

Surprise 351

One Night Surprise Chapter 351 Recognized by Her Future Mother-In-Law

After receiving the check, Courtney immediately rushed back to Oreus without a single moment of delay, and it was already late at night when she arrived. She hadn't slept for almost a day, and she had a few cups of coffee consecutively because she was afraid that she might fall asleep while driving there.

When Fiona saw the check, she breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank you, Courtney."

"You're welcome," Courtney replied with a smile. She was worried that Fiona would be stressed out, so she didn't tell her that the bracelet was still with her.

"I've already thought about it. Once this is over, I'll send Oliver to study abroad while I go on a vacation. That way, it will be difficult for Felipe to find me."

"Don't be afraid. A person like him will get just his retribution sooner or later. He can't escape from the law."

"Hopefully." Lowering her head, Fiona checked the time and said anxiously, "It's late. You should go and sleep in the room which I already cleaned up. I've caused so much trouble for you for the past couple of days."

"It's alright. I'm not sleepy." Right after she said that, a yawn escaped her mouth, and she was immediately embarrassed.

"Alright, now. You've already done me such a huge favor, and there's nothing left for you to do. Go and catch some sleep." Her face was kind and warm as she patted Courtney's hand. "Alex is so fortunate to have met a woman like you."

Just one statement from her was enough to make Courtney blush. So, does this mean I'm acknowledged by my future mother-in-law now?

Finally, she didn't turn her down anymore and went upstairs by herself. After a simple washup, she climbed into the bed.

Then, a knock came on the door and Fiona's soft voice rang. "Are you asleep, Courtney?"

"Not yet. The door isn't locked. Please come in."

After that, Fiona opened the door and came in while holding a tray in one hand. "The weather is cold, so I made some meat stew. It's from my private recipe and the meat is really tender. Give it a try."

"It smells delicious!" Courtney said, getting up from the bed.

"It's fine. Just sit in the bed." After placing the stew on the nightstand, she sat next to the bed and passed the stew to her. "It's quite cold. You don't have to be so uptight with me. Try it."

A warm, fuzzy feeling swarmed around Courtney's chest, and she ate while staring at the woman in front of her who was beautiful, virtuous, generous, gentle, and mature yet simple. It was as if all the

wonderful words in the world could be used to describe her; it wasn't surprising that Oliver had previously said that he wanted a woman like his mother.

"Madam, it will be amazing if the misunderstanding between you and Alex can be resolved," Courtney uttered tentatively, worried that she might startle her. "It has always bothered him that he didn't have a mother when he was young, and even though he blames you, he still yearns for you."

When Fiona heard that, her face froze, and she looked unbearable as she said, "I know. Alex is a kind person."

But for everyone living in this world, they couldn't always do as their hearts wanted because of all the different misgivings they had and the concern over the opinions of others about themselves.

"Have you considered telling Alex exactly what happened back then? I think he'll understand it."

"I can't do that." Fiona shot down the idea firmly, as though she had decided on this a long time ago, and nothing could change her mind.

"Why not? It doesn't matter if it's the opinions of others that you're worried about. Just tell it to Alex alone. Isn't it enough if he understands you?"

"But how do you expect him to accept the fact that the father whom he had respected for decades was actually not his real father?" Fiona chuckled in a self-deprecating manner, trying her best to mask how much she cared. "He has never been close with me since he was young. So, his impression of me in his heart is not so important, but not his father. Even if he could accept it, how do you expect him to continue living with the Duncans?"

Unwittingly, Courtney felt her heart tighten in anxiety. For a proud person like Alexander, it was very likely that he couldn't bring himself to care about Sunhill Enterprise or the Duncan Family anymore if he found out that he was not related to the Duncans in any way. At that time, Scott might not be able to bear this outcome.

"In this world, you can't have your cake and eat it too. One shouldn't be too greedy." With a gentle expression, she added, "In fact, I've been very happy with my life for the past years, so you don't have to worry about me." Then, she gathered the bowl and spoon. "Get some early rest."

Watching her back as she walked away, Courtney hesitated for a long while. Suddenly, just before Fiona closed the door, she said, "But the dead are already gone. No matter how much respect Alex has for his father, he was a person who had already passed on and could no longer answer him anything. Only the ones who are alive have more possibilities."

For a second, Fiona froze halfway while closing the door.

"Please reconsider."

A few moments passed in silence before Fiona closed the door, saying, "Go to bed now."

Despite the uneasiness in her chest, Courtney drifted off to sleep almost immediately after resting her head on the pillow because she had been running around all day. She fell so deeply asleep that she didn't even hear that her cell phone was ringing the whole time.

The next day, it was already late morning when Courtney woke up. After washing up, she went downstairs and greeted Mia at the reception. "Morning. Is Madam Fiona not awake yet?"

"She went out early in the morning," she answered, blinking. "Don't you know?"

"Where did she go?"

"I don't know, but she went out pulling a luggage bag with her."

"What?" Courtney's face changed, and she fished out her phone quickly to make a call. However, she saw that she had a bunch of unread text messages.

At about 1.00AM, Fiona had sent her a text. 'I've contacted Felipe, and it's enough that I go alone for the transaction that's happening in three days. You've helped me so much, which is why I shouldn't let you take any more risks. Thank you, Courtney.'

This only made Courtney perturbed. Naturally, the kidnappers would only allow Fiona to go alone, but at the same time, she also mentioned that those people were fearless outlaws. Once they got the money, they might not let Fiona and Oliver go. Just money alone wouldn't guarantee safety in this matter.

At the thought of this, Courtney asked Mia anxiously, "Then, do you know where she went? And did she mention anything in the past couple of days, especially when she's picking up a call?"

Startled, Mia looked as though she was trying her best to search through her memory. After a while, something came into her mind, and her eyes lit up. "The computer at the reception is signed in with Madam's account; we can find out her schedule from there."

"Let's check it quickly."

Hurriedly, they rushed to the reception, and Mia turned on the computer after fiddling around. Then, her fingers danced across the keyboard until she finally found the flight ticket Fiona bought last night.

"It's the 8.00AM flight to Shanghai."

Grabbing her bag, Courtney then dashed out. Just as Fiona had said it herself, this matter was too risky, and the possibility that she could rescue Oliver with this money was very low. Therefore, she had to think of a Plan B.

In the car, she stared ahead while making an overseas call. "Please do me a favor, Elijah. Has the tracking system developed by your company that you mentioned before been tested? Can it be used now?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 352 I'm Quite Skilled

"From the two numbers you gave me, one is a virtual number which changes its location every five minutes. It will take a while to track that one, but I've already found out the address of the other number and sent it to you," Elijah said over the phone.

"Alright. Hang on and let me see," Courtney said before she hurriedly checked her phone.

Sure enough, it was a hotel in Shanghai.

After walking out of the airport, she beckoned for a cab. “Sir, to this hotel, please.” When the car started moving, she placed her cell phone next to her ear again. “Hello, Elijah. I’m in the cab now.”

“Okay, inform me once you reach the place. I’ve already asked someone to track the virtual number, and the results will most probably be out this evening.”

“Okay.”

Just when she was about to hang up, Elijah suddenly asked, “Courtney, does this have something to do with Alexander again?”

“Yeah, and it’s quite serious this time.”

“Where is he? Why is he always putting you into such dangerous situations?”

“It’s a long story, and I can’t explain it now. I’ll tell you about it once I have settled everything.”

Hearing that, Elijah was silent for a while before hanging up, as though he was angry.

Courtney glanced at her phone helplessly without caring too much. To her, Elijah was like a brother—he had been kind to her for so long that she found it normal and took it for granted. Of course, an older brother wouldn’t stay mad at his younger sister for long, so she sent another text to rush him. ‘Please be quick about that virtual number.’

Unbeknownst to her, Elijah was in a rather bad mood across the ocean, wondering why the woman whom he had held so carefully in his hands for almost five years started to live a worrywart life after she was by Alexander’s side.

The hotel was a little out of the way, but it was close to the airport, which was within a thirty minutes’ drive.

It was already midnight by the time Courtney reached Fiona’s room. Fiona was worn-out and tired; the shock she had received over the past few days was written all over her face, and she was astonished when she saw Courtney at her door.

“What are you doing here?”

“I’m worried that something might happen to you. Don’t even think about shaking me off. It’s better to have an extra person around to help out.” Marching into the room, Courtney set aside her complaints and said, “Madam, you left without a word this morning. What happened?”

Seeing that Courtney had traveled miles to be here, Fiona had mixed feelings and was embarrassed to hide anything from her anymore. “Felipe called me and said that I should go alone to hand over the money. I’m afraid that something unexpected might happen, so I don’t want to bring anyone along.”

“So, you’re waiting obediently to take the bait, knowing that there might be unexpected situations?” Courtney felt that she had a newfound understanding of the simplicity of her future mother-in-law’s mind. “Madam, what were you thinking? If the situation really turned out bad and Oliver couldn’t come home, you may not be able to return as well.”

“I’m prepared for this. No matter what, I can’t drag you guys into this anymore.”

“But I’m not just anyone.” Courtney took a deep breath as she needed to gather some courage to say such boastful words. “I’m practically your daughter-in-law. Even though I’m not married into the family yet, do you not plan to acknowledge me?”

Her words stunned Fiona, who looked at her in disbelief. After a long while, she finally returned to her senses and said sadly, “No, of course I acknowledge you.”

“That’s great, then.” A comforting smile spread across Courtney’s face. “Just relax. I’ve already arranged everything.”

“What did you do?”

“Don’t worry about it. Anyway, I’m going with you tomorrow. I’m quite skillful, and I can help you win a bit of time when the time comes. When it’s time to run, then we will run.”

Although Fiona wanted to turn her down, Courtney sounded so certain that she couldn’t refuse.

It was a sleepless night. The agreed time on the next day was supposed to be 2.00PM but it was later changed to 3.00PM; every time Courtney and Fiona reached a spot, they would receive a call saying that the transaction would be delayed for another hour at a new spot. In the end, it dragged on until 7.00PM, and since it was winter, the sky was already completely dark at that time.

Felipe’s voice sounded even more grim over the phone. “After leaving the city, go 50 kilometers north. There’s a power plant right next to the river. I’m waiting for you here. If you call the police, I assure you that you’ll never get to see your son again.”

“Don’t touch him!” Gritting her teeth, Fiona hissed, “I already prepared the money. If he loses even one strand of hair, I’ll perish with you, and nobody will have anything to gain.”

Felipe snorted. “Cut your crap and come over quickly. One minute late, and I’ll cut off a finger from him to feed it to the fishes in the river. Your son wants to be a police officer, right? I would like to see which criminal investigation team would accept a disabled person.”

The things he said were so terrifying to Fiona that she almost broke down. Along the way, Courtney watched as color gradually faded from Fiona’s face, and now, even her lips were pale, and there was no trace of blood left on her face after being tortured so much.

Actually, Felipe was playing around with them in a test to find out if they had really called the police. If they really did, it would be impossible for the police to redeploy to the spot he had just informed in such a short notice. In addition, he had changed the spots so many times, and it would be difficult to hide the police if such a big batch of them were moving from place to place.

On the way to the north of the city, Courtney tried to distract the jittery feelings in Fiona by speaking with her while driving. “Didn’t you tell me that Felipe already married a rich woman? Why is he still doing this?”

Fiona’s face turned solemn at the mention of this. “He was born to be a curse to people. Back then, his ex-wife divorced him because he owed too much in gambling debts, and I’m afraid he didn’t change this

bad habit of his until now. No matter how rich the woman he finds is, it's impossible for her to fill up such a big hole for him her whole life."

Courtney was speechless.

In the abandoned power plant in the north of the city, a dim yellow light bulb swung from the wire on the second floor. The two men who were in charge of guarding the place stomped back and forth on the concrete floor as they shivered from the cold.

"It's f*cking cold. There will be snow in Shanghai tonight, and the temperature will drop to below freezing point. Felipe couldn't have chosen a better time to do this; now, we have to freeze ourselves in the cold."

"The nerve of you to speak about timing. Think about it—it will be a major holiday soon, and if Felipe is unable to come up with the money for his gambling debt, do you think his wife will forgive him when he returns?"

One of the men quickly covered his mouth and whispered, "Shah! Do you want to die? If he hears you saying something like this so loudly, he'll kill you first for sure!"

"Uh! Are you f*cking—" Finally, the man broke free and spat, "Are you f*cking trying to suffocate me? Felipe is making a call on the top floor, trying to please his wife now. He doesn't have the time to be bothered about us."

Speaking of Felipe on a phone call with his wife, both men exchanged glances and laughed sarcastically.

Felipe joined the underworld gang after taking his wife's family name during marriage; they wouldn't have listened to any of his commands if it wasn't because of his wife.

The winds were strong on the balcony as Felipe breathed out a puff of vapor. Despite the fact that he was shaking from the cold, he said pleasingly into the phone, "Darling, I'm not having fun outside, and I'll be back in a couple of days. I've already collected all the debts people owed me. Don't worry. Not a single penny will be missing from that ten million."

One Night Surprise Chapter 353 Dead or Alive

At night, an orange cab with a Shanghai registered number plate drove near to the entrance of the Beijing-Shanghai expressway.

In order to avoid any accidents, Courtney and Fiona got out of the car when they were about five kilometers away from the meet-up point. The driver gave them a weird look, and several times, he stopped himself from saying something.

"Keep the change, sir." Passing a 100-dollar note to him, Courtney stopped him from staring at them judgmentally.

"Thank you." Taking the note, he advised in a kind voice, "Please watch out, ladies. It's not so safe in the northern part of the city. Do you live here?"

Hurriedly, Courtney nodded. "Yeah, we live not far from here. The roads ahead are a little tricky for cars. Thank you."

Only then did the driver leave.

Under the blanket of the night, the streetlamps on the road in the wilderness lit up, but there was no one to be seen ahead or behind them. Turning on her navigation app, Courtney held Fiona's hand and found their way to the old, abandoned power plant by the river.

"They're here, boss," a subordinate reported, his voice echoing through the huge building.

Soon, the sounds of footsteps coming downstairs could be heard, and a man walked downstairs onto the concrete floor of the old factory. Every step he took caused a big stir in the dust, and it swirled around under the dim light.

The moment Felipe came downstairs, he saw Courtney standing next to Fiona, and his face immediately turned sour. "Didn't I already make it clear that you should come alone?"

"I don't know the way." Staring at him righteously, Fiona added, "She's just here to accompany me. Stop your nonsense. I've already brought the money; where's Oliver?"

"He's at a place where he should be." With an icy stare in his eyes, he swept his gaze past behind Fiona. "Where's the money?"

From the pocket of her jacket, Fiona took out the check for twenty million. "It's here."

At the sight of the check, Felipe looked angry. "Are you playing me, Fiona Duncan?"

"Who's playing you?" The look in Fiona's eyes became sharp. "Twenty million is right here. On the other hand, are you trying to go back on your word? If you do that, I'll perish together with you and tear this check to pieces. You'll get nothing then."

"Do you take me for a fool?" His face was stony and furious at the same time. "If I take the check now, you'll alert the bank after you bring the boy away. Not only will I not get any money at the counter, I'll even be arrested on the spot by the police in an ambush. You guys really planned it out beautifully, huh?"

"What do you mean?" Fiona asked, not understanding what he meant yet.

"I want twenty million in cash," he answered firmly, his voice echoing back and forth in the empty building.

Hearing that, Fiona shook with anger. "You didn't mention that in the beginning. Plus, how am I supposed to bring you twenty million in cash? Are you crazy?"

"That's easy." The iciness in his eyes deepened, and he laid his eyes on Courtney. "One of you will stay here while the other will cash out the money once the bank is open tomorrow morning. If I don't see the money, you guys can forget about seeing that boy as well."

"You're an a*shole, Felipe Foster!" Fiona was so mad that she almost lunged forward to fight it out with him, but Courtney held her back firmly.

“Okay.” Courtney agreed in her stead. “I’m staying here, and she’s going to cash out the money. But I have a request. We need to know if Oliver is dead or alive.”

Not knowing who she was, Felipe gave her a once-over. “Who do you think you are to speak terms with me?”

“Me?” Courtney’s eyes were indifferent as she concealed her identity, saying, “I’m an employee at the hostel and just as good as Oliver’s half-sister. If you don’t show us how he’s doing, how will we know if our twenty million will be exchanged for a corpse or a live person?”

The rationale in her statement was a little terrifying, making Fiona’s heart shudder. Tightening her jaw, she glared at Felipe while shouting in anger, “If there’s so much as a scratch on Oliver, I won’t give you a single penny from this twenty million.”

Meanwhile, Felipe was flustered and at a loss because of these two women. In addition, he couldn’t get the money at the moment, and that added to his frustrations. After walking around in a circle, he kicked a subordinate next to him. “Go and bring that boy here.”

Upon that, the skinny blondie scrambled to his feet to bring Oliver downstairs. A few minutes later, Oliver was brought from upstairs.

Very roughly, the blondie threw Oliver on the floor. Oliver stumbled, plopping on his butt on the floor before swaying around a little and slumping forward. From Courtney and Fiona’s angle, they could see that there was a layer of white frost on his brows as he shivered from the cold and didn’t appear to be conscious either.

“Oliver!”

Both of them called out to him a few times, but received no reply. Anxious, Fiona asked, “What did you do to him?”

“You can only blame his body for being too weak. He became like this because he can’t take the cold. This has nothing to do with me,” Felipe answered impatiently.

From the very beginning, Courtney felt that there was something amiss. Both of them were already here, and in order to get the money, there was no need for Felipe to hide or cover Oliver. From the looks of it now, something must have happened to Oliver.

“What happened to him?” Courtney asked persistently.

“Watch your tone when you speak to our boss, b*tch,” the blondie interjected. “This boy can’t take the cold and started running a fever after a night in the cold. Are you going to blame us for this?” he said loudly.

“Shut up.” Felipe gave him a fierce stare.

“Why didn’t you send him to the hospital?” Because of her panic, Fiona actually asked such a dumb question.

Usually, the kidnappers would be considered kind for not killing the hostage, so of course they wouldn’t go to the extent of attending to the hostage’s fever.

As expected, Felipe looked solemn. “Cut your crap. If I don’t see that twenty million before noon tomorrow, he can forget about his trip to the hospital; I’ll send him into the river so he can have an early start in his next life!”

Even Fiona knew that this was no time to negotiate because the other party was extremely ruthless, and the fact that Oliver was lying on the cold ground now made her heart wrench. Hence, she could only agree to his request and head into the city to withdraw the money with one of his men.

The night was long. It was shortly after midnight when Fiona left, so there was still quite a long time to wait.

The walls of the factory were ventilated on all four sides, and Courtney stood about twenty feet away from where Felipe and his men were. As she really couldn’t bear that they let Oliver lay on the ground, she said, “Help Oliver up and let him sit on a chair.”

The blondie who interjected earlier glanced at her. “Is he the prime minister or something? Why should I bring him a chair?”

With a stony face, Courtney replied, “It’s so cold, and you’re leaving him to lie on the ground. I don’t think you’ll say something like this should anything really happen to him and you guys can’t get the money.”

Hearing that, Felipe, who had been silent the whole time, peered over. “Shut up and just get the chair.”

A look of dismay washed over the blondie’s face, and he reluctantly went to bring a broken chair over. Propping it on the load-bearing wall, he then helped Oliver up and put him in the chair, leaning him against the load-bearing wall.

Maybe they were worried that he might fall off, so they simply used some rope and bound him to the wall.

Eyeing Courtney, Felipe couldn’t help but doubt her identity from the moment they met as she appeared so calm and composed. “You said you’re an employee at the hostel, but why have I never seen you before?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 354 A Discontented Man

Without even flinching, Courtney answered, “I was on vacation when you were there.”

Frowning, Felipe didn’t ask anymore because he assumed that a woman Fiona brought with her wasn’t worth his attention. What he was after was money, and Fiona simply wanted her son. However, he didn’t imagine that Fiona had managed to save up so much over the years and could easily come up with twenty million within such a short period of time.

Thinking of this, he felt a wave of regret. If I had known this earlier, I would have asked for more money.

A discontented man was akin to a snake trying to swallow an elephant. Seeing how greedy Felipe appeared, Courtney felt a crushing sense of disgust in her stomach. If it wasn’t for this man, Fiona

wouldn't have lived such a miserable life, and Alexander wouldn't have developed such an aloof personality from growing up in a broken family lacking in love and attention.

The source of all evil came from this man, who was like a blood-sucking vampire.

It was a dark night. Courtney lowered her head to check the time. From the corner of her eye, she could see that the blondie was almost falling asleep while guarding Oliver nearby, yawning the whole time as he leaned against the wall.

Even Felipe was at his limit; he took a smoke once about every ten minutes to keep himself alert.

"Ahem, ahem." Courtney coughed lightly a couple of times, and a voice came out of the tiny headset next to her ear. "Got it. We'll prepare for action."

Two squads of special forces soldiers wearing camouflaged riot suits crawled on the ground in the wilderness, surrounding the entire power plant so that even a fly couldn't escape the building. The squad captain signaled with his hand, whereupon an athletic woman from the squad pressed herself between the wall and water pipe, climbing her way up.

"Ugh!" Before the man on guard duty on the second floor even had the chance to realize it, someone had already climbed over the wall, locked his neck, and injected him with anesthesia, then he fell limply to the floor.

Under the shady lighting, a face covered in camouflage makeup could be seen, and only the people who knew her could tell that it was Tessa.

She was very uptight because she had never been so emotional on a hostage rescue mission like today despite participating in actual combat exercises so many times before. Right now, her light footsteps were completely concealed by the rustling wind in the dark night.

Tiny dust particles floated around her boots, and after rolling around a few times, she successfully hid herself in a corner.

It was quite empty on the first floor, and there was an open space of about five hundred square feet in the middle. Besides the load-bearing wall, there was nothing she could use as shelter at all. If she got closer, she would inevitably be discovered by the ruthless kidnapers. Therefore, she shouldn't act impulsively.

The sky outside was already bright. "Call Yogi and ask him how things are going." Felipe had just come back from a smoke, and he put out the cigarette under his foot with an impatient look. "This place is freezing like hell. Tell that woman that I've changed my mind. We'll kill the hostages right away and dump her son and this woman she brought along into the river to feed the fishes if I don't receive the money before 10.00AM."

"Okay." The blondie hurriedly shuddered and woke up. Then, he yawned as he made a call.

"Sh*t."

All of a sudden, Courtney heard a soft but anxious voice from her headset, and her heart skipped, fearing that the special forces who came to rescue the hostages had already detained the people close to the bank.

It took a long while before the blondie's call was picked up, and he shouted rudely into the phone, "Yogi, why didn't you give us a call after you were gone the whole night? How did it go? Is the bank open?"

After that, he put the phone on loudspeaker mode, and everyone in the building could hear Yogi's voice. "We're here, but the bank only opens at 9.00AM. So, we're still waiting."

Courtney breathed a sigh of relief, but she didn't know whether it was the police who threatened Yogi to say those things, or they hadn't acted on that side yet.

"Tell that woman that our boss has changed his mind. We're only waiting until 10.00AM, and we don't care how, but she has to come back with the money as soon as possible. We're really going to die from the cold here."

"I got it," Yogi answered curtly.

On the other end, the blondie hung up and turned to Felipe. "Boss."

"Okay." Felipe nodded, but when he spun around, he suddenly stopped in his tracks. "That's not right." As he turned around to look at Courtney, his eyes turned solemn out of the blue. "Blondie, tie up this boy and that woman. Something happened to Yogi."

Courtney's face fell, and she took a step backward subconsciously. "What are you guys going to do?" Only God knows what Felipe realized from the call earlier, she thought.

As though realizing what happened, Blondie strode toward Courtney immediately with fury written all over his face. "How dare you call the police!" he said as he and another man grabbed her by her shoulders on both sides.

While she screamed and struggled, they dragged her all the way in front of Felipe.

"What are we going to do, Boss?"

After he said that, Courtney felt her scalp turning numb, and someone grabbed her hair before lifting her head. Although she shrieked in pain, she didn't dare to struggle too hard.

With one hand, Felipe grabbed her hair as he scrutinized her from the left and right. In the end, he pulled out a tiny, round headset the size of a thumbnail from her ear, and his face turned livid. "I remember mentioning that I'll kill this boy if you guys call the police."

The black barrel of a gun was already pointed at Oliver, who was still unconscious on the side.

"Don't shoot!" Courtney shouted in panic, and another voice echoed along with hers at the same time when she shouted. Standing about sixty feet behind her, Tessa was holding a submachine gun and aiming it at the subordinate who was holding the gun.

In a split second, the two squads of special forces on the first and second floor appeared at the same time and already had the entire abandoned power plant completely surrounded, leaving only Felipe and his three subordinates in the middle space on the first floor; all his other subordinates had already been taken care of.

By now, Felipe's face had completely changed. "Don't come over, or I'll kill this boy!"

“Do you have the guts to do that?” All of a sudden, Courtney had recollected herself. “If you guys dare to even touch us, there’s no chance that you can make it out of here alive.”

Just then, Tessa took hold of a loudspeaker in the distance and her voice boomed. “Listen here. Release the hostages and we can negotiate.”

“What are we going to do, Boss?” Clearly, the subordinates Felipe brought with him were panic-stricken.

“What are you panicking about?” After spitting on the floor, Felipe grabbed Courtney and shouted back at Tessa in the distance, “Save me your acts. I want nothing less than twenty million. Also, prepare a car to send me to the pier. Otherwise, I’ll kill her right now.”

A shiver ran down Courtney’s spine. If they really did as Felipe wanted, she was afraid that he wouldn’t release her and Oliver even when he reached the pier. Including the fact that they had called the police, plus other disputes, he might really end her and Oliver’s life on the spot.

Fiona’s right, she thought. He is a ruthless outlaw.

“Calm down,” Tessa appeared a little nervous as she replied anxiously. “Okay, we’ll get it prepared now.”

While she was speaking, the loud sound of a car engine came from outside, and the blinding headlights shone into the factory like a rising sun, making it impossible for them to open their eyes.

Amidst the dust, the white Porsche drifted in beautifully, and with the sound of the sharp brakes, it left curved tire tracks on the ground before the rear of the car pointed at Courtney and the rest. Then, a tall, dark figure stepped out.

“I brought the twenty million here.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 355 I’m Your Real Father

“Alexander,” Courtney called out subconsciously.

However, Felipe heard it very clearly and grabbed her around her throat. “What did you call him?”

“If you continue to do that, you won’t get a single penny from this twenty million.” A grim and cold look was on Alexander’s face, and his eyes were glistening with a terrifying icy stare.

Behind him, the trunk slowly opened up, and two huge suitcases made of aluminum were opened, revealing four hundred gold bars arranged neatly together.

Felipe’s eyes almost fell out of his sockets from staring. “There’s twenty million here?”

“Thirty million.” Alexander said the figure composedly. “As long as you release her and that boy next to you, then you can leave with this money now.”

“You don’t have the right to negotiate with me.” Felipe snorted. “Tell the police to back up and leave the car key there. Once I’ve reached the pier, this woman and that boy would be useless to me, and I’ll return them to you by then.”

With knitted brows, Alexander glanced at Tessa. Usually, the kidnappers would have the upper hand during negotiations at times like this.

Tessa signaled with her hand, and the special forces with shields slowly retreated backward, leaving Alexander's Porsche in its original space as they formed a larger encirclement using it as the center.

Clutching Courtney's shoulder, Felipe held an army knife in another hand while his three subordinates behind him dragged Oliver, then the four of them moved toward the Porsche cautiously.

At the same time, Courtney could feel that Felipe was very nervous, and from the corners of her eyes, she could see small beads of sweat forming and sliding down his face. How could a person like him, who has a greed for wealth and materialistic things of the world, possibly allow himself to die?

Gradually, her eyes became firm and she said, "Let Oliver go. He's unconscious and will only be a burden to you if you bring him along. I'll go with you."

"Who do you think you are?" Felipe sneered. "You think I don't know that you're just a worthless substitute? That boy is the one who's worth the money."

"I—"

Her brows were tightly locked together, and she was about to say something when she realized that Tessa was trying her best to give her a look. That was when she sensed something and closed her mouth.

The few of them had now moved to the trunk of the car, and the sight of the two suitcases of shimmering gold bars made the eyes of these ruthless kidnappers gleam with greed. Despite that, they were aware that any amount of gold would be a waste if they couldn't leave this place.

"Bring the suitcases to the front seats and then straight onto the boat once we reach the port later," Felipe instructed.

Hurriedly, Blondie closed the aluminum suitcases and looked dismayed after trying to move it for a while. "Boss, it's too heavy. We need at least two men to lift it."

Two cases filled with four hundred gold bars amounts to hundreds of pounds, Felipe thought. One needs to be very strong to carry it alone! His brows furrowed, and his grip on Courtney's shoulder loosened a little. "It's easier to control that boy because he's unconscious. Get him in the car, and we'll drop this woman."

The moment she was released, Courtney finally understood why Tessa gave her a look earlier.

It must have been within Alexander's expectations that it would be inconvenient for them to bring two cases of gold bars. Furthermore, including Oliver, there were five people, and the car couldn't fit all of them. Therefore, she had to be left behind. As long as Felipe didn't know who she was, there wouldn't be a problem at all.

After the car drove away, Courtney stood rooted on the spot, unable to move her legs. All her composure was just a pretense. When a thin line stood between life and death, nobody could really stay calm.

Striding to her, Alexander then pulled her into his arms. "It's alright now," he said shakily, completely void of the composure he had earlier.

A long while later, Courtney finally came to her senses. Gripping the sleeve of Alexander's coat, she asked anxiously, "What about Oliver?"

His eyes turned stony as he answered, "They won't get away."

On a small road near the expressway leading to an undeveloped area of the riverside, the white Porsche flew past speedily as the wind whistled outside the car windows. Seated on the passenger seat, Felipe forcibly put up a calm voice as he made a call. "Yes, pick us up at the port in twenty minutes. We'll be there soon."

After he hung up, a worried voice suddenly rang in the car. "Boss, we're out of gas."

A red warning light was showing on the gas gauge, and the car had slowed down significantly. A few minutes after they spoke, the car came to a complete stop on the side of the road.

All color drained from Felipe's face as he banged hard on the car door. "Damn it. He tricked me!"

Several black-colored private cars were already chasing after the Porsche, and after they came to a stop, a dozen well-built men armed with guns and steel pipes got off and surrounded Felipe and his men.

"Don't come over." Felipe got out of the car and dragged Oliver out of the backseat. Clutching Oliver's neck with one hand, he pointed a gun at his temple with his other hand. "If you dare to take a step closer, I'll kill him."

"I don't think you have the guts to do that."

In the spacious wilderness, Alexander's voice sounded especially crisp and clear. Walking out amidst the well-built men, he appeared particularly tall and slender in his tailored coat.

"I'll kill him right now."

"Do as you like." Standing with his back straight, Alexander displayed a nonchalant look. "I've already saved the person I wanted to save, and I'm not the police, so it has nothing to do with me who you want to kill."

"The person you wanted to save?" Felipe's face fell. "How's that woman related to you?"

Smirking, he answered, "She's my fiancée."

Upon hearing that, Felipe recalled that when this man appeared, the woman in his hand suddenly called him Alexander, and his face froze. Staring at Alexander, he studied him for a moment and snorted out laughing suddenly. "So, you're Alexander Griffith?"

Without even flinching, Alexander said, "If you know who I am, you should have heard about how I usually deal with things. I don't care at all if I can save the person in your hands, but if he really dies by your hands, in order to console my fiancée, you guys may really forget about making an escape."

“Hmph!” Suddenly, Felipe appeared relieved. “You’re so devoted.” Fixing his eyes on Alexander, as though he could see something else from his handsome features, he suddenly said thoughtfully, “Alexander Griffith, you should let me go, or else you’ll suffer the retribution. Do you know who I am?”

Ever so slightly, Alexander knitted his brows and didn’t answer.

Just then, a car stopped behind all the cars, then Fiona jumped out hurriedly. She bolted forward but was held back and stopped from moving forward by the bodyguards behind her.

It was then when she happened to hear Felipe, and she struggled to lunge forward as she shouted at Alexander’s back, “Alexander, don’t listen to him. Don’t listen to anything he says. He’s a madman!”

Seeing that Fiona was here, Felipe smirked cruelly, and it turned sinister with every passing second. In an almost freaky tone, he spoke, and his voice echoed in the wilderness. “You’ll love this secret, Griffith. I’m your real father.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 356 I’m Afraid You Have No Such Luck

Gradually, the expression on Alexander’s face changed.

The open space in the wilderness was too wide, and the last word Felipe said kept echoing in the air. However, the bodyguards and hitmen on the scene were very professional, and there were no changes on their faces at all.

In contrast, when Fiona heard what Felipe said, her face turned ashen, and she used all of her might to lunge at Felipe in the distance. “You b*stard, you’ll die a terrible death!” she cursed furiously. “How can you tell a lie like this!”

Felipe merely sneered and continued to stare at Alexander. “More than thirty years ago, your mother should have married me, but she lied to me. She’s not the young lady of the Duncans at all but an adopted child of the family. To put it bluntly, she was just a child bride the Duncans prepared for your old man, who’s dead now; that wasted more than one year of my efforts.” Alexander didn’t say a thing, and Felipe continued, “After that, we had you, and Jeffrey even gave me a good beating for that. But later, he still decided to take her in, and I left the place while he raised my son for me.” Chuckling smugly, he then complimented, “He even did a good job raising you. You sure have my blood flowing in you!”

The look he had was so proud that it was almost unbelievable.

“Are you done?”

Alexander had seemingly recovered the calm and self-control he had earlier—or perhaps there wasn’t much change in his facial expression since the beginning. It was as if he didn’t believe a single word Felipe said and even had a hint of mockery in his eyes.

“You should give me these four hundred gold bars because I gave you your life.” Glancing at him, Felipe was looking outrightly proud. “If I hadn’t given you up in time, you wouldn’t have inherited the Duncans’ fortunes at all!”

Sneering, Alexander said, “So, these four hundred gold bars are too little, and it will only be fair if you get half of my assets, huh?”

“It’s great that you think so...”

The nerve of him to answer back! Standing next to Fiona, Courtney held her icy hands and furrowed her brows deeply. How can such a jerk exist in this world?

Like an unmovable mountain, Alexander stood there firmly with his back facing them. Only his voice could be heard in the open space as he said each word loudly and clearly, “I’m afraid you have no such luck.”

Right after, two figures appeared from behind the Porsche, which was behind Felipe. One of them started fighting with his three subordinates while another swung a fist toward Felipe, landing it directly on his face.

Bang!

The sound of gunshot blasted into the air, and Felipe’s shot brushed past the car, narrowly missing Tessa, who dodged it. With a single hand, she clasped and twisted his wrist effortlessly.

A cry of pain escaped Felipe’s lips before she gave him a hard kick and stepped on him, sprawling him out on the floor and immobilizing him.

Lifelessly, Oliver slumped into Tessa’s arms, and her fury fueled when she saw that he was out cold. Stepping on Felipe’s face furiously, she said, “Damn it. How dare you touch my man! I’ll kill you!”

“That’s enough, Tessa.” A powerful voice rang out, and a burly man next to Alexander came over. “Cuff him quickly and dismiss the squads. Don’t you know that lynching is strictly prohibited? Do you want to be punished?”

Tessa frowned and retracted her foot reluctantly.

With a wave of hand from the burly man, two men from the special forces dressed up as bodyguards behind him came forward and handcuffed Felipe before placing him in a car at the back.

All of this was a trap laid by Alexander, and Courtney only found out about it afterward.

From the very beginning, he never planned to let Felipe escape because once he boarded the boat at the pier and sneaked into other places, there was nothing the forces could do anymore.

Using diversion as the technique, Alexander gave Felipe and his men the gold bars. Their survival instincts as well as their greed would then force them to escape as quickly as possible, so they had to leave either Courtney or Oliver behind. As Felipe thought that Oliver worked better as a bargaining chip, he abandoned Courtney, whom he thought was just a hostel employee.

After that came the second part of Alexander’s plan—special forces disguised as his bodyguards.

After years of being an outlaw, Felipe knew that the police were constrained in their work and couldn’t kill the kidnapers unless it was a critical moment. Hence, he had to be afraid that Alexander couldn’t care less about Oliver’s life and would really kill him.

However, Alexander's identity was a surprise fuel to the fire. Compared to the impact on Felipe by making Oliver into an insignificant person, Alexander's identity obviously distracted his attention even more, which gave Tessa and her team the chance to attack.

Later, Oliver was rushed onto an ambulance by paramedics with Tessa tagging along, and everyone else involved with the case went to the police station for their statements. It took a long time before Alexander finally turned around, standing about thirty feet away from Fiona and Courtney while staring from afar without a word.

With mixed and complicated emotions in her eyes, Fiona gazed at him. Several times, the words reached her lips, but she didn't say it out loud. In the end, she uttered, "Alex, don't believe the things he said. He's just a madman."

"Of course." Alexander's face was stony as he paced over. "Why should I believe him?"

His words only made Fiona look even more miserable; mothers knew their children the best.

Brushing past her side, Alexander said indifferently, "Let's go, Courtney."

His back was just as cold as his tone of voice, as though nothing had happened earlier; it was as though he had never helped her out with anything, and they remained unconnected to each other in the future just as they had been in the past.

However, Courtney suddenly cried out in surprise, "Madam, are you okay?"

Stopping in his tracks, Alexander spun his head around and saw that Fiona had collapsed in Courtney's arms. Worried, he marched over in big strides.

Three days later.

The time had just passed noon, and people were coming in and out of the inpatient department of Shanghai Surgical Hospital.

Sitting next to Fiona's bed, Courtney peeled an apple while saying, "Madam, the doctor said that you were too worked up. In addition, you hardly slept the week before, and that's why your blood pressure was unstable. You should relax more after this and stay in the hospital for a couple more days for observation. After that, you can be discharged."

After being in a coma for two days, Fiona finally woke up. According to the doctor, it was nothing serious, but she was simply too tired. For two whole days, she didn't eat anything and only relied on infusion to maintain her vital organs.

"I'm fine. In fact, I can even be discharged now." Fiona still looked a little weak, and it was as though her hair had grayed overnight. She gazed at Courtney with gratitude, but there was more helplessness.

Such a kind lady is more than enough for my son, but sadly, I can't do anything for him, Fiona thought.

"Well, you shouldn't." Passing the apple to her, Courtney added, "I already called Alex, and he said he'll come and visit you after his morning work."

When she heard that, her face fell, and she flipped the blanket away, trying to jump out of bed.

“Hey, Madam! What are you doing?” Hurriedly, Courtney tried to stop her, but she was holding a fruit knife in one hand, and it was quite inconvenient. “Please watch out.”

On the other hand, Fiona was a little impatient. “Courtney, let me go now. He doesn’t want to see me, and I’m ashamed to see him as well.”

“Madam, calm down and take a seat.”

“No.”

While both of them were in a struggle, a pair of hands pushed the door open, revealing a tall figure. In his usual aloof voice, but sounding a little unnatural this time, Alexander asked, “What are the both of you doing?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 357 Unfilial Descendant

Alexander’s sudden appearance made Fiona forget to struggle, then Courtney placed her back on the bed. “Have a chat, both of you.”

Then, she placed the apple and fruit knife on the nightstand in a corner and flashed a soft smile at Alexander when she was walking past him, giving him an encouraging look.

It wasn’t easy to resolve a misunderstanding of twenty years. So much resentment and obsessions were interspersed in between, and it couldn’t be solved with the truth alone. Much more mutual understanding would be needed instead.

After Alexander left, Fiona appeared even more uneasy. “Alex, I’ll leave in the afternoon and won’t cause any trouble for you.”

Looking at her, Alexander knitted his brows. “The doctor wants you to stay a week for observation, but you’re saying now that you want to leave in the afternoon. Don’t you think that you’ll be causing trouble for me when the time comes and the doctor asks me where you are?”

The muscles on Fiona’s face froze at his words, and she had no idea how to reply to that.

Meanwhile, Alexander furrowed his brows, looking very unnatural, and the room slipped into silence for a long while. “Felipe is currently being held in custody. As he has quite a few cases against him, he would be given the death sentence. Do you have anything to say to him before the trial?” When Alexander mentioned Felipe, he didn’t mean to avoid it or hold back at all.

However, Fiona’s hands, which were fidgeting with the blanket, relaxed, and she said calmly, “No.”

Nothing remained as a secret, and since Alexander already knew the entire truth, it would look even more embarrassing if she pretended that she didn’t know anything and avoided the topic. So, she might as well just talk about it openly.

Alexander nodded. “Okay. Olly’s injuries aren’t serious, but he’s still unconscious because he’s running a high fever. Yesterday, he was transferred back to Melrose, and he’s now in the military hospital. If you don’t wish to stay here, you can also ask for a transfer and stay at the same hospital as him.”

Lifting her head up in surprise, she uttered, “W-What did you call him?”

She had never thought that Alexander would be willing to acknowledge Oliver as his brother and thought that it would be a blessing from Heaven if he was willing to regard him as merely a stranger.

Avoiding her gaze, he said, “No matter what, he’s Dad’s only son and Grandpa’s only grandson. In addition, he’ll inherit the Duncan Family in the future and be the successor of Sunhill Enterprise. I’ll be responsible for his life from now on.”

All Fiona felt was a crushing pain on her chest. The thing she was most afraid of—Alexander doubting himself after finding out the truth—had finally happened.

“That’s nonsense.” An old man’s voice echoed along with the sound of the door swinging open, shattering the heavy atmosphere in the room.

“Grandpa?”

“Dad?”

Almost simultaneously, both Alexander and Fiona gasped in surprise.

Walking into the room with a serious and angry expression, Scott said, “Your father raised you for thirteen years while I did the same for twenty, and now you’re no longer my grandson just because you said so, and you’re not your father’s son anymore as well? What an unfilial child!”

Although there was a knot between Alexander’s brows, there was a tinge of warmth in his indifferent eyes.

“I found out about everything.” Staring in the direction of the bed, Scott gazed at the daughter he hadn’t seen for twenty years with mixed feelings, and tears welled-up in his eyes instantly. However, he didn’t want anyone to see it and quickly turned his head to wipe his tears away.

Getting out of bed in a rush, Fiona called out, “Dad.”

“You shouldn’t move around.” Scott waved his hand, and his voice choked, which was hardly usual. “You shouldn’t move around when you’re unwell. Let’s have a good catch-up as a family. Tell me how your life has been all these years with Oliver.”

Fiona cast a nervous look at Alexander, unsure how she should begin.

“Grandpa, I’ll go out—”

“Stay here,” Scott cut him off before he could finish. “You’re always busy and barely have time to care about the things happening at home. Earlier, you even said that you want to pass the company to Oliver, so you’re abandoning the company? If you’re still thinking that you’re not your father’s child, then I’m telling you now that you’re still your mother’s son, and she was also my daughter back then. No matter what, you’re still my grandson.”

A look of surprise flashed past Alexander’s eyes.

Outside the ward, Courtney sat on a bench with her son leaning on her left and daughter on her right. Scott had brought the children along with him this time, and they kept pestering her to tell them the story.

“You’re amazing, Mommy! There were so many baddies. Weren’t you afraid at all?” Tina asked, blinking.

In the meantime, Jordan had more concerns than her. Besides curiosity, he even showed a concerned look just as an adult would.

Hugging both of them close to herself, Courtney said gently, “Of course I was, but when you want to protect your friends and family, you won’t be afraid anymore.”

Nodding, Tina said firmly, “I won’t be afraid at all if I have to protect Mommy.”

On her other side, Jordan hugged Courtney’s arm. Even though he didn’t utter a single word, he was wearing a serious expression.

After Fiona stayed through the observation period and submitted the discharge papers, Alexander personally came from Melrose to pick her up and bring her home to recuperate because Scott had instructed to bring her back directly.

On the day she arrived, Fiona stood at the front doors of the Duncan Residence and didn’t take a step in for a long time.

Twenty years ago, she had walked out of this place, and on top of being devastated for losing the love of her life, she was truly alone. Now that she was back, all sorts of emotions were gushing in her heart.

They had a reunion dinner at night, and since Oliver had recovered quite well, the hospital had agreed to let him out temporarily to stay out for a night. In addition, Alicia had reorganized a gathering dinner which was messed up the last time, so this dinner was more heart-warming than the previous one.

Also, it was Fiona who prepared the food personally, and even Alicia, who was usually a picky eater, couldn’t help but praise her, saying that she would like to learn a thing or two from her when she was free.

After dinner, Fiona went for a walk with Alicia in the garden while Scott and Alexander discussed the takeover project in the study, leaving Oliver alone to pester Courtney to show him around the manor.

“It’s very dark now. Why don’t you take a look during the daytime?”

“The hospital wouldn’t allow me out during the daytime, and I have to leave tomorrow morning.”

Hence, Courtney helped him through rows of corridors, holding a torchlight in her hand as she shone it around with an inexplicable freaky feeling in her stomach.

The Duncan Residence was massive, and only the buildings which were usually used the most often had electricity installed. The other places would be in complete darkness at night if a torchlight was not used.

“Let’s go back after looking at this courtyard. Once you’re fully recovered, you can just move in here if you want.”

"I kind of want to, actually, but my application for going abroad has been approved and I have to leave after the winter holidays."

"That's quick!" Surprised, Courtney stopped walking. "Why didn't I hear about this before?"

Chuckling sheepishly, he then said, "You don't wish for me to go, right? If that's the case, I'll tell my school that I'm giving up this spot."

Just as Courtney was about to say something, a nonchalant voice came from behind her, saying, "It's not very smart of you to use this as an excuse to stay here."

Alexander had learned from the servants that Courtney was here, and he came looking for her because he was worried that she might run into a mishap in the darkness. He had just arrived when he happened to hear his half-brother harassing his future sister-in-law, and he was immediately angry.

While he was fuming, Oliver suddenly shouted, "Alex, what are you doing here?"

The courtyard fell silent all of a sudden. In the foggy night, Alexander's stiff lips twitched, but no words came out. This kid actually called me Alex...

One Night Surprise Chapter 358 Would You Like to Know Who She Is?

"So, tell me: Why did you appear in the surveillance tapes of Louis' house?" After they returned to the side hall from the courtyard, Alexander flipped out an old score immediately without giving Oliver any chance to guard against him.

Just two weeks ago, he had specially gone to the military hospital to look for him because of this issue as well. If it wasn't because of that, he wouldn't have found out the relationship between himself, Oliver, and Fiona. Even though the misunderstanding from back then had been resolved, the investigation regarding Louis was stuck at the surveillance tapes.

Courtney paused for a second while drinking her tea and glanced at Oliver out of reflex, feeling nervous for no reason.

"Are you suspecting me of killing Louis?" Oliver asked instead.

Composedly, Alexander said, "The innocent have nothing to fear. If you didn't do it, just explain why you were at Oreus instead of returning home. Furthermore, you so happened to appear in Louis' place."

The air felt still for a second. Even though Alexander had just acknowledged him as his younger brother, it wasn't enough to earn his respect. Because of Oliver's identity, he was even more anxious to know whether he was connected to Louis' case.

"Okay, I admit that it was Britney who sent me there to find out something," Oliver said; his voice was ringing in the living room, breaking the silence and making Courtney's heart drop at the same time.

Is he going to tell the truth? she wondered. Including the truth about Jordan and what happened back then?

“Britney Price?” The look on Alexander’s face changed, and a trace of anger appeared. “What did she ask you to investigate?”

“Jordan’s birth.” Maintaining the calmness in his voice, Oliver kept his face straight as he elaborated, “Britney wanted to know who Jordan’s birth mother is and asked me to investigate it. Judging from all the various signs when Louis left back then, I guessed that it had something to do with you looking for a surrogate mother, and that led me to Oreus.”

Gripping the cup tightly, Courtney gradually turned pale. From the corners of his eyes, Alexander noticed the abnormal look on her face, and he furrowed his brows ever so slightly.

“Back then, something went wrong with the surrogate mother who was in charge, and I found out the entire truth. I even found out who was the woman who gave birth to your child by mistake. Alex, would you like to know who she is?” Oliver asked suddenly.

An inexplicable silence fell over the living room, and Alexander turned to steal a look at Courtney. After seeing her uneasiness, he was quiet for a while and turned Oliver down. “It’s alright. Just tell me how Louis died.”

Stunned, Courtney gawked at Alexander’s face from the side with an indescribable feeling in her heart. He probably doesn’t want to hear it because he’s worried about my feelings, she thought.

At the same time, Oliver glanced at Courtney, and a complicated look flashed across his eyes. The truth is right in front of our eyes. Whether it started as a mistake and continued on as a mistake or whatever, this can be considered as a godsent relationship. However, it will produce a different result if I say it out now, so I might as well wait for them to announce it themselves officially.

“Britney knew that you were also looking into this matter, and she was afraid that you’d look for Jordan’s birth mother because of his condition. So, she wanted to seal Louis’ mouth and sent me to take care of him. I pretended to agree, but not only did she not trust me, she even laid out a trap for me by sending a few men and planned to burn me and Louis alive in the house.”

Both Alexander and Courtney already knew what happened afterward: Oliver fortunately escaped from the fire but suffered from temporary memory loss because of the fall. Of all people, he ran into Courtney, who happened to be there for work, and she brought him back to Melrose by a twist of fate.

“Later, I already recovered my memory when I checked into Sunhill Hotel, but I couldn’t reveal myself. I had to find out if it was really Britney who tried to frame and kill me, so I kept pretending that I didn’t recover my memory.” Then, Oliver mentioned everything that happened when he ran into Britney at the hotel. “In fact, I tested her out with an incident. From that, I can be sure that the accidents Jordan kept encountering time and again were mostly planned by her.”

“The incident of the kitchen fire?” Alexander asked next with a frown.

Oliver nodded. “I was the one who asked her to do it. From the whole process of how she contacted the hotel staff until the way she threatened Mikayla to be the scapegoat to take care of that matter, it seemed that she was very familiar with Sunhill Hotel and was very well-versed in her modus operandi. Therefore, I deduced that it was definitely not her first time committing a crime.”

Actually, he regretted asking Britney to do such a thing. Back then, he merely wanted to test her out. Even if anything happened, he would be there to ensure that the two children wouldn't be hurt, but he didn't think that he would be in another place helping Courtney to investigate the truth behind Jordan's speech loss three years ago when Britney was committing the crime. If it wasn't for Mikayla, who came to her senses and saved Jordan, he couldn't imagine what would be the outcome then.

While he was bringing up this matter, he lowered his head and avoided Alexander's eyes as his own eyes filled with guilt.

All the dots had been connected into a clear timeline. All these years, there were times when Alexander suspected Britney, but she was so good at covering her tracks that he couldn't find out anything. Now that he knew the connection between Britney and James, and putting in together with the facts that Oliver found out, everything became clear to him now.

When he thought of everything Jordan went through because of this woman, Alexander scowled and clenched his fists so tightly that the veins on his arms were visible, showing just how high his flames of fury were burning.

"Let's just hand this matter over to the police," Oliver suggested, reading Alexander's mind. "It won't work well for you if you settle this in private. Quite a few issues have cropped up with Sunhill Enterprise recently, and the journalists are keeping an eye out for you."

Given Alexander's temper, it would be possible that he might send someone to drop Britney off on an uninhabited island. However, Oliver had a point. Times were different now, and since the Duncans already made it public that they had found the missing Fiona Duncan and her son, many eyes were now fixed on Sunhill Enterprise, waiting for the latest scoop.

So, Britney's case could only be handed over to the police.

The night was waning, and since Oliver hadn't fully recovered yet, they returned to their own rooms after chatting a little longer.

Seated in front of her makeup mirror while applying cream on her hands, Courtney appeared worried and didn't even realize it when Alexander was standing behind her.

"What's on your mind?"

Jumping in shock, she popped her eyes wide and turned to him. A few seconds later, she recollected herself and stammered, "N-Nothing. I was I just thinking about some things from the past."

"Does it have something to do with what Oliver mentioned earlier?"

"Yeah." Courtney rubbed her fingers awkwardly. "Alex, are you really not interested in Jordan's birth?"

"No." Grabbing her hand, he explained, "She's a woman I don't know, so what can I do even if I found out? Rather than making you feel awkward, it's better that I don't know anything at all and take it as this woman didn't exist. Since Jordan is still young now and thinks that you're his mother, just let it be, then. I consider you his birth mother."

In fact, Alexander's idea was very simple. Previously, when he found the woman who posed as Belle, it had already created a rift between them. It just goes to show that it's not the best thing to find out who

Jordan's birth mother is, lest there be more misunderstandings. It's better to just give up the investigation, he thought.

Meanwhile, Courtney appeared to be in a daze. Many things had been hidden in her heart for too long, and she didn't know where to start.

One Night Surprise Chapter 359 Who's the Homewrecker?

The next morning, Alexander instructed Josh to hand over the matter to the police. Coincidentally, Josh also caught the woman who impersonated Belle at a bar in Melrose.

"She wanted to run, but we had people guarding all the entrances. So, we seized her and took her to the police station for fraud. We managed to identify her as Britney's cousin after the police checked the files. But Britney fled. The villa she stayed in was empty, and all the valuables were gone when we got there." Josh reported every single detail to Alexander on the phone.

"Tell the police to ask her where Britney went."

"I did, but she wouldn't say anything. It looks like it's going to take some time to make her break."

"Let's take our time and see who's more patient, then." Through the phone, Alexander's voice sounded so cold that Josh shivered when he heard it.

...

After Alicia had dinner with the Duncans, they finally settled on the details and date of the couple's wedding, which was set to be on 8th of February.

That date was chosen because Courtney had not settled her divorce with Elijah. Besides, she was a foreigner, so it would take more than a month to get her marriage application reviewed after the divorce. Hence, after some discussion, the two families decided to proceed with the wedding first.

All the while, Alicia and Scott were the ones discussing the wedding. Meanwhile, Fiona sat in on the discussion and was stunned that Courtney was married. "What? Courtney was married before?"

"That's not important." Scott waved his hand and dismissed the issue lightly.

After that, he continued his discussion with Alicia. "What I meant was that we should have an Otharian style wedding in Melrose. If they prefer Western-style, we could have the wedding abroad. It would be weird if we had a Western wedding here. It wouldn't be presentable."

"I was thinking of the same thing. Youngsters love going to Bali and Tahiti. Let's ask them for their opinions."

"Just ask Courtney and let her decide." Then, there was a serious expression on Scott's face. "The most important thing is when her divorce will be finalized."

Meanwhile, Fiona comforted herself by telling herself that times had changed, and it didn't matter if one was divorced. Yet, she gasped in disbelief upon hearing what Scott mentioned. "Huh? She's not divorced yet?"

Interrupted halfway, Scott waved his hand lightly again. "Why are you making a big fuss out of this? It's unimportant."

"Unimportant?" Fiona froze. What's going on? Am I behind the times? Have the Duncans always been so open?

Perhaps he was annoyed by how Fiona constantly interrupted his conversation with Alicia about the wedding, so Scott asked Fiona to work on the decorations for the couple's new house. "Alexander's using the place where he used to stay alone as their house. Didn't you study design? Go and help them with the renovation."

With her doubts suppressed, she got the house's blueprint from Harry before going to the garden to discuss the renovation with Courtney.

"Courtney, I drafted several styles. Which one do you like?" Fiona showed Courtney her sketches of different designs. "These are some I found online. Just take a look at the overall style, and I'll redesign it according to the house's layout after we've settled on a style."

"It's fine. You choose." Courtney touched her nose. Studying the dazzling array of styles, she had no idea which one to pick. "I'm not familiar with this. I think you should choose since you're a professional in this field."

"Okay." Fiona didn't press on. Then, she picked out two designs. "What do you think of these?"

"Looks good." Courtney simply nodded because the two designs Fiona showed her looked pretty similar and had almost the same color tone.

Yet, Fiona still didn't leave after asking a bunch of questions. She seemed hesitant to speak.

"Is there something else?" Courtney questioned hesitantly.

Embarrassed, Fiona replied, "There is. Can I ask you something?"

"Sure."

"Is society that open-minded nowadays? I mean regarding relationships between youngsters."

Courtney was surprised to hear Fiona's question. Misunderstanding the situation, Courtney avoided Fiona's gaze in embarrassment. "Maybe, if compared to before."

"Really?" Fiona's frown deepened. "Do people have a high tolerance for homewreckers these days?"

Courtney lifted her head in curiosity. "Huh? Homewrecker?" Puzzled, she asked, "Who's the homewrecker? Oliver?"

"Of course not." Fiona's face turned pale. "That's not what I mean. I..."

After hesitating for a long time, she gritted her teeth and finally asked, "Are you still married? I heard Dad and Alicia talking about it earlier. I don't understand."

At that moment, Courtney finally understood what was going on. So, that's what she wanted to ask! "You misunderstood. I got married while I was in America because I needed a valid reason to stay there. It was a marriage of convenience with my friend," she explained quickly.

After Courtney explained what was going on between her and Elijah, Fiona finally sighed in relief. "You scared me! I thought the world had changed so much in just 20 years!"

Awkwardly, Courtney scratched the back of her head. "I'm sorry for not telling you this earlier. It's normal that it's bothering you. Old Master Duncan was very troubled by it at first too. After all, I'm not divorced yet."

"It's okay." Fiona patted Courtney's hand. Then, she went on with an understanding expression, "I know it's not easy being a single mom. You must have suffered a lot to stay in America. It must have been hard for you to raise your child."

The Duncans' ability to empathize with others was what Courtney liked most about them. Though Scott seemed cold outside, he actually had a kind heart. Meanwhile, Fiona was pure, kind, and gentle. As for Oliver, Courtney treated him like a younger brother since they first met. They were all warm and welcoming even though they were wealthy.

The only concern right then was when Courtney should tell Alexander about Jordan.

Half a month before the mid-winter holiday, Courtney made a trip back to America.

Just as Courtney got off the plane, she saw Lilian. In a well-ironed suit, Lilian had her long chestnut-brown hair tied up in a high ponytail while holding a briefcase that had a Hermes silk scarf on it. Right then, Lilian looked neat and smart.

"Hi, Courtney!"

Lilian saw Courtney from afar, so she smiled and waved as she made her way over. Then, she took the suitcase from Courtney and handed it to a male assistant beside her. "President Grant wanted to come here himself, but he had an important meeting to attend, so I stopped him from coming. I hope you don't mind."

"It's alright." Courtney expressed that she understood.

This time, she had returned to America to go over her divorce with Elijah.

One Night Surprise Chapter 360 Are You Taking Her Hostage?

When Courtney got out of the car, she was slightly surprised to see the familiar courtyard in front of her. "Lilian, didn't I sell this house?"

At that time, Lilian was asking her assistant to bring the luggage into the house. "President Grant was afraid that you might not be used to staying in other places when you come back, so he asked me to repurchase the house after you left," Lilian explained, giving Courtney mixed emotions.

The furnishings inside the house were almost the same as before. The only difference was probably the Christmas tree by the fireplace. It was decorated with colorful decorations, filling the place with Christmas vibes.

“He decorated this place himself before Christmas.”

“Did he invite any friends over?” Courtney touched the bell decoration hanging on the Christmas tree. Then, she went on, “He used to love having parties every year. The garden used to be crowded with guests.”

“No.” Lilian’s voice sounded from behind. “He stayed here all night alone on Christmas Eve.”

Hearing this, Courtney froze and slowly turned to look at Lilian in astonishment. “Alone?”

Those few years when Courtney was in America, Elijah would prepare a month in advance for every festival, selecting and roasting the turkey for Thanksgiving, picking and wrapping gifts, and planning games for Christmas. Hence, it gave Courtney the impression that he liked to celebrate festivities.

“Mm-hmm.” Lilian nodded with a subtle hint of sadness in her eyes. “President Grant doesn’t have many friends in America. Most of them are just acquaintances from work. All festivals were just like any other day of the year to him after you left.”

Unlike Courtney, Lilian had accompanied Elijah for many years and noticed that he was frowning most of the time. Yet, he smiled every time he saw Courtney, even though he was overwhelmed with troubles.

Even when his company was facing a forced merger crisis, he would spare some time to help Courtney and Tina decorate the Christmas tree and go Christmas shopping. He even refused when Lilian offered to do them for him.

In the past, Lilian always thought that Elijah and Courtney would stay together forever; no matter where Courtney went, she would never find another man who treated her so well.

Feeling uncomfortable with the way Lilian was staring at her, Courtney said, “I think I’ll just stay at a hotel. It’s more convenient.”

Then, Courtney stopped Lilian’s assistant, who was about to carry her luggage to the bedroom on the second floor. “You don’t have to bring it upstairs. Just give it to me.”

“Staying here is more convenient than the hotel. Everything’s the same as before,” Lilian told Courtney.

As Courtney pulled the luggage to her side, she turned slowly and replied, “It’s not the same. We all have our own lives.”

Immediately, Lilian’s gaze turned cold.

“Don’t you think you’re being too cruel? Why didn’t you say anything like that during those five years? You let him open up his heart to you, took whatever you please from him, used him, and then dumped him. How could you do this?”

“So, that’s what you really wanted to say.” Sighing in relief, Courtney deduced, “Elijah didn’t ask you to bring me here. It was all you.”

With a frown, Lilian answered displeasably, "So what? I had to let you know how he felt about you. You know that he treated you so well all these years, but do you know the things he did for you and why he did them? Have you ever thought about it?"

"So, what do you think I should do?" Courtney's question surprised Lilian.

"Should I run to him now and tell him that we should get married for real and that I wouldn't leave? Should I say that I know that he treated me so well because he had feelings for me and that I felt the same way too? Do you want me to respond this way?" Courtney asked flatly. Then, she glanced at Lilian. "You keep thinking that he treats me so well and gives me whatever I ask for, but have you ever wondered why he still keeps a friendly distance between us even though we're married? He never asked for an answer. Do you think it's because he was afraid that I might reject him?"

"Why else?" Lilian stared at Courtney.

"If you dare not approach someone because you're afraid of losing them, then you'll feel the same way even if they're yours. It will only make you even more insecure. His heart is troubled, and he doesn't believe in love. What he placed on me is hope which he can't lose—not love, as you had thought. As for what's troubling him, you should know better since you've known him longer than me." Courtney looked straight at Lilian.

Stunned, Lilian didn't know how to respond.

"I'm going to look for a hotel. Tell him that I'm too tired to see him today. We'll have dinner together tomorrow."

As Lilian watched Courtney leave, she felt for the first time that Courtney understood Elijah more than she did.

Courtney reminded Lilian of his stumbling block. I thought that Courtney had resolved his troubles when they met; I didn't expect that it had scarred him so deeply. He became defensive and buried his past because he had suffered too much already. After all, it wouldn't hurt if nobody raked it up. However, things took a turn for the worse because he tried to run away from it for years.

In truth, it was his ex-lover's abandonment that was hurting him. It had nothing to do with Courtney.

As soon as Courtney reached the hotel, she took a shower before lying comfortably on the bed to video call Alexander on her laptop.

"I'm okay. Why? Are you afraid that I might not go back?"

At the other end of the video call, Alexander curled his lips into a smile. "I don't think you'd abandon Tina and stay there yourself."

Upon hearing this, Courtney sat up from the bed abruptly, feeling sober all of a sudden. "No wonder you told me that you signed her up for a winter camp in Iceland when I said I wanted to bring her along. Are you taking her hostage?"

"Hostage? You're making me sound like a bad guy."

With a wily expression, he continued, "I'm not worried about you, but that kiddo lacks willpower. I was afraid she might not want to come back after seeing how sweet Elijah is. I'd rather she be my hostage than his."

"How cunning!" Courtney rolled her eyes. "You're measuring other people's corn by your own bushel."

Halfway through their conversation, her phone rang.

"I'm going to take this call, okay?"

With that, she put her laptop aside. However, she was taken aback when she saw the caller ID. Then, she answered the call, "Hey."

"It's me." Elijah's deep voice sounded on the phone.