

Chapter 110 Lucian Is a Ruthless Tyrant

Calista had been eager to see how thick-skinned Zachary could be to make up tall tales that could be debunked at a moment's notice. But the waiter pushed open the door. All three people inside turned to look at her ...


She smiled as she walked in and took her seat beside Lucian. She would've preferred to sit elsewhere but it was the only empty seat available.

"What were you discussing?" she asked.

Lucian smirked.

"We were discussing your close bond with your sister and how you've spoiled her."

The man was aware of Calista's family's circumstances. He knew when her mother had passed away and when her stepmother came into the picture.

He also knew when Zeke had punished Calista for Nikolette's sake, down to what day she failed to show up at school. He knew every detail. 

The woman looked up to see Zachary throwing her nervous looks. He looked ready to answer for her.

"Yes, we do have quite the bond. After all, it's been so many years and she's still up and kicking," she said placidly.

Zachary relaxed during the first half of her sentence but tensed up at the second.

"What nonsense are you spouting in front of Lucian, child? You're

making a fool of yourself."

"He's my husband. We're a family. There's no need for us to act so distantly when we're a family."

Calista was positively brimming with joy. She, of course, knew what Zachary was up to.

He wanted to play out a three-part act of fatherly love, a daughter's sensibilities, and the bond of sisterhood. It was all in the hopes that Lucian would help Nikolette resolve her problems for the sake of the family.

Calista giggled innocently as she considered what to say next.

"Or perhaps you don't see Lucian as family at all, Dad. Do you think of him as a cash cow? Is that why you're secretly making deals?"

"Shut up!" Zachary exploded into rage.

His eyes were bulging out of his head in his fit of anger. His hands that were resting against the table were clenched into fists.

With how tightly they were clenched, his arms trembled uncontrollably from the force. Nikolette patted him on his back to calm him down. Her eyes were red from a mixture of urgency and anger.

"How could you speak to Dad this way, Calista?"

"If that's all it takes to break you, why are you still sitting here?"

Calista's smile faded, revealing impatience and indifference beneath.

"How dare you ..." Nikolette started.

Before she could say anything unpleasant, Zachary stopped her. He

knew making use of their kinship to butter Calista up wouldn't work and decided to get straight to the point.

"You should know what's going on with your sister. Tell me what you want and have Lucian help her with solving the matter. The debt collectors are ruthless. They'll kill her if she doesn't pay them back!"

He would've preferred to skip her and go directly to Lucian. But he knew very well that despite being Calista's father, the man wouldn't give him the time of day if she didn't speak up!

Calista's hand that rested on her knee curled up. Her voice sounded erratic, "You'll give me anything I want?"

Zachary gritted his teeth.

"... Yes."

Tears of sorrow rolled down Nikolette's cheeks.

"Dad ..."

Calista felt a bittersweet pang in her heart at the emotional exchange. She couldn't help but laugh.

"Enough with the theatrics. You're acting as if this is life and death. I never said anything about helping."

She wanted to ask Zachary if he was that worried about Nikolette being forced into a dead end by the debt collectors.

She wanted to know why he never felt the same concern for her when he used her ID to get a loan from the loan sharks.

But she realized it would be pointless. He wouldn't have done what he did if he cared at all. He wouldn't have fled with only her stepmother and Nikolette.

"I'm not going to help her. I don't have the means to do so," Calista said.

She turned to Lucian who hadn't spoken a word since the start.

"You're not allowed to help either. Even if you do, I won't acknowledge it."

She waved her phone around, indicating that she recorded their conversation.

Lucian was amused by her behavior. She was trying to act uncaring despite her obvious distress. He couldn't help but smile for a split second. It went unnoticed.

Dinner was out of the question. Calista had lost her appetite at the sight of the father-daughter duo looking to eat her alive.

She had already accomplished what she set out to do. She was about to get up and leave when someone was about to slap her across the face.

It was Nikolette. But judging by Zachary's expression, he likely wanted to do the same. The only thing keeping him restrained was Lucian's presence.

Zachary had grown wise with age. He knew when he shouldn't make a move. No assertive man would allow someone to slap his wife in his presence.

It wasn't out of love, but simply for their reputation's sake.

Before Nikolette could touch Calista, she was intercepted. What followed was a piercing scream from the woman!

Nikolette's delicate features contorted in pain. She cried in pain as

she struggled to free herself from Lucian's grip. As she tugged and struggled, her reddened arm visibly turned purple.

In her moment of desperation, Lucian released her, causing her to fall to the floor. Her chair wasn't spared!

Zachary hurried to help her. Nikolette bit her lip as tears welled up in her eyes. Shock and fear were clear on her face. Lucian gazed at her coldly as if she were a dead person.

"If I see this happen again, you can say goodbye to your hand."

Nikolette trembled in fear. This was no gentlemanly, refined heir of a wealthy family. He was a ruthless tyrant!

Lucian turned his attention back to Zachary.

"It's not quite in line with the law. But the money I gave you was for you to sever ties with Calista. You accepted it. So, I'll have you follow the rules."

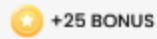
Calista looked at him in surprise. Was that the money used to facilitate Nikolette's rapid rise to an executive position at Rinkan Enterprises?

She was curious but didn't ask. After leaving the room, Lucian took her by her arm and led her to an adjacent empty room.

"The food here is decent. I'm hungry. Keep me company."

She had no appetite but sat down anyway. Zachary and Nikolette were so detestable that Lucian, in comparison, didn't seem as bad anymore.

Lucian ordered a few servings of food. She, out of boredom, listened and realized that they were all her favorites. She didn't presume he



ordered them because she liked them. It might simply be a coincidence.

Two people with such similar tastes in food and yet they were a spiteful pair.

She rested her chin against her hand and stared at him. She lost herself to her thoughts but he was drawn to her gaze. He gulped as he began to lean in close, his sight caught onto his reflection in her eyes.



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