

Surprise 336

Chapter 336 Who's Your Baby?

While the country was celebrating the new year, someone was bored to tears in a therapy center in America.

It was a sunny day, and she leaned against the windowsill lazily while snacking and casually swiping through Facebook. Besides celebrities posting warm wishes about the new year, there was no other bigger news on the Internet, and it bored her to no end while reading this.

'Baby, do you like this? I'll buy it for you.'

A text from Gale popped up on her screen, attached with the picture of a dessert.

Glowering at the picture in annoyance, she typed in furiously, 'Who's your baby? Get lost!'

Early in the morning, Gale had gone out to buy food and would send her a picture of anything he saw. In fact, he was using this live-stream shopping method to let her have a sense of involvement so that she would feel as though she was shopping in the supermarket, jewelry stores, malls, and dessert bars.

To this, Cameron merely wanted to tell him to get lost. Not only did she not have any sense of involvement, she simply felt that he was showing off to her that he was a free man.

And this was sparked by her attempt a week ago to break out of the center to spend Christmas outside, but alas, she was caught by Jameson, a doctor in the center. Because of this, she had been depressed until now, fantasizing about the sun outside every day.

As the therapy center was an enclosed area, she couldn't come and go as she pleased before she was fully recovered. For almost a month, she had been pestering the blue-eyed, strict psychiatrist just so she could make a trip outside for Christmas. In the end, the old man refused to give her the green light no matter what.

While browsing Facebook, she saw a trending topic—'Wealthy Businessman From Melrose Booked Out the Entire Commercial Circle for a Proposal'.

The word 'Melrose' attracted Cameron's attention, and she tapped on the link. When she saw the pictures posted by the netizens, the potato chips broke into pieces in her hand.

"What the..."

Infuriated, her anger almost brought the roof down, and after staring at the screen for a long while and making sure that she hadn't seen it wrongly, she made a call.

Her best friend had been proposed to, and she only found out about it through some stupid netizens. This was simply too much!

Am I not her best friend? Alexander hasn't even impressed me yet, but he has already made that little lass, Courtney, his! she thought, fuming mad and unable to think rationally.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable."

The robotic voice of the operator tapped on Cameron's eardrums, and she remembered that it was midnight now in Melrose; nobody would pick up her call at this time.

Courtney must be in the man's arms now, enjoying some tender loving, she thought, and blood rushed to her head in anger. Why do I feel like I've been betrayed? I want to have some tender loving as well!

While she was thinking about that, her cell phone dinged lightly as she received another text from Gale. 'Baby, does this top look good? I'll buy it for you. Which color do you prefer?'

She stared at it for a couple of seconds before replying, 'I don't like any of it. Come back quickly. I'm tired.'

'Take a nap if you're tired. Don't wait for me.'

There must be a hole in an honest man's head. Jerking the therapy center pajamas she was wearing, she exposed her left shoulder, tilted her phone upward at a forty-five degrees angle, bit her lip, and snapped a selfie.

When she saw that it was sent, she added, 'Okay. I'm going to take a nap, then.'

After hitting 'Send', she tossed her phone aside and went to the bathroom while humming, completely ignoring her phone, which was bombarded with texts and ringing like crazy on the windowsill.

She bet that Gale would definitely make it back within half an hour.

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The news that Alexander, the CEO of Sunhill Enterprise, spent a huge amount of money to book out the commercial plaza for a marriage proposal was trending for almost a week.

According to the company's usual low-key style, the PR department would have taken this topic off the trending news a long time ago, but the instruction they received was merely three words—leave it alone.

"Are we really leaving it alone?" The manager of the PR department confirmed it again with Josh, who had come to deliver the instruction. "Our company name has been on the trending topic for almost a week, and it seems like there's no signs of dying down. Is this appropriate?"

Shrugging, Josh said, "Why don't you ask President Duncan yourself? These three words were the only thing he told me."

Hearing that, the manager hurriedly waved his hands. "Please, no. I don't want to seek trouble for myself. President Duncan must have his reasons for doing this."

As Josh happened to have some free time, his words sparked his interest. "What reasons, then?"

"I studied our company's stocks on the market recently, and ever since President Duncan's proposal was on the trending topic, our stocks have been on the rise. The people on the Internet complimented him for being loyal, and the company's reputation shot up. I must really hand it to President Duncan. Even his marriage proposal is so in line with the needs of business development."

Josh sighed. "They say that the people in the PR department have a glib tongue, but I think you're overthinking things. President Duncan's proposal isn't as profound as you think."

"No? Then why did he buy so many diamond rings? Girls all over the world are dying of jealousy because of this."

Casting a look at him from the corner of his eyes, Josh uttered, "That's because he's rich."

An awkward silence clung in the air, and the PR manager let out a sigh of defeat silently. Okay, so that's the truth. It's all because he's rich.

After leaving the PR department, Josh went to Alexander's office with some documents. "President Duncan."

"Come in."

Alexander was in the midst of reading the annual summary report of each department. Every department was at their busiest this time of year, especially the finance department, which had been working over time the past couple of days. In turn, Alexander became busy as well, and for every day the past week, he had been leaving the house early and returning late.

Seeing it was Josh who had come in, he lifted his head. "How are the preparations going for the merger? Have you set up a team for that?"

Previously, Courtney had transferred the shares in her name to James, but now that he was locked up in jail and there were some obvious unreasonable terms in the agreement, the contract thus became invalid.

In fact, this matter had already passed, but recently, Courtney heard from an experienced employee in Hunter Group that Susan wanted to sell the company, which prompted her to tell Alexander about this.

Since it would be sold anyway and it was her father's lifetime work, she felt more at ease to sell it to Sunhill Enterprise.

"It's almost done," Josh answered with a nod. "But the person who can lead this project is busy at this time of year, so this matter has to be postponed for a while. I think it can only begin around the mid-winter break."

"Okay."

"Also, there's something you have to take a look at." Wearing a serious look on his face, Josh continued, "We got someone to recover the surveillance tapes from Louis' house in Oreus. It captured the customers who were staying at his hostel during that period of time."

The screenshot of the surveillance had been printed out by him, and Alexander took it from him. With his head lowered as he flipped through the file, the expression on his face gradually turned solemn. There was a young man wearing a black baseball cap in the screenshot; the entire side profile of his face was visible, and he looked very familiar to Alexander.

"I thought he was someone who looked alike," Josh said, his brows knitted tightly together. "But I checked Oliver Ford's tracks during that time, and he did purchase a bus ticket from Melrose to Oreus before that. Before you told me to look for Louis, he had already stayed at Louis' place for a month."

Slowly, Alexander lifted his head. "Go on."

"I also found out that when I went to look for Louis, which was the night before his house caught fire, Oliver was also staying there, but nobody knew where he went after that night."

Chapter 337 He's Especially Nice

When the surveillance tapes from Louis' place hadn't been recovered, a part of it could be viewed, and Oliver appeared in the tapes. However, Courtney had just brought him home at that time and his identity was unknown, so they couldn't find any problem with him.

In addition, almost every house in Oreus was a hostel, so it wouldn't be odd if Oliver was a university student spending his time in Oreus at that time. Therefore, Alexander wasn't suspicious of him at the beginning.

Nevertheless, now that more and more truth had been unearthed, plus the timing when Oliver appeared in Louis' place was simply too strange, he reckoned that this matter definitely had something to do with him.

"President Duncan, this matter is getting serious. If Oliver is really involved in this, I suggest we hand this over to the police," Josh said, his voice echoing in the office.

Keeping away the iciness in his eyes, Alexander said, "Not yet. Continue with the other leads and set aside Oliver for a while."

"Are you concerned about Miss Hunter?"

Furrowing his brows, Alexander didn't answer him and asked instead, "What's the progress on the other matter?"

He was speaking about Poppy Walker, the woman who previously posed as Jordan's biological mother. The main reason he wanted to find her was to know of Jordan's background. Somebody must be instigating all this behind the scenes, and more trouble would come if he didn't get to the bottom of this.

"I've already found her. She's a guest relation officer in a bar and would sometimes leave with customers. Previously, she found herself a wealthy businessman and didn't show up at the bar for a while. But I've sent someone to keep an eye out, and she'll probably show up again within these few days."

It didn't take too much of Josh's efforts to find Poppy. Based on this woman's bravado, he reckoned that she must be someone who spent a lot of time in bars and clubs. After offending the Duncans, he figured that she must be afraid to hangout anywhere, and because of drug issues, more than half of the entertainment centers in Melrose were closed down recently. Hence, he easily found her after going to a couple of clubs.

Alexander nodded, his eyes stony. "Interrogate her thoroughly after you find her. You know how to deal with this."

It had been a while since Alexander had such a grim expression, and Josh shuddered at the sight of it. When he gathered himself again, he nodded hurriedly. "I got it."

After he left the room, Alexander looked at the information in his hand with an inexplicably complicated feeling.

It wasn't entirely for Courtney's sake that he told Josh to suppress this matter. Another reason was that he felt Oliver wasn't a person who was capable of murder.

As a student of Public Security University, he was under the strict management of the school. Once this matter was reported to the police, they would definitely ask the school for assistance in investigations. Then, the fact that he privately picked up cases outside as a detective and checked up on others illegally would be found out, and he might get expelled from the school.

As for the matter with Louis, he figured there shouldn't be a problem if he asked him about it directly.

After he was finished with work, Alexander checked the time and saw that it was exactly 3.00PM. The timing would be just perfect if he asked Oliver about the matter before going to the kindergarten to pick up the kids.

In the hospital of the fourth military division of Melrose, Tessa lay on the hospital bed and said in a friendly tone, "Mrs. Ford, the mandarins you bought me are so delicious!"

Seated next to her, Fiona was peeling an apple for her, and she smiled gently at her words. "I'll buy you some more if you like it."

"You're buying more?" Oliver raised his head from behind the computer at the dining table. "Didn't you see the ulcers in her mouth, Mom? That's because she's had too many mandarins. I'm afraid she'll be constipated if you feed her more."

"You're the one who's constipated!" She threw him a dirty look. "You're just jealous that Mrs. Ford bought me mandarins. I'm not sharing a single piece with you."

"Fine. Buy her more then, Mom. I'm not going to stop you, and you can continue to attend by her bedside when she's transferred to anorectal division after her injuries recover."

"You rascal," Fiona said, casting an angry stare at Oliver. "How can you speak to Miss Reid in that way? She's a lady, and you should watch your words when you speak to her."

"Exactly." Lifting her nose, Tessa glanced at him with indifference.

"You found yourself a good backup." With a snarl, he slammed his laptop shut. "There's no room here for me anymore. I'll go where I'm accepted."

"Hey, where are you going?" Tessa cried out, stopping him.

"That's none of your business. My mother has become yours now, and I'm just being an eyesore by staying here. I'm not coming over anymore. Bye."

"I didn't say that..." Anxious, she uttered, "I was just kidding with you..."

Seeing how unbearable she was to see Oliver go, Fiona couldn't express in words just how adorable she was, so she chuckled. "That's enough, you rascal. Why are you pulling her leg? Don't you know that she's a person with a one-track mind after three years in university together?"

While Tessa was taken aback by her comment, a cunning look washed over Oliver's face, and he raised his chin deliberately, looking very smug. "She doesn't have a one-track mind; she just has no brains." Then, he turned to Tessa. "There will be a seminar in the school this evening discussing the new batch of investigation equipment, so I have to return now. Send me a text in advance about what you would like to eat tomorrow morning."

Only then did Tessa understand that she had been fooled, and she pouted her lips in disgruntlement. Despite that, her eyes couldn't help but crinkle along with her smile when she heard his last sentence.

Even after Oliver had left the room, she was still smiling, whereupon Fiona looked at her helplessly. "Do you like that rascal so much?"

Startled, she then twisted the sheets in embarrassment. "He's especially nice."

"Only in your eyes, I guess." Handing her the apple, Fiona added, "Alright, now. Stop dreaming. Have an apple. I'm not getting you more mandarins this evening. I'll get you some chrysanthemum tea instead."

"I like everything you buy for me."

At her words, Fiona merely shook her head helplessly.

Oliver had just walked out of the hospital when he saw Alexander walking in his direction from the parking lot. The moment he saw him, he froze for a second, but it was already too late to avoid him, so he could only brace himself to face him.

"What brought you here? Courtney isn't here today."

"I'm not here to look for her." Giving him a once-over, he said, "I have some things to ask you."

"What is it about?" Oliver said, tightening his grip on the strap of his laptop carrier.

"Six months ago—" He started speaking, but almost immediately, he saw someone coming over, and he frowned. "Let's talk in a quiet place because it's not suitable to talk here. Where are you heading? I'll give you a lift."

Regaining his composure, Oliver answered quickly, "Back to the university."

Judging from Alexander's tone, Oliver reckoned that he wasn't talking about the matter he was thinking about. If he had found out about Mom, I don't think he'd be as calm as he is now, he thought.

"Okay." Alexander acknowledged with a nod. "Let's go. My car is in the parking lot."

Side by side, they spun around and paced toward the parking lot. Barely a few steps later, the automated doors of the hospital behind them slid open, and a figure dressed in azure color while carrying a simple gray canvas bag walked out.

With one look, Fiona saw her son, and something came into her mind, so she shouted from behind him, "Oliver!"

Not far from her, two figures stopped simultaneously and looked back.

Chapter 338 Mom, Don't Beg Him

Unconsciously, Alexander turned around when he heard the voice. Initially, he wasn't sure what he had heard, and the voice was unfamiliar. However, an unfamiliar—yet somehow familiar—figure appeared before his eyes as soon as he turned around.

Immediately, Oliver's face darkened. "Why are you here?"

Meanwhile, Fiona's footsteps halted the moment she saw him, and the gentle smile she usually had on her face disappeared. Speechless, she simply stared at him.

"Didn't you have something to discuss with me? Let's go." A tense expression was pasted on Oliver's face as he looked at Alexander anxiously.

Making out what was happening, Alexander questioned coldly, "She just called your name. What's the relationship between you two?"

I guess I can't hide it anymore. Oliver took a deep breath and frowned heavily. "She's my mother."

It became awfully silent as soon as Oliver said that, and Alexander kept quiet for quite a while.

"Alex, don't take this the wrong way..." Fiona wanted to explain, but it seemed to have backfired.

"Heh." Alexander scoffed and interrupted her. As he lifted his head, disdain glinted in his eyes. "Why did you think I would take this the wrong way when I haven't even said anything? Tell me: What did I misunderstand?"

At that moment, she was at a loss for words.

"I'll speak if you won't." Alexander's face was ice-cold, and his eyes were filled with indifference and estrangement. When he turned to Oliver, it was as though he was staring at a stranger whom he had no regard for.

"When you left the Duncans twenty years ago, you promised Grandpa that you would never step foot into Melrose. We lived in peace all this while when you were living your own life elsewhere, but I never thought that you would go to great lengths to send your son to Melrose. You even had the guts to plant him close to me. I can't believe I didn't realize it all this while. I guess I'd underestimated you."

"That's not the case." She panicked. "Oliver came to Melrose to study. And he tried to get close to you because he wanted to get to know his brother. He has no ill intentions."

"Brother?" Alexander's face turned grim. "How could you have the cheek to say that? What does he have to do with me? Does the Duncans' family tree have his name? You've had nothing to do with me the moment you left the Duncans twenty years ago, let alone the b*stard you had with someone else!" He had never been so angry with anyone. He even called Oliver a b*stard.

From a distance, Courtney was walking over from the parking lot with dinner in her hand. She trembled and almost dropped the thermal container when she heard Alexander saying that.

Before she could get closer, Oliver threw a punch at Alexander's face. Alexander was defenseless and didn't manage to dodge. With that, he tilted to the side and stumbled. When he lifted his head, the corner of his mouth was swollen, and blood was oozing out.

"Are you okay?" Fiona cried and tried to help Alexander up.

"Mom, leave him be. Who did you call a b*stard?" Oliver looked daggers at Alexander. "What kind of wrong did my mom do to you that you had to hurt her with such words?"

Alexander shook off Fiona's hand that was holding him. Right then, his face was cold as ever. "Aren't you capable of finding out anything? She didn't wrong me, but she wronged my father gravely."

"Rubbish!" Oliver strode closer. "Don't spout nonsense. My mom isn't the kind of person you say she is."

"I thought so too." Alexander gazed at Oliver coldly. "But not anymore. She wouldn't have returned to Melrose if she had any sense of shame. Don't tell me it was just a coincidence that you tried to get close to Courtney and my family. There's no such coincidence."

"Alexander." Courtney quickly made her way over and tugged Alexander's arm as she couldn't bear to watch anymore. "Things aren't as complicated as you think. Some things are simply coincidences. There are so many people involved..."

Noticing that she was obviously on Fiona and Oliver's side, Alexander frowned even more deeply. "You knew?"

Upon hearing this, she frowned without denying it. It was true that she already knew about this, but it was better to keep it from him for everyone's sake.

"This has nothing to do with Courtney or my mom," Oliver stated sullenly. "It's me who wanted to find out what kind of an a*shole brother I have who cut ties and drove my mom out of her home twenty years ago!"

"Oliver." Fiona kept pulling his arm nervously.

Afraid that Alexander might do something, Courtney also held on to him tightly. "Alexander."

Instantaneously, the atmosphere grew tense.

Moments later, Alexander recalled something. With a chilly stare, he sneered, "You should go to a drama school instead of Public Security University since your acting skills are so convincing. You and your mother should go back to Oreus. There are other relatives even if I don't inherit the family fortune. B*stards who have nothing to do with the Duncans' bloodline should stop deluding themselves."

As a result, Oliver's face turned pale. It was as if he had gone mad. He wanted to pounce on Alexander and grab his collar, but Fiona hugged his waist tightly to stop him.

As they struggled, Fiona shrieked all of a sudden, "Enough!"

Everyone was shocked.

Then, Fiona let go of Oliver's waist. Though her hair was in a mess and her scarf was sloppily draped over her shoulders, she looked neither supercilious nor obsequious. Straightening her back, she uttered shakily, "It doesn't matter what you think. I came to Melrose to visit Oliver, not to scheme like what you think. I won't come back again since you don't want to see me. He's only got half a year left before finishing his studies and going abroad. Just think of it as a request from the person who gave birth to you. It's only half a year. Please don't make things difficult for him."

"Mom, don't beg him."

"Shut up." She lifted her hand. With that, a loud slap landed on Oliver's face. Seeing this, both Alexander and Courtney were stunned because none of them expected Fiona to do so.

"If you still think of me as your mother, finish the last six months of studies quietly and go abroad after that. Never come back to Melrose and just abandon any plans you have in your mind."

Then, she glanced at Alexander sorrowfully. "Alexander is not your brother. You don't have one."

As soon as she finished, she turned and left hastily in the cold wind.

As for Oliver, there was a red patch on his face. Glaring at Alexander, Oliver gritted through his teeth, "One day, you'll regret what happened today."

After saying that, he caught up with Fiona and left.

Soon, only Alexander and Courtney were left at the hospital entrance. Carefully, she touched his hand. His usually warm hands were now cold.

"Alexander."

"You can save your breath if you intend to persuade me." He was clearly still furious at her for keeping the truth from him.

Feeling bad for him, she frowned and sighed silently. "Why would I persuade you? I have no intention of doing so. I just wanted to tell you that you can only be free if you don't hold on to resentments."

Chapter 339 They're Just Thinking of Taking Advantage

Hearing this, the coldness in Alexander's eyes slowly disappeared. His hands gradually became warm, and the resentment in his heart dissipated. A moment later, he held Courtney's hand. "I'm sorry."

As she shook her head, she said thoughtfully, "It's alright. I know you didn't mean to take it out on me."

With that, he took her into his arms. "To be honest, I've thought of how she would come back to see me many times. After all, I'm her son. Yet, she never came back for the past twenty years."

Who would ever understand the myriad of emotions that overwhelmed me when I saw her in Oreus before?

Courtney wanted to tell him something, but it didn't seem to be the right time to do so because it might backfire if she stood on Fiona and Oliver's side now. Hence, she didn't mention anything. Besides, she was still troubled with some questions, so she had to make things clear with them first.

In the evening, they picked up the children before going to the hotel for dinner. Stephen and his family were invited too as they wanted to go over some details about the wedding.

Seated at one end of the table was Scott. As soon as he saw Alexander and Courtney arrive, the imposing look he had on melted away at once, and he beckoned them to take a seat.

"Hey, we've been waiting for you. What took you so long?" Maryse, who was nearly 50 years old, spoke. Her sable fur coat hung on the chair. There was a judgemental look in her eyes as Courtney entered through the door.

"We went to pick up the kids," Courtney explained drily.

In truth, Courtney wasn't exactly close with Maryse because she was usually with her grandfather during those years when she stayed with the Somerfields. Occasionally, she would meet Alicia's family. As for Stephen and Maryse, she would only meet them once every year on New Year.

This time, Stephen and Maryse were invited to dinner simply because Scott thought that Courtney had no one else from her side of the family and was afraid that people might think she had no one to count on. Besides, according to Melrose's tradition, Stephen was considered the head of the family. Hence, he would have a seat at the bridal table during the wedding. That was why Scott asked Courtney to invite Stephen.

"I heard that the kids are studying at Sapphire Kindergarten, right?" Maryse smiled warmly. "Henry and Brandon have also reached the age where they're supposed to attend kindergarten, so Cindy and Joshua have been visiting many schools. They visited nearly all that's in Melrose, but they couldn't find a suitable one. Then, I heard that Tina attends Sapphire Kindergarten, so I went and took a look yesterday. It seems like a really good school. Why don't you arrange for Henry and Brandon to study there as well? The kids could accompany each other."

Upon hearing this, Courtney furrowed her brows. "Aunt Maryse, you can just give them a call to register."

Speechless, Courtney couldn't believe that Maryse had the nerve to ask her to help arrange the children's kindergarten enrolment after only speaking to each other for a while on their first meeting.

"I wouldn't have asked for your help if I could just register. It's not too much trouble anyway."

Right then, Alicia couldn't bear to watch anymore. "Not too much trouble?" she scoffed. "We're not here to discuss your grandchildren's kindergarten enrollment, are we?"

In the Somerfield Family, she had relatively high standing. Thus, even if people didn't listen to her, they still respected her. With that, Maryse closed her mouth as she sulked.

Then, Alicia turned to Scott and apologized softly. "Sorry about that, Mr. Duncan."

The old man seemed as if nothing had happened. "It's alright. Alexander, let Courtney take a seat. We're just having dinner together as a family, so there's no need to be so cautious about everything. Just say whatever you want to."

Courtney glanced at Alexander, who sat beside Scott, and took a seat beside Alicia.

The room was large enough to accommodate all twelve of them sitting at the table. From the Duncans' side, there were only Scott and Alexander. The rest were from the Somerfield Family.

It was obvious why Maryse and her family had come. Throughout the dinner, she never once took an interest in the wedding and kept asking about Alexander's business as soon as she had the chance. In the meantime, her daughter, Courtney's cousin, kept thinking of ways to talk about her children's kindergarten enrollment.

They were all thinking of taking advantage of them.

Fortunately, William and Alicia were of much help. Ignoring the others, both of them discussed the wedding date and arrangements with Scott.

Just then, Tina lifted her head to look at Courtney with a bored expression. "Mommy, I'm full."

"Do you want to go and play?" Courtney smiled and touched Tina's nose.

"Tee-hee..." Tina giggled, showing her white teeth. "You're so smart, Mommy."

"Oh, stop with the flattery. Go ahead and take Jordan with you. Just don't be too crazy."

After that, she rubbed Jordan's forehead. "Watch over your sister, okay?"

"Okay." Jordan nodded with a serious expression on his face.

He hardly spoke when there were strangers around. Hence, he caught up with Tina after acknowledging Courtney.

As soon as Cindy saw this, she urged her two sons to join them. "Henry, Brandon, go and play with Tina and Jordan. Go ahead."

The children were always happy to see the playground, so the boys ran over immediately when they heard this. Suddenly, the table was much quieter.

Gazing at Courtney, Cindy hinted, "Look at them. They're roughly the same age. Wouldn't it be nice for them to play together in school?"

With a faint smile, Courtney noted, "They're a year apart. They'd be in different classes even if they're in the same school."

In actual fact, helping the two boys with their kindergarten enrollment wasn't hard, and she knew that Alexander would say yes as long as she asked; it was a piece of cake. However, she refused to let Stephen and his family take advantage of them because some people would take a mile after giving them an inch.

Slowly, Cindy became impatient after trying to convince Courtney for quite some time but to no avail. Cindy's face turned grim, and she sneered scornfully, "True. I guess I'd better do it myself."

In response, Courtney pretended that she didn't notice the obvious resentment in Cindy's remark and turned to look at Alicia. From time to time, she would even talk to Scott and William.

Meanwhile, Stephen and Maryse seemed to have hit a wall with Alexander. Together with Cindy and Joshua, all of their faces turned embarrassingly dark.

That night, a normal family dinner had turned into an unpleasant one. Courtney had hoped that they would at least get to dine together in peace, but sadly, one couldn't always get what they wanted.

All of a sudden, a boy's loud wail erupted from the children's section.

"What happened?" Cindy turned around and took a look before rushing over. Then, she screamed, "Henry!"

Under the children's slide, the four-year-old Henry was lying face down with blood all over his mouth. At one glance, one could conclude that he must have fallen to the ground and cut his lips. Meanwhile, Tina was sitting at the top of the slide, preparing to slide down. At that moment, she was staring blankly at the bottom of the slide.

"What happened?" Cindy was so terrified that she didn't know what to do.

"She pushed me, Mommy..." He sobbed.

Chapter 340 Won't Let Anyone Bully You Anymore

Henry pointed at Tina, who was sitting on the slide, and sobbed until he was out of breath.

"She pushed me."

Stunned, Tina hurriedly retorted, "I didn't. You're lying."

Cindy was the sweetheart of the Somerfield Family, and she had been showered with love since she was young. After she had her two children, she spoiled them even more, raising them with the utmost care. So, when she heard her son's cries, her expression changed immediately as she got up and walked toward Tina.

The slide was less than a meter high, so adults could easily carry children down.

But, before she could do anything, Cindy's knees buckled and she was pushed hard, causing her to take a few staggering steps back.

Jordan opened his arms wide to protect the slide, his eyes as cold as ice.

"Hey, you little mute, what do you think you're doing?"

Cindy was so angry that, for a moment, she spoke out of turn, revealing her actual thoughts.

At this moment, everyone hurried over.

Courtney was walking in front, and her face changed upon hearing her insult. She hurried over and pulled Jordan behind her, then carried Tina down from the slide before fixing Cindy with a cold glare. "What did you just call Jordan?"

Cindy's face turned gloomy. "You can't blame me for saying that. If your daughter was pushed down the slide, I believe you'd lose your temper as well."

Many people were surrounding them as Courtney shot Henry a glance. "If my daughter fell, I wouldn't blame others first; I'd check if my child was okay instead."

At this moment, Maryse was holding Henry and wiping his tears while saying anxiously, "We need to send him to the hospital. What are you all doing just standing around? If something happens to Henry, I'll give up on life."

The crowd frowned when they saw how rudely she was acting.

Courtney's face darkened. What could've been a nice meal was ruined by Stephen's family. If she had known this would happen, she would've heeded Alicia's advice and not notified them.

Back then, Stephen had fought with William over the family property. When her grandfather was still alive, their whole family was in the hospital, disgracing the Somerfield Family. Their family was simply unreasonable to the core.

"The doctor's here."

While everyone was surrounding them, Alexander had already ordered a waiter to call the hotel's private doctor.

When the doctor went to check on Henry, the boy's nose was no longer bleeding.

"It's nothing. He just injured his nose. The bleeding has stopped, so you don't need to worry much."

Upon hearing this, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

Cindy glanced at Courtney and said enigmatically, "Luckily, Henry's fine. Courtney, you should discipline your daughter. If you marry into the Duncan Family in the future and something happens, they'd think that you aren't a good mother."

Normally, Courtney would've argued with her, but it was a special occasion today because Scott was around. She didn't want to cause a scene, so she clenched her fists and didn't fight back.

Alicia was livid, but William held her back.

"Whether or not Courtney is a good mother, we Duncans know it deep down."

An elderly voice sounded from behind everyone, and even Courtney was momentarily stunned when she heard it.

Since the moment Henry was injured, Scott hadn't said anything. Now that he had suddenly spoken, the Somerfields looked back at him, only to see the cold expression on his face. He no longer looked like the kind-hearted old man from earlier.

“In the past, I’ve only heard about families protecting their own children. But today, all I see is a family humiliating their own. In all my many years of living, this is my first time seeing someone so ill-bred, and there’s even more than one.”

Scott’s remarks were loud, and it was like a slap across the faces of Scott and his family.

“If it weren’t for the fact that you’re the few remaining members of Courtney’s family, you wouldn’t even be qualified to enter this room. What did you call Jordan just now?”

When Cindy heard this, her face turned pale.

“Little mute?” The old man snorted coldly. “Because of those two words, you can get the hell out of here.”

The atmosphere in the room turned stiff at once.

For a moment, Cindy was stunned. Before she could regain her senses, two bodyguards had already dragged her out unceremoniously. Even from a distance away, they could still hear her shrill screams.

Cindy’s husband chased after her, and Stephen probably felt ashamed too as he hurried after them, leaving Maryse sitting on the sofa while holding Henry, her face ashen.

Courtney didn’t look too good either. After all, Stephen’s family was her family. Scott might’ve been protecting her from the injustice by berating them, but at the end of the day, she was still the one who was humiliated.

Who would want their family to make a fool of themselves when they were meeting with their partner’s family?

“Do you Duncans think you can bully people just because you have money?” Maryse’s shrill voice sounded abruptly in the private room.

Courtney closed her eyes, not wanting to see what would happen next.

“Oh, shut up.”

Alicia broke free from William and coldly chided Maryse. “Do you think you haven’t embarrassed Courtney enough?”

After saying that, Alicia took a deep breath, then looked at Scott and said slowly, “Mr. Duncan, I apologize for what happened. We’ll choose another time to meet. William and I will be the hosts, and we’ll invite your family again. Let’s end it here today.”

With that, she walked to Courtney’s side, gave her a light pat on the shoulder, then left the room.

Seeing this, Maryse didn’t dare to stay any longer and hurried out with Henry in her arms.

What had originally been a good time to discuss the wedding affairs had turned into a farce.

Courtney cupped her forehead, then said to Scott in a low voice, “I’m sorry you had to see all that, Grandpa.”

The room was quiet. Alexander knew that Courtney felt utterly embarrassed, so he spoke for her. "Grandpa, Courtney was never close with Stephen's family, so they can't be regarded as her family. About today—"

"What did Courtney do wrong today?" Scott interrupted Alexander.

His old but dignified voice was laced with an elder's affection for the younger generation, causing Courtney to slowly raise her head and look at the old man in astonishment.

"If I hadn't insisted on asking for all of Courtney's remaining family to be present, this wouldn't have happened. So, what does it have to do with her?"

"Grandpa." Courtney felt a warm current flowing in her heart, gradually dispelling the chill inside her.

"Courtney, with such an uncle, you must've suffered a lot of grievances when you were young."

Scott's eyes contained a trace of warmth.

"When you become part of the Duncan Family in the future, rest assured knowing that we won't let anyone bully you anymore. You'll officially and legally be Alexander's wife, as well as my granddaughter-in-law. We'll see who has the guts to slander you like they did today."

It felt like *deja vu*, as it was similar to when her grandfather held her hand during New Year's Day many years ago and said, "You're my most precious granddaughter and the Young Lady of the Somerfield Family. I'd like to see who would dare to bully you."

Courtney's eyes watered, and she sniffed as she gave a heavy nod.

"Thank you, Grandpa."