

Unrepairable Love / I married a man

Chapter 331

Isalwayschill, never messed with anyone. So, like, who the heck would snatch her up for no reason? The Percy fam was always...

This game is so rigged! I call BS, Elizabeth yelled.

“Shut it,” Elijah sneered, “You ain’t got the right to complain.”

Elizabeth was left speechless. She stared at the ground, trying to figure out who’d be low enough to target her. ‘Alexander? Nah, he’s a jerk but not that low. Maybe Esme? But she got turned down, so she shouldn’t have time to mess with me, right?’

Elizabeth was stumped. She glanced at Elijah, who was munching away. Elijah caught her looking and asked, “Want some grub?”

Elizabeth shot back, “Let me go. Whatever they’re paying you, I’ll give you ten times that.”

Elijah shrugged, “We shadow folks don’t do it for the cash. Don’t try to bribe me; I got my own code.”

Elizabeth pouted, “You’re already doing this, so what code? Just let me go and join me!”

Elijah laughed, “Rolling with you means starving all the time.”

“I’m the heiress of the Percy family. You think I’d let you starve? That’s just rude!” she snapped.

Elijah chuckled, “Glad you know I’m dissing you. Look at you, kidnapped and still trying to recruit me. With a boss like you, I’d be babysitting you all day!”

Getting annoyed, Elijah told Isaac to gag her.

Elizabeth thought, *Is he gagging me ‘cause he can’t win an argument? Yeah, he definitely doesn’t think I’m noisy.*

But then Elijah cursed, “Noisy!”

Elizabeth mused inwardly, *Seriously? Kidnapping me without asking for cash, what's his deal? Is he really gonna hang me till tomorrow morning? Won't I suffocate?*

She sighed. Elijah kept eating and singing nearby. Elizabeth looked at the scenery, feeling oddly calm.

Elijah sighed, "What's the point of being rich? You piss people off so easily."

Elizabeth glanced at him. Elijah went on, "Us regular folks don't get kidnapped." But they did struggle with money. He stood up and stretched. Walking over to her, he looked out into the distance. "I wonder if by tomorrow, you'll be home or in pieces. Honestly," he said, patting her shoulder, "Look how skinny you are."

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Elizabeth was speechless. "Honestly," Elijah circled back, "I think it's unlikely."

Elizabeth rolled her eyes; he might as well have said nothing.

"Got any unfulfilled dreams? I'll help you out," Elijah suddenly sat next to her, all enthusiastic.

Elizabeth shook her head; she didn't have any.

"I saw on the news you divorced your rich hubby, right?" Elijah asked out of nowhere.

Elizabeth thought, *This guy loves his gossip*. She didn't respond but looked at him eagerly.

Elijah laughed, "Why don't we tell him you've been kidnapped and see what he does?"

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Elizabeth was chill at first, but when Elijah dropped that bomb, she balked. She wobbled a bit. Elijah chimed in, “Hey, watch it. Don’t go tipping over!”

Elizabeth wanted to say something. Elijah noticed and asked, “You wanna find Alexander?” Elizabeth shook her head quickly.

Elijah was taken aback. “You don’t wanna tell him you got snatched?” Elizabeth nodded. Elijah was even more shocked. “Why not?”

Elizabeth thought it was too complicated to explain. Elijah kept going. “Isn’t this the perfect chance? He risks his neck to save you, and bam, old flames reignite. Wouldn’t that be awesome?”

Elizabeth was speechless, thinking, “Sure, great idea. But rekindling old flames? Nah, not needed.”

“Why aren’t you into rekindling old flames?” Elijah noticed her indifference. Elizabeth closed her eyes, thinking, “You know why.”

“Alright then.” Elijah backed off. Suddenly, Elijah propped his face and stared at the moon. Elizabeth was speechless. The moonlight was gorgeous tonight, but here she was, kidnapped.

What blew Elizabeth’s mind even more was Elijah sitting next to her, moon-gazing. It was surreal.

Over at the Tudor Group, Alexander had just wrapped up a remote meeting. He flipped through some papers and handed them to Nolan, looking beat. “It’s done. We gotta fly to Seaspring Valley City tomorrow.”

Nolan nodded. “Got it, Mr. Tudor.” Alexander patted his pockets, searching for his phone but came up empty. “Nolan, where’s my phone?” Alexander asked.

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Nolan replied, “Probably in the office. Didn’t see you with it this afternoon.” Alexander paused for a couple of seconds, then nodded and headed to the office with Nolan.

On the way, he asked, “How’s Estie?” “Mr. Tudor, our guys have been watching Russell. She’s been home and hasn’t gone out in days.”

Alexander frowned. Esme not only stayed put, but she also didn't call him, which was odd. "Get it," Alexander replied lightly.

Shing open the office door, he found his phone charging. Alexander walked over, sat on the sofa, checked his phone, and stood up quickly. There were seven missed calls from unknown numbers. And a bunch of DEVEIL messages:

[Mr. Tudor, Elizabeth's been kidnapped.] [Mr. Tudor, if you see this, call me back.] [Mr. Tudor, this is Laura, Elizabeth's colleague:]

"Mr. Tudor, what's up?" Nolan was pouring water for Alexander. Alexander swallowed, frowned, saw the unknown number, and rushed out.

"Mr. Tudor?" Nolan followed, worried. "Did something happen to Ms. Russell?" Alexander hit the elevator button, locking his phone. "Something happened to Elizabeth."

Nolan was shocked. "Ms. Percy?" The call connected. Alexander stepped into the elevator. "Hello, this is Alexander."

Laura's voice was calmer, "Oh, Mr. Tudor. It's okay. I already called the cops, and Elizabeth's parents are at the station." From Laura's tone, Alexander sensed helplessness.

Laura thought, *When I needed Alexander the most, he was Vest ten, and he just shows up. If something really happened to Elizabeth, she might've been in pieces by now.*

"What happened?" Alexander asked in a low voice. Elizabeth had a car accident and got taken away at the door, Laura said.

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Alexander's face twisted in disbelief. He thought, *Elizabeth got snatched? In broad daylight? Who's got the guts for that?*

"Which station's handling it?" he asked.

"The main one," Laura said.

He thanked her and hung up. The elevator doors slid open. He stormed out, Nolan hot on his heels. "Mr. Tudor, I'm coming with you."

Alexander shot him a look. “Why no phone on you?”

Nolan looked sheepish. “It died, sir. I...”

Alexander didn’t respond, just jumped into the car, and they sped off.

Nolan stayed behind, sighing. “Hope Elizabeth’s okay. If not, Alexander’s gotta be freaking out, right?”

At the police station, Alexander walked in, spotting Rose in the lobby, tears in her eyes. She looked shocked to see him. He approached, unsure what to call her. After a beat, he said, “Aunt Rose. Rose. You here for Elizabeth?”

Rose, despite her dislike for Alexander, nodded. “Yes.”

“They’re in there,” she pointed to a conference room.

Alexander nodded. He almost patted her shoulder but thought better of it and headed to the room. Rose watched him go, feeling conflicted. She’d seen Alexander grow up, always close to Celine and Lily. He was perfect in every way, except for not loving Elizabeth. If he could be the Percy family’s son-in-law, she’d be thrilled. But love made him a jerk.

She lowered her head. As a mom, no matter how great Alexander was, she didn’t want Elizabeth hurt again.

Inside the conference room, everyone stood up, except Declan. They nodded. “Mr. Tudor.”

Alexander nodded at Declan, who returned a cold stare with no warmth.

“Uncle Declan,” Alexander said.

Declan looked away.

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“Mr. Tudor, here about Ms. Percy?” Chief Ian Phillips asked.

Alexander nodded. “What’s the deal? I just heard.”

Ian explained, "She was grabbed at the residential complex entrance. Surveillance shows she vanished at this intersection." Alexander looked at the screen. Ian added, "We've searched all directions."

"How long since the cops got involved?" Alexander asked.

"An hour," Ian said.

"Nothing?" Alexander's voice was tense.

Ian wiped his brow. Lisbun was huge, and the kidnapper left no clues.

Declan slammed his cup on the table. Alexander glanced over; Declan was losing it.

"Ms. Percy tick anyone off lately?" Ian asked Declan.

Declan snapped, "The one she pissed off is right here!"

Ian and Alexander exchanged looks.

Alexander said, "Uncle Declan, I wouldn't have her kidnapped."

Declan, fuming, stood up. "Then think! Who else would she offend? Elizabeth's always kind; she'd only piss someone off because of *you*!"

Alexander's eyes darkened. He suddenly thought of someone.

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Alexander strolled out of the conference room and punched in Esme's number. Esme picked up in a flash, her voice choked up. "Alexander, you finally called. I thought you'd ghosted me for good."

Alexander sighed, ruffling his hair, looking distraught. Since Esme's proposal, he'd gone radio silent. He figured they both needed to cool down, and Elara needed to cool off too.

"Esme, I gotta ask you something, and I need you to be straight with me," Alexander said, sounding dead serious.

Esme didn't miss a beat. "Okay, Alexander, shoot. I'll be honest."

Alexander's face tightened, and he dropped his voice. "Did you hire someone to snatch Elizabeth?"

Esme was floored by the question. She couldn't wrap her head around Alexander even thinking that. Usually, it was Alexander grilling Elizabeth about messing with Esme.

"Alexander, you really think I'd hurt Elizabeth just because I can't have you?" Esme's tears flowed, her voice dripping with hurt. "After all these years, if I wanted Elizabeth gone, would I have waited and dealt with all this? You called this late just to ask about Elizabeth, not because you missed me, right?" Esme's voice was heavy with disappointment.

Esme was increasingly convinced that Alexander's heart had drifted since Elizabeth brought up divorce. Could it be that Alexander actually had feelings for Elizabeth?

"Esme. We'll deal with us later. Answer my question first," Alexander said, glancing at Rose. Rose looked like she was about to faint. Elizabeth was the Percy family's princess. If something happened to her, they'd be devastated.

"I didn't!" Esme snapped and then hung up.

Alexander stared at his phone, his expression complicated. He called Nolan, "Dig into who Ms. Russell's been talking to lately."

"Got it."

Alexander wasn't buying Esme's story. One side of the story never...

Rose happened to glance up and saw Alexander. She looked like she wanted to say something but clammed up and turned away. Alexander walked over and squatted in front of Rose. Rose and Alexander rarely interacted, and this was the closest they'd ever been.

"Rose, Elizabeth's gonna be okay. Don't stress," Alexander said, trying to sound reassuring.

But Rose couldn't relax. "Mr. Tudor, Elizabeth's been pampered her whole life. If she got kidnapped, she must be terrified."

Alexander went quiet. Rose's words put a wall between them.

“I’ll find Elizabeth. She’ll be fine,” Alexander promised Rose. He wouldn’t let anything happen to Elizabeth...

“Rose, why don’t you and Declan go home and rest? Let me handle this,” Alexander said, noticing Declan looked exhausted too.

Rose shook her head. “How could we trouble you, Mr. Tudor?” Rose stood up and walked back into the conference room.

Alexander’s heart felt like it was being stabbed. Not only had Elizabeth pulled away from him, but everyone close to her treated him like the enemy since the divorce. He remembered how Elizabeth used to bring him home in high school, and the Percy family treated him like one of their own. Take another look at now.

Alexander hung his head and let out a bitter laugh.

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“Yo, Mr. Tudor, you good?” someone nearby asked quietly.

Alexander shook his head and headed for the conference room door. He overheard Lan saying, “There are a bunch of half-built places nearby. Let’s check them out, see if she’s been taken to one. Keep your phones on. We can’t miss a call if the kidnappers try to reach out.”

Alexander muttered, “Unfinished buildings.”

Yeah, there were a ton of those around. Word was, people often died there, and kidnappers loved those spots.

He called Nolan, left the police station, and hit the road. Declan and Rose were useless at the station, so Lan told them to go home and rest. But when they stepped out, they noticed Alexander was gone.

Rose chuckled, “He was just here saying he’d help us find Elizabeth, and now he’s vanished.”

“Did you really think he’d help?” Declan scoffed, not taking Alexander seriously at all.

Rose sighed, “But Declan, don’t you think sometimes Elizabeth needs a man around?”

“Well, that man sure ain’t Alexander!” Declan shot back.

Rose was quiet for a bit, then got in the car with Declan. She said, worried, “It could’ve been him.”

“Don’t dwell on it. We just don’t have that kind of luck!” Declan sighed deeply and drove home.

Will our daughter be alright? Rose was really worried. Ever since she heard the news, her heart had been racing.

Declan then realized he might have been neglecting Rose. He reached out and held Rose’s hand, shaking his head. “Don’t worry. She’ll be fine.”

Rose lowered her head, and tears fell. She was really worried about Elizabeth.

“Don’t tell Mom and Dad about this yet,” Declan said.

Rose nodded.

The night dragged on. A black Pagani sped down the road, looking like it had a purpose but no real direction. In a deserted field, an abandoned warehouse stood empty and creepy.

Alexander’s figure broke in, a weak flashlight illuminating the surroundings. “Elizabeth!”

No one responded; only echoes answered him. Alexander searched the area but couldn’t find Elizabeth. He quickly moved on to the next location.

His phone rang; it was Nolan.

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Nolan said, “Mr. Tudor, we’ve checked. Ms. Percy’s last known spot was north of Maple Grove Lane. There are three unfinished buildings and an abandoned factory up there.”

“Sync this with the Captain. I’m heading to Maple Grove Lane now,” Alexander said calmly.

Nolan responded, “Got it, Mr. Tudor. Be careful.”

“Okay.” Alexander hung up and sped to Maple Grove Lane.

Alexander opened the map as he headed there, while the cops were also on their way. The night wind blew, making everyone uneasy. Alexander called Elizabeth, but the phone kept ringing unanswered, leaving him clueless about her whereabouts.

His grip on the steering wheel tightened. He didn’t even realize how tense he was about Elizabeth’s disappearance. Maybe it was just because of the promise he made to Rose. Or maybe it was because Elizabeth was his ex-wife.

Thinking of every look of admiration and hatred Elizabeth had given him, Alexander felt like his heart was being eaten alive. He prayed that Elizabeth wasn’t in trouble.

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At 2 a.m., the city was finally chilling out. In the silence, faint sirens could be heard in the distance. Elizabeth was tied up so tight she felt like a board, while Elijah was nodding off next to her. A few guys were gaming, muttering curses under their breath. Elizabeth was super uncomfortable. She squirmed a bit, and a few guys glanced over. “What’s your deal?”

Elijah woke up too. He checked the time, then looked at Elizabeth. Elizabeth frowned and motioned for Elijah to ditch the tape.

Elijah groaned. “Man, I hate kidnapping chicks. Such a pain!” But he still untied the tape for her.

Elijah asked, “What now?”

“Not feeling well, can I move a bit?” Elizabeth asked, sounding weak and helpless. Being tied up like this, she felt like her blood was going the wrong way.

“You’re so high-maintenance. Here, have some water!” Elijah grumbled as he fetched some water. He even stuck a straw in for her.

After drinking, she felt a bit better. But as the night got colder, she felt worse.

“If you keep me tied up like this, I might croak before anyone shows up at ten,” Elizabeth said sarcastically.

Elijah didn’t say anything and went to grab some clothes.

“You think I wanna do this? Making money ain’t easy,” Elijah complained.

Elizabeth lowered her head and asked, “You hear that? The sirens are getting louder.”

Elijah scratched his ear. “Didn’t hear a thing.”

“If the cops nab you, it’s gonna get real,” Elizabeth said calmly.

Elijah chuckled, squatted in front of her, and asked, “You threatening me?” Elizabeth looked up at him.

“I just think you’re not a bad guy, so I’m giving you a heads-up.”

Elijah laughed. “Thanks!”

Elizabeth shook her head.

“How about I give you a tip? A way to make money and dodge the...”

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Elijah squinted, bored, and motioned for her to go on.

“Call my friend, tell him something happened to me. Leave one guy here, the rest of you bounce,” Elizabeth said quietly, referring to the rope behind her.

“By ten in the morning, if no one shows, you can cut this rope,” she added, leaning against it. Once the rope was cut, she’d fall hard. Falling onto the bricks below, she’d be toast.

“Elizabeth, you think I don’t know you’re scheming?” Elijah snorted. “Pretty girls are all liars. You can’t trick me and escape.”

Elizabeth stayed quiet.

Elijah continued, “But let me remind you...” He smiled, looking dangerous. “...if the cops come, I’m jumping with you.”

From the moment Elizabeth met Elijah, she felt he wasn’t serious about the kidnapping. But now, hearing his words and seeing his face, she didn’t dare think that anymore. Elijah was dead serious. The more someone joked, the more ruthless they were when it came down to it. Elijah knew he was taking a risk!

“Let me go, and I’ll protect you. Deal?” Elizabeth said seriously.

“I got no way back, Ms. Percy,” Elijah smiled, patting her cheek.

Elizabeth turned her head, clenching her fists. “Join me.”

“If I join you, I’d just be your lackey! I wanna be someone who calls the shots and kills without blinking, got it?” Elijah cursed, standing up. “What good is it to follow a woman like you? There’s only one person I’ll ever serve in this life!” Elijah turned around, raising one finger.

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Elizabeth glanced up at Elijah. He flashed a grin and said, “Even if I told ya, you probably wouldn’t get it.” Elizabeth bit her lip. “Try me.” She was Glory M, and there wasn’t a thing in this world she didn’t know!

“Ever heard of Glory M?” Elijah squinted. Elizabeth was stunned. “You’re a chick. How could you know who Glory M is? Forget it, talking to you is a waste of time.” Elijah turned away, sounding super bummed.

“Yes, I have,” Elizabeth muttered. Elijah snorted, “Oh yeah? Then do you know about Base M?” “I do!” Elizabeth whispered.

Elijah finally looked at her. “Good to know!” Elijah said, “The only person who could make me her lapdog is Glory M! If Glory M stood in front of me and said, ‘Follow me!’ I’d drop to my knees and follow her without a second thought!” Elijah crossed his arms, his eyes gleaming with excitement. Ever since he learned about Glory M, he wanted to follow her. But then, Glory M

vanished three years ago. He never even got the chance to meet her! His idol just up and disappeared, and it was killing him!

“Follow me,” Elizabeth said seriously, staring at Elijah. Elijah laughed coldly. “You think you’re Glory M?” “What if I said...” Elizabeth’s words were cut off. He walked over and slapped some tape over her mouth. “Shut up, just wait till morning.”

You idiot! You just missed your chance to talk to Glory M, you know that? Body tense with anger. Idiot, let me go! Elizabeth fumed inwardly, her whole...

Elijah didn’t even glance at her, sighing at the sky. “I don’t know when I’ll ever see Glory M. When I heard she was a woman, I admired her even more. She’s got guts...” Saying this, Elijah clenched his fists and slammed them together. Elizabeth was speechless.

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She gave up struggling and stared down from the high building. She just hoped someone would come to save her before ten o’clock. By then, she’d definitely tell Elijah she was Glory M and make him regret it big time! But now, Elizabeth was on the verge of tears, desperately hoping someone noticed she was missing. Her heart wobbled with the wobbling chair. The early morning wind was getting colder, and she could feel her legs stiffening. Even if they let her go, she might not be able to walk. The sound of sirens was getting closer, but Elizabeth didn’t know if they were for her.

Nolan messaged Alexander: [Mr. Tudor, no sign of Ms. Percy in south Maple Grove. Meeting cops now.]

Alexander leaned against the car, looking at the vast city, feeling lost for the first time. The phone screen glowed faintly. He shielded the wind with one hand and lit a cigarette. The surroundings were silent, only the smoke keeping him company. Nolan sent a summary of the locations. There was only one unfinished building left unchecked. If Elizabeth wasn’t there, where could she have been taken?

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The sky was starting to lighten. Elizabeth was hot. She kept nodding off, only to jerk awake with a start. The sky was turning white; Elizabeth glanced back

and saw Elijah was already out cold. She'd tried to get the ropes off, but every time she loosened them, she'd almost topple over. The real kicker was these ropes were a pain to untie. Even as Glory M., she was stuck.

But Elizabeth wasn't about to give up. Leaving her fate in someone else's hands? Dumbest move ever. She jostled the chair, making the bell on the rope behind her jingle. A few folks woke up from the noise. Everyone rubbed their eyes and yawned, clearly ticked off. "What are you shaking for?"

"What's up now?" Elijah grumbled, stumbling over. He ripped the tape off her mouth, making her wince so badly she couldn't even talk. She shot him a look with her red eyes, and Elijah was taken aback. Elizabeth looked genuinely worn out and pitiful. Elijah felt a sudden pang of guilt, like he'd done something unforgivable.

"It really hurts. Can you tie me up differently?" Elizabeth tried to plead.

"Not a chance." Elijah snorted, quickly turning away, scared he'd give in. But he didn't put the tape back on her mouth. He could see she was uncomfortable. With her hands tied behind her back, sitting on a hard chair in a half-suspended position, who could be comfy?

Elijah splashed his face with cold water, waking up a bit. He checked the time on his phone and sighed, "It's four o'clock." For the first time, Elizabeth felt like time was crawling.

Just then, her phone rang. Elizabeth looked up, and Elijah turned to take the call. She vaguely heard him say, "Yeah, everything's smooth. What, someone actually called the cops?"

Elijah glanced back, meeting Elizabeth's gaze, and frowned. "Who called the cops?" Whatever was said on the other end made Elijah lower his head in shame, muttering, "Sorry. We messed up. I'll bring that over, too." His voice got louder at the last part, and Elizabeth heard clearly.

"Okay, I'll do as you say!" Elijah hung up and turned to look at Elizabeth. Elizabeth frowned, wondering who that was.

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Could it be Laura?

“Your friend, her name’s Laura, right?” Elijah suddenly asked.

Elizabeth frowned.

Elijah smirked, “I’ll bring her—no, her kid—over to keep you company!”

“No!” Elizabeth blurted out. She thought, Kidnapping Laura is one thing, but her kid too? No way! Elijah’s really hitting below the belt!

“She called the cops, Elizabeth!” Elijah was fuming.

Elizabeth choked up.

“Here’s the deal,” Elijah thought for a moment and pointed at her. “I won’t kidnap the kid, but I have one condition.”

Elizabeth nodded right away. “Name it.”

“You call Laura and tell her you’re safe, and have her cancel the police report immediately!” Elijah thought he was a genius.

“Who’d buy that?” Elizabeth snapped, “Idiot.”

Elijah’s face turned red. “You lecturing me now?” He stormed over and grabbed her by the collar. “Think I’ve been too nice to you?”

Elizabeth gritted her teeth. “If we keep dragging this out, it won’t end well for you!”

“Didn’t I say? If I go down, I’m taking you with me!” Having a beauty like Elizabeth to die with, wasn’t that a kind of twisted pleasure?

Elijah suddenly had an idea and grinned. “How about this?”

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Elizabeth caught a whiff of something nasty in his grin. Elijah smirked, “Hit up Alexander and tell him you’ve been snatched. Let’s see if he’s got the guts to come save you!”

Elizabeth’s face turned icy. The last thing she wanted was to drag Alexander into this mess, but Elijah was hell-bent on it.

“I’m not doing it,” Elizabeth muttered, her voice low but firm.

“You sure about that? This is your one shot!” Elijah lifted her chin, grinning. “Wouldn’t it suck if you ended up dead?”

“You’re underestimating the cops,” Elizabeth said, staring off into the distance. She could hear the sirens getting louder.

Elijah followed her gaze, and sure enough, the sirens were closing in. His grip on her chin tightened. Elizabeth was really pushing his buttons!

“Maybe I should just off you now!” Elijah growled, his teeth clenched.

Elizabeth sneered, “If you kill me, you’re toast too. I’m not just anyone, you know.”

“Just the Percy family’s heiress, right?” Elijah scoffed. “I’m a hitman, you think I’m scared?”

With that, Elijah pulled out a dagger. If he cut the rope behind her, Elizabeth would fall. If she died, they’d split. No one would ever know. It’d be the perfect crime!

Elijah sneered, “Last chance, Elizabeth. Wanna call Alexander?”

Elizabeth’s eyes were steely. She’d rather die than ask Alexander for help.

Elijah didn’t see that coming.

“Alright then,” Elijah nodded, the dagger catching the moonlight. “You asked for it. Don’t blame me for not playing nice.” Elijah, ready to cut the rope.

Elizabeth stayed calm and said coldly, “I’m a Chury MI...”

Elijah squinted, “You think I’m stupid?”

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“I can prove it!” Elizabeth said, dead serious.

The sirens were getting closer, and Elijah cursed, “Quit stalling!” With that, Elijah’s dagger was about to come down again.

Just then, someone shouted from behind, “Boss!”

Elijah cursed, “Why is it so damn hard to kill her? What’s all the fuss about?”

Isaac scratched his head, looking worried, “Boss, someone’s coming...”

“Someone? Who?” Elijah glanced down. There was a car with its headlights on. Someone really was coming. But it wasn’t the cops, just one person.

A flashlight beam swept up from below. Elizabeth couldn’t see who it was, but she knew someone was there.

Elizabeth rocked the chair, making small stones tumble from the edge of the unfinished building. “Help!”

“Shut up!” Elijah quickly covered her mouth.

Elizabeth looked up at Elijah and bit his finger hard, making him pull back in pain.

“Play fair. Someone’s here, let me go!” Elizabeth shouted.

“That doesn’t count!” Elijah cursed.

“I’m here!” Elizabeth yelled down.

Elijah rushed over and covered her mouth again.

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Elizabeth kept jiggling, making the bells on the rope jingle like crazy. The folks below seemed to catch on, and a dim flashlight flickered up a few times. Elizabeth peeked down; the car's headlight barely lit up the guy's figure. A flicker of surprise crossed Elizabeth's face, and she froze for a second.

“Boss, I spotted him. It’s Alexander!” Isaac blurted out.

Elizabeth whipped her head back, eyes wide with shock. Elijah suddenly burst out laughing.

“Ms. Percy, guess who just walked in, the one you didn’t want to see...” Elijah clapped his hands, grinning. “This is just too good!”

“Tell him his girl is up here!” Elijah hollered.

Isaac nodded and bolted down the stairs. Elizabeth glanced down, the chair's legs dangling over the edge. Alexander seemed to have spotted her too.

“Elizabeth!” Alexander bellowed.

Elizabeth's heart pounded, realizing it was really him. Elijah followed her gaze and yanked her hair. “See, the first one to find you is Alexander! Did you see that coming?” Elijah sneered.

Elizabeth shot him a death glare, thinking, ‘What's his game? Is this ten o'clock thing just to mess with me? Are they just trying to kill me?’ She never thought Alexander would show up here. “Why the heck is Alexander here now?” Her mind went blank. Even when Alexander stood right in front of her, she couldn't snap out of it.

“Finally made it,” Elijah said, almost bored.

Alexander was in a white shirt, looking rushed, his tie all crooked, and a couple of buttons undone. After sprinting up over thirty floors, he was gasping for air. He took a step forward, and some guy came at him with a bat. Alexander kicked the dude away, making him hit the ground hard. He knelt down, pinning the guy with his knee.

Elizabeth stared at Alexander, her feelings all mixed up, wondering, *Why is he here? He should just leave!* Alexander looked up, his eyes intense. He glanced at Elizabeth, his throat bobbing. His gaze shifted to Elijah next to her, and he asked calmly, “What do you want? Let her go?”

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“Mr. Tudor, you're a sharp one,” Elijah clapped, smirking.

“Cut the crap,” Alexander snapped, glancing at Elizabeth swaying on the chair. He thought, ‘Dangling by a rope, this is nuts! These people are insane!’

“Mr. Tudor, you really wanna save her?” Elijah taunted.

Alexander stared him down.

“How about trading places with her?” Elijah suggested.

Elizabeth frowned, shaking in frustration, making muffled sounds. Elijah quickly ripped the tape off her mouth.

“I don’t need him to trade. Let him go!” Elizabeth shouted.

“Elizabeth, now’s not the time for jokes,” Alexander said, his voice low.

“Alexander, I don’t need you. Get out of here!” Elizabeth yelled, not wanting him to think she couldn’t survive without him.