

Unrepairable Love / I married a man

Unrepairable Love

271-280

Chapter 271

Elizabeth uniled without saying a word. Felix looked at her, feeling happy inside. Elizabeth met Alexander's deep gaze and said, "Mr. Tudor, thank you." She then glanced at Lila, signaling it was time to leave. Alexander's face was complicated, like he had a lot to say but just watched her go.

Lila squeezed through the crowd to the betting table and said, "I bet on the red side and won." The people at the table gave her a look. After a nod from Frank, they handed her all the money, plus some extra. Lila carefully collected the cash. Someone bumped into her, making her stumble. Suddenly, Kieran grabbed her arm. Lila looked up and steadied herself.

"Are you okay?" Kieran asked, concerned. Lila shook her head, thanked him, and went to find Elizabeth and Felix. She thought she wouldn't come to places like this again. Kieran watched her leave and chuckled, thinking, *Even big stars come here?*

"Mr. Tudor, I've let Elizabeth go. Can we forget tonight?" Frank said, snapping Kieran back to reality. Kieran crossed his arms and looked at Alexander. Alexander looked upset, like Frank had wronged someone he cared about deeply. No wonder Elizabeth was so determined to marry Alexander back then. When Alexander cared for someone, it was hard not to be moved.

"Keep your people in check," Alexander told Frank, then looked at Kieran, "Kieran, let's go." Kieran nodded and followed, turning to Shane, "Let's grab a coffee sometime." Shane waved with a smile. Frank watched them leave, wiping sweat from his forehead. He thought, "Why didn't anyone tell me Alexander and Kieran were coming to Eaglecrest Mountain?" "Mr. Patterson," Gregory called out. Frank slapped Gregory's head, "You didn't assess the situation before calling me!"

Chapter 271 (continued)

Luckily, they didn't harm Elizabeth, or Eaglecrest Mountain would be untriable. Victor was sobbing nearby. Frank sighed, "Useless, go see a doctor. You can't even outrun a woman." "She's not an ordinary woman," someone in

the crowd said. Everyone looked around but couldn't find who spoke. Not an ordinary woman, who could it be? Stee?

Telis drove away from Eaglecrest Mountain. Elizabeth leaned on Lila's shoulder, resting. Lila counted money, "I made more than acting." Elizabeth chuckled. Lila sighed and put the money away. "Why the sigh?" Elizabeth asked, looking at her. "I'm thinking about Alexander," Lila said, looking at Elizabeth. Elizabeth paused, her mood dampened.

"He always stands up for you," Lila said. "But why can't he love you? After all these years, what does your effort mean?" Lila touched Elizabeth's back, whispering, "What does this scar mean?" Elizabeth felt a sharp pain in her heart. She thought, *It means I once loved Alexander.*

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Chapter 272

Kieran said, "Alexander, I'll drop you off here! Don't invite me in for tea. I'm not coming in."

The car door slammed shut. In front of Alexander's villa, Kieran gripped the steering wheel and cursed, "Alexander, you heartless jerk. No wonder your wife left you."

Alexander turned and glared at Kieran in the car. Kieran continued, "I was just being polite, but you really didn't invite me in for tea? Got a woman hidden in there?"

"Can you move any slower?" Alexander gritted his teeth, ready to drag Kieran out. Seeing this, Kieran chuckled, hit the gas, and sped away. Alexander rubbed his temples, annoyed by Kieran's noise.

As he turned to head to the porch, he saw a pitiful woman squatting at the door. Esme looked up and met Alexander's gaze. Alexander, her voice trembled. Alexander frowned, his heart sinking at the sight of Esme. He opened the door and went inside. Esme followed him.

"I've been calling you all day. Alexander, I really know I was wrong," she trailed closely behind. Alexander went to the bar, poured a glass of water, and glanced at Esme. Esme looked pale and weak.

“Alexander, I won’t cause any more trouble for you, okay? I won’t bother Elizabeth anymore either.” Tears fell as she spoke. Alexander’s expression stayed cold as he sipped his water.

“Alexander, I promise I’ll be obedient,” Esme said, more aggrieved. “Can you please not ignore me?”

Alexander walked to the sofa, sat down casually, and rested one hand on the back, looking at Esme coldly. Esme stood in front of him, too scared to approach.

“Alexander, can you say something to me?” Esme was practically begging. If the media saw this, it would be a scandal for the Russell family. The living room fell silent.

Alexander placed the glass on the coffee table and finally spoke. “Are you done talking?” Esme choked up, feeling lost. “If you’re done, go home,” Alexander said indifferently.

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Esme frowned and asked, “Alexander, what do I have to do to earn your forgiveness?” Alexander stood up, intending to go upstairs to rest. Esme immediately grabbed his arm. Alexander felt as if he had been scalded. “Why are you so hot?” he asked, touching her forehead.

“Are you running a fever?” Alexander’s voice softened, questioning. *Is it because she got caught in the rain last night and now has a fever?* he thought.

“Alexander, I came here last night to wait for you,” Esme said, feeling aggrieved. Alexander was stunned. “You’ve been here all this time?” Esme nodded.

“Esme, are you crazy?” Alexander asked. “I am crazy,” Esme choked out, “I’m terrified that you don’t love me anymore and will leave me. Alexander, you’re my everything. I can’t live without you.” She stepped forward and hugged him tightly. She was too aggrieved and too sad.

Alexander and Elizabeth had divorced. But Alexander was ignoring Esme and angry with her. How could Esme not be anxious?

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Chapter 273

Elizabeth finally got divorced. This was the closest Lime had ever been to becoming Mrs. Tudor. Alexander quietly pulled out his phone to call Nolan, but Esme grabbed his hand. “Don’t,” she said. “You have a fever and need to go to the hospital. If something happens to you, I can’t explain it to the Russell family.” Alexander put his phone away and tried calling Nolan again.

Esme asked, “Are you in such a hurry to get rid of me?”

Alexander paused for a few seconds, then explained, “Esme, you need to go to the hospital now, understand?”

“I don’t get it. I haven’t seen you all day, and now that I do, you’re trying to get rid of me!” Esme squatted down, crying. Alexander looked at her, sighed, and seemed helpless.

“I made a small mistake, and you treat me like this. I almost died for you, did I overcomplain?” Esme’s voice was muffled as she covered her face.

Alexander’s expression turned cold. He hated when Esme brought up the past, but she always did during arguments. He called Nolan and said coldly, “Come to the villa and take Ms. Russell to the hospital.”

Esme stood up and yelled, “Have you never thought about marrying me? Alexander!”

Alexander glanced at her indifferently. “You need to calm down.” Then he went upstairs.

Esme cried out, “Alexander, how can you treat me like this? You weren’t like this before. You’ve changed!”

Alexander paused for a moment. He thought of Elizabeth as he looked down the empty corridor. He quickly returned to the bedroom. The bedroom felt empty, like no one had ever lived there. Alexander lay on the sofa, pinching his brow, feeling irritable. He knew he was growing more impatient with Esme. In the past, when she mentioned saving him, he felt gratitude and pity. Now, he only felt impatience, like she was guilt-tripping him. Alexander closed his eyes and sighed deeply. Nolan arrived quickly and took Esme to the hospital.

Chapter 273

Esme was groggy; she had a high fever. “Nolan,” Esme called softly. Nolan glanced back. “Yes, Ms. Russell?!”

“Where did Alexander go tonight?” she asked.

“Ms. Russell, Mr. Tilford went out with Mr. Getty tonight. I’m not sure,” Nolan replied.

Esme looked tired. “Nolan, can you tell me Alexander’s schedule—Troji now on?”

Nolan smiled and declined. “Ms. Russell, that might not be appropriate.”

“I will be Mrs. Tudor in the future. Is it inappropriate for me to know his schedule?” Esme said angrily.

Nolan smiled and said nothing. Esme kicked the back of the seat. “Nolan, you’re just a lapdog for Alexander! How dare you refuse my request?”

Nolan fell silent. Esme gritted her teeth and started to cry out of anger. She felt everyone was bullying her. Esme took out her phone to call Alexander but couldn’t get through. She was on the verge of a breakdown.

Chapter 274

Elizabeth was about to leave after dropping Lila off when Lila asked, “You coming to the entertainment industry party tomorrow night?”

Elizabeth looked at her. Lila leaned on the car window, looking pitiful. She really wanted Elizabeth to come; going alone would be too boring.

Seeing Lila’s sad face, Elizabeth sighed. She couldn’t say no. “Alright, I’ll go,” Elizabeth said, giving in.

Lila beamed. “See you tomorrow night.”

“I might steal your spotlight,” Elizabeth teased.

Lila didn’t mind.

After Elizabeth left, Lila went back inside. On her way home, Elizabeth checked the news. Luckily, no one had reported her ruthless moves at the racing competition.

Feeling hungry, Elizabeth called Felix. “Want to grab some food?”

Felix’s car immediately followed hers. Elizabeth glanced at him through the window and smiled. They sped up, racing each other, and finally stopped in front of Lisbon University.

Felix got out and looked around. “What are we eating?”

“Spicy food,” Elizabeth said, craving it for some reason.

Felix followed her to the spicy food restaurant. Kimberly greeted them warmly. “You’re here again, just the two of you? Upstairs?”

Elizabeth nodded. Felix asked, “Who did you come with before?”

Elizabeth was about to answer when she saw a photo on Kimberly’s wall. She slowed her steps. The staircase walls were covered with photos of Kimberly and her customers. A new photo caught Elizabeth’s eye.

“Oh, you came with Mr. Tudor,” Felix said plaintively.

Elizabeth glared at him and went upstairs. Felix took another look at the photo. Elizabeth and Alexander actually made a good match, but love needed more than one person’s affection.

Felix quickly followed. Elizabeth ordered a lot of dishes. “Don’t eat too much spicy food; it’s bad for your stomach,” Felix reminded her.

Elizabeth ignored him and checked her phone. She had two unread messages on Facebook. She opened them and squinted.

Grant: [Elizabeth, remember the favor I asked?]

Elizabeth frowned. The next message read: [You promised to find Serenity Leaf for your grandma, did you forget?]

Elizabeth was taken aback. She had promised Grant to get the Serenity Leaf. “Felix, can you check if we have any Serenity Leaf in our warehouse?” Elizabeth asked.

Felix nodded and started checking on his phone. Elizabeth put down her phone. Felix said, “There’s no Serenity Leaf. What is it?”

Elizabeth was surprised. “What? I thought we did, so I promised Grant. Help me find out who has it.”

“It’s a medicinal herb. Plant one, and it grows many. It’s very resilient,” Elizabeth explained.

Felix was already searching. Serenity Leaf was an S-class rare herb, extremely expensive and scarce, comparable to saffron.

“There’s none on the market,” Felix told her.

“Please help me find some, no matter the cost. My grandpa wants to give it to my grandma,” Elizabeth said.

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Felix nodded. “Got it.”

The next day, at the banquet. Outside Grandview Hotel, the media swarmed, leaving barely any space. Luxury cars kept arriving, and out stepped big names from the film industry, along with popular actors and singers. Elizabeth stood behind a media crew, munching on candy, listening to the live broadcast about tonight’s guests.

“Lila? She hasn’t arrived yet,” a media person said, checking the live stream comments. “She’ll be here soon. Don’t worry!”

Elizabeth glanced at her phone. Most comments were about Lila, showcasing her massive fan base.

“Elizabeth, what are you doing here?” Suddenly, someone grabbed her arm. She turned to see Charles. She looked him over and nodded. Charles, in a black suit, looked quite handsome.

“This is an entertainment industry banquet. Look at what you’re wearing!” Charles pointed at her.

Elizabeth looked down at her black long dress. ‘Elegant and grand,’ she thought. What’s wrong with it?

“No jewelry, and your lipstick isn’t bright enough! You’ll be overshadowed,” Charles scolded.

Elizabeth replied, annoyed, “Charles, you don’t expect me to join the entertainment industry, do you? I’m just here for Lila.”

Charles handed her a lipstick. “Put it on and come in with me.” As the eldest daughter of the Percy family, she couldn’t be standing outside with the paparazzi.

“Even if you’re not joining, you can’t let others outshine you,” Charles nagged.

Elizabeth sighed. Just as she was about to follow Charles inside, she heard screams.

“Lila, look over here!”

Elizabeth stopped and looked outside. A black car door opened, and Lila, in a silver dress, stepped out gracefully, smiling at the cameras.

Elizabeth shouted, “Lila, you look stunning! I love you!” Her voice drew the media’s attention, who snapped pictures of her. Lila smiled even more beautifully at Elizabeth. Charles put a hand on his forehead, exasperated.

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“Charles, with such a great artist, you should be thrilled?” Elizabeth nudged him.

Charles nodded. “Yes!”

“I heard her contract is up next year. What if she wants to leave?” Elizabeth teased.

Charles snorted, “She wouldn’t dare.”

“Why not?” Elizabeth glared at him.

Charles chuckled, “If she really wants to leave, I’ll rely on you to keep her.”

“Charles, don’t worry,” Elizabeth said seriously. Charles knew his efforts in spoiling Elizabeth were worthwhile. But then she added, “If Lila really wants to leave, I won’t stop her. She should explore the world!”

Charles was speechless. Having Elizabeth was truly a blessing for him!

Lila finally finished with the media, and twenty minutes later, Elizabeth and Lila met in the hall. Once inside, Lila would be surrounded again.

“Being a big star isn’t easy,” Elizabeth said, feeling for Lila.

“At least I have you,” Lila smiled.

They exchanged smiles, and just as Lila was about to speak, someone walked over. “Cancel it. I’m not interested in her.”

The voice sounded familiar. Elizabeth and Lila turned to see who it was.

Chapter 276

Kieran looked up and saw them.

“It’s Kieran,” Elizabeth said, raising an eyebrow.

Kieran waved and smiled, “Hey.”

Lila gave a slight nod in greeting.

Kieran glanced at Lila, scrutinized her for a moment, then looked away.

“Mr. Getty, are you attending this kind of event?” Elizabeth asked, tilting her head.

“I usually don’t, but I have something to do today,” Kieran replied with a lively smile.

Elizabeth didn’t ask what it was, but Kieran volunteered, “I’m here to discuss something with a celebrity.”

“I see,” Elizabeth nodded and smiled. “The celebrity is lucky enough to work with you.”

Lila smiled faintly. “Good luck with your negotiations.”

Kieran raised an eyebrow, his smile deepening. “Thanks.”

With that, Kieran went back to his business. Elizabeth and Lila watched him walk away.

“A celebrity who gets Mr. Getty’s attention must be special,” Elizabeth remarked.

Lila nodded. “I’ve heard it’s tough to collaborate with the Getty Group. Kieran may seem playful, but he’s got a sharp eye. He doesn’t go for just any actress.”

“Really?” Elizabeth asked.

Lila replied, “He doesn’t like those who are too popular. I’ve been in the industry for years and never landed a deal with the Getty Group. I had always scoffed at Getty Group endorsements. Plus, Kieran was friends with Alexander, whom she didn’t like much.”

“Is there an endorsement you couldn’t get?” Elizabeth was surprised.

“Kieran has no taste!” Elizabeth snorted. “What if he wants to sign you now?”

“If he kneels and begs, I’ll consider it,” Lila said, striking a queenly pose.

Elizabeth burst out laughing.

Lila added, “Just kidding. It’s not that serious, but I wouldn’t work with him.” Anyway, Kieran didn’t fancy her either.

In short, they didn’t fancy each other.

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“If Mr. Getty realizes your worth one day, he might come to you,” Elizabeth teased.

“I hope not. I’d have to refuse,” Lila replied.

They exchanged a glance and laughed.

“Lila, we should go in.” Lila’s agent called out.

Lila nodded, then bid farewell to Elizabeth, saying they’d meet inside later.

Elizabeth watched Lila go, about to ask where Charles was, when she saw a familiar figure coming in.

Alexander walked in with seven people in black suits, everyone showing him respect. Alexander was listening to a woman, looking serious. Two bodyguards with earpieces followed behind.

Elizabeth sighed, thinking, “Why is Alexander here? He hates these events.” She was about to avoid him when Alexander looked up.

Their eyes met, and the atmosphere got awkward. The people with Alexander fell silent, following his gaze.

Should we call her Ms. Percy or Mrs. Tudor? It’s rumored Alexander and Elizabeth are divorced, but he hasn’t confirmed it. Everyone felt awkward.

Alexander pressed his lips together, glanced at Elizabeth, and nodded slightly. He didn’t want it to be too awkward and hoped Elizabeth wouldn’t either.

Elizabeth got the hint and nodded back, then walked away. Alexander’s gaze followed her.

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Elizabeth had barely taken a few steps when she bumped into Joseph.

“Hey, Joseph!” she waved excitedly.

Joseph looked surprised. “Elizabeth, you’re here too?”

“Lila dragged me along. What about you?” Elizabeth asked.

“You know Lila?” Joseph was shocked.

Elizabeth pouted. “Are you kidding? Lila’s a good friend. I’ve watched her become a big star over the years!”

Joseph suddenly smiled. “I need a favor.”

Elizabeth squinted.

“Our jewelry store needs a new spokesperson. Lila’s perfect, but she’s super busy. Can you help me out?” Joseph asked.

“No problem. I’ll set up a dinner when she’s free, but I can’t promise anything. It’s her choice!” Elizabeth smiled.

Joseph was grateful. “Just getting a meeting is great. Thanks!”

They chatted and laughed; the atmosphere was friendly.

Not far away, Alexander watched them, his hand slowly clenching into a fist. The person next to him didn’t dare to breathe. “So, they really are divorced, huh? Otherwise, how could a couple just nod at each other like that? Elizabeth and Joseph seem more like a couple than her and Alexander.”

“Mr. Tudor, shall we go inside?” the woman asked cautiously.

Alexander’s expression was grim. He withdrew his gaze and nodded.

As soon as he entered, Alexander drew the attention of many actresses and socialites. Alexander rarely attended such events, so seeing him was a big deal. Every time he showed up, it caused a stir. His looks were better than many male celebrities. Male celebrities would step aside when they saw him. With his status and power, he was the ideal husband for many women. Now that he was divorced, it only fueled their desire to win him over. Who could capture Alexander’s heart?

Elizabeth entered with Joseph. She was dressed simply, and since everyone’s attention was on Lila and Alexander earlier, no one noticed her.

She found a corner and started eating cake. Elizabeth glanced at Alexander. He was still surrounded by people, always the center of attention. The actresses in the room were eager to approach him. They tried to act cool but kept glancing his way. One actress in a yellow dress was especially noticeable, taking pictures and selfies.

Elizabeth smirked and continued eating her cake. Just then, someone approached Alexander. “Mr. Tudor, I’m Molly Parker. Nice to meet you.” Molly, in a black bodycon dress, extended her hand for a handshake.

Alexander just smiled faintly. “Hello, I’m Alexander.” But he didn’t shake her hand. Molly felt awkward but didn’t say much; just talking to Alexander was an honor.

As Alexander was socializing, he felt a burning gaze. He turned and saw Elizabeth eating watermelon, looking at him. This was the first time the

watching women felt Alexander as a bystander, not her husband. Honestly, it was quite amusing. Alexander was speechless. Elizabeth really looked like she was just enjoying herself.

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Elizabeth smiled and lifted the watermelon in her hand to greet Alexander. Alexander grunted inwardly and kept chatting with others. Elizabeth set down the watermelon rind and was wiping her fingers when someone approached. She looked up and saw it was Esme's brother, Henry. Even though it was supposed to be a party for the entertainment industry, it felt more like a gathering of Lishun's business elites.

Henry glanced at Elizabeth, grabbed a nearby cup, and sipped some of the drink. Elizabeth debated whether to greet Henry. After all, they had some history. While she hesitated, Henry spoke first, "Ms. Percy, I heard you and Alexander got divorced?"

Elizabeth looked at him. Henry's lips curled up, and his black suit made him look sharp. One hand was in his pocket; the other held the cup. Henry was usually mature and decent, but he couldn't hide his happiness when he asked that. Elizabeth sighed, knowing Henry was happy for Esme. After three years, Esme could finally become Alexander's wife. The whole Russell family must be thrilled for her.

"Yes, we did," Elizabeth replied bluntly.

"If you knew this would happen, why bother in the first place?" Henry's tone was calm but had a hint of sarcasm.

Elizabeth smiled and looked at Lila in the distance. "If I don't try, how will I know the outcome?"

"Pointless," Henry snorted, dripping with sarcasm. Elizabeth didn't care about Henry's sarcasm. She had never offended Henry or formally met him, but the Russell family revolved around Esme. Anyone who hurt Esme was their enemy. Someone called Henry, and he waved them over.

Elizabeth couldn't help but roll her eyes inwardly. Thank goodness Henry isn't my brother, or I'd argue with him every day.

“Faith is here!” someone suddenly shouted. Everyone turned to the entrance. A sexy young woman in a black backless gown walked in. She was followed by two bodyguards and her agent, making quite an entrance.

“Faith is so beautiful, truly the queen of the red carpet!”

Elizabeth tilted her head and crossed her arms.

Chapter 278

Faith Evans, a top-tier actress, had skyrocketed to fame for playing sister roles. Faith was Lila’s fiercest competitor. Whether in acting or variety shows, Faith loved to drag Lila down, which was infuriating! As soon as Faith arrived, many people gathered around her, including some of her former collaborators. Half the room emptied out. After greeting everyone, Faith made her way through the crowd to Lila.

Lila raised an eyebrow and smiled at Faith. It was aloof but not hostile.

“Lila, you’re here too? I thought you wouldn’t come!” Faith’s eyes sparkled, making her seem very approachable.

“Yes, but didn’t we say hello in the event group chat?” Lila squinted, even gentler than Faith.

Faith paused for a moment. Lila inwardly rolled her eyes. “What a pretense. She has been trying to cozy up to me in the event group chat. Now she has amnesia?”

Faith squinted, gripping her purse tightly. She thought, ‘Lila, can’t you just follow my lead?’

Lila and Faith stared at each other, tension thick in the air.

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“Hey, la, Faith! Over here!” the photographer called out.

Lila and Faith turned, holding hands and smiling. Elizabeth was stunned. This must be what they call an actor’s poise. But Faith was no match for Lila. Lila’s dress was dazzling, while Faith, despite showing more skin, didn’t stand out. Next to Lila, Faith looked unremarkable.

Elizabeth thought, *If I were Faith, I wouldn’t let myself be overshadowed by Lila.* Lila’s presence was overwhelming.

“Lila, did you hear? Mr. Getty’s looking for a new spokesperson,” Faith said.

“Nope,” Lila shook her head, playing dumb.

“Really? You didn’t know?” Faith looked surprised but then smiled. “Well, I’ve got my eye on it.”

Lila glanced at her. Faith grinned. “You won’t compete with me, right?”

Lila wanted to roll her eyes. *Are we even that close?*

“Sure, I won’t compete,” Lila smiled. But inside, she thought, *If it weren’t for my issues with Kieran, you’d see if I’d compete or not!*

Just then, Kieran sauntered over, champagne flute in hand, one hand casually tucked in his pocket, looking relaxed. Unlike Alexander, who was always serious and in work mode, Kieran seemed to be enjoying life.

Kieran spotted Lila and headed her way. But as he got closer, Lila said, “You guys chat. I’m going to find my friend.”

Before Kieran could react, Lila brushed past him, giving him a deep look. Kieran frowned, watching her walk towards Elizabeth. He put down his champagne and was about to follow when Faith approached. “Mr. Getty, hello.”

Kieran looked her over, raising an eyebrow. “And you are?”

Faith’s face fell. *Does Kieran not recognize me?*

“Mr. Getty, I’m Faith Evans,” she said softly.

Kieran nodded. “Sorry, I don’t know you.”

Faith was speechless.

“I need to talk to Lila. Enjoy your evening,” Kieran smiled politely.

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Faith quickly said, “Mr. Getty, I also need to talk to you. Do you have a moment?”

“What is it?” Kieran asked.

“I heard the Getty Group is looking for a spokesperson, L...” Faith trailed off.

“Sorry, I already have someone in mind. It’s not you,” Kieran cut her off.

Faith’s face stiffened, and she swallowed hard.

“You...” Faith started, but saw Kieran’s eyes fixed on Lila. This made her even more anxious. She cautiously asked, “Your candidate isn’t Lila, is it?”

Kieran raised an eyebrow, looking her over again. “Who else would be worthy of being the spokesperson for the Getty Group?”

Faith was speechless. Kieran’s words shut her up, especially his scrutinizing gaze.

“Is Kieran looking down on me?” she thought.

C 280

Alexander had never treated Esme like this before. Whenever Esme cried, Alexander would always give in. It seemed Esme had really pushed Alexander this time.

“So, is she here to seek forgiveness?” Lila asked Kieran.

Kieran turned and met Lila’s captivating eyes. He had never found any woman’s eyes so breathtaking until now. Kieran suddenly felt like he was falling in love.

Lila was truly beautiful.

“Hello?” Lila’s voice was lazy.

Kieran cleared his throat, trying to hide his awkwardness. “Sorry.”

“No problem,” Lila smiled generously. She was used to men being stunned by her.

Kieran suddenly felt like he had been played by Lila!

“Not sure,” Kieran said, looking towards Esme.