

N Destiny 1171

Chapter 1171

A beat or two later, Ren drawled grimly, "I'll give Victoria a stern warning. You can go back to the Translation Department anytime you want."

Shaking her head, Ruka said, "I don't want to go back. I want to try out other departments. I'm thinking of Public Relations, so I can work with my parents." It was not as if she had taken up the internship at the Translation Department without a backup, and she thought Public Relations was not too shabby of a choice.

However, Ren's eyes darkened when he heard this. I'm afraid I can't let you." She blinked. "Why?" "I don't want you any further away from me than necessary," he bit out in an almost demanding manner.

She gazed into his depthless eyes and felt her heart melt. There was something about him that made her want to give up everything, including her good sense, just for him. He only needed to ask and she would have said yes regardless of what his request might be.

That was how Ruka ended up saying, "Okay. I guess I'll consider something else then." "You don't have to work, you know," he said hoarsely. "I make more than enough for the both of us."

She blushed at his sentimental tone, but she stood her ground and gave a firm shake of her head as she said, "No, I can't just have you bankroll me. I want to make something of myself; I don't want to stay idle."

A small smile curled on his lips as he asked teasingly, "Is it that embarrassing to be a housewife?"

"It's not embarrassing," Ruka countered in a flustered manner. "I just want to accomplish something and have a career of my own, you know? I don't want to be one of those ladies of leisure."

Ren's brows furrowed at this and he scolded, "You'll still be precious to me no matter what you become."

She felt her heart somersault happily in her chest, but her mind scrambled to veer away from this topic of her becoming a lady of leisure. She cleared her throat and said evasively, "What did you ask Elijah to do? Is it something personal?"

He was tight-lipped about it as he answered, "You could say that."

Feeling awkward, she took a sip of the tea he had given her earlier and pursed her lips, then asked, "What do you want for your birthday? Let me know so | can get it ready in time."

Ren tapped his knuckles against her forehead and said huffily, "Where's the meaning in that? You'll have to figure out what | want all by yourself if you want to give me a gift."

"But you have everything you could possibly need, and you only use the best. Come on, help a girl out!" she argued, pouting. She just wanted him to point her in the right direction so that she would not mess up his gift.

"| don't have everything | need," he said devilishly as he fixed his dark, hungry gaze on her. "I still need a woman." To think, she had just steered the conversation away from romance, only to be roped back into yet another heart racing situation.

She had to give it to him. Who would have thought that underneath the affable-but-stern vice president exterior hid a smooth talker?

Ruka pursed her lips to keep from laughing, but she flushed as she pointed out, "You can have any woman you want. Just say the word and any girl would throw herself at you."

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Ren brought his cup to his lips and drank his tea, then muttered, "And yet, you still haven't." She gaped at him. | guess | should have seen that coming, she thought ruefully.

In another attempt to change the subject, she said brightly, "| wonder when Aunt Scarlet and Uncle Walter are coming back. | do miss them."

Ren read Ruka's mind and said with a deep smile, "I'll be back in about two days. Ruka nodded, and her phone rang at that moment. She picked up her phone and glanced at it. Then, she said, "It's my mom.

He motioned for the woman next to him to answer the phone while urging her, "Answer it!" She answered the phone quickly and greeted, "Hey, Mom."

"Ruka, what time do you get off work? I'm having a get-together dinner with some old friends. You should come and meet them as well."

She agreed, "Okay. I'll be home before 5.00PM. "Dress up nicely tonight."

"Mom, why do I need to dress up?" Ruka questioned. The question drew the man's attention, and he cast a sidelong glance at her.

Claire stressed in a serious tone on the other end of the line, "Just do as I say and don't embarrass us, alright?" Ruka smiled as she pursed her lips. "Alright. I got it."

Ruka raised her head and looked the man in the eyes after she hung up the phone. Ren locked his gaze on her, and his expression was unfathomable.

She thought she had made a fool of herself as she ran her fingers through her hair and asked, "Why do you keep staring at me? Is there something on my face?"

"What would you do if your parents set you up on a blind date?" he asked her directly.

Ruka was startled for a moment before she recalled her mom's advice about dressing up. Then, she responded with hindsight, "No way! Are my parents going to arrange a blind date for me tonight?"

Ren asked her coldly, "Are you looking forward to it?" She erupted in laughter. "No! Are you already jealous before I've met another man?!"

When he reached out to take her hand, he immediately noticed the missing diamond ring on her finger. He asked with a frown, "Where's the diamond ring?"

"Oh, I left it at home. I'm afraid I'll lose it." As soon as she replied, she felt guilty and lowered her head.

Ruka was worried about losing the diamond ring? Nah, obviously, she was terrified that someone would notice she was wearing a couple's ring with him.

"Put the ring back on when you get home. If you lose it, we'll get a new one," the man demanded. Ruka had no choice but to nod her head. "Alright. I'll put it on when I get home."

The way Ruka responded caused Ren's facial expression to soften subtly. However, he did not release her hand and instead grasped it in his palm. Her heart skipped a beat when he grabbed her hand. She experienced a rapid heartbeat and flushed cheeks. In addition, she felt sparks fly from his gesture.

"From now on, say goodnight to me before going to bed every night. Did you know that I was waiting for your call last night?" Ren asked in a low voice. He could not fall asleep because she was not at his home.

She was left speechless as she pondered, Does he really wait for my message? She did not send him a message because she did not intend to bother him late at night.

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"Okay, I'll say good night to you before I go to bed." Ruka nodded. Providing he does not find my message bothersome. "I'm going to get some work done now. You can rest by my side while I complete my work." Ren did not want to let her go, so he kept her close to him.

Anyway, Ruka was delighted to accompany him. She grabbed a book to read when she noticed a small bookshelf in a corner. Meanwhile, Victoria was in her office and having a bad day. She thought that when Ruka left, she would feel better, but it seemed that Ruka's sudden departure made her feel even more upset.

At that moment, there was a knock on the door, and she snapped, "Who is it?"

“Miss Parfait, Elijah is here,” the assistant said in a meticulous tone as she pushed open the door. Victoria tensed up and took a deep breath. She said with a smile, “Please invite him inside.”

When Elijah entered the room, she could not contain her excitement. “What brings you here, Elijah?” He looked at her calmly and said, “Miss Parfait, I’m here to relay a few words from Mr. Husson to you.” “What does he say?” Victoria worriedly inquired. Does he know that I’m the one who made Ruka leave?

“Miss Parfait, Mr. Husson would like to inform you that if you want your dad to retire comfortably and enjoy his golden years, you’d better be careful and stop abusing your power to bully others,” Elijah said in a calm voice that belied the underlying threat in his words.

Victoria’s expression changed. “What is he going to do to my dad?”

“The point is what you did to Miss Singed. Miss Parfait, you’re a wise woman. You have to understand how important Miss Singed is to Mr. Husson.”

“Who the hell is Ruka? Is Ren blind? Which part of me is inferior to hers?” There was an intense resentment in her eyes. Elijah noticed the malice on her face and the hatred in her eyes. He replied indifferently, “I believe Miss Singed is much better than you in terms of being kind and open-minded.”

Victoria took a deep breath, and her face turned pale. She raised her head to look at Elijah and questioned, “Is he threatening me? Why is he doing this?”

“You’ve crossed a line that’s very important to Mr. Husson, and Miss Singed is that line. Miss Parfait, you’d better keep an eye on yourself. You should have known better about Mr Husson’s character. After giving you a warning, he will act on it. He clearly has leverage over your father after all these years.

As long as he issues orders, your father will be unable to escape. In terms of your position, he can easily remove you from it if he desires. Elijah’s last words were clear and cold.

Victoria slumped back in her seat as Elijah turned around and left. Does Ren have to treat me with such hostility because of Ruka? She suddenly came to her senses at this moment. What kind of person have I fallen in love with? When does Ren become so cold and inhuman after a disagreement with me?

All my feelings for him over the years must have been in vain. Victoria's tears streamed down her cheeks, and she buried her sorrow by covering her face. At that moment, she could not wait to cast a curse on Ruka so that she would vanish or leave this world. Then, Ren would never get the woman he loved and suffered as much as she did.

Ruka sat in a room heated by a radiator while reading a book. Since she had trouble sleeping the night before, the warmth caused her to feel drowsy. She had briefly sat before shifting to a prone position to read.

Her eyes fought to stay open as she dozed off gently on her arm, but she managed to steal a peek at the man who was reading the documents.

After Ren signed a document, he looked up and saw her sleeping on her stomach on the couch. He felt something tug at his heartstrings. This scene appears to be familiar. A similar sight happened many years ago.

While he worked on quiz questions at the desk, a young child who was tired from playing fell asleep on the couch while holding her book. Her cute little face was tender, and her long eyelashes were unbelievably attractive. The young child slept as peacefully and beautifully as Ruka did at the moment. One could not resist showering her with love and care.

Ren stood up and strode to the clothes rack, picked up one of his trench coats and walked to the couch. Then, he gently draped it over Ruka's body. He could not help but stoop and gently peck her on the forehead.

Elijah returned ten minutes later. When he opened the door, the man at the table motioned for him to keep quiet. He glanced over at the girl falling asleep on the couch before he left the room.

Ruka was sleeping soundly at the moment, which drove the man who read the document to lose his mind. His gaze returned to her face, and his mind began to waver.

The hours ticked by slowly until it was almost 5.00PM when Ren felt a vibration from his phone. When he looked down to check the caller ID, he picked up the phone and went outside to answer the call.

“Hey, Mom,” Ren answered gently. “Ren, can you come home tonight for dinner? I’m already missing you.”

“Sure. I’ll be back.” “OK. I’ll ask Janet to cook your favorite dishes,” Mrs. Husson exclaimed happily.

Ren pushed open the door to the lounge after he hung up the phone. All of a sudden, Ruka woke up. She blinked her sleepy eyes and asked the man who entered, “What time is it, Mr. Ren? Why did I doze off?”

As soon as she finished her sentence, she became aware of the slight dampness at the corner of her lips and quickly covered it in embarrassment. Did she drool while sleeping on her stomach just now?

Ren was used to her cute gestures and was not bothered by them. That was because Ruka had been like this since she was a child.

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It was 5.30PM when Ruka took her phone out of her bag. She gaped at the time and said, ‘I should go.’

“I’ll drop you off, Ren offered. “It’s alright. Elijah can do it,’ she turned him down and shook her head. The idea that he would drop her off at her home was intimidating..

He did not argue with her and instead reached out to caress her face, where a red imprint from her nap was still visible.

Ruka allowed him to caress her face all he wanted. She wrapped her arms around his waist and nuzzled against his chest in an audacious move. However, she was still groggy from sleep and desired nothing more than to snooze in his arms for a bit longer.

He gently stroked her hair and murmured, ‘Scarlet will be home in two days. You and your parents should drop by for family dinner.’

Ruka stiffened upon hearing this. Her recent nightmare flashed before her eyes and sent a chill down her spine. She embraced him tightly and confessed, “I’m a little worried.”

“Why? I’ll be there,” Ren reassured her as he gazed at her.

She could not bring herself to tell him about a nightmare she had where he was lectured and scolded in front of everyone because of her.

“Do I really have to?” she asked weakly and looked up at him with mute despair. He nodded. “I am looking forward to having you and your parents as my guests.”

Ruka sighed. It appears that some things are simply unavoidable, she thought in resignation. She secretly vowed to take all the blame for any mishap. Please don’t let Ren take the fall for me.

“Alright,” she promised. After that, Elijah took her home, and Ren returned to his own place for dinner.

The Husson Residence was a large and imposing structure with eight Roman inspired columns that supported the awning over the main entrance. The architecture symbolized the family’s strength and power.

Despite her advanced age, Charlotte insisted on giving birth to her only son, so he could continue the superior family line. However, thirty-three years had passed, and the young master of the family showed no interest in marriage. His parents were nearly eighty years old. They were eager to see him settle down and have his own children before they passed away. The elderly couple decided to set Ren up with a match.

Ren had come home that evening and noticed a young lady sitting beside his mother. The young lady’s face lit up when she saw him.

Then, Charlotte beckoned her son over and said, “Ren, come here. There is someone I’d like you to meet.”

He knew instantly what his mom’s intention was, and he calmly approached “This is Sophie Liamson, Emmett’s niece. She is

twenty-six this year and a world class piano teacher. | think a pretty and proper young lady like her is a good match for you.” The old lady appeared to have decided to take Sophie in as her daughter-in-law.

Charlotte was particularly anxious because she would bring home any girl she considered a potential match for her ever- fastidious son.

“It’s an honor to meet you, Ren. I’ve heard so much about you from Uncle Emmett,” Sophie greeted shyly, but she was secretly over the moon. She could not believe she had been noticed by Charlotte. She was invited to the Husson Residence to meet Ren in person due to Emmett’s efforts to gain the favor of the old lady.

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Sophie had arrived at the Husson Residence in the early afternoon. She had spent half the day with Charlotte and Harold. Furthermore, she had impressed them by cleverly maneuvering her way through an intellectual conversation and displaying charming etiquette. It was safe to say that the elderly couple approved of her.

Ren smiled and said, “Nice to meet you, Sophie. Welcome to the Husson Residence.”

Sophie misinterpreted his smile as a sign that he had feelings for her. Although she had only seen him on television, he appeared even more handsome in person. In addition, his regal air made her swoon. Her heart began to pound.

She told herself to seize this opportunity and make a good impression. She could become the next lady of the house if she can pull this off. Furthermore, she could become the wife of the country’s future vice president! This could be the most crucial moment of her life, and she could not afford to let it slip through her fingers.

Then, Charlotte hastily excused herself and mumbled something about checking on the dishes in the kitchen. Her intention was to allow Ren and Sophie to spend time alone together. Consequently, they were left alone on the couch with only one another for company.

Sophie's hands were nervously intertwined as her gaze flickered over to the man on the couch next to her. She could not hide her admiration for him and said. "I hope it's not too forward of me to say this, but I've always looked up to you, Ren. I hope I'll have the chance to learn from you and make up for my own shortcomings."

"There's no need for you to be so modest, Miss Liamson. You're well-accomplished in your own right," Ren replied congenially.

She was eager to impress him and continued, "I heard you have a piano in your study, and I was wondering if I could have the honor of playing you a song."

He glanced at his watch. "I'm sorry, but maybe next time. There's something I need to discuss with my dad right now." Then, Ren got up from the couch and walked out of the living room.

Sophie was dejected by his response. Even though he did not seem arrogant or cold, she could tell from how he looked at her that he was reserved. It appeared as though he did not mind conversing with her, but that was it. Ren had no intention of engaging in more profound or open hearted conversation.

It was precise because he was so inscrutable that one would hesitate to probe him further. However, that might have been what made him so appealing. He was a powerful man who cared about people. His charisma came from his leadership ability and belief in upholding what was inherently good. Unfortunately, his devotion to his political career was nowhere to be found in his pursuit of romance.

She clenched her fists. Her uncle had given her this opportunity to climb the social ladder, and she would be doing it a disservice if she gave up due to Ren's initial apathy. Furthermore, she had a better chance than any other girls because Harold and Charlotte favored her.

Meanwhile, Ren went upstairs and noticed that his Dad was watching television. Harold relished his solitude while watching slice-of-life programs.

"Hey, Dad, Ren greeted him as he pushed the door open. He entered the room and sat across from him.

Harold looked at him expectantly and asked. "There you are, Ren. Have you met Miss Liamson?"

“Yes, | have.”

“What do you think?”

Chapter 1177 ‘She’s an exceptional girl,” Ren responded flatly as he poured a cup of tea for Harold.

“Ren, there’s a saying that one must honor one’s parents.” Harold continued, “Your mom and | aren’t getting any younger. We have nothing more to ask of you except that you settle down and start a family.” These words had become tiresome after repeated so often, but he still found himself saying them whenever he saw Ren.

Ren nodded and replied, “I’ll think about settling down.” “Really?” Harold’s eyes sparkled. “Yes. Ideally within a year,” Ren stated solemnly.

Harold breathed a sigh of relief. It appears that Charlotte chose the right girl this time! Ren has only met Miss Liamson once, and he’s already planning to marry her.

Now that he had received the desired response, the old man appeared relaxed and changed the subject. “In that case, you should concentrate on the next election. You’re still highly regarded by the general public, so there is hope that you will be re- elected.”

He was overjoyed that his son’s political career was taking off and had reached heights that he had not been able to achieve during his prime. He could only hope such glory would be passed down through the generations.

However, Ren frowned slightly and pointed out, “I’m just going to go with the flow, Dad. To be honest, I’m not too concerned about the election.”

“All you have to do is keep up the good work, and everything will work out in your favor, Harold responded, and his ambition was evident in his eyes. “Your political achievements are more than enough to ensure your re-election. You’re not getting cold feet all of a sudden, are you?”

Ren’s brows furrowed as he answered in a low voice, “No.”

“Good.” Harold declared. He proudly assessed his son and added, “Ren, I know you can always count on you. I’m confident you’ll win the next election.”

At 6.30PM that evening, Ruka and her parents arrived at the restaurant's private dining room.

A middle-aged couple and a young man were on one side of the table. Robert's old friend, Atticus Kowalski, was also present and sat at the table with them.

Ruka assessed the situation before her and wondered if she had just walked into a matchmaking session.

They were introduced after they took their seats. Atticus wasted no time delving into the young man's and Ruka's respective family backgrounds. Then, he allowed the parents to discuss what a great match Ruka and this young man would be.

The young man in question went by the name Levi Goldman. He was nearly six feet tall, well-dressed, and appeared to be a steadfast person. Nevertheless, he had not been able to take his eyes off Ruka since she entered the room.

Ruka looked like a princess straight out of a fairytale, with her glossy ebony hair and delicate features. Her ethereal beauty set her apart from all the other girls Levi had met.

He exchanged a brief glance with his mother, indicating that the evening was off to a good start. Then, the parents exchanged pleasantries and made small talk. Levi noticed the empty seat beside Ruka and occupied it while offering to pour her tea. In contrast, Ruka could tell how much Claire wanted her to get along with this man. She did her best to conceal her

exasperation. The dinner was set-up just as she had suspected.

She wondered if her parents indeed had so little faith in her ability to find a husband that they would take matchmaking into their own hands. Did they ever consider how awkward this is for me?

When Levi's parents asked Ruka what she did for a living, Claire cheerfully replied, "She works in the translation department."

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Ruka raised an amused brow and corrected her, 'Actually, Mom, | no longer work there as of today. | quit.'" Claire stared at her in disbelief. "What do you mean you quit? Why?"

Ruka knew Levi's parents were fond of her, but she did not need their approval. Therefore, she decided there was no better time than now to dash their hopes. She shrugged nonchalantly and drawled, "No reason. | guess | was just tired of working.

Claire was perplexed by her daughter's apathy and demanded. 'You can't just quit your job on the spur of the moment, Ruka! Besides, didn't you just get the job? How can you get tired of it so quickly? You should at least talk to us before quitting!"

Awicked glee struck Ruka when she saw how agitated her mom was. She argued petulantly, "I just got tired of it, okay? You know how much | enjoy lazing around at home. Do you think I'm cut out for the working world when | can't even do my own laundry and dishes?" She added defiantly, "You and Dad spoiled me, remember?"

Claire thought she might pass out on the spot. She couldn't figure out why Ruka was acting up tonight when she would. never have behaved this way. What will the guests think?

She believed Levi was a charming young man and hoped he and Ruka could become a couple. Levi could not be a bad match for Ruka if he was introduced by an old family friend.

"Ruka!" Robert gave her a cold stare. "What in the world are you saying?" Ruka noticed her dad's consternation and feigned her innocence as she exclaimed.. "I really did quit my job!"

Levi, who sat beside her, did not think he would mind if Ruka stayed home all day instead of going to work. She was too pretty to be exposed to the rigors of working-class society. He interjected with a chuckle, "Mr. and Mrs. Singed, don't take this too seriously. | personally find Ruka's honesty to be rather endearing."

His parents appeared to disagree as they exchanged bewildered looks. They were clearly disappointed by Ruka's immaturity. They had no desire to wait on their daughter-in-law's hand and foot..

Levi's mother cleared her throat. "Levi, don't interrupt Mr. and Mrs. Singed. It's rude." She did not want her son to appear too eager.

During dinner, it became apparent that Levi was eager to demonstrate that he could take care of Ruka. However, Ruka ordered him around throughout the evening.

Claire was furious, but she did not dare to throw a fit in front of the guests. When did Ruka become so infuriatingly unreasonable? However, Levi did not seem to mind being treated like a servant. His parents began to wonder whether he had any dignity.

From their perspective, this matchmaking was a complete failure. Ruka was beautiful, but her personality was horrible. They could not risk having their son become a personal slave to her if they decided to marry.

Ruka exhaled a sigh of relief when she noticed the thunderous expressions on Levi's parents' faces. Meanwhile, the dining room at the Husson Residence was filled with a warm and lively atmosphere.

Charlotte seemed to be having a whale of a time as she conversed with Sophie. She bombarded the girl with questions, and when Charlotte ran out of topics, she told stories about Ren's childhood and her journey to raise him. One might assume she brought up an ogre if they didn't know better.

Chapter 1180

WhatsApp

The thought of this caused a flicker of concern in Ren's eyes. Harold's words had added new weight to his shoulders. He had no intention of running for re election as vice president in the upcoming election. Still, Harold seemed determined to make it happen. Harold and Charlotte had reached the golden years of their lives.

They would be incapable of coping with shocking news such as Ren's sudden withdrawal from the upcoming election. Likewise, he had to take this into consideration. Nonetheless, he muttered tiredly, "Hopefully that day will come sooner rather than later."

The four black SUVs in front joined the convoy as it began to leave the gates. The entire fleet appeared intimidating as it sped through the night.

Sophie concluded that it was empowering to ride in the backseat of a car that was part of a convoy. The mere thought of all the luxuries she could enjoy if she married the vice president made her heart skip a beat, and she could not wait to make her dream come true.

Meanwhile, Ruka and her parents said their goodbyes to Levi and the others at the restaurant. Claire snapped furiously. After they were out of earshot, "What are you doing, Ruka?"

"Mom, do I need to remind you that you tried to set me up with someone without my permission?" Ruka teased and grinned as she shed her unreasonable demeanor from the restaurant.

Claire was enraged at her daughter. "You embarrassed us in front of those people! Did you notice how furious Levi's parents were while you bossed Levi around all night?"

"Don't be upset, Mom. What makes you think I won't be able to find a good husband while I'm still young? Besides, I want to marry someone I genuinely love, not out of desperation," Ruka coaxed Claire by looping her arm.

Claire gaped at Ruka, and her eyes were wide with disbelief. "Are you in a relationship? Who is it? Why haven't we met him yet?"

Robert was equally perplexed as he cast a curious glance at Ruka. Ruka nodded with a flushed face and confessed, "Yes, I'm in love with someone."

So this is why she behaves the way she does back at the restaurant. Claire's exasperation grew along with her realization. "You could inform us sooner. Tell me more. I'm curious about him and his family background. Is he good-looking as well?"

Ruka pursed her lips. She was uncertain how to respond to her mother's questions, but when she did, she sounded firm. "He is a successful man who is way out of my league."

“Then, what does he do for a living?” Claire pressed impatiently.

However, Ruka merely shook her head in response. “I will inform you once it is official. We've just started seeing each other.”

“In that case, you'd better make sure he's trustworthy. I don't want you to bring home a hooligan,” Claire forewarned her daughter. Ruka sent Ren a text message as soon as she arrived home that night. ‘What are you doing?’

She did not expect him to reply so soon. but he did, and her heart skipped a beat. He texted. ‘I just got home. You?’

Me, too. Guess what? My parents actually arranged a date for me today! She lay on her bed as she anticipated his possible response.

Ruka was startled by Ren's call and nearly dropped her phone. She had just put him through when she heard his deep and alluring voice ask, “What happened?”

“I have annoyed his parents and got an earful from my parents,’ she said quietly with a hand over her mouth.