

Hitched 941

Chapter 941

Gideon was fuming, his brow furrowed as he grumbled, "How he differentiates that is his problem, not ours!"

"I... I'm just worried there might be a trick up his sleeve. What if he just snatches Elizabeth's ashes and goes straight to Tarquin to cut a deal?" Gideon was brimming with confidence, "No way! Absolutely not!"

After all, it never crossed his mind that this Alpha was his own blood, his great-grandson, Elliot!

Gideon laid out his analysis clearly, "Collaborating with us, the Alpha could rake in a fortune and secure the top spot in wealth, gaining both fame and fortune!

But if he deals with Tarquin, at best, he'd get a fraction of the wealth and still be under Tarquin's thumb, forever playing second fiddle.

He's not a fool. He knows which option benefits him more."

His confidant nodded in agreement, "Makes sense."

Gideon added, "Set up a meeting time and place, bring Elizabeth's ashes for him to identify. Once he's on board, we can surely topple Tarquin! I'm so fed up with that ungrateful kin!"

"Alright! I'll get in touch with the Alpha right away."

At that moment, Elliot and Elysia had just returned to Number One Mansion.

Upon receiving a message from Gideon's side, Elliot furrowed his brows.

Keith's death had left him feeling suffocated, a heavy weight pressing on his chest.

After all, the Inkster family's major grudge remained unsettled, a hard pill to swallow!

If this hadn't happened right before his eyes, he'd never believe such despicable people existed in this world!

Elliot, with a tight frown, replied, "You pick the time and place, just let me know."

Gideon's man replied instantly, "Sure thing, looking forward to a fruitful collaboration."

Elliot scoffed, fruitful collaboration indeed!

But this 'fruitfulness' had nothing to do with the Bradford family!

Gideon, just you wait and see!

The Inkster family might be down, but this feud is far from over!

...

When Tarquin got home, Evan Emmett was in the living room playing with Baby.

Elysia was in the kitchen preparing dinner.

Elliot and Elijah were upstairs in the small study.

Seeing him return, Emmett called out excitedly, "Daddy!"

Among the four little ones, Emmett was particularly clingy to Tarquin, even more so than Elliot, Evan, and Elijah.

Tarquin held a special fondness for this third son with no blood relation.

Adjusting his demeanor, he smiled warmly at Emmett, "What are you playing?"

"We're drawing with Baby."

Baby, with her big, sparkling eyes, hesitantly called out, "Daddy?"

Hearing this, Tarquin stopped in his tracks, his heart skipping a beat.

Elysia, coming out of the kitchen, also froze in place.

Even though they had heard Keith's message, they hadn't expected Baby to switch so quickly.

Tarquin quickly approached, lifting his daughter into his arms as his emotions surged, "Hey!"

In her sweet, milky voice, Baby explained, "My daddy said, from now on, Mr. Handsome is my new daddy, and Baby should start calling Handsome Daddy."

Tarquin nodded in agreement, "Yeah!"

Though Baby's change of address was prompted by Keith's instructions, Tarquin was still deeply moved, his eyes reddening.

"I'll love Baby just like he did! Forever and ever!"

"I'll love new daddy too! My daddy went on a mission again, does new daddy know where he went? Is it far from Baby?"

"...It's a bit far, but his heart is always with Baby. Whenever you miss him, he's surely missing Baby too."

"I'll miss him every day."

"Yeah, and he'll miss Baby every day too."

"So, when can he come back?"

Chapter 942

Tarquin's Adam's apple bobbed,

"I'm not quite sure either. He'll be back once he's done with everything. Just be a good girl and wait, okay, Baby?"

"Mhm."

Heath came in with a kitten, saying he'd got it from Keith's place.

Tarquin knew it wasn't the one he had gotten for Baby; this one was a gift from Keith.

He didn't expose the truth, instead, he put Baby down to play with the kitten.

With Keith gone, let his gift, this little kitten, keep Baby company.

From now on, this kitten was part of the family too.

The three kids were playing with the kitten in the living room while Tarquin headed to the kitchen.

Elysia was standing at the kitchen doorway, her eyes red with emotion.

There was a touch of being moved, but also a hint of helplessness.

Baby had finally started calling Tarquin "Daddy," which was touching.

But every time Baby mentioned Keith, Elysia felt helpless.

Keith's passing was a wound that wouldn't easily heal.

Tarquin approached, gently stroking her hair, trying to start a conversation,

"Baby seems to be doing well."

"Yeah, she's easy to comfort. A few words and she's all smiles."

Tarquin chuckled, "That's all you, clumsy and silly, easy to cheer up."

Elysia: "...Is everything taken care of?"

"Not yet, came back to check on you guys first."

He had gone to see Gideon earlier, partly to seek answers, partly to vent!

After leaving the hospital, he had intended to go to the cabin but thinking of Elysia and Baby made him return home first.

Seeing Baby and Elysia's current state eased his mind a bit.

"Why are you cooking? Where's the chef?"

Elysia said, "I was idle, and I wanted to cook something for the kids myself. Are you going back out? Dinner will be ready soon."

"Not sure if I need to head out again, but I'll stay for dinner."

"Okay, then I'll make a bit more."

Tarquin smiled indulgently, "Sounds good."

Elysia went back to the kitchen to continue her work, and Tarquin, looking at her back and then at Baby playing in the living room, felt a warmth in his heart.

As long as his family was safe, everything was okay.

If they could catch the mysterious person today, it would be perfect.

Tarquin turned to go upstairs to find Elliot and Elijah.

The two brothers were in the small study, furiously typing away on their keyboards.

Elijah was tracking the mysterious person's plane remotely, and Elliot was up to something else.

Every time Tarquin saw the two kids at their computers, he couldn't help but wonder:

Which of them got this talent from?

It's true that good students often come from good teachers, but if the student is too dull, they can't learn.

So, Elliot and Elijah definitely had a knack for this, but he and Elysia were not particularly skilled in this area.

Who did they get it from?

"Daddy," Elliot greeted him.

Tarquin nodded, seeing Elijah was still tracking the mysterious person, he didn't disturb him.

He went to Elliot and asked, "Busy?"

"Not too much, what's up?"

Elliot was in the middle of setting a trap for Gideon!

He wouldn't rest until he'd gotten back at that old villain!

Tarquin said, "If you've got a moment, look into Grandpa's social connections."

They had investigated Elizabeth before but hadn't seriously looked into Kendrick.

After learning about the circumstances under which the Keith siblings had been rescued years ago, he had a hunch that the mysterious person might be connected to Kendrick.

Elliot was surprised, "The mysterious person has something to do with Grandpa?"

"Not sure yet, just check."

"Alright!"

As soon as Elliot finished speaking, Elijah suddenly looked up, his face dark, "There's trouble!"

The next second, Tarquin's phone rang with news, both good and bad, coming through.

Chapter 943

The good news was that the safe Keith had left behind was dug up, unscathed.

The documents inside were already on their way to the Number One Mansion.

The bad news? The villain had escaped!

His plane crashed in the dense forests, exploded, and no remains were found at the site. Clearly, he had parachuted out in time.

Hanging up the phone, Tarquin frowned and leaned closer to Elijah's computer screen.

"His plane crashed here?"

"Yep."

Elijah zoomed in on the map.

"The police were cautious about not causing unnecessary harm, so they waited for him to land before attempting to arrest him. Unfortunately, he still got away! The signal is spotty deep in the forest, so we've no idea where he parachuted from. It's impossible to track him now."

Elliot stood aside, his brow furrowed.

"There's a river through the jungle. Crossing that river leads out of the country. It must have been his escape plan all along. Chances are, he's crossed the river and fled abroad."

The three men's faces grew darker.

"Knock, knock, knock."

The rhythmic knocking came, and Elysia, with Baby in tow, called them down for dinner.

Tarquin gathered his thoughts and reassured his sons,

"Don't worry, we missed him this time, but there will be other opportunities to catch him! The documents Keith left will arrive soon, and we can go over them after dinner. Let's keep spirits high and not worry your mother."

The boys sighed in relief and nodded in agreement.

Baby was delighted to see them,

"Daddy, big bro, Elijah bro, it's dinner time!"

The three responded warmly, "Yes, dinner time!"

Elliot and Elijah each took one of Baby's hands, leading her downstairs, followed by Elysia and Tarquin.

"What were you three doing in the study?" Elysia inquired.

"Discussing state secrets," Tarquin joked, then smiled, "Just kidding. We were just chatting about the future and dreams."

Hearing 'future,' Elysia grew concerned.

While kids their age were attending preschool, Elliot and the others were not, which made her anxious.

"Blossom called me today, asking if the kids would be going to preschool before summer. If they are, she'll come back in a few days. If not, she'll stay longer with her parents."

Blossom Blythe was not in Jindale City but flaunting at her parents' place.

When Tarquin arranged for the kids to change schools, he also transferred her from a regular preschool to a top-tier one!

Blossom was thrilled, showing off to two academic prodigies how successful her supposedly underachieving daughter had become!

Understanding Elysia's concerns, Tarquin thought:

To them, preschool was just a formality, an excuse to mingle.

The only one who really needed preschool was Baby, as she had the same intelligence level as her peers.

He reassured Elysia,

"If you want them to go, they can go anytime. I'll call the preschool and enroll Baby as well, so she can attend with her brothers later." "Is it safe outside now?" Elysia asked cautiously.

Seeing her worry, Tarquin felt a pang of sympathy and guilt.

He always said he loved her, but if he couldn't even provide basic security, what of happiness?

Tarquin, feeling guilty, nodded, "It's safe now."

"What about the man who kidnapped Baby?"

"...He crashed."

"Huh?"

"He tried to escape by plane, but it crashed."

"Is he dead?"

Not wanting Elysia to worry, Tarquin lied, "Yes, he's dead."

Elysia frowned, "Karma!"

Tarquin's lips twitched as he comforted her,

"We don't have to be on edge anymore. Don't dwell on Keith's death. Gideon and the Bradford family won't meet good ends!" Elysia nodded vigorously,

"Justice always prevails. Anyone who does wrong will face consequences."

"Let's put these worries behind and return to our happy life. You are the heart of our family. When you're happy, we all are." Elysia smiled, "Yes!"

Tarquin said whatever she believed, thinking the bad guy was truly gone, which eased her worries and lifted her spirits.

"So, should we send the kids to school before summer?"

"Whatever you decide."

"I'll talk to the kids when I get a chance."

"Alright."

With Elysia's spirits lifted, Tarquin felt better too.

For him, the happiness and safety of his wife and kids were paramount. Everything else was secondary!

The family of seven enjoyed a lively dinner.

Right after they finished, Keith's documents arrived.

Tarquin, Elliot, and Elijah quickly took the documents to the study on the second floor.

There was a lot to go through, and the three dove in together.

Soon enough, they discovered a major issue!

The villain's power base was not domestic, but abroad!

Coincidentally, it was in the same country where Tarquin had spent his childhood with Kendrick and Elizabeth.

Elliot, recalling Tarquin's instructions to investigate Kendrick's information before dinner, was shocked,

"Could Grandpa really be involved with this villain?"

The villain had repeatedly mentioned Kendrick before.

And now, discovering the villain's power base was in the very country Kendrick once resided in seemed too coincidental.

Chapter 944

Tarquin harbored his doubts, pausing for a moment before saying,

"Let's dig up everything on Grandpa's background, and track down everyone connected to him. We'll check them one by one." Elliot and Elijah nodded in unison, "Right!"

The trio continued to scour through the documents, their expressions growing increasingly grim.

This mysterious figure was the epitome of evil incarnate!

Dealing in drugs, smuggling weapons, trafficking human organs, engaging in illicit trades... he was a devil who had done it all!

It was chilling to the bone and infuriating!

Moreover, his work was astoundingly powerful!

He was entangled with numerous dangerous entities abroad and had connections with many high-ranking officials domestically.

If Gideon was scum, then compared to this mysterious figure, he was nothing!

He couldn't hold a candle to the mysterious man's ruthlessness or his overwhelming power!

Elliot, with a furrowed brow, declared,

"This is a cancer on humanity, he must be eliminated. We can't let him continue his vile deeds!"

Every day he remains free is another day humanity suffers!

Elijah nodded, puzzled and curious at the same time,

"Who is he really? How can he possibly be in cahoots with so many foreign powers? And how on earth did Grandpa end up involved with such a wicked person?"

These foreign powers were not only evil but cunning. Someone who could catch their eye was no ordinary individual.

Even more astonishing was how this mysterious person managed to navigate between several hostile entities with ease. What abilities did he possess to be so indulged by these evil forces?!

And, birds of a feather flock together - clearly, Kendrick and this mysterious figure were not of the same ilk!

Where did their paths cross?

Or, was there some secret about Kendrick they were unaware of?

Tarquin's brow was deeply furrowed as he stared at the documents left by Keith. After a long silence, he glanced at the clock.

He sent the brothers back to their rooms to sleep, then left with Keith's compiled information in hand.

At 2 AM, a storm erupted within the country!

Across the nation, numerous high-profile individuals were arrested overnight!

Countless criminal dens were raided by the police, all in one fell swoop!

The mysterious man's influence within the country was almost entirely obliterated overnight!

The losses were staggering, a major blow!

...

Though the news wasn't officially released, it couldn't be completely concealed given the scale of operations!

By the next morning, word had spread among the elite circles.

Everyone was unclear about the specifics but there was much private speculation.

The news eventually reached Gideon's ears.

One of Gideon's confidants reported,

"Sir, reliable sources say that this was all Tarquin's doing. He left the Number One Mansion after 10 PM last night and didn't return until the deed was done."

Gideon mused, "It seems the person who attempted to harm Elijah and kidnap Baby is no small fry."

"Yes, sir. Since we didn't catch him yesterday, it seems Tarquin, out of anger, decided to cripple his operations."

The confidant expressed concern, "This also shows that Tarquin's power is growing stronger. To cause such a stir on his own is quite frightening." Gideon scoffed,

"No matter how powerful, as long as I have Elizabeth's ashes, he wouldn't dare push me into a corner! At most, he'll just mess with my assets a bit, make me feel the pinch."

Chapter 945

Right away, his confidant nodded, affirming,

"Yeah, boss, you've got him by the balls. No matter how powerful he is, he wouldn't dare cross you."

Gideon, feeling quite pleased, squinted and asked,

"So, the cops came by asking about the Inkster family affair?"

"Yep, just like you said, we played dumb. It's been years; they won't find squat."

Gideon snorted, "Scum deserves their fate. Dead and still trying to mess with me!"

Then, something crossed his mind, and he added,

"Tarquin's not watching the Bradford Group closely right now. We should strike while the iron's hot and set up a meeting with Alpha today!" "Right away!"

At Number One Mansion, Elysia and the four little ones were trying to soothe Baby.

For some reason, Baby woke up bawling, desperately calling for Keith.

Her cries were fierce, heartbreaking, a mess of snot and tears that tugged at your heartstrings.

Keith's death had left a void in everyone's hearts!

Hearing Baby cry for 'daddy' just made it all the more painful.

Keith was never coming back. Baby would never see him again, never hear his voice again.

No matter how many times Baby called out, Keith wouldn't answer.

No matter how hard Baby cried, Keith couldn't come to comfort her.

In this world, Baby no longer had Keith to adore and cherish her!

Elliot was wallowing in his grief when suddenly, he got a message from Gideon! Gideon wanted to meet at ten in the morning, even sent a location.

Elliot's brow furrowed, a fierce look in his eyes.

He signaled to Evan and Elijah, and they left Baby's room for the study.

Evan, wiping away tears, asked, "What's up, bro? Something happen?" Evan was totally a sister's boy, seeing Baby cry nearly broke him.

He was deeply pained for his sister, truly hurt.

"Gideon wants to meet!"

Hearing Gideon's name, Evan and Elijah were first shocked, then clenched their teeth in anger.

Keith's life had been ruined by Gideon and some shadowy figure!

Gideon was a monster!

The brothers transformed their sorrow for their sister, their unresolved feelings over Keith, and their sympathy for the Inkster family into hatred towards Gideon!

They were annoyed by him before, now they loathed him beyond words!

Evan, clenching his fists, spat out, "What does that old villain want with you?!"

"He wants to team up against dad."

Evan and Elijah: "??"

"I made a deal with Gideon... in the name of 'Alpha'."

Elliot outlined the deal in detail, then said coldly,

"This is our chance to get back at Gideon, to avenge Keith and the Inkster family, and to retrieve grandma's ashes."

Evan was pumped, rubbing his nose hard,

"Finally, time for some payback! Let's get moving, bro, I can't wait another second. Just thinking about that old villain makes my hands itch and my stomach turn!"

Elijah was equally fired up, but...

"The plan's solid, but there's one thing, how do we make sure the ashes Gideon shows you are actually grandma's? What if he tries to trick you with someone else's?"

Elliot was full of confidence,

"Don't worry, I've got it all figured out. There won't be any mistakes."

Chapter 946

Elijah was puzzled about how Elliot would verify the authenticity of the remains, but he felt a sense of relief anyway. He knew Elliot's capabilities well -Elliot was always composed and insightful, never one to boast or engage in battles unprepared.

"What do you need us to do?" Elijah inquired.

Elliot delegated tasks, "Elijah, you've had quite a bit of interaction with Gideon, so I'm sure you can find a way to discreetly install a few hidden cameras in his house. Focus on the living room and make sure it's done before 10 PM."

"Evan, you and White just stay home today, rest up, and don't go wandering around. You two have an important task tonight!"

As the morning neared 10 o'clock, Elliot had Emmett entertain Baby while he called Elysia into the study.

With a puzzled look, Elysia asked, "What's all the secrecy about, Elliot?"

"I need your expertise in psychology to see if Gideon is lying," Elliot explained.

Elysia was taken aback, "What does this have to do with Gideon, that scoundrel?"

Elliot clarified, "Elijah knows a guy who's been dealing with Gideon, involving Grandma's remains. This guy has agreed to help us reclaim Grandma's ashes from Gideon."

This man, orchestrated by Elliot and posing as 'Alpha', was directly engaging with Gideon.

Upon hearing about Elizabeth's remains, Elysia's expression turned serious, "Gideon has Grandma's ashes?"

"Yes, he's hidden them to blackmail Dad," Elliot confirmed.

Elysia's brows furrowed in concern. Blackmail her husband? That wouldn't do at all!

"What's the plan? How can I help?" Elysia quickly asked.

Elliot guided Elysia to his computer, "Our man will handle it. You just need to watch Gideon and look for any signs of deceit during their interaction."

On the computer screen, a sleek black luxury car pulled up at Gideon's private villa.

Gideon's right-hand man, eager to please, rushed to open the car door, "Welcome, Mr. Thorne, right?"

The man from the car, without nodding or shaking his head, stepped out with an air of aloofness, "Are Elizabeth's remains here?"

The aide quickly replied, "They're usually not kept here, but Mr. Gideon had them brought over especially for your visit."

Without another word, the man walked into the villa.

"Is this the guy you mentioned?" Elysia asked.

"Yes, he's our inside man," Elliot confirmed.

The family continued to watch the screen intently.

Gideon, aiming to show his respect for 'Alpha', had returned from the hospital specifically to meet this financial angel.

Seeing his aide bring in a man of distinguished presence, Gideon naturally assumed him to be Alpha.

He extended his hand enthusiastically, "Mr. Thorne, it's an honor to finally meet you. I've heard so much about you!"

'Alpha' ignored the gesture, coolly took a seat, removed his sunglasses, and directly addressed Gideon, "Where are Elizabeth's remains?"

Gideon's ego took a hit, but he managed to suppress his irritation. He awkwardly withdrew his hand, took a sip of tea to ease the tension, and then said, "Mr. Thorne, you understand the importance of these remains to me. I'm showing them to you as a gesture of my sincerity towards our cooperation. For years, I've never shown them to anyone else. I hope Mr. Thorne can also show genuine intent in our partnership, without any ulterior motives, otherwise..."

Chapter 947

Gideon held his tongue, his eyes flashing a silent warning.

Alpha, however, didn't seem perturbed. With a frosty demeanor, he said, "The fact that I'm here in person should speak volumes about my sincerity. You should know, I rarely meet with business partners face to face. My dealings are usually online. My presence today signifies my genuine interest in collaborating with you.

I just want to see Elizabeth's ashes to confirm you actually have something on Tarquin!"

Gideon felt a surge of relief, "Yeah, I trust you!"

Alpha continued, "Since we're laying it all out, let me be blunt. I want to see Elizabeth's ashes. If you try to fool me with a fake, not only will our deal be off, but I'll also be very upset. And you wouldn't like me when I'm upset."

Gideon quickly reassured, "Don't worry, I'm well aware of your clout. If I didn't have something solid on Tarquin, I wouldn't dare propose this to you." Alpha nodded, "If you're not lying, then our partnership will be very fruitful. I can help you navigate through this crisis and even reclaim the Bradford Group. We can sign the contract tonight, and the funds will be transferred immediately."

Gideon was ecstatic, "Great! I'll keep my word. I only want the Bradford Group. As for Tarquin's other assets, they're all yours."

Alpha simply nodded in acknowledgment.

Gideon then turned to his confidant, "Bring Elizabeth's ashes here."

The confidant nodded and left the room.

Elysia, sitting in front of the computer screen, eyes wide, exclaimed, "Gideon wants to take over your dad's company?"

Elijah frowned, "It's not just about taking over the company. He wants to ruin Dad, leave him with nothing."

Elysia clenched her teeth, "Scum! Your dad is his own grandson! And he's so old, he might not even see tomorrow's sun. Why is he after the company?"

"He's been power-hungry all his life. Family means nothing compared to power. As long as he's alive, he'll keep fighting, till the day he dies." Elysia was baffled. How could he not be tired of living like that?!

On the computer screen, Gideon's confidant returned, carrying a cardboard box into the living room.

Opening the box, he revealed an antique-looking dark brown wooden box.

The confidant took out the wooden box and placed it on the coffee table in front of Alpha.

Then, in front of Alpha, he opened the wooden box, revealing a white porcelain urn.

The urn was tightly sealed, its surface gleaming, indicating its high value.

Gideon said with a scowl, "This contains Elizabeth's ashes. This urn was chosen by Tarquin himself, one of a kind in the whole world." Elysia and her siblings tensed up, "!"

On the screen, Alpha carefully picked up the white porcelain urn, examining it closely.

Gideon added irritably, "If I wasn't worried about Tarquin not being able to recognize the ashes after changing the urn, I would have replaced it long ago! What right does that woman have to such a fine urn?!"

That woman?

Elysia and the triplets clenched their teeth in unison!

Evan, though separated by the screen, couldn't help but curse, "You disrespectful old man, you're the disgrace!"

Realizing Elysia was next to him, he sheepishly glanced at her.

Elysia said, "Well said! Mommy told you not to curse at people, but she didn't say anything about beasts."

In Elysia's eyes, Gideon was no longer human!

Chapter 948

On the computer screen, 'Alpha' glanced up, catching Gideon's gaze,

"Seems like you've got quite the beef with Elizabeth."

Gideon's brows furrowed, his expression darkening,

"It's not that I dislike her, I loathe her! If it wasn't for her seducing my son, why would he cut ties with me?!"

And if it weren't for her toxic genes, why would my grandson be so disobedient?

Tarquin's been led astray by that woman, showing no respect for his elders, no sense of unity, no sense of family loyalty, always at odds with his own grandfather!

The discord between me, my son, and my grandson, it's all because of Elizabeth, that wretched woman! She alone has ruined the entire Bradford family!"

Elysia and the kids were furious, thinking there's nothing more shameless than blaming others for your own failures!

Who really brought down the Bradford family?

Elizabeth wasn't a curse; she was the Bradford family's savior. It's a pity Gideon was too blind to see her value and let her into the family!

Thus, the Bradford family was doomed to fall apart!

Although Tarquin still carried the Bradford name, he had already separated from the current Bradford family with Kendrick. Technically, he had no connection with Gideon's side of the family anymore.

Therefore, Tarquin's happiness had nothing to do with Gideon!

What awaited Gideon was nothing but ruin!

After ranting about Elizabeth for a while, Gideon turned to 'Alpha',

"What are you looking at there?"

'Alpha' countered, "Are you sure this urn contains Elizabeth's ashes?"

Gideon nodded without hesitation, "Of course, I am! I wouldn't deceive you with a fake!"

'Alpha', holding the porcelain urn, squinted at Gideon.

Tarquin stared blankly at him,

"...I swear, if what's inside isn't Elizabeth's ashes, may I be cursed, doomed to the deepest pits of hell after death!"

'Alpha' watched him for a few seconds before looking away.

Then, staring at the urn for a long time, he carefully placed it back into the wooden box, "Put it away."

Gideon asked, "Done looking?"

"Yeah."

"Did you figure out if it's authentic?"

"I'll need to think it over."

Gideon was confused, "Think about what?"

'Alpha' didn't reply, only saying, "We'll be in touch later."

Rising to leave, 'Alpha' bid his farewell.

After escorting him out, Gideon's confidant, utterly baffled, asked,

"Sir, wasn't he supposed to verify the ashes? He didn't even open the urn, how could he tell?"

Gideon, equally perplexed, "Check the urn, see if he tampered with it."

The confidant inspected the urn thoroughly, "It's untouched."

Gideon, with a thoughtful frown, mused,

"Well, if we're in the clear, we've got nothing to fear. If he insists it's a fake, it means he's not interested in cooperating. For now, let's secure it back where it belongs and be cautious not to be tracked."

"Understood!" The confidant secured the box and left.

Elliot turned to Elysia, "Mommy, did you catch that?"

Elysia, frowning, said, "From his micro-expressions, he didn't seem to be lying."

Elijah rushed to ask, "So, does that mean the urn really contains grandma's ashes?"

"Most likely."

The kids were shocked.

Elysia pressed on, "But he didn't take the ashes with him, how does he plan to deceive Gideon?" Elliot, bluffing, "We're not sure of the specifics, Mr. Handsome said he has a plan, we just have to wait."

Elysia, concerned, "Gideon is so wicked, could Mr. Handsome be in danger?"

"No way, Mr. Handsome is way too smart for that, Mommy, don't worry about him."

"If he really can retrieve grandma's ashes for us, he'll be our family's hero! Does daddy know about this?"

Chapter 949

"I haven't told Dad yet."

"Let's keep it under wraps for now. If things don't pan out, he'll be crushed. We can fill him in once we've nailed it."

With the brothers banding together, failure was hardly an option.

Nevertheless, the trio nodded in agreement, "Okay, we won't tell Dad just yet."

Baby's voice echoed from downstairs, calling for "Mommy". Elysia left a few instructions before making her way out of the small study to find Baby.

Elliot sat in front of his computer, switching screens.

On the display, a small red dot was on the move.

'Alpha', following Elliot's instructions, had tinkered with the urn, and that red dot represented the urn's location.

The tracker was just too advanced; Gideon's right-hand man hadn't noticed it.

Evan couldn't help but voice his thoughts as he stared at the red dot, "Bro, we already know where the urn is. Why don't we just take action now? Can't we just go and get it back?!"

Elliot shook his head, "Before we make our move, we need to confirm that the urn indeed contains Grandma's ashes."

"Mom already said it's highly likely."

"But Mom isn't a hundred percent sure. I asked her to observe just to be extra cautious, to avoid a wasted effort tonight."

If Elysia could tell Gideon was lying, then tonight's operation could be called off outright.

"We need to be meticulous. Until we're absolutely certain those are Grandma's ashes, we can't tip our hand."

Evan was puzzled, "How can we be absolutely certain?"

"You'll see tonight," Elliot replied.

Evan's lips twitched, but he didn't press further. He trusted his brother's judgment implicitly and knew to follow his lead.

His gaze returned to the red dot on the screen, curiosity piqued, "Where are they taking Grandma's ashes?"

Elliot answered, "Seems like they're heading to the mountains."

Elijah opened the map for a closer look, "There is a mountain up ahead, with a chapel on top."

Evan appeared skeptical, "Gideon plans to place Grandma's ashes in the chapel?"

Elijah's expression was grave, "Dad has been searching for Grandma's ashes for years. He's combed through every place associated with Gideon but found nothing."

Evan questioned, "So, does this chapel have ties to Gideon?"

Elijah shook his head, "Definitely not, or Dad would've found out. At least on the surface, this chapel has no ties to Gideon."

The room fell silent for a moment before Elliot spoke, "No need to keep a constant watch. The tracker is on Grandma's urn, so it's not going anywhere. Elijah, go ahead and destroy the hidden cameras we installed in Gideon's house to avoid any suspicion."

Gideon was notoriously paranoid, always scrutinizing his home's security system.

If he found those hidden cameras, he'd suspect something was amiss with their current arrangement.

To avoid spooking him, they needed to act quickly.

After all, the cameras had served their purpose.

Elijah nodded, making a call to arrange it.

Elliot edited the video of the white urn and sent it out, [Find an identical one, or make a fake if you have to. I need it tonight.]

After a while, the red dot on the computer screen suddenly came to a halt.

Elliot zoomed in on the location, and sure enough, it was right in that chapel!

Named Sage Hall, situated on Thundara Mountain in the outskirts.

It was a sanctuary for all sorts of Enlightened Sages and saints. Whether it was truly miraculous or simply due to its proximity to the city, the chapel always drew a crowd of faithful devotees.

Regardless of the weather, there would always be believers offering their prayers.

Elliot was puzzled. Why would Gideon place Elizabeth's ashes in a chapel?

A chapel was a place of blessings.

Considering Gideon's disdain for Elizabeth, why would he seek blessings for her?

Chapter 950

"There's definitely something fishy going on here!"

Elliot furrowed his brow, turning his head to look at Elijah, "Elijah, Gideon hiding the ashes in a church is weird. We need to dig into the details of Sage Hall."

Elijah sensed the problem too, his face serious, "I'm on it right now!"

Elliot said, "From the pastor to the regular clergy, including those in charge of cleaning and cooking, we need to check them all. And get the scoop on Thundara Mountain too!"

"Got it!"

Elijah fired up his laptop and started his investigation.

Elliot made a call, arranging for someone to disguise themselves as a visitor and scout out the church firsthand.

By late afternoon, they had a pretty clear picture of the situation at the church.

The investigation revealed it was a legitimate church, with a history spanning over a century. The pastor and other clergy seemed above board, except for the pastor's main aide, who raised some eyebrows.

Elijah found out he had secretly purchased property abroad. It was odd, considering his significant role in the church, that he would plan to settle

overseas.

This unusual move caught Elijah's attention.

He made sure to share this tidbit with Elliot.

Elijah also discovered a legend surrounding Thundara Mountain.

Rumor had it that a century ago, Thundara Mountain was haunted, and not just a little. Anyone, regardless of age or gender, who came close would be troubled by malevolent spirits.

The mild cases suffered from illnesses or madness for life.

The severe cases died mysteriously on the spot.

Back in the day, the area around Thundara Mountain was troubled, causing the locals much distress.

To seek peace, the villagers pooled their money to hire many masters to conduct rituals. However, after several masters met with accidents, no one dared to challenge Thundara Mountain again.

Later, a philanthropist funded the construction of Sage Hall, specifically to suppress these malicious spirits.

Legend has it, after the completion of Sage Hall, peace returned to the mountain and no incidents have been reported since.

Thus, many believe in the divine presence of an Enlightened Sage in Sage Hall, attributing miraculous powers to it.

This has made Sage Hall's popularity grow year by year.

Evan and White were keen on these ghostly legends, listening intently.

After hearing the story, Evan asked curiously, "How did the Enlightened Sage manage to suppress those spirits?"

Elijah explained, "Legend has it, due to their wicked deeds, the Enlightened Sage confined them, casting a spell to make them endure the sufferings of the mortal world, doomed to never leave that place, unable to be reborn, and forever bearing their torment."

"Where did he confine them?"

"Not sure, but I guess it might be here."

Elijah pointed towards a specific part of the church for Evan to see, "This is a restricted area of the church, only the pastor and a few clergy can enter. Many clergy aren't allowed in, claiming it's eerily chilling and terrifying, so ordinary folks dare not venture."

After sharing, Elijah suddenly realized something, his expression abruptly changing!

He quickly compared the location of the ashes.

The little red dot on the screen matched the restricted area!

Meaning, the ashes were inside the restricted area!

Elijah's breath hitched, falling silent.

Elliot had already spotted the issue, his lips pressed tightly together, his face darkening.

The scout they sent confirmed, Sage Hall indeed had a restricted area.

A sign clearly stated on the gate:

"Dangerous area, no entry allowed."

He knew it, Gideon absolutely despised Elizabeth. How could he possibly wish her well?!

Gideon had essentially thrown Elizabeth into a den of malevolent spirits!

He wanted Elizabeth to suffer at the hands of these spirits!

And for her to endure the sufferings of the mortal world alongside them, doomed never to be reborn!

Gideon was... utterly heartless and wicked to the core!

Putting aside whether malevolent spirits truly exist, Gideon's intentions were unmistakably cruel!

Thinking of the tragic demise of the Inkster family, and then of Elizabeth...

Gideon not only tormented the living, but he couldn't even let the dead rest!

Even after death, he refused to leave Elizabeth in peace, placing her ashes in the church's restricted area, devising ways to persecute her further!