

My Billionaire Ex-Husband Chase Me Back - Chapter 261 – 292

Chapter 261: His Plan

Chapter 261: His Plan

Bella didn't say anything. She let Tristan calm his mind and heart, knowing he still blamed himself every time they talked about their past separation.

The funny thing is, every time she asked him to forget, Tristan would say, "It's okay, darling. I deserve this torture."

She couldn't refute him and let him punish himself.

...

While waiting for Tristan to calm down, Bella leaned back in her seat, trying to enjoy the distant scenery. However, it wasn't long before she heard Tristan move and speak to her.

"Wife, tomorrow I have plans to have lunch with my parents..."

Bella's heartbeat quickened when she heard that. She tried to appear calm as she turned to look at him.

"Oh, really? That sounds good..." Bella smiled at him, even though she felt confused and awkward inside, unsure how to react.

This was the first time Bella had heard Tristan mention his parents in their conversations. He usually avoided talking about them, knowing it would hurt her feelings.

Still clear in Bella's mind, when they met again a few months ago, she felt hurt and awkward whenever his family was mentioned. But recently, she was no longer so affected after hearing from Geoffrey that Tristan's relationship with his parents was worsening.

He rarely returned to his parents' home, and their relationship got worse every year because his parents forced him to marry the woman they chose.

Seeing no expression on Tristan's face, Bella continued, "Hubby, I hope you can enjoy your lunch with them..."

Tristan's deadpan expression slowly turned warm, and a faint smile appeared on his lips as he said, "Thanks, darling..." He then turned to see the city lights in the distance, following Bella's line of sight.

Later,

The atmosphere in the car slowly turns awkward. No one speaks. They are both lost in their own thoughts.

After several seconds of silence, Tristan finally says what's on his mind.

"My darling wife, I plan to tell my parents about Dax and us tomorrow. I hope you don't oppose it..."

Instantly, Bella is caught off guard by his words.

"Cough! Cough!"

Tristan turns to her, worried, looking at how red her face is now.

"Are you alright?"

Bella can't answer him; instead, she coughs even more. She can only make an OK sign with her hand to stop him from panicking. She was too surprised to hear that Tristan would tell his parents about them this soon.

"Drink this... to ease your throat." Tristan offers Bella a water bottle to clear her throat. She doesn't refuse it; she immediately drinks the water.

After Bella feels better, she says, "T-Thank you. I'm fine."

Tristan doubts Bella's words because he can still see the worry lingering in her eyes. He slowly raises his hand, places it on her face, and rubs it gently.

"Bella, my wife, are you really okay? Why do you look like you disagree if I meet them? Dear, if you stop me, I will cancel my lunch plan tomorrow with them—"

"No, Tristan. Please don't cancel your plan." Bella, in a rush, interrupts him.

Bella doesn't want Tristan's relationship with his parents to worsen because of her. Even though she doesn't like his parents, she doesn't want Tristan to sever ties with them. What she really wishes now is that his parents don't interfere with her life again.

She squeezes his hand gently before saying, "I'm really fine. But I'm worried about you meeting them tomorrow."

“Worried? Worried about what?”

Tristan’s eyebrows slowly wrinkle when he hears her sentence. However, a moment later, he realizes the meaning of her worry.

He smiles lovingly at her and says, “My darling wife, don’t worry about them. I’ll take care of my parents. I promise they will not come right away to our house to meet you and Dax...”

“No... No... it’s not that, but what I mean is I’m afraid your parents will call my parents and confront them. And, you know, I haven’t yet settled my matter with my parents, right?” she says.

“Oh, you’re right...” Tristan is silent for a moment, thinking.

He knows Bella wants to take revenge on her uncles and father and take the company from them. If her uncles and father knew about their relationship, they might use it to escape their current problem.

“Okay, dear. Don’t worry. I have a way to make my parents keep our relationship to themselves. They will not talk to anyone else...” Tristan firmly says, an evil smile slowly emerging on his lips.

Looking at his sinister smile, Bella can’t help but ask, “What is your plan?” She is curious.

Before Tristan can answer her, the loud ringing of a phone echoes in the car.

They both look at her bag on her lap.

Bella immediately searches for her cell phone. When she sees who the caller is, she looks at Tristan.

“Who is calling you?” he asks, frowning. He is worried that Sean is calling her.

“Hubby, it looks like we have to go home now. Our little son called.” Bella answers him while showing Tristan her cell phone screen and chuckles when Tristan immediately nods and puts on his seat belt.

She also puts on her seatbelt before she accepts Dax’s call.

The next day.

Bella decides to meet Amanda Spencer at the Sushi Tei restaurant near her office.

She chose this restaurant because it is one of the Spencer family's restaurants and is within walking distance of her office.

When Bella called Amanda to inform her about the location, Amanda was excited. She even volunteered to contact the restaurant to reserve the best VIP room for their lunchtime meeting. Amanda Spencer can do it very easily when it comes to Spencer Group's restaurant.

After talking to Amanda, Bella sighed and leaned on her ergonomic and comfy office chair.

Then she looked at her watch and realized she still had plenty of time before meeting Amanda Spencer. She plans to visit Stefan on the 20th floor in his computer room.

However, Leo was running behind her as she walked toward the readily opened elevator door. He shouted slightly to stop her from entering.

"Boss! Hold up. There's something you need to see..."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 262: Roses From Him

"Boss! Hold up. There's something you need to see..."

Bella stops and turns to see him. She is surprised to notice he is holding a bouquet of white roses.

"Huh!? Do you want to give that flower to your crush? Who is the lucky lady who finally tamed your cold heart?" she asks, smiling and teasingly at him.

"Ha ha ha..." Leo can't help but laugh at hearing her words. "Well, looks like you misunderstood, Boss. These beautiful roses are for you. Someone just delivered them," He says while handing her the flowers.

Bella is taken aback.

"Is that for me? Are you serious?" Bella asked. She hadn't expected her husband to send her flowers after they had just separated a few minutes ago when Tristan dropped her off before he headed to his office.

"Yeah, your name was clearly written on the note when my secretary received it from the courier. Please hurry up and take it before anyone sees us. They'll think I'm trying to woo you by giving you white roses," he chuckles.

“Ah, for me. Geez... My hubby is such a sweet man. To give me this sweet surprise...” Bella’s smile grows as she accepts the roses.

After she smells the roses’ fragrance, Bella looks at Leo again and says, “Thank you, Leo. But I need your help... I’m about to visit Stefan upstairs. Can you ask someone to put these in my office?”

“Sure,” Leo says, taking back the roses. His eyes fixed on the card tucked in the middle of the flowers. He reads the sender’s name and looks surprised.

He immediately looked at Bella, who was walking ahead to the elevator. “Boss, wait... I guess these flowers aren’t from Boss Tristan,” he said while running after her.

Bella’s steps halt once more. She frowns, looks at Leo, and accepts the card from him.

When Bella reads the sender’s initials, her knees turn jelly. She almost falls, but her hands grip the wall beside her to steady herself.

Still unsure about what she read on the card. Bella read the names written on the cards a few times to make sure she didn’t read them wrong.

‘Sean...’ Bella whispers under her breath while swallowing hard, trying to remain calm and hide her shock. ‘How could he still have time to send me these flowers?’

She knows how strict the rules are at his base camp. They are not allowed to make contact with anyone outside the base camp.

Bella heard from Sean that personal communication devices could not be turned on once they entered the base camp area—even for a young general, a team leader like him.

‘Did he ask Amanda again to send the flower?’ Just thinking about it was enough to make Bella’s face turn red. She feels embarrassed.

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Leo is even more confused when he sees Bella’s face turn stiff as she reads the card.

He can’t help but ask, “Boss, who the hell is SS? I know this isn’t Boss Tristan, right? His initials should be TS, not SS.”

“Ding!”

The sound of the elevator arriving provides her with an escape. She doesn’t bother to answer Leo’s curiosity and immediately enters the elevator, ignoring him.

“Talk to you later, bye!” Bella smiles while pressing the closing button, but the door won’t close because Leo holds it. “Leo? What are you doing?”

Leo smiles at her but then calls a female staff member who happens to be walking toward them. After instructing her to put the flowers in Bella’s office, he immediately joins Bella in the elevator.

“Alright, Boss.” Leo smiles as the elevator door closes. Now, tell me who SS is!?”

Bella vented her frustration at the curious Leo. She didn’t want to discuss Sean’s matters, especially with him. It would be troublesome if he knew about Sean Spencer.

She ignored him while looking at the elevator door.

“Ding!”

When the elevator door finally opened, she rushed out and asked, “How is Stefan’s progress?”

Leo is suspicious that Bella is hiding something from him. But when he hears Stefan’s name, his steps suddenly stop.

“Huh!? Why did you stop?” Bella asked. She also stopped and turned to him. Seeing his dark expression, she immediately knew something must have happened last night in this place.

She stepped closer to Leo. With a worried look, she asked, “Ugh, Leo... did my brother successfully seduce you last night?”

Leo’s eyes widened, looking displeased at Bella.

“Damn it! What the hell are you talking about, Bella!?”

“ ... ”

“Gosh! Since when did you have a hobby to curse like this, Leo?” Bella smiled while shaking her head. “You know what? You are the most polite man I have ever known among the four of us... Did Jack and Harper influence you?”

Leo’s shoulders slumped. Indeed, when arriving in this place, he always cursed, mainly when he lived with Sam.

“Sorry, I was just annoyed when I heard Stefan’s name. Your little brother has ruined our peaceful night; we couldn’t sleep at all. He kept us busy until the sun barely rose on the horizon,” Leo said, annoyed. “You saw my panda eyes, right? I’m exhausted!”

Bella’s face became red after hearing his words. She feels embarrassed about their intimacy.

Now, she was sure that Stefan was interested in Leo. But what surprised Bella was when she discovered that Stefan was also interested in Sam.

‘Gosh! Stefan, you are such a naughty man...’

Bella sighed deeply before saying, in a sorry tone, “Leo, I’m sorry to hear that, but I can’t help you if my brother likes you.”

Leo, “...”

Bella spoke again before Leo could say something, “I have something I want to clarify. You said my brother is also interested in Sam!? So last night, you guys...doing threesomes!?”

“What the fuck are you talking about!?” Leo’s eyebrows wrinkled as he stared at Bella.

‘Did she misunderstand something? Why did she assume the three of us? Damn, this woman’s mind was indeed wild...’ Leo can’t help but vent his sarcasm in his mind, glaring at Bella.

“Huh!?” Bella frowned. “Did I guess wrong?”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 263: Misunderstanding

Leo can’t help but vent his sarcasm in his mind, glaring at Bella.

“Huh!?” Bella frowned. “Did I guess wrong?”

“Follow me!” Leo said before continuing to walk toward the seating area and leaving the clueless Bella in her place.

After asking Bella to sit down, Leo continued to speak. “Last night, exactly at midnight, a big box truck arrived at this building carrying sophisticated computers and other stuff for Stefan. Because his presence in this place is confidential, we couldn’t ask others to help. So, we had no choice but to help Stefan bring all his stuff to his computer room...”

Bella, “...”

‘Jeez... Why is my imagination running wild? I thought last night they were busy doing threesomes till morning. Damn!!’ Bella scolded herself while looking at Stefan’s computer room door, which was still tightly closed.

“I think he hasn’t come out of his computer room since we finished helping him set up his computer early this morning,” Leo said, following Bella’s line of sight. Now, he was worried about whether Stefan was alright or had fainted inside.

“Bella, is he okay? Let’s check...” Leo suggested.

Hearing Leo’s worry, Bella also started to worry. She immediately stood up from the couch and looked at him.

“Thanks, Leo, for helping Stefan all night. I’ll check on him now. You can continue your work; there’s no need to worry about him,” she smiled to reassure him before heading to Stefan’s computer room.

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Bella felt even more worried when she knocked a few times but got no answer from inside.

“Stefan, may I come in?” Bella asked again while waiting a few more seconds, but she didn’t hear an answer. So, she decided to open the door. Fortunately, the door was not locked.

She saw that the room was neat and not as empty as before. There was a larger table in the center with a large desktop screen. Many screens were attached with numbers on each monitor on the wall in front of the desk. In the corner of the room, she also saw a few machines, like servers, arranged neatly.

When she entered this room, Bella felt like she was in a TV station’s news control room, which was completely different from the setting in Dax’s computer room.

Bella saw Stefan sitting in a chair similar to her son’s gaming chair. He was immersed, staring at the monitor before him. At the same time, his fingers slid quickly across the keyboard, creating subtle keyboard sounds as he typed.

“Stefan...” Bella called his name again, but Stefan didn’t hear her. She smiled bitterly, seeing the headphones covering his ears. She approached him and patted his shoulder gently.

“Oh, sister Bella, you came...” Stefan took off his headset and hung it around his neck. He leaned back in the seat casually while smiling happily at her.

But Bella ignored his smile. She narrowed her eyes at him as if scolding him through her gaze, "You better start taking care of your ears, Stefan! Or you might get deaf if you listen to music too loud."

"Ha Ha Ha... It's fine, sis. I'm still young..."

Bella was speechless. What did his young age have to do with damaging his ears?

She could only take a deep breath. "Don't overwork yourself, Stefan. I hear you didn't sleep all night?" she asked with concern.

"No worries, sis. I'm still adjusting to the time here... Besides, yesterday I slept long enough to clear my mind, and now I have so much energy to work."

Stefan said while standing from his seat. He also asked Bella to sit in the seating area in the corner near the huge glass window while talking.

Bella sat opposite him.

"Glad to hear that, bro. Oh, right..." Bella looked around the room and saw an empty spot in the corner near the seating area. "Is there anything else you need here? I mean, a coffee maker or fridge to keep your drinks or food?" she asked.

Stefan also looked at the empty spot where he could place those items. He looked at Bella again and nodded. "Yeah, I need that. Going to the kitchen when I'm busy would be troublesome. So, having a coffee maker and fridge will greatly help me."

"Cool. I will ask someone to prepare it for you. And about your expenses for buying all this stuff," Bella pointed at his computer and servers. "I will transfer it to your bank. You just need to tell me how much you spent."

Stefan immediately shook his head, rejecting her offer. He didn't need Bella's money. He had come here to help her as a form of gratitude, to repay her kindness for what she had done in the past.

He would never forget those times when others and even his own family didn't believe him. Bella was there, offering him a job and helping him.

Stefan had always greatly admired and respected her. He would never take advantage of her; instead, he wanted to help her in any way he could.

However, she had always rejected his offers. When she suddenly asked him to temporarily move to this country to help her, he didn't hesitate to agree.

Bella frowned, hearing Stefan's rejection. Did Jack already give him some money? She couldn't help but ask, "Why do you reject me?"

"Sis, consider it a welcome gift from me because you finally returned to the company." He smiled widely when he saw her roll her eyes.

"Oh, come on, Stefan... What's the logic in that? This is my company. You don't have to give me a welcome gift because I'm back." Bella chuckled. She knew Stefan had shares in the company, but not many.

"Ha ha ha... then just think of this as a gift for my lovely nephew Daxton. He can use all this stuff when I return to New York."

Bella felt her heart warm when she heard that. She still accepted his offer even though she didn't need any of that because Tristan could buy their son an advanced computer, too.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 264: It's Start Now!

"Fine. If it makes you feel better, I'll take it. Thanks, little brother."

Bella smiled before asking him about his progress in starting their most ambitious plan to take over the Donovan Group from her uncle and father.

"Is there any progress with the task I gave you?" she asked.

Stefan's face immediately brightened, and his eyes sparkled when he saw Bella.

"Sis, this is starting now! Well, when we talk now, the share price of your family company is starting to fall." A proud smile framed his face. He feels excited about creating chaos in Donovan Group.

"You are indeed effective and efficient, Stefan. Okay, tell me more..."

"The Donovan Group has a lot of swing traders who are trying to make a profit by taking quick gains from the fluctuations in company shares, which are currently unstable...you know what's happening inside the Donovan Group's management, right?"

Bella nodded. She knew that Donovan Group's share price was starting to rise because of Dawson Group's investment in the company.

Stefan continued to explain that the people who buy shares on the market are actually swing traders. They didn't trust the company yet, so when he released two negative news pieces about the Donovan Group a few hours ago, the prices started to fall as

soon as the stock market opened. Many shareholders began selling their shares every minute because they panicked about the company's future.

"I will make their prices touch the lowest limit in the stock market. And no one wants to buy those shares, even if they sell them at a discounted price... When the price hits the bottom, I'll start buying back all the shares."

Hearing Stefan's explanation was enough to excite Bella.

"Perfect, bro. How many days do you need us to buy back all the shares from the public?"

"Three days!"

Bella was surprised. What news did Stefan upload that made all investors believe the company's shares would fall to their lowest price in three days?

She felt curious and wanted to check the internet for the news. She also wanted to return to the East to see her uncles and father's panicked states.

"That fast?"

"Yes. But buying out shares from big shareholders like your uncles, father, and other major investors will take a few days. We need to send people to negotiate with them. It makes them panic to finally sell their shares, which are no longer worth anything."

"Okay, I will talk to Sam—"

"No need, sis. I already talked to Sam last night, and he said he would assign someone to do that." Stefan clapped his hands, feeling excited. "So, sister... next week, you may become the largest shareholder in the Donovan Group if our plan runs smoothly."

Bella tried to hide her happiness at this moment, fearing it was too early to celebrate their success. But her wide smile betrayed her.

"Sister, go home and prepare to pack your suitcase. You will fly to East City in a few days." Stefan chuckled when he saw her smile happily.

"Haha, true! It looks like I have to fly there next week and hold an Annual General Meeting," said Bella.

A sinister smile slowly framed Bella's beautiful face as she imagined attending a Donovan Group shareholder meeting and firing her first uncle from the CEO position. She also planned to ensure her father lost his job as COO of the company. She would only keep her Aunt Emma as CFO or appoint her as the new CEO.

At this moment, Bella's mind was filled with many plans about her family, and the need to call her mother and Aunt Emma started bothering her again. Sigh!

"Oh, Sister Bella... I need to confirm something with you." Stefan's face turned serious again, causing Bella to pay attention to him.

"Yes. What is it?"

"Regarding the company name... I should buy back all the shares from the Donovan Group. Do you want me to use Quantum Capital?"

"No. Use my anonymous company. This is my personal problem. I don't want Quantum Capital involved."

"Understood, Sis... I'll take care of everything. You don't have to worry about it."

A few minutes later, Bella and Stefan discussed many things before finally saying goodbye. She had to get ready to meet Amanda Spencer at Sushi Tei Restaurant immediately.

At 11.55 AM

Bella arrived at the VIP room of Sushi Tei Restaurant. She didn't rush to knock on the door, trying to adjust her expression because she felt very nervous.

"Ma'am... pardon me to ask you this. But are you sure you don't want me to accompany you inside? I can be unnoticeable, Ma'am. No one would suspect me guarding you."

Bella was surprised to hear a man's voice from behind. It was Bryan, one of Tristan's people. She thought Bryan was already waiting for her in the restaurant hall. She had asked him to wait for her to have his lunch while she met Amanda in the VIP room.

She looked at Bryan, standing four steps ahead of her. "Thank you, Bryan. But I think I'm fine alone inside the Restaurant. Don't worry, the person I'm about to meet inside is my best friend's aunt."

"Excuse me for saying this, ma'am. Would you allow me to check the room first before you enter? Besides, Mr. Sinclair has specifically asked me to do this..." Bryan insisted. He couldn't take this lightly because this woman was their big boss' wife.

Bella silently took a deep sigh. She couldn't refuse Bryan; he was stubborn, just like Tristan, when it came to her safety. She nodded to Bryan and finally dared to knock on the door.

Later,

She faintly heard a gentle voice from inside, asking her to enter.

When Bella opened the door, she saw a slender, size six woman with straight black hair hanging down her back, standing and looking at her. The woman looked classy in her black Chanel one-button suit and knee-length skirt. Her bold red lips slowly spread into a warm smile that framed her beautiful face.

"Are you... Arabella Donovan, right?" She greeted her in a cheerful and friendly voice. "OMG! Bella, you are so beautiful..."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 265: Meet Amanda Spencer

"Are you... Arabella Donovan, right?" She greeted her in a cheerful and friendly voice. "OMG! Bella, you are so beautiful..."

Instantly, Bella's nervousness disappeared as soon as she saw this woman's friendly smile reach her eyes.

For some unknown reason, seeing and hearing Amanda talk to her in this friendly manner made her feel like she was meeting her best friend, Harper Reed.

"Yes, I am. And you must be Sister Amanda Spencer?"

"Yes, dear... Bella, let's talk inside." She smiled happily and invited Bella in. However, her smile slowly faded when she saw a tall man with a sturdy build standing behind Bella.

The man looked handsome and mature in an all-black outfit. His gaze radiated alertness as he looked inside the room; he didn't even spare a glance at her.

Amanda couldn't help but look at the man closely; she became suspicious.

'Is this man Bella's boyfriend?'

She started to wonder while looking at the man from head to toe several times, trying to figure out if she had seen him before. There was a sense of familiarity, but no matter how much she tried, she couldn't recall where she had seen him.

Another question now popped up in Amanda Spencer's mind.

'If this man is Bella's boyfriend, what about Sean? Weren't they dating?' She silently took a deep sigh, feeling sour if what she thought was true.

She tried to push aside that worry while turning her gaze away from the man and looking at Bella. But when she saw Bella smile at her, she could no longer suppress her curiosity.

Amanda leaned closer to her and whispered, "Bella, sorry to ask, but who is the man behind you?" She casually asked. However, deep down in her heart, she was worried about her thoughts—that this man was Bella's boyfriend or, worse, her husband.

If her assumptions were accurate, she would be in trouble for misleading her sister-in-law about Bella's relationship with Sean.

...

Bella didn't answer right away. Instead, she turned to look at Bryan and spoke to him for a few moments before closing the door and smiling at Amanda.

"Sister Amanda, that man is my bodyguard..." Bella said politely.

Amanda felt relieved to hear that. She immediately asked Bella to sit.

Bella sat on the chair opposite Amanda and continued, "He insisted on checking this room for my safety. I'm sorry if he seemed rude, sister..."

"Oh, it is fine, Bella. I'm happy to know your bodyguard does his job properly." Amanda flashed a sincere smile at Bella while trying to calm her mind. She was increasingly curious about Bella's true identity.

Amanda remembered when she was in Nova City to see Bella for the first time; she saw her coming out of the hospital with a man. Her assistant had said that the man was Bella's bodyguard. And now, she appeared here with a different bodyguard.

'Who is she?' Amanda wondered. 'Why does she have so many bodyguards around her?'

Amanda was troubled by the confusion surrounding Bella's identity. Despite using her connections to access the government's public database, she still couldn't uncover Bella's true identity.

She had already tried to investigate the Donovan family in this country; she found thousands of people with that name. A few were wealthy families in other cities, but none had a daughter named Arabella Donovan. So, she assumed Bella had recently moved to this country; perhaps she was raised by her family abroad.

Bella faintly smiled when she saw Amanda Spencer only looking at her without saying anything, which made her feel nervous again. She cleared her throat to draw Amanda's attention.

"Sister Amanda, have you ordered our lunch?" When Bella saw her blink her eyes as if she was pulled out of her own thoughts, Bella continued, "Shall we order now?"

"Oops, my bad... How could I forget?" Suddenly, Amanda's laughter echoed in the room as she called the waitress. "I apologize, Bella; I was so mesmerized by your beauty and happy to have met you that I forgot everything..."

Bella, "..."

"Me too, sis. I'm so happy to finally meet someone I only saw on the news," Bella sincerely said.

She wasn't just saying this to flatter Amanda; she genuinely meant it. Amanda Spencer was undeniably beautiful and elegant, and her aura differed from that of the wealthiest lady Bella had ever met. Talking to Amanda reminded her of her best friend, Harper.

"Ha ha ha, all right, all right, let's order before we talk." They both started to order their lunch.

After the waitress left the VIP room, there was no longer any awkwardness or nervousness. Bella and Amanda talked so casually that it was as though old friends had just reunited after many years apart.

Amanda asked Bella about the progress of her legal dispute with Laura Kiels' fans. After a few minutes of talking while eating, they both realized they had similar business interests.

Even when they finished eating, their conversation remained the same: business-related. They completely forgot the purpose of meeting here. Amanda wanted to know more about Bella and Sean's relationship. At the same time, Bella needed to draw a line between herself and the Spencer family to return the Spencer's powerful Black Card she received a month ago.

However,

Not long after, Bella received a text from Leo reminding her about the meeting with the legal team after lunch.

Bella regained her focus. She immediately took a card box from her bag and put it on the table.

After she pushed the card box toward Amanda, she said, "Sister Amanda, I know you sent this card to my office. I'm sorry, I can't accept this one..."

Amanda was taken aback when she saw the box. It took her a moment to realize what was happening. She looked alternately at the card box on the table and then at Bella.

She didn't understand why Bella returned the card Sean gave her. She was supposed to receive or return it to Sean directly, not to her. Right!?

Instantly, countless questions filled Amanda's mind.

'Did they break up?'

Chapter 266: I Have A Son

Instantly, countless questions filled Amanda's mind.

'Did they break up? Is that why Bella returned this card to me? No, no... I don't think they've broken up... It's impossible, right?'

Amanda remembered that the first thing Sean did after arriving in this country yesterday was call her and ask her to send flowers to Bella. Her nephew is such a sweet boyfriend. She now envies their young age.

After pausing and thinking for a few more seconds, Amanda finally could express her thoughts.

She smiled at Bella before saying, "Bella, I'm sorry. This card is not from me but from Sean. If you want to return it, you should return it to him, right?"

Bella was stunned.

What Amanda said was on point. She had forgotten about Sean, who gave her that Black Card. But since yesterday, all that was on her mind was how to immediately return the card to Amanda. Gosh!

Bella silently scolded herself, saying, "Sister Amanda, I know this is from Sean. But you are the one who gave it to me. So, can you accept it now? I... just can't receive this card." She lowered her gaze, looking at the card on the table.

When Amanda heard her anxious and worried voice, she couldn't help but feel bad.

"Bella, I'm sorry if my question sounds rude. But I need to clarify something..." Amanda paused, waiting for Bella to look at her. When she saw Bella's confused gaze looking back at her, she continued, "Are you and Sean breaking up?"

Bella was left speechless after hearing Amanda's question.

And now,

Hearing Amanda's question made her curious to know precisely what Sean had told his aunt about them. She was already worried if Sean had told Amanda they were a couple.

How could he say that?

She clearly remembered that she had only told him she would consider his heart if his parents accepted her without conditions.

'Did Sean think they were already a couple because they shared a kiss that time?' Suddenly, Bella felt her blood turn frosty. 'Damn! Bella...' She regretted allowing herself to accept Sean's passionate kiss at that time.

After venting her frustration in her mind, she tried to look Amanda in the eyes again; she needed to clarify this.

"Sis Amanda, I don't know what Sean told you about me. But it seems you misunderstand something."

"Misunderstand? What do you mean?"

"Sean and I are only close friends..." Bella says in her regret tone.

When Amanda heard Bella's words, everything in her mind went blank, as if an invisible black hole had consumed her.

'They are not a couple? But why did Sean give her our precious family Black Card?' It's hard for Amanda to believe this. It looks like she needs to speak to Sean about this immediately.

Now, she felt extremely awkward meeting Bella.

When Bella and Amanda met...

At the same time, in Tristan's parents' house, Tristan was sitting in the large and luxurious living room facing his parents.

Tristan saw his mother looking restless as if she wanted to say something, but no words came from her lips.

It was amusing for him to watch his parents anxious, and for the first time, he felt at ease facing them, no longer feeling as angry as before.

His long, slender index finger played with the white coffee cup. At the same time, he occasionally looked at his mother and father, exchanging glances as if they were asking each other to speak first.

Tristan couldn't wait to see them looking confused about where to start talking to him. He couldn't blame their nervousness because all this time, he had always been angry if the two of them began bringing up a taboo topic: matchmaking.

A few moments later, Tristan finally broke the silence.

"Mother, Father," Tristan called them casually, but his firm voice immediately made the two of them look at him with a tense gaze.

"Yes?" William Sinclair was the one who responded.

Tristan looked at his watch and said, "I don't have much time; I still have an important meeting at the office. So, if you want to say something to me, say it now... I only have five minutes."

Suddenly, Jessica Sinclair's face looked panicked, knowing that her son only had five minutes left for them.

Sitting straight, Jessica began to speak, "My son, a few days ago, I met Aunt Miller. She asks whether you want to marry his elder daughter!? Her daughter is still 23 and has just graduated from a famous art school in France. Now she is back and will debut as a painter..."

Jessica explained enthusiastically. She badly wanted her son to stop being single and get married again soon. Because her son is no longer young, she worries that they will not have a family successor if he is not married and produces an heir.

"I met her a few days ago. Her name is Sally. She is gorgeous and elegant. I'm sure that if you see her, you will immediately like her..." Jessica continued to convince Tristan.

Seeing that her son, sitting casually with his legs crossed while occasionally sipping his coffee, didn't show any interest in what she said, Jessica continued, "I will arrange for you to meet her tomorrow. Or do you want me to send Sally's picture now?"

"Yes, Tristan... you have to consider what your mother said. This is for the future of our Sinclair family's successor. Even though your grandfather doesn't care about our successor, I know he will definitely be disappointed if the Sinclair name ends with you. So, please listen to your mother... Huh!?" William Sinclair chimed in.

Tristan placed his coffee cup on the table and looked at his parents with a calm gaze. His expression remains the same, uninterested in their conversation.

“Are you both only concerned about my successor?” Tristan asked in his deep, charming tone.

“My son... yes... yes... that’s what mom worries about,” Jessica said excitedly. Finally, her son spoke.

“Yes, Tristan. This is for our family...”

“You two don’t need to worry about it. I already have a son,” Tristan said casually, but Jessica and William were shocked to hear that.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 267: Hard To Believe

“You two don’t need to worry about it. I already have a son,” Tristan said casually, but Jessica and William were shocked to hear that.

“Y-YOU... YOU HAVE A SON??” Jessica stuttered. She was shocked to hear that.

How could Tristan have a son when he never had a woman by his side?

Jessica doubted it because she knew everything about her son—a workaholic who didn’t have time for dates. The rumors on the internet about him dating Laura Kiels were also false because she knew exactly who had made the news; it was Laura Kiels.

“What do you mean, Tristan? Since when do you have a son? And how can that happen if you don’t have a wife?” William Sinclair asked. He had similar thoughts to his wife. Tristan couldn’t have a wife without them knowing. At least, that’s what they wanted to believe.

Just before Tristan was about to explain, William Sinclair continued his relentless questions.

“Tristan Sinclair, are you hooking up with random women out there, and one of them is pregnant? Is that how you have a son we didn’t know about? How dare you do that? Did you forget your status or the great family name you’re carrying, huh?”

William Sinclair can’t help but scold her son. His face turned red as he imagined his son sleeping with a random woman only to father an heir for the Sinclair Family.

Tristan was speechless.

Hearing her husband's words, Jessica Sinclair suddenly felt dizzy. She imagined her son having a child out of wedlock with an unknown and likely low-class woman.

'Oh my lord, forgive us...' She whispered while pinching her eyebrow.

Jessica was still traumatized by what happened with Laura Kiels. She thought Laura was wife material for her son. However, Laura had a dark past and managed to deceive her.

In her mind right now, she thought if her son got involved with another woman with an unknown background this time, she might end up in the emergency room, dying from an acute and severe high blood pressure attack. That's how terrified she was.

"Tristan, my son, did one of the women out there claim she has your son? Are you sure that woman is telling the truth? Have you done a DNA test?" Jessica wanted to ask this but held back after seeing her son's face, as calm as Buddha's.

'Huh!? Why does he look so relaxed?' Jessica began to doubt Tristan's claim that he already had a son.

Seeing his calm expression, she could tell her stubborn son was just trying to find an excuse because they were constantly nagging him about marriage.

"Son, don't try to deceive us with your random and silly excuse. How could you have a son without a legitimate wife? Not possible!" William Sinclair spoke again when he saw Tristan didn't say anything.

Tristan shook his head, looking at them amusingly. He had already pictured his parents reacting this way.

After waiting a few more minutes and looking at their curious eyes, Tristan finally had time to speak. "Are you guys done talking? May I speak now?"

Even though they were increasingly confused by their son's calm and different attitude than usual, Jessica and William nodded curiously to respond to him.

"I don't care if you believe me or not. My son is a healthy young boy. He's almost five years old now..." Tristan was silent momentarily when he saw his mother and father gasp while holding each other's hands, trying to restrain themselves from interrupting.

Tristan fixed his cold gaze on his father. "And, Dad, I don't screw around with random women. Please don't compare me to your filthy friends or even project yourself on me. I am a respectful man who honors women's dignity and loyalty!"

Then, Tristan looked at his mother with the same expression. He said, "Mother, thank you for raising me right. My son's mother is my legal wife, both in the eyes of the law

and God's. And please stop assuming anything about me and my wife. If you keep doing that, you might regret it later."

Hearing Tristan's soft but threatening words, Jessica's face turned as white as a clean sheet of paper.

She opened her mouth to say something, but after a few attempts, her brain failed to force her tongue to produce even a sound. All the words in her mind seemed to stop at the tip of her tongue.

Jessica could only grit her teeth, feeling frustrated and heartbroken because her son hadn't told her about this important matter. She felt that her son no longer saw her as his mother but as an outsider.

William felt his entire body stiffen when he saw his son's serious expression. There was not the slightest hesitation in Tristan's eyes when he spoke.

Seeing his son's seriousness, William Sinclair tried to think, analyzing the meaning of Tristan's words. It didn't take long for him to realize something. His body felt frozen.

'No! It is not possible. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE! It's not possible, right? How could that happen?' William Sinclair muttered inwardly, trying to convince himself that what he thought was wrong.

However, another fact appeared before he could dismiss his thoughts.

'Father! Does he know? Is this why he didn't encourage Tristan to remarry?'

William covered his widening mouth with his palm, shocked by his thoughts. If his father knew about Tristan's son, then his suspicions about Tristan's wife were correct.

He narrowed his eyes on Tristan before asking, "Tristan, does your grandfather know about your son? Has he even met your son?"

Tristan smiled when he saw his father, who seemed already aware of his wife's identity.

He softly said to his father, "Of course. Grandpa knows about my son. And yes, Grandpa has met my son. He even meets my son almost every day... Well, if I'm not mistaken, Grandpa is moving into my house today."

Jessica was deep in thought and still doubted the truth that her son had a son. She was suddenly shocked when she heard Tristan's last words.

'Heaven! So, is all this true? My son is not trying to play a prank on us...'

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 268: Let Me Meet Your Son!

“Tristan Sinclair, oh dear... So it's true you have a son!?” Jessica asked.

But Tristan didn't respond to Jessica's words, not even giving her a quick glance. He ignored her, his eyes fixed on William.

Frustrated with her son, Jessica turned to see her husband and saw how mixed her husband's expression had been.

William was not only shocked but also confused. His eyes met Tristan's calm gaze. When Tristan smiled faintly at him, William felt his heart suddenly warm.

Finally, for the first time since his son had grown up, this was the first time William Sinclair could see that smile again—the warm smile of his only son, who he thought was growing further away from him.

Trying to suppress his happiness at the moment, knowing that his son could show his warm side, William cleared his throat before asking again to confirm what he was thinking: The woman his son said was his wife must be Arabella Donovan.

“Tristan, you said earlier... is your marital status with her still valid in the eyes of the law? How could that happen?” William asked. He was confused because he knew Bella had already signed their divorce papers five years ago.

“Who? Who is the woman you said is your wife!?” Jessica asked Tristan, but he still ignored her, his eyes still staring at William. She turned her gaze again to her husband.

“Will, who is the woman? You already know who she is, right? Tell me... Do I know her?” Jessica grabbed her husband's hand and asked for his attention. But, just like Tristan, William also ignored her.

Jessica felt even more annoyed. She had a strong urge to give William and Tristan a scold, but she resisted when she heard Tristan say something.

“Because I never processed that paper to the court...” Tristan answered his father casually.

William was shocked to hear that. He never imagined Tristan hadn't submitted the letter to the court.

‘Why did he do that? Did he agree to divorce her because he never loved Bella!’ William wondered, his eyes still fixed on Tristan. A few seconds passed, and William couldn't suppress his curiosity. He asked again, “Why did you do that? You didn't love her, right?”

“Because—” Tristan’s voice trailed off when Jessica screamed, distracting him.

“STOP! You two answer me first! Tristan Sinclair... Who is your wife? Tell me. I need to know, and also...” Jessica paused for a moment to get some air to fill her stuffy chest. She feels utterly angry at that moment.

When Jessica saw her husband and Tristan now looking at her, she continued, “I have to meet my grandson, Tristan. Bring me to meet him immediately... I need to make sure that boy is really your son!”

Tristan secretly let out a long sigh, hearing his mother’s words. He wouldn’t allow her to see his son, Dax, until Bella allowed it.

“Mother, I’m sorry, but my wife didn’t allow you and Father to meet our son. So, I can’t bring you to meet him.”

Tristan’s words sounded like punishment for Jessica. Making her even angrier.

“WHAT!?” She couldn’t help but roar, “Who is your wife? How dare she not allow us to meet our grandson? Who the hell does she think of herself?”

Tristan, “...”

If this woman were not his mother, he would have already cut ties with her. How could she say such hurtful words? Whoever his wife is, she deserves respect from her mother-in-law.

Now Tristan could relate to how hurt Bella felt whenever his mother said hurtful things. Sigh!

...

William’s gaze was clearly disappointed as he stared at his son. However, he couldn’t say anything because he knew how terribly he and his wife had treated Bella in the past. Bella had the right to do this to them as punishment. Now, he could only regret and blame himself.

“I only have one wife, Mother. So, of course, you know her,” Tristan patiently answered.

“One wife? Who? Who the woman—” Jessica straightened her back, feeling as if all the blood in her body was about to rush straight to her heart when she realized what her son said: his only wife was Arabella Donovan.

‘BELLA!!! THAT DAMN WOMAN???’

Jessica was almost choked. She stares at Tristan for the next few seconds without a word leaving her lips. She was too shocked to say anything.

After a few moments, she said, “Is the mother of your son Bella!” Her voice trembled, and she could feel her hands suddenly getting sweaty.

“Yes, Mother. I only married to her, so of course she’s the mother of my son—”

“Jess... Jessica... my wife... What happened...?” William shouted in shock when he saw his wife’s body falling. He swiftly took her thin body and pulled her into his arms.

Tristan was also panicked to see his mother faint. He stood from his seat and wanted to help, but William yelled at him.

“SON, HURRY UP... call our family doctor!”

Tristan nodded at his father.

He took a deep sigh, looking at his father carrying his faint mother out of the living room. Then, walking toward the glass wall in the corner, he took out his phone and called his parents’ personal doctor.

After talking to the doctor, Tristan did not move from his place. He stood there alone, looking at the calm lake behind his childhood home.

Tristan’s mind reels back to his past. He really misses his childhood when they were all still a happy family.

He remembers playing with his parents and grandparents in the lake and forest behind their house during those times.

However,

When he became a teenager, all the happy times were taken away.

He had to learn all the basics to become the heir to the Sinclair Group. His father started to change; he was no longer seen as a father but as a teacher, and then his father slowly became his boss.

The worst thing that made Tristan think he was living in hell was when his parents started looking for a suitable wife for him. Almost every month, his mother invited a few aunties and their daughters to dine with them—something he hated.

Afraid his parents would continue to find a woman for him, he agreed with his Grandpa to marry his best friend's granddaughter, Bella. At first, he only married Bella out of duty; no love was involved.

But God opened his heart and mind; he started to love her when she left.

And now he is madly in love with her.

Tristan sighs deeply, and a faint smile slowly appears on his lips as he whispers her name,

"Bella..."

Chapter 269: I Owe Her An Apology!
Tristan sighed deeply.

A faint smile slowly appeared on his lips as he whispered her name, "Bella..."

He takes out his cell phone to text her. However, before he can type anything, a text appears.

Tristan's smile grew wider as he read the sender's name; it was his wife, Bella.

How did she know he was about to text her to ask where she was now? He feels they seem to communicate telepathically.

[Bella] Hubby, I miss you. I just wanted to let you know that I'm now meeting with my legal team in my office.

Tristan's heart slowly calms, and he feels relieved knowing she is back in her office.

Since last night, when he knew she would meet Amanda Spencer today, his mind had never stopped worrying about their meeting. He didn't know why, but a strange worry emerged in his mind: the Spencer family would steal his wife.

[Bella] This meeting is so boring. I hope you come to pick me up soon! (Cry Emoji)

He feels amused reading her text. Just before he wanted to reply, another text came in.

[Bella] How is your meeting there? Is everything okay?

[Bella] (Curious Emoji)

He immediately replies to her short message.

[Tristan] Everything is fine. I told them about us and our sons.

He sends the text, and a second later, Bella replies.

[Bella] Glad to know that.

[Bella] Are they positive about it? (worry emoji)

He types fast again,

[Tristan] Yes. But my mother fainted.

However, before he presses send, his hands stop typing. He suddenly feels worried about letting her know about his mother's condition; she fainted after hearing the news about them. He fears this news will distract Bella from her meeting.

After a quick thought, Tristan decides to talk to her at home later.

He immediately erases his text and types another one, telling her he will call her later when he picks her up.

His loving smile slowly frames his face when he reads Bella's sweet reply,

[Bella] Okie, hubby! Love you... (Kiss Emoji) (Blushing Emoji)

'Why does she sound so happy? Did something happen in her office?' Tristan wonders. He was suspicious because his wife rarely used love emojis when she texted him.

Just before Tristan wants to reply again, he suddenly hears his father's voice right beside him.

"Glad to see you finally happy like this, my son..."

Tristan glances to see his father standing beside him. He puts his cell phone in his trouser pocket before following his father's line of sight to the lake outside.

He laughed inwardly because he was too immersed in his own thoughts and exchanging texts with his wife, causing him not to realize anything was happening around him. He didn't even know when his father started standing beside him.

"How's Mother's condition?" Tristan asked without a glance at his father.

William Sinclair took a deep sigh before responding to his son.

“The doctor said your mother was just experiencing sudden and extreme shock and exhaustion. But he also said she would be alright. He has prescribed her several medicines to help her calm and also to help her sleep.”

Tristan doesn't say anything else but feels relieved to hear that. At least nothing life-threatening happened to his mother after she knew he was returning with Bella after their long separation.

However, even though he is relieved, Tristan can't shake off the suspicion that has long been bothering his mind. This began when he found strong indications that his mother hated Bella to her core.

In the past, he heard from Geoffrey about how terrible his mother treated Bella. But her mother was careful. She treated Bella with nonverbal abuse when Tristan was around and soft but verbal abuse when he wasn't. That's why he only heard about it when Geoffrey told him.

Since then, he always asked himself, “Why did Mother hate Bella so much? Did something happen between them that I didn't know about?” This question appears in his mind almost every day before Bella returns to this country.

“Tristan...” William said, turning to his son before continuing, “You can return to your office. There's no need to wait for your mother to wake up.”

William was worried about his son's work. He delayed his return to the office because his mother fainted.

Tristan glanced at his watch. It was almost three o'clock. He really had to go back and finish his work before picking up Bella.

He nodded and excused himself; however, his father stopped him before he could walk away.

“My son, this is about Bella and my grandson...” William Sinclair's voice sounded shaky. He reluctantly expressed what was on his mind. However, he had to say it. “Can I meet them?”

William knew it was unlikely Tristan would allow him to meet Bella. Still, he needed to apologize to Bella for his ignorance and past actions. He had allowed his wife to abuse his daughter-in-law verbally.

Tristan stopped and turned to see his father. “I'm sorry, Father, but I cannot decide anything. I will ask my wife whether she will consider meeting you and Mother.” He had already promised to protect Bella's heart and not allow her to suffer again.

"It's okay, my son. I understand if she finds meeting me and your mother hard." William answered. He did not feel offended or disappointed when he heard his son's rejection. "But, can you tell Bella... I'm going to see her without your mother. And tell her I owe her an apology."

Tristan was taken aback by his father's words. He had never heard his father say those words before, but just now, he heard his father say he owed Bella an apology.

'Did I hear wrongly?' Tristan wondered while looking into his father's eyes. He was surprised to see his father's eyes turn red. 'He is sincere!'

Silently, he took a deep sigh. He didn't say a word but nodded before leaving the room.

Meanwhile, at the Donovan Building in East City.

"CLANK!!"

Jacob Donovan threw his coffee cup on the floor. He was furious to see the company's share price plummet as soon as the stock market opened this morning. By the time the stock market closed, the value of Donovan Group's shares hadn't increased by even a penny.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 270: The Big Four

Jacob Donovan was furious to see the company's share price plummet as soon as the stock market opened this morning. By the time the stock market closed, the value of Donovan Group's shares hadn't increased by even a penny.

"WHO THE HELL IS TRYING TO MESS WITH US??" Jacob Donovan roared while looking at his two younger brothers and his younger sister, Emma, sitting in the seating area.

None of them said anything.

They did not even glance at Jacob.

They were all as shocked as Jacob, still unable to understand why the company secrets they were hiding were now exposed on the internet.

Jacob became increasingly annoyed looking at them. He walked towards the seats and slowly looked at his siblings one by one, with eyes that seemed to want to pull their hearts from their chests and tear them apart into small pieces.

After a few more seconds passed, his eyes fixed on his younger brother.

“Thomas Donovan!” Jacob snapped, causing everyone to look at him. He continued, “Why are your past scandals, bribing government officials to facilitate the shopping center construction project, resurfacing in the news?” He asked while settling onto the sofa, his eyes locked, staring intently at Thomas.

“How could I know? If I knew who leaked the scandal, I would have killed him right now,” Thomas Donovan answered. He also felt angry. Why does that news resurface again?

Since this morning, Thomas has been trying to delete the news from the internet, but the hackers he paid a lot of money can’t stop the news. When he wanted to call him, he could not contact him. The hacker had disappeared.

Thomas felt even more miserable when he heard their company was in big trouble. It wasn’t just the plummeting share prices; the police were investigating a bribery case involving a government official.

“Damn it! You’re really useless, Thomas!” Jacob’s shout made Thomas Donovan only sigh, unable to refute his brother’s words. He was indeed useless. And he was annoyed with himself for being powerless.

Silence hung in the air.

No one spoke as if they were now thinking of another way to escape this situation.

Jacob tried hard to calm his heart. If this matter isn’t solved, he might end up in the emergency room because of his high blood pressure. The stress of the company’s condition was overwhelming.

Meanwhile, Thomas and the others didn’t know what to say, afraid that what they said would make their brother even angrier.

However, after another minute, Lucas couldn’t hold himself back from speaking. He looked at his brother before expressing what was on his mind: “Brother, why don’t you ask Bradley for help?”

“Damn! How could we forget him?” Thomas said, looking at his eldest brother before continuing, “Brother Jacob, what Brother Lucas said is right. We have to ask Brother Bradley for help. He will definitely have a solution for us...”

Thomas’s smile, absent since this morning, suddenly reappeared as he realized there was still hope for their company to be free from this complicated problem.

Jacob Donovan stopped pinching his forehead when he heard their words. His brow furrowed as he looked at his two younger brothers alternately. Seeing how clueless both of them were, his expression became sour.

“Don’t you guys read the news?” Jacob asked.

“What’s the news?” Thomas responded confusedly. All day, he had been too busy dealing with the hackers who ran away from him and didn’t have time to read any news on the internet.

Meanwhile, Lucas is also clueless. He found negative news about their company too scary to read, so he avoided the Internet all day long.

“What happened to the Dawson Group?” he asked.

Jacob took a deep breath before explaining, “I called him a few hours ago to ask for help. But he can’t help us. He also has a big problem there...”

“What problem is he facing? Why is it at the same time as us?”

“Suddenly, all the suppliers stopped collaborating with Dawson Group. Everyone canceled their work contracts to sell their goods there...” Jacob explained the problems facing the Dawson Supermarket chain.

Instantly, Lucas and Thomas froze, unable to utter anything when they heard Jacob’s explanation. This was indeed a massive matter for Dawson Group.

Emma Donovan, who had been silent at the end of the sofa as if she didn’t care about her brothers, was also shocked to hear the news about the Dawson Group.

However, her shocked expression was only briefly before it was replaced by a faint smile that slowly emerged on her lips. In her heart, she was secretly overjoyed to hear the bad news.

‘Old geezer Bradley! How dare you ask for a marriage arrangement for my niece!? Now, eat your punishment!’ She cursed Bradley Caville in her heart.

“Waah... indirectly, will Dawson Supermart be empty? There won’t be anything they can sell?” Lucas said. It was hard for him to believe something like this had happened, where all the suppliers in Astington refused to sell their goods to supermarket companies such as the Dawson Group.

“Yes!” Jacob took another deep sigh.

“Who did Brother Bradley offend this time? Why did he get into such trouble? Their problems are bigger than ours...” Thomas Donovan chimed in.

The room became silent again.

Later, Jacob finally said, “As far as I know, only a few large companies can do such a thing, asking suppliers not to sell to Dawson Group...”

“Who?” Thomas Donovan asked curiously.

“The big four, Stearn, Collins, Spencer, and—” Suddenly, Jacob’s voice trailed off as he realized something.

“What? Who’s the last company?” Thomas asked again.

“No. Not the last... but the first...” Jacob said as his eyes fell on Lucas.

Thomas, still clueless, asked once more, “Who, brother? Who could bring down the Dawson Group this fast!?”

Lucas and Jacob ignored their younger brother. They stared at each other as if communicating with their gazes. And it didn’t take long for Lucas to understand what his older brother wanted to say; suddenly, he could feel his blood running cold.

“Sinclair...” Lucas said, turning his gaze to look at Thomas.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 271: They Are Back Together?

“Sinclair Group...” Lucas said, turning his gaze to look at Thomas.

“HOLY CRAB! Why did Sinclair punish Dawson so severely? Since when did Brother Bradley have any connection with Sinclair Group?” Thomas asked in shock.

No one answered Thomas’s questions, and there was no sound in the room. Lucas and Jacob were drawn into their thoughts, having a mental breakdown with the twist that happened and knowing that nothing could stop it.

“Oh my god!” Suddenly, Lucas Donovan’s hand turned cold when he realized something. When he saw all eyes on him, he continued, “Did Tristan know Bradley was eyeing to marry his ex-wife? My daughter?”

“Huh?! How could he know? Did any of us here tell him about it?”

“What? No way! We are solid... Are we?”

The room temperature instantly dropped below zero.

Jacob opened his mouth to say something but stopped when he noticed his sister Emma's happy smile as she looked at her cell phone. Her joyful smile instantly raised the suspicion in his mind.

'Why did Emma smile? This girl must know something! She looks too delighted when the company is in a critical situation!'

Still, he refrained from confronting Emma about why she smiles when things are in bad shape. He didn't rush to ask her but waited a few moments to confirm that his suspicion was reasonable.

He thought Emma's bright smile would fade when she heard Lucas and Thomas arguing about Tristan Sinclair, which caused the Dawson Group to face their downfall. But no. Her smile remained unchanged. It was clear she was happy despite the terrible situation their company had experienced.

"Emma..." Jacob called unhurriedly and as calmly as possible. Still, his tone was assertive and powerful enough to make everyone suddenly hold their breath and turn to look at him.

"Yes, brother?" Emma responded, slowly hiding the smile on her face. She was surprised when she saw her older brother's sharp gaze on her as if he wanted to drill her mind through his eyes.

"Emma, my dear sister. Would you mind speaking frankly with me? You know, hide nothing and tell me the truth," Jacob asked firmly, but he spoke as casually as he could.

But the look in his eyes betrayed his casual tone. He clearly showed that he was giving an order. "What happened to our company and the Dawson Group?" Jacob continued.

Lucas and Thomas gasped in surprise at Jacob's question. They both looked at their sister, Emma, curious about what was happening inside her mind.

Emma swallowed silently while trying to calm her expression, yet her stuttering betrayed her. "Wh-what do-do you mean? Wh-why do you assume I know so-something that you...you don't?"

Jacob chuckled.

"I've known you for too long, little sister. Just a glance at your expression, I immediately knew that you were hiding something from me. All right, now tell me. Don't try to lie to me. You know... I'm not a patient person, right?" he said sternly.

Emma gritted her teeth while silently cursing her eldest brother in her heart. She really couldn't hide anything from him. How annoying!

After a deep sigh, Emma finally said, "I don't know about the Dawson Group. But, Father called me this morning—"

"What!! Father called you?"

"Why didn't you tell us earlier, sis?!"

Jacob narrowed his eyes at Lucas and Thomas, "Shut up, both of you!" he snapped. "Let her finish her words first before anyone says a word."

They both pressed their lips, holding back the sudden curiosity in their minds and waited for Emma to finish speaking.

"Father called me, and in his ambiguous, passive words, I could tell that he was asking me not to get involved in whatever you guys were planning and going to do," Emma said honestly.

This morning, she received an ambiguous call from their father telling her in many words, but basically, it comes to that.

When she asked her father for a more straightforward explanation or at least confirmation of what she thought he was saying, he said nothing else. He only asked her to visit him in the capital at her first opportunity.

At first, Emma wasn't suspicious of her father's words.

However,

After reading the news on the internet this morning about the sudden fall of their company's share price and hearing almost all the companies that collaborated with them express worry about the company's situation, they decided to withdraw from their project. Not only that, but their clients also started to get nervous, and some even canceled their new venture plans with her company. She began to connect it with her father's vague warning.

And just now, hearing what happened to the Dawson Group from her brothers convinced her that her father's words this morning must have something to do with all this.

"That's all?" Jacob frowned. He still doubted it. This girl must be hiding something. She looked too relaxed.

“Yes. Father didn’t say much after that. He just asked me to visit him in the capital. So, I decided to fly there tomorrow,” Emma answered him.

“Sister Emma, what are you doing? Flying to the capital when the company is in this dire situation? Do you forget you are our CFO?” Thomas Donovan flared, looking at his sister. How could she leave when they were all stressed, trying to fix the problem?

Emma glared at her younger brother.

“Do not patronize me about what to do or not to do, Thomas. You don’t have to remind me of that. I know what I’m doing. Also, you have to understand that I’m an employee here. I have a right to take a day off! So, I will take my first day off in many years, starting tomorrow,” Emma said.

She turned her gaze to Jacob again, ignoring her foolish younger brother. They wouldn’t be in this situation if not for his stupidity in bribing officials.

Emma silently sighed when she saw Jacob looking pensive as if drawn into his thoughts. She knew this situation was not simple. Someone was stirring all this from behind, but she didn’t know who was trying to mess with their company and the Dawson Group.

The room fell silent again.

They were all lost in their own thoughts.

However, a few seconds later, one name appeared in Emma’s mind: Tristan Sinclair.

But again, she immediately dismissed that name because it seemed impossible for Tristan Sinclair to get involved with their family after what happened a few years ago.

‘Ugh! Why does this matter feel so odd? Tristan starts messing with the Dawson Group. He must know about my brother’s plan to force Bella to marry Bradley, right? But why!? Why did he do that?’

Instantly, Emma felt her blood turn frosty with her thought, ‘OMG! Are they back together?? That’s why Bella has returned to this country?’

She searched for her father’s phone number and texted him.

[Emma] Dad, are Bella and Tristan back together?

It didn’t take long for an answer to arrive.

[Dad] Visit me, and you will find your answer.

Emma's hands trembled as she read the text.

'Heaven! They are back together...' she was sure of it.

Without waiting any longer, Emma stood. "Brothers...I have to go now. I still have many things to do downstairs." She walked quickly and left the room without waiting for them to ask her anything.

She needed to fly to the capital as soon as possible.

*CFO = CFO stands for "chief financial officer." The CFO is the top financial position held by an individual in a company or organization.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 272: You Don't Like the Results?
At Quantum Capital Building

Bella had a long, tiring meeting with the legal team, during which they discussed the legal steps the company would take in cases of defamation and various other cases they take for their other companies.

The meeting started at two in the afternoon and had just finished at four-thirty. She was exhausted as she walked back to her office.

She needed a warm cafe latte to shake off her tiredness.

However, Bella was surprised when she opened the door and saw Stefan curled up on the sofa, with his head covered in his hoodie.

"Huh!? Why is he sleeping here?" Bella stopped right on the door, smiling. Just before she could ask someone, a female secretary approached her hurriedly.

"Ms. Donovan, I'm sorry," the secretary stammered, her voice tinged with anxiety. "I tried to persuade your friend to wait outside, but he insisted on waiting for you in your room despite my warnings that your meeting would stretch for hours."

Bella smiled at her.

"It's okay. You did the right thing. You may continue your work," she said and entered the room.

She didn't rush to wake Stefan. Instead, she tidied up her desk—her husband would pick her up in thirty minutes.

Later, she made two cups of coffee before joining Stefan in the sitting area. She woke him up after putting the espresso on the table near him.

Seeing Stefan wake up and rub his still-sleepy face made Bella feel sorry for him. He must be exhausted and struggling to adjust to the time difference between here and New York, his base.

Stefan's eyes narrowed at Bella, and he quickly grabbed his glasses from the table and put them on.

"Oh, you're finally back, sister..." He greeted Bella in a hoarse and deep voice. His slight smile framed his face, and he looked happy to see her again.

"Hmm," Bella responded with a small smile, watching Stefan sit up properly to face her.

"You should sleep upstairs, in your own room, Stefan! Why are you waiting for me here?" Bella said faintly, worried about his health. This kid really didn't care about his well-being.

"I'm fine, sis...I just need to rest my eyes." Stefan grinned as he ruffled his hair, trying to fix some of the strands covering his eyes.

Bella sighed deeply before gesturing for him to drink his coffee.

"Drink your coffee; you need it to wake up. And don't sleep now...try to adjust to the time here." She worried about his jetlag.

Stefan nodded and sipped the warm coffee before looking at Bella again, "Finally, your boring meeting is over, sis..."

Bella was surprised to hear Stefan's words spot-on.

"How do you know I was bored inside?" Bella asked. She didn't like discussing legal matters, preferring to focus on business strategy. In the past, when she was still active at the head office, Jack handled problems like this.

"I checked the CCTV and saw you were busy looking at your phone and typing something fast."

"Hahaha..." Bella's laughter echoed in the room. She remembered that she was exchanging messages with Tristan.

"Well, I wasn't playing around. I was sending a message to my husband," Bella continued as she placed her latte cup on the table. "How is the work you are doing now? Is there any progress you can report?"

“Oh, yeah! Sis, this is why I can’t wait to meet you and update you on the current situation in East City.” Instantly, Stefan’s sleepy eyes disappeared, replaced by excitement, as if a flame was burning in his eyes.

Bella was thrilled to hear about the progress of the mess they were creating for the Donovan Group.

“Alright. You have my full attention now. Tell me the important points only.”

“Your family’s shares have dropped to their lowest value since they were listed on the stock exchange. In addition, the case I posted on the internet has triggered a police investigation into their officers who allegedly have accepted bribes from the Donovan Group.”

Instantly, Bella’s body stiffened, and her smile faded upon hearing that. All day, she had been too busy. She didn’t check what news Stefan had uploaded to the internet.

“Oh my lord, you’ve released the bribery scandal with government officials? Any chance anyone could trace it back to you?” She was surprised to hear that.

“Yes and no. Yes... that’s the only case I thought could be released to cause the Donovan Group’s shares to fall quickly. And no worry, no one can trace it back to me without my knowledge,” Stefan answered, happy and proud to have done his work efficiently, fast, and discreetly.

However, sitting in her seat, Bella immediately felt her heart beating faster. She didn’t expect the news to involve a police investigation and high government officials.

Stefan continued, “Your uncle hasn’t left the office all day, and all their telecommunications devices have been turned off. I don’t know what they’re doing now, but I know from your aunt that they’re, as a matter of fact, in chaos. We managed—” Stefan fell silent when he saw her face looking pale. “Sister Bella, why do you look pale? Are you okay?”

Bella snapped out when she heard Stefan call her. Trying to adjust her shock, she smiled at him, “Pale? No. I’m not...I’m fine!” she said while sandwiching her face with her palms.

“I can see you don’t look fine, Sis. Do you perhaps not like the results?” Stefan scratched his head, which didn’t itch. He was afraid that Bella wouldn’t like the results they achieved today.

“I can release other news that can immediately make their share price plummet...to the bottom of the abyss,” he grins.

“No, you don’t have to. I’m content with the progress you made today. There’s no need to release any other news.” Bella immediately stopped him.

Stefan’s brow furrowed, “Are you sure, Sis?”

“Yes. Continue with what we have planned.”

Stefan was silent for a moment, observing Bella’s expression. She was no longer as shocked as before. Her facial color had returned to normal, and her eyes looked calm.

He nodded in agreement with her before saying, “Okay...”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 273: They Will End Up In Prison!

After a few seconds passed, Bella glanced at Stefan again. She tried to express what worried her now.

“Stefan, you said earlier that you released news about bribery and the police being involved, right?”

“Yes.”

“Is it serious?”

“Of course. What’s more, now is the political year; this country is about to hold a general election to elect a president. Officials who commit corruption are heavily attacked by their political opponents, so everyone involved will not escape. They will end up in prison.”

Bella’s hands felt cold, imagining her father, who was involved.

“Who is responsible for that case?” she asked.

Stefan didn’t understand Bella’s question. “What do you mean, Sis?”

Even though she hated her father, she was concerned about him going to prison. Her tone couldn’t hide her worry when she asked, “From the Donovan Group, who is involved with the bribe scandal?”

Bella wasn’t worried because she felt sorry for her father. However, Stefan is concerned that if the public finds out that Lucas Donovan is her father, the public perception toward Tristan might be hurt, especially if the public knows about their relationship as a married couple.

Sigh!

Stefan, silent for a moment, didn't answer Bella right away. He looked toward the scenery outside as he tried to recall the data he had retrieved from the Donovans' cell phones and laptop databases.

After a few more seconds, he looked at Bella.

"Thomas Donovan, your younger uncle... He is in charge of the project. And besides him, your first uncle may be affected too because he is the company's CEO."

"How about my father and Aunt Emma?"

"From the data I obtained, I can confirm they are not in any part of the wicked plan..."

Instantly, Bella felt like the heavy burden that had been pressing on her chest was released. She could breathe easily, knowing her father and Aunt Emma were not involved.

"Thank you, Stefan," Bella smiled at him. "Alright, I have to go home now. My hubby is waiting downstairs. You can go back upstairs and continue your work..."

"Ok, Sis..." Stefan finished his coffee and stood up. However, before he left the room, he stopped in his tracks and turned to see Bella, who was reading her phone near her table.

When he saw her smile, he hesitated to ruin her happy moment with the other news.

But before he continued to walk, his heart told him to stop. This kind of news couldn't be hidden. After a deep sigh, he said, "Sister, there is something you need to know..."

"What is it?" Bella turned to Stefan, who was leaning against the door frame.

"It's about your father," Stefan paused momentarily as if something was stopping him from continuing because what he was about to say might crush her heart.

Bella could see that Stefan seemed to be having trouble speaking, which made her worry. "Say it, Stefan!"

Stefan ran his fingers through his hair and turned away, avoiding her curious gaze.

"Ugh, Boss... I'll send you everything I've found out when I investigated your father," he said and left.

Bella, "..."

Stefan's unclear sentences made her even more curious and confused. Shaking her head, she continued to tidy up her desk. However, she couldn't stop being suspicious about Stefan's odd behavior.

'Darn it! That kid... How dare he make me this curious?' she muttered while reading a short message from Tristan, informing her he had already arrived.

Rushing to the elevator, Bella saw Leo exit from a small meeting room in the corner. He looked like he had just finished a meeting with his team.

"Going home now, Boss?" Leo smiled as he walked beside her to the elevator.

"Yes! My husband is waiting downstairs..." She glanced at him while pressing the elevator button.

"He is always on time, huh!"

Bella could only chuckle when she heard that, but a second later, something crossed her mind.

"Where's Dana? I haven't seen her..." She asked, realizing Leo's favorite secretary hadn't been around for the past few days.

"She is taking time off and will return tomorrow." Leo casually answered, but somehow, his heart swelled thinking about her.

They exchanged a few words before Bella entered the elevator. The moment the door closed, an email came in.

It was from Stefan.

Curious, she immediately opened the email, and what she found shocked her.

Her hands trembled as she pushed the play button and saw a woman and man entangled in bed, naked. The sounds of the two making love instantly made the air in the elevator turn cold.

Too shocked, she couldn't help but curse Stefan, "What the fuck, Stefan!! Why did he send a porn video—" Bella's voice instantly trailed off when she recognized the man.

Without noticing, her cell phone slipped from her hand. "OH MY GOD!!" She screamed while covering her mouth with her palm, afraid someone could hear her.

Later,

She lowered her gaze, seeing the nasty video still playing, showing a man now riding a young woman in a room that resembled a hotel room.

Bella was shocked not because of the video content but because the man in the video was her father, and the woman was too young to be her sister, definitely not her mother.

While holding onto the elevator wall, she bent down to pick up her cell phone from the floor. She immediately turned off the video.

She felt disgusted seeing the video, making her feel nauseous and almost throw up. She tried to control her heavy breathing while leaning against the elevator wall. Her legs felt too weak to support her.

Ding!

When the elevator opened, Bella couldn't bring herself to step out.

"Ms. Donovan, are you alright?" Bryan panicked when he saw Bella struggling to walk. Her face looked colorless like she had just experienced an intense shock.

Bryan walked inside and stood before her with his back facing her.

"Apologies, ma'am. If you don't mind, you can hold onto my shoulder," he offered help. When he didn't hear her respond, he glanced over his shoulder and continued, "Do you want me to call Mr. Sinclair?"

Bella flinched upon hearing her husband's name.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 274: Shocking Video

Bella flinched upon hearing her husband's name.

She immediately shook her head.

"No! Thank you, Bryan. I can walk by myself..." She took a deep sigh before starting to walk.

When Bella arrived at the car, she could see Tristan's worried expression.

She tried to avoid his curious gaze as she greeted the driver and Dylan, who sat in front before staring back at Tristan again.

"Sorry to keep you waiting..." Bella said, flashing him a loving smile, but his expression remained unchanged; he looked worried. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

Not hearing an answer from him, Bella looked away out the window. She tried to calm the shock that still bothered her after watching her father's indecent video. But a few seconds later, Tristan's voice made her look back at him.

"Did something happen there?" Tristan finally asked as he raised his hand to stroke her pale cheek. He could clearly see her expression, which looked different from usual. There was no joy there.

"Nothing happened. Why did you—" Bella trailed off, shocked, seeing Tristan's head getting closer to her. She thought he wanted to kiss her but stopped just inches from her face. She blinked, waiting for him to do anything.

"My pretty wife, I can clearly see you look like you've just seen a ghost..." Tristan smiled while rubbing her nose. "Tell me, what happened?"

Bella let out a deep sigh. Instead of rushing to answer him, she pressed the button to raise the divider. She couldn't discuss her father's matter when Dylan and the driver could hear them.

After the divider entirely covered them, she turned to Tristan. "Are you sure you want to know?"

Tristan was even more confused hearing her question, yet he nodded. "Yes. Of course..."

She took her cell phone out of her bag and turned off the volume before handing it to Tristan.

"You can see for yourself..." Bella said, turning her gaze outside the car. She felt embarrassed as Tristan watched her father's sex video with a young woman.

Bella still couldn't fathom how her father could do such a humiliating thing. Since leaving the elevator, her mind hadn't stopped racing to think about it.

Countless questions tormented her, seeking an answer.

Why did father do this?

Why did her father betray her mother, who loved him so much and was even willing to put up with his violent temper?

Does Mother know about this scandal!?

If Mother knew, why would she still stay with him?

How many women does Father have out there?

These questions kept swirling in her mind, making her head hurt. She also began to feel a burning anger in her heart. She was very angry with her father's shamelessness.

Another deep sigh escaped her lips as she tried to calm herself.

However, not long after, she hears Tristan calling her.

"My dear wife, Bella..." Tristan's voice was soft and close.

She saw his deep ocean-blue eyes staring back at her, which made her anger toward her father slowly fade.

A faint smile appeared on Bella's lips before she asked, "Have you seen it?"

Tristan awkwardly nodded. After watching the video, he didn't know what to say or how to react. He was just as shocked as Bella to see his father-in-law having sex with a young woman.

"You recognized the man, right?" Bella asked.

Of course, he knew. In just a few seconds, he immediately recognized Lucas Donovan, his father-in-law whom he had only met twice since marrying Bella.

"Hmm, I know," Tristan answered calmly as he cupped her hand over her thigh. The feeling that his wife's hands were icy made him worry.

Sigh deeply, he said, "My Dear, I don't know what to say about the video. But if you need my help, please just tell me. I will help you..."

Bella couldn't help but smile at Tristan.

Like him, she didn't know what to do about her father.

Only one thing was clear: she must call her mother. For the last few days, she had consistently failed to do so because she didn't know what to talk about, but now, there was a strong reason for her to reach out.

"It's fine, Hubby. As for my father, I don't have any plans to do anything right now..." Bella finally responded to Tristan's words.

"Okay..." said Tristan before asking about her steps in bringing down the Donovan Group. He had read the news circulating out there and could see the direction of her plan, but he needed to hear it from her. Also, it would divert her worries about her father's case.

Instantly, Bella's eyes lit up when she talked about those matters. She didn't hide anything from Tristan; she explained the situation at the company and how the police might investigate her two uncles.

"I was worried that my father was involved in the bribery case. But my own investigation clears him from any involvement..." Bella ended her explanation with a wry smile.

Tristan's eyebrow slightly raised when he heard that, "Huh!? Why don't you want your father involved? I thought you hated him so much?"

"I do hate him. But I'm not worried because I feel sorry for him... I'm worried that news about him will affect you, especially if our relationship becomes public knowledge," Bella explained.

That's the only thing that worries her. Her family problems will impact Tristan's company, Sinclair Group, and their shares will plummet, just like the Donovan Group.

"Hahaha..." Tristan's laughter echoed in the car, causing Bella to frown at the sight. "Oh dear, don't worry about that. Even if the news comes out later, it won't make my company suffer like the Donovan Group," he said while ruffling her hair lovingly.

"Really? Are you sure your company will be fine?"

"Hmm, only part of our company has gone public. Our main company will never go public. So, don't worry. This kind of thing will not bother me."

"I see..." Bella finally felt relieved.

They continued chatting seriously, and not long after, their car stopped in front of their residence.

Bella feels worried because she didn't see Dax, who usually waited for them in front of the house but was not there today.

She rushed to enter the house, but her steps stopped when she saw a familiar face in the living room talking with her son and Grandpa.

"A-Aunty Emma?"

Chapter 275: Talk With Aunt Emma (1)

"A-Aunty Emma?" Bella muttered under her breath as she grabbed Tristan's arm, too shocked to see her aunt in their house.

Worried that Aunty Emma was not the only one who had come, she looked around to check but didn't see anyone else—only Grandpa Sinclair and Aunty Noora were in the room.

Feeling relieved that her uncles and father were not there, Bella looked at Tristan, who seemed calm beside her. She narrowed her eyes, suspecting he knew about Aunt Emma's arrival, but hid it from her.

"Did you know about this?" she asked him barely audibly; only he could hear her.

Tristan lowered his gaze, looked at her, and shook his head. "No. Like you, I'm also shocked to see your aunty here..." He whispers.

She doubted it because his expression remained calm, and she saw no surprise in his eyes.

"Hubby, did my aunty come with anyone?"

"No. She's come alone—" Tristan pressed his lips tightly, realizing he had answered wrongly. Damn!

Bella, "..."

She knew it. This man must have known about Aunt Emma's arrival. Bella presumed he would know it nonetheless. His loyal butler, Geoffrey, would call him if something significant happened at the house, right?

Bella silently took a deep sigh, narrowing her eyes at him.

When she saw his eyes flutter with his deadpan expression, she said, "Mr. Sinclair... It seems you want to sleep on the couch. Fine! Even though I feel lonely sleeping alone, I will grant you that for a week!" She smiled miserably while patting his shoulder.

"Wh-What..."

Bella was amused when she saw his calm expression fade and turn into panic mode. Holding back her laughter, she released his arm and walked toward the seating area, trying to calm her emotions, looking at her aunty.

'Huh!? What happened? Did I make the wrong move?' Tristan silently scolded himself for not telling her earlier. He thought she would be happy with this surprise.

Tristan followed her, trying to come up with a plan to coax his wife. How could he return to the couch? No way!

...

Dax jumped from his seat when he saw his mother and father appear in the living room.

“Mommy...” Dax shouted, running toward them. He stopped right before his mother and held her hand before greeting his father. “Daddy!”

“My baby Dax...” Bella ruffled his hair before leaning down to kiss his chubby red cheek. “Did you have fun today?” she asked, looking into his bright blue eyes.

Dax nodded.

Excitedly, he said, “Mommy, look... Look... There’s Grandaunt Emma. She just arrived with Grandpa to meet us. Come, Mom and Dad, let’s greet Grandaunt.”

His excited voice made Bella’s chest feel heavy as if a barbell were placed inside her, and her breath grew short.

When they last met in the hospital, Bella didn’t have time to talk to her Aunt Emma. But she still clearly remembered her aunt scolding her uncles and even her father when they all blamed her for divorcing Tristan and running away.

Bella turned her gaze to her aunt. However, when she saw Aunt Emma already standing with teary eyes looking at her, Bella instantly felt like someone had just cut an onion in front of her eyes.

Struggling to hide her teary eyes, Bella turned her gaze away from Aunt Emma and looked at Tristan beside her. She leaned closer to him and whispered to take their son away from the living room; she needed to talk to her aunt first.

Tristan smiled at her and bent down, picking Dax up and carrying him in his arms.

He whispered to her, “Go talk to your aunty. I will bring Dax and Grandpa upstairs...”

“Thanks...”

Tristan nodded, then walked toward Aunt Emma. He greeted her briefly before walking out of the living room, gesturing for his Grandpa to follow them.

Dax tightened his arms around his father’s neck while looking at his mother and Grandaunt Emma, who were crying and hugging each other. He didn’t understand why he was being taken out of the room even though he still wanted to chat with all of them.

Once he could no longer see them, Dax looked at his father, who was still holding him firmly. “Daddy, why are Mommy and Grandaunt crying? Are they fighting?”

Dax’s innocent question took aback Tristan and Lewis Sinclair.

“Of course not, buddy...” Tristan smiled at his son while continuing to walk to the second floor. “Mommy cried because she was so happy to finally meet your Grandaunt finally... The same with your Grandaunt; she is also happy.”

...

Several minutes passed, but none of them in the family room started to speak. The only sound that could be heard was Bella and Emma’s soft sobs.

Isaac sat in his chair, looking pensive. His eyes were fixed on his daughter and granddaughter. He wanted to speak several times but held back to let them express their sadness.

Since arriving in this city, Emma had been in shock. Her suspicions about Bella and Tristan were finally confirmed when her father admitted they were still married and living together.

Emma was even more shocked to learn that Bella and Tristan had a son.

It was hard for her to believe until her father took her to this house to meet Dax in person. Looking at Dax’s eyes, she was speechless because they were the same color as his father’s, Tristan.

Even then, Emma still didn’t fully believe it. She would only believe it if she saw Bella and Tristan with her own eyes.

When Emma suddenly saw Bella and Tristan coming together, her tears couldn’t be stopped. She was happy because her niece was still Tristan Sinclair’s wife. She had never imagined this since she had thought they had divorced five years ago.

No wonder Tristan Sinclair dropped a massive financial bomb on the Dawson Group—that old geezer Bradley Caville tried to steal his wife. Gosh!

Emma felt joy and wanted to laugh before Bradley and her foolish brothers.

She wondered if her brothers knew about this secret; they would definitely become heart attack patients in the hospital. Especially her foolish brother, Lucas!

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 276: Talk With Aunt Emma (2)

Bella couldn’t hold back tears when she saw her Aunt, who was always strong, sobbing like a child.

However, she couldn’t find the words to say to her, as if all the sentences she strung together in her mind were stuck there.

She opened her mouth a few times to speak, but her words could not leave her lips.

Feeling helpless, Bella turned her teary eyes to her Grandfather. She was slightly surprised to see him also staring back at her with mixed emotions, causing Bella to frown.

Before Bella could ask him anything, Isaac Donovan cleared his throat and said, "Bella, I'm sorry I let your aunt come here." His voice quivered. "Your aunt is facing some difficulties in East City, so I asked her to visit me here to calm herself."

Isaac Donovan worried that Bella would blame him because he could not keep his word to keep a secret from their other family members. Despite his agreement with Bella to hide this, he also wanted to share this happy moment, especially with his own daughter, Emma.

He continued, "I'm really sorry to make you cry, my dear granddaughter. You can scold Grandpa, but please don't vent your anger on your Aunt."

Bella silently sighed, looking at her Grandpa, who seemed to blame himself.

"Grandpa, I'm not mad at you...and how could I—" Bella began, but before she could finish, Emma chimed in.

"Oh...Bella, please don't be mad at your Grandpa," Emma worried about coming to Bella's house without permission. She was too excited to know her niece had a son, so she forced her father to bring her here.

Bella, "..."

'Aunty, can you let me finish my words?' Bella silently chuckled inwardly, amused at her Aunt, panicked in the middle of her tears.

"Be-Bella..." Emma continued while wiping the tears from her cheeks. "I actually guessed about you and Tristan after what happened in East City," she explained in her hoarse voice.

Hearing her Aunt's words surprised Bella. How could Aunt Emma have guessed it so right!? She wiped away the remaining traces of tears that rolled down her cheeks, trying to adjust her emotions and speak with her Aunt.

But once more, she paused when her Grandpa said, "Granddaughter, your Aunt found out by herself. But I'm the one who told her about you and Dax."

"Grandfather, I understand," a faint smile appeared at the corner of her lips before Bella turned her head again to look at her Aunt Emma.

Something caught Bella's attention, and she needed to clarify things with her Aunt. "Aunty, you have sharp senses. How did you guess it?"

Emma, who had stopped crying, moved beside Bella and held her hand. With a happy and enthusiastic gaze, she explained what was happening at the Donovan Group, the news on the internet, and the buzz shaking the company.

Later, after she told Bella all of that, her laughter suddenly echoed in the room.

"Ha Ha Ha... Oh, Bella... Please don't blame me for feeling so happy looking at your uncles' and father's suffering with what happens in the company. I think this is their karma for blaming you for the company's bankruptcy..."

She continued to tell Bella more about how panicked her brothers were now in East City. And how the shareholders started to complain to them.

However, Bella no longer hears her Aunty's words. She was confused to realize something. She raised her eyebrow slightly and glanced at her Grandfather as if asking, "Haven't you explained that I caused trouble in the company?"

Isaac Donovan only smiled while shrugging his shoulders when he saw Bella's questioning gaze.

"But, Bella, what made me suspicious was when that old man Bradley Caville had the same problem with our company. I became suspicious that someone was attacking him. And only one person could do that, Tristan Sinclair," Emma stopped momentarily to catch her breath. "And because I was suspicious, I immediately contacted your grandfather to confirm my suspicions."

Bella was surprised to hear that. Is Sinclair attacking the Dawson Group today? She wanted to ask but held back to let her Aunt finish her words.

Emma smiled and said, "We guess Sinclair has asked all suppliers not to sell their goods to the Dawson Group. When I flew here this noon, I read the news: several Dawson shops are starting to experience a shortage of goods. Maybe their stock will run out in a few days, and all their shops across this country will shut down."

"Wait, Aunty..." Bella said, stopping her Aunt. She could no longer hold herself back from confirming her guess about Tristan's move to teach the Dawson Group a lesson. "So, you said Dawson is starting to experience a shortage of supplies from suppliers starting today?"

Bella hadn't heard about Tristan's actions. Since this morning, she has been too busy thinking about the Donovan Group and doesn't care about others. She didn't know that Tristan had attacked Dawson simultaneously as she attacked Donovan Group.

“Yes, I heard from your first uncle, Jacob,” Emma smiled happily before continuing, “He called Bradley this afternoon for help, and the old man said something like that. Ugh, that old geezer might close his company within a few days. And, you know what?”

“What is it, Aunty?”

“Well, the latest news I heard is that Bradley called Jacob. He wants his investment money returned; he doesn’t want to continue their cooperation with our company...” Emma chuckled when she saw Bella roll her eyes.

“What a stupid and greedy man he is! We’re lucky we could break off from him,” Isaac, who had been silent, finally spoke. “And he thinks it’s easy to withdraw investment money? Idiot. By the way, Emma, did you know anything about the agreement letter?”

“No. I don’t know, Dad. But I can ask our legal team to look for it and send us a copy once they find it. If they can find it and you still want to see it...” Emma answered vaguely.

“No need, Aunty. I have their letter of agreement.” Bella firmly but casually said, shocking both Emma and Isaac. They both looked at Bella in surprise.

“You’ve seen it? How did you get it?”

“Yes, yes! How can you get the paper, Bella? I’m the company CFO, and I have never even seen the agreement letter.”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 277: Talk With Aunt Emma (3)

Instantly, Bella froze upon hearing the question.

Bella silently scolded herself for being too casual about a matter her grandfather and aunt were deeply concerned about.

She mentioned having a business agreement between Donovan and Dawson Group, implying she had an insider or was breaking the company’s secret through a powerful hacker. But she didn’t reveal anything about her exact method.

Hopefully, they wouldn’t guess she had a hacker. Otherwise, she would be in trouble explaining Stefan’s existence to them.

Just before Bella wanted to respond, Isaac Donovan chuckled slightly, stopping her to speak.

Isaac narrowed as he leaned in, his voice filled with suspicion. "You must have a formidable hacker, right?" he asked, his gaze fixed on Bella. Seeing her avoid his gaze, he couldn't help but smile. "Ah, that must be it. You must've asked Max to hack the Donovan Group, right?"

Bella was speechless; she looked at him while chuckling inwardly. Gosh! How could he know about that?

"Grandpa, since when did you know Max was a hacker?" Bella asked.

"Oh, I know about that, alright. Because my brilliant great-grandson Dax never holds any secret from me." Isaac Donovan casually said, but Bella instantly felt her throat dry.

How could Dax know about it? Did Max tell Dax about his daily job?

Bella was sure that Tristan and she had never told their son about Max's identity. So far, they had only said that Max was a computer expert who led the IT department at his father's office.

Before Bella could say something, Isaac spoke again, "You know what? This is why I strongly encourage Dax to learn from Max. I hope that in the future, my little Dax will become the number one hacker in this country!"

Bella almost fell out of her chair when she heard that.

'Geez, Grandpa's idea is really random. Why does he suddenly want Dax to be a hacker?' She silently took a deep sigh, hearing her Grandfather's words.

"Oh, my god... So, little Dax already knows how to operate a computer?" Emma was shocked when she heard her father and Bella talking about her grandson, who was now learning computers to become a hacker.

"Yes, of course..." Isaac proudly smiled. "He will become a great hacker in the future; he is an extremely smart boy. Heck, he is a super genius boy!"

Emma gasped in shock. "Wah...Wah... No wonder I feel like speaking to an adult when I speak to Dax."

"Ha ha ha... You will be surprised to see how genius our little Dax is!"

Bella, "..."

Hearing her grandpa and aunt talk about Dax's future instantly made her dizzy. Or was she so hungry because it was now dinner time, and they had not yet finished talking? She could no longer tell the difference.

Sighing profoundly and gazing at her grandpa, she said, "Grandpa, I'm glad you think Max is a genius hacker, but I didn't get it from Max. Other resources at my disposal were used to gain the info. My apology because I can't share with you who or what the resource is."

"Really? Are you being frank here with me?" Isaac doubted her words and still suspected she had asked Max to do it.

However, Bella ignored his doubtful expression and continued, "And Grandpa, I will not force my son to become a hacker. In fact, I don't really plan too much about my boy's future. Just the usual plan like any other parents have for their kid. As long as he is happy, that would be enough for me. But I will support whatever he wants to do in the future..."

Even though Bella knew her son, Dax, had the profound natural gift to become a computer expert, she would not direct him to master just one field. So, no. She was not forcing her son to become a hacker.

"Hahaha, I know, my dear Bella. I'm just saying that because my little Dax loves learning everything about computers. I believe he will beat his teacher, Max!" Isaac Donovan's proud smile slowly appeared again.

Bella was utterly speechless.

Talking to her grandfather about this matter would prolong the conversation. She needed to divert the conversation, and suddenly, she felt her stomach growl.

She glanced at her watch to check the time for dinner.

Just in time, Geoffrey came in and rescued her. He invited them all to dinner.

...

After a delicious dinner, where everyone enjoys the food too much to continue their previous conversation, Isaac Donovan heads back to his house.

At the same time, Lewis Sinclair takes some well-deserved rest in his room. Tristan and Dax have already made their way back upstairs.

Bella continues to talk with Aunty Emma in the living room.

They have so many things to discuss, especially the Donovan Group matters.

Bella doesn't hide anything from her Aunt Emma. She tells her about the bribery news on the internet. And, because of the news, the share price of the Donovan Group has fallen to its lowest ever. She also caused discord among the shareholders. It's all her orchestration.

This information shocks Emma completely. She didn't think her niece could do that. When she finds out Bella is still married to Tristan, she thinks Tristan has helped her get revenge on all her brothers, but she guessed wrongly.

"Bella, did you do it because you knew the Dawson Group owner wanted to marry you?" Emma asks. She believes Bella already knows about the marriage arrangement, so she is mad.

When Emma finds out about it, she is just as mad as Bella. She strongly opposes the idea, but her brothers, Jacob and Thomas, support it, using the company as an excuse. Because of that, she can't do anything to cancel the marriage arrangement.

Bella took a deep breath before answering, "No, Auntie... Initially, I didn't plan to use this harsh method to take revenge on my uncle and father for what they did to me. But, when they sent a gangster to kidnap me, I decided to do this."

"Oh my god!" Emma's hand trembled as she covered her gasp, too shocked to hear her brothers sent a gangster after Bella. "What were they thinking? How could they do that to you? Waaah... I will make sure to scold them all later!"

Emma's face turned red with anger. If she were in East City, she would rush to meet them all, give them a hard slap, and scold them.

"B-Bella, are you okay? Did the gangster hurt you?" Emma looked at Bella worriedly, holding back her anger towards her brothers.

"I'm fine, Auntie... I'm fine," Bella patted Emma's hand gently. "The gangsters didn't have a chance to harm me. My husband assigned someone to guard me, so everything was alright."

Bella wasn't entirely honest because she didn't want her family to know she had martial arts abilities.

"Thank God," Emma muttered, smiling. Her anger slowly faded, but she was still upset with her brothers. She would teach them a lesson at every opportunity.

"Auntie, my uncles and father were not the masterminds. They are not the ones who sent the gangster. It's a vile act of...Bradley Caville..."

"WHAT!?" Emma was shocked.

Chapter 278: The Shameless Mr. Sinclair!

“WHAT!?” Emma was shocked. “Are you sure about it?”

Emma was furious when she heard that. How dare that old geezer, Bradley Caville, use violence just to marry her niece? How shameless.

“Yes, Auntie. That’s why my husband attacked the Dawson Group...” Bella explained with a smile.

“I knew it! It must be Tristan who battered the Dawson Group. Only his company could do that,” Emma couldn’t help but laugh happily. “I’m so happy, pleased to know that the old man finally gets his rewards!”

“Well, my husband wanted to teach my uncles a lesson, too, but I decided to stop him from punishing my shameless family. I won’t let him stain his hands...”

“True... True...”

Bella continued to tell Emma her entire plan for the Donovan Group. She planned to drive down their share price, take over the shares, and seize control of the company. After that, she intended to dismiss her uncles and father from the company and appoint a professional to lead it.

Emma was shocked to hear that, but her shock was soon replaced with loud laughter.

“Ha ha ha...” Emma’s loud laughter echoed in the room, surprising Bella. “Hahaha... Oh, Bella, you are so brilliant. You made a great plan. All my brothers deserve that.”

Emma continued, “They are a bunch of stupid men who don’t know how to work. If your grandpa did not own the Donovan Group, they would have been fired by the company owner since the day they entered the company.”

Bella couldn’t help but laugh, too, hearing her aunt curse her brothers.

They continued talking about many things, from work to family, causing them to forget about time.

Later,

Bella gazed out of the window. The night grew darker, with no moonlight and only a few stars in the sky.

When Bella looked at her watch, she was surprised to find it was almost ten o’clock. No wonder she started to feel her entire body exhausted.

Bella turned to see her aunt. She could see how tired she was, too.

“Auntie, we should end our chat now. It’s almost ten o’clock.”

Bella smiled when she saw her gasp in surprise, checking her watch. “Auntie, let’s meet tomorrow morning; I’ll come to Grandpa’s house for breakfast with you.”

“You’re right, Bella,” said Emma as she stood up before continuing, “I was too happy to meet you and didn’t realize we talked for so long. Alright, you need to sleep.”

“Hmm, Auntie, you too...”

“Don’t make Tristan angry with me because I kept you here for too long. Go sleep now; there’s no need to send me out,” Emma said, gently patting Bella’s shoulder.

Bella suddenly blushed when she heard her aunt teasing her. She said nothing but insisted on walking her to the main door. She also asks Noora to walk her aunty to Grandpa’s house.

After she saw her aunt walk with Noora to her grandpa’s house, she immediately entered the house and rushed to the second floor.

When Bella returned to her bedroom, the room was dim, with only a tiny yellow lamplight in the corner. However, she could still see something that made her heart flutter.

Smiling, she walked towards the bed and stood at the end of the bed for a while, looking at the two men she loved most sleeping soundly.

Her husband was sleeping while hugging their son, Dax. They both looked cute in the matching pajamas she bought a few days ago.

After a few more minutes, Bella decided not to wake them. She didn’t have the heart to ask her son to move to his bedroom, so she would let him sleep with them tonight.

Bella rushed to the bathroom to clean herself. She canceled the idea of soaking in warm water. Somehow, she felt tired and just needed to lie in bed and sleep.

When Bella entered the walk-in closet to choose her pajamas, her eyes fell on the handwritten notes on the table in the middle of the room.

[Dear, please wear this matching pajama. And, for tonight, let our son sleep with us. Love you so much!]

Her smile widened when she saw her pajamas—the same color as Tristan and Dax’s—cute bunny-print pajamas.

After putting on her pajamas, Bella immediately joined her son and Tristan in bed. She slept next to Tristan, who was in the middle.

Bella didn’t immediately close her eyes but stared at the ceiling above. Her mind began to think back to what happened that day.

Many things had happened today, and although her mind and soul were tired, she also felt happy.

The Donovan Group issues were enough to distract her from her complicated meeting with Amanda Spencer. She was so happy with the progress they achieved today in her plan to punish her uncle and father.

But again, her emotions stirred when she knew her aunt had suddenly visited them. She didn’t expect another member of her family to learn about her relationship with Tristan this fast.

Her initial plan was to tell her mother after she took over the Donovan Group.

However, she has to change her plan again. Now, it looks like she needs to meet her mother sooner or at least help her mother escape from her cruel husband.

Bella felt so worried about her mother now, especially after hearing from her Aunt Emma how miserable her mother’s condition was.

Sigh!

...

Afraid that her movement would wake Tristan and Dax, Bella tilted her body slowly, facing Tristan’s broad back. Gently, she placed her hand on his waist and rested her head on his back, trying to sleep.

But,

A few moments later, Bella’s eyes opened again when she remembered something.

‘Gosh! How could I forget? I already punished him for not sleeping on the bed...’

A faint smile crossed her lips as she realized Tristan’s trick.

‘Mr. Sinclair, you’re cunningly good at finding a way to sleep in our bed, huh!?’

Bella vented her mixed feelings, between gladness and sarcasm in her mind while laughing in her heart. How dare he use their child as an excuse to sleep in bed?

How shameless!

Chapter 279: She Knows
Next Morning.

Bella's eyelashes fluttered as she felt a movement beside her. She opened her eyes, but the bright light blinded her, so she closed them again.

After adjusting her eyes, she met Tristan's bright but calm gaze staring back at her. His face was so close to hers.

She was taken aback and blinked a few times to adjust her view, feeding her eyes with his handsomeness.

"Good morning, my sexy wife..."

Tristan's alluring voice was enough to drive her mind to do crazy, sexy things with him, like throwing herself into his arms and kissing his sexy and warm lips.

However, she buried her desire as fast as she breathed, worried she would awaken his little brother down there. It would be troublesome if their son, who now slept with them, saw them intimate in the morning.

Sigh deeply, Bella hid her face under the blanket, too shy to see Tristan staring at her like he was about to eat her.

"My darling wife, why are you still shy!? This isn't my first time seeing your beautiful morning face..." Tristan said.

Bella, "..."

She didn't dare to move under the blanket. She didn't even dare to speak.

But it didn't take long; Tristan pulled the blanket over her head and revealed her flushed face. She looked so damn pretty, causing him to want just to keep her in this room, not willing other people to see how pretty she is.

When Bella saw his face lean in, his eyes burning with passion, she instantly hid her face against his firm chest.

"Oh, please... stop teasing me, Tristan! Or our son will wake up," she said barely audibly, afraid Dax would hear.

A soft chuckle escaped Tristan's lips, causing Bella to frown slightly and look up to see his face.

"My wife," Tristan's hand landed on her waist as he pulled her closer. Noticing her glare, he reassured her, "Don't worry, our son has already moved to his bedroom. No need to be shy..." He said and kissed her forehead gently.

"Since when? Why didn't I notice?" Bella said, trying to get up to check the other side of the bed where their son slept last night. Seeing the spot empty, she turned to Tristan with a frown.

"Did I wake up late..." Bella trailed off when she saw that it was only five-thirty—too early for their son to be awake. "Huh? Why is he up so early? Does he have another morning class with Geoffrey?"

Tristan didn't answer her. Instead, he pulled her back into his arms, where she fit perfectly. A happy smile slowly emerged on his lips as he placed his arms around her.

He whispered near her ear, "Darling, sleep again. We still have plenty of time..."

Bella looked up to see his face. Ignoring his sultry gaze, she asked, "He moved alone? I mean... Did you wake him up to move out?"

"No...No... of course not. He woke me up and said he didn't want Noora or anyone to know he slept with us. So he woke up early and moved to his bed."

Bella narrowed her eyes as if to say, "Seriously?" with her gaze. She doubts his words.

Before she could say anything, Tristan continued his words.

"You know what, dear..." Tristan said while playing with her smooth, ink-black hair. "Our son also said he wanted to buy us some time so we could give him a little sister..."

Tristan buried his head on her shoulder and started to kiss her smooth neck.

Bella was rendered speechless. She pushed him lightly away from her neck.

When Bella saw his protest through his gaze, she pinched his dainty nose. "Did you force Dax to sleep with us?"

Tristan slightly frowned as he said, "Why would I need to do that? Of course not. Our little son was so excited to sleep with us..."

Bella, "..."

“My dearest Mr. Sinclair, don’t try to trick me. I know by making Dax sleep here, I couldn’t refuse you to sleep here too,” Bella said, trying to hold back her laughter when she saw Tristan’s face suddenly stiffen.

‘Lord! Can she read my mind now? How did she know!?’ Tristan could only vent his sarcasm in his mind as Bella caught him. He did make a deal with Dax to help him sleep in bed.

Tristan opened his mouth, but no words came out. He could only smile at her.

“Silence means YES, Mr. Sinclair...” Bella said.

Tristan, “...”

“Alright, stop talking and moving, or you’ll awaken my little brother down there,” Tristan said, trying to divert the conversation. He pulled her closer, resting her chin on her head. “Let’s sleep a few more minutes, huh?”

Bella didn’t say a word; she could only smile while following him to sleep. And didn’t dare to move at all.

Unfortunately, her sleepiness had faded after the light and warm talk with Tristan. Now, her mind couldn’t stop thinking, especially about her mother.

“Your mother remained in her marriage because your father threatened her. I don’t know what sort of threats and blackmail he made that caused your mother to stay by his side for so long...” Her Aunt Emma’s words continued to fill her mind, causing her head to hurt.

Bella really wanted to call her mother right now, but she was also afraid of calling at the wrong time when her father was around.

It looked like Bella needed to find the right time to call her mother, and for that, she required Stefan to monitor her father and her good-for-nothing brother, Henry. Or should she fly there and meet her mother in person?

Sighing deeply, Bella tried to rest her mind again, putting aside those matters while pressing her body into Tristan and closing her eyes.

But not long after, Bella heard Tristan’s voice.

“I could see something troubling your mind. Did something concerning happen last night? ”

She sighed deeply before responding to him, “Am I looking that obvious? Hmm, yeah. Something is bothering me. I feel like I need to talk to my mother. You already know how terribly my father threatened my mother, right?”

“Hmm, yeah. I remember...” Tristan loosened his arms and tilted his head to see her face. “You want to tell her the truth about your father?”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 280: Tristan Won't Allow

“Hmm, I know...” Tristan loosened his arms and tilted his head to see her face. “You want to tell her about your father?”

Bella shook her head slowly.

“Not because of that, but there’s something I’m curious about...” After thinking for a few more seconds, she finally told Tristan what her aunt had said last night.

Bella was in a dilemma because her impromptu plan was to visit East City. She knew Tristan would be worried about the idea, especially after what happened a few days ago when Bradley Caville and her uncle sent gangsters to attack her.

“I’m sorry to hear that, dear. Would you like to fly there and meet your mother in person?” Tristan asks, concerned.

Bella was stunned to hear Tristan’s words. How could he know what she was thinking?

“How do you know I want to fly there?” She slightly raises her eyebrows while smiling.

Tristan didn’t rush to answer her, instead gently rubbing her alluring cherry lips. However, when he felt the urge to kiss them, he withdrew his finger and sighed deeply.

“It’s all over your face, darling. I could clearly see it...” He lifted his lips teasingly.

Sighing deeply, Bella nodded, confirming his guess. She preferred to talk to her mother in person rather than over the phone.

But it’s likely impossible for her to fly there. She has so much to do and knows that Tristan won’t let her go.

“I do want to fly there, but I believe you will not allow me—” Bella couldn’t continue her words as Tristan’s index finger landed on her lips, as a sweet gesture to ask her to stop talking.

“My wife, I will arrange the plane; you just need to tell me when you want to fly there.”

“Seriously, you’re letting me fly there?” Bella was surprised by his generous reply. She had thought he would stop her from flying to East City.

“Of course, darling. It’s no big deal. Besides, I will fly there to accompany you, and we can return the same day. And I promise I won’t interfere in your ordeal with your family unless you ask. I’m just there to cheer you up.”

Bella gasped even more. “Hu-Hubby, you want to accompany me there and promise not to interfere in any way?”

“Of course. It’s your personal issue but also it was my duty to accompany my wife. To lift her up when she’s down, to cheer her up when she’s sad. And I also need to fly there to meet my mother-in-law.”

Tristan realizes now that this is what he should’ve done in the past.

In the past, he hadn’t put much effort into his marriage with Bella because he married her just because of his Grandpa’s arrangement.

Tristan only remembers meeting his mother-in-law twice. During those meetings, he was unsure if he had spoken to her. Now that he has reunited with Bella, everything is different from the past, and he needs to get to know her family, especially her mother.

Bella couldn’t say anything. She was pleased to hear Tristan’s sincerity now in saying he needed to see her mother. She could only hug him tightly, feeling blissful.

They spent the entire morning cuddling and discussing Bella’s plan to fly to East City.

However, Bella soon remembered Tristan’s meeting with his parents. She wondered if it hadn’t gone well because, since yesterday, he seemed to be avoiding talking about it.

Even though she was worried about the answer, Bella dared to ask to satisfy her curiosity. Without lifting her head, she asked, “Hubby, how was your meeting with your parents yesterday?”

There was silence for a moment before Tristan responded.

“Everything was normal, except my mother fainted when she found out I never actually divorced you. That we are still husband and wife all this time,” he casually said.

Bella was shocked to hear that. She immediately pulled away from Tristan to see his face more clearly.

Seeing his calm expression as if his mother’s fainting was nothing to worry about, Bella became confused.

Countless questions danced in her mind about her mother-in-law, Jessica Sinclair. Her odd mother-in-law hated her even though she always tried to act normal around her and avoid offending her.

At first, she didn't want to ask further, but her curiosity won. After taking a deep breath, Bella finally asked.

"Did your mother hate me so much that she fainted when she found out we were together again?"

Bella tried to ask in a casual tone. Still, the wry smile slowly appearing at the corner of her lips betrayed her, making Tristan's relaxed expression turn worried.

Tristan could see the worry and sadness flash through her eyes. He immediately said, "Darling, certainly not," while stroking her cheek to make her feel better. "My mother was just surprised to hear we were still together," he continued.

Bella didn't know how to react to his answer. She could only return his smile, even though her smile didn't reach her eyes.

Somehow, Bella couldn't shake off the feeling that Jessica must be shocked and angry to know she had returned to Tristan.

Before Bella accepted Tristan back, she had already thought about the oddity of Jessica Sinclair. That woman would hate her even though she had given birth to the Sinclair family's successor.

Until now, she had been confused about why Jessica hated her so much, even though all of Jessica's secrets were still safe with her. She had already told that woman clearly about it. She promised never to tell anyone, but that woman never believed her.

Sigh!

'Should I expose her dark past and send her to her grave in anger? If that's what she wants... I don't mind sharing it with the world.'

...

"Wife, actually..." Tristan's voice sounded heavy and hesitant, bringing Bella's attention back to him. When their eyes met, he continued. "My parents want to see you..."

Bella's eyes flashed with shock. She looked at Tristan silently, unsure how to answer or react to his words.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 281: She Refuses!

Bella's eyes flashed with shock. She looked at Tristan silently, unsure how to answer or react to his words.

Tristan already guessed Bella must be shocked. Just now, he only wanted to test her because she had always tried to hide her feelings about his parents, and that's why he didn't say only his father wanted to meet her.

"...I mean, when my father asked to meet you, I immediately said that you would definitely refuse to meet him. But my father didn't give up easily. He begged me repeatedly. So, would you spare him your time if he were the only one to meet you?" Tristan hurriedly explained after he saw her seem shaken by his words.

"Your father begged you to meet me?" Bella was taken aback. It was hard for her to believe that her arrogant father-in-law wanted to meet her so badly and apologize directly to her.

When she was still under the same roof as Tristan's wife, Bella rarely saw her father-in-law, William Sinclair. Still, she always heard a lot of gossip about him from Noora. She remembered Noora told her that William Sinclair always spoiled his wife, Jessica.

Whatever and whenever Jessica asked for something, William would fulfill it. Bella believed William hated and treated her rudely because Jessica had asked him to.

Sometimes, when she sees William as Jessica's obedient dog, she feels sorry for him. If only William knew what his wife had done, he might have thrown the manipulative woman in the trash bin.

Silently, Bella sighed deeply, remembering those past hard times.

...

Tristan felt terrible when he saw Bella not saying anything, and her eyes looked sad. From her expression, he guessed she was in a dilemma about answering his question.

"Wife, I wouldn't force you to meet my father. You can think about it first and decide—"

"NO! I won't meet him." Bella firmly refused William Sinclair's request. Not because she didn't want to hear his apology but because it would be troublesome if Jessica knew she met William without her.

Jessica Sinclair would become suspicious of her again and do something evil behind her back, such as conspiring with other women to steal her husband. Hell, she can't imagine that!

Tristan was no longer surprised to hear Bella's reply. He smiled at her, indirectly praising her for making a good decision. He also didn't want his wife to meet his father, afraid she would be hurt again.

Bella's smile barely appeared on the corner of her lips before she apologized to him for the refusal, "I'm really sorry, hubby. I just can't meet him now. I'm not ready yet..."

"Do not say those words, dear. That's your choice, and I respect every decision you make. Don't feel bad about it."

"Thanks..." Her smile was no longer as stiff as before, and she could now feel relieved.

...

After a slow, intimate morning, they all rushed to Isaac's house for breakfast with Aunty Emma.

They arrived just in time when breakfast was ready.

As usual, Dax was busy eating while all the adults chatted.

Isaac and Lewis Sinclair, who happened to join them, discussed their fishing plans on the lake at noon.

Bella talked with Aunty Emma. While Tristan, who sat beside her, enjoyed his breakfast in silence.

"Aunty, when will you return to the East?" Bella was curious to know. If she planned to meet her mother without her father's and brother's knowledge, she would need Aunt Emma's help to lure her mother out of home.

"Well... at first, I only planned to stay here for a night, but after I found out about you and my grandson Daxton, I decided to stay longer. Why do you ask?"

Emma glanced at Bella while putting her cutlery in its place. She was already packed and had finished her breakfast.

Bella didn't explain her plan to fly to the East immediately because Dax and Lewis Sinclair were there. She only asked Emma to walk outside after their breakfast.

Soon, breakfast finished, and everyone started to continue their day.

Tristan had to go to his office without Bella because she still needed to talk to her Aunt and would visit the office afterward.

Walking in the garden, they enjoyed the nice weather behind the house, using it as an excuse to digest their breakfast.

They started talking about Emma and her family's life in East City. Emma told Bella that after her husband died long ago, she managed to raise her only son, Liam, who is now in his first year at a famous university in East City.

Bella was happy when she heard Aunty Emma talking about her son. Still, she felt sad because she had forgotten the last time she saw Aunty Emma's son.

Many things have happened in the past. Bella hasn't had a chance to meet her other cousin. She has spent most of her time in the capital and abroad.

She remembers that after she married Tristan, she only returned to the East a few times.

Soon,

They were sitting on the patio near the lake.

Bella started talking about her plans to fly to East City on Sunday, surprising Emma to hear it, and at the same time, she also worried about Bella's safety.

"Bella... what do you want to do by flying back there!?" Emma grabbed Bella's hand, warning her with worry, "You want to confront your father and uncles? No... no... please don't do that now. They will hurt you."

"Auntie, it is fine—"

Emma tightened her grip before she continued to convince Bella, "No, Bella. I can't let you go there alone. I will accompany you to fly there! You can't refuse me..."

Bella felt touched when her Aunt worried so much about her safety.

She tapped her hand gently while smiling at her before responding, "Auntie, I'm not visiting East City alone; Tristan will fly there, too. You don't have to worry that my father and uncle will do something bad to me."

Bella could understand her Aunt's worry because last night, she had already told her Aunt that her uncle had sent gangsters to arrest her.

"Thank God. It's fine if Tristan is with you," Emma was relieved to hear that. "...So you want to fly there to confront them for what they did to you!?"

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 282: Can't Endure This Torture Anymore!

"So you want to fly there to confront them for what they did to you!?"

Bella shook her head. "No. But I plan to meet my mother. I want to tell her about Tristan, me, and Dax."

Emma couldn't hide her happiness when she heard that. "Oh, Bella... I'm so happy you finally decided to meet your mother—" Her eyes slowly turned red.

With a trembling voice, Emma continued, "Did you know? Since last night, I wanted to call Natalie to tell her about you and Dax. But I could only keep my idea in my mind since I promised you not to tell anyone." She squeezed Bella's hand gently.

Bella smiled at hearing that.

"Ha ha ha..." Suddenly, Emma's laughter echoed. "Now I'm delighted you made the right decision, my dear Bella..."

Since joining the Sinclair family, Emma has been aware of Bella's strained relationship with her family. Things turned for the worse when she divorced Tristan without consulting them. However, it's a positive sign that she has decided to meet her mother. She feels so happy for her.

"But, Auntie, I need your help."

Emma was taken aback. This was the first time Bella had asked for help from her, and she was willing to do anything for her only niece.

"Bella, why do you suddenly need Auntie's help?" Emma asked. A thin line on her forehead couldn't hide her confusion.

"Auntie, I'm planning to fly to East City on Sunday. I don't want my father or brother, Henry, to know about my plans to meet my mother. If you could take my mother to a safe place for me to meet her, that would be a huge help for me..."

Instantly, Emma nods. She agrees with Bella's request.

"Sure... Sure... I can do that for you." Emma paused to think about the plan. She would have to fly back to East City tomorrow to contact Natalie and find a safe location for Bella to meet her mother.

After a few seconds, Emma continued, "I'll fly back tomorrow afternoon to meet your mother. Are there any special requirements you have?"

“No special requirements. But please, make sure no one knows about this arrangement, including my mother’s driver. Thank you, Auntie, for your help...”

“Of course, I know that. If your mother’s driver knew about your meeting, your father would know too because he is your father’s man,” Emma answered bitterly.

“Thank you...”

Bella felt relieved that her meeting with her mother would be safe. She was concerned about her mother’s safety. Because if her father knew they were meeting without him, he might torture her mother again.

It was still vivid in Bella’s mind that her father used to discipline them with his hand in the past. His abusive behavior was directed not only toward his children but also toward his wife. Such an evil man!

While Bella and Emma were discussing their plans, something terrible happened simultaneously in East City.

In a vast bedroom, Natalie Wright felt mentally and physically exhausted. She could no longer endure the suffering she had kept hidden in her heart.

What happened last night made her even more convinced that now was the right time to part with the sadistic man she once loved, Lucas Donovan. She was going to file for divorce—something she had avoided for so many years.

She no longer cared about Lucas’ warnings. Whatever that damn man wanted to do, she would let him!

Right now, Natalie just needed to move out of this hell. Because if she stayed any longer, she might die enduring this torture.

She deserved to be happy, even if the price was too high: cutting ties with her family—no, with her evil husband and her unfilial son, Henry Donovan.

As for her daughter, Bella? Natalie didn’t even know where Bella was now. Her only daughter seemed to be hiding from her.

She had tried calling Bella several times, but her calls never went through.

How could she survive in this house when even her only source of hope had abandoned her and blocked her number, too?

Heartbroken, Natalie felt that everything she held dear no longer had meaning. She had better leave them all behind.

Sighing deeply, Natalie looked at her walk-in closet sadly. She would leave everything here. She didn't need all this stuff.

She randomly grabbed a few things from her closet and a few important documents, then tucked them all into her suitcase.

Before long,

Natalie finally finished packing the few things she needed.

For the last time, she looked at the bedroom she had spent most of her life in, wiping the remaining tears from her cheeks as she walked toward the door, dragging her medium suitcase.

However, Natalie's steps stopped when she caught her reflection in the mirror.

It felt like something had rubbed lemon into her wounded heart when she saw her terrible self; her eyes still looked red and swollen from crying all night. The wound on the corner of her lip was still clearly visible because, last night, her evil husband Lucas had slapped her.

Natalie's hands clenched into tight fists, remembering what happened last night. Lucas had come home half-drunk, and the shampoo scent made her suspect he had taken a shower elsewhere.

Suspicious, she asked him about it. Instead of an answer, the evil man started slapping and kicking her as if she were his punching bag.

This wasn't the first time Lucas had done that. Too often, he came home drunk and started to hit her without any reason.

Sigh!

Natalie wiped away the traces of tears that had begun to flow again from the corners of her eyes.

After feeling better emotionally, she muttered softly, "Bye, Lucas Donovan! Now you can do anything you want. I will never care about you anymore..."

She smiled at her reflection and walked to the door, leaving the room.

...

“Woman! Are you going somewhere without asking for my permission?”

Instantly, Natalie's step halted abruptly when she heard Lucas Donovan's voice from the corner.

‘Oh my God! Why is he still here?’ Natalie's heart jumped a few beats faster.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 283: Let Me Go!

Natalie was shocked beyond words to hear that. She thought this man had already left the house fifteen minutes ago.

Why did he suddenly return?

Did he forget something?

Or,

Did I forget something?

Oh my God....

Natalie didn't dare to turn around to see him.

She stood in her place, praying this was just her imagination and nothing terrible or hurting would come out of this encounter. But her wishes shuttered when Lucas's voice echoed again, tearing the silence. Hell, he is here!

“I said, where are you going with such a huge suitcase?” Lucas Donovan snapped, his voice no longer as polite as before.

He was too shocked to see his wife drag the suitcase out of anger for the first time since they married.

‘Is he furious about what happened last night?’ Lucas wondered. ‘This stupid, selfish woman, how dare she get angry when I was about to apologize to her?’

After a five-minute drive, he had asked the driver to return home hurriedly, realizing he had beaten her last night because he was venting his frustration after what happened with their company.

But what he saw now was enough to make his anger flare again. He didn't want to scold or even hit her, but this woman never failed to make him angry.

Natalie gritted her teeth while tightening her grip on her suitcase. Trying to restrain herself from appearing weak in front of Lucas, she turned to him, attempting to be brave.

Nevertheless, when she saw his sharp gaze, her heart trembled. Somehow, she felt that if his gaze could kill someone, she might be dead by now. How evil!

“Natalie, why are you staring at me like that? Can you answer me? Where are you going with your suitcase?” Lucas lowered his tone to suppress his anger. He didn’t want to scare her even more.

While Lucas was trying to calm his anger, Natalie was too busy forming the words she wanted to say to him, making her unable to hear what he was asking.

Lucas’ patience ran thin when he saw his wife ignore him. He rubbed his thick eyebrow, smiling faintly, “How dare you challenge my patience, Natalie Wright!!”

Natalie flinched as she saw him walking slowly toward her. She sighed deeply and forced herself to express what was on her mind.

“This is no longer working. Not for me. Let’s get a divorce, Lucas Donovan. That’s the only reasonable for our horrible marriage. To end it.” she said calmly, maintaining a straight expression.

But inside, Natalie felt like thunder was rumbling, scaring her, and messing with her heartbeat and thoughts.

‘Be strong, Natalie. Please be strong! Don’t cry in front of this DAMN man anymore. He doesn’t deserve your tears...’ She reminded herself while clenching her fists.

“WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY, NATALIE WRIGHT? YOU WANT US DIVORCE? US? DIVORCE?!” Lucas Donovan’s voice echoed, breaking the silence on the second floor.

Natalie was even more scared to hear him raise his voice. Before she could answer him, Lucas’s booming laugh echoed, confusing her.

“Bwa ha ha ha ha...” he laughed, speeding up his steps as he headed toward Natalie.

“What a joke! No divorce unless I say so!! None! Are you stupid? Or are you tired of living? Is that why you’re asking for a divorce? You want to die?” he continued.

This wasn’t the first time he heard her say those words. He already knew she must be bluffing.

Natalie's eyes remained locked on him. She maintained her calmness even though she felt her hands start to sweat, fearing that this man would hit her again.

Lucas stopped a step away from her. He didn't rush to speak but placed his hand on her chin and brought her face closer to his. He was so close that she blinked several times when his breath tickled her face.

When Natalie was about to brush his hand away, he spoke, "What a heartless woman you are, Natalie Wright! How dare you ask for a divorce when my company and my family are in trouble?"

"I don't care! Please, let me go, Lucas Donovan. Let me go!!" Natalie bravely answered him. "I no longer have the energy to stand beside you. To care and love you when you never care and love me back!! I give you a gift here! Now, you're free to marry your younger woman out there. I don't care—"

His hand held her chin tightly, his eyes cold. With a slight smirk, he spoke mockingly, his words meant to irritate her further, "Shut your dirty, flirty mouth, or you will taste my hand again!"

Lucas's gigantic hand covered Natalie's face, almost like squeezing her face. Then he pushed her face away, causing Natalie to nearly fall to the floor. She grabbed her suitcase to keep herself from falling.

"You can hit me, hurt me as much as you want, Lucas Donovan! But... My decision is final. I want a divorce," she said, glaring at him without fear. "Please let me go. LET ME GO!"

Natalie smiled confidently when she saw him frown, taken aback by her courage and audacity. She didn't even believe it herself, but she liked it! This was her first time being so brave.

And as a result, this is her first time seeing her mean and abusive husband's confused and fearful expression, even if only for a second.

She continued, "Lucas, I will not waste my life enduring misery. And you don't have to pretend to hide your women from me. You can marry your woman after you divorce me. This is what you want, too, right?"

Lucas felt mixed emotions now. He was surprised by her boldness and amused at the same time.

'She must be bluffing, right? This woman can't leave this place or leave me...' Lucas wondered, but once again, he frowned, looking at how fierce her gaze was now.

This was the first time he saw Natalie glare at him like this. He felt déjà vu.

‘That glare in her eyes....Why did her gaze resemble our good-for-nothing daughter, Bella?’

Lucas shook his head to put aside what he thought.

“You think you can leave me, huh? Do you have money? A place to stay? You have none of those!!” Lucas slowly shouts while narrowing his eyes, staring at her, shaking.

He knew it; she must be bluffing. How stupid she was!

Natalie didn’t say any words. But her expression remained the same.

He chuckled. “Fine, you can leave this house, Natalie. But you can’t bring anything from this place. You have to leave everything behind... Including your suitcase and money...because everything is mine!! MINE! NOT YOURS! You have nothing here!! Nothing!”

Natalie was utterly speechless to hear that.

“You are fucking nothing without me, Natalie Wright. NOTHING!! If you hadn’t married me, you would have been just a FUCKING POOR WOMAN!!! You would be struggling to even make a penny out there...”

Natalie clenched her hand, trying to hold back her tears. She could feel all her blood rushing to her face, turning it red as if her blood vessels were about to burst.

But again, she suppressed her anger and swallowed it back down.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 284: You Can’t Escape From Me!

Seeing her eyes, which seemed to challenge him, was enough to make Lucas even more annoyed with this useless woman.

Gritting his teeth silently, he said, “I will not stop you, Natalie Wright. You can leave now if you want!”

Lucas knew this stupid Natalie would not dare leave the house without anything. She said those words—to leave the house—only to make him angry because they fought last night.

A smirk slowly appears on his lips. He didn’t bother to see her pitiful expression anymore.

He strode towards the glass window, his back to her, trying to enjoy the scenery outside while holding back a laugh at her foolishness.

‘Oh, Natalie Wright... a woman like you would never leave me. I know you enjoy being a madam and are too timid to return to being a poor woman again.’ Lucas laughed inwardly, feeling satisfied that he had taught her a lesson.

Later,

After a few minutes, Lucas stood near the window but didn’t hear anything from her, which confused him.

Slowly, a faint line appeared on Lucas’ forehead.

‘This is new! Why is she keeping silent?’ Lucas muttered under his breath.

Usually, Natalie would come to ask for forgiveness after they fought or he scolded her. But now? Why was she silent? Was she really mad this time?

“Alright, stop your tantrum, Natalie. Come here and beg for my forgiveness. I will forget everything you said about the divorce.”

Lucas let out a deep sigh, exhausted from dealing with her sulking. Hearing no movement from behind, he continued, “If you demand an apology from me, fine!”

Silence!

He rubbed his eyebrow, saying, “I apologize for what I did last night. I didn’t intend to harm you, Natalie, but you made me angry when I wasn’t fully sober... Sorry, I will not do that again in the future!”

Still, there was no answer from her, causing Lucas to regret apologizing to this ignorant woman.

Annoyed, he turned to look at her. However, he was shocked to see no one there, only a red suitcase. Where did she go? Did she run to the bedroom?

“You’re being brave, Natalie. Did you leave your things for me to take to our room?” Lucas walked towards the suitcase, smiling, amused by her naivety.

Asking for a divorce? How stupid she is.

He would never divorce her—never! Nathalie was a stupid woman that he could handle easily. Besides, it would have been a disaster if his father had known they were divorced.

A cold smile slowly appeared on his lips as he walked over to Natalie's suitcase. Before he could take the suitcase, his hand stopped when he saw several credit cards and bank cards on top of it.

"Why did she leave these cards here?"

Lucas instantly felt his throat dry when he saw gold accessories and their wedding ring. He also noticed piles of money there.

"What the hell! She left? Really!? No!! Impossible. The damn woman will not dare..." He said, rushing to the bedroom to check.

He still thought Natalie had run to their bedroom or bathroom to cry, as she usually did.

However, his face turned red when he saw the empty bedroom and bathroom. He could feel all the blood rushing to his face, seething with anger.

Lucas took out his cell phone and called the house guard at the gate.

"Did you see my wife?" he asked calmly, but his gaze now radiated anger. He felt utterly frustrated with his stupid wife. How dare she run away? Did she really think she could escape from him?

The guard was surprised to hear his master's question.

"Ye-Yes, sir, I saw her. But just now, Madam rode a cab—"

"What!! She rode a cab?" Lucas snapped as he left his room and ran to the first floor.

"Yes, sir. Earlier, when I asked her if she needed me to call her driver and prepare her car, Madam didn't say a word to me."

"I want you to search that cab and stop that cab for me! NOW!" Lucas couldn't hold his calm anymore. His voice raised, shocking the guard.

The guard panicked, hearing his master angry. Stuttering, he replied, "I'm sorry, sir, but the cab is already speeding, and I can't see it anymore..."

"Did you remember the car's plate number?"

"I'm sorry, sir... But...but.... I didn't remember the cab's plate number..."

The guard started to get confused. Why was their Madam rushing out of the house and getting a cab? Since he started working there, this was the first time he had seen

Madam ride a cab. She usually left the house using the car, and a chauffeur would drive her.

'Did they fight? Again?' The guard was even more worried. Their master would vent his frustration on them.

Lucas's steps stopped right before he left the main door. He felt furious while cursing his damn stupid wife inwardly.

After a few more seconds, Lucas realized she didn't leave her phone behind.

"Stupid woman!! You left without anything but still brought your phone?" Lucas mumbled.

A sinister smile appeared on the corner of his lips as he tried to find her phone number. However, before he could dial her number, two text messages appeared.

[Natalie] Lucas, please sign and submit the divorce papers to the court. I want nothing from you but a divorce! And after that, I want nothing to do with you. You can go to hell for all I care.

[Natalie] By the way, as for the clothes I wear, don't worry; you will have them back. I will send them to you by courier today.

"Fuck you, woman! Fuck you! You think you're so smart, huh?! Alright! Alright! You return all you wear, but how about the phone? Hah! You can't keep it! That's my phone, you know. I bought it with my money!"

Lucas faintly smiled, but his smile faded when another text came in.

[Natalie] Ah, I forgot to inform you. You can't ask back for the phone I use now, Lucas. Maybe you forgot, but this phone is not yours. It is Emma's birthday present for me.

Lucas, "..."

Instantly, he felt like smashing his phone on the floor!

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 285: We Failed!
At Quantum Capital Building.

Bella arrived at the office exactly at eleven in the morning. She rushed into the building after asking Geoffrey to return to their residence.

She didn't go to her office but headed straight for Leo's penthouse residence on the top floor. She needed to meet and discuss with Stefan to get his updates on the Donovan Group. She was excited to hear about the company's recent progress.

However, when Bella stepped out of the elevator, she saw Sam heading towards the emergency stairs.

"Sam, can I talk to you for a minute?" she asked, remembering to ask him about Laura Kiels' progress.

Sam's steps halted before he opened the emergency door. A faint smile graced his serious face as he walked towards her.

"Morning boss, I didn't see you there. But you came at the right time; I was just about to call you to report."

Bella frowned slightly before asking him to continue.

"This is about Robert, Laura Kiels' manager..." Sam said.

"Oh, right. I also wanted to ask you about that. Let's sit inside and talk," Bella said, walking to the living room.

The living room was empty. Bella knew Leo must be in his office, but she didn't see Stefan there.

When Bella saw Sam sitting across from her, she asked, looking toward Stefan's bedroom, "Is Stefan still jet-lagged? It's almost lunchtime now, but he hasn't come out of his bedroom yet."

Sam shook his head.

"He had already woken up this morning and had breakfast with us. I also saw him go into his computer room before I went downstairs. It seemed like he was busy and didn't come out again..."

"I'm glad to hear he's no longer having trouble adapting to the time zone here," Bella said with a smile as she turned her gaze to Sam. "Did you guys find any clues at the crime scene that may lead us to the real cause of Robert's death?" Her expression slowly turned tense.

Ever since Bella ordered Sam and his team at the Sentinel Network, she had been very curious to know the results of their investigation.

The sudden death of Laura Kiels' manager left a mystery in her: Robert's death was not natural. Someone probably killed him.

If her suspicions are correct, then she believes it was Laura Kiels who killed Robert because the poor guy was the key witness. And if Robert died, they wouldn't be able to touch Laura; the woman was clean.

Sigh!

'Did someone help you, Laura!?' Bella wondered. She suspected someone was helping Laura because Laura had become quick-witted in avoiding leaving evidence.

Sam's face slowly turned dark upon hearing Bella's question. He silently took a deep sigh before answering her.

"Boss, unfortunately, after we carried out an investigation at a few places, starting from the crime scene, Robert's residence, and Laura Kiels' empty apartment, we didn't find anything unusual..."

Bella felt slightly disappointed hearing Sam's explanation. So that bitch Laura Kiels would be free from this case?

Suddenly, she felt like she wanted to punch something, imagining Laura getting away with it.

"Likewise, all the evidence at the police station points to a pure accident. Robert was drunk when he was driving his vehicle."

Sam ended his explanation with a deep sigh. For some reason, he felt sour in his heart. His first investigation failed because he couldn't find anything even though he knew Robert's death was not natural.

"Boss, I'm sorry if I disappointed you..."

Bella didn't immediately say anything, but there was a thin line on her forehead as she thought. She still doubted that Robert's death was natural, as the police and Sam said.

No matter how hard Bella tried to accept the investigation's results, she felt she couldn't. Something didn't add up.

She could understand the lack of evidence at Robert's death scene due to its remoteness and lack of CCTV. But what about Robert's residence? How could they not find the slightest oddity there?

A few seconds later, Bella's gaze returned to Sam.

“What about the CCTV footage around Robert’s house? Did you find anything out of place? I mean... Can you remember anything suspicious?” she asked, refusing to believe that Laura could escape her crime.

“No—” Sam’s voice trailed off as he remembered something.

“There is something?” Bella asked excitedly.

“I’m not sure if it’s just a coincidence, but a few days before, on the day Robert died, almost every CCTV in the area of his house was out of order. They recorded nothing but blanks, with one CCTV recording something, but the record was missing.”

After taking a deep sigh, Sam continued, “The CCTV was working normally again just a few hours before he was found dead in a car accident. The police told our guy that some of the CCTV was out due to a lightning strike in the power source but told nothing about the missing CCTV recording.”

Sam said in a slightly confused tone because he wasn’t sure if this would help. “Boss, I’m sorry, but my people couldn’t recover the lost CCTV footage. If you could ask Stefan, that would be great.”

Bella’s brows furrowed. Someone had obviously deleted some of the missing CCTV footage, and she was sure of it.

“Okay, Sam. I will ask Stefan to check the missing CCTV footage,” she responded.

“I hope he can restore it,” Sam said. His team doesn’t have as much talent as Stefan’s, so they can’t recover anything from the missing footage.

“Hmm, I hope so.” Bella smiled at Sam to ease his disappointment. She could clearly see how terrible Sam’s expression was now. “Okay, please continue checking Laura Kiels’ case and report to me. I will also contact you later if I find anything from Stefan.”

“Okay, Boss. Thank you...”

“Wait, Sam!” Leo’s voice came from the front corridor before Sam stood up. “I need to update you on something...” he sat beside Sam.

“What news?” Sam couldn’t wait to hear it.

Leo immediately explained that their attorney had just called to inform him about the results of the examination of Laura Kiels as a witness.

Bella and Sam looked tense as they were curious about the result.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 286: No Strong Evidence To Catch Her

Bella and Sam looked tense as they were curious about the result.

After Leo saw Bella and Sam in return, he continued, "Well, this is so annoying! There is no evidence to change Laura Kiels' status from a witness to a suspect. So, after she was questioned for seven hours, the police let her leave the station."

Bella's shoulders dropped upon hearing the news. Although she had anticipated it, it still left her feeling upset.

However, she didn't say anything. Bella was busy looking for other ways to catch Laura without letting her get away with this case.

"Damn it! That damn woman is so slippery. How did she get away with it?" Leo cursed, annoyed. He had hoped that Laura's status would change to that of the main suspect in the slander case, but it did not. She got away quite easily.

"Maybe she's just lucky! Hard to beat luck, you know," Sam said, just as annoyed as Leo. "If Robert hadn't died, then that woman wouldn't be this calm."

Leo suddenly turned to Sam as he remembered something.

"By the way, Sam... How is your investigation going? Any significant progress? Did you find anything?" Leo knew Sam and his team in Sentinel Network had tried to find a clue about Robert's sudden death.

"Nothing so far, Man! It's really frustrating me..." Sam took a deep breath before continuing. "Nothing in the crime scene can lead us to something important. Whoever cleans it has done an incredible job."

"Damn! Laura Kiels is so lucky to have found some professional hitmen backing her evilness..." Leo muttered, shaking his head and looking at Bella. His brows slowly furrowed as he looked at her; she seemed lost in her thoughts.

Just before Leo wanted to ask her opinion, Bella lifted her head and met Leo's gaze.

"Well... Laura Kiels is not lucky, guys..." Bella faintly smiled when she saw Leo and Sam confused hearing her words.

"It's just like you said, Leo. I'm sure Laura has some good hands helping her. Someone with powerful connections and experience in the criminal world is helping her carry out her dirty deeds," she continued.

Instantly, Leo and Sam gasped in surprise at Bella's sureness. At first, they just thought about it but didn't really believe it. Still, after hearing how confident Bella was about her

analysis, they both started to believe that Laura Kiels had a lot of help from someone with professional criminal backgrounds.

“Someone backing her up... Are you sure only one person helps her, Boss? Do you have any idea who it is, Boss?” Leo looked at Bella curiously.

“Man, is it Jessica Sinclair?” Sam chimed in while looking at Leo. However, a second later, he corrected his statement. “Well...it’s impossible for Jessica Sinclair to help her, right?”

“Tsk... Tsk... Sam, of course, not her. How could Jessica Sinclair help her!? Did you forget Sinclair Group sued Laura Kiels!?” Leo said as he turned his gaze back to Bella. “Boss, who is the person behind Laura? I guess you already know...”

“Ah, you’re right...I forgot about that!” Sam nodded and also waited for Bella to answer.

Bella smiled bitterly. After thinking for a moment, she realized she needed to do a deeper investigation into Laura Kiels’ circle.

She might find something that could lead her to the person who helped Laura.

“I’m sure it’s only one person, guys. But this person has strong experience and powerful henchmen. And no, I have no idea who that person would be. I desperately want to find out about that person.” Bella responded.

When she saw them slightly disappointed, she dismissed them both.

“Alright, you both can continue to work. I need to speak with Stefan. I hope he can help us find that person.”

Bella stood up and walked towards Stefan’s computer room.

...

The door opened when Bella was about to knock on the door.

Stefan was surprised to see Bella standing right before his computer room.

She looked beautiful as usual in her casual black cropped pants, matching shirt, and khaki outerwear hanging on her shoulders. Her hair was tied in a ponytail. Even though she didn’t apply makeup, only cherry-colored lip gloss, she still looked stunning.

His smile grew broader, and he greeted her excitedly, “Hi, Sis... What a coincidence. I was just about to come down to see you. What brings you up here?” he asked, scratching his messy hair.

"I need to discuss a few things with you, Stefan." Bella smiled back at him.

Stefan said nothing but stepped aside to let her into his computer room. After she entered, he closed the door and joined her in the sitting area.

"Sister Bella, why does your expression look annoyed? Has something offended you, Sis?" Stefan asked as he sat across from Bella.

"Yeah, someone is making me stressed right now," Bella sighed deeply, feeling annoyed again.

"Who annoyed my sister? Just tell me, Sis. I'll make sure that person suffers." Stefan narrowed his eyes, waiting for an answer from Bella.

"Laura Kiels! It looks like she will get away with what she did." Bella took a deep breath. "You know, Stefan, I think that woman has some backup that helped her escape easily," she continued.

"Ah, Laura Bitch Kiels... She is indeed slippery, just like an eel. Hahaha..." Stefan laughed, but his laughter gradually faded when he saw Bella didn't even look at him, let alone smile at his humor.

Stefan silently swallowed when he realized Bella was not in a good mood.

After clearing his throat, Stefan continued, "Sis, I can see you're not in a good mood because of Laura Kiels. Do you need my help?" He offered, his expression tense as he waited for her reaction.

After a few more seconds, a faint smile appeared on Stefan's face when he saw Bella's expression slowly soften.

Bella told Stefan about the oddities that Sam found in the CCTV footage around Robert's house. She asked him if he could get the missing footage.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 287: Failed To Help Her!

Bella told Stefan about the oddities that Sam found in the CCTV footage around Robert's house. She asked him if he could get the missing tapes.

Stefan nodded.

"Certainly, I can find or recover it, as long as the server is still connected to the LAN or emits a radio wave, not physically taken out or too damaged."

Bella felt her heartbeat quicken, hearing the slight possibility of getting the recording.

“How long will it take for you to find and check its recording?” Bella asked.

“Wait here... I’ll check it now.” Stefan stood up from his chair and went to his computer desk. He knew Robert’s residence address, so he didn’t have to ask Bella again.

“Perfect, Stefan!” Bella said, sitting in her seat, watching Stefan busy behind his computer.

While waiting for Stefan to finish, Bella took her cell phone from her bag and read trending news online. She opened the news with a video.

Bella saw Laura Kiels leaving the police station and being interviewed by many reporters. Laura wiped her tears with her hand, appearing sad about the news of her manager’s death.

“I’ve worked with Robert for five years, and his passing deeply saddens me. I regret his sacrifice to protect me, and I feel a profound sense of loss...” Laura said.

A man in a black suit—who looked like Laura’s lawyer—offered her a handkerchief; Laura accepted the handkerchief and wiped the tears from her cheeks.

Seeing Laura Kiels’ fake tears was enough for Bella almost to vomit blood.

How shameless!

“What fake tears!” Bella whispered. She would never believe this woman.

Bella knew Laura Kiels was delusional—she could do anything to achieve her goals.

She still clearly remembered that this delusional woman even tried to fake her pregnancy, making evil plans with Jessica Sinclair to steal her husband.

‘Laura Kiels, I won’t let you go. I will do whatever I can to send you to prison and let you rot there!’

Bella didn’t want to sour her mood, so she immediately stopped the interview video. However, she didn’t close the article immediately; instead, she read the comments. She wanted to know public opinion about the case.

She thought A-Netz would learn after Stellar Entertainment filed a lawsuit against A-Netz, which slandered the company, but she was wrong. Many of A-Netz out there blamed them even more.

Reading how they blamed Stellar Entertainment for Robert's death flared up anger inside her.

How could they say Robert was drunk driving because he was stressed about the lawsuit that Stellar Entertainment filed against him?

"Darn it! These people! They seem not to learn anything from the previous case, huh!" She mutters softly, venting her anger.

Taking a deep sigh, Bella closed the article and threw her cell phone in her bag.

The more she saw the news on the internet, the more her head hurt. She put aside A-Netz's claims about Robert's death and, leaning on the couch, tried to rest her mind while waiting for Stefan.

She hoped Stefan would find something to help them turn the tables and find concrete evidence to convict Laura Kiels.

Before long...

Bella finally saw Stefan standing from his seat. The tension in her heart grew thicker when she saw Stefan's unreadable expression.

"Stefan, how is it? Did you retrieve the missing CCTV footage?" Her tense tone did not hide her excitement.

Stefan didn't rush to answer her; instead, he sat in his place while looking at her with concern, which caused Bella to feel even more tense.

Bella couldn't help but comment, "Stefan, do you intend to give me a disease called 'High Blood Pressure?'" She fixed her cold gaze on him before continuing, "Stop stressing me out!"

"Hahaha, of course not, my dear pretty sister... your husband will kill me if I do that." Stefan couldn't help but laugh.

"Then speak! Please, bro..." Her cold expression remained strong, but now she added some courtesy, causing Stefan to feel terrible for making that joke. So, he sits straight again and puts his focus on her.

After a while, there was no playful smile on his face when he said, "I'm sorry, sis. I can't connect to the server. I don't think there is a server where this particular CCTV stored its records anymore. Someone must have taken out or destroyed the server..."

Bella was surprised to hear that.

If an expert hacker like Stefan couldn't find the needed evidence, there was no hope for her to imprison Laura Kiels. This is sad!

'What the hell! Is this the end!? That damn woman is really free from this case?' Her hands gripped tightly, feeling mad.

At that moment, Bella didn't know how to react. It felt like a dark fog had enveloped her mind, making it difficult for her to think. She was at a loss for words and could only stare back at Stefan with an empty gaze.

Stefan felt scared when he saw Bella looking strange, staring at him without saying anything. Several seconds passed, and she still hadn't said a word. He might have thought she was turning into a mannequin if her eyelashes hadn't moved.

After a few more seconds passed and she was still silent, he couldn't help but ask, "Sister, Bella... Are you alright? Why are you staring at me like that? Please, sis, don't make me scared..."

Bella flinched at Stefan's worried tone.

Hurriedly, she cleared her throat before saying, "I'm fine, Stefan. I'm just a little disappointed that we couldn't send that woman to prison."

"Yeah, I know... That's why I also feel mad now." Stefan scratched his head, still annoyed. It was difficult for him to tell her about this result because it was embarrassing for him not to be able to help her imprison Laura Kiels.

For a few moments, silence filled the room. They were both lost in their thoughts.

However, Bella broke the silence first.

"We can't do anything more about Laura Kiels, but we also can't dwell in disappointment. So, let's forget this matter..." she said softly.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 288: Your Mother is Missing

"We can't do anything more about Laura Kiels, but we also can't dwell in disappointment. So, let's forget this matter..." she said softly.

"Agreed, sis!" Stefan nodded. "Is there anything else you would like to order me?"

"Yes," Bella's gaze slowly turned sharp again. "Please teach a lesson to all A-Netz, who are still slandering Stellar Entertainment. You can do whatever you want with them."

“Got it! I will teach them all!”

Bella chuckled at how excited Stefan was now. She could see how sharp Stefan’s gaze was, as if he was ready to vent his frustration on A-Netz.

...

After setting aside Laura Kiels’ case, Bella and Stefan continued discussing Donovan Group matters.

Stefan reported to her about the company’s stock price, which continued to fall further.

The panic selling has now affected all the shareholders, public investors, and major shareholders such as the Donovan siblings. Jacob and his brothers are starting to sell a portion of their shares.

However, Stefan noted that no one wanted to take a risk and buy their shares. It seems many people are still waiting to see the Donovan Group’s situation.

Hearing all this was enough to make Bella smile broadly and happily. This is what she needed to hear: her uncles and father live in fear and suffering.

“Sis, should we take action now? The share price of Donovan Group has already fallen forty percent from the initial price,” Stefan asked.

“No, of course not. Continue with your next plan to scare the investors who own most of the shares of the Donovan Group. I want them to feel the pressure and let them sell their shares below the market price.” Bella continued, giving a clear explanation of what Stefan should do.

“Understood, sis. I will follow your plan and instructions.”

“Okay, keep monitoring the Donovan Group. I hope we can take over the company next week.” Bella clapped her hands, feeling happy.

Bella couldn’t hide how happy she was now when she imagined firing her scheming uncle, Jacob Donovan, from his CEO position.

“Sister Bella, no worries! I promise you that everything you’ve planned for Donovan Group will prevail,” Stefan confidently said.

He would not disappoint his sister, Bella, again. This will not be another Laura Kiels fail case.

“I’ll count on you for that, Stefan,” Bella smiled as she gave him a thumbs-up. She stood and said, “Alright, I will go downstairs now.”

Bella was about to leave when Stefan stopped her.

“Uh, Sister, one more thing. It’s about your mother. I think you must know something about your mother.” Stefan’s hurried and worried tone caused Bella to stop abruptly.

“What about my mother? What happened to her?”

Stefan didn’t tell her immediately but asked for her forgiveness for asking her to sit back again. He did it out of fear Bella would collapse when she heard what he had to say.

After seeing Bella sitting securely on the couch, he said, “I found out that your mother has been out of the grid since this morning. Every surveillance device I have secretly attached to and around her house has shown she’s undetected.”

“What!? Are you saying my mom is missing? She’s missing from your surveillance?” Bella was shocked to hear that. “How could my mom be missing!? Can you guess what might’ve happened?” She had just intended to call her mother today, and hearing Stefan’s words bewildered her.

Stefan immediately informed her about what he had discovered since he had been monitoring Lucas Donovan’s cell phone throughout the morning; he knew Lucas had been busy sending texts and calling to ask for help locating his wife, Natalie Wright.

Bella was starting to get confused.

If her mother was missing, how could an adult woman be missing when she was at home? Did Stefan mean she ran away from home?

But Bella doubted it because she knew her mother wouldn’t dare leave her father.

“Wait... Wait... Stefan, so you’re just saying that mother isn’t missing but ran away from home?” she raised her eyebrow, waiting for Stefan to respond.

“Did my explanation imply that? Oops, sorry, sis... yeah, I mean, your mother ran away from her house. That’s what I read from your father’s cell phone. Sorry, I’m not a good talker.” Stefan explained with concern.

Stefan knew how terribly Bella’s father threatened her mother, and he could guess something terrible had happened, causing her mother to run away from home.

Instantly, Bella felt her heart stop beating when she realized something: her father had hurt her mother. She knew her mother was patient with her father’s rudeness and would not run away easily.

'Mom, why are you running away? Did Father really hurt you, and you can't hold it anymore?'

Countless questions danced in Bella's mind, making her hands tremble slightly as she tried to hold back her worry.

"And several hours have passed. It seems your father hasn't managed to find your mother..." Stefan continued after seeing Bella pensive and silent.

Blinking several times, Bella looked at Stefan and said, "Stefan, can you find my mother? Please, please... find her immediately before my father does..."

"I will try to search the CCTV outside your house..." Stefan responded.

"Thanks..." Bella knew her father's nature well. If he found her mother, he might be even angrier and torture her more.

The memories of the past, when her father beat her mother before her eyes, started to engulf Bella again, causing her blood to boil.

In the past, she was powerless, but now that she has power, she will prevent her father from harming her and her mother again.

"Stefan, I'm going downstairs to look for Sam. Please let me know if you find anything."

He said nothing but nodded and stood up, heading towards his computer to try to locate Natalie Wright.

As Bella watched Stefan immerse himself in his computer, she hurriedly left the room to look for Sam.

She needed the Sentinel Network members in East City to look for her mother or stand by and wait for Stefan's results.

While walking downstairs to her office, Bella called Sam and asked him to come to her office immediately.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 289: They Weren't That Close

Pacing around the office while waiting for Sam, Bella finally called her mother's cell phone for the first time in years.

However, her face turned stiff when the call didn't connect.

Bella's steps halted as her eyes stared at her phone, confused.

“Did Mom change her cell phone number?” she mumbled, trying to call again.

The result was the same. Bella could only hear the automated voice from the other end.

“The number you are calling is not active!”

Sighing deeply, Bella tried to dismiss her worries that her father had found her mother and would torture her again.

“No... Mom must have turned off her cell phone to avoid Father finding her, right? She will be fine! I hope she is in a safe place now...” she tried to convince herself.

Before long,

Bella finally heard a knock on the door and saw Sam appear behind it.

Too worried about her mother’s condition, she no longer had time to ask him to sit but immediately told him what was happening in East City.

Sam was surprised to hear that. “Boss, do you need my help?” he sincerely offered.

Bella nodded.

“Yes, I do need your help, Sam. How many of our people are in East City and ready to be mobilized right now?”

She knew they had some members of the Sentinel Network there to observe the Donovan Group, but she didn’t know the exact number.

“We have ten people on standby. Do you want me to send some people from other cities there?”

“Yes, that would be excellent... if you still have a few available near East City.” She took a deep sigh before continuing her words. “Well, something will happen there when I take over the Donovan Group in a few days. And because my mother is also missing, I will probably fly there today...”

After some thought, Bella decided to fly to the East City as soon as possible to look for her mother because she could imagine that this matter might be more complex than it seems.

Moreover, this was the first time her mother had ever run away from home. That means whatever she has been going through, she could no longer tolerate her father’s evilness.

“OK, Boss! I will carry out your instructions now,” Sam said. When he was about to leave, Bella stopped him.

“Can you fly there now, Sam?” Bella asked.

Sam immediately nodded.

“Sure, Boss. I will...”

....

After Sam left her office, Bella finally sat in her CEO’s chair.

She tried to dismiss her thoughts about calling her mother again. It was useless to call because she was sure her mother deliberately turned off her cell phone to avoid her evil father.

However, Bella couldn’t stop worrying about her mother’s safety.

She tried to remember the places her mother usually visited in the past or the houses of her friends where she might be hiding.

After a few minutes of thinking, Bella failed to guess because she knew little about her mother. Suddenly, Bella felt terrible when she realized she wasn’t close to her.

Bella recalls that in her childhood, her parents favored her older brother, Henry. As a result, she spent more time with her Nanny and grandparents. Later, she moved to the capital to study and eventually lived abroad.

After graduating with her master’s degree, Bella returned to the country. However, she didn’t stay at her parents’ house because she immediately married Tristan at that time.

Thinking about it all made Bella’s chest feel tight. When she remembered her childhood, she felt annoyance, sadness, and emptiness all mixed.

Bella remembers she has no happy memories with her parents or older brother.

Sigh!

‘Let the past remain in the past, Bella. Now, forget all that; your life is much more beautiful now...’ She tries to cheer herself up while leaning back in her chair.

Slowly, she closed her eyes, trying to divert her worries about her mother.

But, of course, she failed.

Her eyes opened again. She sat up straight and took her cell phone.

After looking at her phone for a few more seconds, Bella decided to call her Aunt Emma; maybe she knew where her mother was now.

...

"Bella?"

"Yes, it's me, Auntie..." Bella smiled, hearing her aunt's confused voice.

"Why did you call me, dear?" Emma asked, puzzled since they had just talked for a long time this morning.

"Auntie, I want to ask you something about my mother..." Bella hesitated about whether she should be honest with her aunt. She worried her aunt would panic if she knew her mother had run away.

"Yes, go on..."

"Do you know my mother's best friends? Or her favorite place in East City?" Bella asked carefully, not wanting her aunt to get suspicious and ask further questions.

Emma didn't answer immediately. She tried to remember before saying, "There doesn't seem to be anywhere she'd rather be. You know your father is very protective and never lets your mother leave the house alone, right?"

"Yes, I know." Bella smiled bitterly. "How about her best friends?"

"There are only a few of your mother's friends..." Emma's voice trailed off, becoming suspicious of Bella's question. "Bella, why are you suddenly interested in knowing your mother's best friends?"

After thinking momentarily about how important it was to find her mother, Bella finally confessed to her aunt.

"Auntie, I learned that my mother had run away from home. Right now, my father is confused, looking for her..."

Bella told Emma she knew about this by chance from someone at home who knew Noora. She didn't mention that she had hacked all her uncle's and father's communication devices.

“W-What? Natalie ran away?” Emma stuttered in surprise at Bella’s words. However, her surprise was brief because she doubted Natalie would run away from home—something she thought Natalie couldn’t possibly do.

“Bella, are you sure? I know your mother would never leave Lucas...”

“I think so too, Auntie. But if my mother runs away from home, it can only mean one thing. She is no longer strong enough to stay there...”

“Oh my God!! You’re right, Bella...” Emma sounded panicked and worried. “Let me help you look for her. I’ll try calling someone—”

“NO, Auntie! Please don’t call anyone about it...” Bella immediately interrupted.

She feared that if her aunt called anyone and her father found out, he might realize that his cell phone was being hacked or monitored.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 290: Worried About Telling Her

Emma was bewildered when Bella abruptly halted her. She can’t help but ask, “Why on earth did you stop me, dear!?”

Bella quietly took a deep breath before replying, “Auntie, if you make a fuss now, my father will know my mother’s location. So, don’t make any calls. Please just give me a list of my mother’s best friends...”

Emma was stunned to hear that; she agreed with Bella. Her shameless brother Lucas could do anything to torture his wife again.

“Bella, you are absolutely right. If my stupid brother Lucas found Natalie, he might drag her back and torture her to discipline her.”

“Yes, my evil father might do that.”

The two of them fell silent again.

Emma was busy thinking about Natalie’s friends, who also happened to be her friends because she was in the same circle as Natalie.

Meanwhile, Bella’s mind suddenly filled with thoughts of Tristan. She needed to call him about this, too. It would be great if Tristan could help her find her mother.

Before long, Emma broke the silence. She said, “Alright, I will send you a few names. I hope you can find a new clue from them...”

“Thanks, Aunty—”

“Bella, I will fly back to East City today. I will also help you try to find your mother.”

Emma decided to return to East City because this was the best way to find Natalie. If she just sat at home without help, her heart and mind would not be able to calm down.

“Aunty, you—” Bella, unable to continue her words. She was surprised and worried about Aunty Emma’s decision, but she couldn’t stop her either. She could only tell her to be careful and not to arouse suspicion.

“Don’t worry, I know what I’m doing.”

After they discussed several vital things, Bella finally ended the conversation. She continued to make a call, this time to her husband.

But strangely, Tristan’s calls went unanswered.

Bella looked at her cell phone screen for a moment, confused. Tristan always answered her calls right away, even if he was in a meeting. But why didn’t he answer?

After she got a list of names from her aunt Emma and passed them to Stefan, Bella put her cell phone on the table. She tried to divert her worries about her mother by reading some documents.

A few minutes later.

Bella’s concentration was interrupted; her phone rang, breaking the silence.

When she saw it was Stefan calling, she immediately picked up.

Before she could say anything, Stefan’s voice could be heard from the other end, “Sister Bella, I found your mother...”

Instantly, Bella stood from her seat, trying to calm her nerves to hear Stefan’s news. But her stuttering tone betrayed her. “Wh-Where is she? Is she safe?” she asked nervously.

“Sis, don’t be too shocked, alright...” Stefan’s worried voice rang from the other end, causing Bella to grip her phone tightly. “Yes, I found your mother. And she is in the hospital.”

“Ho-Hospital...?”

“Yes, hospital...” Stefan began to explain.

Stefan was worried about telling Bella what he had just discovered, but he couldn't hide it from her, right?

He started to inform her that her mother was now meeting with a doctor.

When he checked Natalie Wright's medical records, he was shocked to find out that she was suffering from a terminal illness; she had stage three cancer.

After a few minutes, Stefan concluded his report.

However, he didn't hear Bella's reaction and started worrying about her.

"Sister, are you there?" Stefan asked.

Still, he didn't hear any answer, and his worry grew more apparent. He asked again, "Sis, are you alright? If you do not respond to me now, I will go down—"

"I'm fine," Bella softly said, but her shaking hand could not hide how shocked she was after hearing that her mother had stage three cancer.

"Are you really all right, sis?" Stefan asked again. He was worried about continuing to tell her about another medical record he found.

"Yes, I'm fine. Thank you, Stefan, for your help..."

After hearing Bella's calm voice, Stefan continued to inform her of what he had found out.

"Sis, I found out a post-mortem revealed that your mother experienced physical violence. Almost all of your mother's body had bruises, including some internal injuries..."

Bella sneered inwardly while gritting her teeth. She could feel her blood boiling, wanting to vent her anger at her father, who had tortured her mother. How dare he!?

She opened her mouth several times to say something, but the anger in her chest faded all her sentences.

"I'm sorry, sis... I hope you are okay there," Stefan felt bad about delivering this bad news to her. "Do you need anything?"

"Stefan, can you send me my mother's medical report?"

"Sure."

“And, please make sure you know where my mom went after the hospital. I need to know her exact location so I can ask Sam’s people to look after her...”

“Okay, sis... No worries.”

After ending the call with Stefan, Bella tried to call Tristan again, but his cell phone was still off.

She sighed deeply and put her cell phone in her bag.

“Tristan, where are you?” she asked herself after she couldn’t reach him, which disturbed her mind even more.

After taking care of some critical work, Bella took her bag and headed to Leo’s office.

Since she couldn’t reach Tristan, she needed Leo to arrange a jet so she could fly to the East immediately. She couldn’t let her mother suffer alone.

She had to help her mother and make sure she was in a safe place.

...

When Bella arrived at Leo’s office, she saw that he had just ended a call. She entered his office and walked toward his desk.

“Boss? Why you—” Before he could finish his sentence, Bella stopped him.

“Leo, I have to fly to East City now. Can you find an available jet for me?”

Leo was surprised to hear Bella’s sudden request. After seeing her unusual facial expression, he nodded and took his cell phone.

“Boss, you sit first. I need to make a quick call...”

Bella nodded and walked to the seating area, taking her cell phone to call Aunt Emma.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 291: Fly To East City

Before Bella could speak, Emma’s curious and tense voice could be heard from the other end.

“Bella, did you find your mother?”

“Yes, Aunt Emma, I found my mother...” Bella immediately shared the good news but didn’t mention her mother’s illness.

“Thank GOD. I’m so happy to hear that, Bella…” Emma shouted in happiness.

“Yes, me too.” A smile graced her face before she continued, “Aunty, where are you now?”

“I am still at the house; I plan to go to the airport in two hours. Why do you ask?”

Bella was grateful that Aunty Emma had not yet left the house. She immediately told her aunty about her plan to fly to East City and asked her to prepare to fly with her.

She would have someone pick her up a few minutes ahead and drive her to the private airport once Leo confirmed the jet she would use.

Emma was shocked to hear that. She thought Bella would only visit East City in the next few days.

‘Why did Bella suddenly change her plan?’

“Did something happen to your mother? Why do you suddenly want to fly there today?” Emma started to get suspicious; something must have happened to Natalie.

Bella silently took a deep breath. She didn’t plan to tell her over the phone. She still has so many things to do now.

“Aunty, I will tell you later when we meet,” Bella said before excusing herself to end the call. She needed to call Aunty Noora and her son, too.

After ending the call with Emma, Bella glanced at Leo. She saw him still busy making a call.

Bella could only pray inwardly, hoping Leo would find a private jet for her as she couldn’t bear the thought of flying a commercial flight. It would be time-consuming.

Averting her gaze from Leo, Bella dialed Noora’s number.

The phone connected to the second ring. She immediately asked Noora to pack a few of her clothes and give them to Emma.

Noora was shocked to hear that.

Not only was Noora shocked, but Dax, sitting beside Noora, could also clearly hear his mother’s voice. He was shocked but remained silent and continued to listen to their conversation.

“Young Miss, you won’t be coming home tonight?” Noora asked.

“Yes, I will fly to East City this afternoon with Aunt Emma,” Bella responded casually, not wanting to worry Noora if she knew what really happened to her parents in East City.

“Is there a problem there? Why did you suddenly fly to the East!?” Noora didn’t remember Bella ever talking about visiting East City, so she became suspicious; something terrible had happened there.

Bella could only sigh softly. She did not answer Noora’s question but instead asked her to prepare clothes because she didn’t have much time.

Before Noora could ask further, Bella told her to give her phone to Dax. She also needed to talk to her son.

“Mommy, I’m here. I...hear you will fly to the East?”

Bella was taken aback to hear how fast Dax took the phone. “Are you with Aunt Noora now?”

“Yes, Mom. I’m about to take my nap...” Dax replied. “Mom, can I fly with you to the East?”

This was Bella’s first time doing it—flying to another city without her son—and her heart ached to hear his words.

She wasn’t opposed to bringing her son to East City. Still, she was concerned that her issues there could cause trouble, especially as she was dealing with her shameless uncles and father.

Bella also needed enough time to talk to her mother before allowing Dax to meet his grandma from her side. She must ensure his mother would not do or say unimaginable things before Dax.

“Baby, I’m sorry, I can’t take you right now because this is a short trip. I promise you, I’ll be back tomorrow morning—” Bella paused when she heard Dax take a deep and profound sigh, a signal of his disappointment.

Bella felt like someone was squeezing a lemon over her wounded heart. She almost wavered about bringing Dax along but suddenly remembered Tristan.

“Baby, your father will accompany you tonight. Well, you can sleep together with him again...”

“Oh, Dad isn’t going with you, Mom?”

“Yes, of course not. And I won’t let him come even if he wants to. Because I want your daddy to stay with you, and I will return tomorrow before you know it, baby...” Bella felt slightly relieved when she heard Dax’s voice sound somewhat cheerful.

“OK, Mom. But you must promise me you will return home tomorrow. Or I will tell Daddy to fly me there too...”

“Hahaha, of course, Baby.”

Bella immediately ended the call when she saw Leo approaching her. She didn’t rush to ask but waited for him to speak.

...

Leo sat in front of Bella with his eyebrow slightly raised. He was still confused about why Bella suddenly wanted to fly to East City.

As far as he could remember, they had no projects in that city other than Bella’s plan to acquire the Donovan Group. He didn’t know much about Bella’s plan with Donovan Group because he wasn’t involved.

In the past few weeks, he has been too busy handling matters surrounding Stellar Entertainment and Celebes Energy in Nova City to know what is happening in East City.

“Did you get the jet or not?” Bella asked impatiently when she saw Leo not saying anything, only staring at her.

Leo nodded slowly, “Boss, your jet will be ready an hour from now. How many people will fly there? I need to inform the crew to prepare...”

Bella didn’t rush to answer him but raised her thumb to compliment Leo. She was impressed with him.

“I’m Glad to have you work beside me, Leo.” She smiles before continuing, “I will fly there with my aunt, Bryan, and some of my bodyguards.”

“OK. I will let them know you’re coming...” Leo stood again from his seat, but before returning to his desk, he narrowed his eyes at Bella, “If I may ask, why did you suddenly fly to the East?” he asked curiously.

“It’s a...family matter!” Bella took a deep breath and told him what happened to her mother. She also told him about her mother’s illness. This is the biggest reason why she had to fly there immediately.

Leo was utterly shocked as he listened to that. He no longer asked anything but made a call.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 292: Something Terrible Happened To Tristan?

Bella's eyes were fixed on her cell phone. Her heart pounded with each passing second, waiting for a call from Tristan. But the call she yearned for, the one that would bring her relief, never came.

Even though she had sent him a few short messages asking him to call her immediately, she still had not received a text from him.

Her mind started to be noisy, and countless negative thoughts began to worry her, imagining something terrible happening to Tristan.

Unable to take it anymore, Bella decided to call Dylan, Tristan's assistant. He must be with Tristan now, right?

However, Dylan's phone couldn't be reached either after she dialed.

Bella's eyebrow furrowed as she looked at her cell phone screen when she found out Dylan's phone was inactive. This confused her further.

She decided to try calling Tristan again because his phone was active earlier; he just didn't pick up. She hoped this time he would hear and pick up her call.

But,

Still, the result remained the same.

Sigh!

'Are they in an area with a poor signal?' Bella muttered to herself, remembering Tristan's agenda for today.

As far as she remembered, her husband didn't say he would go to a remote place. Besides, Astington can't have such a place without internet access, right?

Bella put aside her confusion and looked out of the car window at the quiet street outside.

The street was not busy as their car sped through the city, heading towards a private airport several miles from the city center.

However, it wasn't long before Bella's mind was filled with thoughts of Tristan again. Her worry started to make her heart restless. Not being able to contact her husband made her even more anxious. What's more, at a time like this, she was flying to another city without telling him yet.

Bella turned her gaze back to Bryan, sitting in the front seat next to the driver.

After thinking for a few more seconds, Bella finally asked him, "Bryan, can you communicate with my husband or Dylan?"

Bryan immediately nodded, "Sure, I can communicate with them, ma'am. How about you... You can't?"

Bella explained that she had lost contact with Tristan for over two hours.

"Bryan, can you try contacting them now?" Bella asked. "I need to inform my husband about our sudden departure to East City..."

Bryan was shocked to hear they were leaving for the East without Tristan's knowledge. He immediately took out his cell phone and tried to contact Dylan.

However, like Bella, Bryan couldn't reach him either. For a split second, his mind considered the possibility: if his Boss and Dylan couldn't be contacted, it meant they were in an underground base.

'Are they there now?' Bryan muttered inwardly as he opened a unique app on his cell phone and sent a message to Max. The only way to contact their Boss in the underground base was through their hacker.

[Bryan] Max, this is important. I need you to contact the Boss immediately. His wife tried to call him, but it didn't go through, and she is worried now.

[Bryan] Also, can you tell the Boss that his wife is now on her way to the airport? We're headed to East City.

[Bryan] We will arrive at the airport in about thirty minutes.

"Can you contact them, Bryan?" Bella's curious, impatient voice was heard again after Bryan sent Max the message.

Bryan turned to look at her, "No. They may be in an area with no signal, ma'am." He couldn't possibly inform her about their underground base camp.

Bella's shoulders slumped when she heard Bryan couldn't contact them either. She became increasingly worried about her husband.

But Bella found Bryan's answer hard to believe.

‘Are there really locations in the country where we can’t get a phone signal?’ she muttered in disbelief.

Feeling tired of worrying about Tristan, Bella tried to close her eyes and leaned back in her seat.

Meanwhile, in the underground base at the city border,

Tristan emerged from the room wearing a light blue shirt stained with blood. His expression was dark, and his eyes were as cold as ice. It was clear he was in a bad mood.

Dylan, who was waiting for him outside, immediately approached and offered him a cloth to wipe his blood-stained hands.

“Boss, we have to head to the office immediately. You still have a meeting this afternoon with a few shareholders,” Dylan said as he followed Tristan toward another floor.

“Okay,” Tristan responded without looking at him, wiping away the blood that stained his hands.

“I have prepared new, clean clothes for you inside, Boss. Please...” Dylan opened the door to a room that resembled a bedroom.

Then, he stood in front of the door, waiting for Tristan.

Occasionally, Dylan looked at his watch, worried about their following schedule.

“Damn! We’re late...” He muttered anxiously.

The shareholder meeting this afternoon would be held in twenty minutes, and they were still in this area; it would take around 45 minutes to get to the office. They were definitely late.

“Dylan, where is he!?” Suddenly, Reid appeared and ran over to Dylan, who looked at him curiously.

“Boss? He’s changing clothes inside. What’s wrong?” Dylan asked, confused by Reid’s tense face, as if something had happened outside.

Reid didn’t answer, pacing back and forth in front of the room, making Dylan even more confused.

“Damn! Man, can you stop walking like that? You’re giving me a headache!” Dylan protested, glaring at Reid.

“This is very important,” Reid said, looking Dylan in the eye. “It’s about our young madam. She—” Before Reid could finish, the door opened.

Now neatly dressed in a clean shirt of the same color as before, with his sleeves rolled up to his elbows, Tristan fixed his eyes on Reid.

“What’s wrong with my wife?” Tristan asked while fixing his hair.

“Sir, Young Madam is heading to the airport. She will fly to East City in a few minutes...”

“WHAT!? Why didn’t you tell me about this earlier?” Tristan said, immediately heading towards the elevator.

Dylan and Reid followed closely behind him.

“Where’s my phone?” Tristan asked Dylan as soon as they got into the elevator.

“In the car—”