

Billionaire's Match Novel

Chapter 1161-1170

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1161 – Before Khloe could speak, the phone was already taken from her hand by Barney.

"Trey, are you sure you want to talk to us like that?" His tone was calm, but the pressure behind it was unmistakable. "My sister has a good temper, but I'm not so easygoing. If you're insisting on dragging everyone down into hell, then it wouldn't be unfair if you were the first to die, would it?"

The line went dead silent on the other end.

Khloe exchanged a glance with Barney. Her lips moved slightly, and he immediately understood.

"All right then. Let's make this a choice between two options."

"What are you talking about?" Trey snapped back.

"Literally what I said," Barney replied evenly. "Family or lover. You pick one first."

"Before the authenticity of that list is confirmed, I can help you deal with your family's debt collectors. I can also help you locate Ariana."

"You're going back on your word! Despicable!" The moment he heard that, Trey lost control. A violent crash came through the receiver—he was clearly smashing things in a rage.

Barney pulled the phone slightly away, frowning in obvious disgust.

After a brief pause, he spoke again.

"If you're not satisfied, then there's nothing left to discuss."

"Wait!" Trey sucked in a sharp breath and blurted out almost immediately, "Release my family!"

At this point, of course, he was more concerned about his family's safety.

As for Ariana, Khloe wouldn't dare touch her.

Once his family was out of their control, he would have no remaining constraints.

Even if Olympus collapsed, even if people from Yustonia came after him, he could still push everything onto Khloe regarding Ariana's oint even

situation. At that

Yustonia might not necessarily turn against him.

He might even be able to use Ariana as leverage for a comeback.

Besides, Khloe wasn't the type to act without being sure of the outcome.

If she let Ariana go now, there was no guarantee Ariana wouldn't come

back later to settle things with Morrison Group so if Khloe was making this move, she must have had a backup plan in place.

And Ariana hadn't been by his side these past few days—he couldn't even be sure whether she was still loyal to him.

Barney paused for a couple of seconds. Khloe smiled faintly.

Just as expected. Not even a hint of surprise.

"Trey, Ariana loves you so much. She followed you alone to a foreign country, and she's an heiress. Aren't you at all worried about her?" Khloe asked lazily.

"Enough," Trey snapped impatiently. "Family comes first. You've given me an impossible choice—I have no other option!"

"But your family isn't even in my hands. Debt collection is perfectly normal thought you'd choose Ariana instead. After all, she's given you her heart and her money—fat more than ever did back then

"You can't compare to her!" Trey shot back. "Ariana isn't as extreme or vicious as you. She wouldn't hold it against me when she finds out I was forced into making decisions under your schemes!"

His words were full of righteous indignation, as if he were the victim.

"Are you sure she isn't just an outsider to you no matter what?" Khloe's voice turned sharp again. "And emotions, to you, are nothing more than tools you can use?"

That sentence struck exactly where it hurt.

Trey clenched the phone tighter, hatred slipping through his gritted teeth.

"Khloe, you're still bitter that I used you back then, aren't you?"

"Yeah, I messed up. But I really did have feelings for you. I even begged you—I wanted a second chance with you..."

"In the end, you're the one who destroyed everything. You did it with your own hands. You're cold, you're ruthless, and you have no appreciation for the past at all!"

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1162 – Khloe said nothing. She gave Barney a slight nod, and he ended the call.

She picked up the recorder from the table and pressed a few buttons. Soon, Trey's voice played back through the device once again.

Barney curled his lips. "I really wonder how regretful Ariana will be after hearing what Trey said."

Khloe replied indifferently, "Women like Ariana aren't fools. She's a wealthy young lady—if she was deceived by Trey, it was likely because she was

willing to be. But now that Trey has stopped pretending, even if she wants to play dumb, she can't keep it up anymore."

After speaking, Khloe arranged an express delivery and sent the recorder to Ethan.

"You're planning to let Ariana go?" Barney immediately saw through her intention.

Khloe merely smiled, neither confirming nor denying it.

Trey wanted to save his family members. In that case, Khloe would not be letting any of them go.

Besides, Trey's family members were being held by debt collectors—it had nothing to do with her.

Ariana, however, was different. If she were detained for too long, the situation would inevitably escalate.

Now that Ethan was releasing her, even if Ariana tried to pursue the matter, it could be written off as a personal dispute between individuals.

After all, Ethan had been beaten by Trey's men before. Even if compensation was demanded—or even if he faced punishment—it wouldn't amount to much. It wouldn't implicate Khloe or the Morrison family.

"Trey couldn't possibly not see through it. We gave him a choice of two paths—he knew it was a trap—but he still chose his family. So he must have already prepared a way to placate Ariana afterward, right?"

"You're right. Trey has always been overly confident. He believes every woman who has ever loved him will remain hopelessly attached. That's why he never thinks he truly needs to pay a price. The most he can offer Ariana is nothing more than a far-fetched explanation."

As she spoke, Khloe couldn't help but smile.

"But it's precisely that arrogance that will make him destroy the feelings others have for him."

Ariana might be able to accept insincerity, but she would never accept being treated so casually after being made to feel so superior as an heiress from a prestigious family.

Barney nodded, and for the first time, he felt a hint of awe toward this younger sister of his.

He had once thought that no matter how capable Khloe was, she was still a delicate female—likely to be indecisive and overly cautious in the business world.

He hadn't expected her resolve and restraint to far exceed his judgment.

It was as if she had already foreseen this step long ago.

She had calculated Trey perfectly, and even knowing Ariana was a troublesome liability, she still dared to strike first without hesitation.

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"Ethan, let me out!"

The moment Ethan stepped through the door, Ariana's voice rang out from inside.

It came at the same time every day, like an alarm clock.

A servant came forward to take his coat and briefly reported on Ariana's condition.

Ariana had likely realized he wasn't

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home and that no one would

respond to her, so she stayed mostly quiet during the day. Only Occasionally did the sound of objects being smashed echo from her room.

Ethan nodded, took the key from the servant, and opened her door. Ariana clearly hadn't expected him to enter so suddenly. She jerked back from the doorway, panic flashing across her face.
"You—how did you get in here?!"

"Didn't you call my name on time every single day the moment I got home?" Ethan said lightly as he loosened a few buttons at his collar, his tone laced with amusement.
"You missed me that much. How could I bear to ignore you forever?"

A chill ran through Ariana instantly. Goosebumps rose over her skin. She clenched her fists tightly at her sides, her body tensing.
"What are you doing... I'm warning you, don't you dare mess around..."

"What's this? You're actually scared?" Ethan chuckled softly. "D thought someone who could yell at me like that would be fearless—ready to face death. without blinking."

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1163 – "I don't care whether you kill me or cut me up as you please. But listen to me—if you dare touch even a single hair on my head, you and Khloe, and your Morrison family..."

Ariana was already on the verge of tears. Her lashes fluttered rapidly, her eyes rimmed with red.

Yet, she still forced herself to hold on to her pride, gritting out each word one by one. Ethan didn't bother responding at all. He rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward. Before he even reached her, Ariana collapsed onto the ground with a thud.

Her words broke off mid-sentence. She curled into herself, hands clamping over her head as she sobbed uncontrollably.

The arrogant heiress from earlier now looked utterly fragile, and for a brief moment, even Ethan felt a trace of reluctant sympathy.

He crouched down, one hand slipping into his pocket.

From the corner of her eye, Ariana caught the movement and screamed, scrambling to

run.

Ethan reacted instantly, grabbing her arm.

“Relax. I’m not going to do anything to you. After you listen to this, you can leave.”

Ariana kept her eyes shut tight. Only after hearing his words did she cautiously open them to look at him.

Sure enough, what Ethan held was only a recording pen.

Seeing her calm slightly, he released her and pressed play.

Trey’s voice immediately filled the room. The contents were from his recent phone call with Khloe.

Barney had given Trey a choice between Ariana and his family. Without hesitation, Trey had chosen his family.

Even though every word he said framed it as helpless and forced... there was not a trace of concern for Ariana.

Ariana froze. Slowly, she turned to look at Ethan, her expression complicated.

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“Ariana,” Ethan said coolly, “Trey is not a good man. Right now, you’re still important to him, yet he’s willingly abandoning you. If you stay with him in the future, you’ll only ever be something to use when needed—and discarded when you’re not.”

Ariana pressed her lips together.]

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After a long pause, as if she had finally processed his words, she turned her face away and said coldly, “You don’t need to try to sow discord. No one can make a perfect choice in a situation like that. Besides, he must know exactly what you’re trying to do... this was him protecting me!”

She swallowed hard.

Yes. Trey must have realized Khloe wouldn’t dare to touch her. Choosing his family and appearing indifferent toward her—it was probably intentional, a way to leave Khloe no leverage for manipulation.

Only by doing that would Khloe release her. That must be it.

Ethan let out a low, mocking laugh. He hadn’t expected a woman in love to be capable of such thorough self-deception.

“Truly, you can’t save someone who insists on walking toward death.

Think about it. Even if Trey said that

on purpose, he still used your safety as a bargaining chip. In other words, if you go back to him, everything works out for him. If you don't, he still protects his family and uses you to deal with Khloe. Either way, he doesn't care whether you live or die."

Each word struck like a blade.

Ariana couldn't even find the strength to refute him. She could only glare at him fiercely. "My business with Trey is none of your concern! Khloe ordered you to kidnap me! You'd better be ready to pay the price!"

Ethan was not a man with a gentle temper. Seeing her still so ungrateful, he didn't indulge her any further. In one swift motion, he grabbed her throat and pinned her back against the wall.

"Since you insist on saying it like that," he said flatly, "then I can't let you go."

"You... what are you doing?"

Fear surged through Ariana like ice water. Her voice immediately softened. "Didn't you say... I could leave after listening to the recording?"

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1164 – Ethan's grip was strong—he looked like he meant it this time.

In an instant, regret surged through Ariana.

If only she hadn't tried to win with her mouth in that moment...

But just as tears were starting to well up in fear, his hand suddenly loosened.

Instinctively, she shoved him away and bolted out of the room. She ran like a madwoman toward the exit, alarming the servants inside the villa.

One of them tried to step forward to stop her, but then saw Ethan following behind and hesitated.

He waved a hand, signaling them not to interfere.

Ariana ran all the way to the front gate. She pulled at it desperately, but it was locked tight and wouldn't budge.

"Why are you so frightened?" Ethan's mocking voice came from behind her. "An heiress of the royal family of Yustonia reduced to this over a heartless man. Don't you feel ashamed?"

Ariana's legs went weak.

She turned around, only to see Ethan reaching toward her again. She screamed and crouched down, covering her head.

But the expected pain never came.

Instead, there was a soft click—the door lock had been opened with a key.

She froze.

Above her head, his voice came again, calm and indifferent.

"Get up. I'll take you back."

After speaking, Ethan walked out first.

It took Ariana a long moment to come back to her senses. The servants quickly helped her to her feet.

Ethan's car was already waiting outside the villa.
She hesitated for a long time before reluctantly getting in.
If he truly didn't want to let her go, he could have easily dragged her back. There was no need for this pointless game.
Besides, she had barely eaten in days—her body was weak, her legs unsteady. She wouldn't have been able to run far anyway.
Ariana silently opened the passenger door, but Ethan said coldly from the front seat, "Sit in the back."
Her brows knitted together. She hadn't even complained, yet he was already acting like she was beneath him.
Still, this time she didn't provoke him. She swallowed her irritation and quietly sat in the back seat.
Ethan said nothing more.
The car shot forward, steady and fast through the night.
Ariana curled into the corner of the seat, her hands clenched tightly. Sweat had already soaked the fabric against her back.
Soon, the car stopped not far from Trey's residence.
Looking out at the familiar surroundings, her frantic heart calmed.
"This is your phone. It's fully charged. You know your way home—walk back yourself," Ethan said, tossing the phone toward her.
She reached out to take it, but he suddenly pulled back.
"You changed your mind?"
"Get out of the car first. Then I'll give it to you."
Ariana pressed her lips together.
Cautious and sly—he really was careful. Afraid she might record or film him with it.
She got out quickly. Only when she reached the side of the car did Ethan finally hand her the powered-on phone.

"I know you hate me right now. But
I'm quite tolerant toward
women-especially foolish ones
who've been brainwashed like you. If
one day you finally see through
Trey's true nature, and you need help
in Goldmont City, you can contact
me or Khloe."

Ariana froze.
She hadn't expected him to say something like that.
Before she could respond, however, he stepped on the accelerator and the car sped off into the night.
Contact him?
She lowered her gaze to the phone in her hand. As expected, Ethan's contact information had already been added back into her address book.
After a long pause, she dialed Trey's number.

When she saw him again, she had
thought she would be overwhelmed

with emotion. But the moment Trey rushed forward and pulled her tightly into his arms, she felt nothing but heaviness.

The recording Ethan had played kept echoing in her mind. So much that every word Trey spoke with such emotion simply passed through her without leaving a trace.

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1165 – Trey took Ariana's hand and led her into his car, bringing her back home.

He only asked one or two perfunctory questions about what she had been through these past few days. The rest of his words were devoted to

blaming Khloe and insisting he would personally avenge Ariana's suffering.

By the time Ariana fully came back to her senses, they had already arrived home.

Trey's eyes were red-rimmed as he led her to the bed and sat her down, studying her face closely.

"Ariana... you've suffered so much these past few days. It's all my fault—I didn't protect you properly... I feel terrible about it. I'm so glad the heavens were watching and brought you back. Otherwise, I really would've gone mad."

"Is that so?" Ariana finally spoke, her voice cold as she spat out those words.

In the dim lighting, Trey didn't seem to notice the expression on her face. He wrapped an arm around her head and leaned in to kiss her.

But the kiss lasted only a few seconds before Ariana turned her face away, breaking it.

"I'm tired right now..."

"I'm sorry. I just missed you too much."

Trey immediately cupped her face, his eyes thick with emotion.

"You missed me? If you missed me so much, then why did you choose your family instead of me when Khloe forced you to choose?"

Ariana could no longer hold it in. Her eyes shimmered with a thin mist as she stared straight at him without blinking.

She knew very well that Trey's love was never pure. Everyone had their own selfishness; she didn't mind being valued for what she could offer. But those things should never have been laid bare like this. Once seen, they couldn't be unseen.

Khloe's strike had been aimed straight at the heart. From this point on, every time Ariana faced Trey, she would remember that moment. His sweet words would no longer bring her comfort, and no matter how intense his affection seemed, she would never again be able to accept it without doubt.

"This is Khloe's scheme. She just wants to sow discord between us."

Trey only hesitated for a moment before his voice lowered again, soft and gentle as he looked at Ariana.

From the moment she called him, he had already prepared himself.

He knew Khloe would release Ariana. And if Ariana came back, it meant she must have learned something, But that was fine. As long as she returned, it meant she still had feelings for him. He slid his fingers into her hair, leaning close to her ear as he explained softly. His explanation was exactly the same as Ethan's.

He said he knew Khloe would not hurt her. He understood Khloe well-she never let go of the people cared about. That was precisely why he had made that choice. In truth, it was to protect Ariana.

Ariana had already anticipated every word.

He always had a way of turning wrong into right, of twisting black into white. Truth and lies blurred together until nothing was certain.

Just as she once believed without question that Trey was the one who had been wronged, only to return to... — Goldmont City and find the truth had shifted into something entirely different.

Out of a woman's possessiveness and jealousy toward the man she loved, she had wanted all blame to fall on Khloe, refusing to acknowledge Trey's ugliness.

But she was neither blind nor foolish, nor did she lack judgment.

These past few days, locked away by Ethan, whatever trust she had in Trey had already been shattered.

"So let me ask you this," she said, cutting him off. "If the one who kidnapped me wasn't Khloe—if it was your family and me—who would you choose?"

She no longer wanted to hear him continue.

Trey didn't hesitate at all.

"Of course, you. You're the person I love most right now. Even though it's hard to choose between the two, if I must, I would choose you."

Ariana fell silent.

His expression was solemn, his words decisive and unwavering. But all she felt was an icy emptiness settling in her chest.

A laugh of disbelief rose quietly from within her, and she couldn't help but curl her lips.

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1166 – Trey was obviously lying. When Khloe had issued him an ultimatum, he had chosen his family without hesitation. His family was clearly not insignificant to him.

Yet now, when Ariana asked him the same question, he didn't show the slightest trace of conflict.

If Trey had honestly told her that his family mattered more—or that he simply couldn't choose—Ariana might have thought there was still hope for them.

But in order to please her, he would stop at nothing. Lying came as naturally as breathing.

Ethan's words echoed in her ears once more.

Back then, had Trey deceived Khloe the same way?

Khloe had endured far more than she had. She must have suffered even more deeply.

"Ariana, why are you looking at me like that...? Do you not believe me? I swear to God, I—"

"There's no need. Of course, I believe you."

Lowering her head, Ariana interrupted him softly.

"Ariana..."

Trey wrapped his arms around her. This time, Ariana didn't resist.

His breath brushed against her neck.

"If I weren't worried about how exhausted you are, I'd really want you right now..."

In a low voice, Ariana said, "I've already heard about what's been happening at Olympus recently. What are you planning to do now? Are you going to lower your head and admit defeat to Khloe?"

"Of course not!"

The moment she asked, the anxiety hanging over Trey's heart finally eased. He immediately turned her face toward him, excitement filling his eyes.

"Now that you're back, I've got nothing to be afraid of. Khloe thinks she can control me, and the Hunt Group thinks they can take down Olympus.

They're delusional. From today on, husband and wife, side by side—we're going to make them pay."

"Husband and wife?"

Ariana looked up.

"Yeah. Let's get married—make it official. I know it's not fair to you, but I don't want to lose you again. I don't want to spend every day terrified that someone's going to come between us."

As he spoke, his eyes reddened and his voice thickened with emotion.

Holding her hand tightly, he stroked it gently.

"We'll register first. Once we're back in Yustonia, we'll make up for everything with a proper wedding ceremony. I promise I'll give you the grandest wedding imaginable."

"My parents still don't know about us. Have you considered how I'm supposed to face them afterward if you do this?"

Ariana abruptly pulled her hand from his grasp.

"I'll personally apologize to your parents in the future. Trust me. As

long as we truly love each other, and Olympus establishes itself successfully here, they won't blame. If you're worried we can even have everything notarized a prenuptial agreement, whatever you want..."

Trey was beginning to panic.

After thinking it over repeatedly, he had concluded that marriage was the only way to bind Ariana to him.

Women were all the same—they craved security. Once they were married, Ariana would devote herself to him even more completely.

First, he needed to stabilize Olympus. After that, Ariana's parents would never stand by and watch their daughter's company be crushed.

And once this crisis was over, he could slowly settle accounts with Khloe and Nick.

"Trey, your family is still being held under someone else's control, and all you can think about is yourself. Are you still dreaming that Khloe's going to bow down to you? Or are you just hoping to rekindle things with her?"

Unable to tolerate it any longer, Ariana shoved him away.

Startled, Trey said, "Ariana, how can you think that of me? Yes, my family is still being controlled, but I know Khloe. She wouldn't dare act recklessly. Besides, these people only want money. As long as there's money—"

"Leave."

Ariana rose to her feet and cut him off coldly.

"I'm really tired right now. I just want to rest."

Seeing her unusually firm attitude, Trey could only nod reluctantly.

He reached out, intending to hug her once more, but Ariana turned around and presented him with her back.

"All right. Get some rest first. We can talk tomorrow. But please don't overthink things. You're all I have now."

His voice was humble to the point of self-abasement. The faint tremor in his tone stirred a flicker of emotion within Ariana.

But that fleeting softness vanished almost immediately.

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1167 – The moment Trey left the room, Ariana picked up her phone and made a call.

Early the next morning, Trey had breakfast prepared and personally came to wake Ariana.

The instant he pushed open the door, he froze.

The room had been cleaned spotless. Even the wardrobe had been emptied.

"Where is she?"

He rushed out of the room and immediately demanded answers from the household maids. The servants exchanged bewildered looks. None of them even knew when Ariana had left.

He quickly dialed her number. The call connected, but no one answered.

Trey kept calling again and again. Just as he was on the verge of breaking down, her voice finally came through the receiver.

"Ariana, are you still angry with me? You're driving me crazy with worry. Tell me where you are, and I'll come pick you up right now, okay?"

Hearing her voice at last, Trey clung to it like a drowning man grasping a lifeline, pleading desperately.

Ariana's tone, however, remained calm.

"Trey, do you want to be with me because you love me, or because I can help you get revenge on Khloe?"

"You silly girl, of course it's because I love you!"

His answer came instantly, without the slightest hesitation.

The line fell silent for a moment before Ariana spoke again.

"In that case, let's go back."

"What did you say?"

Trey was stunned.

Slowly, Ariana said, "I want to go home. I'm at the airport right now. If you come here immediately, I'll wait for you, and we can return to Yustonia together. By then, Khloe probably won't make things difficult for your family anymore."

"Ariana..."

Trey took a deep breath, his thoughts racing while his voice grew softer and gentler.

"I know you've suffered a lot, and I promised I'd go back with you. I fully intend to keep that promise. But Olympus is still a complete mess right now.

Didn't you tell me before that I needed to build my career successfully before meeting your parents?"

"Trey, if you come back to Yustonia with me, I'll marry you. From that day forward, there won't be any more support or financial assistance from my parents. But I believe that as long as we're willing to work hard, our life won't be too difficult."

Ariana's voice was calm, leaving no room for negotiation.

Her words hit Trey like a bucket of ice water dumped over his head, leaving him unable to recover for a long moment.

He had been counting on Ariana's return to bring Olympus back from the brink and help him fight Khloe again.

Even if that didn't happen, being with Ariana should at least guarantee him a life of wealth and privilege.

How could he possibly abandon everything and follow a woman to a foreign country to live a hard life?

For a long time, no response came from the other end of the line.

The last trace of hope in Ariana's heart finally died.

Ethan had been right. Trey had never truly loved anyone. And certainly not her.

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"In that case, there's nothing left for us to discuss. I'll withdraw all of Olympus's funding completely. Starting today we should... break up."

"Ariana!"

Panic surged through Trey.

"That's not what I mean! I'll agree to whatever you want. I just need a little more time—"

"I've already given you many chances. But you really... disappoint me."

With that, Ariana hung up.

Trey immediately called back, but this time he discovered that his number had been blocked.

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He hurriedly threw on his clothes and rushed to the airport. After searching the entire departure hall, he still couldn't find any sign of Ariana.

She had actually meant it.

That very afternoon, Trey's phone was flooded with calls.

Ariana had done exactly what she promised.

She had clearly prepared everything in advance. Barely had she left when every one of Olympus's funding accounts was frozen.

Olympus still had numerous contracts in progress. Now that Ariana was gone, all of the net

Company's debts would fall squarely on his shoulders.

After the initial shock and despair came overwhelming rage.

Trey went straight to the Morrison Group building and waited outside, determined to see Khloe

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1168 – After obtaining the list of names, Khloe disappeared completely.

No one could reach her by phone, and she stopped appearing in public altogether.

Security at the Morrison Group had also been significantly tightened. The moment Trey showed up, the security team intercepted him. The guards quickly reported his appearance to Khloe.

She had been prepared for this. Without hesitation, she forwarded Trey's location to the companies currently involved in disputes with Olympus.

Now that Olympus's funding had collapsed, numerous companies were desperate to recover their money and cut their losses. The instant Trey appeared, they swarmed him from every direction.

The media rushed in as well, capturing every humiliating moment.

That very night, news of Olympus's collapse—and Trey's growing list of scandals—made the front page of Goldmont City's headlines.

Trey could barely save himself.

Bankruptcy, crushing debt, and even prison time loomed directly ahead.

As for his family, he couldn't produce the ransom money to save them. And with them stranded overseas, it wasn't difficult to imagine what fate awaited Stella and Alicia.

Khloe glanced at the news updates appearing on her phone. Her expression remained calm.

There was no surprise. No satisfaction. Everything had unfolded exactly as expected.

The rot consuming Trey's life had only just begun. But she had long since lost all interest in whether he lived or died.

"I heard Ariana has already left the country. Looks like Olympus is finished for good this time."

Barney shared the latest information he had received.

He had assumed the collapse of their relationship would require some time to unfold.

He hadn't expected Ariana to be so decisive.

Khloe nodded.

Ethan had already told her. Before leaving, Ariana had contacted him. Although the two of them hadn't exactly gotten along recently, Ariana knew

Ethan wasn't a bad person. She had even asked him to pass a message to Khloe.

"If you ever have the chance to visit Yustonia, we should have tea together."

Barney sighed.

"It seems women can become enemies because of a man, and then become friends because of a man too."

Khloe shook her head.

"Not because of Trey. He's not worth it. Maybe my past experiences can, in some small way, help ease her pain."

She didn't agree with Barney's perspective. In her eyes, Ariana wasn't simply a woman blinded by love. She had only chosen to lose herself in that relationship to escape the emptiness inside her

Now the dream had shattered. She needed a new source of strength to support her.

And somehow, Khloe had become that invisible source.

Perhaps that wasn't a bad thing.

When people rebuild themselves, they often need something to believe in. Even she had been no different.

Back when she was still naive, she had once treated the false comfort Trey offered as her emotional anchor.

But later, she met Nick. She met the Hunt family. Only then did she truly understand what sincerity was. What equality was. What it meant to genuinely love someone.

Their partnership wasn't built solely on affection or possession. It was about helping each other become better. Finding fulfillment in one another's growth. Achieving each other's potential.

Barney noticed the sudden change in Khloe's expression.

She lowered her head and stared at the wedding ring clenched tightly in her hand.

"If you miss him, why not go see him?"

Khloe said nothing.

His words struck directly at the deepest part of her heart.

She missed him. She missed him every moment of every day, with a longing she couldn't suppress. She missed the lines of his face and the warmth in his eyes. She missed his body heat and heartbeat. She missed the strength of his embrace. She missed every conversation they had shared and every memory they had created together. She had missed him for so long that it felt as though she might go mad.

But she was a coward. She didn't dare see him. Not even secretly. Not even for a single glance.

She was afraid of discovering his disappointment. His indifference. Or worse—his hatred.

"If Nick recovers completely, maybe the two of you could still reconcile."

Seeing her hesitation, Barney cautiously pressed further.

Khloe shook her head.

"I hurt him too deeply. He'll never forgive me."

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1169 – "What if he doesn't care?" Barney asked. "I think that, in his heart, you might be the most important thing of all..."

"But I can't forgive myself," Khloe said.

No one understood better than she did how difficult forgiveness could be.

Even if Nick were willing to forgive her, she couldn't bring herself to ask for it. She couldn't bear the thought of making him endure that kind of suffering all over again.

Ever since he had been with her, he had done nothing but get hurt.

And the members of Lacuna were like a ticking time bomb. No one knew when they might come after her again. As long as Nick remained by her side, he would throw himself in front of danger to protect her. She didn't want to keep living in constant fear of losing him.

Knowing there was no changing Khloe's mind, Barney placed an invitation on the table. "There's a business summit in Goldmont City tomorrow night. It's being held in conjunction with Hunt Group's charity fundraising campaign. I heard Nick will be attending in person. Morrison Group has also been invited to give a speech. I've arranged a seat for you in secret. If you go, you'll see him."

With that, Barney rose and left.

Khloe reached out and touched the invitation.

Her gaze darkened instantly.

The following evening, a steady stream of guests arrived at the entrance of the Goldmont City Business Summit.

Khloe arrived early and entered through a private passageway that led directly to the second floor of the venue.

The seat Barney had arranged for her was discreetly located with an excellent view.

From there, she could clearly see the seats reserved for the prominent guests in the front row, as well as the stage.

Nick's nameplate had already been placed at his seat.

Though the chair remained empty, Khloe stared at it for quite some time.

Her thoughts drifted back to that charity gala. He had traveled thousands of miles to see her, throwing her emotions into complete turmoil. Back then, she had been alone and helpless, nearly pushed into a humiliating situation with no way out.

Now, things were different. She had long since grown strong enough to stand on her own. She no longer needed anyone to support her.

And yet... his existence alone still had the power to unsettle her heart.

"Mr. Hunt, this way, please."

Suddenly, Khloe heard a faint voice outside the private suite.

She frowned in surprise.

Wasn't Nick's seat supposed to be in the front row of the main hall? Why would he be heading toward the suites?

After the footsteps passed, Khloe quietly moved to the door and peered through the narrow gap.

At a glance, she spotted Lenny.

Nick was surrounded by
bodyguards. Lenny walked at the
rear of the group while a staff
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member from the venue fed the way

Someone else appeared to be
walking beside Nick, engaged in
conversation with him.

The group soon entered the suite next door.

Only after they disappeared inside did Khloe summon a staff member to ask about it. Apparently, one of Nick's friends had invited him to discuss business in the private suite. Khloe knew nearly all of Nick's friends. Yet, the man in that suite didn't appear to be a local.

After entering, Nick never returned to the main event.

Even when it was time for Hunt Group's representative to deliver a speech, Nick arranged for someone else to take the stage while he remained absent.

Khloe could no longer sit still.

At that moment, Barney pushed open the door and entered.

He, too, had been surprised by Nick's absence. After making a few inquiries, he discovered that Nick's purpose for attending tonight had never been the summit itself.

"The man in the suite next door used to work for a high-level institution in Naraida. He's only recently taken a position with the Goldmont Chamber of Commerce. Nick seems to have come here with a specific" objective. From what I've heard, that man is the reason he's here."

The moment she heard the words Naraida, Khloe's heart clenched. She immediately thought of T7's origins.

Unable to focus on anything else Barney was saying, she quickly called over a waiter.

"I'd like to send some drinks and a fruit platter to the gentlemen in the suite next door. Make up any excuse you like, but don't mention me. Afterward, observe everyone inside and pay attention to their

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conversation. Do you understand?"

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As she spoke, Khloe slipped a spending card into the waiter's pocket.

The waiter instantly understood.

"Got it!" he replied

Read Billionaire's Match Novel Chapter 1170 – A few moments later, the door to the neighboring private suite opened.

The waiter entered carrying a fruit platter and a bottle of champagne. After setting them on a nearby table, he began pouring drinks for the two men seated in conversation.

The foreign man in the room didn't find anything unusual about it. Nick, however, noticed the waiter's behavior immediately. The waiter seemed oddly slow and deliberate. As Nick looked over, their eyes met briefly. His voice fell silent, and his gaze shifted toward the fruit platter on the table. The suite had already been stocked with drinks and an assortment of fruit long ago. Why had someone suddenly brought in more? "Who sent you?" Nick asked abruptly, his voice low. The waiter's hand trembled. After a moment, he lowered his head. "Sir, I'm here to deliver fruit and drinks." Nick replied calmly, "You've already delivered them." "Yes, but you're a VIP guest, so we've prepared some additional refreshments for you." The answer came smoothly enough. Nick said nothing. He simply studied the man's face for several seconds. The foreign gentleman beside him waved a hand dismissively and laughed. "That's enough. Mr. Hunt and I are discussing business. Don't interrupt us. We already have more than enough here." "Understood." The waiter quickly set down the wineglass. Before leaving, he nodded and stole another glance at Nick. When he realized Nick was still watching him, he hastily retreated from the room. The moment the waiter left, Nick seemed to think of something. He rose from his seat and followed him out. When he returned a short while later, the man beside him couldn't help asking curiously, "Mr. Hunt, is something wrong?" "Nothing." Nick checked the time. "The summit is nearly over anyway, so I'll take my leave first. Thank you for clearing up my questions today. If you ever need anything in the future, don't hesitate to contact me." Without waiting for the other man to exchange any further pleasantries, Nick turned and left the suite.

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After he departed, movement could be heard from Khloe's side as well. The waiter returned and faithfully reported everything he had seen inside. He hadn't overheard the conversation between Nick and the other man.

However, one thing was certain. Nick hadn't looked well. He appeared exhausted. And his complexion had been frighteningly pale.

Hearing that, Khloe felt an uncomfortable tightness in her chest.

Logically speaking, after taking the medication, his condition should have improved somewhat by now, shouldn't it?

“He just left. He probably hasn’t gone far yet.”

Barney’s reminder was tactful.

If she wanted to see him, all she had to do was catch up.

Khloe remained silent.

Quietly, she pushed open the suite door.

When she reached the staircase railing, she spotted Nick’s figure near the main exit of the hall.

He was as tall and straight-backed as ever.

Surrounded by people, there was nothing outwardly unusual about him.

After hesitating for a moment, Khloe hurried downstairs.

But by the time she reached the lobby, Nick and his entourage had completely disappeared.

Just then, Barney called. He wanted to know where she was.

“I’m going to the restroom. Wait for me outside.”UT

The summit was ending, and guests

were beginning to leave. With

crowds filling the venue, he was

worried something might happen if

she wandered around alone.uy param

After speaking, Khloe hung up. She went to the restroom by herself.

Water streamed over her hands as she stood at the sink.

When she lifted her eyes, her reflection in the mirror made her frown.

Her face looked slightly swollen. Her lower abdomen was already noticeably rounded.

She was nearly six months pregnant.

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Unlike the beginning of her

pregnancy, when she had been

extremely picky about food, her

appetite had improved significant

Barney had taken excellent care of

her these past months. She had

gained several pounds.

There were late-night snacks whenever she wanted them, and occasional swelling was perfectly normal.

But the swelling wasn’t what bothered her most. It was the deep exhaustion etched across her face. As though, overnight, she had aged several years.

Khloe lifted a hand and gently touched her cheek.

She felt really grateful that she hadn’t seen Nick today.