of his belongings. Then, he lifted his head and he slung his bag on his shoulder while solemnly replying, "I have a blind date."

Suddenly, Alexander's expression stiffened. This is the second time today that I've heard this!

"My friend has arranged for me to go on a blind date. I'm supposed to meet up with the other person for lunch, so I won't be able to take you up on your offer. Let's have lunch together next time then. It'll be my treat." After Caleb said that, he turned around to leave the place without a backward glance.

Then, Eric watched the back of Caleb's dashing figure while feeling slightly envious and anxious. Subsequently, Eric quickly scrutinized Alexander and regretted his decision after being shocked by what he saw. Gosh! His expression is thunderous!

At that point, Eric was slightly resentful toward Caleb, who now somehow managed to make his own life a living hell. That guy is so dense! He came up with such a crap excuse to reject President Duncan's invitation for lunch! Blind date?! He's obviously well sought after, so why would he need to go on a blind date?! That's obviously a lie!

"President Duncan, it's nearly lunchtime. Why don't we have lunch together instead?"

However, Alexander didn't respond and his expression darkened even more. It didn't even look like he wanted to leave after that. Shortly after that, he made a call with a cold expression in front of Eric. "Gale, I need you to locate the location of this phone number."

Meanwhile, Courtney was making her way to the agreed restaurant.

It was a French restaurant where the furnishings were acceptable, but it didn't leave a strong impression either. Nonetheless, it looked exactly as how a French restaurant should resemble—each booth wasn't far apart from each other, so everyone spoke in hushed voices and combined with the music from the live band, their voices were inaudible.

After waiting for about ten minutes, the other person was finally here, but he was late.

"Are you Dr. Hass?" A young man decked out in a well-pressed suit and holding a briefcase stood next to her table. From the looks of it, it was obvious that he had just rushed over from work. He had a magnetic voice that drew Courtney's attention to him.

When she heard the question, she lifted her head and saw that he was a fresh-faced and slim man with a coolly attractive feature.

"Yes, I am." Courtney hurriedly rose to her height and glanced at him tentatively. "You must be Mr. Menzie?"

He nodded his head and gestured for her to take her seat. "I'm sorry, but there was a last-minute meeting at the office earlier that held me back. Sorry for making you wait. As a token of my apology, it'll be my treat for today's meal."

The man had phrased his suggestion in a respectable manner. After all, it was an unspoken rule for a man to treat a lady on their date. However, one couldn't completely rule out the possibility of meeting a peculiar date who requested to go Dutch for the meal. Nonetheless, once a lady had paid for the meal, then it was fair to insinuate that the relationship wouldn't progress any further than that.

Furthermore, Caleb had mentioned something else too—by mentioning today's itinerary, he had allowed for some leeway. Maybe if they enjoyed each other's company, they could even catch a movie or find something else to do.

Courtney then carefully regarded her blind date and she secretly felt that it was a shame that Linda wasn't the one here. Judging by his good looks, she wouldn't lose out on anything if she had attended today's date instead. I guess she hasn't seen a photo of him beforehand.

"Have you ordered your meal?"

"Yes, I have." Courtney nodded. "Then again, I instructed them to prepare it later with your order, so take your time. There's no need to rush."

After Caleb placed his order, he handed the menu to the waiter and cut to the chase. "When my dad was hospitalized earlier on, the caregiver whom Nurse Simmons had referred was lovely. My mom also felt a connection with Nurse Simmons and that was why she pushed for today's date. I'm sorry if that sounded offensive."

He's such a gentleman! Courtney tried hard to suppress the swell of regret that surfaced in her mind. Then, she willed herself and tightly balled her fist before replying with a forced smile, "I wasn't offended. In fact, a blind date can be considered as a fast track into entering a relationship. Each of us can frankly reveal our good traits and subsequently aim for marriage. If we find each other to be a suitable candidate, then we can proceed. That makes everything simple and straightforward."

Caleb was slightly taken aback as he didn't expect her to be so candid with him. "That does make sense."

"That's true, right? I'm not one to pretend, so I'll definitely answer any of your questions with full disclosure."

Then, he revealed a smile. "I don't have any questions. We can slowly get to know each other."

"Would you mind me asking something?" Meanwhile, she refused to budge.

"Of course not."

"How much is your monthly wage? Do you own your home? How many properties do you own? Do you have a mortgage? By the way, how many women have you dated? How long did each relationship last for? Why did you guys break up?" She fired a barrage of questions at him, which caused him to be confused and perplexed for some time.

At this moment, Courtney felt pleased with herself. It's fortunate that there are many slightly older and single females at the hospital who keep talking about their blind dates. She had heard a lot of tales regarding peculiar dates, so she merely made use of the examples that she had heard of.

Despite that, Caleb seemed to be much calmer than she anticipated and after a momentary pause, he voiced out, "My annual income is half a million and that's not even inclusive of my bonus. I have some savings and I own two properties in Melrose City. I'm currently living in one of the apartments I own while the other property is currently vacant. I plan to move over to the vacant one after my marriage and both properties are mortgage-free. I had two prior relationships where one of them lasted for a year. We went our separate ways because I moved abroad for my studies. The other one lasted for one and a half years and we broke up because I moved back for work."

He had given a perfect textbook answer and she was so tempted to applaud him for that. However, she restrained herself from doing so and turned to him with a glint in her eyes before she dropped a bombshell. "I'm quite satisfied, but I'm not sure whether my daughters would like you. If they don't, then that would be a tough situation to deal with."

"Your daughters?" Caleb frowned and he considered the situation for a moment before asking, "How old are they?"

"The eldest is seventeen and the youngest one is eleven."

"Seventeen?!"

"Oh, my ex-husband and I had adopted our eldest daughter." Courtney scrutinized his expression and intentionally asked, "Didn't my mom tell you that I was once married and have kids?"

This was within her expectations and after fueling the fire, she knew that Caleb would definitely turn to leave in shock.

One Night Surprise Chapter 434 I Enjoy Clubbing the Most

There was a significant shock that flashed across Caleb's face, but he soon calmed down after he suddenly recalled something. "Well, she hasn't mentioned this at all."

Meanwhile, Courtney faked an apology. "Gosh! My mom's so careless! She should have clearly explained this to you. I'm sorry about that."

"That's fine. It's not too late to know about this now."

"I still feel bad about it. Mr. Menzie, you're an eligible bachelor with a bright, shining future ahead of you after all. You must be speechless that you have gone on a blind date with someone like me. I can totally understand that."

"It's not a big deal." Caleb was so calm that it was beyond Courtney's expectations.

Furthermore, his answer left her in a state of shock.

Who in their right mind would think that it's fine for their blind date to a divorcee with two kids?! Perhaps he's merely putting on an act? Courtney silently considered the situation and took the chance to study him from top to bottom just as the waiter came to serve their meal. She was trying her hardest to look for a crack beneath Caleb's chivalrous behavior.

"Dr. Hass, you must be generally busy with your work at the hospital. It must be quite tough to balance your work with looking after your kids."

Moments after the waiter had walked off, Caleb took the initiative and brought up the topic about her kids.

Courtney revealed a slight smile. "It's not that bad. I'm fine with it, but I don't plan on having more kids in the future. After all, two is more than enough for me."

Most men in this world would yearn to have children of their own, so she was quite confident that he would lose his patience when he heard her response.

However, he continued to slowly carve his steak with the same expression after she gave her answer. "If that's the case, then that's awesome! I share the same sentiments and I don't want any kids either."

"Huh?" She was stunned.

"I don't have the confidence to nurture a child up to my expectations, so I think I'll be lucky if I'm able to live my own life well. However, I realize that it is something difficult to reconcile with. To be honest, I didn't harbor much hope before coming to meet you today, but after hearing your words, I think that we would make a great match."

"What?!" Courtney's expression took a turn. "You must be kidding me, right?"

"I don't tend to joke around." At that point, Caleb had carved a slice of his steak and placed it on the side of Courtney's plate. "Try some of this. This restaurant makes one of the best beef wellington."

Courtney had no choice but to take a bite of it when her mind was on the words that he spoke earlier.

"Dr. Hass, is there anything else about me that you would like to find out more about? Feel free to ask me about it. Neither do I smoke nor do I drink. I don't have any unhealthy habits either. Other than having to go on business trips frequently, I guess I am considered a homebody. We'll have the place to ourselves once we get married. I'm quite a boring person, though. Other than taking the occasional hike, I'm basically reading at home most of the time."

Caleb seemed to express that he would be more than happy to be with her as he started to introduce more about himself.

Meanwhile, she had goosebumps as she heard his words. It was only after some time that she finally recollected herself. She gritted her teeth and plastered a warm smile on her face before she replied, "Is that so? Then, I guess we complement each other quite well. I enjoy having fun, especially heading to nightclubs. I'll bring you along next time. By the way, I don't think I'll be able to give up smoking or drinking just yet. I could try to quit if you don't like it."

Courtney clearly noticed that Caleb's expression had stiffened, which merely encouraged her to continue. "By the way, do you enjoy playing poker? Our whole family enjoys a good game of poker and even my twelve-year-old daughter likes it too. She's nearly as good as me at playing the game."

Going clubbing, drinking, smoking, playing poker, and being a divorcee with kids were all such deal breakers that even the mere mention of one of them could frighten a potential partner during the blind date. If it hadn't been because he couldn't care less about her prior marital status and the fact that she had kids, she would never have mentioned any of the additional deal breakers.

However, after speaking incessantly for quite a while, she didn't get a response and merely noticed that he had a strange expression.

Courtney's voice gradually died down and somehow, she felt quite anxious all of a sudden.

"I thought that you'd be drowning in work. How do you actually lead such a colorful lifestyle?"

"Y-Yeah! I'm not that busy. After all, I'm the chief physician in the department." An awkward Courtney gulped.

"That sounds good, though. I can go clubbing with you next time since it should be a much safer option."

She felt more awkward as she clarified, "Mr. Menzie, don't you mind?"

After all, his behavior wasn't considered normal for an ordinary person who had heard her words.

He still maintained his gentlemanly behavior. "I don't mind it at all. My usual lifestyle is quite boring, so I can't possibly expect my wife to stay home all day long as well. I mean, such a lifestyle would be no different to when I was on my own. Frankly speaking, I'm quite appreciative of someone like you who knows how to draw a line between your work and actual daily life."

Meanwhile, Courtney thought, I sound like someone who suffers from split personality rather than someone merely leading separate lifestyles in work and daily life!

Even after their meal had ended, Caleb still maintained his composure. He seemed to have perfectly accepted Courtney's introduction of her strange habits, which was indeed hard for her to comprehend

"Do you have time in the afternoon? I have two concert tickets..."

As she hadn't completed her assignment from Linda, Courtney had no choice but to nod her agreement. "Yup."

Since Caleb had the patience of a saint, Courtney started to suspect that he was trying to hide his sexuality under the guise of marriage. As such, he was so forgiving and didn't have any specific requests—as long as it was a female, that was already good enough for him.

At that moment, a black car gradually came to a halt opposite the restaurant.

"President Howell's secretary has just called me to confirm the contract. They've also signed the contract, so we'll be in possession of that piece of land in Australia soon. Josh will be able to start work there soon," Eric's voice rang out from the driver's seat.

"Sure." Alexander maintained his gaze on the scene outside and he sounded distracted in his reply.

Then, Eric pulled the handbrake in place as soon as he parked the vehicle and thereafter alighted from the car to open the back door.

Due to the earlier rain, the pavement was wet and slippery. It had been cloudy for the entire day and at the current moment, it looked like there was going to be another downpour.

At this moment, Eric trailed behind Alexander, but Alexander suddenly paused in his tracks.

"What's wrong, President Duncan?"

At that moment, Alexander's eyes were fixated on the scene across the road—there was a couple who had just exited the French restaurant and the lady was so stunning as she had a mature aura to her. As the wind picked up speed, her forehead and a pair of glittery dark jewel-like eyes were revealed when her long jet-black hair that fell loosely by her shoulders flew to one side.

The man next to her was much taller and when Eric saw that figure clad in a well-pressed suit, he suddenly paused and asked, "Isn't that Mr. Menzie?"

After Eric had asked that, he took another look at the woman next to Caleb. "Mr. Menzie's blind date seems great. No wonder he took some time off to come and meet her."

"What blind date?" Alexander suddenly turned around.

"Didn't he mention that he was going on a blind date? That woman must be his date then." Eric took a tentative look at Alexander.

He had been working for Alexander for nearly three years, but had never seen this side of Alexander.

Alexander seemed to shoot daggers at Eric with such murderous expression whereupon he stared intently at Eric for a second before turning to cross the road.

“President Duncan, watch out for the car!” Eric’s eyes widened as he exclaimed loudly and reached out with an arm.

One Night Surprise Chapter 435 I Miss You

The car honk had drowned out Eric’s cries.

As soon as Courtney entered the car, she instinctively turned to look outside. All she saw was the vehicles that drove past and nothing seemed out of the ordinary, so she assumed that she had been mistaken earlier and didn’t take the matter to heart.

“Fasten your seatbelt.” Caleb attentively reminded her. She then came to her senses to hurriedly fasten her seatbelt before she revealed an unnatural smile.

It was quite likely that he’d sensed her awkwardness, so as soon as their car merged with the traffic, he mentioned, “Dr. Hass, you should relax. Just treat this as an outing with friends where you are catching a concert and having a meal. I’m a boring person, so I’m happy enough that you don’t mind this side of me. You should behave like yourself and disregard anything else.”

There was more guilt in Courtney’s heart as she smiled at him. How can I possibly relax? I’m about to collapse from the anxiety! If I don’t deal with him today, Linda will slaughter me tomorrow!

Then, from the side of her eyes, she studied Caleb as he drove. She suddenly shifted her gaze to rummage for her phone before she sent off a text.

‘I think your blind date, Mr. Menzie, is quite a nice man. He’s attractive and comes from a well-to-do family. Besides, he has a great temper with a stable job too. The main point is that he has a great personality, so I can’t even bear to continue being mean to him. Why don’t you consider getting together with him?’

Linda replied to the text shortly after that. ‘You can take care of that old man in the VIP room as soon as you return.’ The tone in Linda’s warning was quite obvious.

At that point, Courtney secretly cursed Linda in her heart before finally sending off another message. ‘Don’t worry, I’ll be sure to finish this task.’

In her mind, Courtney thought, I guess it’s easier to evoke dislike in someone rather than the opposite.

The concert hall was located not too far from the restaurant and it looked like Caleb had planned everything beforehand. There were many more people who attended the afternoon concert than she had expected, but perhaps the hall was filled to the brim because it was the weekend. Both Caleb and Courtney were in the middle where it was perfect since it wasn’t extremely close or far away from the stage.

However, she wasn’t too interested in the concert and she didn’t dabble too much in this aspect so, she started to nod off after a short while and soon fell into a deep sleep.

While she was serenaded by the background music of the orchestra, she had slept so well that she even had a long dream.

She dreamed that she was at her farm in France where she had fallen asleep among the pile of pharmacotherapy textbooks during her final exam revision. All of a sudden, she felt a rush of pain whereupon it hit her in waves. After the pain had woken her up, she stumbled over to Leon's house nearby to wake him up to send her to the hospital.

As a result, Courtney was in pain for the entire night before she finally delivered a baby girl in the afternoon the next day. That had happened about a month after Cameron visited the farm and before Courtney's baby was born a preemie.

At that point, Courtney was so exasperated from the labor that she fell asleep without even looking at her child. Next, she woke up to see Alicia by her side with a pained expression.

"You've gotten gutsier than ever! How dare you hide such a big thing from us! This isn't the first time that you've done this and now you've done it again! Do you even respect me as one of your elders?"

As usual, Alicia had a reprimanding tone, but Courtney somehow found it quite endearing now that she lay on the hospital bed.

However, she burst into tears and burrowed herself in Alicia's arms, as if she had finally found the maternal comfort that she was in search of.

In the end, the child was christened Josephine and registered as the grandchild of Alicia and William. Ever since Josephine was a baby, she had remained under both Alicia and William's care. It was only during the special occasions that Courtney was able to reunite with Josephine abroad. The dream felt much more enjoyable now that she dreamed of the child.

The concert was about to end when Caleb slightly turned his head to take a look at the woman who had fallen asleep on his shoulders. As soon as his eyes fell on her slightly curved lips, his cold eyes suddenly became warmer and he couldn't contain his smile either.

Since the start of the concert, he had maintained his position without even the slightest movement. In fact, compared to her previous nonsensical introduction of herself, he was much more inclined to believe that the girl currently sound asleep on his shoulders was actually the courageous and pure Linda that he had known from his childhood.

Once the concert had ended, Courtney trailed behind Caleb with her face that was as red as a lobster while they walked out of the hall.

"I'll buy you a new suit."

"No, you don't need to."

Then, Caleb smiled. "It's just a piece of clothing and it'll be fine after it's been washed."

However, Courtney glanced at the evident drool stain on the shoulders of his suit and she found herself in an extremely awkward position. At that point, she rambled on, "No, I have to buy you a new suit. I'll replace this." Gosh! What have I done?!

Due to this incident, she scrambled to leave after the concert and even vehemently refused his offer to send her home. Subsequently, she hailed a cab to take her home instead.

She had done everything that she could for the entire day, but from his final glance before she left, it seemed that Caleb was rather pleased with her instead. What sort of warped preferences do people nowadays have anyway?!

Meanwhile, Angie and Tina had stayed over at Alicia's house for the night due to the rain and they rang home to notify Courtney that they wouldn't be coming back. Since there was no one else at home, Courtney tidied the house before she went downstairs to throw the trash in her nightgown.

It was already dark outside by the time it rained cats and dogs before the continuous rumble of the thunder ensued.

After she had taken out the trash, she stood by the hallway and rummaged for her keys. The voice-controlled lights had been automatically switched off since the time had passed, so she coughed to trigger the lights to be switched on again. However, the lightbulb seemed to have been fused since it remained off.

A darkened shadow then gradually approached her in the pitch-black surrounding.

With the clank of her keys, Courtney managed to suddenly retrieve it from her pocket and was about to open the door during the dim flashlight from her cell phone when she caught the strong whiff of alcohol.

The sound of shoes squeaking on the ground sounded exceptionally audible to her ears.

"Who's there?" Her whole body had tensed up while her voice trembled in fear. At this moment, she already had her hands on the emergency help button on her phone.

"It's me." The man's reply came in a low, hoarse voice that sounded croaky. After she was momentarily stunned, she slowly turned to take a good look at the person standing underneath the dim sensor lights that both brightened as well as divided the steps leading upstairs and downstairs.

It was Alexander.

"How did you get—"

Before Courtney could finish with her sentence, her back slammed against the door behind her whereupon she felt a bone-shattering pain traveling down her spine. Her yelps were lodged in her throat and she couldn't even utter a sound.

Meanwhile, he had pressed himself firmly against her and disregarded her struggles. He cupped her cheeks and moved his lips on her as he kissed her in a rather passionate manner where there was anger, resoluteness, resentment and endless longing.

"Umm..."

Courtney slammed the keys she was holding onto into his face.

As he gave a muffled yelp of pain, she took the chance to struggle out of his arms. Then, she gave him a tight slap across the face. "Are you insane? I'll call the cops on you!"

There was a gash across half of Alexander's face and his eyes were also bloodshot. He had a terribly frightening aura at that moment where the strong smell of alcohol was indicative of his drunken stupor. Perhaps he had been so drunk that he didn't even realize what he had done.

"Did you go on a blind date?" Alexander's mere question caused Courtney's expression to stiffen.

After a short while, she took a deep breath. "Yeah, I recall mentioning it to you on the phone this morning. Don't tell me that you were so slow to pick up on it! And don't tell me that you drank yourself into such a state because of that!"

Alexander suddenly leaned on his side against the wall. He looked exhausted and seemed to have forgotten about her earlier slap as he muttered, "I drank because of work. It has nothing to do with you."

"Then, what are you doing here?" Courtney was now slightly frustrated.

As for him, he was so wasted that his eyes were closed to the point where they became slits. Subsequently, he replied in a hoarse voice, "I miss you."

One Night Surprise Chapter 436 The Same Flavor

Only the sound of her panting could be heard in the stairway. Courtney was tense as she leaned against the door and stared at Alexander for a moment before she slowly relaxed.

"How much did you drink?"

"I'm not drunk."

She slightly frowned when she heard his reply. People who are drunk always claim that they are not. Based on his personality, he wouldn't do something like taking the initiative to come to my place if he's not drunk.

"You drank so much. How did you come?"

"I drove here."

Courtney's face darkened. "Don't you treasure your life?"

Alexander ignored her and he slowly crouched while holding the wall for support. After picking up her keys and passing them to her, his usually cold eyes had a flicker of hope in them. "Are you worried for me?"

"I'm just worried that Jordan won't have a parent to take care of him in the future." Courtney took the keys from him in annoyance and glared at Alexander. "He is still young. Do you want to leave him all alone in the future?"

Alexander's eyes slightly dimmed. After a moment of silence, he answered morosely, "I actually took a cab here."

It seems like he is not completely out of his mind. Courtney shot him a glance and knowing that he was still conscious, she suggested, "Since you are not drunk, call your assistant to pick you up and send you home."

With that, she opened the door and entered her house. When she closed the door again, it was so loud that the entire building seemed to shake.

After she entered her apartment, she placed the trash bags in her bin before she walked to the washroom and polished every surface with a clean cloth. Only ten minutes had passed after she was done with the cleaning.

However, it was now raining cats and dogs outside.

The flash of lightning instantly lit up the room as if it was still day before it was followed by a loud clap of thunder. It made the scene look terrifying as the rain pelted on her windows.

I hope he isn't sitting at the stairway? Courtney tossed and turned on the bed, but she couldn't fall asleep peacefully.

After turning once again, she could no longer withstand it and got out of bed to walk to the door. She saw Alexander smoking as he leaned against the wall through her surveillance camera. He's crazy! It's already so late, yet he hasn't left.

Then, she opened the door and looked at him with a questioning gaze, but she did not utter a word.

Alexander froze in his action of smoking as the cigarette rested in between his slender fingers. As the ash fell from the end of the cigarette, it was dispersed into the wind along the stairway.

He frowned and explained with a grunt, "The rain is too heavy, so I can't hail any cab. And my phone is out of battery, so I'm just waiting."

Courtney couldn't be bothered to guess whether he was telling the truth or not. As she stared at him being drenched, she turned around and said, "Come in."

She didn't see the shock on Alexander's face as he froze in that moment. He quickly extinguished his cigarette and followed her into her apartment as if he was worried that she would later regret her decision.

Courtney was making some tea in the kitchen whereupon the fragrance of jasmine slowly permeated the air.

She loved to drink different types of flower tea, and this habit of hers had not changed even after many years.

After placing a cup in front of Alexander, she went to the washroom to take a dry towel and passed it to him. "Use this to dry your hair."

Even though he had taken the cab here, he was in a mess—his hair was still dripping wet with water. If he didn't dry it, there was a high chance of him catching a cold.

As he drank the glass of warm tea, his body now felt warm and he was much more sober.

“Is your assistant still Josh? You probably still remember his number, don’t you?” Courtney suddenly asked.

Alexander froze for a moment and he lowered his head to hide the disappointment in his eyes. “Three years ago, Josh was transferred to one of our subsidiaries abroad. My current assistant is his cousin, Eric.”

“Give him a call then.”

She opened the dial page on her phone and passed the device to him.

Alexander had an eidetic memory and was especially sensitive to numbers. He never saved anyone’s number in his phone and he was somehow able to remember people with a mere glance, so it was rather unlikely that he could lie his way out now.

So, he called Eric’s phone number in front of Courtney.

A doubtful and slightly anxious voice rang on the other end. “Hello, may I know who this is?”

“It’s me.”

Alexander’s hoarse voice was exceptionally clear in the quiet living room.

Eric was stunned for a moment, but he quickly returned to his senses. “President Duncan? Where have you been? The meeting here has already ended. Why did you disappear moments after I went to the washroom?”

They had met with President Howell that afternoon to sign a contract followed by dinner at a nightclub. Everyone was happily drinking the night away and although Alexander never fancied drinking, he didn’t reject the offer to drink wine by the bottle without even blinking. His action had only caused Eric to look at him with wide eyes.

Both the host and the guest had a good time, but Eric still didn’t see Alexander after picking up the tab even though President Howell and his people had already gone home by that time. It frightened Eric to the point where he quickly searched high and low for his boss. Just as he was about to ask the KTV management for access to the surveillance tapes of the club, he received a call from an unfamiliar number.

Alexander merely shared his current location and asked Eric to pick him up without explaining further.

After hanging up the call, Alexander returned the phone to Courtney. “He should be here soon. If you mind, I can wait outside.”

“It’s okay,” she calmly replied. “We are considered friends anyway. Since you are just here for a cup of tea, I don’t mind.”

His face paled as soon as he heard the word ‘friends’, which caused his movement to sip on the tea to stiffen.

Since the storm outside was still brewing, it would take some time for Eric to arrive by car.

Courtney busied herself in the apartment as she showed no inclination of chatting with Alexander at all.

“Would you like to have some noodles?”

Her question rang from the kitchen.

“You don’t have to trouble yourself since you can just sit down.”

“Don’t think too much into it.” She raised her head from the kitchen to look at him. “I haven’t had dinner yet. Regardless of whether you’re here or not, I already planned to cook a bowl of noodles for myself.”

Alexander looked at her figure with a conflicted expression.

Courtney was rather experienced in cooking. After ten minutes, two bowls of noodles with sunny side ups were placed on the table. Then, she waved at him to ask him to join her at the dining table.

She behaved casually from the beginning to the end, as if she did not really care about him.

However, it was her casual attitude that made him feel more empty.

As he ate the noodles that he cooked, it still contained the familiar flavor that he remembered. The alcohol in his stomach was slowly metabolized while he ate, but he placed his cutlery down after only sampling half of it.

“Is it bad?” A doubtful Courtney looked at him and asked, “You don’t like it?”

“It’s delicious.” Alexander looked at her with exhaustion on his cold face. “It’s that taste I still remember.”

“Oh, cut the crap.” Courtney smiled calmly. “How could you remember the flavor after five years? Apart from that, you have already stopped eating even though you haven’t polished the bowl. If you really remember the flavor, I bet it’s not a nice taste!”

Alexander was silent for a few seconds before he explained, “My stomach isn’t very good. The doctor asked me not to eat too much at one go.”

Courtney’s expression froze as she unknowingly tightened her grip on the chopsticks. If she hadn’t stopped herself in time, she could’ve blurted out the question she had in mind. However, she changed the topic stiffly as she asked, “What’s the time now? I think your assistant might be arriving soon.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 437 An Unnecessary Explanation

It was already late at night, but Alexander’s assistant still hadn’t arrived.

Since it was a stormy night on top of being the weekend, there were many reports of accidents in Melrose City. It was perfectly normal to be caught in the traffic congestion, so it was nothing strange if Eric was late.

Even after Courtney had cleaned the cutlery, the smell of fried eggs was still in the apartment.

The flower tea in front of Alexander had been swapped for a glass of warm milk.

As Courtney lowered her head to wash the dishes with the tap flowing, she wore a calm expression but her feelings had resembled the weather instead.

Time wasn't able to make her forget him. She still loved and hated the man in front of her and no matter how much time had passed, those feelings would still be there regardless.

There weren't any movements in the living room for a while. After she had done the dishes, she froze when she saw Alexander resting on the couch.

She initially wanted to wake him up, but after approaching him, she saw his exhaustion. Even though he was asleep, there was still a deep frown on his face as it seemed like he couldn't relax. Compared to the Alexander of five years before, he seemed to have more worries now.

He had finished all the milk, leaving behind just the empty glass on the coffee table.

Courtney stood there for a while and took a nearby blanket. Just as she was about to cover him with the blanket, her doorbell rang.

Ding dong!

Her fingers froze as the man on the couch immediately opened his eyes.

As their gazes met, there was an inexplicable atmosphere in the living room.

Courtney quickly rose to her full height, but Alexander grabbed her elbow, which made her stumble before she fell into his sturdy chest.

"What are you doing?" she asked in a low voice that was laced with anger.

"I should be asking you that question. What are you doing?" He looked at her with tenderness.

"You've been quite indifferent and cold ever since you saw me to the point where you feigned that you don't care about me. If that's the truth, why did you swap the tea to a glass of milk when you heard that I have gastric, though? Why did you want to give me a blanket?"

"I shouldn't have let you come in." Courtney gritted her teeth as she seethed in anger.

"Yet you still did so."

Alexander looked at her with his lips twitching. At this moment, he actually gave a dry smile.

An angered and panicked Courtney immediately struggled to break free from his embrace.

Hiss...

He suddenly took a sharp breath as his exquisite facial features winced in agony.

"What are you pretending again?" She glared at him in annoyance, but she soon realized that he was really in pain. From the corner of her eyes, she saw blood seeping out of his shoulders whereupon her expression immediately changed. "What's going on?"

His white shirt was stained with blood that quickly colored his sleeve in the same color. The red stain on his shirt made him look even more terrifying.

“Don’t worry about it.” Alexander forced an unnatural smile with a pale face. “It’s just the previous injury, which you have seen for yourself before. It’s not a big deal since it’s a superficial injury that formed scabs. I’m sure the scabs have just fallen off.”

However, Courtney did not believe him. The injuries before were not serious at all. Even though it’s been a week, why isn’t his wound healed yet?

The doorbell continued to ring impatiently from outside.

“I think your assistant is here. Open the door for him and remove your shirt. I’ll grab the first aid kit.”

With that, Courtney quickly went to her room.

The moment Alexander saw her slightly flustered reaction, the pain slowly disappeared on his face and it was replaced with a rare warmth. His usual cold face actually became much gentler at this moment.

After he opened the door, Eric walked in to nobody’s surprise.

“President Duncan, I’m sorry for being late. The traffic was quite heavy,” he apologized as he seemed to have brought the cold with him. Even though he was being respectful, he closely surveyed the apartment and was shocked at what he saw. From the decorations and the design of the unit, this is a woman’s place.

“Shall we leave now?” He was slightly unsure when he asked this question.

“Let’s wait for a while here. Come in.” Alexander looked at him meaningfully with annoyance.

When Eric turned around, he saw the shocking blood stains on Alexander’s sleeves.

He gasped and quickly followed Alexander into the unit. “President Duncan, you are injured.”

“What are you complaining about?” Alexander merely glared.

Eric quickly shut his mouth and didn’t dare to utter another word.

In no time, the door of the bedroom was opened and it revealed Courtney bringing out a white first aid kit out of the room. She was now wearing a pair of checkered pajamas with a scarf wrapped around her neck. Her long black hair was tied into a ponytail, leaving only a few loose strands of hair on her forehead, and it made her look gentle.

Eric’s eyes widened when he saw her. It’s now in the middle of the night with lightning outside and there’s a beautiful woman in her pajamas with an injured and indifferent Boss inside here. What kind of situation is this?

Courtney placed the first aid kit on the coffee table and greeted Eric simply before she looked at Alexander. “Didn’t I ask you to remove your shirt?”

Eric’s mouth became so wide that he could swallow a whole duck egg. “D-Do you need me to wait outside?”

“There’s no need for that.” Courtney threw him a gaze. “I’m a doctor and I’m just changing the bandage for your boss.”

Indeed, her explanation was rather unnecessary.

There were many hospitals in Melrose City and the Duncan Family even had their private doctor. As such, there was no need for Alexander to come all the way here for her to change his bandage.

Based on Eric's instincts of being Alexander's secretary for the past three years, he knew that something was amiss as he rubbed his chin to reflect on the matter.

Alexander casually took off his shirt to reveal his beautiful muscles.

As soon as Courtney saw how the bandage was wrapped around him, her expression immediately changed as she queried in a high-pitched voice, "Alexander, are you nuts? Haven't I told you that you need to change your bandage daily at a hospital? It has been a week, yet you haven't even changed it once! Look at the weather we're having! Are you planning to allow your wound to rot?"

The way she lectured Alexander had caused the entire room to sink in silence.

At this point, Eric was not just shocked; he was also in great trepidation and disbelief. When he looked at Courtney, it felt like he was looking at a lunatic.

Apart from Old Master Duncan, Eric had never seen anyone who dared to speak to Alexander in this tone. As such, he couldn't imagine that there would be a woman who had the courage to address Alexander in such an obstreperous manner.

Apart from that, it was even rarer that Alexander would quietly endure Courtney's scoldings. Just who the hell is she?

When she saw how silent Alexander was, Courtney proceeded to remove the bandage with a cold face. Sure enough, the wounds were infected. The areas where a scab should have formed by now were rotten, which made it difficult for anyone to look at it. If this was the case, it was better not to wrap a bandage around the wound and instead allow it to heal by itself.

Her heart raced as she assessed his situation. After that, she took the medicine out of the first aid kit in a much rougher manner than before. It was as if she had vented her anger because she was noisily searching the kit.

"Bring the trash bin here."

Eric froze for a moment and pointed at himself in confusion. "Me?"

"Otherwise? Who else is here?" Courtney glared at him and also chastised him at the same time. "What are you doing as his assistant? Back when Josh was around, he would never allow his boss to self-harm. Is your salary lower than his?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 438 You Are Not the Reason for My Return

"Do you know Josh?"

Eric was utterly confused.

Now that Courtney saw him stupefied, she suddenly felt a surge of anger within her. "Is that even important now? Do you want to call him to verify this?"

He was about to say something when Alexander shot him a look and interrupted in a low voice, "Stop the nonsense and bring the trash bin here."

Eric was stunned for yet another moment; it was only when he saw Alexander's terribly wounded arm that he returned to his senses. Then, he quickly brought the trash bin over.

The moment that the hydrogen peroxide was poured onto the wound, white bubbles emerged from the flesh as the remaining fluid dripped into the trash bin.

It looked extraordinarily painful, yet Alexander didn't even blink once and maintained his stare at Courtney, who was focused entirely on disinfecting the wounds for him.

Her eyebrows were knotted into a constant frown as she made no attempt to hide her displeasure and annoyance.

When Eric saw this scene, he felt that his scope had widened and that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to watch this rare sight.

"You have to change this every day." After Courtney tied the bandage, she directly instructed Eric without even looking at Alexander. "When Josh worked as Alexander's assistant, he was also the part-time nanny. Since you can't do that, at least take care of his health. If you want Alexander to have a longer lifespan, take him to the hospital to change the bandage and make sure that he eats at regular hours."

After observing the situation for a while, Eric knew what was going on and nodded profusely.

Then, he followed Courtney into the kitchen and took advantage of the loud water noise when she opened the tap. "What if President Duncan doesn't listen to me?" he asked softly.

"You should ask Josh about that."

"You really know him?" This had piqued Eric's interest. "What is your relationship with President Duncan? Why haven't I heard him mention you?"

"He has never mentioned me?" Courtney stopped washing her hands and raised her head to look at Eric.

"Not at all." Eric nodded seriously. "President Duncan doesn't have any woman by his side, hence all the entertainment magazines assume that he is gay."

Alexander was in the midst of wearing his clothes when he heard those words, which immediately caused him to frown. "Eric, if you don't want to work with me anymore, you can submit your resignation letter to human resources. I'm not deaf, you know."

Eric immediately blanched. "President Duncan, I'm saying that you are so disciplined. Ever since I started working for you, I have never seen you being involved with another woman, which made me extremely nervous."

"What are you nervous about?"

“Of course I would be nervous. What if the rumors of you being gay are true? In that case, I would be in danger, wouldn’t I?”

With that, silence fell on the entire apartment.

Alexander was green in the face as he blurted out, “Even if I’m gay, do you think I would have the hots for you just because you’re a man?”

With that question, the air seemed to have frozen.

Courtney looked at him with a conflicted expression and disbelief in her eyes.

Eric also realized that he had said the wrong thing, so his face turned as pale as a sheet of paper. Then, he made his escape. “President Duncan, um... I think I will make a U-turn downstairs first. You can have a chat with Dr. Hunter in the meantime.”

Alexander was already furious, yet Eric fled faster than a rabbit.

On the other hand, Courtney merely observed Eric’s panicked escape. Now that she compared him to Josh, she couldn’t tell whether these two were indeed related and she suddenly felt wistful.

Now that the newer employees had replaced the senior staff, it seemed that no one would be able to stay for long with Alexander from the beginning.

“What Eric said earlier was not true.”

“No?” A doubtful Courtney looked at him. “If it isn’t true, which media company would dare to take the risk of offending you to spread such lies?”

She was merely joking as she thought it would be entertaining to mistake Alexander, a straight man, as a gay person. However, she didn’t know that he couldn’t withstand such jokes, so his expression became even darker as he commented, “Others might not know the truth, but you know, don’t you?”

Courtney’s smile slowly stiffened on her face. Suddenly, she felt a lump in her throat and could not utter a word.

“The reason why I even allowed the media to spread those rumors is to reduce any unnecessary trouble,” Alexander explained seriously with a frown. “After Sunhill Enterprise and Duncan Group had merged into one and whereupon they entered the entertainment industry, the circle was simply too complicated. In order to prevent people from having thoughts that they shouldn’t have, it indeed saves me a lot of trouble if the media thinks that I’m gay.”

“You don’t have to explain that to me.”

Courtney avoided his gaze because his earlier words had reverberated in her ears and made her blush.

“I think it’s necessary.” Alexander looked at her. “Courtney, I have a question to ask. If I were to tell you that I haven’t forgotten about you all these years and never intended to let you go at that time, what would you do if I want us to have a fresh start now?”

His words sounded strong and firm.

However, Courtney's expression stiffened.

It was impossible for her to claim that she had never thought about him. However, for her to admit that she still harbored feelings for him, a tiny voice in her subconscious was warning her that it would be difficult to reconcile. After all, they had been in an on and off relationship many times before, yet each time never ended well. How many five years do we have in our lives to allow the wounds to heal?

"You are not the reason for my return." Even though her voice was not loud, her words were clearly enunciated in the quiet living room.

"Then, what about Jordan?" Alexander asked. "You have already been back for so long. Haven't you thought about visiting him?"

In the past, he had most despised it whenever others used children as an excuse to tie him down. In fact, he even felt displeased when Courtney always worried about their children and never prioritized herself. However, five years later, he realized that apart from Jordan, he had nothing else on the table to discuss with her.

At the mention of children, guilt flashed in Courtney's eyes. "He should be living a good life with you."

"If you haven't even seen him, how would you know that he's doing well or not?" Alexander slowly calmed down. "If you have the time, bring him out for a meal. Even though he hasn't mentioned you over the past few years, I know that he misses you."

She could not reject such a request from him.

The rain slowly subsided into drizzles after Alexander was gone.

The sudden storm had seemed to come with him and destroyed her originally peaceful life while wrecking havoc along the way.

It was a bright and sunny day the next morning. After Courtney reported her attendance, she wore the white robe and prepared to conduct her first morning round.

Starting from this week, it was her turn to head to the clinical laboratory to resume her shift. With that, her roundings could finally come to an official end.

"Courtney."

A voice rang from the door, which made the few interns in the room simultaneously raise their heads. Then, they saw an angry Linda standing by the door with a red, swollen face as she glanced at every one of them.

"Courtney Hunter, get out here."

Everyone's gazes fell on Courtney, who was holding a cup of coffee. When she turned and saw Linda's ferocious stare, her heart sank as she thought, Jesus.

After that, Linda almost pulled Courtney all the way to her office and slammed the door with a loud thud.

"Miss Hass, I still have to inspect the laboratories. What are you doing?"

“What am I doing? Don’t you already know it? Why don’t you tell me what kind of complaints you have lodged about me? Why did you intentionally frame me?”

I have way too many complaints about her, but I’m not an idiot to voluntarily tell her and make my life harder. “Since when have I framed you?”

“The lawyer went home last night to explain to his mother that he has no problem marrying me. What the hell is going on? You have three minutes to clearly explain everything to me.”

Courtney’s expression froze the moment she heard that.

One Night Surprise Chapter 439 Au Naturel

Linda was so furious that she trembled as she told Courtney the gist of what had happened; she even gestured and swore as she went along.

Although Courtney couldn’t really understand what was being said, she slowly began to comprehend the situation.

After she had finished watching the musical with Linda’s blind date, he had gone home to inform his mother that he was extremely satisfied with her and thought of her as a suitable candidate for marriage.

It was the mothers of the man and Linda who had arranged for the blind date. To them, as long as their children liked each other, there won’t be any issues in continuing with their relationship. Although the man had a certain level of authority in his family to express his opinions, Linda didn’t have such privilege.

Seeing that Linda was almost 30, Nurse Simmons was extremely anxious about Linda’s marriage. Finally, after all of the relatives managed to convince Linda, Linda finally relented and claimed that as long as the man fancied her, she wouldn’t have any further objections. It was only when Nurse Simmons heard those assurances that she finally heaved a sigh of relief. As Linda was her daughter after all, she didn’t take the matter lightly and chose Caleb after sieving through hundreds of options.

Linda had meant for Courtney to mess the blind date up so that the man would reject Linda. It was the only way in which she could get away with her authoritarian mother. “You even managed to confirm the marriage just after one date. Do you hold a grudge against me?”

“I swear!” Courtney raised her right hand in the direction of the sky as she deposed to the big man himself, “I already told your date that not only do I smoke, I love drinking and going to pubs. I was also once married with a kid in tow. Yet, he still thought that highly of me. Chief Hass, Nurse Simmons has found a man with the best temper and the most patience that I’ve seen. I don’t know what to do anymore.”

“Bullsh*t.” Linda became anxious again. “I don’t believe that a man in their right frame of mind would want to marry such a woman.”

“He really accepted the flaws, though.”

Once again, Linda appraised Courtney from head to toe. Then, she suddenly understood something and probed, "What did you wear that day? Did you put on some makeup? You had also dressed up, right?"

"I didn't even wash my hair and I had zero makeup on," an indignant Courtney replied.

Although Linda did not believe Courtney, it wasn't as if she could speak to the man to obtain the proof herself. Hence, she was beyond annoyed that she didn't follow them on their blind date, which would have prevented such a difficult position today from happening.

"I don't care! Since you went on the blind date, the woman he has fallen for is you. You have to resolve this problem for me."

Courtney was both exasperated and humored at the same time. "How do you want me to fix it? Do you want me to marry him on your behalf?"

"Pfft!" Linda glared at her. "Can you have better wishes for me, please? Do you really think I would marry him just because he has requested it? Since you are the root cause of this problem, you have to go out with him if he asks you out again in the future. I won't let this slide if you don't resolve it."

"Then, I'll inform Nurse Simmons that you have asked me to go on the date on your behalf."

"You—"

Courtney took the opportunity of Linda's preoccupation to open the door and fled the scene as fast as she could. Then, she told Linda from afar, "Chief Hass, I have a shift to attend to at the laboratory. I think you better come clean to her yourself."

It was actually a small matter, but since Linda had been tortured with the subject of marriage for such a long time, she no longer wanted to listen to Nurse Simmons nagging. That was the reason why she came up with such a childish idea.

Now that Courtney had evidence that Linda asked her to go on the blind date instead, she wasn't worried that Linda would pick on her.

However, after pondering on the matter, Courtney felt that it would be better if she totally avoided Linda for the time being, lest the woman obtain knowledge of any of her other vulnerable points. If that were to happen, it would be an unfortunate thing for Courtney.

Meanwhile, an undemanding meeting to utilize some of their workforce was held in the laboratory.

"The hospital will arrange for a few medical staff to visit several corporations and schools to perform health checks for them. Are there any volunteers?" The chief of the clinical laboratory, Chief Kenell, nudged her round glasses onto the bridge of her nose as she solemnly surveyed the crowd.

"Me." Courtney raised her hand without any hesitation to participate in the said activity.

She couldn't wait to conduct field tasks outside the hospital to avoid Linda and creating further problems.

In the end, Chief Kenell appointed five people for the task. “The specifics of the team formation will be announced before the end of your shift today. When that happens, gather at the hospital entrance and just follow your team when they leave.”

When Courtney heard her instructions, she tentatively asked, “Will the chiefs of each department be tagging along?”

Chief Kenell shot her a glance. “They are all busy with their surgeries, so they won’t have the time to follow you guys. What you need to perform for the health checks are relatively simple, so apart from some doctors from the clinical laboratory, the rest are merely nurses and interns.”

She immediately heaved a sigh of relief. This means that Linda won’t be coming.

...

On the other hand, in front of a random meeting room in Sunhill Enterprise, a secretary stopped Kelly from entering the said room.

“Miss Yves, President Duncan is having a meeting inside. You really can’t enter the room.”

“What do you mean by that? Are you new here? Don’t you know that I’m from the board of directors? Is there any company meeting that I can’t join in?”

The conflicted secretary elaborated, “Miss Yves, I’ve been working here for more than four years now. I was already here when our company merged with the Hunter Group, so please don’t give me a hard time.”

Kelly raised her chin slightly, looking especially haughty when she did so. “So what if you have already been working here for four years? You are just a secretary, aren’t you? Are you blind or something? Don’t you know who the hell I am?”

“Of course I know who you are. You just said so yourself—you are one of the directors.”

Ever since Sunhill Enterprise had merged with the Hunter Group, the Hunter Group had sold most of their shares to the former for the entire shares to be reallocated. However, the chairman of Hunter Group—that would be Susan—and her family members refused to sell their shares. In the end, they relied on the tactic of taking Sunhill Enterprise’s bonus shares before the merger was completed.

Although the secretary was still polite to Kelly, she did not move an inch away from the door that she had been guarding.

Now that Kelly looked at her, she was indeed a familiar face. “What’s your name? You aren’t Alexander’s secretary, are you?”

“Oh, you don’t have to say something like that. The entire enterprise belongs to him, so it doesn’t matter whose secretary I am.” With that, the woman gave a slight smile as she humbly continued, “You are right, right. I’m Young President Duncan’s secretary and my last name is Somerfield.”

The moment Kelly heard the reply, she immediately frowned. With a conflicted expression, she mumbled, “No wonder you’re stopping me!”

Just as she said those words under her breath, another secretary approached with some snacks and advised in a friendly voice, "President Duncan's meeting will last for a while longer. Why don't you wait at the guest room instead? I will inform you immediately once he is done with the meeting."

After Kelly had been convinced to leave, Kate heaved a sigh at the other secretary standing guard with her in front of the meeting room.

"Katie, why did you go against Miss Yves? It's not a big deal for her to join the meeting as she is part of the board of directors after all."

Kate frowned after hearing those words. "She's part of the Yves Family and they shouldn't have been a part of the board in the first place."

"Oh, I can't believe that you would dare to make such comments, but I guess it's understandable, seeing that you are the aunt of Young President Duncan. The rest of us wouldn't even dare to stop her now that the entire company is suggesting that it's possible for a marriage to happen between the Duncan Family and the Yves Family. Look at how often she comes to the company nowadays."

A condescending expression appeared on Kate's face as she watched Kelly resting in the guest room. "Even if she comes here so often that she might injure her legs, that would still be impossible."

One Night Surprise Chapter 440 He Is Just a Child

A couple of buses were parked in front of Melrose City Hospital on the day that they were sent to conduct the health checks. Courtney stood at the entrance along with other interns as they gathered there. Another post-graduate student by the name of Celia Lyons, who was pursuing her doctorate under Linda the cardiologist, ended up being in the same team as Courtney. The moment Celia saw Courtney, she ran over to Courtney to greet her.

"Courtney, I'm on the same team as you."

Courtney smiled warmly; it was like how a senior would behave. "It's quite exhausting to conduct health checks on the field. What's there to be happy about?"

"No matter how tiring it is, it won't be as tiring as learning from Dr. Hass."

Then, Celia imitated how Linda usually pulled a long face whenever she lectured her students. In a low voice, Celia spoke, "The sutures that you guys have done is worse than what the veterinarian did for a pig. By the time you're capable enough to perform surgery in the operating theater, the number of patients waiting would be so long that the entire hospital would be flooded..."

It's quite similar!

Courtney tried to suppress her laughter. After all, she was only a few years older than the interns, so it wouldn't be a good example if she joked around with them. Apart from that, she even reminded Celia, "And you even dare to imitate her in such a loud voice? Aren't you worried that I might tell Dr. Hass about this?"

“Hehe! Nope.” Celia had a mysterious look as she continued speaking in a low voice, “We all know that you have been avoiding Dr. Hass for the past few days. As soon as we came out from the laboratory, I even saw her looking for you everywhere. I bet she has been so worried about her blind date that she didn’t see the list of people who were sent to do the health checks outdoors.”

“What?” A nervous Courtney looked around. “You didn’t tell her, did you?”

“Of course not.” Celia giggled. “I told her that the clinical laboratory has been busy lately, so another department chief might ask you to help out.”

When Courtney heard that, she was impressed and complimented, “I bet you will be one of the earliest interns to be able to perform a surgery.”

“That aside, I’m more curious about the reason why Dr. Hass has been looking for you every day in the hospital.”

“Um, about this... If I don’t tell you the reason, she will continue to look for me all over the hospital, but if I tell you about it, once she catches hold of me, she might attack me with two scalpels.”

Celia’s eyes widened. “You’re only making me even more curious.”

Courtney was well known in the hospital for having her lips sealed. Otherwise, Linda wouldn’t be causing trouble for her. Even though Celia had pestered Courtney throughout the entire journey, she didn’t spill the beans whatsoever.

After the bus came to a stop, their team leader asked everyone to exit the vehicle and move the apparatus. As soon as Courtney steered clear of Celia, who was still bombarding her with questions, what greeted her after she got off the bus left her stunned.

The huge golden words of ‘Sunhill Enterprise’ gleamed brightly on the top of the tower. As everyone stood in front of the tower’s entrance, it was beyond obvious what this had meant.

There are so many corporations and hospitals in Melrose City. On top of that, there are also a lot of medical employees in the hospital. Out of all these possibilities, I landed on the smallest possibility ever. What the hell is this?

Since they had already arrived at the entrance, Courtney could not possibly leave. Hence, she merely gritted her teeth and followed the crowd into the tower. Since we are here to do health checks for new employees, it’s quite unlikely that I will meet Alexander here. With that thought in mind, she heaved a sigh.

Sunhill Enterprise had arranged for them to perform the health checks in a gym located on the fifth floor that spanned several regions. The employees undergoing health checks all held pamphlets that described today’s activity as they waited in separate lines to check different parts of their body.

As Courtney had been sent over by the clinical laboratory, she stayed in the room that extracted blood samples.

For a huge corporation like Sunhill Enterprise, the turnover rate for the entry-level employees was extremely high. Hence, whenever it was the hiring season around May or June, a huge bunch of employees would start working for the company.

There were two representatives from Sunhill Enterprise in the room; they looked as if they had been sent here to supervise the progress of the said health checks. As they casually chatted to each other, Courtney overheard their conversation while she prepared the equipment to extract the blood samples.

“The fresh graduates nowadays are so different from us. Back then, as soon as we graduated, we had no idea what the corporate world looked like and were more than satisfied at being able to nail a job.”

“I know, right? I’ve taken a look at the list of employees for this year. Nine out of ten of them are being recommended internally. Four of them have already been introduced by Director Yves. Do you know I’m able to spot them?”

“How?”

“It’s through their resumes. They are all graduates from unknown universities abroad. It was beyond obvious that they bought their certificates with money. Perhaps it’s also because I’m a busybody; I asked other secretaries a few questions and learned that Director Yves was the one putting them there.”

“I thought she never participates in the meeting that the board of directors organizes?”

“It’s because Director Yves has never dealt with company matters, which is why she acts haughtily as if she’s an experienced director. Since it’s rather rare for her to make such requests, President Duncan only approved it to maintain her dignity.”

Courtney was speechless upon hearing that. I’ve never seen Alexander maintaining the dignity of anyone from the board of directors, and I wonder who this Director Yves is.

As she thought about what they had said, those two people suddenly lowered their voices. Since Courtney was placing all the equipment on the table, she was quite close to them in distance and could clearly hear their conversation.

“So, are all those rumors in the company true? Is Chairman Yves’ niece really going to marry President Duncan for real?”

A shocked Courtney was in the midst of setting up the equipment and paused for a second before she looked in their direction. However, they were completely oblivious to her reaction and continued their conversation in excitement.

“Haven’t you seen how often Miss Yves visits our company? She would stay in the president’s office for the entire afternoon every time she comes. In my opinion, their marriage is somewhat almost confirmed.”

“I heard that Miss Somerfield from the secretary department has been denying it. Judging from her tone, she seems to hate Miss Yves a lot and Young President Duncan doesn’t seem to like Miss Yves either.”

“Well, that’s without a doubt, of course. Let alone Young President Duncan, any other kid wouldn’t want their dad to look for a stepmother for them. On top of that, he is a precocious kid, so he must have seen his fair share of internal arguments among the rich families. Think about it—if his stepmother gives birth to younger siblings, he would have to split the inheritance with them.”

“He’s only twelve. I don’t think he would think about that.”

“So what if he’s only twelve? Haven’t you seen him lecturing other employees in the office? He is almost exactly like President Duncan, albeit a younger version only. Actually, I would think that he is even colder than President Duncan himself. Two days ago, Young President Duncan caught me being careless and he almost fired me on the spot. Since he doesn’t have a mother, I think he has been raised to be a robot who excels at business but an unkind person. If he already behaves like this at such an age, it remains to be seen when he is an adult.”

Courtney finally couldn’t stand listening to the conversation anymore and placed the equipment in her hand on the table as she demanded in a low voice, “He is just a kid. How could you say such things about him?”

The two women who were engaged in the conversation froze. The woman discussing Jordan’s behavior raised her head and shot a glance at Courtney. Although Courtney was slightly guilty when she saw the glare, the said woman still stood her ground.

“What are you talking about? Have we said anything wrong? This is the Sunhill Enterprise, not your hospital, so you should stay out of our business.”

With a stony expression, Courtney retorted, “You are the one who made those mistakes to begin with. What is wrong with your boss lecturing you? You insisted on making a big deal out of other people’s age. An employee like you who gossips around should have been fired a long time ago.”

Even if they were in the full view of others, Courtney didn’t even spare some respect for the other woman in her ruthless retort. Everyone else was stunned as a result, not comprehending what had just happened.

However, the woman became anxious when she heard Courtney retaliating. “Hey, who are you to say this about me? Who the hell—”

Before the woman could even finish her sentence, her companion next to her pulled her back and said in a fluster, “Miss Gibson, stop making a scene now. Otherwise, other people will hear about this.”