

Surprise 246

Chapter 246 You Still Have Me

“Have you found those two people?”

Oliver nodded. “The two of them have opened a restaurant in Elmsbury called Sisters’ Fast Food Restaurant. They are now living a good life.”

Sarah and Maria were both cousins who came from the remote mountainous areas. Since the two of them had left their village in the middle of nowhere, they never planned to return there.

From the information that Oliver had gathered, they only worked in the Duncan Family for two years. One year was used by the Duncans to specifically train them and it did not include the evaluation period before they were officially hired.

Naturally, a maid who went through many difficult stages of evaluation would not have a low income, so logically, she would not do anything to harm her master’s family for a small profit.

“I’ve also checked their bank accounts, but there’s nothing out of the ordinary. Other than the income they received for being the Duncans’ maid back then, their highest transfer was the severance payment that the Duncans gave them three years ago.”

“So, they weren’t bribed?”

“No.” Oliver shook his head before flipping a page of the document, revealing the picture of a street with a skinny man in the middle. “This is Maria’s ex-husband. The two of them were married in her old house. In the early years, he followed Maria all the way to Melrose City and asked her for a lot of money. In the end, he became addicted to drugs and ended up with a huge debt. However, three years ago, all his debt collectors suddenly stopped appearing and the man was sent into a rehabilitation center.”

At that moment, Courtney furrowed her brows as she blankly stared at the man in the photo.

Vaguely, she could guess the interest that everyone could gain from the situation at hand.

“Then, I went to Aston County to search for this man. He just came out of the rehabilitation center six months ago and has kicked his drug addiction. He admitted that the man behind the scenes found him and promised to clear all his debt by giving him a huge amount of money. However, the man wanted him to urge Maria to administer some drugs into the milk powder of her master’s child.” Oliver was straightforward with his words because it was not his assumption. Instead, they were facts based on evidence.

“Did Maria do it?”

“I’m not sure.” He shook his head again. “This man is quite smart. Maria’s ex-husband told me that she didn’t agree to do it back then and she even wanted to divorce him. Because of this, the two of them fought and were apprehended by the Melrose City police department. I’ve checked the records and it’s real.”

However, Courtney seemed to realize something. “You just mentioned that there were two sisters who opened the restaurant in Elmsbury, right? One of them is Sarah Jones. Does this have anything to do with her?”

Oliver nodded. “Yes, it has something to do with her.”

What happened was simple. After Maria had a fight with her ex-husband, he stubbornly refused to divorce her, but the debt collectors naturally found their way to her when they could not locate him. As her cousin, Sarah could not bear seeing her in that situation, she drugged the child behind the married couple’s back.

“At first, Maria didn’t know about this, but after Jordan had the accident, she forced Sarah to tell the truth. However, at that time, it was already too late and there was someone to cover the incident for them, so they resigned from their jobs in the Duncan Family and left Melrose City before fleeing to Elmsbury.”

During the whole incident, there was no transaction of money, so the Duncan Family could not figure out what happened at that time because no one believed that someone would do such a thing for nothing.

“Then, how did you find out?” Courtney was confused.

No one could find any evidence back then and even if Oliver found the sisters, the two of them would definitely keep their mouths shut and refuse to admit to it.

He looked to have mixed feelings. “Sarah has cancer and she won’t be living for much longer, so she confessed everything to me.”

No one could tell whether there was really karma in the world. Back then, when Sarah drugged Jordan, even though she was not caught, she remained in a nervous state because she was always worried that the Duncans would somehow get to her. Over the years, she fell ill and was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer six months ago.

Courtney also had mixed feelings toward the situation. As Jordan’s mother, she should feel that Sarah deserved it and show no sympathy toward her. However, at that time, Sarah did not do it for money. Instead, she merely committed the act to help her cousin escape a bad situation, which was admirable.

“Who is the man behind the scenes? Have you found that out?”

Upon that being mentioned, Oliver slowly sighed. “Sarah said that the man who contacted her then was the Young Master of the Duncan Family.”

Suddenly, Courtney felt a thump in her heart as she clenched her fists. “There are a few young masters in the Duncan Family.”

“She was certain that it was Jordan’s father. Although she rarely saw him, he would always visit the ancestral home every New Year. Also, he was always on the news, so she couldn’t mistake someone else for him.”

The fingers of Courtney's clenching fists were now icy cold as coldness flowed through her stiff limbs to the point where even her rationality was frozen. Did Alexander really do it? Did he use a two-year-old child?

Looking at her pale face, Oliver felt a pain in his heart. "Courtney, try not to look at this in a bad way. Maybe Alexander didn't expect this to have such a huge impact on Jordan. I've asked Sarah what medicine she used for Jordan and she said that it helps to heat up the body. Also, she was afraid that the child couldn't bear it, so she only used a small dosage. That is why he only had a fever afterward. As for the damage to his vocal cords, I think that's a bit weird. Didn't the doctor say that Jordan's vocal cords are actually fine, but he doesn't want to speak for fear of being frightened?"

However, his words did not comfort Courtney at all as she still felt upset. How cold-blooded does Alexander have to be for using a two-year-old child, who can't speak, as a weapon for the competition in his business? This is terrible. "You don't need to comfort me. I know what to do."

When Oliver first reminded her, she was already mentally prepared for the worst case scenario.

At night, the lights in the living room were switched off. After having run around for so long, he slept in the guest room immediately after taking a shower. As for her, she stayed in Tina's room because she just could not fall asleep.

As she gazed at the innocent looks of her daughter, who was sleeping soundly on the bed, she felt extremely guilty inside. If I was stronger back then, would I be able to stop Jordan from falling into the hands of the sinister wealthy family like the Duncans and getting involved in this kind of dispute?

In the dark night, her phone rang as a message popped up. 'Cameron has fully recovered. Everything is fine here. What about you? From Elijah.'

While reading the contents of the message, Courtney took a deep breath and sat on the carpet with her legs crossed. Then, she typed a series of words on her phone screen before sending it. 'I'm fine. I've considered the situation with Jordan. Do you still have the contact of the lawyer you mentioned to me before? I need to ask him about the issue with child custody.'

At the beginning, she did not think about fighting Alexander for custody of Jordan. After all, he had been raising him for many years, so she did not have the right to just take Jordan away. However, by the looks of it now, if Alexander would do something as horrible as that in the past, he may do it to Jordan the second time. Besides, it is indeed dangerous for Jordan to stay by his side.

Soon after, Elijah replied and attached the contact information of the lawyer in his message. 'If you have any questions, you can ask him first. I'll be coming to Melrose City next month. Try to maintain a good mood and we'll talk about it when we meet again. You still have me.'

## Chapter 247 Why Should I Believe You?

Since the next day was Friday, Oliver took the initiative to send Tina to school during breakfast. "Just treat it as me paying the rent," he explained. "I'm afraid that I'll be staying here for a while."

Courtney served a bowl of porridge in front of him. "It isn't a problem even if you stay here forever. After all, I'm the one who knocked you down and you're helping me a lot. You can stay in peace here. If you have the free time, you can continue to investigate your identity." Upon mentioning that, she continued to ask, "By the way, how is your investigation in Campus City? How many schools have you not looked at?"

For a moment, he was startled, so he lowered his head to conceal the serenity in his eyes. "There aren't many left. I think there are still about 5 or 6 schools that I haven't looked at. Two of them are teachers' colleges, so it'll be easy."

"Then, I'll accompany you this weekend."

"No need for that. You are busy. I can just go there myself." He lifted his head when his expression returned to normal.

Upon seeing Oliver being insistent, Courtney had nothing else to say, but she was still a little concerned. Actually, she wanted to ask Alexander to help investigate Oliver's identity. Logically speaking, as long as they had Oliver's picture and fingerprints, they could search for his identity in the public security bureau's database. However, as she had broken up with Alexander afterward, she never mentioned her request to him.

After breakfast, Oliver sent Tina to school. At that moment, the bidding was imminent since the Sakura Group had set the deadline at today evening, so Courtney could not spend more time with them as she went straight to the company.

"President Hunter, this is the revised tender. Please take a look at it." Inside her office, the manager of the administration department, Martin, gave Courtney the tender's revised version for her to peruse and sign.

After carefully scanning the document to ensure that there was no problem, she signed her name before handing it back to him. "Alright. That'll be enough. You can send this tender straight to the Sakura Group in a short while."

"Alright," he quickly replied. "By the way, we mentioned before that we should ask someone to keep an eye on the Sakura Group. Have you found a suitable candidate?"

"Yes, I have." Courtney nodded.

Martin looked at her expression and asked cautiously, "Who is it? Is it someone from our company?"

"No. It is someone professional." Courtney wrote on a document while simply giving Martin a glance. "You don't need to worry about this. You only need to settle the tender and deal with any feedback from Sakura Group in due course."

He withdrew his gaze and awkwardly replied, "Yes. I understand."

After he left, she glanced at the door. I'm not being overly suspicious. Citron is now in a critical stage of development and we are just one step away from getting through all of this. If I trust the wrong person at this point, all of this will be for nothing.

At Sapphire Kindergarten, Alexander sent Jordan to the school gate, but he refused to enter alone. Alexander had no choice but to wait with him for Tina at the school gate. Tina finally showed up when it was close to 9:00AM.

“Why are you here? Where’s Courtney?” After seeing the person who sent her to school, Alexander’s face immediately changed.

“By the sound of it, am I not supposed to send Tina here?” Oliver looked at him with a faint smile. “Besides, didn’t you already break up with Courtney? Please don’t call her intimately to prevent any misunderstanding since it won’t be good for the kids’ school life.”

“Does that have anything to do with you?” Alexander’s eyes darkened. “Ever since you disappeared from the hotel without a trace, I thought I needed to make a police report to see whether you were taken to the neurological hospital for a consultation. By the looks of it now, do you need me to help you check into a hospital again?”

“No need for that.” Oliver looked at him while his youthful face had an imposing smile. “I’m now living quite well in Courtney’s house, so you don’t need to worry about me.”

When Alexander heard Oliver’s words, his face grew even gloomier.

After watching Tina entering the school, Oliver did not wish to talk to Alexander anymore. Just as he was about to leave, Alexander’s deep voice was heard from behind.

“Oliver Ford, a level-17 investigative and counter-reconnaissance major in Public Security University. That’s you, right?” Oliver was startled as he slowly turned to meet Alexander’s cold gaze. “Judging from your reaction, I can tell that you know your identity. If that’s the case, why did you lie to everyone and pretend to be an amnesia patient to gain sympathy by staying beside Courtney? What is your goal?”

“Goal?” Oliver smirked disdainfully. “Unlike you, not everything I do is for a goal. What if I tell you that I simply like Courtney and I’m happy to stay by her side?”

“By lying about your identity?” Alexander’s face grew colder. “I think the police station is more suited for you to stay in.”

“Now that you are being spied on all the time by someone, what good will it give you for sending me to the police?” Oliver remained calm as he explained unhurriedly. “If I were you, I will continue to allow me to stay by Courtney’s side. Firstly, I can protect her safety. Secondly, I can help you find out what the hell is going on behind James’s back since he just robbed you of your position as president. How is he able to double the company’s performance after taking the position for less than half a month?”

After listening to him, Alexander’s eyes darkened even more. He had long known that Oliver was not an ordinary character. When he first looked into Oliver’s student profile in Public Security University, he could tell that the latter was a meticulous person who was unheard of after comparing his recommendation letter with his school project.

Josh went to the university to inquire about Oliver and the professor at the school commented, “Oliver is an investigative and counter-connaissance genius that only shows up once in a century. If he uses his mind on the right path, he will be the jewel of the criminal investigation world. Vice versa, he will leave the whole criminal investigation world at a loss.”

Such high praise did not come from nowhere as it was all based on evidence. In a crime-solving contest organized by the Public Security University and the special criminal investigation unit, Oliver was the first person to apprehend the suspect while simultaneously creating another perfect crime to get away scot free. During the crime simulation, he received a punishment, but it also directly allowed him to receive qualifications for undergraduate, master and doctorate studies in the university.

“Why should I believe you?” Alexander stared into Oliver’s eyes to search for the slightest look that he was delaying time or fooling himself.

Instead, Oliver gently smiled. “You can choose not to trust me, but you should know that hiding my identity from Courtney won’t be enough to send me to prison. Instead, she might feel that you are making a big scene and causing trouble.”

At this, Alexander’s face darkened for the umpteenth time. After a while of silence, he asked with a gloomy face, “You just said that Courtney will be in danger. Why is that?”

“I can find out what kind of a person James is, but I’m afraid as his cousin, you would know him more than me, right? He is the kind of person that will do anything to achieve his goals. If you make him really desperate, no one will know what he is capable of doing.” Oliver’s voice deepened. “I have no control over your family’s internal fights, but if it involves Courtney, I won’t turn a blind eye to it.”

#### Chapter 248 I Only Accept 20 Million

Oliver’s words make sense. If he doesn’t have any definite evidence to support his statement, he wouldn’t say something like that. “If your goal is to protect Courtney, I will take my words back, but the premise is that I need to know what you found.”

Oliver chuckled. “Information like this is usually sold for 100,000 when I worked in this line, but now, you are staring at me menacingly without even treating me to a drink. Are you planning to scam me?”

After looking at him thoroughly and weighing the benefit of the outcome, Alexander softened his hostile look. “Are you free? Let’s go and have a drink then.”

Businessmen are always the same when it comes to adapting to current circumstances.

Inside a quaint teahouse in the city, the atmosphere was aromatic and bamboo was used to separate the rooms. There was adequate distance between the private rooms to prevent any disturbance to the nearby guests.

With just a few words, Oliver recalled what he had investigated. “This is all that I know. If you think that it won’t affect Courtney at all, you can call the cops and use your family’s connections to throw me behind bars for 8 to 10 days.”

While playing with a delicate purple sand cup in his hand, Alexander gazed at Oliver’s face as he seemed to be lost in his own thoughts. “Even if what you are saying is real, how can I be sure that you don’t have other motives toward Courtney?”

“You can’t.” Oliver seemed fearless. “Because I do have other motives toward her. Don’t forget that she is now single, so I have the right to pursue her.”

Immediately, Alexander's face darkened. "Are you really going to be that fearless?"

Oliver casually looked at the orchid pattern on the purple sand cup while simply answering, "Your threats are useless to me. Rather than wondering what my motives are toward Courtney, you should think of a way to snatch your position as president soon so that you don't have to look over your shoulder all the time."

"You don't need to worry about that." Alexander glared at him. "You've thoroughly investigated my family's affairs, so I can't help but feel suspicious of you. What do you have to say about that?"

"Is it that hard to explain? The Duncan Family is a huge family with a large enterprise. Is it strange to assume that you'll have lots of distant relatives far away?"

"Distant relatives?" Alexander stared at Oliver with suspicion.

"Don't we look alike?" Oliver opened his arms wide to allow Alexander to have a clearer look of him. "I feel that the two of us look quite alike. Some may even believe that we are brothers."

Alexander gave him a cold look. "Is that so? Why can't I see it?"

Instantly, Oliver felt embarrassed when his joke was met with Alexander's indifferent attitude, so he smiled awkwardly and snorted. "I'm just kidding. How could I assume myself to be part of a wealthy family like the Duncans?"

"After all of this, you still haven't told me what your motives are."

"A straightforward person doesn't resort to insinuations. Since you've sincerely asked me many times, I won't lie to you." Then, Oliver casually leaned against the chair behind him. "I'm not fond of many things, but if you've heard about me in Melrose City, you should know that I love money. Courtney is now the only heir to the Hunter Family. No matter how beaten up their company is, they are still a huge enterprise. Moreover, she has a close relationship with you, so... It's that simple."

"Say it. How much do you want?"

Oliver then stretched out two fingers from his left hand. "2 million. That isn't much."

When Alexander heard the answer, he coldly looked at him.

However, Oliver chuckled. "In your eyes, is Courtney's safety only worth 2 million? What's more, I'm now selling you a massive information about your competitor. I only want one price, which is 20 million."

"Just remember your words. Deal."

Although the price had now been increased ten times, Alexander's face remained composed and even his tone was very casual. It made Oliver suspect that Alexander initially thought that the price would already be 20 million, but due to his shrewdness as a businessman, he intentionally offered a low price.

After their talk, Alexander picked up the tab and immediately left the teahouse, leaving Oliver to peacefully drink his tea.

Looking at the check bearing the 2 million deposit on the table, Oliver chuckled while his eyes were full of disdain. Just as I've imagined—he is just a businessman who only talks about the terms. If I don't ask him for anything, he won't believe any word that I've said at all. This is Alexander Duncan, the man who the person at home has been thinking about for almost two decades.

After leaving the teahouse, Alexander went to the Duncans' ancestral home.

Ever since he quarreled with Scott the last time, he did not return for a while. The moment the maids saw him entering through the door, they were all surprised.

However, Scott felt excited, but he maintained a stoic face. Instead, he grunted and pretended to be indifferent toward Alexander.

"Where's Jordan? Why didn't you bring him along with you? Are you intending to forbid him from seeing his great-grandpa?"

Beside him was Harry, who tried to be the peacemaker. "Master, have you forgotten? Today is Friday, so Little Master has to attend school."

Scott immediately glared at him, as if gesturing to him to keep his mouth shut.

"I'll send Jordan here this evening after school." Alexander opened his mouth, breaking the tension in the house. Even though his tone was as cold as Scott's, the gloomy atmosphere in the Duncans' ancestral home finally watered down. "He'll be staying here tonight. I'll pick him up after the weekend."

After listening to his words, Scott finally calmed himself down. "This is more like it. I'm old and I don't have much time left. Are you really going to separate me from my great-grandson?"

"Courtney will be here to cook for Jordan this weekend."

"What?" Just as Scott calmed himself down, his face immediately darkened as he rose to his full height by pressing the armrest of his armchair. "What did you just say? Why is she coming here?"

However, Alexander remained unfazed as he explained unhurriedly, "Jordan doesn't want to eat the meals that are cooked by my chefs at home. He only wants to eat the meals cooked by her. If you don't want to see her, I'll just ask her to come to my house and Jordan won't be here to trouble you either."

"Your house?" Scott asked in a solemn tone. "Don't forget what I've told you—I will never agree to you continuing your relationship with her. She is a married woman, so what does that make you? A male lover."

"Hehe!"

The moment Scott finished speaking, the sound of a young girl giggling while trying to hold back her laughter came from the living room door. Obviously, she failed in her attempt, so she laughed out loud.

"Who is that sneakily hiding at the door?" He glared at the door in displeasure. "What are you laughing at?"

Harry quickly explained, "It's Miss Hannah. Miss Hannah, please come in."

Then, a tiny figure slowly walked in the door with a sullen face while trying her best to resist laughing. After walking past Alexander, she came to Scott's side and said solemnly, "Dad, you can't blame me for laughing because it is quite funny. My nephew is great at everything, but as a male lover..."

The moment the words 'nephew' and 'male lover' came out of a 13-year-old girl's mouth, the sense of contradiction was so satisfying that Scott was amused. Immediately, he relaxed before deliberately pointing at Alexander and asked, "Your nephew even plans to bring a woman, who treats him as her escort, home. What do you think about that?"

## Chapter 249 I Was the One Who Suggested Us to Break Up

Everyone in the Duncan Family knew that Alexander had disliked people to joke about his relationship with Hannah.

After all, it was indeed ridiculous that a legitimate young master like him had to address a 13-year-old young girl as his aunt.

Scott, of course, knew about it, which was the reason why he intentionally teased Alexander about it.

After appraising Alexander's face, which was as dark as night, Hannah gulped before carefully uttering, "Truth be told, I don't mind preparing meals for Jordan. Jordan is your only great-grandson and he doesn't have perfect health to begin with, so it would be bad if his health worsens due to hunger."

"So, you mean to say that you agree to allow Courtney to stay in our house?"

"Dad, I thought that you used to like her a lot?"

Upon hearing that, Scott frowned and explained in displeasure, "That was before I found out that she isn't divorced."

Noticing that he was about to get mad, Hannah did not dare to continue discussing the matter. "Then, you just pretend that we hired a new chef. Our house is gigantic anyway, so it would be easy if you don't wish to see her." After saying that, she cast a glance at Alexander before she continued in a small voice. "Besides, from what I heard earlier, if you don't allow her to come over, there is nothing much you can do if she goes to my nephew's house."

When Scott heard that, his body tensed. Her words reminded him that stopping Courtney from coming to his place would only push her to Alexander's place and things would be beyond his control by then.

"Alright, then. Ask her to come over to cook this weekend." He immediately changed his mind and agreed.

Scott was a man of his words. Upon hearing his agreement, Hannah heaved a sigh of relief before raising her head to raise her brows at Alexander with a complacent look on her face.

The ungrateful Alexander, however, darted a cold look at her, giving her a fright that made her hair stand on end. She then gave an excuse to flee the scene.

Since the next day was Saturday, Courtney and Tina came over for a visit again and the maids were polite to them.

After taking Courtney to the kitchen, the maid looked at Tina and said, "Miss Hunter, I'll take Tina to play with Little Master."

Before Courtney could reply, Tina snorted, "I don't want to go. I want to stay here and accompany Mommy."

"Little Master has been waiting for you for a long time, though. He even prepared a gift for you."

She pouted. "I don't want to go."

Seeing that the maid was going to continue to persuade Tina, Courtney chimed in to ease the situation, "It's alright. Preparing a meal won't take me a long time and I will take her home right after that. So, let's save the trouble."

She had no plans on staying for long due to her awkward identity. In fact, if it was not for Jordan's sake, she would not have shown up.

When Courtney was cooking, Tina carried a little stool to the side and sat on it. She washed a tomato before handing it to her daughter. Tina ate the tomato in a carefree manner until her face was covered in pink juice as she slurred her words, "Mommy, hurry up. Can we have fried chicken after you finish cooking?"

"Okay," Courtney helplessly replied.

The cooking process did not take her long as the ingredients were ready for her to use. The Duncan Family's chef had already prepared the meat for all the chicken, duck, fish, and pork, so all Courtney had to do was to throw them into the pot. Soon, the aroma from her cooking filled the entire kitchen and one could smell the scent even from outside the kitchen.

Scott's room was separated by two courtyards from the kitchen and the butler reported to him at the door. "Sir, the chef has arrived."

"Come in." Scott was practicing calligraphy—his penmanship was sharp and powerful, resembling a dragon's aura.

"Has she arrived?"

The chef immediately replied, "Yes, Miss Hunter came with her daughter. I initially asked her to hand her daughter to me so that I can bring the latter to Little Master's room to play with him, but her daughter refused. The mother and daughter are in the kitchen now."

He snorted. "She thinks she is smart, huh? Does she think this would make Alexander and Jordan take the initiative to see her? When we have lunch later, take the two of them to the dining room at the side wing. We are not eating with them."

The chef carefully glanced at Scott. "However, Miss Hunter said that she will leave right after she has finished preparing the meal. Since she came to cook before lunch, I think that she may not have any plans to stay for the day."

He furrowed his brows at her words, inexplicably feeling annoyed.

The butler glanced at him before asking the chef to leave. "Sir, I think Miss Hunter is not a promiscuous woman. Perhaps there is a misunderstanding in this?"

"Isn't it a fact that she is a married woman?" Scott was displeased. "Why are you starting to take her side? Did Alexander tell you something?"

"That's not true." The butler shook his head. "Sir, if you are not sure about it, perhaps you can check her out."

"Check her out?" Scott raised his head and looked at the butler with puzzlement.

After a while, he put his pen down before walking out from his desk with his hands behind his back.

"Alright. Let's go and check her out."

It was burning hot in the kitchen. After Courtney finished preparing three dishes and a soup, she covered the dishes with an insulated food cover before wiping her hands and removing the apron. "Tina, let's go."

"Okay." Tina jumped from her little stool and pounced into Courtney's embrace.

"Hey, don't you mind that I smell like smoke now?"

"I don't mind as long as it is you, Mommy." After that, she nuzzled in her mother's arms and uttered.

"Mommy, let's go. I want to eat honey fried chicken."

"You can eat to your heart's content." Then, Courtney held Tina's hand and exited the kitchen.

Before they could arrive at the entrance, they saw Scott's familiar figure walking toward them. He seemed to be full of vim and vigor as he strode toward them in large steps.

"Grand—Old Master Duncan." Courtney suddenly changed the way she addressed him with a calm expression.

He hummed in acknowledgement before glancing in the direction behind her and asking, "Have you finished preparing lunch?"

"Yes. Three dishes and a soup. They are all Jordan's favorites."

"As a matter of a fact, you are not the first one to use Jordan to approach Alexander, but you are indeed the first one whom Jordan is relying on so much. However, don't forget that I'm still the one in charge of the Duncan Family. I won't allow something inappropriate to happen to my only grandson."

His words were straightforward and blatant. However, Courtney calmly replied while holding her daughter's hand, "Old Master Duncan, I'm afraid that you have misunderstood something. I've broken up with Alexander and I have no intention to reconcile with him. I am merely close to Jordan and he is also Tina's good friend. So, making two meals for him is not a big deal."

Scott frowned. "Are you really done with Alexander?"

“Did you have some kind of misunderstanding?” She furrowed her brows. “Something that most people desire does not necessarily become something that everybody desires. Alexander and I are really incompatible. Therefore, I won’t even consider getting back with him even if you try to set us up. Perhaps you don’t know this, but I was the one who suggested we break up.”

Chapter 250 Let’s Settle This

Courtney felt as if she had swallowed a fly. Am I being suspected of pestering him?

Upon hearing her words, Scott’s expression fell. “You are the one who suggested breaking up? Tell me then, why do you think Alexander is not a good match for you?”

She was stunned.

The butler, Harry, immediately reminded him, “Sir...”

Only then did Scott return to his senses; he coughed and instead said, “At least you know your place.”

She returned to her usual self. “It’s time for Tina to have lunch, so please allow me to take my leave with my daughter.”

“Hold on.” He called after her. “Since you’re here to help prepare lunch, you shouldn’t just leave right away. It’s not in the Duncan Family’s style to kick out the person who has just helped us. Besides, since you would be coming again at night, it would be too much of a hassle to come and go multiple times a day.”

“There’s no need for that.” Courtney felt that staying back was instead the real hassle.

“If you don’t have any other intentions, what’s the matter with staying for a meal as a guest of the Duncan Family?” Scott’s voice was cold and intimidating, as if her refusal to stay for a meal meant that she harbored other intentions.

Courtney frowned for a moment. However, when she thought that she would be able to meet Jordan during the meal, she agreed. “Since you insisted, it won’t be nice for me to continue rejecting your kind offer.”

She did not know his true intention when she agreed to his offer. It was only when she arrived at the dining room and saw Mikayla sitting opposite her that she realized it. It was a demonstration—he intended to lay out the truth in front of Courtney to show that Alexander had been taken to stop her from having any fantasies.

Courtney found the situation ridiculous. Looking at Mikayla, who was opposite her, she courteously smiled at the latter as a greeting.

“You two should know each other. The company that Mikayla is working in has collaborated with Sunhill Hotel before this.”

Scott’s gaze flicked from the left to the right at Courtney and Mikayla. However, when he gazed at Mikayla, his expression was obviously gentler and more loving.

Such a clear display of the saying that every dog has its day. A few months ago, Courtney was the granddaughter-in-law that Scott himself acknowledged while he coldly treated Mikayla. However, under the presence of a negative example like her, even Mikayla seemed to be a better choice.

Before she immersed herself deeper into her thoughts with her head bowed, Alexander and Jordan entered the room.

As Courtney was sitting with her back facing the door of the dining hall, she was only able to guess what went on behind her by listening to the sound of their footsteps. Alexander's footsteps did not stop when the maids greeted him, but they came to a halt when he arrived at a spot behind her. "Grandpa... Why is she here?"

As a matter of fact, he was asking about Mikayla.

However, Scott replied, "Miss Hunter insisted on leaving, but I think it would be impolite of us to treat a guest this way as she was, after all, here to cook for Jordan, so I asked her to stay for a meal. Alex, come over and have a seat."

Courtney clenched her fist tightly as her heart sank. I know that Alexander is getting engaged with Mikayla, yet I am still here to join in the fun. I must have gone insane when I agreed to Old Master Duncan's request to stay back.

When she was hoping that the ground would swallow her up, she did not notice the furrowed brows on Alexander's face as he asked, "Were you planning to leave right after you prepared the meal?"

Courtney turned and she replied in a low voice, "My initial plan was solely to come and cook for Jordan, so it won't be appropriate for me to stay."

"Great." His expression fell. "That's just great."

She was not sure what Alexander meant by 'great', but he sounded upset. Maybe he is upset because I don't know my place.

"Jordan, come over and sit next to me." Scott lovingly waved at Jordan.

"No," Jordan adamantly rejected. Then, he broke away from Alexander's grip and walked to Courtney before climbing up with his hands and legs onto the chair next to her. He and Tina sat beside Courtney with one on the right and the other on the left—just like how they had always done.

Scott frowned. "Jordan..."

"Let him be," Alexander interrupted. After that, he walked past Courtney and sat next to Mikayla, which was the seat directly opposite hers. There were only a handful of dishes creating a distance between them and Courtney.

The seating arrangement had made things look rather awkward.

Courtney had no choice but to keep her head bowed throughout the meal. She either served the two children or ate with her head lowered since she lacked the courage to even raise her head.

Of course, she was able to persuade herself to let go of the past and stay away from Alexander, but it was still rather difficult for her to look at him acting lovey-dovey with another woman.

“Mikayla, here, try this.” Scott gestured for Mikayla to try one of the dishes.

She was rather quiet today and continued to appraise Alexander and Courtney, as if she had something to say. However, Mikayla remained reticent since it was not a suitable time to talk about it.

“Mikayla, when your father came to play chess with me last time, he mentioned about the engagement. I think that the 23rd of next month is an auspicious day. I will ask the butler to check the weather on that day. If the weather is perfect, let’s confirm the engagement date so that both our families can have a peace of mind.” Scott’s voice echoed in the dining hall and the atmosphere instantly made Courtney feel like she was being suffocated.

“That’s a little hasty.” Mikayla’s voice reflected her nervousness. “I think that there isn’t a need to rush things. Alexander and I have just started to get to know each other. In fact, we—”

“What do you mean by starting to get to know each other? You two have known each other for more than 10 years,” Scott interrupted with an adamant voice. “It’s been decided as such.”

“Old Master Duncan, Alex has yet to agree on it. I don’t think that it’s a good idea.”

“He—” His words stopped halfway before he glanced at Courtney with a complicated expression. He then asked Alexander, “Alex, what do you think?”

She seemed to be nonchalantly serving some dishes to Jordan, but if one carefully observed her, they would notice that her movements were as stiff as a robot when she served the dishes. “Jordan, eat this.”

Alexander stared at her for a while. When he saw that she seemed unperturbed by the incident, his expression instantly turned cold. His thin lips parted and his clear voice loudly and adamantly resounded in the dining hall. “No comment.”

The moment his words were heard, Courtney felt as if she could not exhale the breath she held in her chest. It was a sensation so uncomfortable that it resembled a thousand-pound boulder suffocating her and pinning her down. He said that he has no comment, which means that he has acquiesced in his marriage with Mikayla. I wonder who was the one adamantly assured that Mikayla is like a sister to him and he has no other feelings for her. All those words sound ridiculous when I think about them now. “Tina, are you full?” she gently asked in a low voice.

“I’m full. Mommy, let’s go home.” Tina nodded as she felt upset. As a matter of fact, she did not eat much since she was pissed off to see Alexander sitting next to Mikayla. Grandpa Scott has gone overboard. He has broken his promise. I hate adults.

Courtney stroked Jordan’s head and smiled, as if the earlier incident had nothing to do with her. “I’m sorry; my daughter is tired, so I have to take her home for a nap. Please continue to enjoy your lunch.”