

230: The Huge Secret Hidden in the Codex

Both of them paused for a moment after speaking, surprised by their mutual understanding.

After a brief silence, Sebastian asked, "Should I come find you?"

"Let's meet at MoShore Café!" Caitlin suggested, picking a nearby location.

"Alright!"

When Caitlin arrived at MoShore Café, Sebastian was already there. Their cars parked one behind the other.

"Caitlin."

Sebastian got out of his car and hurried toward her. Caitlin said, "Let's talk inside."

They walked into the café and found a secluded booth in the corner. Caitlin asked, "What did you want to tell me?"

Sebastian handed her a document. "This is information about The Yuncey Family in Departure City. Take a look."

Caitlin flipped through it. The documents contained details about The Yuncey Family's members, which matched what she had previously learned from Shadow Moon Pavilion's investigation.

The current head of The Yuncey Family was Timothy, who was Caitlin's maternal grandfather Eleanor's cousin. According to V Country's kinship terms, Caitlin should address him as "Uncle Grandfather."

This "Uncle Grandfather" had married three wives and had a total of 12

children registered on the family records.

The family was large and influential, with many younger members.

"The Yuncey Family is huge. Did you find anything suspicious?" Caitlin looked up and asked.

"The Yuncey Family still owns Yun's Fragrance & Dye Studio, and there's also The Yuncey Family Group. They have significant influence in V Country. They are the largest family in Departure City. On the surface, everything seems fine; there's nothing unusual so far."

"With such a large family business, why could they not accept my grandmother?" Caitlin pondered. "Maybe what we're seeing is just the tip of the iceberg, and the rest isn't so clean."

"Yes, more investigation is needed," Sebastian agreed. "By the way, I've heard some rumors related to the 'Yun's Aromatic Codex.'"

"What rumors?" Caitlin asked, intrigued.

Sebastian leaned in closer, putting his hand to his mouth. Caitlin leaned in to listen.

"There's a rumor on the black market that the 'Yun's Aromatic Codex' is not just a secret formula for making Fragrance Garments. Apparently, it also hides a secret map. Supposedly, if you find the map, it leads to a hidden treasure vault. I suspect those who are after the Codex are more interested in this treasure."

Caitlin's eyes widened. "No way. That sounds like some absurd legend! I've seen the Codex myself, and there's no map inside."

Caitlin had already looked through the first half of the Codex, which only contained spice formulas and dyeing techniques. There was no treasure

map.

"I agree it sounds impossible, but others don't think so. People driven by greed are willing to do anything to get their hands on the Codex," Sebastian said.

Rumors, indeed, could be dangerous.

Caitlin sighed and said to Sebastian, "You know, I met with Ximena today to talk about Patricia. Guess what condition she set?"

"Did she ask you to join XEG?" Sebastian guessed.

"Yes, that was one of the conditions. But there was another. She wants the full 'Yun's Aromatic Codex' from me, in exchange for Patricia."

"Ximena wants the Codex too?" Sebastian was shocked.

"Exactly! She insisted on it. Otherwise, there's no deal."

Caitlin's eyes reddened as she thought about her daughter. The pain in her chest made it hard to breathe.

Sebastian slammed his hand on the table, furious. "Damn it! Should I just go with a few people and take Patricia back by force? What's the point in negotiating with that old woman?"

He was about to storm off, but Caitlin stopped him. "Sebastian, calm down! Since she's after the Codex, she's probably made her own plans. She won't let us find the child easily.

If we push too hard, and she hides Patricia, we might never see her again.
"

Caitlin took a deep breath. "The only thing we can do now is buy some

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time and think of another plan. She gave me two days to decide!"

Sebastian sat back down, his brow furrowed, his face serious. After a moment of thought, he finally came up with an idea.

"How about this..."

He whispered something to Caitlin. After listening, Caitlin nodded. "Alright, we'll give it a try."

They left the café, and Sebastian followed Caitlin to DanCa Estate. She handed him the first half of the 'Yun's Aromatic Codex.'

It was a sign of trust—such an important item, and yet she was entrusting it to him.

Sebastian took the Codex and left immediately, heading to a friend who specialized in ancient manuscript restoration.

Caitlin stayed behind at DanCa Estate to prepare for the evening's dinner at The Vanderbilt Family's birthday banquet.

Later that evening, the Vanderbilt Family's estate was brightly lit.

The birthday banquet was being held in the largest banquet hall of The Vanderbilt Family's main building.

Everything necessary for the event had been prepared, and both the garden and the front gate were decorated with lights.

Beatrice was getting ready in her room.

Molly helped her into a beautiful new dress. "Grandma, you look great in

this! So stylish!"

Beatrice smiled, thinking about seeing her great-grandchildren later that evening. She couldn't hide her excitement. "Molly, will Caitlin and the kids be coming?"

"Of course! It's your birthday, Grandma. Caitlin will definitely bring the children to celebrate with you."

"Good, good! That's wonderful!" Beatrice clapped her hands in joy. "Let's go, I can't wait any longer!"

Molly helped Beatrice as they made their way toward the banquet hall.

By now, the guests who had been invited were beginning to arrive. The Vanderbilt Family's large parking lot was full of luxury cars.

Nearly everyone of importance in New York was there: the Gray Family, the Jackson Family, the Lu Family, the Jones Family... all had sent representatives.

Raymond, the head of The Vanderbilt Family, had returned in the morning and was now greeting guests in the banquet hall.

When Sebastian returned from outside, he bumped into Raymond near the entrance. The atmosphere between them was noticeably tense.

"Sebastian..."

Raymond tried to greet him, but Sebastian walked past him into the banquet hall without a word.

He didn't say anything because after the banquet, the moment of revelation was coming.

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Inside the banquet hall, various families were in attendance, along with prominent women and debutantes. They weren't waiting for Beatrice, but for Sebastian.

Everyone knew by now that he had recovered and was now divorced and single!

As the heir to the prestigious Vanderbilt Family, the CEO of VEG, a handsome, young, and wealthy man, he was every woman's ideal husband.

When he walked in, every woman's eyes were on him.

"Wow, it's Mr. Vanderbilt!"

"Mr. Vanderbilt is so handsome!"

The room was filled with the sound of women swooning and gasping in admiration. Sebastian walked past them, his gaze straight ahead, heading toward Beatrice's table.

"Grandma, Sebastian is late!"

Beatrice looked beyond him to the door, "Don't block the way. Whether you're here or not doesn't matter, what's important is if Caitlin has come!"

Sebastian: "..."

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