Unrepairable Love / I married a man

Unrepairable Love Chapter 421

The flick of a lighter caught her attention. Elizabeth glanced up to see Alexander, head down, lighting a cigarette. He blew out a smoke ring, then pulled the cigarette away, looking weary. The vibe was somewhat spooky.

Elizabeth frowned, wanting to say something but holding back. She dropped her gaze and looked to the side. Alexander felt a pang in his chest. Back in the day, whenever he smoked, Elizabeth would make him put it out immediately. Now she just frowned and kept quiet.

"Got nothing to say?" Alexander suddenly asked.

Elizabeth looked up, her eyes narrowing. "What should I say?"

Alexander was stumped. He just stared at Elizabeth, his eyes growing complicated. He'd never really looked at her like this before. Now he noticed how stunning she was, a knockout at first glance. Her eyes and brows held a fierce beauty. They locked eyes, but eventually, Elizabeth looked away first.

She was always like this, unable to handle Alexander's stare. From high school till now, it never changed, even after they divorced and she said she didn't love him anymore. But whenever they locked eyes, Elizabeth would always look away first, unable to handle his gaze.

Alexander chuckled softly and took another drag of his cigarette. Elizabeth probably felt annoyed at herself for looking away first, so she grumbled, "Smoking all the time will make your breath stink."

"Really? I don't smoke that much. You know that." Alexander's tone was calm.

Elizabeth looked at him quietly, then turned her gaze to the distance. "I don't know."

Another awkward silence. After a while, Elizabeth seriously told Alexander, "Anyway, thanks for the Serenity Leaf. It's a rare and important herb for my grandma. When her research succeeds, we'll thank you properly."

Alexander just stared at her, letting the cigarette burn out slowly. He didn't say a word.

15:44 Unrepairable Love

Chapter 422

Alexander shook his head, popped open the car door, and motioned for Elizabeth to hop in first. Elizabeth didn't waste any time. She slid into the car without a word. Alexander hit the gas, speeding down the road.

At the Percy Estate entrance, Elizabeth stepped out. She bent down, and Alexander stayed put. Alexander gave her a look, waiting for her to spill whatever was on her mind. Elizabeth opened her mouth, hesitated, then finally said, "If you're swamped, we can push it to the day after tomorrow."

Alexander's brows knitted together. He thought she had something big to say, but in the end, it was just about the divorce. Alexander grunted in response, and the car zoomed off.

Elizabeth watched his car disappear, her face a mix of emotions. She sighed softly and looked down. Turning around, she spotted Grant standing nearby. Elizabeth beamed and ran over to hug him. "Grandpa."

Grant snorted, "I saw who dropped you off!"

"We just bumped into each other at the restaurant, and he insisted on giving me a lift. Couldn't say no," Elizabeth shrugged. "What can I say? I'm a catch!"

Grant chuckled. Elizabeth asked, "What brings you here, Grandpa?"

"Your grandma's not back yet, and I'm worried," Grant crossed his arms, looking annoyed. Elizabeth checked her phone; it was past eight. Celine should've been back by now.

Just as Elizabeth put her phone away, a black car pulled up at the entrance. Someone got out and opened the door for Celine. Celine nodded slightly, and the person left respectfully.

"Grandma's back!" Elizabeth said and headed inside. Because once Celine was back, Grant's eyes were glued to her.

Elizabeth glanced back and saw Grant helping Celine with her coat, talking to her softly. Elizabeth curled her lips, feeling a twinge of envy. She once thought she and Alexander could be like that—growing old together, as long as she tried hard enough and was sweet and obedient enough. But it was all just her wishful thinking. There was never a place for her in Alexander's world; he never wanted her in his heart.

Elizabeth looked up, feeling a pang of bitterness. She pushed open the bedroom door. The emptiness of the room reminded her even more of those lonely years in the villa. Alexander had completely abandoned her. She was so foolish. She really didn't know what she saw in Alexander, liking him for so many years.

But Elizabeth didn't regret her efforts for Alexander. After all, love was something you had to fight for; if you didn't, you'd regret it forever. Elizabeth had woken up, though it cost her a lot! But there was no choice; her one-sided love meant she had to deal with the fallout.

Elizabeth lay on the bed, staring at the ceiling, when she suddenly got a text from Alexander.

Alexander: [I'll keep my promise.]

Elizabeth was silent for a few seconds, then replied: [Okay.]

Alexander would keep his promise. Her three years were finally over.

The next morning, Elizabeth hadn't slept well the night before. She found a photo on her phone from three years ago when she and Alexander got their marriage certificate. The excitement felt that day was unforgettable.

Elizabeth went downstairs, greeted Declan and Rose as she passed, and then headed out. Rose knew what Elizabeth was up to and didn't say anything since Elizabeth seemed calm. Elizabeth got into a black car.

Unrepairable Love Chapter 423

On the road, Elizabeth cranked up some super peppy tunes. The cold wind somehow cleared her head. The closer she got to the courthouse, the more chill Elizabeth felt. It wasn't until she spotted Alexander puffing away outside the courthouse that her heart finally did a little flip. She wasn't as calm as she thought, and that was her problem.

Alexander leaned against the car, the cold morning air giving him the shivers. He glanced up, locking eyes with Elizabeth. Elizabeth stared at Alexander, her grip on the steering wheel tightening. Her brows knitted together. Alexander had kept his word. But her heart felt hollow. Alexander pressed his lips together, swallowed hard, stubbed out his cigarette, and tossed it in the trash.

Elizabeth got out of the car and walked up to him. Their eyes met. Alexander flashed a quick smile. "You look really nice today." Elizabeth was caught off guard. She was just wearing a white dress with a knitted cardigan. "You used to dress like this in college," Alexander said as he headed inside. Elizabeth watched him walk away, a sudden ache in her chest. It was a shame that this comment came from the *current* Alexander. If it had been the old Alexander, she would have felt like the luckiest person alive.

Elizabeth gave a bitter smile and said, "Really?" Alexander didn't respond, and they quietly walked into the courthouse. Elizabeth occasionally glanced at Alexander's profile. His face was calm, his eyes a bit dull. They walked side by side to the desk. The staff member looked at the documents, sighed, and asked, "Have both of you made up your minds?" Alexander and Elizabeth exchanged a knowing look.

Elizabeth nodded, looked into Alexander's eyes, and softly said, "You, we've made up our minds." This wasn't just an answer to the staff member; it was more like a conversation with Alexander. Elizabeth had made up her mind, so Alexander had made up his mind too. They were done. Alexander's brows furrowed deeply. He seemed like he wanted to say something but stayed quiet, just like last night.

Elizabeth turned to the staff member. The staff member glanced at Alexander and asked, "Mr. Tudor, have you also made up your mind? Both parties are sure about the divorce, right?" Alexander lowered his eyelashes and was about to speak. Suddenly, there were footsteps behind them. Then, an elderly voice slowly spoke, "Elizabeth."

Elizabeth immediately turned her head. It was Lily. Following behind Lily was Alexander's mom, Elara. Elizabeth stood up. Alexander's eyes showed some confusion. Why were they here? Lily reached out and held Elizabeth's hand. She just looked at Elizabeth, not saying a word for a long time. Elizabeth saw countless words of reluctance in Lily's eyes. But Lily said nothing. Elara was the same.

"Grandma, I'll still visit you often, okay?" Elizabeth smoothed Lily's hair. Lily nodded, but her eyes slowly turned red. Elizabeth looked at her, feeling an indescribable bitterness in her heart. Elara smiled and nodded, indicating that Elizabeth could do whatever she wanted. Elizabeth looked back at Alexander. Alexander remained silent. Elizabeth wondered, "If Alexander asks me to stay at this moment, would I hesitate?"

Chapter 424

"Thanks for looking out for me all these years. I'll never forget your kindness," Elizabeth said, giving Lily a tight hug. She thought, *Even if Alexander tries to talk me into staying, I ain't budging. This messed-up relationship's gotta end.*

Elizabeth let go of Lily, hiding the bitterness in her heart. She turned and plopped down in the chair, saying firmly, "We've made up our minds. We want a divorce."

Alexander just sat there quietly and then took a seat. Lily felt a wave of sadness wash over her. She desperately wished Alexander would see that Elizabeth, who was so much better than Esme, deserved his love. But maybe that's just how love rolls, Alexander was like this, and wasn't Elizabeth the same? If she hadn't been blinded by love, how could Elizabeth have wasted three years on Alexander?

The staff turned their gaze to Lily. Lily was super worried that Elizabeth and Alexander would really go through with the divorce, so every time they came to get it done, the staff would give Lily a heads-up. It was always Lily who stepped in, so Elizabeth and Alexander never went through with it. Lily nodded. The staff let out a deep sigh.

"Sign here," the staff member said, handing over two copies of the agreement. Elizabeth picked it up, grabbed the pen, and signed her name without a second thought. Their eyes met. Alexander looked at Elizabeth's profile. Elizabeth lifted her head, and their eyes met again.

At that moment, Elizabeth was radiating ease. It was like he was seeing her for the first time, not the old Elizabeth who always made him feel pressured and annoyed.

"Let's part on good terms," Elizabeth said with a smile.

Alexander looked at the document, his grip on the pen tightening. He thought, *Parting on good terms*. Can we really part on good terms? Can

Elizabeth really let go of these three years? Alexander didn't believe that Elizabeth no longer loved him, even though she was acting so decisively now!

Alexander pressed his lips together and suddenly put down the pen. Elizabeth couldn't help but tease him, "What are you hesitating about, Mr. Tudor? Are you reluctant to get divorced?"

Alexander immediately looked at Elizabeth. Lily and Elara both stepped forward. They thought, *Why is Alexander hesitating? Could it be that he has a change of heart and realizes that Elizabeth is the right one?*

"Elizabeth," he called her name in a deep voice.

Elizabeth responded straightforwardly, "Yes."

Alexander moved his lips. At that moment, it seemed that anything he said would be inadequate. Just by looking at Elizabeth's eyes and expression, he could tell that she was truly no longer attached. The situation had developed to this point; it was no longer about her setting him free. It was more like she was asking him to set her free.

Alexander gave a bitter smile and thought, 'How have I become the one who is hesitating? What am I hesitating about? Haven't I always wanted a divorce? Don't I insist on marrying Esme? After hurting Elizabeth so much, I can finally get what I want. So why do I feel so much unwillingness and helplessness inside? My heart even carries a bit of reluctance.'

Alexander was startled by his own reluctant thoughts. He didn't dare to hesitate any longer because he had to marry Esme. Unless the person who saved him back then was Elizabeth.

Alexander held the pen, no longer hesitating. His heart was racing with anxiety, but he still wrote down his name, just like Elizabeth.

Unrepairable Love

Chapter 425

The sharpness of his pen was like his personality, ready to rip through the paper. Lily saw both signatures and felt her heart shatter. Lily shook her head, grabbed Elara, and turned around. "Let's bounce."

The staff asked one last time, "You both sure about this divorce?" "Yep," Elizabeth's voice was soft but firm. Alexander furrowed his brows and answered in a deep voice, "From now on, you are no longer a married couple." The whole office felt like it dropped a few degrees.

Elizabeth still remembered that day three years ago when the staff had smiled and said, "Congrats. You're officially hitched." Even though Alexander didn't want to marry her back then, she remembered being happy during their vows. Elizabeth stared at the divorce papers on the table, her eyes a mix of emotions.

After a few seconds, Elizabeth reached out and slowly took her divorce papers. Holding a divorce certificate felt way different than holding a marriage one. Elizabeth didn't dare open the divorce papers. She quickly shoved it in her bag and stood up. Elizabeth didn't say another word to Alexander. They'd tortured each other for seven years. It ended just before the eighth year. Alexander should be thrilled. She really didn't want to see Alexander happy about their divorce.

As Elizabeth was about to leave, Alexander's voice came from behind, "Elizabeth, just like you wanted." Elizabeth paused. She looked at Alexander, her eyes bitter. "It's what you wanted, Mr. Tudor."

Alexander clenched the divorce papers in his hand, feeling all sorts of things. He didn't feel any joy, just a lot of displeasure. And Elizabeth calling him "Mr. Tudor" seemed to light a fire, making him inexplicably angry. Elizabeth forced a smile, holding back the bitterness. "Let's not dwell on the past. Mr. Tudor, I really hope you and Ms. Russell are happy."

Chapter 425

Alexander felt a tug at his heart, an inexplicable pain. Elizabeth nodded. "That's it, goodbye." With that, Elizabeth quickly left. Alexander watched her go, feeling empty inside. He lowered his head and couldn't help but laugh.

Alexander thought, *Will Elizabeth really wish me and Esme well? In Elizabeth's world, isn't there no one more suitable for me than her?!* Alexander looked at the divorce papers in his hand. He swallowed and slowly opened them. He felt helpless. His life was a real rollercoaster. At least, in high school, he never thought his marriage would be such a mess and that he'd have two marriages.

Alexander shook his head. As he left the courthouse, he heard Elizabeth talking on the phone while getting into her car, and her words stung him. Elizabeth said excitedly, "I finally got divorced and got my freedom back. It's awesome!" Elizabeth's car quickly drove away, carefree and free!

Alexander's phone rang again. Nolan said anxiously, "Boss, our shipment at the harbor got messed with by Kyle. We need to get to the harbor now."

C 426

The car sped off, leaving Elizabeth and Alexander out of each other's sight. Elizabeth finally pulled over. She stared at the road, feeling a mix of familiarity and bitterness. She'd noticed Alexander's silence and hesitation more than once. And that just made her more determined.

Was Alexander unsure? Nah. Did he suddenly realize he loved her? Nope. He didn't like her at all; he just didn't want to lose someone who always loved him, so he kept her hanging with his mixed signals. Elizabeth always thought of herself as a hopeless romantic, never thinking straight. But right now, she was super grateful for her clarity. Otherwise, in court just now, she might've changed her mind because of Alexander's hesitation and silence.

When Elizabeth got home, she locked herself in her room. The divorce papers were left on the coffee table in the living room. Declan saw the divorce papers he'd been waiting for as soon as he got off work. Declan and Celine both sighed with relief. Finally, it was over. Only Rose, looking at the quiet hallway, felt a growing sense of heartache.

Rose thought, "We're happy, but what about Elizabeth? Is she happy? Elizabeth loved Alexander for so many years, and it ends just like that. How sad must she be?" Rose slowly went upstairs and stood at Elizabeth's door, about to knock. Suddenly, her shoulder was tapped. Rose turned around; it was Declan. Declan shook his head, signaling Rose not to disturb Elizabeth.

Rose sighed, feeling really uncomfortable inside. But she still went downstairs with Declan, giving Elizabeth some space. Elizabeth needed peace. Elizabeth lay on the bed, idly scrolling through her phone, her gaze drifting to the coffee table. The coffee table was empty.

Chapter 426

But her eyes were unfocused, and she wasn't feeling well. Elizabeth couldn't describe her feelings at the moment. She was happy, but also sad. Elizabeth covered her face with the blanket, gradually becoming more and more silent. It was late at night, and a light breeze blew outside the window. Elizabeth couldn't sleep; she got up and went to the balcony. The wind outside the balcony was unsettling. Elizabeth quietly sat in the rocking chair, looking up at the sky. Such a quiet night made her reminisce about the past.

Elizabeth took out her phone. She opened X and saw the trending topics: Alexander And Elizabeth Split; *Alexander And Elizabeth Divorce*. Elizabeth was silent. The paparazzi had caught their divorce. Faced with such news, netizens expressed their regret. Photos of Elizabeth and Alexander were posted on Instagram by various netizens.

Netizen one: [I can't remember which year it was, but I ran into them at the restaurant entrance. They really matched well. Elizabeth was following behind Alexander, so cute.]

Netizen two: [I also met them. It was this year. It seemed Mr. Tudor was sick, and Elizabeth took him to the hospital.]

Chapter Comments POST COMMENT NOW

C 427

Netizen Five: [Think they'll get back together? They seemed like a better fit. Is Mr. Tudor really good with Esme?]

Netizen One replied to Netizen Five: [Rich folks' love lives are always a rollercoaster. Bet they'll patch things up eventually.]

Elizabeth was scrolling through, seeing everyone gossiping and having a blast with the drama. Right then, a new notification popped up. This one was a real slap in the face for those hoping Alexander and Elizabeth would get back together.

Busy Alexander Sends Flowers. Alexander and Esme Lovey-Dovey Moments.

Elizabeth peeked at the comments, which were a mix of congrats and hate.

Netizen None: [Just divorced and already cozying up to the side chick, gross!]

Netizen Two: [Seriously, what makes this side chick better than Elizabeth? Mr. Tudor, you blind or what?]

Netizen Three: [They're a perfect match. Alexander and Esme were a thing in college. Elizabeth was the one who barged in. What are y'all even mad about?]

Netizen One replied to Netizen Three: [How do you know?]

Netizen Three: [We were in the same college. Esme was with Alexander first. Got any doubts? Here's the scoop. When Alexander and Elizabeth got hitched, Alexander wasn't into it. Elizabeth was the one who pushed her way into the Tudor family, and Alexander had no choice but to marry her! So, their marriage falling apart is all on Elizabeth.]

This comment set off a firestorm among the netizens. Elizabeth couldn't help but click on this guy's profile. It was a dude's profile, and the location was also in Lisbon. He might really be a college buddy. He knew a lot, and what he said in that comment was spot on. Alexander wasn't into it, and Elizabeth had to work her butt off to win over the Tudor family.

Looking back, Alexander had straight-up told her he didn't love her and couldn't marry her. But she was the one who insisted on tying the knot. What made Elizabeth so stubborn was that she believed Alexander had some feelings for her before. Alexander didn't mind her before, but that kidnapping mess totally messed up their relationship.

15:45 Chapter 427

Elizabeth turned off her phone and lay on the bed, staring at the chandelier above. The chandelier swayed a bit, and Elizabeth slowly drifted off to sleep. October nights in Lisbon were really cool. The breeze from the harbor made it a bit chilly.

A black Maybach pulled up, and the door opened. A long, slender leg stepped out first. Nolan softly said, "Mr. Tudor."

Alexander, dressed in a black suit with a black coat over it, had this intense vibe, making the whole harbor feel even colder. Not far away, two cargo ships

were docked, with men in black standing on both sides. Behind the men in black, Kyle sat on a post, puffing on a cigarette and blowing smoke rings.

"Mr. Tudor is here, Mr. Brooks," someone reminded. Kyle looked up. He saw Alexander, all sharp in his trench coat, walking over. His presence was strong. From the day Kyle met Alexander, Alexander had always been this intense. Kyle didn't bother to stand up. Alexander came to stand in front of him. A bright white light shone on both of them...

Alexander looked at Kyle coldly, his voice low and dangerous, "You get the guts to hold my goods?"

Kyle lazily smiled. "Didn't Mr. Tudor also hold my goods?"

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Unrepairable Love Chapter 428

Alexander sneered, "You think your stuff shouldn't be held up? Do you even know whose goods you're messing with?" Alexander had outright banned Louis's goods in Lisbon and shut down any deals with him. But Kyle? Nah, he was dead set on working with Louis. Wasn't that just flipping Alexander the bird?

Since Kyle wouldn't listen and kept pushing to work with Louis, he had it coming.

"Alexander, let my goods go, and I'll let yours go," Kyle stood up.

Alexander's eyes narrowed, his voice dripping with sarcasm, "You threatening me?"

"Glad you get it," Kyle shot back with a cold grin.

Alexander smirked, thinking, 'Kyle's been gunning for the Tudor family for years. Does he really think he can take us down with his puny power? What a joke.'

"Kyle, if I wanted to take you out, I would've done it ages ago. The only reason I've put up with you is because of our families' old ties!" Alexander stepped forward, lightly grabbed Kyle's collar, then yanked him close.

Kyle was fuming. He hated when Alexander talked down to him like he'd never beaten him. The feud between the Tudor and Brooks families was something Kyle could never let go. He was hell-bent on getting revenge.

"Try me," Kyle gritted his teeth, full of defiance.

Alexander's face turned icy. "Release my goods."

"Let's make a deal!" This was why Kyle had come to see Alexander today. If Alexander wanted his goods, he had to let Kyle's go first!

Alexander frowned, losing patience. 'No way I'm letting Kyle's goods go. That'd mean letting Louis into the Lisbon market! I'd be shooting myself in the foot.'

"Kyle, last chance, will you release my goods?" Alexander glared, a ruthless glint in his eyes.

Kyle was even more determined to stand his ground. Alexander nodded, stepping back. Kyle was still the same, stubborn as ever, never thinking about the fallout.

"Kyle, you used to have your parents to clean up your messes. Now, who do you have? Keep being stubborn, and you'll pay the price," Alexander warned.

Mentioning his parents was like lighting a fuse in Kyle, making him even angrier. "Anyone can talk about my parents, except the Tudor family! The Brooks family's accident had nothing to do with us!" Alexander shouted, lowering his voice.

"Does a thief ever see himself as one?" Kyle shot back, furious.

"Kyle, you're impossible!" Alexander gritted his teeth, frustrated.

Chapter 428

Kyle was even more pissed. Alexander gave Nolan a look. "Handle him."

Nolan nodded. "Got it."

Kyle clenched his right fist and charged at Alexander. Kyle thought, "What's with Alexander's attitude? If the Tudor family had ever apologized or shown any remorse, I wouldn't be the enemy! But they've always dodged

responsibility, saying the Brooks family's accident had nothing to do with them!"

Kyle grabbed Alexander's arm, ready to throw a punch. Alexander quickly countered, grabbing Kyle's arm and kicking him back a few steps. Kyle wasn't backing down and kept attacking.

Meanwhile, chaos erupted near the bay. Seeing Kyle fighting, his men also clashed with Nolan's crew. But what Kyle didn't know was that Alexander's men were already lying in wait. The moment they decided to attack, they were surrounded! Alexander's men quickly rushed in and took down all of Kyle's guys!

Next, Alexander grabbed Kyle's arm, executed a fierce shoulder throw, and pinned Kyle under his foot.

"Kyle, I didn't want to come after you. You brought this on yourself," Alexander said, looking down, his eyelashes casting a shallow shadow under his eyes.

Unrepairable Love

Chapter 429

He looked down from above, all cold and sarcastic. This just made Kyle even madder. "Tudor, you're sharp at work. If you put that same effort into your marriage, your love life wouldn't be a train wreck," Kyle sneered.

Alexander paused. Kyle, still on the ground, kept mocking, "Mr. Tudor, heard you got divorced today? And then you went and showed off with your side chick right after? Man, you're a real idiot."

Alexander frowned. Kyle smirked and snorted. Alexander pulled his foot back, yanked Kyle up, and heard him curse, "What's so special about that chick Esme? Alexander, you're blind. Liking her makes you a total moron!"

Alexander squinted, letting Kyle rant. He said, "Stop trash-talking Esme." Kyle shot back, "So what if I do? You're the only one who thinks she's gold. Alexander, she's the biggest liar!"

Alexander was puzzled. "Alexander, you're gonna regret it," Kyle shoved Alexander away hard. Marrying Esme, Alexander would regret it. Kyle laughed like a maniac, making the quiet night, with just the wind, feel super creepy. Kyle taunted, "Alexander, the truth you believe isn't real. You've let down the one person who loves you most in this world!"

Alexander couldn't wrap his head around it. What does Kyle mean? What truth? Who have I let down? Alexander wondered. Kyle turned to Alexander, his smile icy and sharp. "If you wanna know what I'm talking about, release my goods."

Kyle thought, This batch is crucial for me. To break into the Lisbun market and make a name there, I need Louis's help! If I don't get strong, how can I avenge the Brooks Family and take down Alexander?

Alexander's curiosity was piqued. "Kyle, what are you getting at?" Kyle spread his hands. "I ain't saying a word until you release my goods."

"Kyle!" Alexander roared. "Alexander, if I spill the beans, you'll be floored!" Alexander thought of Kyle getting close to Elizabeth. "By the way, you got divorced, right?" Kyle asked again.

Chapter 429

Alexander wondered, *Is Kyle gonna say something about Elizabeth? Or is he planning to hurt her?* Alexander took a step forward, and this time Kyle stepped back. "You wanna hurt Elizabeth?" Alexander frowned, his eyes showing a mix of emotions.

"Hurt Elizabeth?" He laughed. "You think just anyone can hurt Elizabeth? Alexander, you don't know her at all!" Elizabeth was the queen of Base M, but Alexander had no clue. But Kyle knew all of Elizabeth's secrets!

C 430

"Kyle, quit beating around the bush," Alexander snapped, losing his cool. The cold night wind howled, and the whole city felt trapped in darkness. The cargo ship drifted along the coast, with people wailing or sprawled on the ground.

Alexander watched as Kyle turned, gave him a wave, but didn't say a word. Nolan walked over and stopped Alexander from chasing after him.

"Mr. Tudor, don't let Kyle mess with your head. He might just be talking crap. I'll get someone to keep an eye on Ms. Percy," Nolan reminded him.

Alexander frowned, staring at Kyle's retreating figure with a mix of emotions. Kyle turned back, a weird smile on his face. Moments later, Kyle vanished.

"Mr. Tudor, don't let Kyle rattle you. We can't let this shipment go," Nolan said seriously.

"Did you hear what he said?" Alexander glared at Nolan.

Nolan nodded.

"He's got something to say," Alexander said bluntly. It might be about Elizabeth. And Alexander could tell Kyle wasn't just rambling; he had something real to say.

"Mr. Tudor, chill. We need to figure out how to get the shipment out," Nolan frowned, looking at the goods stuck on the dock. "Wasn't that the real problem?"

Alexander snapped back to reality. He frowned, stayed quiet for a few seconds, then grunted in agreement. Nolan let out a sigh of relief. Alexander quickly started making calls, with Nolan helping out.

That night, a heavy rainstorm hit Lisbon. Elizabeth woke up from a nightmare. She looked at the sky outside, split open by lightning, and clutched her blanket tightly. She swallowed, her breathing heavy. Seeing the room lit up, she shrank back, feeling anxious.

She had dreamed again, of the time she saved Alexander. She was thrown into the deep sea, unable to breathe, clearly feeling herself sinking, but there was no death. She could do but wait for... She didn't want to die. She hoped Alexander and she were both safe and together. She desperately wished Alexander would take good care of himself. But it had been seven years. She and Alexander had grown further apart. All they had been through in these seven years felt like a joke.

Elizabeth sighed, picked up the cup on the bedside table, took a sip of water, and then turned off the light. Although she was still afraid of the rain, she wasn't as terrified as before. Elizabeth picked up her phone, which was eerily quiet. She casually scrolled through her social media feed and saw a message: "I heard there are big changes coming to Lisbon. Someone's being targeted. A shipment was seized at the harbor. This person, bold, daring to seize his goods."

Elizabeth frowned; this person was a businessman she had met during a dinner with Declan. Who was he talking about? Several mutual friends expressed shock and disbelief in the comments. Elizabeth tilted her head. Could it be Alexander? But she quickly dismissed the thought. It couldn't be Alexander. Who would dare to seize the Tudor Group's goods? They must have a death wish.

Elizabeth scrolled past the post. The rain outside seemed to be getting heavier. Elizabeth suddenly lost her sleepiness. She sat up and went to the study barefoot. She turned on the computer and opened a single-player game out of boredom. A folder on the desktop caught Elizabeth's attention. Elizabeth opened it and saw a dense collection of photos and videos.