

Hitched 721

Chapter 721

Elysia looked utterly defeated, her vulnerability tugging at the heartstrings, "I just don't know..."

Blossom frowned. This was a blatant threat and warning!

A message popped up on Elysia's phone from an anonymous sender:

【Last time it was Elijah, this time Elliot, next up are Evan and Emmett. You can't always be lucky to save them. Do you really want to gamble with your children's lives, Elysia? You need to listen to reason, leave him. It's too dangerous for you to be around him.】

The "him" in question was Tarin.

This wasn't advice; it was a downright threat!

Blossom knew Elysia well. Her children were her Achilles' heel, and someone was exploiting this to force her away from Tarin!

No wonder Elysia had been so cold towards Tarin today!

With her children being used to threaten her, how could she dare to continue her relationship with Tarin?

But she loved him so much, and the thought of leaving him was unbearable...

If this was a choice, it was an impossible one!

Blossom felt a pang of sympathy for her friend. She set the phone aside, wrapped her arms around Elysia, and said,

"The problem is this person. Let's go to the police and track him down. Once we do, the kids will be safe, and you won't have to leave Tarin."

Elysia, tears streaming down her face, shook her head,

"Catching one won't end it; he has too many enemies..."

After the car accident a few days ago, she received a message warning her to leave Tarin, but she hadn't wavered.

She loved him, regardless of the dangers that surrounded him.

But today, she was scared!

She blamed herself, thinking if she hadn't been so lost in love, refusing to leave, Elliot wouldn't have been hurt.

It was because she insisted on being with Tarin that Elliot was in danger!

Elysia felt overwhelmingly guilty, "It's all my fault... I've put Elliot in danger..."

Blossom quickly tried to comfort her,

"You can't think like that! It's clearly the perpetrator's fault, not yours. You're not to blame, and neither is Tarin. The person at fault is the one who harmed Elliot!"

Elysia sobbed, "But if I hadn't been with Tarin, the perpetrator wouldn't have targeted Elliot. He wouldn't have gotten hurt..."

Blossom was anxious, "Elysia, I understand you're upset about Elliot, but you really can't think like that! The fault clearly lies with the person who hurt Elliot. You and Tarin..."

Blossom stopped short.

She wanted to encourage Elysia, but she was at a loss for words when it came to Tarin.

The incident with Elliot wasn't Tarin's fault, but it was indeed triggered by him.

If Elysia hadn't been involved with him, the perpetrator wouldn't have targeted Elliot...

Blossom felt panicked, and she struggled to find the right words to defend Tarin.

All she could do was offer a shoulder for her friend to lean on, to be a listener for her to confide in...

It wasn't until Elysia's crying subsided that she spoke,

"Regardless, Tarin and you aren't to blame. You mustn't jump to conclusions. As for you and Tarin... don't rush to make a decision.

Elysia, personally, I don't think you should break up with him over this. You love him, and leaving him would only bring regret and sorrow. You might end up crying yourself to sleep.

Haven't you always said how a parent's mood can affect their children's development? If you're unhappy, how can you create a cheerful, positive environment for them to grow up in?"

Elysia choked up, "I'm just scared..."

"I get it, I really do. Any single mom would be scared in your shoes."

Chapter 723

Tarquin's heart was hammering, "Oh, good."

He hurried after Elysia into the hospital room.

Inside, there was a small table. Elysia took out some late-night snacks and set them up, beckoning him over, "Come on, have something to eat."

Tarquin was pleasantly surprised, looking like a kid who thought he'd done something wrong, carefully watching Elysia's expressions and cautiously making his way over.

His cautious demeanor caught Elysia's eye, and she felt a pang of sympathy.

She wanted to say something to comfort him but didn't know what to say, so she chose silence.

She quietly handed him a fork, and Tarquin quickly reached out to take it.

With her not speaking, he didn't even dare to breathe too loudly.

After the late-night snack, Tarquin insisted on cleaning up the table, and Elysia didn't fight him for the task.

She went to the bathroom, and when she came out, she started making the bed.

It was a twin bed, one that Tarquin had bought new that day, along with fresh bedding.

After cleaning up, Tarquin stood quietly nearby, not daring to speak.

Elysia finished making the bed, checked on Elliot in his hospital bed, turned off the main light, leaving only a nightlight on. She told Tarquin, "Time to sleep."

After saying that, she turned and walked towards the freshly made bed.

Tarquin wasn't sure what she meant and stood frozen in place.

Elysia walked to the edge of the bed, and seeing him still not moving, she added, "Come here, let's cuddle."

Tarquin's heart skipped a beat, his eyes warming.

Elysia had no idea how profound her simple request for a cuddle was!

Since the accident with Elliot, Tarquin had been on edge, scared out of his mind!

He knew Elysia too well, understood her thoughts clearly!

He was genuinely worried that Elysia would break up with him over Elliot's situation!

He feared Elysia would leave him...

He was scared, so scared, that he couldn't even focus on finding the perpetrator all day, his heart entirely devoted to Elysia!

Hearing her ask for a cuddle now, he truly wanted to cry...

With a sour nose and a lump in his throat, he rushed to Elysia's side, embracing her tightly.

All his anxiety, worry, frustration, and guilt... were all poured into this embrace!

He wished he could meld Elysia into his being, so he'd never lose her again!

Elysia, understanding his feelings, allowed him to hold her until she couldn't take it anymore and said, "Ouch..."

Tarquin immediately let go, his voice hoarse with concern, "Where does it hurt? Did I hug you too tightly?"

"Sorry," he immediately apologized, repeating, "Sorry, Elysia, I'm so sorry..."

Sorry, for hugging you too tightly.

Sorry, because I let Elliot get hurt.

Sorry, for not giving you enough sense of security.

Sorry, so very sorry...

Elysia looked at him, eventually unable to resist, she tiptoed to seal his apologies with a gentle kiss on his lips.

It wasn't a passionate kiss but a brief touch, silencing his apologies.

"I want to sleep for a bit."

Tarquin sniffled hard, "Okay, you sleep. I'll watch over Elliot."

But as he laid Elysia down and covered her with the blanket, she caught his wrist, "Stay and sleep with me." Tarquin was stunned, "?!?"

"Elliot will be fine; he won't wake up anytime soon. I want to sleep in your arms."

Tarquin trembled with excitement, swallowing hard, his voice choked with emotion, "Okay!"

He removed his shoes and got into bed, gently wrapping Elysia in his arms.

Elysia, like a docile kitten, nestled into him and stayed still.

Chapter 724

They just held each other in silence, not speaking of the day's events or what lay ahead...

The next day.

Elysia woke up early, and as soon as she opened her eyes, she saw Tarquin staring at her.

Without a word, she slipped out of bed and went to check on Elliot.

Tarquin quickly followed, "Should I call a doctor?"

"Not for now."

"Can we transfer him to another hospital today?"

"Let's wait and see."

"...I'll have breakfast ready for you."

"Okay."

As Elysia began examining Elliot, Tarquin watched her for a few seconds, frowned, and then, not wanting to disturb her further, he left the room.

He would respond to anything she said, but her demeanor still had Tarquin's heart in a vice.

He stepped outside the hospital room to make a call, arranging breakfast for Elysia.

That morning, Gideon Bradford made an unexpected appearance.

It was the first time the grandfather and grandson had seen each other since the chaos of the Thanksgiving dinner.

If it weren't for Elizabeth's ashes still being in Gideon's possession, Tarquin would have erased him from their lives for good!

But with the ashes at stake, Tarquin had no choice but to deal with him.

At the end of the hospital corridor, Tarquin lit a cigarette, clearly annoyed, "Cut to the chase!"

Sitting in his wheelchair, Gideon tried to hide his irritation, "Elysia is a woman, and her son's in this mess because of you. She's bound to hold a grudge, might even break it off with you..."

Tarquin's face darkened, and his gaze turned fierce, "Stay out of my relationship!"

Gideon said, "I've been around the block, kid. I know a thing or two. Now's the time to prove yourself. Show her how much you care about her boy, make her believe you'll protect him as if he were your own. But talk is cheap; you need to act."

Tarquin glowered down at him, "What are you getting at?"

Clearing his throat, Gideon said, "Get her son listed in the Bradford family tree."

Tarquin looked skeptical, waiting for him to continue.

Gideon went on, "No matter what you think of the Bradfords, you're one of us. Listing her son in our family tree is the ultimate gesture of how seriously you take this!"

"And then?"

Gideon squinted, "But Elysia's boys aren't Bradfords by blood, and our family tree isn't just for anyone who fancies it. But you know as well as I do, I call the shots in the Bradford family now. As long as I don't object, it doesn't matter how much the others protest. Give me 20% of your shares, and I'll nod along, allowing Elysia's sons into the Bradford family tree."

He added quickly, fearing Tarquin's refusal, "It's a fair deal for you. Even after giving me 20%, you'd still be the Bradford Group's largest shareholder. You keep control, and it might just win Elysia's heart back."

Tarquin took a harsh drag from his cigarette and shot back, "Your existence is a tragedy!"

All Gideon could see, even at his age, was power and influence. Tarquin couldn't grasp it.

Chasing fame and fortune might be normal for the young, but to still be obsessed with power at his age? Pitiful!

Gideon scowled, "Don't be so quick to dismiss my offer. Think it over, and contact me when you're ready."

As Gideon wheeled away, Tarquin didn't even spare him a glance.

Right after Gideon left, Elijah suddenly appeared, "Daddy."

Tarquin quickly snuffed out his cigarette, "How did you come from the stairwell?"

Elijah didn't explain, simply stating, "I heard everything between you and great-grandpa. I think it's worth considering, Daddy." Tarquin was speechless...

Chapter 725

Elijah furrowed his brow slightly, his expression deep and serious, almost a carbon copy of Tarquin. Of all the kids, Elijah was the spitting image of Tarquin!

Especially when it came to the look in his eyes and his mannerisms, Elijah was like a little Tarquin in the making!

Elijah said, "I heard from Blossom that Mom's feelings about you are pretty mixed right now. She likes you, but the whole ordeal with Elliot really shook her up.

You really need to give Mom some peace of mind, show her how you treat Elliot, Evan, and Emmett! Make her believe that you'll protect them just like you protect me! That you have the capability to keep them safe!

I know Dad doesn't care much for the Bradfords, but if Elliot, Evan, and Emmett were to be listed in the Bradford family records, it would be the same as with me, that's the attitude you should have.

Plus, Mom's always been worried sick about their citizenship status. Getting them listed in the Bradford family records would mean you could officially take them under your wing, and that would clear up Mom's biggest worry."

Elijah, to this day, still hadn't dared to disclose the true identities of Elliot, Evan, and Emmett. He respected and understood his mom, and he wouldn't rashly spill the beans on something she cared so deeply about.

But he could lend a hand, add fuel to the fire to get Mom to open up to Dad sooner rather than later.

Once that truth was out in the open, Mom and Dad's relationship would be rock solid!

Getting Elliot, Evan, and Emmett in the Bradford family records was a golden opportunity...

Tarquin frowned, "Would she agree to it? Being listed in our family records means they'd officially be part of our family. How she feels about me

now..."

If Elysia was set on staying with him, that would be fantastic.

But Elysia was on the fence, and if he forcefully added Elliot, Evan, and Emmett to the Bradford family records, it was like binding them to him for good!

Tying the kids to his name meant Elysia couldn't easily leave, which was great for him, something he desperately wanted!

But he had the intent without the courage. He was afraid.

Afraid that Elysia would think he was trying to trap her!

Elijah said, "Dad, just go ahead and arrange it. Leave the rest to me, I'll convince Mom."

Elijah even offered him a little comfort,

"Mom's so cautious, yet she didn't leave you even after everything that happened. It proves she really likes you, Dad. You gotta fight for it." Tarquin: "..."

After finishing his talk, Elijah went to Elliot's room, leaving Tarquin alone in the hallway, deep in thought for a long time, finally deciding to follow his son's advice!

He was on pins and needles, desperately looking for a way to reassure Elysia!

He called Gideon, cutting straight to the chase,

"Arrange to get Elysia's sons listed in the family records. I'll give you 10% of the shares. Contact me when it's done."

He hung up without leaving room for negotiation.

Gideon was both thrilled and a bit disappointed. Thrilled because Tarquin had agreed, and 10% of the shares was a fortune!

But he was disappointed because he had originally asked for 20%!

His confidant said, "Since he's agreed, we should insist on 20% of the shares!"

Gideon frowned, "If we push him too far, we might end up with nothing. Let's settle for 10%. Knowing when to stop is crucial."

"True, but... if the others find out, there'll be hell to pay."

Being listed in the family records meant becoming a Bradford, entitled to a share of the Bradford fortune.

The cake was only so big; the more people there were to share it, the smaller each piece would be. This move touched on the interests of the entire Bradford family.

Gideon was essentially leveraging the family's interests for his own gain.

He scoffed, "The deal with Tarquin will be sealed with a confidentiality agreement. They can only make a fuss with Tarquin, not with me. We'll just sit back and reap the benefits."

Chapter 726

As soon as Gideon finished speaking, he immediately spread the word.

He announced that Tarquin had suggested listing Elysia's three sons in the Bradford family's genealogy, to be placed alongside Elijah.

Predictably, this set off a firestorm within the Bradford family.

"Why should a bunch of kids with no blood relation to the Bradfords be added to our family tree? I won't stand for it!"

"I'm against it too! Since when can you just add names to the family tree? Who are they, and do they share any blood relation with the Bradfords?!"

"Our family has passed down its legacy from generation to generation. Now, all of a sudden, Elijah has several 'brothers' added to the family tree? This has got to be a joke!"

"It must be that schemer Elysia's idea. I knew she was up to no good, trying to use those kids to get her hands on the Bradford estate. Not happening!"

"Who do these outsiders think they are, trying to get on the Bradford family tree? Dream on!"

The Bradfords were in an uproar, and they stormed the hospital that very day to confront Tarquin and Elysia.

But Tarquin stopped them in their tracks, and Elysia was completely unaware of the situation.

Everything changed the day Elliot woke up...

Elliot had been severely injured, lapsing into unconsciousness for three full days.

He woke up on the morning of the third day, calling out before he even opened his eyes, "Mommy, don't be scared, mommy..."

Elysia, who had been vigilantly by his bedside, was instantly moved to tears.

With eyes brimming with tears, she tightly gripped Elliot's small hand,

"Mommy's here, Elliot. I'm not scared. As long as you're okay, mommy's not scared. Please wake up..."

Elliot's eyelashes fluttered lightly, and his eyes slowly opened.

Elysia exclaimed, "Elliot!"

His siblings chorused, "Bro!"

Elliot looked at them without speaking, taking a moment before saying,

"I'm okay, don't be scared."

Tears immediately sprang to Elysia's eyes, her Elliot was still thinking of them even in his state.

Such a thoughtful child, how could fate allow him to suffer?!

Emmett was crying hard, a mess of snot and tears, "Brother hurts..."

Evan was crying so hard his nose was bubbling, "It's all my fault. If I hadn't strayed so far from Elliot because I was so eager to play, the bad guy wouldn't have been able to hurt him. I didn't protect Elliot..."

During a school trip, Evan had been so excited, running ahead with the teacher leading the group.

Elliot had been at the back when danger struck suddenly, and before Evan could react, Elliot had been injured...

Evan had been blaming himself, regretting being so far from Elliot at that time, angry at himself for not protecting Elliot.

Elliot smiled, lifting his hand to wipe away Emmett's tears and snot, "Emmett, don't cry, I'm not in pain."

Then he looked at Evan, "Evan, don't cry either. It's not your fault; it's the culprit's!"

After reassuring them, he turned to Elysia,

"Mommy always says that the path of growth is inseparable from the companionship of hardships, and that hardships are stepping stones on the path

of growth, right? The ordeal I went through is promoting my growth, which is a good thing. Don't be sad, mommy."

Elysia was heartbroken. Though she spoke those words, as a mother, she wished nothing but a healthy and smooth life for her children.

"Elliot..."

"I love it when mommy smiles. Seeing mommy cry breaks my heart."

Elysia quickly sniffed, wiping her tears, "Mommy won't cry."

Elliot then smiled, "You look the best when you're not crying."

After he had comforted his little tearful family, he finally turned his attention to Elijah.

Chapter 727

Elijah, despite his quiet demeanor and ongoing struggle with mental health issues, was sharp and intelligent. He was more than capable of keeping the household running smoothly. So, when he noticed Elijah's eyes brimming with tears, he chose not to offer mere consolation. Instead, he reassured him, "I'm fine now, don't worry. Have they found the culprit?"

Elijah's brows furrowed in concern. "It seems like someone had a vendetta against Dad. They wanted to drive a wedge between Mom and Dad by targeting me, to upset Mom."

Elliot frowned at this, prompting Elysia to quickly interject, "Elliot, it's true that the person holds a grudge, but he didn't want you hurt. He cares about you, he really does..."

Elysia was torn. Despite her internal conflict about whether to continue her relationship, her instinct was to defend him. She didn't want Elliot to be angry with him or to let this incident create a rift between them.

Elliot understood her intentions and immediately said, "I don't blame him for this, and Mom shouldn't either. You should just go ahead and be happy with him."

As for the perpetrator...

A fierce determination glinted in Elliot's eyes. Whoever dared to harm him would have to pay. And anyone who caused his beloved Mom to worry and shed tears would pay twice over.

Elysia, unaware of Elliot's thoughts, was taken aback. "You know about me and him...?"

Elliot softened his gaze and smiled. "I know you're dating him."

Elysia gasped in surprise.

Evan Emmett chimed in, "I knew it too!"

Elijah's gaze conveyed that he was also in on the secret.

Elysia's heart raced, feeling uneasy. "How did you all find out? Did he tell you?"

Elliot shook his head with a smile. "No, we figured it out on our own."

Elysia was astonished. Were her and Tarquin's actions so obvious that even a five-year-old could tell they were in love?

Elliot reassured her, "As long as Mom's happy, we have no objections to your relationship. Don't let my injury affect you." "But..." Elysia hesitated.

Elijah quickly asked, "Mom, are you worried about the person who sent you those messages?"

Elysia was surprised again. Elijah mentioned, "I heard Dad talking about someone threatening Mom."

Frowning, Elysia pulled out her phone to show them the messages.

Elliot's eyes darkened with anger as he read. It was a blatant threat and warning!

He tried to calm his rage before advising Elysia, "Mom, I don't think you should give in. If you do, this person will just find other ways to threaten you, and you'll never be free. You should be brave and stay with Dad. I believe he has the strength to protect us!

Elijah is the best proof. He might have been hurt by the Bradfords, but no other enemies have gotten to him. That shows Dad's capable.

The reason I got hurt wasn't Dad's fault. He didn't know about our father-son relationship. I feared it would expose us, so I specifically told him not to arrange protection for us. That's why the bad guys could get to me so easily."

Elliot's logic was clear and to the point.

He knew Elysia had feelings for Tarquin, which is why he encouraged her.

He didn't want her to end things with Tarquin and live in sorrow.

With a worried expression, Elysia pondered deeply.

Elliot took her hand, his eyes filled with unwavering support. "Mom, I'm behind you and Dad being together. Don't let outside forces sway you. You need to be brave!"

Chapter 728

Elijah chimed in eagerly, "Mommy, I'm on board too!"

Emmett, with his adorable baby voice, followed up, "Me me me... I support it too!"

Evan Thorne pouted, thinking his dad wasn't exactly scoring a hundred in his book lately, but recalling how pitiful he looked these past few days... Initially, Evan made a face, but then declared, "I support it too!"

After all, if mommy likes him, what choice did he have? Even if it meant putting up with a dad who was a bit of a mess, mommy's happiness came first!

Elysia's heart raced as she looked over her four wonderful boys. She had a soft spot for Tarquin, and hearing her sons rally like this filled her with courage. Her wavering heart found peace.

"I'll go talk to him! Where is he?"

Elijah quickly said, "Daddy went to the old family estate. He's adding Elliot, Evan, and Emmett to the Bradford family tree."

Elysia gasped, "Adding Elliot, Evan, and Emmett to the Bradford family tree?"

"Yep!"

"Why now, all of a sudden?"

"Daddy wants mommy to know he values Elliot, Evan, and Emmett just as much as he does me."

Elysia frowned, touched by the sentiment.

He didn't even know Elliot and Evan were his kids yet, but he was ready to claim them as his own, likely for her sake.

But considering how the Bradfords had reacted at the family gathering, visibly wary of them laying claim to the family fortune, how could they agree? "The Bradfords agreed to this?"

Elijah revealed, "They didn't, but daddy used money to persuade them."

Money, to persuade?!

Elysia's eyes widened, "How much?"

Elijah admitted, "I'm not sure of the exact amount, but it's definitely a lot."

Elliot saw an opportunity to fan the flames, "Even with the money, the Bradfords will still look for ways to make things difficult for him." Hearing this, Elysia couldn't stand it,

"Why should they make it difficult for him? You're his sons! You share their blood! Why should we pay them anything at all?!"

Elysia was up in arms, incensed at the thought of her man being bullied and their family being extorted. No way!

The cost of adding a son to the family tree must be at least a hundred grand, right? That's three hundred grand for three kids!

Three hundred grand! My goodness! Wouldn't that money be better spent on the kids?

They couldn't let the Bradfords, those scoundrels, have a cent!

"Stay here, the nurse will look after you. Mommy's going to find your daddy!"

Elysia was about to head out, then paused with a thought. She glanced at Emmett, her brow slightly furrowed, a flicker of concern in her eyes. "Evan, Elijah, come with mommy. Elliot, you rest up and heal. Emmett, would you stay here with your brother, please?"

Emmett nodded vigorously, "Yeah, yeah."

With a loving ruffle of Emmett's hair and a peck on his cheek, Elysia took Evan and Elijah and left.

Meanwhile, at the Bradford family estate...

The guest room next to the ancestral hall was packed.

Bradford elders and influential younger members were present.

Not just Bradfords, but several VIPs from outside the family were there too - top military and police officials, high-ranking politicians, and leading business moguls...

These were the heavy hitters the Bradfords had called in.

Technically, they had invited the subordinates of these high-flyers, as getting the bigwigs themselves was a tall order.

Surprisingly, the bigwigs showed up in person, all for Tarquin!

Initially, the Bradfords were intimidated seeing who had come, as these were Tarquin's allies. They were either close friends with Kendrick or confidants of Elizabeth, so their support would naturally lean towards Tarquin.

But after their initial apprehension, the Bradfords regained their composure. Because in the matter of adding to the family tree, Tarquin was on shaky ground!

Chapter 729

The Bradford clan gathered, their expressions stern and judgmental, resembling a council of old-school aristocrats confronting the unruly offspring of a distant relative. They were there to face Tarquin, a man whose power and influence were unmatched but who, in their eyes, still needed to adhere to the principles of fairness and tradition.

The Bradfords, with their long history and pride, were visibly agitated, their emotions fueled by the stakes involved.

"I've lived a good many years," one of the elder Bradfords exclaimed, "and never in my life have I heard of adding names to the family tree without a drop of blood relation! Not in a distinguished family like ours, not even among common folks. Are we now to muddy the Bradford lineage with outsiders?"

"Exactly," another chimed in, "If the family tree is open to anyone, should we then consider adopting a dozen unrelated children just to swell our ranks?"

"A bunch of low-born brats aspiring to be part of the Bradfords' legacy? Over my dead body!" the words were spat out with venom.

Tarquin, sitting quietly to the side, his face a mask of controlled fury, finally spoke up, his voice cutting through the room like a knife, "If you don't agree, you can drop dead!"

The room went silent, shocked by his audacity.

Tarquin scanned the room, his gaze icy, "Let me make myself perfectly clear. Elliot Thorne and Evan Emmett will be added to the Bradford family tree today. Anyone who has a problem with that can either leave the family and strike out on their own or, frankly, drop dead. And if anyone dares to slander them again, they'll answer to me."

"You..." Allegra Bradford, overcome with emotion, her words laced with contempt, "You're just like your father! Ignoring all the decent women only to chase after a woman who's had children with another man..."

Tarquin's response was swift and physical; he grabbed a teacup and hurled it at Allegra's feet, shattering it and cutting her ankle with the shards. Allegra screamed, both from pain and anger, as she glared at Tarquin, "Elizabeth sure taught you well! Insulting your elders wasn't enough; now you resort to violence!"

Before Tarquin could retort, a high-ranking military officer present slammed his handgun onto the table, his face stern, "You disrespected yourself first, expecting Tarquin to treat you with deference? 'Promiscuous'? With a single word, you've insulted the two women he holds dearest! You've insulted his mother and his partner, and you expect him to respectfully call you 'aunt'?"

The man's presence, coupled with his undeniable air of authority and experience, silenced the Bradfords. This was a man who had seen and survived countless battles, a man whose mere look could instill fear.

Now in his fifties and in a position of power, he had long passed the age of rash decisions. Yet, any mention of Elizabeth ignited a fire in him that time had not dulled.

Those familiar with his story knew of his unrequited love for Elizabeth, how he had pursued her in his youth only to see her marry Kendrick. He had then chosen a life of military service, never marrying, his heart forever loyal to Elizabeth.

Chapter 730

After joining the army, everyone he ever met - his comrades, his troops, and every place he's been to - knew he had a beloved, named Elizabeth! But after Elizabeth and Kendrick got together, he never contacted Elizabeth again.

He truly lived by the principle: I love you, but I won't disturb you. I'm content just watching you from afar, your happiness is my happiness.

He even turned into a rival whom even Kendrick respected!

When tragedy struck Kendrick and Elizabeth, he flew back overnight, weeping beside Elizabeth's body for a long time. From then on, he became an unshakeable mountain supporting Tarquin from behind!

Regrettably, due to urgent situations at the borders in those years, he couldn't always be by Tarquin's side and wasn't very familiar with Tarquin's childhood...

Moreover, his position was not as powerful as it is now; he didn't have the influence back then to protect Tarquin.

However, his presence indeed deterred many external threats!

Especially in recent years, with his significant military influence, powerful enough to look down on others!

In matters concerning Tarquin, he made it clear that he was protecting his own, always proclaiming Tarquin as his godson to the outside world, warning anyone against bullying Tarquin, or they'd have to deal with him!

Allegra glanced at the cold weapons, then at the man's icy gaze, swallowing nervously several times.

It was then she realized she had misspoken.

She should never have criticized Elizabeth in his presence - wasn't that courting death?!

Allegra awkwardly shifted the topic away from Elizabeth,

"I'm just upset. Messing with the Bradford Group genealogy is like muddling the pure bloodline, isn't it? If it were someone else, it might be okay, but Tarquin... Our Bradford family has been passing down from father to son for generations. His lineage is the purest of the Bradford family. If his line gets mixed up, wouldn't that be the end of the Bradford family?"

Others agreed,

"Exactly, we're all thinking of what's best for the Bradford family. If we let Tarquin continue this recklessness, our ancestors would be turning in their graves!"

Some even questioned,

"Put yourselves in our shoes, if this happened in your family, what would you do? Would you accept illegitimate children into your family tree?" The group of influential figures frowned in unison.

They knew the Bradford family members were all looking out for their own interests, but their hearts were with Tarquin.

But when it came to the family tree, Tarquin was indeed in the wrong.

Seeing the influential figures silent, the Bradford family members got more audacious,

"We're all reasonable people here. If Tarquin and Ms. Thorne got married and had children, they should rightfully be included in the Bradford family tree. But Ms. Thorne's children with another man shouldn't be part of our Bradford family tree!"

"We unanimously object, over our dead bodies!"

The influential figures frowned, at a loss for words.

Even with their immense power, they couldn't find a way to support Tarquin in this situation, as family lineage wasn't something power could easily resolve.

Tarquin's face darkened, no longer wanting to waste time arguing, just about to lose his temper when suddenly-

Elysia walked in with Evan and Elijah!

Elysia's brows were tightly furrowed,

"My children carry the Bradford family blood. What right do you have to object?! On what grounds do you object?!"