

Chapter 532 Leonel, You've Won!

Leonel hung up.

With a sigh, he leaned back in his seat and ran his fingers over his lips.

Alexis was the only thing on his mind.

He desperately missed her and longed for her with every fiber of his being. He hadn't seen her in a while and it was killing him.

He was aware that he had a problem, but there was nothing he could do.

He couldn't get better. He didn't want to get better either.

Alexis being with him was the only cure.

A knock on the car window interrupted his thoughts.

Leonel turned to look out the window.

An man in his fifties stood outside. His clothes were old and worn-out. His face was weathered, but Leonel recognized him instantly.

His biological father...

Kenneth Douglas leaned closer to the window, he exchanged a glance with his son as he rolled the window down.

They locked eyes. Two men bound by blood...

One dignified and the other of a low class:

A couple of seconds passed until Kenneth broke the silence. "Leonel. I saw you from afar. I wasn't sure at first, but it really is you."

Leonel stared at him without saying anything.

He studied the man before him.

He could remember clearly. His father was once a small business owner. He was usually well-dressed, and loved socializing in entertainment

places. Soon after, the man cheated on his wife, who ended up killing herself by jumping off a building.

Leonel used to despise his father so much.

To be honest, he never stopped hating him, neither did he think he would see him again. Especially in the state he was in.

Was this what they called karma?

Kenneth grew uneasy under Leonel's cold gaze. He could barely recognize him. He seemed nothing like the son he knew.

He summoned all his courage and pressed on. "You know... If I hadn't arranged for you to leave with the Fowlers back then, who knows where you'd have be now. I've heard a great lot about you. You've made a fortune, strutting around in Duefron... Even Mr. Fowler would have to show you some respect now!"

He spoke without confidence.

He couldn't be too direct, but he hoped Leonel would realize that he needed to pay him back.

His eyes lit up as Leonel pulled out his wallet.

In the wallet, there were a bunch of cards and a stack cash, roughly around 3000.

Leonel took out all the cash and handed it to Kenneth.

Kenneth counted the money and scoffed in disbelief. "You're kidding right? I spent years raising you and this is all I get in return? You're giving me this little money?"

"Give it back then." Leonel sneered.

The man quickly tucked the money into his pocket as if his life depended on it and walked off.

Leonel watched his retreating figure for a while, and then lit a cigarette.

The following day, the breaking news circulated in Duefron's financial circles.

The Smith family and Genesis Investment had signed a preliminary contract, poised to receive an investment of 80 billion. The Smith family bounced back completely catching Edwin off guard.

At the company, Edwin was utterly swamped.

Those old guys at Czanch called him for a proper explanation.

Edwin was swamped with dealing with the situation the whole day, and when the work day neared its end, he finally found time and called Leonel.

After a few rings, Leonel picked up.

"Leonel, are you a hundred percent certain about this? You've made a huge mistake! Even if I take the fall, do you honestly think Marcus would? Today, you strike at me. The next day, you might just strike at the Fowler family. Marcus is naturally quiet, but you should know his methods are far more ruthless compared to mine!"

He paused and chuckled. "A dog that bites doesn't bark. You really think he has a good temperament?"

Leonel was well aware of that fact.

He chuckled. "My God... Edwin, trapped by a mere 80 billion? Unbelievable... You need reinforcements already?"

"Fuck you!" Edwin yelled. "You're playing with fire and you're only going to get burned!"

With that, he hung up.

He unlocked his phone and came across a photo.

It was a picture of him and Leonel when he was 16.

They were so close like real brothers back then.

Different thoughts ran through his mind as he returned home. He arrived to find Laura cooking. He placed his briefcase down and took what she had in her hands. "What do you think you're doing? You're pregnant."

Laura was only a few weeks pregnant and wasn't even showing yet.

She looked so adorable and youthful in her baggy overalls.

Edwin continued from where she stopped and finished off the cooking. She stood close to him as he cooked with a small pout. "I wanted you to come home to meet dinner."

Edwin gave her a warm and loving smile then returned his focus to the

food.

He was preparing a light, yet nutritious meal. Laura felt happy and content.

She could tell that he was troubled with the company issues, so she gently held his arm. "I heard Leonel is teaming up with Vanessa?"

Edwin gave her light pats on her head.

"Leonel... his real target isn't actually me. He doesn't plan to give the funds to the Smith family either."

Laura was confused.

And Edwin didn't give any further explanation. He concealed the rest.

He went out to the terrace to sit, after dinner.

Laura brought him a cup of tea.

He gently pulled her into his arms and held her like a child, recounting things from the past.

"Uncle Waylen has so many children. Three of his own and there was Leonel. Alexis is the same age as Leonel, but because she's a girl, she was allowed to slack off like during her piano practice or other things back then without receiving any punishment. Leonel's case was completely different. Uncle Waylen expected great things from him... he was way too hard on himself as well..."

Edwin's voice softened as he trailed off.

"He's not the same as us. Marcus or I would still be ourselves even if we weren't outstanding, because he's a Fowler and I am a Evans no matter what. Leonel is different though; he's always had to put in a lot of effort to impress Uncle Waylen to stay in the family."

Edwin sighed.

"Maybe... just maybe, this isn't what he truly wanted."

I don't think this is what he wants either. He just wants Alexis and is willing to walk this path."

Laura was a bit stunned but she listened attentively.

Still in his arms, she asked. "Are you going to show Leonel mercy?"

After a few seconds, Edwin shook his head.

He didn't want to be merciful. Leonel started all of it and he had to face the consequences.

Edwin had anticipated it, there wasn't any need for him to take action. The major financial conglomerates in Duefron were already restless.

They were fully behind Marcus.

They weren't going to let Leonel to disrupt the rules and interfere with others' interests.

Over at the Sterling Law Firm, Alexis stood quietly by the French windows, and financial reports were being murmured in her ears.

She knew how dangerous and fragile the alliance between the Smith family and Leonel was. If the Smith family succeeded in securing the investments, they would cut all ties with Leonel, leaving him all alone and crushed.

Leonel would be in a very dangerous and difficult position.

Marcus definitely wouldn't take things lightly.

Alexis lowered her gaze and called Leonel. He immediately picked up.

They both stayed silent for a couple of seconds.

Alexis spoke up after a while. "Leonel Douglas... End your cooperation with the Smith family."

"For who? Me or Edwin?"

Alexis ignored his question and continued, "I'm certain you're aware of the consequences if you continue to work with the Smith family."

"I know that and I don't care."

Leonel's voice became gentle and soft. "Alexis... please come back. Just say you won't leave me again and I promise I will stop!"

"And why exactly should I stay?"

"Because you're in love with me... And you can't let me go. Sure, I'm a despicable person, but you of all people should understand. Haven't you ever wanted someone so badly that you were willing to do anything to keep them by your side? What I'm doing isn't even so crazy!"

"This is what you learned at the Fowler family, Leonel?"

"I learned way more than this." His voice was gentle.

After that, he hung up and texted her instead.

He sent her the time and address for the formal contract signing with the Smith family at a club.

Alexis stared at her screen.

When it was evening, she returned to the Fowler residence.

Marcus sat on the couch, drinking red wine.

He seemed to have been waiting for her arrival.

Alexis took a seat across him quietly.

Marcus smiled. "I suppose you're here on behalf Leonel?"

Alexis stared at him silently.

Marcus poured himself another glass, he examined the crimson liquid and sighed lightly. "Alexis... I hope you don't think I'm not interested in reconciling with him. If anything, he's the one who doesn't seem interested. And I can't sit silently and watch him do this to us."

Alexis grabbed the bottle and poured herself some wine, filling it to the top.

Within a few seconds, she drank half the glass.

Marcus leaned back into the couch and shut his eyes. "You know what? He's a lunatic! He's carefully planned everything out. All he needs is for us to fall into his trap. Alexis... he's also betting on the fact that you'll soften! He's pushing himself towards a dead end on purpose!"

Leonel set everything up and was waiting patiently.

It was the first time Marcus was seeing something like that.

It was more like he understood Alexis too well.

Fortunately, there was only one person who would push himself to destruction like this for Alexis.

Marcus continued talking, Alexis was silent all through. She downed two

glasses of wine and walked upstairs.

She skipped dinner.

Friday was the day for the contract to be signed between Genesis Investment and the Smith family.

At the club, all the Smith family's important figures were present, including Weldon, Thomas and Vanessa.

Leonel was seated opposite them.

The Smith family had already decided to rid themselves of Leonel once they secured the investment.

Leonel was composed and calm, unlike his assistant, who was basically shaking in his boots and glancing at the clock almost every minute.

Vanessa was extremely disappointed. She believed Leonel had potential and was promising, but now he had somehow managed to endanger himself...

Vanessa spoke softly. "This is it. The official contract. Mr. Douglas, you can go ahead and sign it now."

Leonel accepted the documents.

He examined the content. The room was dead silent as they waited for him to sign.

The Smith family would rise again if he signed it, but he would also be sealing his own fate.

After five minutes, Leonel lifted his head. The light made him appear paler.

He lowered his eyes again.

She didn't show up...

He picked up the pen and was about to sign when the door slammed open.

Alexis stood at the entrance.

"Stop!" Alexis was in her pajamas, and on her feet were indoor slippers. She ignored the looks she was being given and walked over to Leonel, bending to grab his hand gently.

Leonel watched her silently, taking in every inch of her.

There was a small glint in his eyes, mirrored in Alexis' gaze.

They all stayed silent until Vanessa couldn't take it anymore. "Alexis! What do you think you're doing? We were in the middle of signing an important contract!"

Alexis paid no mind to her.

She let go of Leonel's hand and tossed the contract back onto the desk.

Leonel's heart raced rapidly.

His hands slightly trembled. "Alexis... are you certain?"

Alexis raised her head a bit. "You bastard, you should be happy. You've won!"

She said that and walked out of the room.

Once she was out the door, tears rolled down her cheeks. She actually did it. She compromised with Leonel.

Meanwhile on the other side, in the private room, the Smith family went berserk.

"Mr. Douglas! What is the meaning of this? We've negotiated everything. You're not going to sign it because you don't want to?!"

"Exactly," Leonel sneered. "I'm not signing it!"

"You bastard!" Vanessa cursed.

Leonel stared at them calmly. "I grew up in the Fowler family. You really shouldn't put that much trust on me."

With that, he walked out.

Alexis sat quietly in his car. The proud woman she was in there was now gone. She curled up in the passenger seat and got lost in her thoughts.

Leonel was happy, but he was still being careful.

He got into the car and gently patted her head. "What's on your mind?"

Alexis didn't move away from his touch. "What exactly would you have done if I didn't show up?"

A few seconds of silence passed. "I would have done whatever you had in mind."

Alexis was still quiet.

She just sat there curled up. She made no attempt to argue with him or even slap him. It was like she had no energy or motivation. Her silence was killing him.

His heart tightened.

He leaned closer to kiss her. "I'll take you back."

Alexis still said nothing. Leonel fastened his seatbelt and took her back to his place.

His phone kept ringing throughout the journey.

Most of the calls were from the Smith family. It was just them expressing their hate.

Leonel eventually turned off his phone though.

When they got to his place, Leonel carried Alexis to his bedroom. She didn't resist or struggle but gently pushed him away when he kissed her. "I want to sleep for a while," she said.

Leonel looked into her eyes. "Do you despise me?"

She clearly did because of the despicable means he used to get her to back.

She loved him and couldn't bear to see him go to jail or worse...

She resented him for it.

"You know, so why are you still doing all this?" she asked through a faint smile.

Because he missed her... he needed and longed for her.

Leonel didn't know the words to use to express how he felt.

He went to the kitchen to make dinner, leaving her to sleep.

The apartment remained silent, the only noise being the sound of the kitchen utensils being moved around. He finished cooking and walked to call Alexis, only to find her in a deep sleep.

There were dark circles under her eyes.

It was clear that she hadn't slept well for some days.

Leonel gently caressed her cheek with his thumb and quietly murmured. "I'm so sorry, Alexis. I really had no other choice..."

She remained asleep so he lay beside her and kept her company while she slept.

It was dusk when she finally woke up.

She could feel the warmth of a person beside her... Leonel.

She stared into space recalling everything that happened.

"You're awake." Leonel's eyes opened, his voice was a bit husky. "Dinner's all done. Hungry?"

Alexis distanced her body from his.

Leonel didn't want to put too much pressure on her but he was definitely hurt by how distant she was being. He raised his hand and gently held the back of her head, his voice was soft. "When should we get married?"

"Huh? You want to marry... me?"

Alexis rested her back against the pillow. "Just hold on a bit. You'd probably grow tired again in like the next six months. By then we'll finally move on."

He stared at her, slightly hurt. "I'm not going to get tired. I want to marry you and spend the rest of my life with you, Alexis."

He held her in his arms, telling her that he wanted to be like Edwin and the rest. He wanted to marry and have children too. He wanted a normal life, filled with happiness and love. And he wanted it with her.

Alexis simply remained silent with a ghost of wry smile on her lips.