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Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 629

There wasn't much time left for Heather; she couldn't waste any more time on the kidnapper, and she must find Everly as soon as possible. She was probably at campus during this hour, so Heather couldn't be bothered with anything else as she prepared to rush to Everly's university to look for her.

Heather pulled on some clothes haphazardly; time was of the essence and she couldn't waste a second. After rushing to the garage, she picked a black Jeep that was sturdy and could withstand crashes this time. In a flash, Heather drove away from the Langston Residence. Since it would take at least 20 minutes for Heather to reach Everly's campus from the Langston Residence, she only had ten minutes to search for the latter.

At that moment, Heather couldn't get any response no matter how many times she dialed Everly's number.

Why won't Everly pick up? Heather looked at her phone, worried.

The clock was still ticking, and Heather did her best to calm herself. With that being said, how she wished she could sprout some wings and fly to Everly. After all, they were different—her cousin was a weak girl. In other words, Everly would not be able to protect herself if she ran into anyone who wanted to harm her.

As she drove on, Heather kept praying that traffic wouldn't be held up. With each passing minute, Heather's heart tensed even more. Fortunately, even the heavens were helping Heather now, for her route to Everly's campus was unimpeded. Heather kept speeding her way over, ignoring all sorts of traffic rules.

When Heather saw the gate to Everly's university, she couldn't control herself anymore. She quickly stopped her car on campus grounds and hastily got out.

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Meanwhile, her arrival had drawn everyone's attention. People all looked at her, and many of the girls whispered amongst each other as they stared at her. On the other hand, the boys looked at Heather with dumb, besotted looks on their faces.

As she surveyed the area, Heather did her best to recall the faces of Everly's classmates; she had to find someone she knew from the crowd. Unfortunately, this wasn't an easy feat. Heather's gaze swept from face to face, but she didn't find anyone who'd be of use.

As such, Heather quickly charged over to a different section of campus. The time limit chased after her relentlessly, and she only had eight minutes left. Needless to say, each minute and each second was precious beyond comparison.

A single face flashed past in the crowd at that moment, and Heather quickly registered that face. After blinking several times, she immediately chased after the girl and grabbed her arm. Since Heather had an unusually cold and eerie expression, the girl who had been stopped was unsure of what she should do. At the same time, she was also afraid of the powerful, imposing aura coming from Heather.

"Excuse me, do you know Everly Langston?" Although her tone was polite, Heather's demeanor had a pressuring aura to it.

The girl eyed Heather nervously. Her voice seemed to have gotten stuck in her throat, for she was unable to talk even after a long while. All she could do was nod at Heather.

Heather realized that the way she currently looked was indeed scary, so she quickly changed her expression, putting on an endearing expression to make herself seem approachable.

"Do you know where Everly is now? I'm her older sister. I've been looking for her because something urgent came up." Heather let go of the girl's arm. This unremarkable girl before her was seemingly Heather's lifeline at this moment.

The girl thought about it for a moment. Right now, Heather didn't look as terrifying as before, so the girl wasn't as timid. She did her best to remember where Everly had gone.

"I'm sorry, I'm not quite sure either," the girl said apologetically. Not only that, she could clearly see the disappointment in Heather's eyes.

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Hence, she merely waved a hand and walked away immediately. Soon after that, the people around the girl began to whisper and whine after Heather had left. "Everly's cousin is so rude."

Indeed, there was a huge difference between Everly and Heather. Heather's aura was simply overpowering; it made people respect and also fear her.

In the meantime, Heather continued to search for Everly. She believed that she could find her cousin because time wasn't up yet. In fact, she felt like she still stood a chance.

At this moment, she hated herself for not paying more attention to Everly—she wouldn't be so lost now because she didn't even know who Everly's classmates and friends were.

Heather didn't have time to slowly conduct her search. All this while, she kept dialing Everly's number. Then, she thought over her options and decided to do something that she absolutely wouldn't do under normal circumstances.

"Hey, do any of you know Everly Langston?" Heather yelled at the crowd, uncaring of her image.

Soon, she got a response from someone in the crowd. After all, Everly was a famous figure on campus. Seeing that she had gotten a response, she immediately asked again, "Do you know where Everly is right now?"

This was the answer that Heather wanted the most. There wasn't much time left, for 30 minutes wasn't sufficient to locate someone.

The crowd, which initially had plenty of people answering her, fell quiet then. It seemed that no one knew where Everly was.

A dejected look came over Heather. She had gone this far, yet her search was fruitless. When she saw that time was ticking toward the deadline, Heather felt helpless. She hated herself for her powerlessness and being unable to protect the people around her.

Right now, Heather had already given up. One more minute, and the 30 minutes would be up. Even if Heather could fly, she would not be able to make it to Everly's side in time.

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As such, Heather could only wait for the kidnapper's phone call. She still couldn't get Everly to answer the phone, so she gave up on dialing Everly's number. During the past half an hour, Heather had nearly blown up Everly's phone with the number of calls she had made.

From time to time, people would point at her and whisper—after all, people always got curious whenever they saw a beautiful woman. Heather prepared to go home, for she had already embarrassed herself enough on campus.

"Heather." A familiar girl's voice called not too far away from where she was.

Heather followed the sound of the voice, and she saw Everly in her line of sight. The latter was clearly unharmed, and Heather looked at her with disbelief as a mocking smile appeared on her lips. Instantly, she realized the kidnapper's plan.

Just then, her phone rang incessantly. When Heather answered it, the kidnapper's familiar voice came over the speakers.

"My, my—I hadn't expected you to be such a family woman. I have a video here that I'm going to send to you." The kidnapper automatically taunted her.

Heather cut off the call with a blank face as Everly walked over to her. Even from a distance, Heather could make out the faint smile on her cousin's face; that smile of hers was enough to mesmerize anyone.

At that moment, the kidnappers' ringleader looked at his phone angrily because Heather had hung up on him abruptly. He immediately flung the phone to the ground.

"Heather, you b*tch," the kidnapper spat out angrily. No one else ever dared to do such a thing. Why was Heather so brazen?

Meanwhile, Everly approached Heather with a faintly apologetic look on her face. "I'm sorry, I still haven't been able to get the information that you wanted."

Heather shook her head and reached out to pat Everly's own head. "Don't look into that anymore." Heather didn't want to see Everly in danger, so her investigation should come to an end!

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Everly looked at Heather with an unblinking, stubborn gaze. Afraid that Everly would misunderstand her, she quickly explained, "I've made a mistake. Please don't waste more time on this matter."

At those words, Everly lowered her gaze and nodded at Heather. "Okay." It was a faint reply, but there was a hint of reluctance.

"Do you still have any classes or activities here?" Heather asked Everly.

Everly shook her head. "No, I was about to go home."

The people around them shot them curious glances from time to time. Everly was already a bright beacon, but now that Heather was here with her too, everyone's attention was instantly drawn to them.

"I'll send you home," Heather volunteered. She was now more concerned toward her cousin.

"I drove to class too." Everly felt a little embarrassed when she saw Heather suddenly being so gung-ho.

"Let's go home together." Heather was still worried that someone was watching Everly. For the time being, she had to protect the latter—she couldn't let Everly leave her sight.

"Okay." Everly didn't continue to insist otherwise as she accepted Heather's arrangement.

Then, Heather took Everly's hand of her own volition, startling the latter. After all, she had never done such a thing; ever since she was a child, Heather had never been close to her other family members. Meanwhile, Heather felt rather odd now that she was suddenly holding her cousin's hand. Nonetheless, it was a feeling that wasn't exactly unpleasant.

"What's up with you, Heather?" Everly could see that Heather had something on her mind. She couldn't hold back her curiosity.

"Nothing. Remember to watch out for yourself." Heather's sudden reply made Everly even more puzzled.

"Okay." Everly nodded her head in a docile manner.

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Throughout the entire time, everyone looked at them curiously. The scene of two pretty girls holding hands as they made their way across campus was a beautiful sight to see, and a few people even secretly took pictures of this amazing sight with their phone.

Everly's heart warmed. Heather's recent behavior moved her, yet it also left her at a loss—she felt guilty about it. After all, she had secretly gone behind Heather's back and done something to hurt her.

"Heather, will you always be like this to me?" Everly suddenly asked. She was scared that they wouldn't be able to continue being cousins one day, and she suddenly craved Heather's warmth.

"Yeah. I didn't exactly care that much for you back then, but I will take care of you from now on," Heather said in all sincerity. During that one moment, she truly regretted not treating Everly nicer in the past.

Heather's words touched Everly down to the bottom of her heart. Her eyes prickled, and she had the urge to cry. Heather's niceness was completely born from sincerity, and Everly was unable to face what she had done. Even when Everly chose to follow that person's instructions, she had seen Heather call her over and over again; she even heard from others that Heather had searched for her like she had gone mad. Yet, Everly still did something to hurt Heather.

"Please don't be so nice to me." Everly nearly let her tears fall. It was too embarrassing for her to cry, especially here on campus.

Heather turned around and gave Everly an affectionate smile. "I was always distant and aloof toward my family ever since I was a child, but I now know that my actions were wrong. Grandpa's right—I am part of the Langston Family, and I shouldn't have rejected you all."

Everly endeavored to hold back her tears; she couldn't cry. Right now, she wished for nothing more than to confess everything to Heather, but there was no return for Everly now. She didn't dare to speak, and she also didn't want to lose this sudden sisterly connection.

It took a mere few minutes to get to Heather's car. To Everly, it was like several centuries had passed. She could still feel the warmth of Heather's hand in her palm.

"Hop in," Heather said to her once she released her hand.

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Just then, Everly snapped back to reality. She looked at Heather timidly as her mouth opened and closed. She wasn't able to make a sound, whereas Heather had already gotten into the car by then.

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On the front passenger seat, Everly's emotions were not very stable. It was only until the car had been driven for a long distance that Heather realized her peculiarity.

Unable to understand Everly's emotions, Heather frowned. Realizing that Heather was looking at her, Everly decided to calm herself down and hoped that Heather would not detect anything from her expression.

"Everly, did something happen to you in school?" Heather asked tentatively as she felt uneasy, worried that the ringleader could appear or that he had already made his presence.

"No." She did not miss the unnatural expression on Everly's face.

Seeing that Everly did not want to talk about school, Heather changed the topic. "Are you sure you haven't seen that woman before?" She never expected that they wouldn't have any leads to work with.

Everly lowered her head in regret. Heather was just trying to change the topic, but it actually triggered the guilt within Everly.

"Heather, I feel like I'm a failure who can't get anything done well," Everly spoke guiltily. She felt that she was using Heather and could not even help her with anything.

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“Don’t worry about it. It’s fine if we can’t find any leads. I just want to see whether there are any hints or clues.” Heather did not want results; she merely wanted clues.

Everly shook her head. “That woman doesn’t seem to even exist. No one has seen her.” She had also been looking for the woman for the entire afternoon.

Heather did not expect to receive an answer with the worst perspective. However, she twitched her lips into a nonchalant smile, hoping that it would ease the tension between them both. If the atmosphere had remained such, she was worried that it would hurt Everly’s pride.

“Stop looking for her anymore.” With that, she took Everly’s phone and deleted that woman’s picture.

Everly looked at her in confusion. She did not expect that Heather would do such a thing and she could not figure out the reason.

“I think this image that I gave you might be wrong, so don’t spend your time on it anymore.” Heather immediately took the blame. As she could see the guilt in Everly’s eyes, she did not want that feeling of hers to intensify.

Since Heather had already said so, Everly had nothing else to say and the matter ended just like that. Nevertheless, she was still hesitant to give up. I just need to find a person. I can’t believe that I can’t even find her! I despise myself so much!

“It’s not early anymore. By the time we return, I bet they have already finished eating.” Heather tried to change the topic to food again, but she was not very good at doing so.

Everly gently hummed in agreement. She was still not used to being so close to Heather to the point where she could even smell the slight fragrance from her body. Yet, it made Everly even more nervous.

“I’ll bring you to a place with good food,” Heather suggested. In the past, she would always tell Myra this. Thinking of it now, Heather could feel a lump forming in her throat as she felt that everything had changed. As soon as she remembered that Myra was still in the ringleader’s hands, Heather felt a deep sense of helplessness and she could not count on anyone now.

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After both Heather and Everly arrived at the familiar restaurant, she immediately brought Everly to her favorite private room. As Everly had not been here, everything was unfamiliar and she looked around with curiosity in her eyes.

“Heather, the atmosphere is excellent here,” she immediately commented the moment they sat down.

Heather smiled; she was glad that Everly liked this place. Even though Heather had many thoughts in her mind, she did not want to make the atmosphere tense, so she pretended as if nothing had happened. “I’m glad that you like it,” she replied.

“Heather, is there something on your mind?” Everly curiously asked. She had thought about asking this question a few times and finally brought herself to voice it out now.

However, Heather merely pursued the menu in her hands and lowered her head. Even after some time, she did not reply to Everly’s questions.

“Do you like fish, Everly?” Heather seemed like she didn’t hear Everly’s question and asked what Everly would like to eat instead.

Everly nodded. “Yes, my favorite fish is the halibut.” Fish was something delicious that not many people could reject.

“Alright. Let’s have the poached halibut then.” With that, she ticked a box on the menu. The food here was more suited to people from Bradford City. Thinking that Everly’s taste would be similar to that of the general public, Heather brought her here.

Then, she ordered a few other dishes that Everly loved before passing the menu to Everly. “I’ve ordered five simple dishes. You can pick what you want for the rest.”

After taking the menu from Heather, Everly responded, “Heather, five dishes are enough for the both of us.” She did not want to place the order because she was worried that she would order something that would not suit Heather’s taste.

“Order a few more sides.” Thinking that it was not enough, Heather insisted that Everly ordered more.

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Everly shot her a troubled look. "Heather, what are your preferences?" Ordering food was a skill. Hence, she thought it would be better for her to understand Heather's taste.

"I've already ordered everything that I like just now. You just need to order what you like." Heather did not expect that Everly was troubled by such a small thing.

Looking at her timidly, Everly thought for a long time before she decided to order something. If I continue to be so courteous, she might be unhappy about it. She repeatedly perused the menu. As she had never dined here before, she had no idea which dish was the tastiest and she did not see anything that she would like to eat.

Upon noticing that Heather was looking at her from the opposite seat, Everly felt that she could no longer delay, so she simply selected three dishes and passed the menu to Heather, who took a quick glance at what she ordered. The dishes are quite light on the taste buds. It seems like she prefers dishes that are not salty.

However, Heather preferred dishes that had a richer taste to them. Looking at the dishes she ordered earlier, she thought about changing her order. When she remembered that it was no longer early, there was not much time for them to delay their orders, so she just handed the menu to the waiter.

"That will be all. Please ask the chefs to quickly prepare them," she informed the waiter, who took the menu away from her.

There was a pot of tea on the table, but Heather did not like the tea because the quality wasn't good enough for her. Apart from that, since Everly did not fancy the tea leaves as well, the pot had remained untouched.

The process of waiting for the food to be served was a tough one. Both Heather and Everly quietly looked at each other. Heather thought of many possibilities for a conversation, but in reality, they had no words to say to each other. She tried to recall how Matthias used to initiate conversations in order to chat with Everly. However, nothing came to mind and she had no idea what to say to this cousin of hers.

At that moment, Everly was merely thinking about everything that happened earlier. She did not dare to speak too much for fear that she could accidentally reveal some secrets that she should not spill. She hated herself for being fooled by an outsider to treat her own

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family member that way. However, since she had already embarked on this path, there was no other way for her to return to the right path.

“Heather, do you like the way they renovated the place?” In the end, it was Everly who found the topic for small talk.

Looking around her, Heather realized that she had not taken notice of the renovation style. She merely thought it looked comfortable without thinking too much about it. “It’s average,” she replied honestly.

Everly gave a bright smile, yet her smile seemed forced. Heather could tell that Everly was forcing herself to smile, but she merely thought that Everly felt awkward in front of her. As a result, Heather did not think too much about it.

“It has a mixture of European style that seems to be quite popular recently. I like the traditional and modern elements of the renovation here,” Everly briefly commented about the restaurant. In fact, she fell in love with this place immediately after she saw it.

“I didn’t expect that you would notice so much.” Heather did not take note of these. It seems like Everly is not as simple and naive as she looks. She also has some personal observations and thoughts.

“Did I say something wrong? It’s just how I feel about the place. If it’s wrong, don’t laugh at me.” Everly gave a shy smile. I suddenly feel as though I’ve talked too much.

“You should voice out more of your opinions in our family,” Heather elaborated on this point. She felt that Everly had deliberately tried to hide herself within the Langston Family. Don’t tell me she really doesn’t want people to notice her?

“I won’t dare to do so,” Everly replied helplessly. Indeed, I’m afraid to be myself in the Langston Family.

“You have my support now. So, what are you afraid of?” Heather teased. She felt that Everly was someone who had potential. Now that they were facing many incidents, the Langston Family lacked a talented person. Hence, she already planned to groom Everly well.

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“Don’t be kidding, Heather. I feel as though everything I said in the Langston Family is wrong and I don’t easily voice out my opinions. I just want to be invisible there.” Everly’s tone took a lighter turn as she did not forget to mock herself.

“Your position is different now, so your words carry a lot of weight in our family too. Don’t look down on yourself. I believe in your capabilities,” Heather emphasized that she believed in Everly once again. From a psychological point of view, it hinted at Everly’s subconscious and Heather was trying to build her confidence.

“Heather, thanks for your grooming, but I—”

Before Everly could even finish her sentence, Heather interrupted, “No buts. I believe in my judgement. So, please work hard instead of finding reasons to convince yourself that you can’t do it.”

When Everly heard Heather’s powerful words, her heart gave a jolt. She also felt a surge of passion and motivation within her. Heather’s words seemed to have cast a spell on Everly, who could not help believing that she could also do it.

After that, they casually chatted with each other as the dishes arrived at the table. Fortunately, Everly also liked dishes with rich flavors, so their taste buds matched each other quite well.

However, at such crucial moments, there was no time for them to experience family warmth at all. Before Heather could even dig into the dishes, the ringleader called her again.

“Miss Heather, do you really not care about Mrs. Hart’s death?” He suppressed his displeasure as he had something important to do at that moment.

“Stop with the crap and cut to the chase.” With Everly around, Heather felt that it was inappropriate to lash out on him.

The ringleader’s savage laughter rang on the other side of the phone for an entire minute. Heather felt that it was the most patient she had been while speaking to him.

“I wonder whether you have watched that important video, Miss Heather?” the ringleader spoke meaningfully. As he was speaking, she received an MMS with a video in it after she opened it.

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