

The Epic BD 211

Chapter 211 We Finally Meet Once More (2)

Holland could no longer hold back. "You are an adult woman. How can you have less self-control than Caroline? She even knew to keep quiet during breakfast out of respect for you, to keep the peace. She knows the importance of a family's harmony. Must you turn this family on its head?"

Britney might have the guts to shout at Lawrence, but she would never dare retort to Holland. No matter how upset she was, she did not dare to say another word.

"Did something happen that I don't know about?" Lawrence was a smart man. Naturally, he noticed something was off. He had also guessed that Alice was involved in some way.

However, he did not realize the actual severity of the situation. Perhaps it was because he was unable to imagine something that serious.

He tentatively asked Britney, "Did you and Alice fight?"

In his mind, that was the worst-case scenario.

That was because fights were rare in the Knight Residence, even though Holland screamed and shouted at times.

Marie was a gentle woman with a calming temper who was also very laid-back. She never once reprimanded her daughters-in-law, let alone fight with them.

After what happened last night, she did not scold or lecture Britney that harshly either. She merely spoke to Britney calmly and factually.

"Alice is still a child. Why are you angry with a child?" Lawrence truly saw Alice as one of his

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"All of you are on her side. I did all that for Ethan's sake! Was I wrong? I did not do anything wrong. You're the ones who threw away his happiness all for some gratitude!" His words had prompted Britney to burst out once more.

"Ethan married her willingly. No one forced him to do anything. It was entirely his choice. You keep saying you're doing this for him, but have you asked him what he wants? We do not believe in authoritarian, tyrannical parenting in this household. We never force our kids to do anything they don't like. When Lawrence chose to venture into business, I respected his decision. Do you think this family needs to sacrifice the happiness of our children just to pay back a debt?" Holland was a hot-tempered man in the first place. Hence, Britney's attitude utterly infuriated him.

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How did it end up being painted as the family sacrificing Ethan's happiness?

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"Ethan would never have married her if not for Caroline!" Her wholehearted belief in that very opinion had intensified her dissatisfaction with the marriage.

Ethan finally turned around to look at her. His lips twitched as he replied with two simple words, "I would."

He did not speak all that loudly, but he had spoken with so much resolution that it was impossible to doubt or question his belief.

She stared at him in shock. "How can it be? If not for Caroline, you would not even have known Alice. Also, with how Alice is, how could you even like her?"

"My marriage to her had nothing to do with Caroline. If I must name Caroline's involvement in this, I can only say that she is an excuse that I used to get Alice to marry me. If not for Caroline, she would never have married me." He might look calm when he said that, but the way he enunciated every single word conveyed a strong sense of determination and

seriousness.

"Impossible. How can that be? How could you and Alice." She could not accept or believe it. at all.

Even Holland and Lawrence were surprised by his declaration. They had always thought Ethan had married Alice because of Caroline.

"In reality, I forced Alice to marry me using Caroline while you..... While Ethan did not finish his sentence, his message was clear to all.

Lawrence's face twitched, but he did not say anything. He had now realized how serious the situation was.

"You should get back to your tasks, Ethan," Holland said. His heart ached for what Ethan was going through.

He did not understand the situation before, but after Ethan's declaration, he understood just how important Alice had been to Ethan.

Ethan did not come home last night. Only when it was noon did he finally return. He must have been searching for Alice the entire time.

When he noticed one obvious fact, he unwittingly blurted out, "You've been searching all night and all morning. Have you not found her yet?"

Ethan's face visibly darkened as his brows furrowed. He did not reply.

Still, Holland knew the answer. "No way," he exclaimed.

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Chapter 212 We Finally Meet Once More (3)

The reporter had asked another question. "Mr. West, which company do you plan on joining in
Rodcaster?"

In the stream, Tanner replied, "Uncertain for now."

This is the man you asked Ethan to headhunt?" Holland asked, looking down at the image of Tanner on
the phone.

"Yes. That's him" Lawrence had been successfully distracted by the change of subject.

After a few seconds of staring down at the phone, Holland sighed in admiration. "What a beautiful
child."

From what he said next, it was evident that he thinks Tanner was more than beautiful. "What a noble
countenance. He exudes an aura of confidence and integrity. His gaze is determined yet clear and
innocent. He's a good kid."

Those aren't the main reasons. He is a truly talented man. Look, here is some of the information I dug up
on him." Lawrence had thoroughly investigated Tanner beforehand. After all, he planned to hire Tanner
to be a very important member of the company.

Holland accepted the document and briefly scanned it. Admiration visibly shone on his face before he
eventually heaved a gentle sigh. "Still, he's not from our family. If one of our children could be as
talented in business as he is, you wouldn't have to worry so much about the company."

"Right? Ethan is a genius, but he is not at all interested in the business. I had been waiting for his wife to
help out with the company." This was a plan in the making for years.

"Alice isn't bad, but she's a little too foolish. If you let her take charge of the company by herself, she
might be able to handle it. Why not hire Tanner West to help her? It's not impossible." Holland's
suggestion was very sensible.

Alice was Ethan's wife-even though she was certainly a little dumb.

Still, Holland had accepted her.

He had no choice.

“Alice is not dumb...” Lawrence had subconsciously spoken up to defend her.

“Is that so? Why else would she help that brat from the Yeager Family? Holland snorted. “Don’t tell me those are just rumors. If there are rumors, that means she

Lawrence frowned. He had always found the case of her stealing company secrets a little peculiar

From what he knew of her, she would never have done something like thi

Holland continued, “How can you say she’s not dumb? Ethan is such an amazing man, yet she doesn’t like him. She leaves the moment we tell her to I say she is dumber than rocks

Lawrence was stunned by that statement. Then, he burst out chuckling. How is she stupid just because she doesn’t like Ethan? Perhaps, Ethan just isn’t her cup of tea”

“What’s so bad about Ethan? Which field does he not excel in? She doesn’t even spare him a glance. What does she even want? Holland was not happy with that. In his eyes, Ethan was the best man around. In fact, Ethan was better than Holland’s two sons.

Lawrence had to bite back his laughter as he listened. “No matter how good he is, she doesn’t like him. She leaves at the drop of a hat without hesitation.”

Holland loudly huffed. “That’s why she’s a fool. She’s as dumb as a doorknob.”

“Dad, are you unhappy with how foolish she is or are you angry because she left!” expected of Lawrence, he instantly saw through to the source of Holland’s frustration

“That’s none of your concern” He was now angry due to how his thoughts had been exposed. To your job first. This Tanner West doesn’t look like he’s easy to hire. You would likely have to put in some effort”

“Yes I had planned to ask Ethan to do it. After all, they’re around the same age. It would be less awkward for them to talk. However, since Ethan has something to do, I’ll just convince Tanner myself” Lawrence honestly declared.

“All talented men have their own egos. Do not be angry if he refuses your offer. Rome wasn’t built in a day Approach him a few times to let him know your sincerity Holland might have an explosive temper, but he was never a bully

“I understand. I will find a way to get him into the company” The moment Lawrence made up his mind, he would never give up easily.

“Talents like him are the rarest of all Holland sighed once more “Ethan is not interested in the business, and now we clearly can’t even depend on him to find a wife. If Ethan’s kids. wind up inheriting Alice’s intelligence, the future.

“You’re thinking too far ahead, Dad. They’ll find their own way” Lawrence interrupted.

I'm just telling you what I think. You listen to me when I speak. Don't interrupt. Do you think I don't know that they will find their own way? I have a great-granddaughter now, but when will I have a great-grandson? Holland merely wanted to ruminate on fanciful wishes.

With Caroline hanging onto his every word, there were certain wishes he did not dare to voice out.

James has a great-grandson! I don't know what he did to be blessed with such an amazing great-grandson." Holland pursed his lips. While he was reluctant to say so, he still had to admit it. That child is as amazing as Ethan when he was a little boy."

"Your mom and I went to the Rowland Residence to see that boy. He's so very cute, considerate, lovable, and respectful. He's also very, very smart. Say, why is a boy like that one of the Rowlands? Why can't he be a Knight?" Holland was swimming in jealousy.

"Dad, there's no point being envious of that," Lawrence had no choice but to interrupt Holland once more.

"Of course, I know that. I was looking forward to Ethan siring a child so that I could compete with James. Now that he has married Alice, the child will surely lose in terms of intelligence. That boy is simply a genius. You would love him as soon as you see him." It was clear that Holland was particularly fond of Apollo.

"No matter how great he is, he's not part of this family. I much prefer my own grandchild," Lawrence declared, showing no signs of envy or jealousy.

"That's because you haven't met him yet. Holland rolled his eyes before pulling out his phone. "Come. Let me show you some photos and videos of him."

While Lawrence might have declared that he only liked Coraline, Holland had already pulled up the video of the boy. It would be in bad taste for him to not watch, so he forced himself to look.

He had only planned on casually watching, but a few seconds into the video, he was hooked. That boy is so handsome. One look and I can tell he's a smart boy. What a cute child."

"Would I ever lie to you?" Holland proudly huffed.

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Lawrence watched the video for a few minutes before suddenly asking. "Dad, don't you think that the boy looks kind of like Ethan when he was a kid?"

Holland froze for a moment before letting out a loud shout. "Hey! You were just lecturing me about this before. I think you're the shameless one between us. Yes, the boy is adorable. Still, no matter how much you like him, Apollo is not part of our family. What's this? Are you going to steal him so that he's one of us?"

"No, that's not it. I merely think he looks like Ethan when he was a kid, especially his eyes. Look closely at those eyes, Dad. Don't they look like Ethan's?" Lawrence asked, pointing to the video of Apollo.

Something flashed in Holland's eyes, and he solemnly examined the video. "Now that you mention it, they do look quite similar."

"Right? I told you so," Lawrence added emphatically.

"Enough. Stop dreaming. While the boy's eyes do look like Ethan's, that's all there is. It's normal for people to look similar to each other. Also, he looks very much like Keith. They even had a DNA paternity test done. Go back to where you came from. Stop daydreaming." Holland's jealousy only grew stronger now that Lawrence pointed out the similarity.

"I never said he's ours. I just said he looks like Ethan. Keith's son could never magically transform into Ethan's son." Lawrence paused and abruptly asked, "Isn't Keith single? Where did the boy come from?"

"It must have been the girl he was dating a few years ago. They must not have known about the baby back then because they had only just found him. The Rowlands didn't say too much about it. They didn't even tell us anything about the mother. I didn't ask any further, but I think that must have been what happened. Holland did ask about the mother during yesterday's visit, but James had promised Apollo to stay silent on the subject.

"That's bad. If Ethan had done that, I would have broken his leg. Lawrence might believe in letting others do as they pleased, but he was a strict man when it comes to certain issues.

"You wish. Too bad, you're not that lucky. If Ethan does something wrong, I'll disown him at most. Either way, I would accept a great-grandson this amazing into the family" Jealousy gnawed at Holland. "You should have seen him with your own eyes. He's so very lovable. Even though I know he's not one of ours, I could still feel my heart melting into a puddle."

"We'll ask Alice and Ethan to have another baby once Ethan finds her." Lawrence said as a way to reassure Holland and also as a way to declare his stance on the matter.

Holland let out a chain of heavy sighs. "If Alice is able to give the family a child this amazing, I am fine with handing over the entire family to her."

He said that because he was sure Alice could never give birth to a child this great.

Of course, he still hoped that Alice could do so.

If she could do so, then handing control of the entire family over to her was equivalent to handing over the family to his amazing great-grandson. There was nothing wrong with that.

Alice might not be that capable, but he would be okay with it if his great-grandson were.

Holland knew that it was only a scenario that could exist in his dreams, but he wanted to indulge in it. With her intelligence, he was dreaming of the impossible.

"I truly wish to hand the company to Alice, though." That was Lawrence's plan. If Ethan would not take over, Alice would have to do it.

Holland pursed his lips. "You'll need to spend around a decade teaching her to see if she's capable first. You also need someone like Tanner West to help you. Otherwise, she'll bankrupt the company."

While Lawrence did not want to argue with his father, he did not agree with Holland's opinion at all. "She's not as bad as you think."

"Her intelligence is a fatal flaw. It cannot be made up for. Our children are all clever kids. We did not have to work too hard on raising the kids, so you think it's easy to teach kids. That's because you have never met an idiot like her. She would have you worried to death. I warn you, don't dream big dreams." Holland sighed and shook his head. "Talent is especially important in business. No one can excel unless they're good at it, so what about someone less intelligent like Alice?"

"I've looked into her. When she was in charge of the Woland Group, the company did quite well. Every project they started and finished within those 7 years made a profit. Not even we could do that." Lawrence had evidently done his research.

Holland was stunned and visibly shocked. "Someone must have been helping her."

Lawrence's investigation had certainly revealed a person like that. "Yes, but her talent made someone willing to do their all in helping her."

"That's why if you want to hand the company over to her, you must also hire Tanner West. Then, Alice will be in charge in name only. That's probably what happened in the Woland Group." Holland might be rash at times, but he had a sharp mind and was very perceptive.

Lawrence did not say anything in response this time since that was exactly what his investigation into the Woland Group had revealed.

During those 7 years, Alice never did anything in the Woland Group. Everything was decided by that one talented person.

"Enough. Let's leave it at that." The look in Lawrence's eyes told Holland he had been right. "Don't have too high hopes for Alice. Lower it down to average. After all, with what she's starting out with, you can't expect too much from her."

He then paused and sighed once more. "After all, not everyone can be a genius like Tanner West. Someone like him is one in a million."

Holland recognized talented people when he saw them and knew to cherish them. Otherwise, the Knights would not have grown as powerful as they had.

"I know. I'll introduce myself to him now. I'll go personally. Tanner must work for us." Lawrence agreed with Holland. He, too, was afraid that someone might steal Tanner from under their noses.

After a moment of hesitation, Holland said. "Restrict yourself when it comes to your wife. Alice was considerate enough to not hold it against her. If it were anyone else, who knows what would happen then? If a fight truly broke out, the Knight Family's reputation would inevitably be stained with the adjected 'ungrateful.'"

"I'll take care of it." Lawrence knew his wife was wrong in this matter, but as a man, he had a duty to protect her.

Chapter 214 We Finally Meet Once More (5)

"I am responsible for this," said Lawrence. Although he knew it was Britney's fault, he needed to protect her since she was his wife.

"Yeah, just protect her like you always do. This is why she's utterly spoiled rotten." Holland glared.

Lawrence was dissatisfied by Holland's reaction and retorted, "If Mom is the one who did it, you—"

The Knights had always been known to be protective over their loved ones, especially men in the Knight Family. They would do anything to protect their beloved wives.

Thus, before Lawrence could finish his words, Holland snapped, "You b*stard! How dare you say such nonsense? Your mother would never do such a thing! I suppose I have been too nice to you recently for you to act so ill-mannered toward her!"

He wouldn't let Lawrence get away with this easily, especially when it involved Marie.

"How can Britney be compared to Marie? Don't you know what kind of a woman you have brought back to this house? Are you blind by the things she did back in the day? Your mother said nothing since she is kind-hearted, yet your wife kept pushing her luck. Ever since she had been in the Knight Family, she failed to be well-mannered. Instead, all she learned to do is to abuse her power." Holland had never talked to Lawrence about this since he wanted to keep the peace in the family. Regardless, since such an incident happened, he felt the need to talk it out, continuing. "Don't compare your wife to mine. She is not even worthy to be compared to Alice. Although Alice is a fool, she knows not to cause trouble. The family was still living peacefully when she was around," he added.

Lawrence couldn't find the chance to speak and was forced to listen to Holland's scolding,

"I'm done. I see no point in continuing this discussion. Now, it's up to you to handle this," Holland huffed angrily as he left the room.

Finally, it's over! Lawrence breathed a sigh of relief.

Although Holland had just reprimanded him, he did not dare to express his dissatisfaction. Rather, he immediately got to business and told his men to investigate Tanner's whereabouts so he could meet the latter in person.

Since Tanner did not bother to hide his arrival at Rodcaster, Lawrence soon got the address of Tanner's hotel.

"We are not going to the same place," replied Ethan without even asking where Lawrence was heading.

Lawrence knew Ethan well, so he knew how to persuade him. "I know you are in a hurry to see Alice. I know some things about Alice since she has been staying in the Knight Residence for quite some time. Maybe I can help you."

Just as he expected, Ethan froze on the spot, falling for his bait. At the same time, the driver parked the car in front of them. So, Lawrence took the initiative to open the car door and said, "Shall we?"

Eventually, Ethan got into the car after a brief moment of hesitation.

Lawrence sneaked a glance at Ethan's gloomy expression and immediately figured out that his son had received less-than-satisfied results. Yet, he still decided to add some salt to the wound, commenting. "Do you still not have any news about her? You have been searching for her for a long time."

Ethan glanced at him but said nothing.

Lawrence twitched his lips and mumbled disparagingly, "Frankly, with this personality of yours, it's no wonder Alice decided to leave you."

"Are you trying to take your frustration out on me because Grandpa scolded you?" As Ethan wasn't in the best of moods, he saw no point in playing the 'nice' son toward Lawrence today.

Lawrence couldn't help but feel as though those words had pierced him right through the heart, but he couldn't possibly scold Ethan as how Holland did to him. Thus, he stopped teasing Ethan and became serious. "Do you know any places that Alice would usually be?"

Ethan blinked in bewilderment at Lawrence's shift in mood. Nonetheless, he didn't answer. Although he did know some of the places Alice would usually frequent, he only learned about them after he started an investigation on the woman.

"Do you know what kind of things she likes? Clothes, bags, makeup products, her favorite food, or even the things she likes to do. Do you know any of that?" Lawrence continued probing.

At first, Ethan was at a loss for words. However, the more Lawrence bombarded him with inquiries, the colder Ethan's expression became.

When Lawrence saw his expression, he was shocked. "Don't tell me you are utterly clueless about it! Son, I think you are destined to be alone."

"I thought you were here to help me." Ethan was upset.

This time, Lawrence was truly dumbfounded. He looked at Ethan in disbelief and remarked.

Ethan's expression turned dark the very next second. "Stop the car," he said. I knew I shouldn't have believed in his words. I would rather look for more clues than hear him blabbering non-stop. thought Ethan.

"Control your temper, Ethan. No wonder Alice doesn't like you," Lawrence advised the man before adding, "I once saw her looking through some medical books."

Although he treated Alice like his own child, he couldn't very well spy on her since she was his daughter-in-law. Still, he did occasionally pay close attention to her.

Although Ethan had never seen Alice looking through medical books, he knew what she was doing. "She's doing that because of her brother."

"Pierce?" Lawrence was surprised. "What happened to him? I heard he has suddenly gone berserk on the Wolands and made them leave the company. Moreover, he even kicked them out of the house. He did all of it in one go, which is incredible. After all, not many people in the business industry can be as fast and precise as he did. I have to admit, Pierce is definitely not an ordinary man."

“He has been in a coma since the car accident seven years ago. I found a doctor for him. recently. I hope he’ll regain consciousness soon,” said Ethan.

“You did well. Lawrence sighed softly. “I can’t believe Alice...” Suddenly, he stopped talking. and was confused as he looked at Ethan. “Wait. Did you just say that Pierce is in a coma? Then... Who is the one that did those things to the Wolands?”

“It’s Alice,” Ethan replied without hesitation.

Ethan was startled when those words naturally fell from his lips. When things happened in the Woland Family, his first instinct was that the mastermind behind it all was none other than Alice as he knew that Pierce was in a coma. Thus, his so-called entrustment was not valid. Moreover, he knew that Alice had done a DNA test after what happened on Charles’ birthday, and he could guess what the result was. Hence, what Alice did to the Woland. Family was reasonable.

To be honest, he had been paying very close attention to the Woland Family since he had the mind to help Alice finish off the Woland Family if she couldn’t handle the matter well. To his surprise, Alice exceeded his expectations, and there was nothing else he could do. Thus, he decided to throw the Woland Family to the back of his mind right after he heard about their downfall.

Chapter 215 We Finally Meet Once More (6)

Suddenly, Ethan thought of something-Pierce’s fingerprints on the agreements. He remembered that experts claimed the fingerprints were recently imprinted on the documents. But he was well aware that Pierce was in Cliaria. Thus, one would need to go to Cliaria to get those fingerprints, and Alice would definitely do it herself since it was such an important thing.

Then, he recalled Alice’s disappearance at such a crucial time. His men had never found traces of her leaving Rodcaster, and he believed that when he saw her leave Galerprises. However, now that he thought about it. Alice had indeed left Rodcaster and been to Cliaria during those two days. The problem was that he needed help to figure out how she managed to avoid his men and leave without a trace. Moreover, why couldn’t he find any clues about her departure?!

On the other hand, Lawrence was surprised by Ethan’s confidence in saying that Alice was the mastermind behind it all. He genuinely wondered if Ethan had been blinded by love. Lawrence liked Alice, but he had never considered her capable of pulling such a power move. Moreover, not many people were capable of executing such a plan flawlessly. When he first heard about the Wolands, he wanted to find ways to help her out but soon noticed that there was nothing more he could do.

Thus, Lawrence didn’t feel that Alice could be the one behind this, at least not by herself. “Ethan, I think you might not know Alice well. About the Woland Family...”

“Say, Dad, under what circumstances will one be able to leave Rodcaster and fly to Cliaria without any trace?” Ethan really couldn’t figure it out.

“That’s not possible. If you want to fly to Cliaria from Rodcaster, you have to take the plane, and the airport will surely have records of the individual’s trip. Plus, with your capability, you should be able to find where that person would be going even if they were to take a private plane. There’s no way they

could disappear out of thin air like that.” Lawrence didn’t understand why Ethan had suddenly changed the topic.

A glint flashed across Ethan’s eyes. “But what if I can’t find anything?”

Once Lawrence saw that Ethan wasn’t fooling around, he started to analyze the situation. “If they didn’t board a private plane, then there are only two circumstances. First, that person has never left Rodcaster in the first place. Secondly, they managed to change their identity. However, the rules are strict nowadays, so you can’t leave with a fake passport. Lawrence looked at him and added, “So, it’s highly likely that it’s the first situation.”

Does that mean Alice has used another identity to leave Rodcaster? Ethan frowned. But Dad’s right, though. The airport has been very strict recently, so she won’t be able to get past the gate with a fake ID. Still, if she were to leave with a different identity, that means the ID is legal. More importantly, the picture on the ID is truly herself. This doesn’t make any sense. After all, no one can have two different IDs with the same face! Unless... She had undergone plastic surgery. Yet, Alice has only left for two days, and she was still the same as ever when she returned!

While Ethan was deep in thought, Lawrence saw him frowning and asked, “What’s wrong? Did you encounter some trouble? Did some dangerous person escape without a trace?”

“It’s Alice.” Ethan looked at Lawrence. “A few days ago, she disappeared out of the blue. I searched for her high and low for two days and found no trace of her leaving Rodcaster. But I am certain that she has indeed left and gone to Cliaria.”

“Alice” Lawrence blinked in confusion.

“How do you think she did it? Ethan demanded as he turned to Lawrence.

Lawrence burst out laughing and replied, “That’ll only happen if she turns into a bird.” He didn’t mean to joke at a time like this, but what Ethan was implying was insane.

Ethan’s eyes darkened when he heard Lawrence’s answer. After all, he merely decided to throw the question to Lawrence since he didn’t know the answer. Yet, it seemed that Lawrence was equally in the dark about this.

“I think you might be overthinking it, Ethan. Alice is just a normal girl. Don’t think of her like those rivals of yours.” Lawrence felt that Ethan’s imaginations were absurd. “I know you are anxious since you can’t find her. It’s normal, so you don’t need to overthink it. We need to be realistic and stop making excuses. Maybe it’s because you didn’t look for her hard enough, Lawrence intoned thoughtfully.

Ethan glanced at Lawrence and said nothing. After all, he himself had no idea what was driving him to think this way, so there was no way he could explain his thoughts to someone else.

“Calm down, Ethan. Just relax,” Lawrence said earnestly.

Nevertheless, Ethan ignored him and instructed the driver. “Stop the car at the front.”

“You can’t just run away from your problems, Ethan. You have to face it.” Lawrence felt Ethan had gotten himself bent out of shape and was pursuing a dead end. He wondered if Ethan had placed himself under pressure since he couldn’t find Alice. Thus, he suggested carefully, I’m planning on

meeting Tanner. Do you want to tag along? After all, you guys might have some things to discuss since you are both youngsters.”

“Are you sure about that?” Ethan shot a bland look at Lawrence.

Lawrence didn't say anything. After all, he knew Ethan like the back of his hand. Considering how reserved and quiet Ethan was, he barely had any connections with anyone within his social circle.

Just come with me. It won't take long. Plus, not only did Alice stay in Cliaria for some time, Tanner did too. Didn't she say that she knew him? Who knows? Maybe you might be able to find some clues if you visit him.” Lawrence was trying his best to persuade Ethan to tag along.

Initially, Ethan had no intention of accompanying Lawrence. But he changed his mind the moment he heard that Alice was familiar with Tanner. “Alright. I'll go.”

“Excellent. I'm certain that things will surely go well now that I have you coming along.” Lawrence knew how capable Ethan was. Although he was a man with few words, he would always get what he wanted. Otherwise, Lawrence wouldn't have persuaded him into meeting Tanner in the first place.

Lawrence suddenly felt an idea forming in his mind and decided to toss this matter to Ethan instead. Besides, he was ready to retire at any time now that Ethan was an adult. So, he mused, “Since you'll be tagging along, why don't you take over the reins for today's discussion?”

Chapter 216 Ethan Had Found Out (1)

Lawrence immediately thought about delegating the job to Ethan and asked, “Since you're coming along, why don't you handle this matter? You can be in charge!

“You should handle it yourself. I'm only accompanying you since I have something else in mind Ethan clearly showed no interest in this matter. The only reason he agreed to go was because Alice had mentioned knowing Tanner. In fact, he distinctly remembered that Alice had implied she had seen Tanner's interview online. Alice knew Tanner, but Tanner definitely wouldn't know Alice. He was well aware that it was impossible to find out anything about Alice from Tanner.

Thus, he didn't know why he impulsively agreed to his father's proposal just now. But since he had already informed his father he would be attending, he couldn't back out now. Plus, going over to take a look wouldn't take up a lot of his time anyway. At this point, after he had spent two days and nights searching for Alice, he was now quite certain that she had gone to Cliaria. So, he made a call to Zayn.

Zayn was currently treating Pierce and Pierce was staying at Zayn's private hospital for the sake of convenience. If Alice had gone to Cliaria, she would definitely visit Pierce, and Zayn would surely know about it. “Mr. Knight, how can I help you?” Zayn answered the call quite promptly this time.

“Has my wife been to your office these past few days?” Ethan, who didn't like beating around the bush.. asked directly.

“No.” Zayn replied swiftly without any hesitation. As he was very concerned about Pierce's condition, he had been studying Pierce's case whenever he had spare time, so he spent an exceptionally long time in Pierce's ward. That was why he was certain that Alice hadn't visited in the past few days.

Ethan furrowed his brows upon hearing that answer. If Alice had been there, she would surely have inquired about Pierce's condition. If Zayn hadn't seen Alice, then Alice surely wasn't in Cliaria. But if she hadn't gone to Chiaria, where on Earth could she be?

Nonetheless, since Ethan was already on the phone with Zayn, he also took the opportunity to inquire about Pierce's condition. "How's my brother's condition lately? Lawrence glanced at his son and couldn't help but smile upon hearing that.

"Huh? Your brother?" Zayn, on the other end of the phone, didn't immediately understand what he was getting on and was momentarily confused. Still, once he realized just who Ethan was talking about, he couldn't help but chuckle. "Oh, you mean Pierce. Your sudden use of 'brother caught me off guard."

Ethan smirked upon hearing that. As Pierce was Alice's biological brother, and Alice was his wife, so technically speaking. Pierce could be considered like his brother as well.

Now that Zayn had interacted with Ethan prior to this, he didn't dare to confuse Ethan with a load of medical jargon that meant absolutely nothing. So, he said bluntly, "Pierce's treatment is going smoothly."

"Mhm" Ethan responded and paused slightly before adding. "Do notify me immediately if my wife pays a

visit"

Zayn, who regarded Ethan as an idol, promptly agreed to what Ethan said. "Alright."

However, right after that. Zayn realized something was off "Mr. Knight, what's going on? Why should I notify you about your wives whereabouts?"

"Don't ask unnecessary questions After so long. Edhan was already far too used to people accidentally stabbing him in the heart with their innocent questions. Frankly, a few more wouldn't make a hell of a difference

"Do you harbor suspicions that Alice has gone to Cliaria?" Lawrence couldn't help but ask when he saw his son had ended the call. "If Alice is indeed in Cliaria, shouldn't it be easy for you to find out about that?" Lawrence thought his son might still be caught up in exaggerated possibilities, so he wanted to remind him, saying, "I think your way of thinking is flawed. I think there's a probability that your intuition regarding the previous incident may be incorrect."

"What if she disguised herself as someone else?" Ethan suddenly thought of the situation when they went to Irvin's place to catch her. At that time, Irvin had posted a video, and he clearly saw her figure in the video. He rushed over the instant he recognized her as the woman from seven years ago, but he didn't manage to catch her that time.

There were only a few people in that building at the time, and he could rule out the other suspects. Only one person, a pretty boy, caught his attention which made him suspect that the 'man' was her disguise. Yet, that 'man' managed to escape, and he couldn't find any evidence about the other party after the fact. What if the person he was trying to catch that day was Alice?! If Alice disguised herself as a man and he didn't notice anything unusual or recognize her, then it wouldn't be impossible for her to disguise herself as someone else and board a plane.

“Disguised as someone else?” Lawrence was stunned. “What kind of disguise? And she was utterly unrecognizable? She fooled even you?”

“Mhm.” Ethan’s mind kept replaying that scene back then as he nodded solemnly.

“So, such an impressive disguise technique exists?” Lawrence seemed doubtful. “Anyway, even if there is such a thing, what about the other party’s identity? If she has disguised herself as someone else to board the plane, she should have a legally valid identity on hand. A person can’t possibly have two identities. right? The government has tightened security recently, and technology is so advanced these days. One person can’t possibly possess two identities. The application of every identity requires several legitimate documents. It’s not possible to come up with an identity out of thin air.”

Ethan remained silent after hearing his father analyze the situation. Deep down, he knew that his father was right, but he still trusted his gut. Hence, he didn’t say anything else. Instead, he quickly dialed Caleb’s number.

Caleb thought that Ethan was going to inquire about their progress regarding Alice’s whereabouts. Thus, he reluctantly answered the call and his voice sounded cautious, “Mr. Knight, we still do not have news of Mrs. Knight.”

Caleb had nearly gone crazy trying to find her. He mobilized all the available personnel and used all possible methods. They searched every nook and cranny, but they still couldn’t find the woman. It didn’t help that Caleb could only watch helplessly as his usually spirited young master grew haggard from countless sleepless nights, which made him feel even more anxious. Nonetheless, Caleb knew that as long as they couldn’t find Mrs. Knight, no one could talk Ethan out of it.

“Check the passenger lists of all flights from the 9th to the 11th to Cliaria, and also get the names of the passengers of all flights returning from Cliaria during the same period. Look for individuals who have traveled from Rodcaster to Cliaria and returned between the 9th and the 11th Ethan, who was a man of few words, surprisingly gave such detailed instructions.

“Oh. Regardless, Caleb was puzzled by the request. Weren’t they looking for Mrs. Knight? Why check the passenger lists of flights to and from Cliaria? On top of that, Mrs. Knight left the Knight Family four days ago. Why would Mr. Knight be checking flights from the 9th to the 11th? What’s the use of something that happened so long ago! Did Mrs. Knight go to Cliaria between the 9th and the 11th Even if she did, what would it prove?!

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What would it prove even if Alice had gone to Cliaria between the 9th and the 11th? Caleb paused briefly before suddenly remembering something. “Mr. Knight, the 9th to the 11th? Wasn’t that the time when we were looking for Mrs. Knight? We didn’t find any evidence of Mrs. Knight leaving Rodcaster during that period. She didn’t go to Cliaria.” Caleb had great confidence in his men’s ability to handle matters. If Alice had gone to Cliaria at that time, they wouldn’t have been unable to find any traces.

“Don’t check for Mrs. Knight but perform checking for all the passengers. Check on all the passengers who traveled back on the 9th and the 11th. Investigate the passengers who went to Cliaria and returned between the 9th and the 11th Ethan explained once more.

“Why? Is it to find Mrs. Knight? What’s the point of doing so?” Caleb had always followed Ethan’s instructions unconditionally, but today he genuinely didn’t understand Ethan’s motive behind such orders.

“Just do as you’re told. Don’t miss out on anyone.” Ethan didn’t explain his guesses further. After all, it was just his speculation. Plus, even his father found his assumptions unrealistic, so he wasn’t able to explain them clearly without proof to back up his claims.

“Okay.” Caleb naturally didn’t ask any more questions after hearing Ethan’s words. After the call ended, Caleb immediately instructed one of his subordinates to investigate what Ethan had asked for. Previously, Sam would handle these matters because he was the most skilled employee they had when it came to matters such as this, but he had been dismissed by Ethan recently, so Caleb had to assign someone else to handle this task.

“You suspect that Alice has disguised herself and changed her identity when she traveled to Cliaria?” Lawrence looked at Ethan with mixed feelings as he felt like his son was becoming rather obsessed. This was clearly impossible, yet Ethan still ordered someone to investigate something so unlikely.

Ethan’s eyes narrowed slightly, but he didn’t say a word. He wouldn’t miss any possibility of finding her. even if it was a remote possibility. He would do his best to dig out any information even if the possibility was slim.

“Fine, just do whatever you want.” Lawrence understood his son’s urgency as no one could sit still when his wife had gone missing. Lawrence pondered for a moment before suggesting. I think Alice might be staying somewhere in Rodcaster, and you just happened to miss that place in your search. Even if your men conducted a meticulous search, it’s impossible to go door-to-door. There’s bound to be a possibility that you’ve missed something.” Lawrence analyzed the situation.

There was a glint in Ethan’s eyes upon hearing that. His father was right about this as they couldn’t possibly barge in and conduct a search at every household.

Lawrence smiled at his son and said, “I have a solution for us to do a door-to-door search.” Ethan quickly looked up at his father after hearing that.

“I know that Rodcaster is about to conduct a major census, which is already a time-consuming and laborious task. Why don’t you let your men help out? The Knight Group can offer some manpower as volunteers for such a task, which would also be able to aid you in getting what you want. What do you think?” Lawrence truly lived up to his reputation as this arrangement was indeed thoughtful. It not only helped his son but also saved the trouble for the personnel involved, while also offering welfare benefits to the public. Since Lawrence was the one who suggested it, the benefits wouldn’t be meager. He had truly made a generous move just so he could help his son.

“Alright.” Ethan nodded. Regardless, he couldn’t help but admire his father’s arrangement. This way, they could achieve a thorough search without letting a few fishes slip through the net.

“In that case, you will be in charge of Tanner’s matter today.” Lawrence, through his practical actions, showed that he was a businessman who wouldn’t engage in unprofitable deals.

“Okay,” Ethan, who originally had no intention of dealing with this matter, readily agreed this time. Lawrence couldn’t help but curl his lips into a satisfied smile after receiving the answer he wanted.

Soon, both of them arrived at the hotel and the hotel manager who recognized Lawrence personally escorted them to Tanner’s room before taking their leave. Ethan was more proactive this time around and directly knocked on the door. When the door opened, Alice, who was disguised as Tanner, was visibly startled when she saw Lawrence and Ethan standing outside.

Why are they here? Alice hadn’t expected to meet Lawrence and Ethan in this manner after leaving the Knight Family. Still, she quickly remembered that she was currently Tanner, and that Lawrence had brought up wanting to invite Tanner to the company numerous times. So, is Lawrence here to personally invite Tanner over?

Fortunately, she was currently Tanner, and neither Lawrence nor Ethan knew that Tanner was Alice. They couldn’t recognize her in her current disguise. When Alice left the Knight Family, she explicitly told Britney that she would treat the Knights as strangers if she ever encountered them.

Although Lawrence had always been especially good to her, and she respected him a good deal, she didn’t want to have any further involvement with the Knight Family at the moment. So, Alice immediately regained her composure after a few seconds and subtly tried to distance herself from them.

Ethan, who was standing in front of the door, narrowed his gaze when he noticed the momentary daze on Tanner’s face and his subsequent reaction. He couldn’t shake the feeling that Tanner’s instinctive response earlier was somewhat strange. So, he carefully examined “Tanner” who was standing before him. Normally, he wouldn’t spare a second glance at any woman, no matter how beautiful she was, let alone a man.

But at this moment. Ethan’s gaze was wholly fixated on “Tanner, and for some reason, he found this ‘man’ somewhat good-looking. Especially those eyes, even though the ‘man’ was wearing glasses, they couldn’t conceal the clear and... twinkling eyes. Ethan felt that it might be inappropriate to describe a man that way, but when he locked eyes with those eyes just now, he genuinely had that kind of feeling.

On the other hand, Alice felt rather uneasy being stared at by Ethan as though she was an insect under a microscope, which made her anxious and utterly unlike her normally calm demeanor. Could it be that Ethan has discovered something? However, it seemed highly unlikely as she had full confidence in her disguise skills. She was sure that even someone familiar with her wouldn’t be able to detect any flaws, let alone Ethan, who wasn’t familiar with her at all. Moreover, she was currently assuming the identity of Tanner, and Ethan would never think that Tanner was her. After all, the difference between Alice and “Tanner” was incredibly significant.

But even if Ethan did recognize her, it didn’t matter since she had already divorced the man. So, they were now merely strangers.

When Lawrence noticed that his son was remaining oddly silent, Lawrence had no

“Hello, Mr. West, I’m Lawrence Knight.”

“Hello, Mr. Knight. Alice greeted Lawrence politely and courteously.

choice but to speak up.

“Mr. West, I apologize for this impromptu visit and any inconvenience we have caused. I came here specifically today to speak to you. Is now a good time for a chat?” Although Lawrence was a highly successful businessman, he was civil and refined as he didn’t put on any airs and graces

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“I came here today to speak with you especially, Mr. West. Is now a good time?” Lawrence had come with a bagful of sincerity today.

“I’m sorry. Mr. Knight.” Alice knew the reason that brought him here and what he wanted to speak about, still she wouldn’t agree to his request because she wanted nothing to do with the Knight Family anymore. So, even though her tone was courteous, there was no concealing her clear refusal on the matter.

Nonetheless, Lawrence clearly wasn’t expecting Tanner to turn him down so firmly, and neither was he a man who gave up easily. Furthermore, he was a person who truly appreciated talented individuals.

So, instead of being displeased, he simply smiled. “If it’s not convenient for us to speak in your room, we can go to other places. This hotel has a parlor on the second floor.”

Alice sighed silently as she regarded the smile on his face. The man in front of her was the renowned businessman, Lawrence Knight, and he was especially nice to her when she used to live with the Knights. She had already bit the bullet and rejected him once earlier. Was she going to reject him the second time?

Frankly, her heart shuddered at the thought, but she had to turn him down because there was no way that she wanted to have any connections to the Knights again. Moreover, she had other plans in motion, so it was currently impossible for her to join the Knight Group. “I’m sorry, Mr. Knight.” She repeated the same words using the same courteous tone, but there was definitely a significant cadence of dissent when she said them.

“Ah, is it because we’ve dropped by when you’re busy? Then, we can schedule a meeting for another day. May I know when you’re free? I would like to make an appointment with you.” Lawrence refused to give up. His attitude was humble and amiable, extending his invitation with utmost sincerity.

Alice sighed secretly as she wasn’t expecting him to be so persistent when she had rejected him so resolutely. Plus, her heart was actually very flustered after rejecting the man twice in a row, but she just had to do it a third time. “I’m sorry, Mr. Knight.” It was the same words, and her decision couldn’t be more obvious.

Yet, she had to admit that Lawrence was no ordinary man as he kept a smile on his face even though his offer was rebuffed three times. There wasn’t even a twitch as he smiled warmly. “Mr. West, I have no intentions of forcing you into anything. Just take it as a casual chat between friends.”

The look on Alice’s face shifted slightly, and she casually placed a hand on the door frame to support her weakening legs. She felt that she had sinned greatly today; even if her identity as Tanner West in the business world was just a newbie, she just rejected Lawrence three times. To make matters worse, Lawrence still wasn’t ready to give up and she had to reject him for the fourth time.

Fortunately, she was disguised as Tanner now. If she was dressed as herself, she could never bring herself to reject him so many times. So, she screamed inwardly as she breathed out, suppressing the panic and guilt in her heart, and had no other choice but to say, "Mr. Knight, I'm really sorry." This time, she added an extra word to emphasize her decision.

If Lawrence still had no intention to give up, she reckoned that she wouldn't have the guts to reject him for the fifth time.

Lawrence's eyes flickered with surprise as he wasn't expecting Tanner to turn him down in such a determined manner. He wasn't so surprised by the fact that he was rejected, but the way Tanner turned him down struck him as a little odd.

In the business world, more friends meant more opportunities. Even if Tanner had no plans of joining the

Knight Group, he shouldn't have rejected all of Lawrence's invitations so firmly. That was especially so when he said it was a casual chat between friends. But Tanner still rejected him without hesitation. This behavior was far from normal for a regular businessman.

"In that case, we won't bother you, Mr. West." Tanner's decision was now very clear to Lawrence, and he knew that everything else he said would be useless.

"Goodbye, Mr. Knight." Finally, Alice could breathe a sigh of relief. Thank god Lawrence gave up in the end. Earlier, she felt that her heart was about to stop beating right then and there and thought that she would suffer retribution if she turned him down the fifth time.

Lawrence wanted to walk away, but Ethan stood in the same spot and didn't move a muscle. His eyes were fixed on Tanner when he suddenly spoke, "Do you have anything against the Knight Group, Mr. West?"

"Huh? No." As Alice was still feeling very guilty from rejecting Lawrence four times, she hadn't gathered her thoughts together when Ethan suddenly popped her a question.

Ethan narrowed his eyes at her. "Then, do you have any opinions about anyone from the Knight Family?"

She was stunned as she turned to him. "Why are you asking this, Mr. Knight?"

"Do you know me, Mr. West?" He hadn't introduced himself earlier and had always kept a low profile by not attending any events held by the Knight Group. Only a handful of people in the industry knew him, so how did a person who just arrived in the city know who he was?

A gleam flashed in Alice's eyes. That's Ethan for you. Did he discover my disguise from that one thing I said? As Tanner had never met Ethan before, he shouldn't be aware of just who Ethan was.

"Well, you look a lot like your father." Alice reckoned that this answer should be fine since they were father and son. Yet, after she said that, she immediately noticed a problem-Ethan didn't actually look like Lawrence.

In fact, he took after his mother. Then, it hit her that Lawrence didn't look like Holland either and looked more like Maric. All in all, the men in the Knight Family basically inherited their looks from their mothers, so they turned out more attractive after each generation.

"You're the first to say that, Mr. West. Ethan's eyes swept past Tanner's face. "You're the first to guess that we're father and son based on our features."

Alice breathed out silently and thought, Fine, so I'm the first. It's not a big deal.

Ethan added out of the blue, "Mr. West, you guessed that we're father and son from our looks, right?" Ethan continued the topic, as though he was merely asking another question naturally. Even the suspicion in his voice was very indistinct.

Nevertheless, it would seem very jarring if she denied it now, so she could only grit her teeth and answer, "Yes."

To be honest, she hadn't really thought things through when she gave him that answer. That was obvious enough when Ethan observed her steadily as he mused slowly, "But you didn't seem to carry any trace of hesitation when you called me Mr. Knight earlier. You sounded so sure that there was no trace of doubt at

all."

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Alice's eyes flickered in the face of Ethan's question. Of course, I'm sure, she answered silently. He was the man she married, and they were together for a long time. Wait, does he have nothing better to do? Why is he refusing to let go of this issue? Is this question so important? Is it important? It shouldn't be important at all!

A stunned Lawrence was just about to arrive before Ethan knocked on the door. So, he didn't see the expression on Tanner's face, but he did recall that Tanner sounded so sure and natural when he called Ethan Mr. Knight earlier. He wasn't making a guess. Rather, he sounded like he already knew Ethan prior to this and was quite familiar with Ethan as well.

Once again, Ethan pressed. "Would you like to explain yourself, Mr. West?"

For a second. Alice had the urge to slam the door in Ethan's face. They were already divorced, and she had said to Britney that the Knights would be nothing but strangers to her if she ran into them again. What else did she have to explain to him? Unfortunately, she was currently disguised as Tanner and couldn't risk her identity being exposed. If she hadn't divorced Ethan, she probably wouldn't deliberately hide this from him. But alas, they were now divorced and were in no way related to each other whatsoever. They were strangers and there was no obligation for her to inform him about her personal affairs.

"Well, Mr. Knight and... Mr. Knight, if there's nothing else, please leave." Ethan was able to capture so many details just from one slip of the tongue, so she didn't have the guts to blindly make up other excuses now. The more she spoke, the more mistakes she would make. Therefore, the best way was to avoid the question and give no answers.

Nonetheless, Ethan was like a dog with a bone and he wasn't about to give up easily. So, Ethan brushed off that demand as he stared at Tanner and asked again, "Did you have a problem with the Knights before?"

She answered quickly but naturally, "No."

What problem could she possibly have with the Knights? She joined the Knight Family and married Ethan because of Caroline and the prenup was signed from the get-go, so the divorce was settled peacefully. Even if Britney made her uneasy in the end, she definitely didn't have a problem with her.

Ethan stared straight into Tanner's eyes and didn't want to miss any changes in the other party's emotions. Then, he inquired right in the next second, "How are you related to my family?"

After a short moment of stunned silence, she answered, "How am I related to the Knights? What do you think, Mr. Knight?" Actually, Alice wanted to give him the same answer as she did earlier by saying no, but she wasn't a good liar, especially when Ethan was watching her so closely.

He was watching her like a hawk, so he quickly concluded. "So, you are related to the Knight Family, huh?" Then, he peered into the room through the tiny gap between Tanner and the door. "Do you want to stand here and continue the conversation, or should we talk in the room?"

At this rate, she was becoming rather disgruntled as she thought, What's his problem? Why did he suddenly bombard me with questions so aggressively? He even has the intention to enter my room! What gives him the right to enter my room, anyway? "Mr. Knight, I'm not a criminal, and neither are you a police officer. Don't you think that you're being rather inappropriate?" Alice had been polite the whole time, but her face had turned stone cold as a trace of ice could be heard in her voice.

Still, his eyes never left Tanner's face. "What exactly are you hiding?"

"What am I hiding? What can I possibly be hiding from you?" For a moment, she even thought that he had recognized her.

Ethan's eyes turned piercing. "Your behavior is making me suspicious."

"Is it because I refused your father's offer?" By now, Alice was a little mad because there seemed no end to his questions and skepticism. He's suspicious? What's he suspicious about? I have already left the Knight Family and have nothing to do with them. Why should he be suspicious of me? Does he think that I'm going to exact my revenge on them or something like that?

"It's within your rights to turn down an offer. But your actions were too resolute, and you even seemed a little guilty, Ethan pointed out.

Alice's eyes wavered as she wondered whether he had an x-ray for eyes to be able to deduce so many things after such a brief conversation. It was true that she was a little guilty when she turned down Lawrence earlier, but that was because the person she was rejecting was Lawrence.

"Why are you feeling guilty?" Then, he suddenly took a step forward. As they were not that far, to begin with, the distance between them was even closer now. So, she instinctively staggered backward, and he took the opportunity to enter her room without a by-your-leave.

A bewildered Alice thought in alarm. What's the deal with this guy? What gives him the right to enter my room? Did I give him permission to come in?

Even Lawrence was surprised by Ethan's rudeness. Although he knew that his son had always been strong-willed, it was far from polite to barge into someone else's room like this. On the other hand, Tanner did seem a little suspicious. So, he couldn't relax until the whole situation was clarified. Moreover, Ethan only sauntered into Tanner's room because he wanted to ensure that Tanner didn't harbor any malicious plans.

Alice swiftly blocked Ethan's way. "Don't you think you're being impolite. Mr. Knight?" Even if I'm now a man, it's not right of him to barge in like this!

"What are you afraid of, Mr. West?" After Ethan casually swept his eyes past Tanner's face, he stole a look in his room.

Alice sighed inwardly as she tried her best to stop herself from punching his face. From where he was looking in now, he could see some things in her room as well as the things she had laid out on her bed. She hastily started to recall whether she had kept her clothes away properly, especially garments that were distinctly female.

The last thing she would expect was Lawrence and Ethan's sudden visit, not to mention that Ethan would be so insolent as to force himself in. So, she hadn't kept away anything prior to this. Hence, there was no way she would allow him entry.

When she noticed that he was still trying to shove past her and continue moving forward, she lost her patience and turned to Lawrence, who was still standing outside the door. "Mr. Knight, will you please talk some sense into your son? He's being impudent." As far as she could remember, Lawrence was a reasonable man and Ethan had always respected him. All she wanted now was for him to leave as quickly as possible.

"Mr. West, why don't we sit down and have a good chat?" This time, however, the reasonable Lawrence didn't take Ethan away as she wished.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Knight." Alice rejected Lawrence for the fifth time today. But because of Ethan's impertinent behavior, she felt not even a hint of guilt when she snarked. "I can assure you that I won't do anything to harm the Knight Family, so there's really no reason for you to be suspicious of me. When she turned her attention to Ethan, her face turned sullen. Will that be all. Mr. Knight?"

Ethan looked at her. "What can you do against the Knight Family that I have to be worried about?"

Chapter 220 Mr Knight's Suspicion

Ethan asked, "What could you possibly do to harm the Knight Family that I need to be worried about?"

Alice's heart skipped a beat. Fine. I have overestimated myself once again.

Well, frankly, she was already used to it at this point.

"If that's the case, please leave, Mr. Knight." If Alice were strong enough, she would have kicked him out by

now.

He narrowed his eyes slightly. "What are you trying to hide?"

"Who are you for me to report my personal matters to?" Alice's tone was calm and distant.

She had cut off ties with him. Even if she was using her identity as Alice Woland, Ethan no longer had any position to butt into her matters, especially now that she was Tanner West.

"You said so yourself. Mr. Knight. A small fry like me couldn't do anything to harm the Knights. So, why are you trying to force an answer out of me?" Alice stared at Ethan with collected and reserved eyes.

Alice felt that she had explained her stance enough and that Ethan would back up. Yet, to her surprise, he did nothing of the sort.

Ethan's eyes flickered and suddenly blurted, "We've met."

It was a statement, not a question.

"What?" Alice was taken aback as she was unsure why Ethan suddenly said that.

"We've met." Ethan stared at Tanner's face and repeated himself in a slower, but more certain tone.

Alice blinked a few times and retorted, "Then, may I ask where we have met, Mr. Knight?"

She wanted to know where Ethan thought they had met.

He pursed his lips and didn't answer. Still, he just had a gut feeling that he had met this person standing before him.

He even had a moment where he suspected Tanner West could be Alice.

She had a track record of disguising as a man last time with Irvin. Her disguise was so good that even he was fooled. So, there was a high possibility that she might have disguised herself as Tanner.

However, Tanner West was a well-known figure with his job and social circle. So, Alice couldn't do everything that Tanner had.

Besides, Tanner and Alice had too many differences and there was little to no interaction between them.

So, Ethan felt as if he had gone mad just trying to find Alice. He observed the person before him who was in man's clothes. Tanner was good-looking, but he had manly sculpted features instead of soft feminine features.

Some of the male characteristics were also obvious such as the stubble on his chin and Adam's apple.

He felt that one's appearance could be faked, but these things couldn't. He was sure that he could see through it if it was makeup.

Besides, he had scrutinized every aspect and didn't find anything off.

This meant that the person standing before him-Tanner was a real man with a beard and Adam's apple.

So, he couldn't be Alice.

"Excuse me, Mr. West." Ethan silently let out a long sigh. He had probably lost whatever was left of his sanity to have been possessed enough to barge into someone else's room just now.

Alice looked at him without speaking. However, it was obvious she wanted him to leave.

This time. Ethan didn't force his way in and turned around to leave without a word.

On the side, Lawrence stayed silent throughout the whole scene and left with Ethan.

"What's this? What are you suspecting?" Lawrence demanded when they got in the car after exiting the hotel.

Ethan blinked his eyes as he recalled that one moment he suspected Tanner to be Alice, but it was a ridiculous possibility.

He couldn't even convince himself of it. So, he couldn't possibly reveal this to his father.

"Are you

worried that Tanner would do something to harm the Knight Group?" Lawrence changed his query when he saw that Ethan wasn't going to answer him.

"He doesn't have any ill intention toward the company, nor will he harm us," Ethan stated in certainty. He did not sense any hostility from Tanner when they were in the hotel earlier. That was why he felt something was off.

"Then, why were you interrogating him?" Lawrence was taken aback by Ethan's answer. He thought Ethan was worried that Tanner would harm the Knight Group.

So, why was he so hostile when he was sure that Tanner would not harm the company?

That was what Lawrence couldn't wrap his mind around.

"Dad, where's the file you have on Tanner West?" Even though Ethan had ruled out the possibility of Alice being Tanner by observing certain male characteristics, he had always been meticulous. Plus, he figured that there was no harm in investigating this matter to lay his suspicions to rest.

"At home. Why? Is something wrong?" Lawrence looked at Ethan in confusion.

"I'll take a look at it when we return home." Ethan didn't explain matters further. It was always better to check personally for confirmation.

And so, Ethan and Lawrence returned to the Knight Residence.

He accepted the file from Lawrence in the study and quickly flipped through it.

Tanner was from Sasrith, which was far away from Rodcaster. He went to Cliaria nine years ago and married a local woman there while obtaining a permanent resident card.

Seven years ago, his wife passed away due to a car accident. Later on, he started to shine in the business world and became a famous investor in a few years.

All of the projects he had invested in the last seven years never had a deficit.

“Is this Tanner’s son?” Ethan picked up a picture from the file and asked Lawrence.

“Yes. That’s Tanner’s son. This was taken by a magazine in Cliaria of Tanner and his son in the airport. It’s quite clear.” Lawrence took a good look and continued. “His son looks like a mini him. It’s obvious their father and son.”

“Didn’t he marry a Cliarian woman? Why doesn’t the son have any features of a Cliarian?” Ethan stared at the photo with narrowed eyes.

He had to admit the two people in the picture looked alike. It was tell-tale that they were father and son, but it was impossible for a child to not inherit any features from their mother.

Ethan didn’t see a single Cliarian feature in the picture. It was a little absurd as boys would usually resemble their mothers.