Chapter 291 She Doesn't Trust Him

"Although the song has ended, the party goes on. Thanks everyone for showing up. Let's meet again next time!" After saying that, Elise lifted her dress, made a simple bow to the crowd, and left the stage quickly. Then, she slipped into Mikayla's lounge, changed, and took off her mask—everything was done in one swift move. She had just hidden the mask when the curtain at the door was suddenly lifted by someone. Next to the door, Addison stood there with a somber expression, and it turned into surprise when she caught sight of Elise. "Elise? What are you doing here?"

As she spoke, her eyes had already scanned through the entire room. That can't be, she thought. I clearly saw H coming this way. Why isn't she here? "I'm waiting for Mikayla here. She's the host, isn't she?" Elise answered without even flinching. Sensing something amiss with Elise, Addison asked suspiciously, "Was anyone else here?" Continuing with her pretense, Elise asked, "Does Mikayla count?" Disappointed, Addison thought, Looks like I really came looking in the wrong direction. "It's alright. Wait for her, then. I'm going back now." She was about to leave when she heard Mikayla trotting happily toward the lounge while calling Elise's name excitedly, "Elise, Elise! You sang so well!" When the last word left her lips, she happened to run face-to-face into Addison.

It didn't occur to Mikayla that there would be someone else besides Elise in the room, and thinking that she might have exposed her idol's secret, she was momentarily stumped for words. Meanwhile, Elise desperately cast her looks, but to no avail. Addison was no fool, and she glanced from left to right. Finally, she fixed her eyes on Elise, confirming her as the target and pointed at her.

"You are H?" While there were people who adored H in a loud and flashy manner, there were also those who liked her in a silent manner, and Addison belonged to the latter group. The lyrics written by H accompanied her though all the important stages of her life, and their existence were akin to a religion for her. Never did she mention this to anyone else, and she would just like to cherish this by herself.

The moment the woman in a mask started singing on stage, Addison already recognized the voice, and she was literally the first one who tried to rush to the backstage. However, the

security guard took his job very seriously, so she had to go downstairs and up again in a detour to sneak in through the back door, all for the sake of meeting H once.

Seizing the uncertainty in Addison's voice, Elise decided to play it to her advantage by 'admitting' to it. Raising her chest, she said, "Yes, I'm the H who performed earlier." As she had expected, Addison would doubt her when she answered with such confidence. Narrowing her eyes, Addison tried to make sure again, asking, "So, it wouldn't be a problem if you sing one of H's famous songs, 'Zero', to prove yourself, right?"

With a shrug, Elise opened her mouth with the music, but this time, she deliberately changed her tone. "The things on the weekend..." Sure enough, she had barely finished two sentences when Addison crossed her arms over her chest and gestured for her to stop. "Stop! That's enough." She waved her hand, lowering her head in disappointment. "You're not her." She's merely someone who sounds closest to H so far, Addison thought. I was too impatient. Just like God, H is above everyone else and wouldn't show herself easily to the commoners. Seeing this, Mikayla decided to follow up with Elise's plan. Jumping behind Addison, she then clung onto her like a hook. "You're amazing! You can recognize her voice so quickly! She really sounds like H, doesn't she? I think so too, and that was why I begged her to come here and help me out.

So many people outside thought the same as you, thinking that H really came to Tissote University!" Awkwardly, Addison smiled, but she was secretly feeling helpless. *Thanks to you, so many people just had a daydream!* Then, she turned to Elise and saw that she still had a nonchalant look on her face, as though everything that happened to her were like fists hitting cotton and had no effect on her at all. *I should really learn to be as composed as her!* Nearby, Alexander watched all of Elise's expressions carefully, and he almost crushed the cell phone he was holding in his hand. This was the same way Elise got away with things in front of him. *Exactly how many identities and secrets are this woman—the only one who caught my heart—hiding from me?*

Regarding Sare, he had sought to verify it many times, but he only found out the truth from someone else in the end. Indeed, there weren't so many coincidences in this world. If there were, they were merely planned by some people. In her life, am I also one of the chess pieces she could manipulate as she likes?

With this question in his mind, Alexander left the spot and waited for a while behind the door. When he saw Elise coming out, he hid behind a pillar in the hallway and gave her a call. Hearing the vibration of her cell phone, Elise stopped in her tracks and placed her phone next to her ear. "Hello, Mr. Griffith. Do you miss me a ton after not seeing me for just a day?"

Alexander forced out a chuckle and diverted the topic bluntly. "Elise, are there two different people in this world with the exact same voice?'

"I don't know." Feeling rather lighthearted, Elise continued walking as she spoke. "But I think that's possible; otherwise, how can you explain the existence of twins?" Almost immediately, he replied, "So, are you and Sare the same person?" The expression on her face froze, and she stood frozen on the spot as her mind went blank.

"What made you say that?" Furrowing his brows deeply, he gritted his teeth tightly and said slowly after controlling his emotions, "I compared your voice prints to that of Sare's, and it's almost a perfect match." Stepping out from behind the pillar, he slowly paced toward her. His eyes, which were fixed on her back, didn't blink or relax for even a second, and the unease in his heart was like a big, black patch of dark clouds hovering over the skies.

Even he didn't know what he was worried about, but he felt that Elise was so near and yet so far from himself at the same time, as though they couldn't face each other honestly, and he could never walk into her heart. Reaching out his hand, he was about to pat her shoulder and call out her name when he heard her voice from the call, saying casually, "It's only almost a perfect match."

He hung his hand mid-air and froze there, unsure whether to move forward or keep away. Relieved that he had used the word 'almost', Elise continued, "Since it's not a perfect match, that shows that it's only similar. Voice prints and IDs are the same. Everyone has their own unique voice prints and IDs. That can't be wrong."

The more she spoke, the softer her voice became, and when she sensed that he didn't want to continue the topic, she decided not to go on. "Are you really suspicious that I'm Sare?" she asked tentatively. But there was no reply from him, and she urged, "Alex, are you listening?" Behind her, Alexander turned off his phone slowly and stuck his hands into his pockets. Letting out a long sigh, he said with an exasperated look in his eyes, "I'm not suspicious. I know for sure that you're her."

For a moment, Elise was confused before she finally realized that the voice came from behind herself. Turning around, she then saw the hurt look on his face, and she asked in puzzlement, "What happened to you?" Alexander couldn't be sure whether he should laugh or cry; until now, Elise still didn't think that it was a big deal to hide her identity from him. However, when he gazed at her composed face, it suddenly struck him—she didn't trust him.

Chapter 292 A Game the Couple Plays

Is this the result of comparing the pros and cons after being together? Unwittingly, Alexander wondered just what kind of place he had in Elise's heart. Very quickly, Elise reacted to the situation. From the last thing he said on the phone, he sounded a little fluky. "What do you mean by what you just said?" She doesn't look like she wants to come clean at all, he thought speechlessly and opened the window containing information about Sare. Pacing to her, he then grabbed her hand and placed the phone on it. After making sure that she was holding the phone, he spun around and left without turning back. Elise opened her mouth and wanted to stop him, but no words came out. Lifting the phone, she glanced at it and suddenly understood what was going on. From afar, she watched his back disappear into the endless night, and she sighed deeply. She didn't realize when it had started, but she was actually connected to and able to feel the pain of this man.

Just like now, even though there wasn't any interaction, her spirit gradually fell glum as he walked further and further away. Previously, Alexander did mention that he hated being deceived the most, and she had stepped on his bottom line. Despite that, Elise didn't think that it was such an unforgivable act that she tried to hide her identity in order to protect herself.

Furthermore, her identity as the interpreter happened after they met, but there was simply no suitable opportunity for her to come clean. After all, she couldn't grab him suddenly and start pouring out to him all the skills she had learned since young. That would be similar to blowing her own trumpet; she couldn't do it, and neither would she do such a thing. All of a sudden, she felt a vibration on her hand, and it was a notification from Alexander's text messaging service. As he didn't set up a lockscreen, she could see the list of messages by just lifting her hand. There were some from the company and also from the Griffith brothers. Staring at the screen of the phone, she burst into a giggle out of the blue and muttered to herself, "Looks like he trusts me a lot."

A few seconds later, she gathered her emotions and kept the phone away in her backpack. As if nothing had happened, she paced toward the dorms. She had to admit that everything was very comfortable when both of them were together by themselves, and if she had to choose one person to spend the rest of her life with, that person would definitely be Alexander.

But a relationship wasn't something that would work purely by logical analysis. With different values and life experiences, there would be disagreements about the same topic. In the end, couples still split up because they had different views in life. Both Elise and Alexander weren't ordinary people, and a relationship was just an extra accessory in their lives.

While they might have it, it was not a necessity to them. All she could guarantee was that he was a different existence to her compared to everyone else. As for being unreserved, nobody could really open up another's heart to look into it. There was no need to sugarcoat something uncertain as the problem would always be there and wouldn't disappear by pretending to be big-hearted. ... The next day early morning, Elise was still nestled in her bedsheets when she was awakened by her monitor, who had woken up before her. "Elise, Professor Merlin from the Math Faculty is waiting for you downstairs." "Oh, I got it. Thanks." In a daze, Elise climbed out of bed and put on a jacket before trotting off downstairs.

Right after she reached downstairs, she saw from afar that Professor Merlin was standing at the entrance of the dorms with his back facing her. Quickening her steps, she jogged over. "Professor Merlin, why are you looking for me so early in the morning?" The cold wind wheezed past her neck, sending a shiver through her body, and she quickly tightened the jacket around herself.

Autumns in Tissote were always like this—cold in the morning and evening, which would cause one to have a cold and fever if they were not careful. The delight on Professor Merlin's face was beyond words. "Elise, I guess you already know that you've passed the pre-trial stage, right?" Elise pressed her lips together and said, "I know a little about it. It's all thanks to your guidance."

"Hey, the most important thing in mathematics research is to seek truth from the facts, and you should graciously acknowledge the honor which belongs to you. There's no need to be so humble about it," he said, adjusting the glasses on the bridge of his nose. Despite what he said, he felt a trace of comfort at Elise's humility. Flattery was not a thing Elise was accustomed to, and she smiled along awkwardly, not knowing what to say. Fortunately, Professor Merlin had a straightforward personality, and he immediately told her the purpose of his visit. "I wanted to tell you that there will be a mathematics field award ceremony tonight. Get ready and come with me to expand your network."

After years of focusing on mathematics, Professor Merlin knew the various benefits of socializing. Despite his interest, there was only so much to his talent. However, it was different with Elise because he could see the endless possibilities of the country's mathematics field in her. For the passion in his heart, he would spare no effort to overcome all difficulties and open up the path for Elise. "I don't think that's such a good idea."

Elise, who had little interest in parties and socializing, quickly found an excuse to turn it down. "Those who could attend the ceremony are scholars like you, who have made great contributions to mathematics research. An unknown student like me is not qualified to sit at the same table with the other professors."

On the other hand, Professor Merlin merely thought that she was being polite and waved his hand, gesturing to her that he would take care of everything. "You don't have to worry about this and just come along. I assure you that no one would dare to stop you." Pausing, he raised two fingers and swayed it in front of Elise. "Now, your name is more famous than mine in the mathematics field," he said with a hint of pride. Since he had said that, Elise couldn't turn him down anymore and accepted it sullenly. In the evening, she picked out and changed into a relatively simple white dress, getting ready for the ceremony. Before she left her place, the phone in her backpack kept ringing. Following the sound of the ringing, she fished out the phone and saw that the screen of Alexander's phone was turned on.

It was then she remembered that he didn't even tell her when he would come and pick it up. As it was Danny who was calling, Elise thought there might be something important and picked up the call. "Hello?" Just from one word, Danny was able to recognize her voice. "Boss? Isn't this Alexander's phone?

Why are you the one who's picking it up? Are you guys together?" After letting out a knowing 'oh', he turned gossipy. "Could it be that... both of you spent the night together last night and went all the way? Did you? Am I going to have a nephew soon? Goodness! No, I would like it if it's a niece as well..." Dumbfounded, Elise was speechless as well as helpless. This guy has such a rich imagination. Without even flinching, she shattered his dreams indifferently. "You're overthinking. The truth is, Alex left his phone with me.

If you're so free, then come over and pick it up for him." In an instant, Danny was disheartened. Damn, there goes my baby niece. Lifelessly, he groaned, "You have no idea what it's like to be single now that you're in a relationship. I'm still single while both of you are already a pair. If I don't race against time, how will I find the one for me? Moreover, I'm not a messenger, and both of you are meeting everyday since you're still in the heat of a relationship. Just pass it to Alex when he comes to visit you on campus." As Elise had no

idea how to explain the problem between herself and Alexander to him, she suddenly slipped into silence.

It was fine if he didn't bring it up, but now that he did, she suddenly felt that there was a hole in her heart, as though she was missing a piece. Both of them had indeed spent too much time together recently, and that was why she couldn't really get used to it when they didn't contact or see each other after such a long time. Am I getting used to the feeling of having him by my side? she wondered. Since she wasn't sure and neither was she in a rush to find out, she said something perfunctory and hung up quickly. "Okay, then. I'll do it myself. Alright, I'm hanging up now."

Then, she quickly ended the call. On the other end, Danny glanced at his phone and saw that it had already returned to his contact list page. Recalling Elise's resolute attitude when she hung up earlier, he somehow felt that there was something odd about it. I didn't even tell her why I called, and she hung up just like that, as though she didn't want to speak about Alex, he thought. One is missing in action—not picking up his calls or answering to his messages—while the other is acting dodgy and hiding herself. Is this couple dancing to the same tune?

Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 293

Chapter 293 Suspected

In spite of that, there was no way for him to ask about it. On the other hand, Elise wasn't thinking as much as Danny was; she made her way to the mathematics award ceremony after hanging up. After all, she had already given her word to Professor Merlin; otherwise, she wouldn't attend such an event given her usual personality. Unexpectedly, before she stepped into the venue, she saw Alexander standing at the entrance. Thinking that he was here to retrieve his cell phone, Elise took out the phone from her pocket and passed it to the man with a stony face in front of her. "Here, your cell phone." Parting his lips, Alexander spat out the words unhappily. "You think I'm here for the phone?"

After saying that, his face turned even more solemn. "Why else are you looking for me, then?" "Elise Sinclair," he uttered, deepening the tone of his voice while maintaining his anger. "Am I not worthy of your trust in your heart?" "It's not like that." Previously, she

wanted to avoid the marriage agreement, so she chose to keep many things in the dark. But after that, slowly through their interactions, she fell for Alexander as well. At that moment, a small crowd was starting to build up outside the venue. Looking at the man's grim face, Elise whispered, "Alexander Griffith, I promised Professor Merlin that I'd attend the ceremony tonight. Can I speak with you later?" However, it was as though Alexander didn't hear a thing she said, and he just stood there without a reply.

Then, she grabbed his hand directly and placed the phone on his palm. "Professor Merlin told me about this ceremony at the last moment, and I planned to return your phone personally. Alex, I just wanted to avoid the marriage agreement at first, but trust me—I've never planned to keep hiding things from you. Would you like to attend the ceremony together with me now?" Softly, he grunted in reply and grabbed her hand, leading her into the event hall. By the time they were inside, everyone else was already there, and the host was on the stage announcing the ten award winners, starting from the tenth place.

Elise didn't know anyone that was mentioned, until the host reached the seventh place—Janice Garcia. Receiving an award on the same stage as her was the last thing Elise wanted, and she thought, *Just my luck! I really shouldn't have turned soft-hearted and agreed to Professor Merlin's invitation to this ceremony.* After Janice got off the stage, Elise glanced at her from the corners of her eyes, but saw that she was walking toward a man, and that man was none other than Faye's fiancé, Johan Olson! *They know each other?!* While she was still in bewilderment over the fact that Janice and Johan knew each other, the host announced the first place, and the spotlight was on her. Without any questions, she became the focus of all eyes.

And Alexander was also exposed in front of everyone without so much as a warning! Seated at the audience seat, he was dressed in a black suit, knees above each other with his hands stacked on top of them leisurely, looking casual and domineering at the same time. Stunned, everyone didn't think that Alexander cared that much about Elise. However, Elise also became a subject of Janice's jealousy. Why is she attending an academic ceremony like this when she has such an awesome fiancé? Did she really obtain the first place with her own abilities? "I've seen people bringing their families to receive an award, but I've not seen anyone bringing their backers." "Exactly! Everyone knows your fiancé is Alexander Griffith, and while there's nothing we can say about the fact that you have the Griffith Family as your backer, there's no need for you to be so pompous about it."

"What do you guys mean by this? Are you implying that Elise got the first place because her fiancé bought the position for her?" Addison stood up in a huff, feeling unjust. However,

someone immediately argued, "The rich have done no less of things like this." "Nonsense! The Mathematical Olympiad is strictly invigilated, and there are surveillance cameras as well. Are you people questioning the lack of strict proctoring?"

"I don't care if you guys don't believe me, but I won't allow you to tarnish my reputation like this." There was no way that Elise would allow people to ruin her name this way. She had no regard for an Olympiad such as this, and after agreeing to Professor Merlin, she had planned to attend this ceremony quietly and leave after receiving the award.

However, these people were simply too idle and picking a fight with her out of nothing. "If you really want to stop the rumors, then prove it to us! President Griffith is here, and his family is so influential. How can we be sure that you didn't use the back door or a special access?" Janice argued in anger. Her words made Elise knot her brows, and she sprang up, but Alexander quickly grabbed her hand to stop her. The next second, he stood up as well and placed her behind himself. "Who are you to question my woman?" he asked, scanning across the room with razor-like eyes. In other words, he was saying that it was not up to an insignificant person to prove her abilities. In spite of that, there were many people in the hall, and they became daring because of that.

"If she didn't use your relations to get this award, then prove it to us in front of everyone! I have a trial question here, which is a question by a renowned mathematician in the country. If you can solve it, I'll bow down to you and apologize." After saying that, Janice whisked out her cell phone and showed the question. Step by step, she paced toward Elise, and after Elise saw the question, she smirked in indifference.

This was a question she had solved when she was ten. "I'm not solving this question—" "I think you don't have the guts to!" Not knowing the reason behind Elise's refusal, Janice ignited the fire on herself. In response, Elise sneered, "It's got nothing to do with guts. I've solved this question before, and it will be unfair if I solve it again. Everything I do is based on my interest, so there's no need to prove anything to anyone."

Tonight, she was here because of Professor Merlin's invitation, and she didn't want to blow things up. "It just looks to me that you're having chicken feet and spouting nonsense in this hall. Anyway, I won't acknowledge that you got the first place!"

Chapter 294 Moral Abduction

The comments came one after the other, and Elise was suddenly caught in the midst of their discussions. "Shut up! If you don't stop your attacks, I'll hold all of you accountable according to the law!

My woman doesn't need to be evaluated by you people!" Alexander chided furiously.

Even though Elise didn't think that things would turn out this way, she didn't want to explain herself further either because it was difficult to shut the mouths of people. "Let's go!" Covering Elise, Alexander brought her toward the exit. With his status, who would dare to stop him?

After taking Elise out of the venue, Alexander took out his phone and wanted to call Cameron, but she stopped him. "Forget it. There's no need to get so worked up with these people."

"But I can't allow them to slander you like this!" More than not wanting to waste his breath with these people, he was even more unwilling to see them hurt her in such a manner

. But no matter what, he wouldn't let them off so easily! "Thank you, Alex." "Why are you thanking me? I haven't done anything for real. I just can't let them walk all over you just like that."

"That's not true because you stood up for me very well earlier."

She wasn't wrong about him, and neither did she choose the wrong man. Looking at Elise, who was smiling at him, he couldn't help but ask, "Elise, what else are you hiding from me, exactly?"

Chapter 295 Don't Waste Such a Huge Effort

Hearing that, Elise couldn't help but recall Alexander's lonely back when he walked away just not long ago, and she grabbed his hand. "Don't you already know all that you should? Were you willing to marry a woman you'd never met before?" She hadn't forgotten how disgusted the Griffith brothers were of her when they first met her back then in her ugly appearance, and how they treated her like an outcast. "Then, why didn't you come clean to me afterward?"

Holding her hand, he placed another hand of his softly on her shoulder and gently pulled her in front of himself. Their eyes met, and his fiery dark eyes were fixed so keenly on her that she couldn't look away. "About that... Think about it, Alex. If I had blurted everything to you afterward, wouldn't it look like I was blowing my own trumpet and seem very arrogant?" "No matter what, you shouldn't hide anything else from me anymore after this. I'm your fiancé, and I should help you with anything." Then, he pulled her into his arms and hugged her tight.

Tight and heavy, his embrace also held a warmth and scent which belonged specially to him. After holding her for a while, he released her and asked, "Should I drop you off at your dorm or your place?" Elise gave it a thought and answered, "At my dorm. I still have some things left to finish." With that, she subconsciously felt for her cell phone, but her pockets were empty! Is my phone... stolen? Seeing the stunned look on her face, Alexander asked in concern, "What happened?"

"My phone has been stolen." "How did it happen? I'll get Cameron to check the surveillance." Something came into his mind all of a sudden, and the air around him turned cold. He didn't mind the cell phone itself because he could buy a new one for Elise if it was lost. What bothered him was the fact that someone actually had the nerves to steal right under his nose! "Yeah." Elise nodded and didn't say anything else.

Although Elise was aware of the problem, she would like to find out what the culprit was planning in their minds since Alexander was already determined to find out who it was! Meanwhile, in a Bentley outside the event hall, Janice looked at the cell phone Johan was toying with and frowned. "You've been staring at this phone since you got into the car. Does it belong to Elise?" Earlier, she had seen someone pass this cell phone to him.

"Yeah," Johan admitted. At the end of the day, Elise was just a woman, and he was confident that he could win her over. Despite that, Janice was puzzled. "Does Elise have such a huge charm that it's worth your effort to pickpocket her cell phone?" Especially when it's a phone locked with a password, she finished in her head. Instead of replying, Johan merely smirked wickedly. "My advice to you is to return the cell phone or throw it away.

Do you think that a person like Elise wouldn't be able to find her lost cell phone? Also, don't forget how protective Alexander was toward her earlier!" Disgruntled, Janice thought, He can stare at a cell phone for such a long time and is so interested in Elise. If everything goes as he wants, then...

Previously, when he told me that it was a marriage of convenience, I couldn't fight it or snatch him away, but now comes another Elise Sinclair. What does that make me, then? "Alexander Griffith is nothing to me," Johan snorted coldly, and a vicious smile appeared on his lips. I wonder—when will Elise come looking for me?