

# Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 535

In an instant, the atmosphere changed and Paige's face flushed pink. When she thought about it carefully, she realized that she had been influenced by Leon and provided an irrelevant answer. In fact, she had actually made a presentation deck about the proposal for their business start-up, but she had forgotten to bring it along when she came in a hurry.

Besides, Paige was not used to discussing serious matters in such a carefree environment. Just as she was about to respond to Heather after recalling the content in her presentation deck, the latter dropped the topic and glanced at her watch before saying to the former, "It's almost time. I will send you back to your office." This time, they had set their meeting during Paige's lunch break, so they did not have much time left.

When Paige was about to present her points, Heather's sudden reminder caused all that she was about to say to get stuck in her throat. Although she did not like disappointing her boss, she did not even have the chance to remedy the situation, and this was all Leon's fault.

"Take me along," Leon chimed in shamelessly.

A cryptic smile appeared on Heather's face when she looked at him. She was clear of his intention, but she only smiled and said nothing, which was her way of giving her consent. Upon seeing that Heather did not refuse his request, Paige kept quiet as well.

When they were getting in the car, Paige took the passenger seat, so Leon had no choice but to sit alone in the backseat. Seeing this, Heather chuckled inwardly. It seems like Paige is avoiding Leon as if he has some sort of disease. I bet that he will have a tough time pursuing her.

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Along the way, Leon was oddly quiet, while Heather and Paige chatted casually. There were times when Paige tried to tell Heather that she had prepared a proposal and that she had made a mistake earlier, so she hoped that they could find time again to discuss it in detail.

However, when she remembered that Leon was in the backseat, she could not bring herself to say it. In addition, Heather seemed to have no intention to talk about work, so she could not find the chance to bring it up.

Soon, they arrived at Paige's workplace. Heather parked the car, then Paige opened the car door and got down. After that, she thanked Heather politely, and the latter waved at her and asked her to quickly leave so that her work would not be affected.

After Paige had left, Leon returned to his active self and kept asking Heather various questions.

"Heather, is Paige really the same age as you?" He thought that the way Paige carried herself made her appear more mature than Heather.

"She's one year older than me." Paige was older than her if she was not mistaken.

"Then, what do you think her personality is like in private?" Leon went straight to the point. He was certain that Heather had noticed his intention to go out with Paige, so he need not hide it from her.

"How am I supposed to answer your question?" Heather was baffled as the concept of 'in private' was too general. She could not be giving him a detailed biodata of Paige.

"I'm asking about her personality," he replied seriously.

Heather stopped the vehicle at a cross junction that required them to wait for a long time before it was their turn to cross. Then, she turned around and stared at Leon, making him feel uneasy.

"You should be aware that Paige will be your future colleague, as well as your close work partner. It is better to maintain your relationship with her as friends." She had to make things clear and she hoped that Leon could set a clear boundary between public and private matters. This was to make sure that his work would not be affected by relationship issues.

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“It’s good to become lovers too,” Leon spoke his mind as he didn’t want to beat around the bush. He intended to pursue Paige, so he refused to suppress himself.

“It’s going to take a while for our new company to get on track. I don’t wish to see my two most important assistants unable to do their jobs properly because of relationship issues.” The way Heather explained was subtle, yet it was enough to highlight the possible consequences to him.

“Heather, I understand your concerns. I know you want me to be serious with her.” It would be impossible for Leon to not understand what she implied.

It was soon their turn to cross the junction, so Heather immediately turned around to face the front and maneuver the car to move forward. A sly expression flashed across her face as she thought, With his charm, not anyone he targeted can escape.

“You have to be serious with her, and also with the condition that it won’t affect your work. Of course, I don’t wish to see you playing with her feelings.” She was harsh with her words and even stressed them by using a stern tone, which, in fact, made him feel quite uncomfortable. Moreover, she also used the words ‘playing with her feelings’. In his dictionary, relationships were consensual and should be formed or broken without any hard feelings.

“Don’t you think it’s inappropriate to think of me so lightly like that?” Leon felt aggrieved. I’m not a jerk who takes relationships lightly.

“You know how you felt about those ex-girlfriends of yours. You insisted on dating them the moment you took a liking to them even though deep down, you knew that they weren’t exactly suitable for you. Therefore, you didn’t commit yourself in those relationships and ended up hurting not only yourself but the girls as well.” Heather had long been wanting to tell him off for his ways in dealing with relationships, so she took the opportunity to reprimand him.

Leon was a little ashamed when she mentioned this, but he was never a person who would learn from his mistakes. To him, the shame was merely temporary, and he would soon forget about this and continue to do what he had been doing—indulging himself in women.

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“We can be in a relationship when we start to take a liking to someone. There isn’t anything wrong about it.” The bullheaded Leon refused to face his problem despite knowing that his actions were wrong.

“You have to be serious when you like someone. You have to devote 100 percent of yourself to the relationship and not exhausting all your effort but only manage to give 60 percent in the relationship. Love is not an examination with 60 marks as a passing score. Without giving 100 percent of sincerity and affection toward your partner, you won’t be able to continue to walk the path of life together with her.” Deep down, Heather still believed in true love, but she did not believe in the existence of a person who would commit 100 percent in the relationship.

While she was afraid that she could not meet someone who she would love wholeheartedly, she was also afraid that the person she fell in love with would not love her back the same way she did—this was the reason she dared not be in a relationship with anyone.

“You say that I have to be 100-percent committed, but that doesn’t mean that I have to reach 100 percent from the very beginning. We can take our time, and during the process, it’s natural for couples to split or separate.” Leon disagreed with her obsession to commit 100 percent in love. If relationships could be so perfect, there would not have been so many break-ups in the world.

“Therefore, you chose to settle for infatuations. Although I disagree with it, I won’t interfere in your affairs. However, it’s different this time. Paige is my old friend and my future right-hand man. I have to remind you and hope that you can think before you act,” Heather replied sternly as she had to make sure he understood that if she were to choose a side, she would definitely side with Paige without any hesitation.

As Leon twiddled with his finger, a frivolous smile played by his lips. This was the first time he received a warning before he even started pursuing a woman.

“Heather, I know my limits.” Of course, it would be impossible for him to back away unharmed when it came to relationship matters—just like how hard he had tried to win Heather over but to no avail.

Love was something that nobody could ever fully comprehend. She had unhesitatingly sided with Paige, which indicated that she probably had not thought that he could get hurt as well.

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In the last few years, Leon had been deeply wounded by Heather. He had taken things very seriously with her and treaded carefully in giving his all in order to pursue her. In the end, all he received in return was a reply that they should remain as friends. Sincerity never promised one a lover. There were even times when he thought that she felt something for him, but she had resisted her feelings without letting him know about it.

Not only that, but she had never even given him the chance to start a relationship with her, which was more devastating and disheartening to him than knowing that she did not have any feelings for him. If only she had gathered her courage, even if it was just a little, and was willing to take one step toward him, they probably would have been able to reach the 100-percent love that she had been fantasizing about.

“We’re here.” After a while, Heather parked the car in front of a housing area. It seemed like she had no plans in going in together with him.

Leon hesitated for a while, and when Heather looked behind, she noticed the complicated expression on his face. Perhaps I managed to get my words through to him and he is giving it some thoughts now. Unfortunately, she was probably wrong—Leon was merely regretting the fact that he never had the chance to start a romantic relationship with her.

“Heather, accompany me in. I have something to show you.” In the past few days, he had managed to discover some information, and he thought that those documents would definitely be of use to her. Frankly, he had put in a lot of effort in helping her.

“Is it about the Moriarty Family?” Hearing this, she immediately thought of the Moriartys.

“No. It’s the Lincoln Family.”

Puzzlement flashed across Heather’s face. She had always thought that it was the Moriarty Family, but he mentioned the Lincoln Family instead. Even though she certainly would not want to have anything to do with the latter, she was interested to take a look at Leon’s discovery as she was curious about the Lincoln Family’s hidden abilities.

The door was pushed open and they entered the apartment. It was clean inside, a stark contrast with how it had been before. Heather cast a glance at Leon beside her, wondering when he had started to care about his living environment.

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“Let me get you the documents about the Lincolns.” After saying this, he entered his bedroom. Heather was more concerned about the Moriarty’s, but conversely, he paid more attention to the Lincolns—he did not wish to see her spending her life with the wrong man.

While waiting for him, she took a seat on the couch and surveyed the surroundings. For some reason, she felt that something was off and could not help but frown deeply. As a sharp and sensitive person, she was exceptionally perceptive.

It was only when Leon exited his bedroom that she snapped out of her thoughts. Upon seeing her expression, he wore a knowing expression.

“Heather, stop playing detective. I’m not hiding any women in my house,” he said resignedly. It was obvious from her expression that she suspected him of that.

“Your house can’t possibly be immaculate if it was cleaned by a part-time cleaner. It seemed as if it was cleaned by a girl who fancies you. You should just admit it.” She reckoned that Leon had probably hooked up with a young lady and brought her home. He’s seeing a woman, yet he is going to chase Paige. He’s pissing me off!

“To be frank, I cleaned the house on my own.” Leon pouted. In fact, he wasn’t that incapable of managing his daily life; in the past, he had tried to use that to attract Heather’s attention.

A look of disbelief spread across her face at once, but Leon simply handed her the documents in his hands. “Here you go. Read it carefully.” He had no intention to explain to her about the things that he had done in the past which caused her to have such thoughts now.

Casting a glance at him, she lowered her head to read the documents after taking them over. At first, she casually read it to fulfill her curiosity, but the more she read, the tighter her brows were knitted. It turned out that the Lincoln Family was involved in illegal activities, which was not something that one could overlook. They did everything that could bring them profit; they were not businessmen who kept their hands clean.

“Wow, the Lincoln Family is surprisingly amazing.” Her knitted brows smoothed but her expression was a little stiff.

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“A family like them will sooner or later fall apart. This is probably the reason why Matthias came to Bradford City.” Leon made a guess. In fact, his family was no different either. He had been waiting for his corrupted family to completely collapse.

While he did not know whether Matthias shared his thoughts, his impression of the latter was quite pleasant as he could even see himself in him.

“All this has nothing to do with me.” Heather was not concerned about the Lincoln Family nor Matthias’ purpose.

Leon smirked like a cunning businessman as he replied, “The Lincoln Family is extremely wealthy. Don’t you wish to get something out of them? Do you remember my previous suggestion? You can get in touch with the Lincoln Family through Matthias. It won’t do you any harm.”

It was obvious that he exceeded her in terms of using unscrupulous methods—perhaps due to the fact that men were usually more thick-skinned. In contrast, she would usually dismiss actions like gaining advantages through other people’s family.

Upon seeing her being unfazed by his suggestion, he revealed another important news. “Someone from the Lincoln Family is colluding with the Moriarty Family. Atrigall City was not only the Moriarty’s territory as it housed the Lincoln Family’s hidden forces as well.”

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This was a sensational piece of news related to the Moriarty Family, and Heather immediately jumped up in excitement upon realizing it. She hastily flicked through the information held in her hands once again while wondering how come she had missed this point as she was quite certain that she had not missed any details before this.

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“There’s no point in going through that again because that clause isn’t in there.” Leon pointed to his head to indicate that he had already stored all the important information in his mind. He reckoned it was better to be straightforward about this to her.

“What other important information do you have? Why don’t you reveal it all in one go?” Heather had no patience to deal with the element of suspense he was trying to create. She wanted to know more, there and then, because the Moriartys had evoked a sense of danger in her.

“The Lockes and the Moriartys took hold of Bradford City, one after the other, and their relationship spans in a complicated pattern like a spiderweb.” He reminded her of this point, which was something everyone rarely paid attention to.

Hearing this, she placed down the documents and stared at him with a knowing look. He’s quite right about this. She had never expected the Lockes to have anything to do with the Moriartys. After all, Matthias had openly revealed his intention of coming to Bradford City and had sought cooperation from the Langstons more than once.

“That means, on the surface, it seems like Matthias is here to take over the corporate world and fight for the top spot with the Hart Family, but in actual fact, he’s secretly plotting with the Moriartys.” From Heather’s point of view, Matthias represented the Locke family; judging by his position in the family, she reckoned her views were justifiable.

Unexpectedly though, Leon shook his head and replied firmly, “Take note of my choice of words. I said someone in the Locke family joined forces with the Moriartys, but that person isn’t Matthias.”

“How can you be so sure?” Heather couldn’t help questioning him. After considering the situation, she felt that Matthias was the most suspicious and she could not quite recall any other person from the Locke family who could possibly be involved. Is it possible that Matthias was unaware?

Meanwhile, Leon raised his brows and thought, It seems she doesn’t trust Matthias at all. This is bad news! Lack of trust in a relationship is a relationship killer. What could he have done to leave such a bad impression on her?

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“Matthias is the President of Locke Group and he’s been operating the business fairly and squarely. So far, he hasn’t been involved in the underside of the Locke family. Besides, they haven’t actually worked together with the Moriartys openly. It’s all done under the table, so it’s quite likely that Matthias hasn’t a single clue about all this.” He carefully analyzed the situation for her. Then, he pondered again, I’ve done the most I can by explaining things from Matthias’s perspective and helping him win her favor even though he’s my rival.

Despite the reassurance, Heather could not control herself from rapping her index finger on the coffee table, and her action gave out a soft tapping noise. Seeing this, Leon clearly knew what this action meant.

It looks like she’s torn in between right now. This was the most he could do for her; as for her subsequent choice, that would be her own decision to make.

“It looks like the Locke family might be a breakthrough for us,” Heather said this with a contemplating look on her face. It was hard to get through via the Moriartys, so perhaps it would be easier to go the other way.

“That’s why Matthias is critical to this plan.” Once again, Leon emphasized the importance of Matthias to her. His main intention was to make her aware that she had to find a way to get closer to Matthias. After all, that was necessary to build up a relationship. If she refused to have anything to do with Matthias, then no matter what, there would not be any spark of interest between the two of them. Leon was just like Cupid trying hard to help build up their relationship.

Hearing this, Heather narrowed her eyes, and the smile she revealed exuded coldness. He’s been putting emphasis on Matthias this whole time. It seems like there could be something up his sleeves.

“So, what should I do about me and Matthias?” She continued the conversation and questioned him.

He smiled and answered, “Maintain your relationship with him and infiltrate the Locke Family. It will be beneficial for you.”

Looking down, she pondered over the situation. Although his suggestion sounds reasonable, I don’t think I can do this. She recalled the encounter she had with Matthias at the hot spring the day before and concluded that they must be mortal enemies. Something

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bad always happens whenever I meet him. There's no way I can keep up this pretense. Meanwhile, as Heather considered the situation carefully, she also focused her gaze on Leon's face to try and read some insight from his expression.

"Heather, why don't you tell me the things that happened between you and Matthias?" Leon asked as he noticed her hesitation. It looks like things are not going smoothly for her and Matthias. It's quite obvious that they have feelings for each other, but they choose to keep tormenting each other. At this point, he felt like he was starting to become a busybody. After all, he had in fact spent so much effort being involved in things between the two.

When he noted her hesitance, he quickly added, "There's no need to hide anything from me because I can give you some suggestions from an objective point of view."

Perhaps he's right. Subsequently, Heather revealed her innermost feelings to him and told him about everything—both good and bad—that had happened between her and Matthias.

The conversation went on and, suddenly, it became a complaint fest about Matthias. To sum it up, she was fairly displeased with Matthias. This was to the extent that she no longer had any intention of being in contact with him. Each time she encountered him, something bad would definitely ensue soon after that.

After listening to her, Leon burst into a rumbling laugh. She's finally met her match! There's finally someone in this world who could cause her distress. Come to think of it, she's usually the one who gives the other party grief.

"I'm quite impressed with him for being able to subject you to such misery," he could not help himself and said. However, as soon as he finished his words, he regretted it upon seeing the fierce glare she gave him.

Heather was angered beyond words. His attitude is so unbelievable! I can't believe he's on Matthias's side! At that instance, she was so tempted to rip him to pieces as she felt that he was as despicable as Matthias. Hence, she glared at him continuously to express her displeasure.

As soon as he noticed this, he immediately turned on his words and said appeasingly, "Matthias is such a despicable person. Heather, you've encountered a difficult person there. Perhaps the two of you are just not well-suited with each other." While speaking, Leon tried to maintain a solemn expression but could not contain his smile.

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"I'm not interested in hearing your nonsense. Where's the objective suggestion that you said you'd provide me?" Undeniably, she was quite keen to hear Leon's objective thoughts.

Just then, he ruffled the back of his head and considered it for a moment before saying, "You don't have to be too concerned about this because he's definitely no match for you."

After waiting for so long, she could not believe her ears as soon as she heard his answer. She stared at him in disbelief. What the heck?

However, Leon beamed widely and continued, "Since he's pursuing you, then why don't you pretend to accept him? By then, you'll be the one who has the say in the relationship. I'm sure you'll be able to torment him."

With a look of dismay, she stared at him and thought, I've been going on and on for so long, but was he even paying attention to my words? "How can you tell that there's no ulterior motive behind Matthias's pursuit? I don't think he's really got feelings for me." This was actually what she was truly struggling to come to terms with.

Hearing this, Leon became even more certain that she had feelings for Matthias. Otherwise, she would not be struggling to come to terms with this. It would not matter at all whether he loved her or not; after all, it would just be a battle of wits between them.

"What if he's really in love with you? What would you do then?" he couldn't help asking. Truth to be told, he was rather hurt that her thoughts were nearly fully occupied by Matthias.

"What else can I do? It's impossible for things to work out between us," Heather uttered without even considering the possibility that things could work out. She'd never envisioned being in a relationship with Matthias; even more so, she would never ever regard him as someone whom she would spend the rest of her life with.

"Since it's impossible, then it would be quite easy for you to put on an act of agreeing to his pursuit. Whether he loves you or has an ulterior motive, it doesn't matter. All you would need to do is to infiltrate the Lockes and obtain the information you are after." After carefully analyzing the situation for her, he felt helpless as he knew that she was not being honest at all. She could not even admit that she liked him.

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Heather listened to his analysis and realized that his words made sense. Since there was no chance of her getting together with Matthias, then naturally, there was no harm in them making use of each other.

"I usually don't like to use my relationship as a bargaining tool, neither would I toy with someone's feelings," she mentioned her concerns to him. After all, she wasn't a player. As for Leon, he was very likely just an accident since she had a clean record all these years.

"Heather, you always have a good strategy, so I'm sure there's nothing you can't accomplish." Leon was quite confident in her capabilities. After all, she had known of his secret feelings toward her all these years, yet she still managed to subtly convince him to work for her willingly.

She looked at him squarely in the eyes. His eyes flickered brightly like a diamond, and the look of affection masked under his expression resembled a deep, cold lake that exuded coldness.

For a moment, Heather maintained her silence and did not say another word as she considered Leon's suggestion in her mind. So far, Tony's impression of Matthias isn't that great. Furthermore, Myra has such a dramatic reaction whenever she sees Matthias. So, I really don't think it's a good idea to continue being in contact with him.

Right away, Leon figured out Heather's concern. "Are you worried about how you're going to explain it to Myra?"

She nodded in response. Right now, Locke Group was at odds with Hart Group, hence Matthias would not be able to appear in front of Myra and trigger her further.

"That's why you should try harder to restrain him. If you don't do anything to rein him in, aren't you worried that he'll go after Myra?" he questioned her further. After considering all the options, he was quite sure that Heather and Matthias were fated to be entangled with each other, so he was quite keen to give them a nudge.

His reasoning made a lot of sense to her, and it was quite rare to see him so serious. Although she was still somewhat hesitant, it was quite obvious that the scales were tipped in the other direction.

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“Give me some time and I’ll consider this carefully.” Heather finally compromised; meanwhile, she started to plan everything silently in her heart.

After that, she left Leon’s apartment with a dejected expression on her face. He was used to her being like this, so he assumed that she was probably affected by her relationship woes. Without warning, he reached out and pinched her on her cheeks before hastily shutting the door. Then, all she could hear was a faint voice that came from the door crack, “Be happy! Don’t frown too much!”

She stared at the tightly shut door with a tired look on her face. Normally, she was quite alert and there was no way that Leon could sneak up on her like this. She brushed her cheek lightly, but her expression remained quite dejected.

Meanwhile, Leon leaned against the door and stared at his hands with a silly smile on his face as he recalled the silky touch of her skin, feeling his heart skip a beat.

“Matthias Locke, there’s only so much I can do for you. Good luck in winning the heart of our goddess,” he muttered to himself.

Along the way back home, Heather’s cell phone rang loudly. She calmly took it out and noticed that it was Matthias on the line. After talking about him for the whole afternoon with Leon, his unexpected presence surprised her. His number would have very likely been on the blacklist of her cell phone if it wasn’t for her hesitancy.

After some hesitation, Heather answered the phone call and Matthias’s gentle voice rang out. Recently, he’d been intentionally trying to show her his soft-spoken side. Initially, she found it hard to get used to, but now she was basically immune to it.

“Heather,” he addressed her tenderly.

“Stop that.” The moment he spoke, she was already triggered as she disliked being addressed so affectionately, feeling that he had no right to do so.

“I’ve been quite confused about yesterday’s incident. I would like to talk to Myra about it in private. Could you help me arrange that?” As he spoke, his words were grating to her ears. Things were proceeding according to what Leon had analyzed, and everything happened so swiftly that she had no time to react.

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“Heather, are you still on the line?” Matthias sounded frantic on the line as he pestered her for an answer.

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