Unrepairable Love / I married a man

Chapter 251

The sound of raindrops hitting the ground was annoying. "I'm heading out for a bit," Alexander said, grabbing his coat and leaving.

"You just sat down and now you're leaving?" Blake complained.

At the hospital entrance, Elizabeth sighed at the heavy rain. Despite hurrying, she was still caught in the downpour. "Why's it been raining so much in Lisbon lately?" she wondered aloud.

"It's not just the rain; it's the thunder and lightning too. It's scary," the nurse beside her said.

Elizabeth looked up and rubbed her shoulders. A flash of lightning made her close her eyes, followed by a clap of thunder. She wanted to overcome her fear but stepped back, trembling. She gasped, covered her head, and dashed into the rain.

The rain quickly soaked her, and the wind howled in her ears. Raindrops on her face brought back memories of being thrown into the sea, feeling cold and unable to breathe. Elizabeth stopped, clutching her heart, which was racing. She heard Gabriel Fisher's voice in her head: "You want to save him? Fine, then you die first! Trade your life for his!"

She remembered the brutal pain of the dagger in her shoulder. Already frail and struggling to breathe, she was now teetering in the rain. Suddenly, she heard hurried footsteps. A black umbrella appeared over her head, and Alexander's angry voice asked, "Elizabeth, are you crazy?"

She looked up. Alexander held the umbrella, his face full of worry and reproach. The rain quickly drenched him. He grabbed her arm and led her to his car.

Elizabeth watched as he pulled out a blanket and dried her hair and body. Their eyes met, and the car was unusually quiet. Elizabeth felt heartbroken, thinking his care was for Esme, not her.

Alexander pursed his lips and handed her the towel. "Do it yourself."

Elizabeth lowered her head, her wet clothes dirtying his car. Alexander, who usually cherished his car, wouldn't have allowed this before. Except for Esme. Whether Esme was drunk or caught in the rain, Alexander always allowed it. Elizabeth often wondered how Esme managed it. How could a lion like Alexander be tamed by a rabbit like Esme?

Alexander's phone rang; it was Esme. He put it on silent. But soon, the car's display screen lit up with a text from Esme: [It's raining, Alexander. I can't...]

Elizabeth looked at the text, then at Alexander. "I'll take you home," he said.

"Esme is looking for you," Elizabeth said, her voice trembling.

"Elizabeth, mind your own business," Alexander frowned.

Elizabeth chuckled, drying her hair and looking out the window. Alexander glanced at her and drove slowly through the heavy rain. He thought, 'How desperate have I made Elizabeth over these three years?'

Unrepairable Love

Chapter 252

For the past three years, Alexander had ditched Elizabeth countless times for Esme. Elizabeth went from saying, "I'm your wife, you should care about me," to, "Esme's looking for you." Thinking about it, Alexander suddenly made a Uturn.

Elizabeth asked, "Where are we going?"

"Back to the villa," Alexander said stubbornly.

"Take me home," Elizabeth demanded.

"You're staying with me tonight," Alexander replied coldly.

"I'll jump out of the car, or you take me home," Elizabeth threatened, her eyes serious.

Alexander glanced at her. Elizabeth looked ready to jump any second. They shouldn't be tangled up like this anymore. Elizabeth had determined to stay away from Alexander.

The car slowed down and finally stopped by the roadside. Raindrops hit the car, making an irritating sound. Elizabeth looked at Alexander coldly, with no tenderness, just relief and calm.

Alexander frowned, thinking, *Elizabeth has really changed*. She's not the same Elizabeth who clung to me. She used to be happy if I took her home, planning our time together. Her eyes were always bright and full of love. Now, there's only disappointment and indifference, even disgust.

"Let's end this," Elizabeth said calmly.

The rain outside got heavier, thunder roared, but Elizabeth felt calm, forgetting her fear.

"I've talked to Grandma and Mom. They respect my choice," Elizabeth said. "I'll get the driving license tomorrow morning. We'll get divorced tomorrow. Same time. Don't be late."

Alexander's grip on the steering wheel tightened. Elizabeth didn't notice his Adam's apple moving. She continued, "This time, no accidents."

Alexander stayed silent, unsure if it was the rain or his unsettled heart. His heartbeat felt chaotic—maybe regret.

After a while, the car started and stopped in front of the Percy Mansion. Elizabeth was about to get out when Alexander handed her a black umbrella. Elizabeth stared for a moment, then looked at Alexander. His face was furrowed, but he still looked good. Elizabeth thought she could fall in love with his face countless times. She pulled herself out of her thoughts, smiled, and teased, "Mr. Tudor, you've become more considerate with Ms. Russell."

Alexander passed her the umbrella and Elizabeth opened it and disappeared into the night. When Alexander tried to spot her again, she was gone. Elizabeth quickly returned to her room, turned on the light, and looked outside. Alexander's car had its hazard lights on, the red light glaring. Elizabeth took a deep breath and drew the curtains.

The next day, the rain had cleared, and the air was fresh. Elizabeth got up early to get her driving license. When Rose got up to call her for breakfast, the

room was empty. The TV in the living room was broadcasting news about Alexander and Elizabeth's marital issues, with some news about Esme mixed in.

"Reporters captured Esme and Alexander having a conflict last night, with Esme left alone in the rain," the host read.

Rose turned off the TV and looked outside, muttering, "Where did Elizabeth go?"

In front of the courthouse, Elizabeth got out of the car, her red lips and long dress making her look stunning.

Unrepairable Love: Chapter 253

A black Porsche pulled up next to Elizabeth. Alexander got out and locked eyes with her. Elizabeth waved her credentials. Alexander, looking sharp in a black suit but tired with bloodshot eyes, pressed his lips together.

"Elizabeth," he said slowly.

"Let's go," she interrupted, striding inside without hesitation.

Alexander frowned, his mind a mess. He lagged behind while Elizabeth walked ahead. She seemed as anxious and excited as when they got their marriage certificate, fearing he'd back out. But Alexander felt different now. Back then, he was uncooperative. Now, he was marrying Esme. So why didn't he feel relieved?

Lost in thought, Alexander was jolted back when Elizabeth turned and pulled his arm. "I'm setting you free. Why so glum?"

Passersby whispered, "Are they really divorcing?" "Did Alexander cheat with Esme? Poor Ms. Percy." "Ms. Percy is so beautiful. What is Mr. Tudor thinking?" Their words made Alexander's mind even more chaotic. He quickened his pace, walking ahead of Elizabeth.

They both stopped at the divorce window, handing over their documents. The same staff member from last time was there. Elizabeth wondered if she was one of Lily's people and if she'd let the divorce go smoothly. The staff member looked at them meaningfully. "Are you sure you want to divorce?"

"Yes," Alexander answered first.

Elizabeth glanced at him. He sat quietly, looking clouded and emotionless. She thought, 'Doesn't he really want this? Why isn't he happy?' The staff member sighed. "It's not easy to become a family. Think it over."

Alexander stayed silent. Elizabeth replied calmly, "Thank you. We've thought it over."

The staff member hesitated, then handed over the documents. Elizabeth picked up the pen, her fingers tightening as she looked at the application. The joy of getting their marriage certificate three years ago was now replaced by sadness. She never thought her marriage would end like this. But if given another chance, she would still have married Alexander. Life was about those few moments; she had no regrets. Now, those moments had passed. Except for not making Alexander love her and losing him, she had no regrets.

She looked up at Alexander and met his eyes. He didn't move his pen, just stared at her. Maybe he still thought she was being ridiculous, a crazy woman who regretted the divorce and would beg him to stay. But Elizabeth truly loved him and was ready to let go. She wouldn't cling to him anymore, so he could marry Esme. For the rest of her life, she wouldn't expect anything from Alexander. All the sadness and joy, love and hate, would end today.

Elizabeth smiled and decisively signed her name.

Chapter 254

Alexander glanced at Elizabeth's name, his face a mix of emotions. He looked up at her, feeling like a wall now existed between them, making her seem distant. He pulled a pen from his pocket. Pressing down on the divorce papers, he felt the tension around him becoming suffocating. He had wanted this divorce more than anyone, but now that it was happening, he felt awful. Clutching the pen tightly, he frowned and asked, "Elizabeth, are you sure about this?"

It seemed like he was giving her an out, or maybe a second chance. He hoped she'd say she wasn't ready and would try to win him back, but she didn't. "Yes, I'm sure," Elizabeth replied simply.

Alexander's throat tightened, and anger flared inside him. He didn't know why, but he was suddenly furious. He signed his name forcefully, each stroke deliberate. With a click, he capped the pen.

"Alright, come back in a month," the staff reminded them, "If no one returns, the divorce will be canceled automatically."

"Okay, thanks," Elizabeth nodded, gathering her documents and preparing to leave. She paused and asked, "Want to grab a meal together?"

"I'm busy," Alexander said, striding ahead.

Elizabeth followed slowly, putting on her sunglasses. "You must have time for one meal, right?"

Alexander glanced at her. A beam of light from the window made her look radiant.

"How about that spicy food place near the university?" Elizabeth suggested, walking backward.

Alexander frowned.

"You promised to treat me on graduation day, but Esme called you away," Elizabeth reminded him as they exited the elevator.

Thinking back, Elizabeth sighed. She realized she had many regrets. By the car, she asked, "Are you coming or not?"

Alexander checked the time. He had a meeting later.

Chapter 254

Seeing his hesitation, Dilaabot sighed, "Forget it. I won't push you." She spread her arms towards the sun and walked to the car, muttering, 'Mr. Tudor is really busy.'

Alexander watched her disappointed back and let out a cold laugh. Just as she opened the car door, he shut it. "I'll drive," he said.

Elizabeth raised an eyebrow as he opened the passenger door of his car. "Get in."

She smiled suddenly. "That's more like a proper ex-husband," she said, getting in. Alexander was speechless.

At Lisbun University, they stopped in front of a spicy food restaurant. Elizabeth got out and asked, "Can you handle spicy food?"

Alexander frowned.

Elizabeth remembered, "Your stomach isn't great, I'll order some non-spicy dishes."

They walked in, and the owner, Kimberly Campbell, greeted them, "Welcome, how many?"

Elizabeth signaled two and asked, "Do you have private rooms upstairs?"

"Yes, upstairs for two," Kimberly replied through the intercom.

As they went upstairs, Elizabeth said, "You can eat sweet things, like desserts."

Alexander was speechless, following her. Elizabeth found a seat and sat down, clearly familiar with the place. Alexander sat across from her and asked, "You've been here before?"

"Yes," Elizabeth said, tying up her hair, her face strikingly beautiful.

Just as she was about to order, she paused and asked, "Are you treating?"

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Chapter 255

Alexander rubbed his forehead and said, "Yeah." Elizabeth didn't hold back and sneered, "You puder," she handed the menu to Alexander.

Alexander glanced at his phone and said, "Weren't you going to order non-spicy dishes for me?"

"I was joking," Elizabeth laughed. He looked at her and said, "To line with anything." Elizabeth ordered a few non-spicy dishes for him.

While waiting for the food, Alexander kept looking at his phone. Elizabeth sat across from him, watching him the whole time. She wondered if her staring made him look up. He seemed a bit confused. Elizabeth took a sip of tea.

She realized the day wasn't as tough as she thought it would be. She used to think divorcing Alexander would devastate her. But it didn't. Instead, she felt relieved and noticed they were more relaxed around each other now.

"Would you be sad if we got divorced?" Elizabeth asked. Alexander glanced at her and said, "No." Elizabeth was silent for a moment, then smiled. Even though she expected that answer, hearing it felt harsh.

"I don't seem as sad as I thought I'd be," she said seriously. Alexander's eyes darkened, and he gripped his cup tightly. "Ms. Percy, your heart left me long ago."

Elizabeth smiled lazily. "True. The best way to get over someone is to fall for someone else." Alexander felt inexplicably annoyed.

"Alexander, I used to be so foolish," Elizabeth said, staring at him. "I thought I'd die if I left you." Alexander snorted and said nothing.

"Now it seems leaving you only makes me more carefree!" she said seriously.

The waiter came in and started serving the dishes. Alexander spoke with a bad tone, "Ms. Percy, you're always carefree, never letting yourself suffer."

"Marrying you these years has been a big loss," Elizabeth said sarcastically, sipping her tea. Alexander said nothing, looking at the spicy dishes, feeling his stomach churn. *Is this even edible?* he thought.

"Actually, I really like spicy food," Elizabeth muttered. Alexander drank water and said, "I doubt it." Elizabeth usually cooked very bland food.

"It's because your stomach is bad that I cooked bland," she said immediately. Alexander paused, feeling something strange in his heart.

"And I really love to have fun. I like seeing mountains and waters, and exploring the world," Elizabeth raised an eyebrow.

"Including clubbing and playing with men?" Alexander added. Elizabeth nodded seriously. "Yes, including all that."

"So her liking Alexander was serious and genuine." For Alexander, she even stopped having fun.

"The most important thing," Elizabeth glanced at Alexander, Alexander waited for her to continue. Thinking of this, Elizabeth felt a bit sad. She looked into Alexander's eyes, her tone softening.

"I really like swimming," she said gently. But to save Alexander, she couldn't swim anymore. She hoped one day she could overcome her inner fear.

"Why did you stop swimming?" Alexander asked calmly. Elizabeth looked at him, gripping her utensils tightly.

"You don't know?" she asked. "Should I?" Alexander retorted.

Chapter 256

Elizabeth looked into Alexander's eyes, wanting to tell him she was scared to swim after saving him. But after hearing his response, she just smiled weakly and kept quiet. She lowered her head, silently eating the spicy fondue.

Alexander noticed she had something on her mind but didn't push. Suddenly, his phone rang. Seeing it was Esme, he hung up. When she called again, he put his phone on silent.

Elizabeth glanced at him, remembering the news about Esme getting caught in the rain last night. "Did you and Esme have a fight?" she asked, more out of boredom than curiosity.

"Yeah," Alexander replied calmly.

"Don't be so hot-tempered. Esme's still young," Elizabeth said softly.

Alexander looked at her. "Are you giving me dating advice?"

"Not at all," she said, taking a sip of water.

"I know who leaked our divorce to the reporters," Alexander said coldly.

Elizabeth nodded. "I know too."

"You do?" Alexander was surprised.

Elizabeth blinked. "Mr. Tudor, you're not the only one with connections."

She thought, 'If I can't figure out something this small, how can I run Base M7?'

Alexander was silent for a moment, then nodded. "True, the Percy family isn't lacking."

"But this mess has caused problems for my family. If my dad holds a grudge, I hope you'll bear with it," Elizabeth said.

The Percy family, though not as powerful as the Tudors, still had some influence. Declan had always looked down on Alexander. Without their connection, Alexander could easily crush them.

"Do you think I'm a ruthless person?" Alexander asked.

Elizabeth met his gaze and smiled. "I don't know."

Her answer left him stunned.

"I used to think I knew you well, but now I realize I don't. No matter what happens between us or how my family treats you, promise me you won't harm them," she said, looking at him.

Alexander met her eyes. "I won't harm the Percy family," he said. Now and in the future, he wouldn't.

Elizabeth nodded, feeling relieved.

"If your family ever needs help, don't hesitate to ask," Alexander said calmly.

Chapter 256

Elizabeth smiled. Alexander knew her well. She was strong and wouldn't ask for help in a tight corner.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Kimberly walked in with Tree!

Kimberly smiled, "Congrats! It's your 30th anniversary, and your head chef is..."

Elizabeth's eyes lit up. "Really?"

"Yes!" Kimberly clapped, and a waiter brought in more dishes. "Enjoy your meal!"

As Kimberly helped set the dishes, she looked at Elizabeth. "You look familiar. Weren't you the girl who came alone and cried all night once?"

Elizabeth's face stiffened. She glanced at Alexander, who was also looking at her, frowning. *Elizabeth cried here all night?* he thought.

Chapter 257

Kimberly rubbed her chin, thought for a moment, and exclaimed, "Oh right! You're from med school, right?"

Elizabeth cleared her throat and smiled. "Madam, you must be mistaken. This is my first time here." Elizabeth would never admit she was the one who came here alone to eat spicy food after Alexander stood her up that year. She was really heartbroken because Alexander had promised for days to join her for spicy food. She had been looking forward to it. But on the day they were supposed to eat, Esme called, and Alexander immediately went to see her. Elizabeth never wanted to remember those days again!

Alexander was initially puzzled if that person was Elizabeth, but when she said it was her first time here, he knew the person Kimberly was talking about was Elizabeth.

"You two look like a couple, don't you?" Kimberly asked with a smile.

Elizabeth and Alexander exchanged a glance and gave different answers. Elizabeth said, "No." Alexander replied, "Yes."

Kimberly blinked. Elizabeth frowned at Alexander; they were already divorced. "No, he's just joking," Elizabeth said with a smile.

Kimberly beamed, "Got it. Girls are always shy!"

"Can we take a photo?" Kimberly asked. "We'll put it on our anniversary wall! We take some photos every year."

"Sure," Elizabeth responded enthusiastically. Being part of the store's thirtieth anniversary was an honor, after all.

Kimberly looked at Alexander again; he didn't seem very willing. But as soon as Kimberly raised her phone, he stood up too. Alexander came to Elizabeth's side, and she whispered, "If you don't like taking photos, you don't have to. I can do it alone." After all, Alexander had a special status.

Alexander didn't say anything but bent down to look at Kimberly's camera. The lighting in the private room was warm, and the picture looked even better. Alexander instinctively leaned closer to Elizabeth, their shoulders touching, while Kimberly stood sideways in front of them. Elizabeth smiled and made a gesture.

The photo was taken. Soon, the waiter came in again.

"This is a gift for you," Kimberly said.

"So nice, giving us a free meal and a gift," Elizabeth said, touched. Kimberly smiled warmly, clearly easy to get along with.

Elizabeth and Alexander both accepted the gifts, and Kimberly said, "The gift isn't expensive, just two wheat ear pendants. I hope everyone can be safe and sound every year."

"Thank you!" Elizabeth said sincerely.

Kimberly nodded. "Then I won't disturb you anymore!" she said, and then to Alexander, "She is so pretty and sensible, and you two are a perfect match! Good luck!"

Alexander just smiled and nodded. Elizabeth was fiddling with the pendant Kimberly gave, completely unaware of what Kimberly and Alexander were talking about. When Elizabeth looked up again, Kimberly had already left.

The private room returned to silence, and Elizabeth shook the pendant, saying, "It's quite pretty." Alexander also took a look at his. Elizabeth propped her face, thought for a moment, and said, "It's perfect for the car keys."

Seeing her enthusiastically attaching it to her car keys, Alexander couldn't help but look at his own pendant. He also attached it to his keys.

"Such good luck," Elizabeth said to Alexander.

Alexander looked at her and said calmly, "So, the year I graduated and didn't have dinner with you, you cried?"

Chapter 258

Elizabeth was eating when she heard Alexander and shot him a glare. "No!"

Alexander laughed. "Elizabeth, don't I know you by now?"

"You don't know anything," she snapped back.

Alexander smirked and stayed quiet.

"It's not because of you. I've been here many times, sometimes with Lila," Elizabeth glared at him.

"Lila's from the School of Media, and there's no School of Media around here," Alexander said, putting down his utensils, almost done eating.

Elizabeth suddenly regretted coming here. "Why did I come here to cry?"

"That was because it was spicy, not because I was crying," she continued.

Alexander just smiled faintly and said nothing. He checked his phone and saw a bunch of messages from Esme.

Esme: [Alexander, I know I was wrong. Please forgive me, okay?] Esme: [Don't ignore me. I'm really scared. What do I have to do for you to forgive me?] Esme: [Can I come see you?] Esme: [I'm waiting for you at the villa until you see me.]

Alexander deleted the messages without hesitation and looked at Elizabeth, who was eating quietly. Looking at the table full of spicy dishes, Alexander felt his stomach burning.

Elizabeth clapped her hands and drank the last sip of her iced tea. She looked at Alexander, silent for a long time. Elizabeth stood up, her eyes smiling at him, and said gently, "Mr. Tudor, we're done."

Alexander felt a pang in his heart. "In a month!" With that, Elizabeth walked away without looking back. From today on, they would go their separate ways. The little garden in Elizabeth's heart bloomed again, the roses blossoming once more. But this time, it wasn't because of Alexander. It was because of her new life.

Elizabeth walked out of the restaurant and posted an update on Instagram, officially announcing her and Alexander's divorce. She turned off Instagram and called Felix. "Where are you? I heard there's a race at Eaglecrest Mountain tonight. Want to check it out?"

Felix was surprised. "I saw your Instagram. Did you really get divorced?"

"Yes," Elizabeth answered decisively.

"Congrats on being single again! TM" Felix said.

"See you tonight."

After hanging up, Elizabeth had just gotten into her car when she got a call from Lila.

Lila's voice was urgent, "Did you really get divorced?"

Elizabeth laughed, "Why would I lie to you?"

Lila said, "I'm landing in Lisbon this afternoon. Let's have dinner tonight!"

Elizabeth replied, "Maybe not. I'm planning to go to Eaglecrest Mountain to watch the race tonight. Want to join?"

Lila asked, "Will there be a lot of people?"

Elizabeth thought for a moment, "Probably not. It's mostly a bunch of guys. If you wear a mask and sunglasses, no one will recognize you."

Lila agreed, "Alright, see you tonight!"

After hanging up, Elizabeth felt completely relaxed. Elizabeth went home, and Grant was feeding the birds. He was surprised to see her. "Why aren't you at work?"

"Grandpa, I went to file for divorce with Alexander," Elizabeth said, pouring herself a glass of water and announcing the good news to Grant.

Grant was shocked. "Really?"

Elizabeth nodded firmly. "Really!"

Grant said, "I need to call your grandma and tell her the good news!" With that, Grant went to make the call.

Elizabeth couldn't help but laugh.

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Chapter 259

Elizabeth got divorced, and everyone was thrilled. At the hospital, Lily saw the news on her phone and felt down. Right after Elizabeth and Alexander signed the papers and left, she got a call from the court. Lily's source told her Elizabeth and Alexander were there to finalize the divorce.

Lily felt really sad. Thinking about how Elizabeth hadn't had a single good day in the Tudor family all these years and now had to leave in such a disgraceful manner, Lily felt even more sorry for her. Lily sighed deeply.

Elara tried to comfort her, "Mom, don't be too sad."

"How can I not be sad?" Lily's eyes were a bit red, but she stayed calm and gentle. Elara didn't know what to say because she felt very sad herself. Elara picked up her phone and sent several disdainful emojis to Alexander on Facebook.

Alexander was in a meeting when he got Elara's messages. He was speechless and thought she was being childish. Nolan saw the texts and couldn't help but smile, then he stepped out. As soon as Nolan left, he got a message from the villa's security: Nojan, there's a woman waiting at Mr. Tudor's door for a long time, and she hasn't left.

Nolan frowned. A woman? Could it be Esme?

Nolan: [Please send a video, thanks.]

The security quickly sent a video. Nolan watched it and confirmed it was Esme, then replied: [Got it, thanks for your hard work.]

The meeting ended at 7 PM. Nolan told Alexander, "Mr. Tudor, Ms. Russell is still waiting for you at the villa."

"Let her wait," Alexander said coldly, while flipping through a contract. Nolan wanted to say something but just nodded in agreement. Alexander added, "Schedule all the remaining work for tonight."

Nolan stopped and looked at Alexander, who was heading to his office, with a complicated expression. "Mr. Tudor, you haven't stopped since you got back this morning. Aren't you going to rest?"

Alexander had been in meetings all day, skipped lunch, and had two more meetings in the afternoon. But he still wasn't calling it a day.

Chapter 259.

Alexander turned and gave Nolan a cold look. Nolan didn't dare delay, nodded, and immediately arranged the upcoming work.

"Mr. Tudor, Mrs. Tudor...," Nolan paused, then corrected himself, "Ms. Percy posted on Instagram today, announcing your divorce. We need to respond as well."

"Got it," Alexander said, frowning deeply as he focused on the documents. Nolan realized Alexander wasn't in a good state, so he didn't say more and quickly went out to handle things.

After the door closed, Alexander opened Instagram. Elizabeth's post was brief but had tens of thousands of comments and likes. Just as Alexander was about to throw his phone on the desk, it rang. Alexander remembered that Esme was still waiting at the villa. He threw the phone on the desk, grabbed his coat, and left.

In the large office, only the phone screen kept lighting up with continuous calls. Alexander drove away from the company, not knowing where to go. Anywhere would do, as long as he didn't have to stop. He found that as soon as he stopped, his mind became incredibly chaotic. He didn't want to admit that this was caused by the divorce. But all these chain reactions seemed to have started because of the divorce.

Suddenly, the phone rang. It was Kieran. Alexander glanced at it and answered.

Kieran said, "Alexander! There's a race tonight on Eaglecrest Mountain. Are you coming?"

Chapter 260

At the top of Eaglecrest Mountain, a crowd had gathered, making the place buzz with energy. Elizabeth looked down at the forest and roads below, feeling a rush of excitement.

"Thinking of joining in?" Lila asked from beside her.

Elizabeth turned to see Lila, dressed in black with a mask and hat, keeping a low profile. "You know me too well!" Elizabeth grinned.

Tonight, Elizabeth wore a black cropped top and a skirt-pants combo. Her curly hair flowed down her back, and her makeup was on point.

"Then go for it. Just be safe," Lila said, pointing to the registration area.

Elizabeth felt a bit nervous. "It's been a while since I last raced."

"Afraid of losing?" Lila teased.

Elizabeth's smile widened. "I'm afraid they'll be bummed losing to someone who hasn't raced in years."

Lila nudged her. "You won't regret it a month from now, right?"

"What did you say?" Elizabeth leaned in, pretending not to hear.

Lila pouted, knowing Elizabeth was messing with her. "A month from now, when you get the divorce papers, you won't regret it, right?"

"Lila, I take back my compliment," Elizabeth joked.

Just then, Felix ran over, excited. "This time, someone from a professional team is joining the race!"

It seemed tonight's race was going to be different. Originally, it was just a casual race organized by the Wildman Team for fun. But with a pro joining, the competition got serious.

"Want to join?" Felix asked Elizabeth.

"I can't keep up," Elizabeth said, shaking her head.

Felix pouted. "Stop being modest."

Nearby, someone said, "Ever since Steve left, these races have been so dull."

"Yeah, everyone thinks they're the best. No respect!"

"I miss the days when Steve was around. Wonder if I'll ever see her race again."

Elizabeth turned to see a few men in their thirties, smoking and reminiscing. She looked down at the sports cars already in position, waiting for the race to start at eleven.

Suddenly, Lila got bumped, causing her to stumble. Elizabeth quickly steadied her. Elizabeth saw a young man, looking like a thug, eyeing Lila.

"You're Lila, right?" Victor Scott leaned in and asked.

Elizabeth stepped forward, shielding Lila. "No, you've got the wrong person."

"You're Elizabeth from the Percy family, right?" Victor pointed at her. He looked at Elizabeth, then at Lila. "They say beautiful people hang out together. Didn't believe it before, but now I do. Hey, Lila, take off your hat and mask, will you?" Victor whistled, acting sleazy.

Elizabeth frowned. "Show some respect."

"Respect? Aren't celebrities just for entertainment?" Victor sneered, pushing Elizabeth aside to get to Lila.

"If you take another step, don't blame me for being rude," Elizabeth said coldly, slapping his arm away.

Victor sensed her assertiveness. He stared at her for a moment. People around them started to gather, waiting for a show. Lila kept her head down, thinking her disguise would work, but she was wrong.

"Think you're special?" Victor sneered, turning to leave. "Who knows how many men have had their way with you behind the scenes,"

Elizabeth grabbed Victor by the collar. "Apologize to her."

"What if I don't? What are you gonna do about it?" Victor challenged her.