

Married at First Sight [On-Going]

Chapter 4530

River continued, "In fact, you're better than a lot of rich daughters out there. You built your success from scratch—and that's something I truly admire."

Ms. Hayward had gone from a small mountain village to being worth tens of millions. She lived in a villa, drove a luxury car, had millions in savings, and lived life on her own terms.

River had also heard she bought a small villa for her parents and siblings in their hometown.

She helped her family to a reasonable degree. Though her brothers and nephews wanted more, she stayed clear-headed. She didn't let them drain her financially—and she didn't turn bitter either.

"And about Romina," River added, "we're rivals. Everyone in Eaglioncile knows that. So, Ms. Hayward, it's better not to say things that could be misunderstood."

Ms. Hayward replied, "River, maybe you don't realize it, but the way you look at Romina—it's different. Sure, you're enemies, but there's admiration there too."

River's eyes flickered. "Maybe you're right. People involved in something often can't see clearly, while outsiders see the truth. If I really do feel differently about her, I might not even know it myself. But since you see it so clearly—why chase after someone whose heart isn't with you?"

He looked at her seriously. "You're a friend, and a business partner. We can make money together—but we can't be lovers."

He didn't hate her. In fact, he respected her and admired her success. But he didn't feel romantic love toward her.

Ms. Hayward stood still, gazing at him in silence. After a few moments, she lifted her glass.

"I understand," she said. "Let's stay friends. And if a good project comes up, I'd still love to collaborate with your company."

"Thank you, Ms. Hayward. I appreciate how highly you think of Yantail. I hope we'll work together again—and that it'll be a great partnership."

River extended his hand. Ms. Hayward shook it with a composed smile, then turned and walked away.

It wasn't often that she felt something for a man. But River didn't feel the same, and she had to accept that. She had tried—and failed. No need to push it any further.

River was right. With her strengths, she'd definitely meet someone worthy. But because she was so accomplished, her future partner had to be even more impressive. She wouldn't settle for less.

And if there was no one like that, she'd rather stay single.

The problem was, in Eaglioncile's business world, 98% of successful CEOs were already married. Many were over fifty. The younger ones were in their early forties—and single men in their thirties were rare.

That's why she had fallen for River.

He was capable, young, and handsome—like a CEO straight out of a TV drama.

But unfortunately, River didn't return her feelings.

And she wouldn't force it.

From now on, she'd just be a friend and business partner.

Still, she wanted to see how it all turned out. Whether River and Romina would end up together in the end.

Romina came from the prestigious Lafond family. She had status, wealth, and talent. But Ms. Hayward didn't envy her.

Romina had been born lucky. If she weren't excellent, that would be a waste of her privilege.

River, on the other hand, was like Ms. Hayward. He'd made it on his own. That's why she had admired him so deeply.