

The Heiress' Return: Six Brothers at Her Beck and Call (Wynter Quinnell) Chapter 531

Posted by **AdminM**, 61 Views, Released on May 10, 2024

Chapter **531** **Your** Girlfriend

Upon hearing this, Charlie collapsed on the ground on the spot.

After learning Dalton's identity, no one dared to approach him anymore.

Dalton reached out to take Wynter with him. Naturally, whatever happened next would be handled by the bodyguards.

Watching him protect Wynter ignited a fire in Yvette's heart. Jealousy and envy ultimately turned into deep-seated resentment.

Why Wynter? Why did such an exceptional man belong to her?

Yvette clenched her backpack's strap, her gaze fixed on Dalton. She was close to biting a hole in her mouth, her eyes burning with intense resentment.

A man like Dalton should belong to her instead.

A man like Charlie who had that kind of background would be timid in the face of trouble. He was completely different from Dalton, who could overturn the entire Shepherd family with just one word.

She had to find a way to catch his attention!

Even though their first meeting didn't go too well, she had a huge advantage that others didn't have—she knew about his life and death!

Yvette was thinking about how she could speak up when Gina couldn't hold back anymore

She didn't understand what Dalton saw in that fake heiress.

It was precisely because she wasn't sensible that she dared to play tricks on Dalton.

“Sir, please wait a moment.” Gina adopted a top student’s mannerisms, thinking that such a demeanor would be appreciated by sons from wealthy families. “Before you stand up for your girlfriend, shouldn’t you first understand your girlfriend’s situation?”

“You probably aren’t aware that your girlfriend used to pursue Charlie. Everyone in Southdale knows about it.

“Moreover, it’s said that your girlfriend has many sugar daddies picking her up at the street corner. She is a vocational school student who is only eager to climb the social ladder.

“I must warn you beforehand so that you don’t end up getting cheated on by your girlfriend, sir.”

Dalton, holding Wynter’s hand, stopped in his tracks, his deep eyes sweeping over in Gina’s direction.

Gina raised her chin, deliberately trying to make herself look different from everyone else.

She had definitely watched too many TV shows if she thought that she looked beautiful this

way.

To her shock, Dalton uttered some words that drained the blood from her face.

“Inform Mr. Gold to prepare the lawsuit process. If people who spread rumors like this can graduate, I will make Sacred Heart Medical University take responsibility.”

Dalton’s gaze remained indifferent as he continued, “Also, look into her family’s address and inform her neighbors about her usual behavior.”

“Yes, sir,” the bodyguard replied respectfully, lowering his gaze.

Gina was stunned for a moment before she realized Dalton wanted her ruined.

If her school and family found out about her activities, she would be gossiped about for the rest of her life!

“You can’t do this! The school will protect me! This is a violation of personal privacy!” Gina, who was stopped by the bodyguard, shouted. “This is a society governed by law! Do you think you are the law?”

Dalton didn’t even give her a second look. “Punishing the rumor-monger is justified by law. As for the rest, you can see whether your school will protect you.”

Everything was really going to happen as Dalton said.

Gina’s face turned pale as if she were about to faint. She regretted her impulsive outburst. However, there was no room for regret in this world.

Selena shook her head beside her.

These people were all full of themselves but lacked hindsight. She had already hinted at Dalton’s identity, yet Gina still went ahead and got herself in trouble.

As she was a woman as well, she knew what ideas Gina had in mind.

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It was definitely caused by envy and jealousy toward that fake heiress from the Yates family, who found such a wonderful boyfriend.

But was Gina not afraid of the consequences of spreading rumors like this?

Selena didn’t know what the others were thinking, but right now, the only thought she had was to stay away from these people.

Right before Dalton left, he warned, “I can’t stand anyone speaking ill of my fiancée. If there are still rumors going around, just wait for the lawyer to come knocking. I have all the **time** in the world to deal with you.”

The folks in the alumni gathering dared not speak anymore.

Yvette, who was deep-minded and calculating, also understood that today wasn’t the best time for her to reveal what she knew.

Nothing good would happen if she stuck her neck out now. Dalton was no ordinary rich guy. He wouldn't remember Yvette if she used a common trick on him.

Regarding Gina's fate, she only thought that Gina was stupid.

But even so, her mind was in chaos.

What was even more embarrassing was that Wynter didn't even turn back to look at her, even though Yvette called out to her.

The restaurant even kicked them **out** after Dalton left. The customers coming in and out of, the establishment were all watching.

Charlie, on the other hand, was on the ground like mud. He couldn't get up no matter how his friends tried to help him up.

They simply chose to ignore him **in** the end. Charlie was nothing now that the Shepherd family had collapsed.

According **to** Dalton, it seemed that the Shepherd family might have done something illegal. Everyone wanted to keep their distance from Charlie.

After all, as students at Sacred Heart Medical University, they had boundless prospects. They didn't need to ruin their futures over this.

As Charlie saw through their intentions, he reached out to grab Andy.

Bro, are **you** just going

judicial department? Can't you help me?"

Andy shook off his hand, looking at him like he was the plague.

"Do you even realize who you've offended? **I'm** no fool like Gina is. **I** just looked up the Yarwood family.

"It's one thing to show off in front of us, but to flaunt it in front of Mr. Yarwood? What are you trying to play at for asking for my help? Are you trying to drag my family down with you?"

With that, he walked away.

All that talk about how feelings ran deep between the alumni and mutual support among Southdale elites was just a facade.

In reality, they were just a group of opportunistic parasites.

“Yvette, do you know nothing about Wynter’s boyfriend being Mr. Yarwood?” Someone started interrogating Yvette in a harsh tone.

“You were the one who told us how she was clinging onto Charlie. You also said she had sponsors, and she got her money through illegitimate means.

“You even insinuated that she was jealous of you taking everything from her. It seems like that’s not the case after all!”

Yvette’s carefully crafted image over the past six months was completely shattered in an

instant.

“Mr. Yarwood was right about one thing. If she has such a powerful boyfriend; why would she be clinging to Charlie? What do you have that would make her jealous?”

These questions left Yvette speechless.

The alumni began to look down on her. It was just like when she first returned to the Yates, family in her past life.

This couldn’t be happening. **She** couldn’t let things develop like this!

Yvette could foresee this incident’s consequences. After returning to school, any discussion about it would shake her foundation.

She had already lost her prestigious teacher and couldn’t afford to lose the school as well!

“I—I heard all of it from Charlie,” Yvette blurted out as she decisively shifted the blame onto

Charlie.

Chapter 533 Yvette Remains Unchanged

She said with tears in her eyes, “Just think about it. If I knew Wynter had such an impressive boyfriend, would I embarrass myself like this?”

That statement, at least, was true.

Seeing the others’ expressions soften a bit, Yvette continued in a pitiful tone, “Don’t worry. I’ll talk to Wynter to clear up the misunderstanding. Grandma won’t let us sisters become enemies.”

The crowd exchanged glances at those words.

It wasn't because they believed Yvette's words, but because they suddenly realized that even though the two sisters weren't biologically related, there was still family in between.

If they offended Yvette, they would be the ones in trouble.

Besides, Yvette did have some connections in Kingbourne.

So, soon enough, someone apologized to Yvette. "Sorry, Yvette. We spoke too hastily. You should really talk to your grandmother and clear things up.

"After all, you're family. Now that Wynter has such a wonderful boyfriend, it's best to resolve any misunderstandings sooner rather than later, for everyone's sake."

"That's right! It's Mr. Yarwood we're talking about here. He's going to be your brother-in-law! How cool is that?"

"You should explain things to Wynter properly. Tell her we were rude today, and invite her to join the gathering when she's free. We can show her around Sacred Heart Medical University!"

"Yeah, yeah, bring Wynter along!"

"I remember she's been looking for a school recently. I can help!"

It was just a chance encounter, but Yvette and Wynter instantly swapped positions.

Back in Southdale, everyone looked down on Wynter and didn't think much of her, while they praised and flattered Yvette.

Now, Yvette had become a bridge.

The embarrassment was **so** great that Yvette gritted her teeth but couldn't show any displeasure. She had to smile and say, "Okay. I'll let Wynter know after I talk to Grandma."

Chapter 533 Yvette Remains Unchanged

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Selena couldn't bear to watch this farce any longer.

How shameless was Yvette to still call Wynter her sister when Wynter made it clear from the start that she didn't care about Yvette? Selena didn't even bother to speak a word to anyone.

Did they think Wynter acknowledged Yvette as her younger sister? Wynter didn't even acknowledge Yvette's existence!

Dalton even directly called Yvette "bitchy". Were these people selectively forgetful?

Human nature could be quite complex sometimes. They couldn't have possibly not seen Wynter's attitude.

Still, as long as Margaret was around, the two of them were still sisters.

If Wynter knew what these people were thinking, she would definitely scoff at their wishful thinking.

But someone seemed to not be able to give up, asking, "Do you think Mr. Yarwood is serious about her?"

"If he's protecting her like that and calling her his fiancée; he must be serious."

"Would a family like the Yarwoods let a country bumpkin marry into their family?"

These so-called high achievers were quite amusing. They wanted to suck up to others yet didn't want others to succeed.

Yvette, on the other hand, knew how to read their minds. Biting her lip, she dropped hints. "Don't speak ill of Wynter like that. I'll tell Grandma about their family situation what she thinks."

However, she wasn't going to talk to Margaret. Theo was the one she wanted to talk to.

She knew Theo was especially fond of Dalton. If her prophecy could save his life..

Yvette's eyes lit up. From the beginning, she shouldn't have focused her attention on Tobias.

Moreover, as her classmates rightly pointed out, a family like the Yarwoods wouldn't agree to let a woman from the countryside marry into their family.

The more Yvette thought about it, the more

Chapter 534 Socialites Asserting Dominance

As long as Margaret was in the picture, there was hope for her plan. She had already figured out what to do next.

But what Yvette didn't know was Wynter's true identity.

She fancied herself breaking into the Kingbourne circle, but in reality, whether it was the Winston family or the Scott family, they only saw her as a mere doctor.

None of the socialites **in** those circles would truly associate or confide in her about the marriage alliance between the Yarwood and Quinnell families.

As the Shepherd family's downfall directly impacted the Scott family, the Scott family had been having a rough time lately.

Peter's hand that was gripping the cane trembled slightly. "Haven't you figured out why Dalton Yarwood suddenly went after the Shepherd family?"

Dad, you

know that if we investigate now, it means that what the Shepherd family did is related to our family. We have no way of looking into things."

Peter looked at his once most outstanding eldest son. "Make a trip to Southdale and bring back good news!" he instructed. "Do you know how much you're lagging behind. Lucas now?"

Han wanted to explain himself, but Peter interrupted him. "Make the necessary arrangements. We can't afford to let Nelson know too much. The most important thing is that the elders need enough children!"

"Yes, Dad. Don't worry. Even if the Shepherd family is no more, there are others at the pharmaceuticals."

"Now, go." Peter's eyes dimmed. "When the Quinnell family accepts the girl as one of their own this time, **you** need to be more careful. Do as the elders say. If you can meddle, do it."

"Accepting the girl as one of their own" was currently the most discussed topic in their circle.

Everyone was guessing how the Quinnell family's seventh child who came back from the boonies would embarrass herself during the banquet.

Ella from the Winston family was the one who mocked Wynter the most.

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She couldn't stand the fact that a bumpkin who wasn't part of their circle and hadn't even made a public appearance was causing such a stir.

Fabian, too, must have been confused because of his old age. He actually booked the biggest hotel in Kingbourne!

Not only that, he even hired a host of designers, claiming he wanted to give his little princess the best.

"If only you knew how Mr. Quinnell Senior brags about that bumpkin to my grandfather. He keeps talking about how his little princess knows a lot of things. I almost threw up when I listened to him."

"A country bumpkin wants to compete with us! Does she not know where she stands?"

"I'll be okay with it if it was Naomi. Why the bumpkin?"

"Mr. Quinnell Senior likes to show off, doesn't he? Let's make it so that his precious granddaughter can fit into that gown of hers!"

Kingbourne's socialites decided to teach Wynter a lesson.

Did she really think the designers would design for her just because she was the one who hired them?

Apart from money, people **could** also get picky with the people they interact with

It wasn't just about the clothes. It was about ruining the entire brand if the wearer lacked the temperament!

As long as these socialites came together to boycott and contact the designers they were familiar with, they were confident that no one would dare design a gown for that bumpkin.

Individually, none of them was the Quinnell family's match. But when these young ladies came together and secretly talked to the designers, even Fabian couldn't do anything to

them.

Moreover, they were those designers' longtime customers.

The designers were clever and would surely understand the socialites' intentions and make the right choice.

"Don't worry, Naomi. We'll stand up for you!"

"That's right! We will definitely put that country bumpkin in her place!"

On the surface, Naomi was still against it. "I don't think that's a good idea."

“We’re not doing anything wrong. **Just** sit back and watch the show!”

Chapter 535 Shunning Her

Rather than saying that circles were important in Kingbourne, it was more accurate to say that this phenomenon was quite common and not limited to any particular region.

Even for well-known celebrities, **if** they were not the brand ambassadors of certain high-end custom brands, they would still need their connections to borrow the brands’ products.

The bigger the brand, the better the designers, and the more demanding they were about the person who wore their clothes and jewelry.

Not just anyone could get their hands on these items.

In fact, to those who were truly wealthy, celebrities were just attractive “display shelves” for when they chose clothes and jewelry.

Designers wouldn’t dare offend people like them. Then again, they also couldn’t refuse the Quinnell family directly.

The response given to Alexis was either to participate in international shows or to work on high-end designs for others. Anyhow, they wouldn’t take the order, and they replied in a very polite manner.

Alexis couldn’t find any fault with them.

It wouldn’t have been a big deal if only one or two designers couldn’t agree to it. But all the designers in Kingbourne, Huntington included, said they couldn’t free up any time.

Alexis wasn’t stupid. He knew there was a problem when such a situation arose. He immediately started networking to find out what was going on.

In the end, he found out the truth through his connections.

The person seemed afraid of offending someone and lowered their voice, saying, “Alexis, we go way back, and we’re both just doing our jobs. I hope you don’t mind what I’m about to

say.”

Alexis, being the amiable person he was, kept smiling as he reassured his acquaintance, “Rest assured. I won’t tell anyone else what we’ll talk about today. It’s only between **us**.”

“That’s why everyone says you’re approachable.”

That person cleared their throat before the sound of a door being closed could be heard . Here's the thing. After your old customer, Ms. Quinnell, came to Kingbourne, did she visit those socialites?"

Alexis understood almost instantly upon hearing that. Still, he smilingly explained, "Ms. Quinnell has been busy. There are a lot of things at work that she has to familiarize herself

with."

"Alexis, we've known each other for years. I trust what you say, but as for other people..."

He shook his head and continued, "An ugly duckling from the countryside has suddenly transformed into the Quinnell-family's daughter. The business was even entrusted to her,

"No one would believe that she is capable enough to handle that. As you can see, the rich ladies refuse to accept her.

"It wouldn't have mattered if only a few people were in on this. However, I've heard those ladies saying that whichever brand or designer who makes jewelry or dresses for Ms. Quinnell can look forward to making no sales next year.

"You're a smart guy, so you know that's what they mean even if they don't say it outright .

"No one dares to take orders related to Ms. Quinnell. After all, they have to think about their own future.

"How about you tell Ms. Quinnell to give those ladies a call? It would only benefit Ms. Quinnell if she got to know them privately first before the banquet.

"They may not compare to the Quinnell family, but there's strength in number, Alexis."

Alexis tried hard to maintain his composure as he listened to the words coming from the other end of the call.

Of course,

he wouldn't blame the person who told him this information. He also knew his remark was made without malice, but rather an analysis based on the usual social rules in their circle.

However, Alexis was dying to say that Wynter was a remarkable woman.

It was the other ladies who knew nothing because they only knew how to indulge in pleasure!

Chapter **536** Alias

Alexis was frustrated. He wanted to go to Fabian and figure out a solution as soon as the call ended.

Just then, the door to his office was pushed open.”

“Ms. Quinnell!” Alexis quickly turned off the speaker mode on his phone when he saw it was Wynter.

Wynter had come alone, as Wolf had accompanied Marie to Hawford.

Since she wanted to investigate something privately, she didn’t have Dalton go with her to the company.

But before entering Alexis’ office, she heard him talking about her on the phone.

Wynter voluntarily stood at the door, not disturbing him until he had finished talking.

It was only then that she pushed the door open and walked in.

Not sure of how much she had heard, Alexis was about to explain when Wynter smilingly spoke first.

“Alexis, you don’t need to tell Grandpa about this. His health suffered a lot last time. He shouldn’t get too agitated.”

“But they’re so despicable!” Alexis, donning a smart-looking suit, still maintained his business-like demeanor even when angry. “They’re using such underhanded tactics to ostracize you. It’s seriously astounding!”

Wynter’s gaze was indifferent. “It’s nothing,” she commented. “I’ll handle it myself.”

She wasn’t the type to forgive people who took advantage of her.

Wynter was determined to find each and every one of the Kingbourne socialites led by Naomi who looked down on her and bullied her at every turn in her dreams at the family reunion banquet.

However, ultimately, none of that mattered to her. These were just petty tricks,

What she wanted to find out was who was stealing the Quinnell family’s fortune.

Also, in the dream, she overheard two wealthy wives gossiping about Marie. Although Wynter didn't see their faces in the dream, she remembered their faces.

Instead of these petty nobodies, the two **women** were the ones she wanted to find.

She shared her thoughts with Alexis.

However, Alexis was still worried.

"This won't do, Ms. Quinnell. If you don't have your gown and jewelry, they will only look down on you even more!

"Furthermore, on the day of the banquet, Mr. Quinnell intends to announce to everyone that you will inherit the group in the future. Many business partners will be present.

"The shareholders may be dissatisfied, but as long as Mr. Quinnell is there, they won't be able to do anything. But we have to consider the business partners."

Alexis nudged his glasses up on his nose. "Even so, rest assured, Ms. Quinnell. I will definitely get you the things you need.

"If necessary, the Yarwood family can help. Mr. Yarwood specifically came to me and said the Yarwood family's connections are at your disposal as long as it concerns you.

"It's easy to get my hands on a dress and jewelry." Wynter's gaze fell on one of the magazines he had picked. "I can design them myself. There's no need to find someone else." Alexis paused for a moment. "You know how to design jewelry and dresses, Ms. Quinnell?"

"Yup. I dabbled in it because I used to have some unique tastes in aesthetics." Wynter opened the magazine before her fingertips stopped on a luxurious gown. "**This** is one of my designs."

Alexis, who had been dealing with all kinds of people and situations for years, always managed to face people with a smile while keeping his composure.

However, the corners of his lips froze slightly now. "But this is by the most famous independent designer in Frenda!"

"There are rumors that he is a local aristocrat because his entire style belongs to the 19th century.

Because it is bold and extravagant with a luxurious dark theme, people speculate that he must be a gentleman who loves cigars and magic books..."

Wynter didn't hide the truth from Alexis. "I chose a Frendese name to make it more convenient to take online orders. As for the rest..."

Chapter 537 Top Designer

"You should understand, Alexis. Sometimes, a brand's value is not in the brand itself, but in the story behind it."

Alexis was a seasoned professional in the high-level corporate world, so of course, he understood what Wynter meant.

Wynter pointed at the crown. "All I did was slap on an overseas brand and jack up the price. I wasn't even the one who told the story. The people handling my online orders love to weave these tales."

Alexis opened and closed his mouth a few times as he paced back and forth.

"Ms. Quinnell, do you know how much of a sensation you are in the industry? I mean, your designs for dresses and jewelry are truly amazing! All the women in the circle compete to get their hands on your limited edition designs every year!"

Although Alexis was a man, he was well aware of how legendary the name Lamar was in the field of jewelry and dress design.

The dresses in Kingbourne weren't bad. Fabian had ordered many last time, but it might not have been Lamar who personally made them.

Lamar seldom made jewelry and accessories, but when she did, her work would be stunning.

Because of that, Lamar's presence represented the epitome of fashion trends.

It was also the designers' greatest source of inspiration to more or less imitate Lamar's style,

However, imitation alone couldn't capture her style's essence.

Some said that Lamar's jewelry, accessories, crowns, and gowns symbolized a mythical story, possibly from ancient Gyurees, ancient Ijed, or even Shumland civilization.

Lamar's unique style was the reason her brand was so captivating. Many women hoped to have jewelry made by Lamar herself. Fellow designers even worshiped Lamar!

And yet, Wynter was now telling him that she was Lamar!

Alexis sucked in a deep breath. It was a little hard to describe what he was feeling.

If those troublemaking ladies in the circle knew about this, they would surely regret their

actions.

As Alexis raised his hand, the magazine slipped from his grasp and landed back on the table.

Chapter 537 Top Designer

Ms. Quinnet, does Mr. Quinnet know about your identity as Lamar?" he asked.

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Wynter poured herself a glass of water. "I haven't told Grandpa. I saw how happy he was to spend money on clothes he had my studio make for **me**, so I didn't want to be a wet blanket."

Alexis could only think this was a pretty decent excuse.

"I'll take care of the jewelry and dress." Wynter added, "If Grandpa wants, I can also make him a cane inspired by a staff of power."

"What about you, Alexis? What's your style?" Wynter casually asked.

Alexis took a moment to respond. "Something more gentle?"

"Alright. I'll have someone bring over a measuring tape. I'll take both your and Grandpa's measurements."

Wynter spoke in a tone that sounded as if she could just cut a piece of cloth and turn it into a garment.

However, she was indeed very efficient at this."

Alexis' state of mind was completely different now compared to when he answered the phone.

He wanted so badly to tell his friend about Wynter's identity as Lamar. But no, he had to hold himself back!

He wanted everyone to regret it at **the** banquet!

Before Wynter took his measurements, she asked Alexis many important questions! Most of them were about why Shane insisted on adopting Naomi and some details about Marie's

illness.

After all, details could be perceived differently by everyone.

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After all, Tobias was still young back then. There wasn't much he could share with her.

However, Alexis was different. He had been in the company for many years and would be privy to all the details of what **had** occurred. Even if he didn't, he would have noticed any

unusual events.

As

an outsider, he could offer an unbiased viewpoint, which was why Wynter decided to approach him first.

"Nobody expected Mrs. Quinnell to, turn out the way she did." Alexis sighed. "Mr. Quinnell and his father once had a fight because of this.

"Mr. Quinnell Senior believed that those deeply wounded should immerse themselves in social activities and surround themselves with people.

"However, Mr. Quinnell didn't want Mrs. Quinnell to continually relieve those painful memories, and he feared she might hurt someone again."

Wynter raised an eyebrow at that. "Was it true that Mom hurt someone?"

"Indeed."

Alexis' brows furrowed. "It happened at a banquet. It was a normal day as usual.

"Even though Mrs. Quinnell was not in the best state, it was the first time she had harmed someone. She just suddenly grabbed a child and nearly stabbed them in the eye.

Wynter's gaze darkened slightly. "It just happened without any warning?"

"She **seemed** to have heard someone mention

you.

Alexis continued as he looked at Wynter, “Ever since you were abducted, Mrs. Quinnell never stopped looking for you. But from that day on, no one dared mention you in front of her again.”

Wynter was deep in thought.

Alexis didn’t usually speak so candidly. But, since he was speaking with the person he had acknowledged as the Quinnells’ true heiress, he added his own speculations.

“If you’re asking why Mr. Quinnell is so insistent on adopting Naomi, it actually has something to do with that incident.

“It was truly peculiar. No one was able to stop Mrs. Quinnell except Naomi. She even ended

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up

with a cut on her hand. It was because of her intervention that no lives were lost.

‘Some say that she managed to stop Mrs. Quinnell because Mrs. Quinnell saw you in her.

“There’s talk around that Naomi bore a striking resemblance to you, and indeed it is true. She did resemble you greatly from your younger days.

“However, it just feels premeditated. Ms. Sevie, you should understand what I mean.

“Normally, a person’s features are defined as they grow older. However, she looks more like the innocent version of you.”

Alexis’ gaze shifted. “It’s all too coincidental.

“I’m not too sure what happened next. Only Mr. Quinnell would know why he’s so insistent on adopting Naomi. The story he’s putting out is that it’s all for Mrs. Quinnell’s sake.”

Wynter smirked at that. Playing with her purple sugilite pendant, she said, "From your tone, it seems like you don't exactly hold my father in high regard. Aren't you afraid I would tell on you?"

"I know you don't like him, Ms. Sevie." Alexis respectfully served Wynter a cup of tea. "I'm the type to remain loyal to an employer I respect. I see no need in concealing what I know about matters you aren't fond of."

Wynter appreciated his straightforwardness and went straight to the point. "In that case, I have another question for you.

"Regarding the hotel's layout. How much was my father involved? Did he really not know, about the basement?"

"Also, he **was** the only one who visited Grandpa before Grandpa's condition deteriorated. Did he not try anything then?"

Chapter 539 Divination

Alexis stopped dead at that. "Ms. Sevie, are you suspecting Mr. Quinnell? Because that's impossible!"

Wynter glanced at him.

Alexis adjusted his glasses. "Even though I'm on your side, from my understanding of your father, he would never harm Mr. Quinnell Senior no matter how much their views differ.

"I'm not saying that Mr. Quinnell is a good person. He's just a rather complex character. He's not the type to harm his own father."

Wynter believed Alexis.

However, Shane was the only one with the chance to poison Fabian among the Quinnells. Moreover, the poison took effect at a crucial moment.

Wynter had suspected Naomi at first. After all, she had made several attempts to bring soup to Fabian. Now that she had conducted a thorough investigation, Wynter arrived at a different conclusion.

Naomi never succeeded in delivering Fabian her soup. She would have known that if Fabian's condition worsened after consuming her soup, she would become the prime suspect.

Perhaps it was truly her way of displaying her loyalty to solidify her standing within the family. While there might have been other factors at play, it was unlikely that she administered the poison.

The only person who had direct contact with Fabian was Shane.

Alexis wasn't privy to her thoughts and continued, "As for the hotel's layout, dedicated staff oversee the work. I'm not familiar with the specifics, but in my personal opinion—"

Alexis paused briefly.

"Mr. Quinnell would have some knowledge to an extent. While **I don't** know how much he knows, it is possible that he was the one who arranged it that way to bring in good energy."

Alexis smiled. "Since you asked, you must have done your research. Mr. Quinnell and Mr. Quinnell Senior are polar opposites. Mr. Quinnell believes in divination."

"You're trying **to** say that someone is influencing him." Wynter looked up, her tone calm. "For example, he was told specifically that this layout brings good fortune."

Alexis put down his own cup of tea. "You're a smart woman, Ms. Sevie. You guessed it right

immediately."

"So, what if someone told him that he would have good fortune for the rest of his life if he adopted a daughter?" Wynter cut straight to the point.

Alexis clearly never considered this possibility as his hands froze in mid-air. "Ms. Sevie, what do you need me to do?"

Wynter could tell from Alexis' reaction that her hunch might be correct. This was exactly what Wynter was probing for.

Divination could bring great fortune. It could also make people think shortcuts to fortune were possible. Some people get addicted to it, yet fail to realize that too much fortune could lead to their downfall.

While taking a shortcut once might be acceptable, not everyone is worthy of consistently relying on shortcuts. They needed to take into consideration their ability and character.

Otherwise, once they harbored **ill** intentions, it would lead to consequences that defied human nature.

Wynter had never understood why Shane was so insistent on adopting Naomi. After all, the paternity test had proved they were unrelated, which confirmed she was not his illegitimate- daughter.

Logically speaking, even if he had grown fond of her over the years, there was no need to adopt her, especially now that his biological daughter had returned.

Shane had no reason to upset Fabian over someone whom he was not related to by blood, either. It wouldn't serve his interests in inheriting the company.

After all, several talented individuals were still loyal to Fabian among the Quinnell Group

Shane wasn't someone who would act purely out of sentiment. Just like Alexis mentioned, Shane was a complex character.

So, what exactly was it that could lead him to risk offending Fabian?

Chapter 540 Wynter's Wit

Someone must have influenced Shane behind the scenes, conditioning him to believe that by adopting Naomi, he wouldn't need to be constantly on guard around the Quinnell family.

Wynter was a fortune teller herself. Any true practitioner of the Arcane Way could tell Naomi lacked the ability to reverse one's fate and fortune.

Those who truly brought fortune to their family and others would at least have great energy surrounding them.

For example, Wynter's handsome fiancé was a rare individual capable of bestowing immense fortune.

Such individuals were typically easily recognizable, and the auspiciousness they brought with them would often lead to their downfall.

Naomi, however, didn't possess any of those traits and harbored many secrets.

With that line of thought, Wynter rose from her seat and said, "Aside from Mr. Novak, I – want to know who my father contacts frequently, especially among those who believe in divination practices.

"Most importantly, I want to know how the Quinnells came across those individuals while they were searching for me, and how they came to select Naomi from that group.

“From what I’ve gathered, Grandpa has supported many individuals throughout his life. Some were underprivileged children from rural areas, while others were college students Naomi doesn’t fit into either category.

“Trace her upbringing and look into the circumstances surrounding her introduction. Just who brought her before my father?”

“If even her adoption was pre-planned, then we might be able to find some leads on my kidnapping. After all, she wouldn’t have had the opportunity to be adopted by the Quinnells if I had been around.

“Mom wasn’t sick then. With her personality, she never would have agreed to adopt a daughter to feed Shane’s ambition. She would have thought he was insane.

“It would explain everything and prove that **my** kidnapping wasn’t purely coincidental.”

Alexis’ expression shifted dramatically after hearing Wynter’s deduction. His typically gentle features turned **cold**.

“If that’s indeed the case, Mr. Quinnell would be equally responsible for your abduction.”

Shane must have led the kidnappers to believe they had an opening, prompting them to resort to such methods.

“Naomi would certainly know something!” Alexis exclaimed.

Wynter set down her purple sugilite pendant and commented impassively, “She wouldn’t tell even if she knew.

“Let’s observe quietly for now. That is the only way we could have a chance at exposing the mastermind behind all this.

“I’ve looked into it. All of the staff involved in setting up the banquet during the incident years ago have left Kingbourne, including the hotel’s manager.

“Naomi is our only lead left. We can’t lose her.”

Wynter shifted her gaze. “The mastermind behind all this is no ordinary person. It won’t be someone easy to catch.

“Naomi would definitely notice if you start investigating her, but you’ll be able to investigate my father without raising suspicion.

“As for Darrell, I’ll be investigating him myself.”

Wynter then reminded Alexis, “Be sure to leave out certain details of our conversation when **you** report to Grandpa later. I don’t want him to get upset.”

Fabian had worked hard for many years and was getting older. Getting sick over Shane wasn't worth it.

There was someone else Wynter wanted to look into among the Quinnells. This was the person who yielded everything **to** Fabian during the shareholders' meeting.

While Wynter hadn't officially met him, she could tell from her conversations with Fabian that he trusted this man very much.

As one of the family's younger members, she would need to get to know him better before she passed judgment on him.

After all, she was still uncertain about the specific role he played within this family.