

Chapter 120

Settling back on her seat, Ma'am Luna heaved a sigh of relief. The weight of their secret plans and the potential risks they faced had momentarily lifted from her shoulders. As Laura turned to properly face her, Ma'am Luna spoke with a mix of concern and determination in her voice.

"We need to keep a close eye on her," Ma'am Luna began. "Though Zinnia isn't soft-hearted, she might lose sight of our goal and be strong-headed at times."

Laura nodded in understanding, her expression serious. "Don't worry, mother. I will keep a close eye on my daughter. I will make sure she stays focused and doesn't deviate from our plan."

Ma'am Luna looked at Laura with appreciation. "I trust you to handle this, my dear. You have always been level-headed and resourceful."

Laura took a brief pause, gathering her thoughts. She knew there was more to discuss. "When you said I should tell her about everything, I figured out that you wanted me to change some things. I excluded telling her about our other secrets."

Ma'am Luna's eyes narrowed slightly, curious about Laura's decision. "Why did you choose to withhold those secrets?"

Laura leaned forward, her voice lower as she explained her reasoning. "Mother, revealing everything at once would have overwhelmed her. Zinnia is strong, but there are limits to what she can handle. I believe it's better to gradually introduce her to our secrets, allowing her to digest each revelation before moving on to the next. It will also give us time to assess her reactions and adjust our plans accordingly."

Ma'am Luna studied Laura's face, recognizing the wisdom in her



daughter's words. "You've grown wiser with each passing day, my dear. Your judgment and discretion will serve us well."

Laura smiled, a mix of relief and determination in her eyes. "Thank you, mother. Together, we will protect our family and our legacy."

Arising from her seat, Ma'am Luna looked sternly at Laura. "I just hope you keep up with this smart attitude of yours and don't get carried away like you did in the past. You know what I mean, right?"

Laura's expression changed, a flicker of guilt crossing her face. She nodded, understanding the weight of her mother's words. "I understand, Mother. I won't let my emotions cloud my judgment again."

Ma'am Luna's gaze softened slightly. "Good. We have to stay focused and united in our efforts."

"You can leave now," Ma'am Luna continued. "I want to retire to bed."

"Alright. Goodnight," Laura said, her voice tinged with a hint of weariness. She let out an inaudible sigh before turning to leave the room.

Meanwhile, as Zinnia returned to the room, she was surprised to find Duncan standing in front of the mirror, drying his wet hair.

Remembering her grandmother's words about Duncan's potential usefulness, a sneer formed on her face. She couldn't help but wonder what role he would play in their upcoming plans.

But as Zinnia took in Duncan's features, she couldn't help but be amazed at how incredibly his body had transformed. Standing there with his wet upper body on display, wearing only a pair of light trousers, he looked undeniably attractive. Zinnia found herself silently acknowledging how dashing he appeared, despite her reluctance to admit it.



"He's glowing, how come?" she thought to herself, her brows furrowing as she continued to stare at him from head to toe. She shut her eyes briefly, attempting to shake off the distracting thoughts. However, as she flicked them open again, she caught herself lusting over her husband, whom she had always considered intolerable.

A surge of conflicting emotions washed over Zinnia. She was taken aback by her own attraction to Duncan. It went against everything she believed and felt towards him. The animosity and resentment she had harbored seemed to momentarily fade away, replaced by an unexpected desire.

Unbeknownst to Zinnia, Duncan was aware of her presence in the room. He had been silently observing her as she checked him out, enjoying the attention she was giving him. Zinnia, on the other hand, had conflicting emotions. She desired to reach out to him and grab him, but she felt that it would be beneath her to do so, considering him to be worthless.

As Zinnia continued to struggle with her inner desires, she clenched her fist in frustration. Suddenly, Duncan cleared his throat, causing Zinnia to startle. He spun around and caught her gaze, seemingly appearing out of nowhere.

"Oh, my angry wife, you've returned?" Duncan remarked, an amused tone lacing his voice.

Glaring at him, Zinnia retorted, "This is my room, and I can leave and return whenever I choose." Her response carried a mix of defiance and resentment, clearly indicating the strained dynamic between them.

"It's fine," Duncan shrugged, seemingly unfazed by her remark. He took a step forward, intending to continue their conversation, but Zinnia's question halted him in his tracks.

"Have you been working out in a gym lately?" she asked, her tone



carrying a hint of curiosity.

Turning to fix his gaze at her, Duncan let out a chuckle. "Zinnia, why ask that? Are you finding me attractive now?" There was a playful tone in his voice as if he was enjoying teasing her.

Chuckling in denial, Zinnia quickly dismissed his suggestion. "Finding you attractive is the last thing that will possibly happen on this earth," she retorted confidently. "I'm the queen of the city, Zinnia Lennart, and I appreciate only the best. You surely don't have the money to go to a gym and work your body to perfection."

Her words carried a sense of superiority as if she believed her status and wealth made her immune to finding any value in Duncan.

"You're a church rat," Zinnia hissed, her words dripping with contempt and disdain. The insult seemed to be her attempt at belittling Duncan and asserting her superiority over him.

Duncan, however, seemed unfazed by her insult. He smirked, seemingly amused by her attempt to provoke him. He had been heading towards the bathroom to return the towel he held in his hand when Zinnia spoke again.

"You've gotten yourself a new position in the company," Zinnia announced, her expression still filled with disdain.

Duncan turned to face her, his curiosity piqued. "Really? What position do I have now?" he asked, his voice tinged with mock surprise.

With a mixture of irritation and disbelief, Zinnia replied, "You've got the position of the Chief Security Officer."

"Woah, I'm now the new CSO? That's good," Duncan responded, his tone



deliberately provocative. "But... isn't it a bit below my status?"

He intentionally sought to irk her further, challenging her perception of his worth and importance. Zinnia's frustration was evident as she struggled to maintain her composure.

"You're insane, Duncan," she retorted, her voice laced with exasperation. The exchange between them highlighted their strained relationship and the power struggle that existed between the two characters.

"Really?" Duncan raised an eyebrow, feigning surprise at Zinnia's response. He seemed to enjoy getting under her skin and pushing her buttons.

"Yes!" Zinnia snapped back, her voice laced with irritation. "Your status is below my foot, and you should consider yourself super lucky to get that position. You better not provoke me to take back my words."

Duncan, seemingly unfazed by her threat, smirked. "You won't do that, Zinnia, because this is what your grandmother asked you to do," he retorted confidently. He knew how to push her buttons and use her family dynamics to his advantage.

Zinnia's eyes narrowed as she glared at him. "You think I can't..." she began to say, but Duncan quickly dismissed her with a wave of his hand.

"Whatever," he said dismissively. "I'm tired of hearing your rantings. Just make sure you tell the rest of the family about this good news tomorrow morning at the dining table."

Zinnia scoffed, her voice filled with indifference. "No one cares to know," she replied, seemingly uninterested in sharing Duncan's achievement with their family.



"I don't care," Duncan stated firmly, his voice unwavering. "You must still tell them."

Zinnia sighed, her frustration evident as she looked away. Reluctantly, she agreed to his demand, though her demeanor showed her lack of enthusiasm.

Duncan's smirk widened as he entered the bathroom, seemingly satisfied with his victory in getting Zinnia to comply with his wishes. Little did he know the brewing resentment within her.

"I won't relent on tossing you to the street when you've become totally useless to us, Duncan," Zinnia whispered to herself, her voice filled with venom. She cracked her knuckles, a sign of her determination, as she stared blankly at the closed bathroom door.

The following morning, as everyone gathered around the dining table, Duncan discreetly signaled at Zinnia. Reluctantly, Zinnia took a deep breath and revealed the news about Duncan's new position.

The atmosphere around the dining table shifted as Zinnia reluctantly began to speak. "Starting today, Duncan will be the new Chief Security Officer of the company," she announced, her voice lacking any enthusiasm.

Everyone at the table was taken aback by the news. Dropping his spoon, Marcus shot a glare in her direction. "How dare you promote him without my permission? I'm the COO of the company, forgotten? You've got no right to do anything without informing me first," he exclaimed, his voice filled with annoyance and frustration.

Zinnia rolled her eyes, clearly irritated by Marcus' outburst. She dropped her own spoon, her patience wearing thin. "She's now favoring her husband as expected," Bella, another family member, commented with a

hint of sarcasm.

Zinnia turned to face Bella, her expression filled with defiance. "Please, Aunt, know what you say," she retorted sharply, defending herself against the accusation of favoritism.

"Don't you dare talk to my mother with such disrespect," Lisa warned, her voice filled with protective anger as she defended Zinnia against Bella's comment. The tension in the room escalated as family members took sides and emotions ran high.

But it was Ma'am Luna, the matriarch of the family, who brought an end to the mounting chaos. "Shut your mouth, everyone!" she commanded, her voice filled with authority. The room fell silent as all eyes turned to her.

Glancing at everyone, Ma'am Luna asserted her control. "Duncan is now the new Chief Security Officer of the company, and it doesn't matter whether any of you like it or not!" she declared firmly. "The company is mine, and not any of yours."

Her words carried a weight that demanded obedience. She then turned her gaze towards Duncan, her eyes filled with a mix of expectation and approval. "You can assume your new position in the company starting from today," she instructed.

Duncan, while pulling an appreciative face and showing gratitude on the surface, couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement deep down. He had achieved a significant milestone

As the turn of events unfolded, he found himself filled with happiness. Everything was falling into place just as he had planned. He was delighted because he knew that Ma'am Luna, the person in charge, would want him to remain with the company so that she could utilize him at a



later time. Despite their attempts to ensnare him, Duncan was always one step ahead. That's why he had proactively sought a better position within the company.

Marcus grumbled in dissatisfaction. "Grandma, you should have discussed this with me first. Duncan is incompetent."

Ma'am Luna responded with a sharp retort, her gaze fixed on Marcus. "You're not much better than him either." She then shifted her attention to Duncan, who responded with a confident smile.

Clenching his fist, Aaron, who had remained silent up until now, spoke with a simmering anger in his voice. "Grandmother, I was supposed to assume the position of the new CSO. My mother had discussed it with you."
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Bella chimed in, affirming Aaron's claim. "Yes, mother-in-law, I did talk to you about it."

"Grandmother, please give Aaron a chance to prove himself to you," Lisa pleaded, her voice filled with desperation.

Ma'am Luna scoffed dismissively, cutting Lisa off. "Shut up, Lisa, or I'll strip you of the position you currently hold in the company. You haven't accomplished anything noteworthy since taking over Zinnia's role."

"Well, Lisa, you better prepare yourself to relinquish that position for Zinnia," Ma'am Luna hissed, her tone laced with venom.

Bella, sensing the tension rising, glanced at her husband George, silently urging him to intervene. After all, he was Ma'am Luna's son. However, George remained silent, refusing to partake in the conflict.

Deciding to advocate for the well-being of her children, Bella mustered



the courage to speak up. "Mother-in-law, it has barely been a month since you appointed Lisa as the CIO of the company. Please give my daughter more time to prove her worth," she implored, her words carrying a mix of respect and concern. Bella paused briefly, carefully studying Ma'am Luna's expression, searching for any sign of understanding or empathy.

Undeterred by Ma'am Luna's outburst, Bella gathered her resolve and pressed on. "And I humbly request that you grant Aaron a position in the company to allow him the opportunity to prove his worthiness to you as well," she pleaded, her voice filled with a mix of determination and desperation.

Ma'am Luna's response was filled with anger and disdain. "I don't need a moron like Aaron working in my company!" she bellowed, her words dripping with contempt. "He's even a university dropout. He's useless to me." Her glaring eyes bore into Aaron, as she continued to berate him. "He lacks intelligence and competence. All he knows is how to squander his lavish money and surround himself with a bunch of equally foolish individuals. He is unworthy of being among those who run my business."

"Mother, Aaron is planning to return to school and..."

"Don't say anything, George," Ma'am Luna interrupted sharply. "You are incapable of being the head of the household. You abandoned the business in the past, and now your children are proving to be just as incapable."

Enraged by his grandmother's words, Aaron abruptly pushed his chair back, causing it to crash to the ground as he jerked up. "Fine then. I'll continue being useless," he seethed. Without another word, he stormed out of the room, his frustration palpable.

"Mother-in-law, he's your grandson..." Bella attempted to reason, her



voice tinged with both concern and disappointment.

"Enough, Bella. Not another word," Ma'am Luna declared, her tone final. Slowly, she shifted her gaze towards Duncan, who had been quietly observing the entire scene with a smug expression on his face.



Gem Lynne author

No one can be better than Duncan in playing games but soon, someone is going to push him to the edge.

Can you take a guess??

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