

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 431

The car sped along the road; right now, Heather was at a loss because she wasn't sure whether she should continue to drive toward the Langston Residence or aimlessly drive around.

Matthias, who had calmed down, turned to look sideways at her. "The Langston Residence is in the opposite direction," he deliberately reminded her.

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She found a place to carefully park the car. "You should drive. Feel free to go anywhere, but I do not want to return to the Langston Residence." Her mind was in a mess because she did not expect such a horrendous mistake from the past.

"What is it? Are you regretting it?" Matthias gave a mock smile. How I wish I could see what Heather is hiding deep down in her heart. Heather is reacting in such a way when I am convinced that she is a ruthless and vicious woman. This will shake my determination to seek revenge.

"Would you like to head to the West Suburbs?" Heather did not answer his question.

Matthias cocked his brow. Well, I lost myself for a moment in front of her. Now that she is showing me this side of herself, perhaps I should play along. "Sure." He exchanged seats with her.

After starting the car engine, he looked straight ahead by keeping his eyes locked on the road. The two of them were silent throughout the entire journey! It was already getting dark by the time they arrived at the West Suburbs. Then, they exited the car one after another.

Matthias curiously followed Heather from behind. She continued to walk forward like a freed little bunny. She was always cold and detached in front of the public, so it was rare to see her letting her hair down.

Heather, who was leading the way, suddenly turned. "Matthias, there is a swamp right ahead." She innocently smiled and it dazzled Matthias for a moment.

"It's interesting that you are taking me to a swampland." Matthias frowned lightly, but he followed her anyway. The closer she walked forward, the more she was in awe of the newly discovered land.

His mood improved while he walked along the path. There were many mosquitoes and insects during nighttime, but she seemed unfazed as she made her way forward. She didn't seem fussy and frustrated about the situation.

In hindsight, women usually wouldn't come to this sort of place. Who would want to be bitten by insects and mosquitoes? Furthermore, what's there to look at in a swamp?

Large stretches of swamp lands showed up in front of them and he reached out to grab her, which caused her to forcefully smile.

"Be careful." Matthias was worried that she would slip and fall into the mud. Heather started to make her way forward in a wobbly manner and each step she took struck him in his heart.

"Look at how pretty this is! It is still breathing," she commented while smiling happily.

Although he shot her an odd look, he couldn't help but notice how pretty she was when she smiled. After that, he heard her continue to speak, "The killer of the jungle is none other than the swamp—it looks dangerous at first glance, but I especially like it."

She deeply inhaled the air that was mixed with the refreshing scent of soil. As a result, she looked intoxicated and as pretty as always even with her eyes closed.

Matthias copied Heather's actions by closing his eyes while taking a deep breath. The feeling was oddly soothing and calming for him.

"The past cannot be undone," she spoke while keeping her eyes closed.

"And the present cannot be predicted," he responded casually. He couldn't believe that he was happy for her to be by his side at this moment. The air seemed to be filled with her faint fragrance.

"I have no idea how to compensate you. I can understand that you want to take revenge on me to suffer as you did in the past," Heather started to speak slowly. I should atone for my mistakes in the past.

"I thought 'regret' doesn't exist in your dictionary." Matthias still could not completely trust her because he wasn't sure if she was scheming or being sincere.

"Similarly, I do not want to owe anyone anything." She gave a faint smile. Currently, she and him were the only ones at the corner of the forest. The sky was getting dark and they looked like lost tourists.

It had been a long time since Heather last felt as lost as she was right now. She opened her eyes to gaze at Matthias. His eyelashes were thick and long—they appeared like a pair of butterflies when his eyelashes fluttered.

He gradually opened his eyes as she stared at him. They looked into each other's eyes as they exchanged a silent moment there and then.

"Why don't you try dating me if you truly wish to compensate me?" Matthias was especially serious when he suggested that and he didn't sound like he was joking at all.

Heather stared at Matthias steadily because she wasn't sure why he had made such a suggestion. Nevertheless, she was a very calm woman, so she wasn't shocked by his request.

They looked at each other for the longest time. Finally, he turned to look away whereas she parted her lips. "You are not in love with me. In fact, you hate me. Why would you want to be in a relationship with me?"

"For the benefits," Matthias answered quietly.

Heather turned to look at the swamp in front of her as her eyes reflected many complex emotions.

However, he broke the silence at this moment. "I know what you're trying to do. You want the Langstons to work with the Hart Family and my target is the Hart Family." He would not easily voice his true motives, but he was confident that it was a flawless reason.

"Grandpa doesn't have any true power now, so it's useless for you to associate yourself with me." She had to remind Matthias that she did not have the final say in the Langston Family.

"You do not have to worry about it since I want to win over the Langston Family. Locke Group and Langston Group will be able to have an all-around collaboration," he responded matter-of-factly.

"You want to date me because you plan to win over the Langston Family?" Heather asked suspiciously. I am sure that Matthias will not date his enemy just for that reason.

"Why don't we have a contract? I just want the status of being your boyfriend. I am not interested in the rest." Matthias knew that she was cautious about certain things. In any case, he was not interested in her in that regard.

"You should only be in a relationship with a person you're in love with." Heather rejected him indirectly because she just could not accept dating Matthias. I just can't do it even if it's a lie.

"There is no rush to answer me. Give me an answer after three days." Matthias smiled at her.

She nodded while thinking, Nothing is set in stone; there is no harm in answering him after three days anyway. Well, I have ample time to give him a satisfactory answer in three days' time.

"It is getting late. So, I'll send you home." He looked up at the sky. It will be pitch-black soon and it will be tricky to get out of here by then.

Heather agreed and she followed him from behind. The two of them walked in a single file while the mosquitoes feasted on their blood. She wasn't bothered because she had visited the dangerous tropical forest in the past. At that time, she was even wounded, so she currently did not mind the hostile environment.

Matthias opened the car door for her as she entered the car. He sat at the driver's seat like a gentleman while preparing to drive her.

"It is getting late. Why don't you have dinner at the Langston Residence?" Heather checked the time and she figured it was about dinnertime by the time they arrived home.

"No need for that. I made everyone unhappy the last time I came by," Matthias answered while chuckling in amusement. Well, it didn't go according to plan the last time, especially

when I bumped into Myra. Under those circumstances, I left a bad impression on Myra and I have been regretting it each time I recall that incident.

Heather did not comment further because she was just being courteous earlier. Upon careful thought on things, she realized that it wouldn't be right. What will the others think if Matthias were to show up at the dining table with me in Langston Residence? Well, everybody will just misunderstand the situation.

They remained silent throughout the car drive and finally arrived at the main entrance of Langston Residence after a long time. She got out of the car as she addressed him at the same time when he was about to alight from the vehicle. "You don't have to get out of the car. Drive my car today!" She was trying to diminish the chances of a misunderstanding. On the other hand, she wanted him to conveniently leave too. I have taken a lot of Matthias' time today. He might be starving if I continue to drag him along. I don't want it to be my fault again.

Upon arriving at the Langston Residence, Heather couldn't be bothered about the curious stares of her family members because she was lost in her thoughts about what happened with Matthias. I did not expect that he would want to be in a relationship with me. There is no way I'll agree to that. However, he was forthcoming with his intentions—he wants to work together with the Langston Group. To be honest, I am tempted. On one hand, the Hart Group has been adamant about not working with us whereas on the other side, the Locke Group is keen on collaborating with us. In comparison, it seems like working together with Locke Group is the better choice. However, I have promised Myra to try to repair the relationship between the Langstons and the Hart Family, so as to get the two families to collaborate. Will I be considered disloyal since I am tempted? She looked distressed.

After looking at it from different perspectives, I believe that Matthias is still envious of Grandpa's power. Otherwise, based on his relationship with Blake, it shouldn't be too difficult for him to get the two families to work together. Blake isn't the most reliable fellow out there, but he rarely brings anybody to the Langston Residence, much less when there's a family reunion. Since Blake has taken the initiative to invite Matthias to the Langston Residence, it means that he is willing to collaborate with Matthias. Since he has Blake wrapped around his finger, why is he still so hung up on Grandpa? Why is he adamant on having a relationship with me? Why does he insist on being with me to win over the Langston Group for a collaboration?

The more Heather thought about it, the more she found the entire situation fishy because she had a nagging feeling that Matthias wasn't being honest with her. She couldn't help but relate this issue to Myra. Could it be possible that Matthias is pestering me due to Myra?

The thought flashed through Heather's mind, but she dismissed it almost instantly. It wouldn't make sense if Matthias hadn't given up on Myra. If he were to be in a relationship with me, he would be giving up on her by default.

After all, not many women would be comfortable being embroiled in something suspicious with their best friend's boyfriend. Well, if I were to start dating Matthias, the relationship between the four of us will be intriguing.

Matthias wants to go against the Hart Group. As for now, I am not sure whether it's just a business competition or a personal grudge. I will never get involved with him if it involves any personal grudges. If it is a fair competition in the business world, there will be no animosity in our personal lives. However, once it involves any feud between the wealthy families, there will be two opposing sides for sure. I can never be on Myra's opposing side. Even though I owe Matthias a whole lot, I will not use this to compensate him.

Robert suddenly called out for Heather, who was deep in thought. She did not even notice him standing at the corner a short distance away from her.

"Why did you return so late?" He asked unhappily. She shuddered involuntarily while looking up at him. There was an unnatural expression plastered on her face as she thought, Did he see Matthias sending me home?!

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At that moment when Heather was in a state of anxiousness and at a loss on what to do next, Robert continued to ask, "Who drove your car away?" It was highly likely he had realized what happened.

"It was Matthias Locke," she replied as she acted nonchalantly. She needed to feign being apathetic to avoid him overthinking.

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“What’s exactly going on between you and Matthias?” His expression was quite unpleasant. She claims that he’s her enemy, but her actions indicate otherwise! She seems to be quite close to him! Her actions were perplexing to him. Why won’t she admit it if she likes Matthias? If she dislikes him, there’s really no need for her to be entangled with him!

At this point, Heather was quite torn as to how to respond to Robert’s question. However, she knew that she couldn’t continue to drag things because he would feel suspicious otherwise. “Grandpa, why are you so concerned about my relationship with Matthias? I don’t like him and he has no feelings toward me either.” She didn’t want her words to be set in stone, so evidently, her attitude had mellowed slightly this time.

Robert could sense Heather’s change in attitude and he gave her a long, hard look. It looks like Matthias and Heather’s relationship is taking a turn for the better! “You were quite adamant that Matthias was here to seek revenge. So, why are you getting close to him now?” He was close to being confused by what she was thinking in her mind.

“There are no permanent collaborative relationships between two businesspeople and likewise, there are no long lasting feuds too. We have plans to work on a project together. You’ve always known that I wanted to start my own company, so going against Locke Group would be detrimental to me.” Heather smiled as she responded and tried her best to divert Robert’s attention. She was slightly troubled by him probing into her relationship matters.

He then looked at her with a thoughtful expression on his face. Obviously, he didn’t trust her words at all because there were many discrepancies in her elaboration. “If he has done something bad to you, then undoubtedly, you have the whole Langston Family behind your back to support you. There’s really no need to bear with this grievance.” He was quite worried that Matthias had a hold against her and was currently threatening her. After all, the Langston Family still had a strong foundation in Bradford City despite their weaknesses; there was no way they would allow any one of the other families to cross their path.

“It’s just a misunderstanding! I ran into him by chance today and we’ve talked things through.” Her words had a ring of truth to it; in fact, she had previously misunderstood Matthias and developed a bad impression on him as a result.

At that moment, Robert stubbornly refused to let things slide. He was not convinced by her explanation that everything was merely a misunderstanding. However, he knew he shouldn’t continue interrogating her. I shouldn’t interfere much in the affairs of these youngsters. “Ran into him by chance, you say?” There was doubt in his voice. After all, Bradford City wasn’t exactly a small city, so her claims of meeting Matthias by chance sounded too far-fetched.

“Grandpa, it seems that you no longer trust my words! I really did run into him by chance!” Heather pouted petulantly. I can’t believe Grandpa doesn’t trust me even though I’m telling the truth. It feels quite unpleasant to be doubted!

In response, Robert narrowed his eyes into thin slits as he glanced at Heather. Since she’d already said it as such, there was nothing much he could respond with. As such, he responded, “Since it’s a misunderstanding, then it’s good that you’ve resolved it. I’ll need time to consider the collaboration between our company and Locke Group.” Previously, Matthias had also suggested the same thing to Robert. However, Robert was adamant that they shouldn’t rush into things. Furthermore, the collaboration of two large companies was a serious affair and it shouldn’t be taken lightly. After all, there were many aspects to consider. Although he no longer had much say in the matters of the company, as long as he was still alive, there was no doubt that such important decisions were to be made by him!

“Don’t worry, Grandpa! I won’t interfere in the matters of Langston Group! Blake’s in charge of everything. I just want to focus on my own workshop now. After all, I need to prove my worth and I want to build up my own career. I definitely don’t want to bring disrepute to the Langston Family!” Heather placated Robert with her words. It’s my goal to build up a stellar career!

As soon as he heard that, he adopted a tender expression and he voiced out for her to sit next to him. Naturally, she heeded his word and went to his side. He reached out with his hand and stroked her head gently. “Sigh! You’re way too headstrong! You should pay attention to your personal life too and don’t waste your precious youth.” He had an indulgent look on his face as he said that. Heather’s too engrossed in her career that she has overlooked her personal life all this while.

“Grandpa, are you ashamed that I’m still single at this age? My happiness comes from making you proud of me for all my career achievements! I want to become a modern woman who relies on herself!” Heather replied as she leaned on Robert’s shoulders. I used to think that this shoulder could support me forever and it would always remain strong when I was young. However, I’ve now realized that Grandpa has aged so much!

“I would rather you marry a great guy, though,” he chuckled. It was a great consolation for him to hear her words but undoubtedly, her happiness would always be his top priority.

As soon as Heather heard that, she wrinkled her nose. “What do you mean by marrying a great guy?! I just want to find someone who’s exactly like you! But then, I haven’t met anyone comparable to you, Grandpa!” Her tone was quite endearing; despite her age, she’d always behaved like a little kid in front of Robert.

"You're such a little brat! Stop your nonsense!" Robert chuckled in laughter and his eyes sparkled brightly.

Back in her own room, Heather flopped onto her bed and remained limp. She didn't even want to make the effort to take a shower. As she recalled the look Matthias gave her, she felt guilty about it and racked her brains for a way to compensate him.

She knew that he did not lack anything; he had plenty of money, he didn't lack any authority and women naturally fawned over him. The only thing he needed was true love, but the love of his life, Myra, had finally found her perfect partner. Therefore, it was impossible to fulfill that wish of her since there was no way she would interfere in Myra's relationship.

It was something that she contemplated for quite some time. Should I really agree to his request of being his fake partner for a short while? In fact, there was reluctance on her end because she had always envisioned her first relationship to be full of passion where both parties were deeply in love with each other. She never expected it to be one mainly focused on personal interests. I had avoided entering into a relationship all this while because I didn't want the other party to be with me due to materialistic reasons. I guess there's no avoiding it now, huh?

Nonetheless, Heather suddenly had a change of mind and concluded that it actually wasn't such a big deal after all. All she had to do was pretend to be in a relationship with Matthias in front of everyone else. It could be considered as an exchange of interests and a way of compensating him. As for her, she wasn't prepared to sacrifice her personal feelings just yet.

She struggled hard to come to terms with it all night long. On one hand, she felt quite reluctant to throw in the towel easily. However, on the other hand, another voice in her mind begged her to agree to the proposition as it would be beneficial to her to agree to his terms. The two of them being in a relationship would naturally assist in the progression of their careers.

In the morning, upon waking up, Heather still hadn't made up her mind. She felt that it was a much more difficult decision to make than if she had to decide whether to agree to sexual acts in return for a favor. She continued to laze in bed and refused to get up while deducing that everyone was likely to be having breakfast downstairs after noticing the time. Now that she thought about it, she had skipped quite a few family meals lately, so it would be a good idea to wake up earlier and head downstairs for breakfast, lest she trigger Robert's suspicions again.

For the past few days, he had kept a close eye on her and she didn't dare to make a wrong move. It seemed that he was quite concerned about her personal life. From the way he spoke, she realized that he was trying hard to decipher whether she was in a secret relationship with Matthias.

As soon as Heather approached the dining table, everyone focused their eyes on her. Blake was surprisingly present as well today. Normally, he would have already left for work, so it was quite unusual to see him at breakfast. Generally, it was rare for them both to be dining together. Each time they found themselves seated at the dining table at the same time, an unhappy incident would always occur. It was at that moment when he shot her an aggravating look. I wonder what he is going to say now!

"Heather," Blake uttered her name.

Heather immediately looked at him warily. He must be plotting something! It's never a good sign when he acknowledges my presence.

She raised her head and responded politely, "Hey, Blake, what's wrong?" She hated to argue with him at the dining table but unfortunately, he seemed to perversely enjoy provoking her during meals. As such, she was quite annoyed with such behavior.

"You've been back for quite some time now. Don't you think you should ease some of my burdens? When are you going to report for work at Langston Group?" he asked suddenly with a concerned tone. It sounded like he was quite the caring brother that he tried to portray.

Heather was angered beyond words. He must have realized my actions, which is why he has suddenly brought this up! I don't want to work at Langston Group! I want to develop my own business and be the director of my own company! I'm not interested in any of the roles at the company!

However, with that being said, it was difficult for her to reject him in front of the entire family. If she had rejected him on the spot, it would seem quite offensive to Robert, especially when it involved not only her and Blake, but Robert too. Robert had always wished for the younger generations in their family to work together and bring the company to further heights.

"Blake, I'm worried that I'm not suitable for the position." Heather frantically came up with an excuse. I knew he would try and find fault with me! I can't stand his annoying face! It's quite obvious he's trying to coax me to join the company. This would mean working under him. By

then, I would be at his mercy! It had always been Blake's wish to subdue her and it was quite evident to everyone. Obviously, she had no intention of falling into his trap.

"You previously ran the Europe division quite well. Why aren't you interested in helping me run the company now that you're back? Grandpa and I both have the same wish of expanding Langston Group into something bigger." He had purposely brought Robert into the conversation. As such, Heather found herself at a loss for words since she couldn't quite reject Blake's suggestion.

Robert maintained his silence all this while. He was aware of her intention to set up her own company. Initially, he couldn't quite fathom the reason why, but she managed to convince him. He had carefully considered it and realized that Langston Group was originally passed down from several generations. Yet, out of all the younger generations, she was the only one to have the courage to go out and set up her own company.

Heather couldn't quite meet Robert's gaze. She knew that no matter how much he doted on her, it was practically impossible for him to help her to reject Blake in front of everyone.

Meanwhile, everyone kept their silence and watched with bated breath. At that moment, Stephen voiced out and was surprisingly on Blake's side. "Heather, Blake's requested your help. Don't tell me you're going to say no?"

Camille, who was seated next to him, also added, "I'm sure Heather's more than happy to help. She must be just feeling shy."

Heather looked at her parents who had just sabotaged her and she pinched her nose bridge in frustration. Resignedly, she mentioned, "Yes, of course! I would be more than willing to help Blake! It's just that I haven't been back for ages and I'm not too familiar with the happenings in Bradford City. I need a bit more time to get used to everything." I'll try to put this off for as long as possible.

Upon hearing that, Blake revealed a sinister smile. He turned to Heather and responded, "I just won the tender to a new project yesterday. There are quite a few projects running at the same time in the company, so I don't have enough time to deal with this. I think this would be a good start for you." He had purposely said that to prevent her from escaping her fate.

She smiled in response and said, "I'm not familiar with everything here yet, so I'm afraid I might ruin everything. Blake, I must ask though, how can you be confident in my capabilities?" She had purposely emphasized her last sentence and looked at him with an

unwilling expression. I'm in the midst of starting up my own company, but he's thrown this at me. He's just wasting my time and delaying my progress! This is so irritating!

Blake replied magnanimously, "It doesn't matter. It's just a mere project, so I would be quite happy with whatever outcome you produce!" His insistence had given Heather no choice—it was either she accepted it or turned against him.

Robert, who had remained reticent all along, suddenly voiced out, "Heather can have a break of three days. Let her find her way around Bradford City to have a look at how things have changed."

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As the date was already set, Heather was aware that there was no way of escaping her fate. She could only bite the bullet. Meanwhile, everyone nodded in agreement to Robert's suggestion.

She gave him a gratified look. Oh well, three days is better than nothing! I have three days to get accustomed to things.

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Heather, who was previously quite relaxed and chill, suddenly realized that she no longer had enough time. She had to hurry up and deal with everything, but she was lucky that Leon, her junior who was currently abroad, was due to return in a few days' time. She'd used a lot of effort to persuade him to drop out of university and join her in a business venture. He was quite the genius; he had unique views about business in general, so she was quite confident that he'd be a great help to her. Leon was of mixed blood with thick bushy eyebrows and huge eyes. He was half-French with romance in his bloodline and half-German with an unyielding spirit whereas his mom was a native beauty. Overall, he was an amazing guy.

He had a reputation for being a rebellious young man in university. Not only was he a genius in his studies, he was also great at putting his knowledge into practice despite being only

twenty years old. If it wasn't for his identity as an illegitimate child that gave him a bad name, he was definitely the perfect human being. It was also his illegitimacy that made him so anxious to prove his self-worth.

As such, Heather managed to cajole her junior into doing something that disappointed his mom tremendously—quit university. He was raring to prove himself to the world and he felt reluctant to wait for another two years until he graduated. Heather's invitation was the perfect opportunity for him. He was determined to make a name for himself once he was back in his mom's hometown—Bradford City. Although his current role was supposedly her personal assistant, she'd promised that once their company was up and running, then the position of General Manager was his; that was an actual position that held the decision-making power.

Heather planned to keep the bulk of the company shares. Meanwhile, she was more than happy to allow Leon to run the company. She'd rather entice him to work together as a team by granting him all sorts of benefits than to have such a genius as her opponent in the future.

As soon as she realized that, she felt quite pleased with herself for succeeding in gaining a great team member. Within the next three days, she planned to pay a visit to another person—a woman who was one of her friends from high school.

That woman was the only daughter of one of the previously renowned families in Bradford City; their family had eventually fallen onto bad times. Despite that, she was full of aspiration and was quite determined to make a name for herself. If Heather hadn't met her on her Europe trip last year, she could never have imagined that the weak, soft-spoken girl from back then was now a formidable business executive.

She was now a successful career lady with formidable tactics. It was speculated that her dad had spent a lot of time grooming her. Although her family business had fallen onto hard times and even faced bankruptcy since Heather moved abroad, it didn't change the fact that her high school friend's dad was quite an astute man.

As such, Heather decided to visit her. Heather's intention was to offer her high school friend a job and invite her dad to join the team at the same time too.

Then, it dawned upon Heather that she didn't have enough time. She had to sort out everything within the next three days. She was quite sure that the father and daughter would not be content to draw a salary forever. Therefore, the only way to entice them was to offer them shares in the company.

She was quite aware that Leon did not care about the money. He was much more interested in the position offered to him and the possible challenges faced; he needed to have sufficient decision-making power. On the other hand, her classmate, Paige, cared more about the monetary side of things. She knew that the Saffords had harbored the hope of eventually building up their family business again.

After breakfast, Heather immediately left the house and went to the garage to choose her transport for the day. Today, she chose a luxurious sedan since her main intention was to flaunt her affluence. One who cared about the monetary side of things had to be won over by wealth.

She was quite anxious on her way there. As such, she didn't notice her muted cell phone was ringing. As soon as she arrived, she unmuted her cell and realized that there were three missed calls. Immediately, she unlocked the screen to check the details. Initially, she thought it was Myra who'd called, but unexpectedly it was actually Matthias who did so. Come to think of it, Myra must be so busy right now; surely, she wouldn't be able to call me at this time of the day!

After he was unable to contact Heather via her phone, he then sent her a text message. She took a look at the text and realized that he wanted to confirm a time to return the car to her. She hastily replied to the text message with 'I'm busy. I'll confirm the time with you soon.' I won't have any free time until I sort out the matters with the Saffords.

She straightened her collar and made sure her clothes were tidy before she exited the car to walk toward the house. From the outside, the mansion looked quite ordinary. Based on their current financial status, Paige evidently had to work arduously to afford her family's current lifestyle.

Heather was well aware that all the business partners she sought were quite ambitious, so she had no intention of making this a permanent arrangement. Once the company was on the right track, then the arrangement would cease and their future developments would be of their own responsibility. She was quite confident that her business venture would progress fairly quickly with the help of these two people.

After ringing the doorbell, she patiently waited by the door. It was Paige who came to the door and greeted her.

As soon as she saw Paige, she gave a warm smile and said, "It's been a while since I last saw you. I'm back in town!" She had planned to meet up with Paige to discuss a collaboration for quite some time now. Today's meeting was a last-minute decision, so she

hadn't managed to prepare a gift since she had never expected this situation at all. She was quite surprised that Paige had agreed to meet up on such short notice even after a simple phone call. The girl had even taken the day off to wait for her at home.

Heather had initially intended to prepare a gift, but the discussion was much more urgent. Rather than taking the time to choose a gift, it would make much more sense to use the time wisely to discuss their collaboration.

The first thing Heather had to do within these three days was to convince Paige and Josiah to join her team. Of course, there was still plenty of work to do once they joined her, but that would be for later. It would reflect quite badly on her if things were still a mess once Leon arrived. She was convinced that he could very well leave out of anger if there was nothing ready upon his arrival.

Paige greeted Heather at the door and invited her inside. "I came over in a hurry and didn't have the time to get you something. I'm sorry about that." Heather was generally quite a courteous person, so she felt quite embarrassed to turn up empty-handed this time.

"Look at you! There's no need to be so courteous with me. The most important thing that we're both concerned about right now is the collaboration, so why don't we forget about all these formalities?" Paige was a straightforward person and Heather liked this quality of hers.

"Is Mr. Safford home?" Heather was quite keen to meet him. Previously, she'd heard Paige mention a lot of her dad's experiences and she was very interested to meet him in person.

"Yes, he is. He's already waiting for you in the living room," Paige said that while leading Heather into the living room.

Starkly different from Heather's parents, Paige's dad had a salt-and-pepper hairstyle, which made him look as old as Robert. Heather had heard through the grapevine that Paige was more than just Mr. Safford's only child; in fact, Paige was quite precious to him because he had welcomed her into his life quite late in his age. That seemed to be the reason why he looked quite elderly.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Safford." Heather immediately greeted him as soon as she met his eyes. She was usually quite affable in front of strangers.

"Miss Langston." Josiah stood up to greet her politely.

He was polite yet he maintained his dignified manner that was in-bred, which gave a stately impression to Heather. She realized that this was exactly how he was able to nurture his daughter into such a poised lady and she was satisfied with her first impression of him.

Meanwhile, Paige directed Heather to take a seat on the couch. Then, Paige took a seat next to Heather across the room from Josiah. Heather respectfully mentioned to Josiah, "Please call me Heather." She knew it was important to be humble since her main goal here today was to win over the father and daughter.

At that moment, he decided not to keep up the pretense any longer. He directly addressed her by her name, "Heather, welcome to my house."

Paige hastily continued, "Yeah! Welcome to our home! I hope you don't mind it being slightly worse for the wear."

Heather glanced at the surroundings and smiled in response. "Of course not! It's really cozy and I like the place." There was no sign of opulence like the Langston Residence and it was exactly the simple style that she preferred. Although there was only Paige and Josiah living here, it felt really warm and cozy. They were father and daughter, but they interacted with each other like great friends and she was quite envious of it.

The three of them had straightforward personalities and without further ado, they went straight into the topic. She raised her suggestion to the two of them.

After a short pause, Paige broke the silence first. "I thought you were just joking with me during our encounter in Europe. I didn't expect you to be serious about this!" Her tone was quite casual as she tried to lighten the mood.

"Well, I want to prove my worth and I don't want to keep relying on my family." Heather's words were also directed at Josiah at the same time. Actually, the main person she was after was, in fact, Josiah, who had an astute mind. Although he no longer had the enthusiasm of a young person, there were three youngsters who were full of enthusiasm in the company, so they would obviously need some reminders from a wise older man from time to time.

This task of handling the logistics would obviously fall upon him as he was the perfect candidate for this job. With the logistics sorted, it would mean that their daily routine could run smoothly and also ensure a constant supply for those working on the frontline.

Obviously, Paige was quite keen to work with Heather. However, Josiah seemed to have some concerns despite Heather's generous offer of twenty percent worth of shares in their future company. In fact, she was only willing to offer Leon eight percent of the shares in the company. Moreover, neither of them had to come up with any money and she was the only one solely in charge of raising the capital. Thus, it was quite a generous offer. Besides, once they listed their company on the stock market in the future, the number of shares she held would decrease too and the maximum she could hold on to would be forty percent of the company.

Heather was not a fan of family-oriented corporations that preferred to possess the bulk of their shares. It was clearly evident from how the Langstons had absolute control of Langston Group. The family held eighty percent of the shares in Langston Group and the absolute control meant that their staff lacked the motivation to work hard.

As such, she decided that once they succeeded in listing the company on the stock market, she would only retain thirty percent of the shares for herself. As long as she had Leon and the Saffords on her side, their cooperation would be advantageous because they would always hold the bulk of the company shares.

Of course, Heather had also considered the likelihood that someday if Leon or the Saffords decided to leave the company, she would then have to train someone trustable to take their position or purchase the shares they owned.

She had considered everything that could happen in the future. She was quite confident that she could build up her own empire. After all, since her ancestors were capable of doing so, there was no problem for her to achieve that too!

The three of them remained in discussion for quite some time and she shared all her future plans for the company with them. She was quite intent in her goal to win them over, which was obvious from her attitude.

"I'm too old for this. I don't think I'll be able to help!" A hesitant Josiah voiced his concern. Although he frequently guided Paige, he didn't have too much confidence in himself.

"Mr. Safford, you've managed to cultivate Paige into such a capable person, so I trust you. The company wouldn't be successful with just us youngsters. We need someone like you who has plenty of experience." Heather tried once more to persuade him.

Despite her efforts, he was not convinced at all. He smiled awkwardly and responded, "Excuse me, I actually have something on the stove, so I'll go and take a look at it. Heather, I must insist that you stay for lunch!" He rose from his position as he said those words, making him look like a stay-at-home-dad.

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Since Josiah had already mentioned it, Heather knew there was no point to insist and nodded her head instead. "Thanks for the invitation, Mr. Safford. You're too kind!" She was quite keen to show her amiability, so she naturally didn't reject his invitation for lunch. Besides, it had been quite some time since she last tasted a home-cooked meal prepared by an elder. Ever since she was a young child, her parents had never cooked a single meal for her.

Right after he left the living room, Paige, who was seated next to Heather, fidgeted nervously. She looked as if she had something to say, which piqued Heather's curiosity.

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Compared to her father, Paige was much more impulsive. She was the typical business executive; although being frank was a good quality, it was more important to be cryptic when dealing with business affairs. As such, it was evident that she could only succeed in the role of being Heather's deputy.

Even more so, Paige was not as independent as Leon. From the looks of it, she had a lot more room to improve on. Nevertheless, Heather's main intention today was to entice Josiah to join the team. Of course, in order to entice him, Paige was definitely the critical point.

"Heather, my dad still has his concerns," Paige mentioned with hesitance on her face.

Heather pondered, I'm sure there's a story behind this. I must coax this out of Paige.

"That's fine, I understand," she answered with an air of nonchalance. She was quite sure that with Paige by her side, it wouldn't take long for Josiah to agree to join the team.

"In the past, our family corporation had faced bankruptcy due to one of his mistakes. This came as a huge blow to him and he still blames himself for that, even up till now. That's why he's indecisive about re-entering the corporate world. He's just afraid that he'll ruin things." Paige frankly revealed his concerns to Heather as she no longer regarded the latter as a stranger.

As soon as Heather heard that, she looked at Paige solemnly and replied with a regretful tone, "I didn't expect that he had such an unfortunate past. It's my fault for being too eager to achieve my goal." Heather didn't mind returning to persuade him as she had plenty of patience to deal with him.

Originally, she was quite desperate to start the company as soon as possible, but now that everything had come together all at once, she had made up her mind to slow down. She was no longer anxious to gain the Staffords' support. As long as they didn't reject her outrightly, she was quite happy to take her time and pursue them slowly.

Surprised by Heather's easy-going attitude, Paige responded with a smile, "Don't worry, I'll definitely convince Dad to join us!" Evidently, Paige wanted to grab this opportunity. She thought of the shares offered by Heather and could practically see their chance of rebuilding their family corporation.

Although Paige currently held a job as a business executive with an annual salary that ran in the millions, she was well aware that the sum was peanuts compared to the annual income of a company and corporation.

"There's no rush for that. Take your time. I think it's better if he's in a relaxed state. My only wish is for everyone to gladly join my team." Heather made her point clear and she didn't want to force people to join her since she was only after those who were willing.

During lunch at the Staffords, Josiah maintained his courteous attitude. He chatted with her about all of his interesting experiences and had plenty to share. He was quite knowledgeable too. Both of them had enjoyed their conversation very much. He even felt that she was more in sync with him than Paige was and the former managed to win his favor with her antics. She had always been skillful at winning the hearts of others with her subtle nuances in fact well-practiced on her part.

The three of them enjoyed their time chatting with each other. The taste of the food wasn't their priority as they enjoyed the company more than anything else. Heather felt quite moved upon seeing the heartfelt affection Josiah and Paige had for each other.

She compared that to what she had experienced since young—she never had an amicable relationship with Stephen since young and because she was unable to defend herself when she was younger, she became his punching bag. As soon as she was old enough to stand up for herself, she became quite rebellious and her relationship with him soured then. As for Camille, she had always disregarded everything. No one realized how much Heather yearned to have an actual home.

After lunch, Heather left the Staffords' house reluctantly. She turned to Paige and said, "Is it alright for me to come over tomorrow and keep Mr. Stafford company?" Heather knew it was not practical to take up any more of Paige's working hours. Besides, she enjoyed chatting with Josiah, so visiting him as a younger generation should be acceptable.

"You're most welcome here. Dad's always complaining that he's so bored of being home by himself all day long that he's becoming senile as a result," Paige jokingly remarked.

"There's no need to send me off. I'll be on my way now," Heather replied as she looked at Paige.

It seems that Paige is the ambitious one in the family. Josiah seems quite content with what he currently possesses. I guess I can't convince him to join the team even by increasing the number of shares for them. It's all dependent on Paige now. I guess everything is dependent on Paige's skills and Josiah's affections for her. Heather was full of confidence at that moment because she always believed that things would be successful for those who prepared in advance.

Everyone had always assumed that she was extremely lucky, but no one saw the efforts she put in behind their backs. She was always well-prepared in everything she did and that was why she enjoyed success in most of her ventures.

She glanced at her cell phone and thought that it was still fairly early. Then, she dialed Matthias' phone number.

He was at work when he received Heather's phone call. Although he was slightly puzzled, he immediately answered the phone call.

"I'll be there shortly to get my car." On the phone, her voice sounded quite carefree and she seemed to be in good spirits.

"Sure, where should we meet?" Without mincing his words, he went straight to the point and asked for a place to meet..

"How about meeting at the car yard?" she suggested after suddenly recalling that location.

As soon as Heather arrived, Matthias was already patiently waiting there. It was the first time he had seen her drive such an expensive-looking car. He had always assumed that she had a preference for smaller-sized cars. He walked over to her and greeted while she revealed a polite smile in response.

Unbeknownst to them, in the shadows, there were multiple pairs of eyes focused on them both because they had been tailed by reporters after yesterday's accident. Obviously, Matthias and Heather had never thought that their news had remained unpublished because the reporters were lying in wait to compile more to the story.

The next morning, as soon as they read the newspapers, they were both shocked beyond words. Immediately, she jumped to the conclusion that he had alerted the reporters beforehand. She had originally changed her views toward him, but now she couldn't control the burst of anger she felt.

Right after she saw the news, she immediately dialed his number. "Matthias Locke, what do you mean by all this?!" she yelled without any restraint because she was trembling with rage and angered beyond words.

At that point, Matthias hadn't seen the newspaper because he was busy dealing with work. When he realized about the story from Heather, he picked up the newspaper to take a look and was completely shocked too. How on earth was he able to fake a traffic accident?!

Besides, what was the point of all these speculations? It would be best if all the nonsense could be ceased. A frustrated Matthias glanced at the newspaper in his hands. Next, he realized that this was not only in print, but it was also reported on the local television news.

At this point, he knew he should avoid her by all means. On the other hand, she was just about to leave the house and became quite upset as a result.

However, as it was a critical time for Heather and she didn't want to renege on her words, she had no choice but to head out. She was just one of Bradford City's socialites and she wasn't a popular star, so the reporters didn't cross the line much and kept their distance behind her.

Along the way, she had realized that she was being tailed. In helplessness, she decided she shouldn't cause trouble for the Staffords. As such, she gave Paige a call and briefly explained what was going on. Then, she requested for Paige to convey her apologies to Josiah for not being able to visit for the time being. She didn't want to lead the reporters to them as that would complicate things for everyone.

Since she had seen the news earlier as well, Paige was quite understanding of the situation. It was quite a surprise for her to see that Heather was speculated to be in a relationship with Matthias. Heather's company was recently in the midst of a collaboration with the Locke Group and the impression she had of him was that he was a two-sided person.

Paige thought about it for a while and came to the conclusion that it wasn't possible for Heather to fall for someone like him. Paige felt that everything was exaggerated on the news and couldn't help but feel worried for Heather. She had hoped that Heather's incident would not affect their collaboration.

Heather was quite disappointed that she had to cancel her plans. However, she didn't want to head home just yet. Everyone at home seemed to be looking at her with strange looks on their faces and she became quite enraged as she recalled the situation. Without even realizing it, she had driven all the way to the Locke Group. She looked at the building in front of her and couldn't seem to control the rage in her. In fact, she was quite tempted to rush inside and teach Matthias a lesson.

All of a sudden, her cell phone rang and she saw it was him on the line. After hesitating for quite some time, she decided to answer the call. Although his voice rang out from her phone, she merely responded coldly to his words as he frantically explained himself.

"The press is getting more emboldened. I swear, I must sue The Apple Gazette to show them I mean business!" Heather had previously decided to let The Apple Gazette off the hook, but today's incident reminded her of their past transgressions and she directed her anger toward them once again.

Meanwhile, Matthias was momentarily at a loss for words. Then, he commented, "If you're really affected about this, you should go ahead and sue them. I'll be your witness in court." He tried his best to placate her at the expense of The Apple Gazette.

Her way of handling the matter could be useful to serve as a warning to the other news agencies. On top of that, he didn't wish for the rumors to become widespread all over town too. After all, he wasn't sure whether the elders in the Locke Family would take action if things progressed out of hand. He wasn't ready to offend them as he wasn't fully capable just yet.

He was well aware that his previous actions were not quite appropriate and he hadn't properly thought things through. Unfortunately, his rash decision had implicated himself this time. Undeniably, the power of the press shouldn't be underestimated as they were totally uncontrollable. The reporters would resort to any tactic just to capture any eye-catching news.

After taking quite some time to placate Heather, Matthias then continued to finish off his work. It was at that moment that he heard someone from downstairs mentioning that there was a lady known as Miss Langston here to see him.

That came as a surprise because he didn't expect Heather to personally turn up. Without any delay, he instructed his personal assistant to immediately invite her inside the office. It was also quite fortunate that Nikolai wasn't here today.

I don't want Nikolai and Heather to bump into each other! As soon as Matthias recalled Nikolai's love-struck expression, he felt a sense of insecurity. Nikolai reminded him of his younger self and he clearly knew that someone with such a personality generally had an almost perverse sense of attachment toward their love interest.

If Nikolai continued being deeply attached to Heather, there could be repercussions in the future. Obviously, Nikolai wasn't her type and Matthias didn't wish to see him go down the wrong path.

She angrily made her way into the room and strode up to Matthias before standing in front of him. He could practically feel the hairs on the back of his neck stand as soon as he noticed her glare. From his investigations, he knew that she was quite particular about her image. It seemed that the series of incidents were very upsetting to her to the extent that she would probably lose her life than to experience this.

"You've disrupted all my plans." Without any warning, Heather directed these words at him. I was supposed to visit the Safford House today and win Mr. Safford's favor to persuade him to join our team. My plan's gone out of the window now. Besides, the news that was published was definitely going to affect her effort in persuading the Staffords. That was

because both Josiah and Paige looked quite prim and proper, so they would most likely find such rumors quite revolting. In a way, it was going to affect Heather's image in their minds.

Upon realizing all the possibilities, Heather couldn't control her simmering fury. Blake keeps finding fault with me! Now, I have another one of his trashy friends here creating all sorts of mess for me! Great! Blake and Matthias' joint efforts had ruined everything for her.

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Upon facing a raging Heather, Matthias knew better than to fight her head-on. Hence, he flashed an apologetic smile to her. She wanted nothing more than to dismember his body because she had no idea about his plans.

"Matthias, aren't you planning to give me an explanation?" Heather wasn't here to see him smile. In fact, now that he was grinning at her, she felt anger bubbling in her chest.

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"I have already explained myself as required and I did not deliberately arrange for this." He suddenly felt wronged.

"In that case, you're saying that I am framing you, right?" Heather was extremely angry at that point. She couldn't even analyze the situation rationally; instead, she was convinced that it was Matthias' fault, making her upset with him in general.

Matthias jokingly commented, "Miss Heather, have you considered the possibility that having lots of gossip is not beneficial to me at all? I can't possibly get myself into such shitty situations time and time again."

Heather felt upset when she heard his reply. I can't believe he said 'shitty situations'. Is he implying that having a scandal with me is such a disgusting thing?

She was so angry that she started to speak about their past. Well, from my point of view, I just can't stand Matthias. Ever since I fell into Blake's trap, all my projects have been a mess. I am reduced to a mass of tearless grief now that I am dragged into this scandal.

Matthias felt relieved when he noticed that she had stopped shooting daggers at him. Heather is truly a powerful woman to be reckoned with. She has an unmistakable but scary aura about her.

"So, it turns out that you find being involved in a scandal with me a disgusting thing, Director Locke," Heather commented calmly. I have the right to hate the scandal between him and myself, but how could he detest it so much? I am not happy about this at all.

He glanced at her incredulously. It is impossible to understand women. She will not be happy, no matter what I answer her. "Please listen to my explanation. You might not understand much about the Lockes, but the elders in the Locke Family hate gossip like this with a vengeance," he explained hastily. Heather is the current priority, so I have to calm her emotions as much as possible.

She regarded Matthias pointedly. Well, it is true I haven't heard that before. So far, I honestly have no idea what kind of family the Lockes are. However, I have heard rumors, but I can't be sure about it being reliable.

After he said those words, Matthias further elaborated while explaining the reasons for his reaction, "If the elders in my family were to learn about the scandal we're both implicated in, they will drag me back to the family home to teach me a painful lesson."

This is the first time I've seen Matthias looking so gloomy. It seems like he is rather afraid of the elderlies in his family. I did not expect the Lockes to be so strict. "In that case, how dare you fabricate that scandal about you and me?" Heather's mood improved tremendously after listening to his explanation because she had indirectly learned something useful about the Locke Family.

He looked utterly upset. This is a double-edged sword. In the end, I am still being dragged into it. Judging by the looks of it, I will be disadvantaged if this matter continues. Previously, I had a hold on The Apple Gazette, but I have no idea which media outlet is involved this time. If the Locke Family were to learn about it, I will have to head home to receive my punishment according to the clan law.

“Things are becoming troublesome now. If you disagree to pretend to be my other half, I’m afraid my elders might drag me back.” Matthias hadn’t thought things through at that time, nor did he expect to have such a strong bond with Heather.

This time, I have created so much trouble just from a car crash. I can’t help but imagine the suppressed and constipated faces of the elderlies at home. I wonder how they are planning on punishing me. The Locke Family has maintained a low profile all along, so they almost never show up in the media. Now that the reporters have chased after me while snapping pictures of me, I honestly can’t even imagine the consequences. Right now, I must have Heather with me—it doesn’t matter what my motive is at this point. If she refuses to work with me, I will no doubt suffer in the future. It took me a lot of effort to be in Bradford City, so how could I possibly return to my hometown without any success? I have to prove my capabilities. Be it business or personal matters, I just have to properly compete with Tony.

Heather burst out in laughter. I did not expect the Locke Family to be such a strict bunch. Matthias’ horrified look instantly assuaged her anger. Well in that case, I have no choice but to consider the option of pretending to be Matthias’ girlfriend. I might be able to gain some benefit from this too. Previously, when he brought this up, I figured it wasn’t necessary. However, things have escalated to a state where it might affect him if he continued staying here.

From where I stand, the main reason why Matthias wants to stay in Bradford City is most probably due to Myra. I do not want to cause trouble for Myra and Tony’s relationship, but since Myra and Tony are truly in love with each other, having Matthias around wouldn’t change anything. After pondering her options and weighing the possibilities, she was tempted. After all, it is not beneficial to have Matthias as an enemy. Besides, if he were to leave Bradford City over this issue, I will miss lots of interesting drama in the future.

The more she thought about it, the more Heather was in favor of Matthias’ contract. He could also tell the shift of her attitude from her expression.

“I am open to granting you something as long as you agree to sign this contract.” He immediately took out the contract. He just had it drawn up when Heather barged in.

Well, I suppose this is similar to some sort of tacit understanding. Some things are fated in life. Matthias pushed the contract toward her.

She hesitated for a while before taking the contract to carefully read the contents. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary because it looked like an agreement to contract a girlfriend. Their relationship would merely serve as a cover.

"I just don't think it'll be an easy feat to explain to the rest of them," Heather responded hesitantly. "Well, for instance, Myra—how should I inform her about this? It will be tricky with Grandpa too." She also voiced her concerns. It is easy to pretend in front of outsiders, but I just can't do that to Grandpa, who loves me to bits, and my best friend, Myra.

"You don't have to clearly explain certain things. You do not have to explain yourself as long as they don't bring it up. Besides, when it comes to revealing a relationship, it is customary for women to gradually do that. You can say that you are still in the early stages and you do not want to prematurely announce things publicly," he suggested convincingly while his words made perfect sense.

Heather read through the contract again. I must ensure that I am being protected in such arrangements because I can't lose the right to my body again. Nevertheless, judging by how loyal and in love Matthias is toward Myra, I doubt he'd do anything to me. Furthermore, he has never had any scandal in the past. He doesn't seem like the usual playboys.

"Director Locke, I wonder whether you have any female soulmates or lovers. I am afraid that they might get into a conflict with me," she had openly asked because she was not interested in dealing with those women.

Matthias grinned triumphantly when he heard that. It looks like Heather has agreed to it.

"Don't worry, I treasure my innocence. How about yourself, Miss Heather?" he asked mischievously at the end of his sentence with a suggestive grin.

"Director Locke, I believe you have thoroughly investigated my relationships." Heather grinned brightly and her eyes twinkled maliciously. Well, I remember Matthias addressing me as the 'old virgin'. After all, women hold grudges.

Matthias chuckled in embarrassment. I went overboard with my actions that night. It is never alright to insult a woman's morality.

"Miss Heather, you are correct. I apologize terribly for my actions in the past," he immediately apologized because he needed to coax and soothe her at this point.

"It is not written on the contract that you will grant me a request, Director Locke," Heather reminded as she pointed at the contract. Since the contract was previously drawn up, it was only natural that Matthias did not include that clause in writing.

He took the contract from her while reassuring her, “Don’t worry, I will add that in.” He would not fool her when victory was just in sight.

“Well, I will draw up a new contract and we will...” He trailed off after he spoke in a tentative tone.

Heather immediately stopped smiling and her expression turned serious. She cocked a brow at him while responding, “Director Locke, do you remember when I impolitely barged in earlier? I was questioning you whether you’ve messed up my plans.” It is not that simple to get me to sign a contract.

“Yes, I do.” Matthias nodded. “However, that is understandable and I do not blame you at all.” He thought that she was being courteous to him, but he obviously had assumed wrongly.

“I apologize for being rude earlier, but you did mess up my plans, Director Locke. I wonder whether you are planning to rectify that.” Heather was being indirect, but her meaning was clear—she wanted Matthias to bear the responsibility for messing up her plans.

He obviously understood what she was implying since he was someone who did not beat around the bush. “Well, Miss Langston, what would you like me to do?” he asked without missing a beat.

Heather briefed him about her entrepreneurship—it was a critical moment for her to cozy up to the Saffords. Initially, things were all set in stone to win them over, but it all went down the drain due to the scandal.

On the surface, it sounded like Matthias had caused the problem. However, if one were to think deeper, the issue didn’t seem related to him at all. It looks like Heather is using this issue to find fault with me while testing my capabilities.

Upon coming to that conclusion, he agreed to help her. “I am at fault in this matter. I will be more than happy to accompany you, Miss Langston, to visit both daughter and father tomorrow.”

She was shocked by his confident tone. It looks like Matthias has figured out a plan. Well, I can’t wait to see it. I would like a front-row seat to witness the eloquent Matthias work his charm. It is a great opportunity for me to learn a thing or two.

“Director Locke, it is such a pleasure dealing with you. In that case, I’ll meet you at Safford House at 9 AM.” Heather hastily set the time because she understood the importance of striking while the iron is hot.

Matthias nodded lightly in response. The priority today is to get on Heather’s good books. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect that. It started off with my setting a trap for her, but I have to beg her for help in the end. It is a dangerous move, but after weighing my options, as long as I have her on my side, I am sure that it will help me greatly. The elderlies in the family have always doubted the reliability of my expanding the business in Bradford City. I am sure that I will gain their trust and confidence once I’ve confirmed my relationship with Heather. They value a good and clean family background more than anything else.

I have to admit that the Langston Family has an upper hand with their dominant position. The pain is excruciating each time I recall the past. If my sick brother hadn’t ended up in a vegetative state, how could I possibly be in my current position? The term ‘illegitimate son’ has always been my source of shame and humiliation. It is also a chip on my shoulder hindering me from progressing. I need to turn the tables right now to achieve great things.