

One Night Surprise Chapter 61

Chapter 61 I Have to Do What I've Promised You

It was almost time for dinner, and there were only a few customers in the cafe on Sunhill Enterprise's first floor. After serving some coffee to the table in the corner, the waiter—who seemed to know Courtney very well—nodded to her with a smile.

Courtney often worked on the first-floor lobby, so she was well acquainted with the people who worked in the shops on the first floor. She felt a little ill at ease while stirring her coffee. "What brings you here, Dad?"

The man across from her looked about 50 years old. Dressed in a brown suit, he looked very refined. Threads of silver ran through the black hair at his temples, and the watch on his left wrist—which was worth at least 1 million—had a cold luster to it.

"Your sister said that she saw you when she attended Isaac's engagement party last Saturday. She told me that you're working here."

Courtney had guessed a long time ago that Anna was bound to take liberties with the truth after going back that day, so she took a colder attitude at once. "What else did she say? She didn't put in a good word for me, did she?"

Courtney's father, Lucian, frowned upon hearing that. "How could she say nasty things about you? She just told me that you're working here. Do you have any misunderstandings with your sister, Courtney?"

Courtney's face clouded over as she clenched the spoon in her hand. "What kind of misunderstanding can I have with her? We simply can't get along well because our personalities are incompatible."

"Indeed, Anna doesn't have a good temper, but she cares a lot about you. Since both of you are from the same family, she treats you more sincerely than the outsiders, Courtney—"

“Dad,” Courtney interrupted him. “You didn’t come here just to mediate between us sisters, did you?”

Lucian glanced at her upon hearing this. “I heard that you’ve been dating President Duncan of Sunhill Enterprise. Is that true?”

Courtney wasn’t surprised that her father would ask this question. Since Anna would talk about her encounter with Courtney at the engagement party when she got home, she would surely talk about the matter between Courtney and Alexander, for this matter had caused a great stir back then. Even if Anna said nothing about that, Lucian would probably hear it from his friends; someone as smart as Anna wouldn’t let her father hear this from anyone other than herself, of course. Not only that, Anna was probably worried that Lucian might learn of how she had ridiculed Courtney at the engagement party that day if he asked someone else about this.

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“Who cares if it’s true or false?” Courtney lowered her head without denying it, but she didn’t have the nerve to acknowledge it as well. “You never cared about how I have been doing over so many years anyway, so don’t concern yourself with this matter. I’ll take care of it myself.”

Lucian wasn’t angered by Courtney’s indifference. Instead, he worried for her by saying with a concerned expression, “I heard that he has a son. I’m afraid you’ll have a lot to consider if you want to be together with him.”

Courtney slowly raised her head. “What if I tell you that I have a child as well?”

Lucian’s expression slowly changed. Courtney waited for her father to lash out at her. Ever since she grew more sensible, she had been waiting for him to lash out at her. That way, she could pour out all her doubts and grievances over these years.

To her dismay, however, Lucian only looked astounded for a moment. Then, as if wanting to calm down, he held up his cup of coffee with a trembling hand to take a sip of it. When he finished drinking his coffee, he assumed the look of a loving father again. “When did that happen?”

Courtney answered perfunctorily, “I went overseas five years ago because I had given birth to a child whom I didn’t want to take home.”

"In that case... the child should be five years old." Lucian frowned. Naturally, he couldn't calm down so quickly, but he didn't show signs of getting angry. He even asked after a moment of silence, "Is the child a boy or a girl?"

"A girl."

The conversation then headed in an increasingly weird direction. Courtney was anticipating her father's anger, but he patiently asked many questions about her daughter as if he had forgotten that he was initially here to question her relationship with Alexander.

When he finally left, he settled the bill, hesitated for a moment, and advised with a hint of mindfulness, "Take your daughter home for a visit when you're free. It's okay to live at home with your daughter if you're willing to do so. No one in our family will say anything." With that, he left. For some reason, his figure looked lonely from behind.

Courtney had lost her mother as a child, so she spent her childhood in the care of her maternal grandfather. It wasn't until her maternal grandfather passed away afterward that Lucian took her home. At that time, he had remarried and had a daughter, Anna, who was a few months older than Courtney. Children probably knew nothing when they were little, but they would inevitably hear rumors and gossip when they grew up. After all, some matters couldn't be concealed.

Lucian always thought that he was indebted to his daughter, so he was set on making it up to her. Not only did he never deny her anything, he even said yes when she suddenly brought a beggar-like boy home for him to adopt at 15 years old. Even so, he still felt that he couldn't care for her as he would have liked to, for he couldn't help feeling that he didn't fulfill his responsibility as a father.

Courtney felt a little agitated after meeting her father. Luckily, the construction work in the afternoon had ended, and it wouldn't resume at night to avoid disturbing the guests upstairs while they were resting.

Walking out of Sunhill Hotel with her backpack on her back, she raised her wrist to check the time. As she was lost in thought, she suddenly remembered that she was so busy that she had forgotten to pick Tina up. She quickly hailed a taxi. "Go to Sapphire Kindergarten, please."

On the way to the kindergarten, she called Nora, the kindergarten's helper. "Someone has picked her up?" she exclaimed while sitting in the taxi. "Who picked her up?"

Nora's voice could be heard over the phone as she explained nervously, "Mr. Alexander picked her up. I thought you were on good terms with Jordan's father, and you two often pick up each other's children, so we handed Tina over to him when he offered to pick her up. Is there a problem with this, Miss Hunter?"

"Oh, t-that's fine then." Courtney sighed with relief. "Sorry for troubling you."

After hanging up the phone, she noticed an unread message from Alexander on her Messenger. It read, 'I have taken Tina back to my home.' She immediately instructed the driver to change their route and went to the Royal Park Manor. Then, she gave Alexander a phone call.

"Hello?" Alexander, whose voice sounded as low and deep as his whispers in her ear that night, spoke from the other end of the line.

Feeling that the air was stuffy, Courtney quickly wound down the car window to get some fresh air. "Uh, thank you for picking Tina up. I forgot about this because I was so busy today."

"You're welcome." Alexander's voice was devoid of emotion. "It's only natural that I have to do what I have promised you."

"Promised me?" Courtney was stunned. "What have you promised me?"

Alexander sounded very justified. "Didn't you make me promise to pick Tina up? Also, I've promised to let you two stay at my place for the time being while you're busy with the hotel's anniversary celebrations."

"What?" Courtney was totally baffled. She asked hastily, "When did I make such a request?"

There was silence for a few seconds on the other end of the line. Then, Alexander uttered four words in a very serious tone. "The night before yesterday."

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Chapter 62 A Significant Reason

Alexander spoke from the other end of the line as if whispering close to Courtney's ear, instantly reminding her of that particular night. She instantly went red in the face. How could that be possible? I have no recollection of that at all.

"It can't be possible, right?" Courtney braced herself and asked in reply. "How could I have possibly made such a request?"

I must have gone insane instead of getting drunk.

"What are you suspecting?" Alexander's questioning voice was heard over the phone. "Why do you think I would make up this kind of request if you don't believe it?"

Courtney was rendered speechless. Alexander's right—why would he make up such a request if I didn't make such a request myself? This doesn't make sense.

Even though she was reluctant to believe that she had made such a request herself, she would rather believe that she had talked nonsense in a drunken stupor than believe that Alexander was lying to her about this kind of thing. Therefore, she withdrew her remarks right away and stammered, "That's not what I meant. I was drunk that day. I'll go to your place and pick Tina up right away."

After she hung up the phone, the taxi driver sped all the way, and she arrived at the Royal Park Manor soon after that.

It was already dark, and Alexander was in the living room with the two kids. Upon seeing Courtney, Jordan became the first to rush at her and wrapped his arms around her feet.

Courtney patted his head. "Good boy, Jordan. Be careful with your hand, and don't bruise yourself again. Does your hand still hurt?"

Jordan shook his head while staring at Courtney with yearning eyes.

It was normal for kids to have a speedy recovery, so the plaster cast on his hand had been taken off. However, the doctor had instructed him to be careful while using his hand.

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The cook, who was serving the dishes, said with a smile upon seeing Courtney, "You came back just in time, Miss Hunter. The dishes are all ready, so you may have dinner now."

"Huh?" Courtney was startled for a moment. Feeling a little ill at ease, she refused, "There's no need for that. I'm just here to pick Tina up."

Alexander closed the book in his hand on the sofa before coming over. "Since you're already here, let's have dinner together."

Tina also nodded. "I'm hungry, Mommy."

Courtney could only give in and sat herself down; she would appear pretentious if she turned them down again.

"Mommy, have a taste of this sweet and sour fish. I said that this is your favorite dish, and Mr. Alexander made a special effort to ask the cook to prepare this!" Tina blinked her eyes as if trying to present a treasure to Courtney.

Courtney felt even more embarrassed upon hearing this. She shot a fleeting glance at Alexander and said, "Thanks for the effort."

"Uh-huh." Alexander didn't bother with any polite remarks.

He was about to scoop up some food with the spoon in his hand when he suddenly sensed his sleeve being pulled. When he lowered his head, he saw Jordan tugging at his sleeves with one hand while holding his drawing board in the other. A line had been written on the drawing board before he realized it. It read, "Pick some food."

With that, Alexander spooned some food into Jordan's bowl in resignation.

Jordan became anxious, though; he kept tugging at Alexander's sleeve while desperately shooting glances in Courtney's direction. Only then did Alexander realize that Jordan wanted him to pick up some food for Courtney instead of him.

This little brat! he thought to himself.

Courtney was eating in silence with her head down when a long, clean hand suddenly reached out in front of her. Then, the hand spooned a chunk of meat from the sweet and sour fish's belly into the bowl before her.

She looked up to meet Alexander's calm eyes. Looking flattered, she thanked, "Thank you. I can pick the food myself."

"Eat it. Jordan wanted me to pick it up for you." Alexander's chilly voice sounded very natural. He sounded as if trying to assert that he had nothing to do with the action of picking up food for her, but in reality, what he said sounded even more suggestive to the others.

On the first hearing, his words gave the impression of a happy family with loving parents and filial children.

It wasn't like they hadn't had dinner together before, but the reason why they had dinner together last time was because Jordan liked the food she prepared. However, after that incident the night before yesterday, it was honestly too difficult for Courtney to have dinner with Alexander as if nothing had happened.

Unbeknownst to her, Alexander had invited her to dinner on purpose.

When he sent her back that day, what she said in the car about them not having to be concerned as adults sounded lighthearted and casual, yet Alexander found her remark deeply uncomfortable. The more he thought about it, the more he felt like she had taken advantage of him.

Aren't you unconcerned about it? In that case, I'd like to see how unconcerned you can be.

The two kids ate their dinner very slowly as if on purpose. They had spent two hours eating since Courtney came, yet they hadn't finished their meals yet.

When Tina finally ate the last spoon of food in her bowl at Courtney's urging, it was already dark outside. Courtney checked the time and found that it was already past 10.00 PM.

"Where's your school bag, Tina? Pack your things up—it's time for us to go home."

Tina blinked her eyes. "Aren't we staying here today, Mommy?"

Courtney blushed upon hearing this. "No, that's not going to happen. We need to go home, so hurry up and get your school bag."

"There's no need for that. There's no taxi outside at this time." Alexander's voice could be heard from the living room. "The guest room is ready."

"Hurray!" Tina exulted as soon as Alexander finished his sentence. Jumping for joy, she quickly followed Jordan upstairs, leaving Courtney behind. "Let's play on the trampoline, Jordan."

"Hey..." Unable to stop Tina, Courtney quickly turned to face Alexander. "There's no need for that. I'm here to take Tina home; I won't be bothering you since I know that you're very busy."

"It's no bother." Alexander stood in front of a cabinet that displayed a heap of antiques while taking out a jade figurine at random. He continued unhurriedly, "As it so happens, I'm not busy recently. Didn't you tell me to spend more time with Jordan? These days are perfect since I have time to pick up the kids."

"This isn't necessary."

"I won't go back on what I have promised someone else." Alexander turned to look into Courtney's eyes. He said, "I'll do what I have promised you."

"No, you can't take what I've said back then seriously; I was talking nonsense because my mind wasn't clear after I got drunk. Besides, it's inappropriate for Tina and me to stay at your home."

Courtney suddenly felt vexed. She had been taken advantage of for nothing by someone who didn't take responsibility for it, but why was she feeling guilty right now? She was the one who got the short end of the stick!

"Didn't you say that you won't take what happened that night to heart?" Alexander suddenly asked. "What is inappropriate about staying here for a few days as you used to during the weekend? Are you worried about something else?"

Courtney's heart clenched at his questions, and she found herself quite at a loss.

"I-I'm not worried about anything." She frowned. Then, she decided to be frank and said, "Aren't you getting married very soon? There will be misunderstandings if I stay here."

In fact, this was also one of the reasons why she had told him not to take that night's incident to heart. It was rumored among the company staff that Alexander was about to get married, so anything unexpected couldn't possibly happen because of her. Also, she didn't want to offend Britney.

"Is this the only reason?"

"Isn't this reason significant enough?" Courtney was puzzled at his unconcerned expression. She braced herself and argued, "It's indeed inappropriate for Tina and me to stay here."

After pondering for a moment, Alexander took two steps toward her and curled his lips into a meaningful smile. Then, he spoke in a voice as low as a whisper. "This isn't some misunderstanding, is it?"

He specifically emphasized the word 'misunderstanding' as if to deliberately remind her of something.

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Chapter 63 You're So Annoying!

Courtney froze on the spot at once. It took a long time before she came to her senses as she stammered, "I'll take a look at Tina."

Alexander rubbed his long, thin fingers against the jade figurine as his eyes reflected the image of Courtney, who was going downstairs in a panic. Then, the satisfaction of having teased someone slowly crept over his usually cold expression.

Is she unconcerned about that night's incident? That doesn't seem to be the case.

'My flight has landed, and I'm waiting for my baggage.' At Shanghai International Airport, Cameron folded her arms across her chest. Then, she sneezed. "Achoo!"

After sniffing a little, she continued replying via Messenger, 'All right, I'll stop talking to you. I saw my suitcase.'

A red suitcase slowly moved toward her on the baggage carousel's conveyor belt. Cameron put away her cell phone and was about to take the suitcase when a hand reached over her shoulder and lifted it down effortlessly.

Before she could thank the person, a familiar-yet-annoying voice spoke into her ear. "You're welcome."

Cameron forcibly choked back the words 'thank you' and breathed out before looking up. Staring sideways at the man before her, she asked snappishly, "Did I ask you to help me? Why do you keep haunting me like a ghost?"

Gale looked calm and unperturbed as if he had been used to her rude manners. "It's raining outside. Is someone going to pick you up? If not, I can give you a lift."

"There's no need for that." Shooting a glance at him, Cameron pulled up the suitcase's handle and turned around to leave with ease.

Surprisingly, Gale confirmed what she said about him haunting her like a ghost by catching up with her. "Miss Miller, I think there's a need for a clear explanation if you have any misunderstandings toward me. Do you know how much trouble I got into because of the previous incident at the airport?"

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Turning a deaf ear to his words, Cameron made phone calls along the way while dragging her suitcase to the parking lot.

"Hey, did you hear what I say?" Gale took a few steps and stood in front of her. Then, he held up his cell phone before her and urged, "Look."

"You're so annoying!" Cameron waved her hand, causing their cell phones to fall onto the ground almost simultaneously. "I'm totally uninterested in your business, and the previous incident is over regardless if it's a misunderstanding or not. I won't fuss with you for Alexander and Courtney's sake, but please don't get in my way right now."

With that, she picked up one of the cell phones, waved to the person who came to pick her up from a distance, and trotted up to them.

Gale frowned speechlessly while watching her from behind.

What kind of person is she?

Depressed, he picked up the cell phone that dropped to the floor and tried to unlock it with his fingerprint. However, the cell phone vibrated twice and its screen read, 'Wrong passcode. Please re-enter your passcode.'

"Huh?" exclaimed Gale. Then, his expression changed as he stared at the huge green cactus on the cell phone's lock screen.

This isn't my cell phone at all!

Meanwhile, Cameron was checking into the hotel at the front desk when the cell phone in her pocket started vibrating.

She pressed the answer button reflexively without even looking at the caller's ID.

"You've finally answered my phone call!"

A high-pitched female voice instantly penetrated Cameron's ear. Startled, Cameron immediately moved the cell phone slightly away from her ear.

"I'm telling you again for the last time. If you don't marry me, I'll bring a lawsuit against you and upload that video online so that everyone will think you're a shameless sex offender. Don't cry and beg me for mercy when your reputation is destroyed by then!"

"Who are you? Are you calling the wrong number?" Cameron knitted her brows.

"Who am I? Who are you? Where's Gale? Which seductress are you? Let Gale answer the phone!"

Gale?

Cameron glanced at the caller's ID with a frown and realized that the call was from someone named Elise.

Her expression changed at once.

"Our cell phones."

She instantly recalled how Gale's cell phone and hers had dropped to the floor simultaneously at the parking lot half an hour ago. No way! Such a mix-up couldn't have happened, could it?

When Courtney finished her shower and came out, Tina had fallen asleep in a boorish posture. She lay on her back with her arms and legs stretched out, occupying the center of the bed.

Courtney shook her head in resignation while moving Tina to the side. "Sweetheart, do you want me to sleep on the floor?"

Tina turned over and was still soundly asleep, but she suddenly started to mumble something in a girlish voice. "Daddy..."

Courtney couldn't help clenching her fists as she stopped tucking Tina in.

This girl really wants a Daddy deep down inside. Perhaps this is why she's trying so hard to bring Alexander and me together; perhaps she's looking forward to having a normal family like other children.

Wait a minute—Alexander and me?

The picture of Alexander and her standing side by side suddenly flashed across Courtney's mind, and she shook her head vigorously in an instant.

How could that be possible? How could Alexander and I possibly be together?

However, the picture flooded her mind. Even though she was incredibly sleepy, she was so parched that she couldn't sleep.

She could only get out of bed in resignation to find some water to drink.

The lights in the house were switched off, so Courtney groped her way downstairs in the dark to avoid waking up the maid. After feeling for the dining table in the living room, she groped for the pitcher, which she remembered was on the dining table. After pouring herself some water, she took a few packets of biscuits from the table.

The dinner was sumptuous, but she felt so on edge at the time that she could hardly eat much, so she was starving right now.

When she turned around, she was stopped by a dark silhouette.

"Oh gosh!" she exclaimed while falling into the chair behind her, spilling half of the water in the glass.

"It's me." Alexander's voice was heard speaking before her in the dark; he switched on the lights in the kitchen.

"You scared the hell out of me!" Courtney panted heavily while putting her hand on her chest. She glared at him peevishly, "Don't you make any sounds while walking?"

Alexander sized her up with an indiscernible look in his eyes.

Only then did Courtney realize that she was in someone else's home, so it didn't seem right for her to be so rude and unreasonable. More importantly, she was holding a few packets of biscuits to her bosom like a thief. The biscuits' packaging was making some sound in her arms, and two of the packets happened to fall onto the floor right at Alexander's feet.

"Uh..." she braced herself to explain, "I'm worried that Tina might get hungry in the middle of the night, so I took a few packets upstairs just in case. You don't mind it, do you?"

Alexander's eyes darkened. It's just a few packets of biscuits. Am I such a narrow-minded person in her eyes?

As the atmosphere was a little awkward, Courtney couldn't help giving a few dry coughs. "I'm going upstairs first."

She had barely made a few steps when Alexander spoke from behind. "I'm hungry as well."

His voice wasn't loud, so Courtney was startled for a moment, for she thought she had heard it wrong. She turned around and looked at him and asked, "What did you say?"

"Is there something to eat?"

Now that Courtney was certain she had heard it right, she was still a little surprised. Did he come downstairs to search for food as well? I remember that he ate a lot over dinner.

Despite her doubts, Alexander's words perfectly dissolved the embarrassment she felt for coming downstairs in search of food. Therefore, she decided to seize this opportunity by preparing some midnight snacks to fill herself up.

"There is. Do you eat spaghetti bolognese? There should be some ingredients in the fridge."

Alexander nodded before pulling out a chair to seat himself.

Courtney put down the biscuits in her arms, rolled up her sleeves, and entered the kitchen; it didn't take long before the loud clatter of someone cutting up the food ingredients could be heard from the kitchen.

Upon hearing the noise, a maid came out from her room, only to receive a casual warning glance from Alexander; she immediately covered her ears and eyes and snuck back into her room.

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Chapter 64 So You Don't Hate Him?

Courtney's midnight snack looked no less impressive than a regular meal. Soon, three beautiful bowls containing bolognese sauce, cooked spaghetti, and meatballs were served

on the table. The most aromatic food among them was the bowl filled with bolognese sauce, which smelled very appetizing.

Courtney served Alexander a big bowl of spaghetti before serving the sauce and the meatballs in front of him. She urged without thinking, "Mix the sauce with the spaghetti yourself. This is especially delicious."

With that, she hastily served herself some spaghetti.

Alexander pressed his palms against the bowl of spaghetti bolognese. As he felt the bowl's warmth, his eyes—which were fixed on the busy woman in front of him—were slowly filled with warmth as well.

Actually, it was rare for someone from a wealthy and powerful family to see a member of their family preparing food for them personally. There were plenty of maids and servants at home, so everyone in the household always lived off other people's labor.

Such was the way Alexander lived ever since he was a child, but the scene before his eyes overlapped with some scenes of his childhood, evoking his memories and reminding him of some long-standing grievances at the same time.

Meanwhile, Courtney ate half a bowl of spaghetti bolognese in just a few bites. Just as she was fully satisfied, she saw Alexander's bowl from the corner of her eye; its contents still looked the same as when she had given it to him earlier.

"Why haven't you eaten it yet?" she asked, puzzled. After pondering for a moment, she asked in a whisper, "Have you not eaten spaghetti bolognese before?"

"Is it weird that I've never eaten spaghetti bolognese before?" Alexander asked her in reply.

Melrose City was located in the south. Spaghetti bolognese, which originated from another country, was common in the area, but it was available mainly as street food. Courtney presumed that the Duncans' cooks wouldn't prepare spaghetti bolognese for Alexander's dinner, and it was even more impossible for Alexander to eat at a food stall.

“Uh, it’s not weird. It isn’t weird at all.” Courtney smiled with embarrassment. She reached out her hand ingratiatingly and offered, “Why don’t I mix the sauce with the spaghetti for you?”

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“It’s not necessary.” Holding the fork in his hand, Alexander mixed the sauce and the spaghetti himself. His movements couldn’t be considered skillful, but it wasn’t clumsy either.

“Actually, I understand your feelings.” Courtney desperately looked for words to make up for her lack of manners just now. “Back when I was still the second young lady of the Hunter Family, my family wouldn’t let me do the chores whenever I was at home. My stepmother and sister led a pampered life and did nothing since they never had to fend for themselves. I guess Anna won’t ever eat something like spaghetti bolognese in her life.”

Alexander looked a little surprised upon seeing that Courtney didn’t evade talking about her family, but he quickly resumed his usual expression a moment after that. He asked, “Did your stepmother treat you well?”

“What do you think?” Courtney threw him a look to let him figure it out himself.

Would’ve Anna treated her like that at Isaac and Vanessa’s engagement party if her stepmother treated her well? Children always followed their mothers’ example, so one could tell at a glance how her stepmother treated her.

Alexander frowned. He then asked, “But you don’t seem to be concerned, do you?”

“Yeah, I’m unconcerned.” Courtney swallowed a big mouthful of spaghetti. Then, she slurred, “Those who were truly important to me and treated me well have passed away, and those remaining are unimportant, so it’s meaningless to dwell on that.”

Alexander was startled for a moment. Thinking that he had reminded her of her sorrowful past, he was a little apologetic. “I’m sorry.”

“Why should you apologize?” Courtney curled her lips into a self-deprecating smile. “You know what? My dad kept telling me that my mom died of an illness, which was also what everyone in the Hunter Family and even my grandfather said. However, why would Anna be born before her mother married into the Hunter Family if my dad didn’t cheat on my mom back then? She’s even two months older than I am.”

All adults thought that kids were gullible, but kids weren't idiots despite their childishness.

"Do you hate your father?"

Courtney nodded before shaking her head. "I don't know. I'd certainly hate him if he treats me slightly worse, but he has never concealed his preference for me ever since I was little. I figured out later that there is nothing wrong with the way he treats me. In the end, I just can't reconcile myself to what happened to my mom and grandfather."

Courtney's father founded the Hunter Family by starting his business from scratch, but he couldn't have done so back then without the first start-up capital given to him by Courtney's mother, who brought a handsome dowry with her when she married him. Otherwise, how could the Hunter Family become what it was today?

"Simply speaking, you don't hate your father." Alexander found it hard to describe the feelings within him as he stared at Courtney.

"Not really. It's a matter between my parents, so we're not qualified to intervene as children." Courtney raised her brows, trying her best to assume an unconcerned expression.

"Moreover, I'm no longer living with them right now. Otherwise, could you do anything if you were me?"

"If I were you," said Alexander as his voice deepened; for some reason, it sounded chilling. "I would make him and his mistress get out of the house together without a single penny."

Stunned, Courtney stared at Alexander in surprise.

"I'm full."

The fork produced a slight noise as it was put down on the table. The noise wasn't loud, but for some reason, Courtney could sense the anger in it.

Courtney was completely baffled as Alexander's figure quickly disappeared at the door to his room on the second floor.

How did I make him angry again?

In the dimly lit main bedroom on the second floor, Alexander opened a book placed on the bedside table to reveal a photo that was torn in half. Half of the photo had been crumpled

beyond recognition, whereas the other half showed a little boy who was riding on the shoulders of a handsome man in high spirits.

Alexander held the photo, pressing his thumb so hard on its edge that it almost crinkled up. The light cast on his face revealed a hint of touchiness.

So many years had passed since then, yet he never admitted what he had done wrong back then.

It was that woman who betrayed his father; she had an affair with another man behind his father's back, thus killing his father indirectly. Therefore, he didn't consider it wrong to banish her from the family himself even though she was his mother.

Yet, Courtney said that it was a matter between his parents, and he had no right to intervene as a child.

When Alexander woke up the next day, Courtney had prepared their breakfast and was having breakfast with the two kids at the dining table.

"Are you awake? Let's eat." Courtney looked at him. She said with a smile. "I made some millet gruel with red dates. It's good for your health."

Alexander pulled out his chair and sat down without answering her. His attitude was obviously colder than before.

Courtney, who also noticed that, felt a little awkward. Nonetheless, she couldn't figure out how she had made him angry. She was only too anxious to stop staying here, but she wouldn't allow that if her job would be affected.

The maid filled a bowl with the gruel and put it in front of Alexander, who lowered his head and tasted it without saying a word. He even finished off the bowl of gruel; only then did Courtney breathe a sigh of relief.

As expected, one must take their cue from somebody else while living under their roof. I'd better finish my job as soon as possible.

Tina had been living in Royal Park Manor ever since that day. Courtney and Alexander would send the two kids to school together in the morning, whereas Alexander would pick them up personally in the evening.

Strangely, Courtney was always in time for dinner no matter when she came home from work; it was as though the cook at Royal Park Manor could predict the time she arrived back at home after work in the evening.

The decoration of the event hall for the 100th-anniversary celebration took half a month to complete. When it ended formally on Friday, Courtney had the Finance Department settle accounts with the contract workers.

Just as she was contemplating whether to get off work early and pick Tina up, her cell phone rang suddenly.

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Chapter 65 She Favors Him Over You

"It's me, Courtney." The loud and clear voice of a young man spoke from the other end of the line.

"I know it's you," Courtney spoke gently with a note of familiarity. "It's not like the caller ID isn't displayed. What's the matter? You told me last time that you'd return to the country after the performances are over. Have you confirmed when you're coming back?"

"It's been confirmed."

"Well, when is it? I just wrapped up a project, so I can go to the airport to pick you up if I'm available."

"It's not necessary."

"You're right." Courtney smiled. "Our famous cellist here is also a popular Prince Charming whom every lady in the country dreams of marrying; naturally, he has a special car to take him wherever he goes."

"This Prince Charming is about to sleep out on the streets right now. Don't you care about me, Courtney?"

"What do you mean by sleeping out on the streets?"

"Just turn around."

Upon hearing this, Courtney subconsciously turned around to look at Sunhill Hotel's entrance. Standing at the entrance against the background of a large fountain, the young man was dragging his suitcase with a huge cello case on his back. He was staring at her with a grin, revealing his white teeth.

His grin was innocent without a trace of impurity. Then, he spread his arms wide and shouted, "Surprise, Courtney!"

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Courtney was startled for a moment before smiling almost instantly. Trotting up to him in her 10-centimeter heels, she slapped his shoulder and complained with a smile, "You brat! When did you come back? Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"I have been traveling by plane for more than 40 hours, and I'm almost dying of exhaustion right now."

"Let's have dinner later." Courtney checked the time. "It just so happens that I've finished my work today. Wait for me while I pack my stuff up and clock out."

"Wait a minute." Instead of allowing her to leave, the young man suddenly grabbed her hand and pulled her into his arms.

"What are you doing? I'm sweating all over." Courtney struggled.

Acting like a spoiled child, the young man leaned his head on Courtney's shoulder and swayed his body. He whispered to her ear in an attractive voice, "I'm recharging my batteries, sis. I'm running out of batteries, so I need to recharge with a hug."

Courtney patted him on the back in resignation. "How old are you already? Why are you still behaving like a kid?"

She always found herself at a loss whenever Shay called her 'sis'.

Shay looked pitiful on their way to pick Tina up. "I have just returned to the country, so I don't have a place to stay, sis."

"Cut that nonsense. Didn't your philharmonic orchestra arrange a place for you to stay?"

"I'm no longer working in the philharmonic orchestra." Shay blinked his eyes. "The work at the philharmonic orchestra is too easy, and it doesn't pay much either. Hence, I signed up with a new agency."

"Has your contract with the philharmonic orchestra expired?" Courtney frowned. "That's not right. Didn't you tell me that you were coming back to the country to prepare for your concert last time?"

"That's right. The contract hasn't expired, so I have to pay the damages for the concert's cancellation. After paying the compensation for the breach of contract, I don't even have enough money to stay in a hotel until my new agency arranges a job for me. Please take me in, sis."

Shay's words didn't sound like a lie. He had always known his own mind; he'd rather continue staying in the philharmonic orchestra than pay such a huge amount of money for the breach of contract unless something had happened there.

Concerned, Courtney asked, "Did something happen?"

"Nothing." Shay waved his hand nonchalantly. "What can possibly happen to me?"

"Don't keep it a secret from me if something happened to you."

"I'm really all right. I'm a man who wrestled in underground boxing rings at the risk of my life since I was 10 years old—what can possibly happen to me?" Shay pulled Courtney's arm over and leaned on it naturally. Then, he changed the subject by saying, "Let me sleep for a while first. Wake me up when we arrive."

Seeing that he was really asleep and exhausted in a way that made people feel sorry for him, Courtney let out a sigh in resignation and pulled up his collar with her other hand.

Shay was two years younger than her, so he always called her 'sis' and put on a mischievous grin. He liked behaving like a spoiled child more than actual kids did, but Courtney was aware deep down inside that some bloody memories of the past would haunt him for the

rest of his life. To him, he could never put these memories out of his mind, and his smile was only a barrier that concealed his innermost self.

After Courtney and Shay waited at the kindergarten's entrance for a while, school finally ended. A figure darted out like a launched rocket; the next instant, Courtney sensed her feet being hugged tightly.

"Mommy!" Tina wrapped her arms around Courtney's feet with a look of delight. "Have you finished work, Mommy? Why do you have time to pick me up?"

Courtney nodded. "That's right. My job is done, so you and I will be staying at our home from today onward."

"Huh?" The sudden and distressing news hit Tina hard, and her face fell at once. She pouted her lips and asked, "Can't we keep staying at Mr. Alexander's home?"

"Of course not."

Alexander, who had just picked Jordan up, heard this while Jordan dragged him toward Courtney, and his expression froze for a moment. He asked, "Don't you have to get busy with the celebrations later as well?"

Courtney nodded. "I do, but I won't be so busy. I should be able to clock in and out on time, so I won't be troubling you after this. Thank you for looking after Tina over the past two weeks. I'll return to Royal Park Manor this Saturday to collect the stuff we've left there."

She had brought some belongings with her while staying there previously, so she should take them back.

Upon hearing that Courtney was leaving, Jordan was immediately displeased; he kept tugging at the hem of Alexander's suit jacket and glared at the latter.

Tina looked reluctant as well. She grabbed her own hand and muttered, "I want to play with Jordan."

Courtney frowned at her and was about to pretend to get angry when Shay's voice spoke from behind. "Long time no see, Tina."

The young man's clear voice was particularly pleasing to hear, and it made its way through the noise of the crowd—precisely into the ears of everyone.

Tina's expression lightened almost instantly. She threw herself into Shay's arms and screamed, "Shay!"

"Do you miss me, little girl?"

"Yes, I do! I miss you to death!"

"That won't do. I have brought you many little gifts. Don't you want to see them?"

"Yes, I do!"

Shay laughed while scooping her up in his arms, making her giggle.

Dressed casually in a white T-shirt and black trousers, the young man—who was in his early twenties—looked incredibly pure and innocent as the wind lifted the hair in front of his forehead, making many young ladies pause as they walked by. Some of them even took out their cell phones and started taking pictures of him.

Seeing that Tina and Shay were playing like that, Courtney immediately urged, "Hey, Shay—it's dangerous for you to lift her up that high! That's enough! Tina, how many times have I told you that you should call him Uncle Shay instead of Shay?"

"It's Shay, my favorite Shay!" Tina held Shay's face and planted a smacker on it with a smug expression. "Shay, you mustn't leave after coming back this time!"

"I'm not leaving. Your Mommy has promised to let me stay together with you two!" Shay winked an eye at Tina. "Tomorrow is a Saturday, so feel free to tell me whatever you want to play with me, Tina!"

At the sight of the scene, Jordan desperately tugged at the hem of Alexander's suit jacket with great anxiety.

However, Alexander merely lowered his head and glanced at Jordan before speaking in a cold voice, "Obviously, she favors this uncle over you, so it's useless to tug at me. Let's go—it's time to go home."

Jordan flushed angrily at once.

One Night Surprise Chapter 66

Chapter 66 How Could She Date Someone Younger Than Her?

"You'll stay in this room." Courtney opened the door to a bedroom. "I have talked to Cameron, and she said that she's fine with you staying here."

"Cameron is a chivalrous lady, so she won't be indifferent to my predicament, of course." Shay leaned against the door to his room with his head tilted to one side. After looking at the inside of the room, he nodded his head with satisfaction.

"Don't take my kindness for granted. Move out once you find a place to stay. This isn't my house, so it's inappropriate for you to stay here."

"I got it!" Shay threw his arm around her shoulders. "What are we going to eat for dinner, sis?"

"Spaghetti bolognese."

"I love your spaghetti bolognese the most."

Sitting on the carpet, Tina ate the chocolate Shay brought her from overseas with a look of satisfaction while listening to the conversation outside through the opened bedroom door. As she recalled Alexander's response at the kindergarten's entrance on this day, her big eyes flickered again.

There hasn't been much progress in Mommy's relationship with Mr. Alexander since they've been living together for such a long time. It seems that some reinforcements are needed!

The next day, Courtney went out early in the morning to shop for groceries.

After all, she felt obligated to give Shay a welcome dinner since he was here.

She had only been gone for a while before the doorbell rang. Shay, who went to answer the door, opened the door while asking, "Did you forget something?"

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However, when he opened the door, he didn't see Courtney.

"Who are you?"

Alexander stood at the door while holding Jordan's hand. He came because Jordan had been pestering his father to take him to Courtney's place for lunch since this morning, but he didn't expect Shay to be here as well. Hence, his expression changed instantly.

Just as both sides were locked in a stalemate, Shay suddenly clapped his hands as if recalling something. "You're the father of Tina's classmate, right? We met yesterday at the kindergarten entrance. Are you staying in this apartment building too?"

"Mr. Alexander!" Tina spoke from inside her room. "Jordan! You both are here!"

She scampered out of her room right after that and said, "Shay, Mr. Alexander is Mommy's superior and close friend, whereas Jordan is my classmate. They're often here for dinner."

"Oh, I see." Shay gave a warm smile while making way for them. "In that case, please come in. Don't stand at the door."

He conducted himself as if he was the man of the house.

Meanwhile, Jordan knitted his brows while glaring at him with a hostile expression.

Paying no attention to the little boy at his feet, Shay looked at Alexander with a smile. "Courtney doesn't have many friends since she has just returned to the country. I heard from her that she has gotten a job at Sunhill Enterprise. You must be taking good care of her."

"She's a capable woman," Alexander answered perfunctorily. Then, he asked, "What's your relationship with her? I heard from her yesterday that Tina calls you Uncle Shay?"

He had never heard about the Hunter Family having a son before.

"That's right." Shay raised his brow slightly. "Courtney took me home back then; I can be considered her half-brother, but we're not related by blood. To put it accurately, I'm her future boyfriend, which is something akin to a child groom. Do you understand that?"

A child groom...

Alexander had never seen a man who gave himself this title in such a self-satisfied tone throughout the 30 years of his life.

"You're quite humorous," he commented briefly.

"Humorous?" Shay looked at him. "Do you think that I'm joking? I'm telling the truth. Courtney will be my girlfriend in the future anyway; just ask Tina if you don't believe it."

Three pairs of eyes then fell on Tina simultaneously.

Tina blinked her eyes and nodded solemnly after being startled for a moment. "That's right. Mommy and Shay are very close! It'll be very cool if Shay becomes my Daddy."

Upon hearing this, Alexander inexplicably felt a tightness in his chest as if there was a lump in his chest. He said gruffly, "I didn't notice before that your Mom is quite open-minded when it comes to relationships. How could she date someone younger than her while having a daughter?"

"The society is progressing. Besides, I'm only two years younger than Courtney." Shay smiled, and a trace of caution flashed across his eyes as he looked at Alexander. "Have a seat while I pour you some tea."

With that, he entered the kitchen deftly.

This man named Alexander seems to be a formidable rival, he thought to himself.

Meanwhile, Tina took Jordan to her bedroom. "Look, Jordan—I can't solve this Rubik's Cube. Please take a look and help me solve it."

Folding his arms across his chest, Jordan stood aside and snorted angrily without talking to her.

"Jordan?" Tina looked up at him while scratching her head. "What's wrong with you?"

The sight of her innocent expression angered Jordan even more. He picked up his drawing board and wrote, 'My Daddy is rich and handsome, so how could you give your heart to another man at the sight of him? I don't want to talk to you anymore.'

Tina stared at the drawing board for a long time, but she couldn't make out what Jordan meant. "What are you saying? I don't know many words, Jordan."

Taking a deep breath, Jordan spent a while writing and drawing before handing the drawing board to her again.

The left side of the drawing board showed a man in a suit and a woman with long, wavy hair who held hands with each other while taking a child's hand each. The right side of the drawing board showed a man in sportswear and a woman with long, wavy hair who held hands with a girl together.

Jordan was fuming with anger as he pointed at the drawing board and then at Tina.

Tina realized what he meant. "Are you saying that I didn't keep my promise?"

Jordan nodded.

We agreed to find a way to become a family and eat meat together by uniting our parents! Why would you break your promise after meeting a good-looking guy? Women's hearts are really as fickle as the changing weather!

"Haha!" Tina suddenly laughed. "You've been duped too! It proves that my acting was superb, Jordan."

Jordan frowned with a puzzled look.

"Aren't you worried that there hasn't been much progress in the relationship between my mommy and your daddy after such a long time?" Tina sat straight on the carpet. She explained, "I was just pretending! Grandpa Scott told me that there will be pressure only when there's a competition, so I think that Shay's return would definitely put Mr. Alexander under pressure. Only then will Mr. Alexander consider taking his relationship with my Mommy a step further!"

Jordan kept a straight face as he was unconvinced.

“Didn’t you notice that Mr. Alexander looked angry when he saw Shay just now?” Tina tugged at his sleeve with a smug expression. “I think that Mr. Alexander must have fallen in love with my Mommy a long time ago. We just have to redouble our efforts!”

Upon hearing this, Jordan recalled Alexander’s response just now; only then did his expression soften a little.

Tina’s words seem to make some sense. Daddy rarely smiles, so how could he possibly chase a lady on his own initiative? He probably won’t even know what to do if there’s no pressure on him!

At the thought of this, Jordan became enlightened at once; he nodded vigorously at Tina.

Meanwhile, Courtney, who had returned from her grocery shopping, opened the door to see two men sitting on the sofa. The house was strangely quiet except for Tina’s occasional laughter in the bedroom.

What’s going on?

Seeing that she had returned, Shay immediately got up. “You’re back,” he said while walking to the door to take the grocery bags she was carrying. “Let me take the bags.”

Alexander stood up from the sofa as well.

Courtney put down her handbag and asked, “Why are you here?”

Alexander answered unhurriedly with a calm expression, “Jordan wanted to visit you, so I brought him here.”

“Jordan is here too?” Courtney threw a glance at the direction of Tina’s bedroom. She suggested in a natural tone, “It happens that I have bought some extra groceries. Let’s stay and have lunch together.”

Shay’s expression changed subtly.

One Night Surprise Chapter 67

Chapter 67 Taking Advantage of Her

“By the way, I believe you two have met before.” Courtney looked at Alexander before glancing at Shay. “Would you like me to introduce you two?”

“No need for that.” Alexander glanced at Shay with a complicated look. Then, he added in an odd tone, “Your future boyfriend has introduced himself.”

Courtney was stumped when she heard that. Hence, she turned around to glare at Shay. “What nonsense did you spout this time?”

Shay scowled deeply, looking clearly upset. Nevertheless, he didn’t dare comment further; he mumbled in a quiet voice instead, “What do you mean, spouting nonsense?”

“He is my younger brother,” Courtney explained to Alexander. “He is a cellist, but he’s jobless now.”

“Oh, that means he is currently relying on you to survive.” Alexander glanced at Shay in a scornful way.

“Says who I’m relying on Courtney to survive? I’m merely staying with her temporarily. Besides, I’ll be signed on to a new company soon enough,” Shay retorted as he glared at Alexander furiously.

“I hope so too.” Courtney looked at him while appearing slightly helpless.

“I need to make some preparations in the kitchen. You two should feel free to chat.”

Shay was just about to launch into a long speech that he wasn’t completely without income when Alexander picked the ingredients up from the floor. Then, he moved forward swiftly to enter the kitchen.

“What are you doing?” Courtney chased after him hastily.

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“I’ll help you.”

The two of them entered the kitchen one after another, whereas Shay stood rooted to the spot in a daze for a while before he snapped back to his senses and followed them in a hurry too. “I’ll help too.”

“There’s limited space in the kitchen, so you shouldn’t come in to create more trouble. Please go to Tina.”

Courtney did not wait for an explanation; instead, she shut him outside of the kitchen glass door.

Shay was slightly annoyed at that. “You need to stop treating me like a child.”

He started knocking against the door while making a fuss for the longest time. In the end, Courtney opened the door to shove a bag of bean sprouts at him. “Sure; since you’re an adult, you can help me pick the bean sprouts.” With that, she closed the door straight away.

“Huh?” Shay held onto the bag of bean sprouts while feeling confused and frustrated. I obviously meant that she should treat me as an adult when it comes to matters involving feelings and relationships. She always treats me as her younger brother. Isn’t she deliberately embarrassing me in front of others? It’s especially true with this fellow here.

Alexander was washing tomatoes by the basin, and he just couldn’t help but feel especially pleased when Courtney closed the door in Shay’s face. The frustration and annoyance he felt earlier after meeting Shay vanished instantly. Undeniably, he was surprised at his own drastic change of emotions.

“I think it’s best that I wash these. You are a guest after all, so you should just rest out there.” Courtney felt bad that Alexander was helping in the kitchen in person.

However, he placed two washed tomatoes on the chopping board while replying to her steadily, “That’s fine; I have nothing else to do anyway.”

“O-Okay, I guess.” Courtney gave up trying to convince him.

After all the vegetables had been chopped up, Alexander still refused to leave the kitchen, which Courtney found odd. "Why aren't you going out? It will be very smoky and oily once I start cooking."

"Didn't you mention that you'd teach me to cook?"

"Huh? Right now?" Courtney got a shock. Previously, he barely paid attention when I took the initiative to teach him to cook at Royal Park. Why is he volunteering to learn to cook right now?

"Mm-hmm." Courtney was stumped for a moment upon his confirmation. "Alright. Observe how I cook then." She was just about to prepare braised chicken wings.

Courtney picked up the marinated chicken wings in the glass container while signaling Alexander to pay attention. "I don't think you saw the chicken wing marinating process earlier. Allow me to walk you through the steps now. First, score three times on each side of the chicken wings. Then, add some thin and thick soy sauces, cooking wine, ginger slices, and a pinch of starch. Stir the mixture well with the chicken. After that, seal it with a Saran wrap before placing it into the fridge. It looks like this after marinating it for an hour."

"Mm-hmm."

"Then, add some oil to the pot, and once it's hot enough, add in the chopped onion, ginger, and garlic. Stir fry it until it's fragrant..."

With that, Courtney added the chopped onion, ginger, and garlic from the plate into the pot. The hot oil started sizzling away, and she retreated a couple steps back reflexively, whereupon her back bumped against Alexander's chest by accident.

"Sorry." She turned around hastily, but the slippery floor caused her to lose her footing and she staggered.

Alexander was quick to respond; he held her by her waist swiftly to stop her from falling as concern was etched across his usually cold and distant face.

"Are you alright?"

"I-I'm fine." Courtney gulped hard. Fine, my a**! I can feel my heart in my throat. Besides, I feel the pressure of his arm against my waist, and our faces are merely inches apart when I look up at him; I can even smell the light scent of his cologne.

Swoosh. The door opened swiftly before Shay exclaimed in surprise, "What are you two doing?"

Upon snapping back to reality, Courtney shoved against Alexander hastily. However, her legs slipped further against the floor, and she was about to fall onto the ground when Alexander bent down to hold her even tighter.

Shay's gaze was burning with fury by that point. He immediately shouted fiercely at Alexander, "Hey, what are you doing? Why are you laying your hands on her? Let go of her!"

Alexander supported Courtney while straightening up. He then took his time to release her before turning around to glance at Shay. "I was demonstrating to you why we were in that position earlier."

"Y-You are clearly taking advantage of her."

"Shay, shut up." Courtney glared at him, but she was obviously blushing. "I almost slipped and fell, all because of your shouting."

Shay was reprimanded, but he didn't look satisfied. Hence, he glared at Alexander while stating stubbornly, "I want to learn how to cook in the kitchen too."

"Forget it; how would you find time to cook? You would be swamped with work once you sign your contract."

"Well, do you think he has the time? Isn't he a company president? Since when does a president need to cook for themselves?" Shay had a hostile expression across his face when he said that.

A man could always see through another man's true thoughts. As a president of an enterprise, Alexander puts aside his work to hang around his staff's home to enjoy free meals. I'd eat my hat if he had not an ulterior motive.

"It was Courtney's idea to teach me how to cook." Alexander glanced at Shay casually while he appeared especially sure of himself.

On the other hand, Courtney was caught by surprise when she heard that. I don't recall us being close enough to be on first-name basis.

Nevertheless, Shay did not care about the reason; instead, he was adamant about staying to learn how to cook. It was getting dark outside, and Courtney was too lazy to argue with him, so she agreed to his request in the end.

Courtney was flanked by two men on either side, and they both looked like her protectors. In fact, they seemed especially powerful and domineering.

"After that, add in the chicken wings. There will be some oil splatter, so you two should retreat slightly right now." After giving the reminder, Courtney placed the drained chicken wings into the pot.

There was a sudden sizzling noise the moment the chicken wings were placed into the pot and came into contact with the hot oil. The oil splattered in all directions instantly.

"Careful!" Shay shouted in surprise, and he held onto Courtney while twirling around a few times.

On the other side, Alexander was a little slow, but his actions obviously revealed that he was about to whisk Courtney away in his arms. Unfortunately, before he could even grasp onto her sleeve, Shay cut him off by being a step ahead of him.

"Oh, my. What are you doing?" Courtney lost her temper, and she shoved Shay away. "Do you think that we are acting in a drama? This is just a pot of hot oil, not a landmine. Why do I have to be careful? Please go out right now."

One Night Surprise Chapter 68

Chapter 68 I'm Not Going Home Tonight

Having lost her temper, Courtney chased both men out of the kitchen straight away.

These two are acting as if they'd skipped their meds today. If they continue wreaking havoc in the kitchen, I'm afraid lunch would never be served today.

In the end, both Alexander and Shay were shut out of the kitchen door. They exchanged glances, and it was clear that they held a tinge of contempt toward each other.

At that moment, Tina and Jordan were both pressed up behind the slit of the bedroom door as they were covering their mouths while snickering discreetly.

"Look, what did I tell you? With pressure, there'd be motivation." Tina was especially gleeful.

Jordan nodded in agreement, looking delighted too. This is my first time seeing Daddy taking the initiative.

Lunch was particularly sumptuous that day. There were boiled fish fillets, braised chicken wings, fried shredded pork with asparagus, as well as tomato and egg soup. Three different dishes were served with a bowl of soup at the table, and the fragrance was simply tantalizing.

Everybody sang praises before they polished off every grain of rice and dishes on the table.

After finishing their meal, the two children went back to the room to continue playing, whereas Shay helped out by cleaning up the dishes. He seemed afraid he'd be robbed of the chance, and so he took the initiative to wash the dishes. "Courtney, I promise that I'll get them sparkling clean."

She was more than happy to take the chance to relax, and so she did not reject his offer. "Well, in that case, go ahead and wash the dishes, but please do not break anything."

"Don't worry." With that, Shay brought the pile of dishes into the kitchen tentatively. Nevertheless, he suddenly felt that something was amiss halfway through washing the dishes.

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I'm working hard washing the dishes here, but haven't I just created a chance for Alexander to spend time alone with Courtney? He turned around in a hurry to peek into the living room. Those two aren't in the living room—where are they?

Two adults and two children sat in a circle in Tina's bedroom. There was a board game of Ludo in the middle, and each of them was in charge of a different color. They were engrossed in a friendly fight right now.

"I'm at the finishing point! You have all lost to me! You've lost! Everybody will get a sticker each." Tina, who had a face full of Minion stickers, stuck a sticker each on Alexander, Courtney, and Jordan's face excitedly.

The faces of these four were clearly a mess by now.

Shay was still wearing the rubber gloves from washing the dishes. He grumbled while standing by the door, "You didn't even invite me to play the game; instead, you let me wash the dishes all alone. You guys are so inconsiderate!"

The group turned around swiftly toward the door.

Courtney felt slightly embarrassed too. After all, Shay had just returned to the country yesterday, and she knew that it was inappropriate to neglect a guest, no matter how close they were. Hence, she suggested, "Why don't you join the game, and I'll wash the dishes?"

"Who would ever want to play with him?" Shay frowned deeply. He figured Courtney would never ask Alexander to wash the dishes, and so he endured the stabbing in his heart while saying to her, "Wait for me to finish washing the dishes. I'll be back soon enough."

Upon saying that, he turned around to enter the kitchen again and started scrubbing the dishes vehemently.

Courtney was unsure whether to be amused or exasperated when she saw that.

After ten minutes, Shay joined in the battle of the board game. It started with a game of Ludo before it morphed into Gobang. Then, they switched to international chess before starting on a game of Go. In the end, Shay and Alexander were the only ones left to battle to the end across the board game.

While Alexander was a meticulous person, Shay wasn't half bad either. Shay was skilled at international chess, whereas Alexander was always ahead of him in the game of Go. Their scores were tied after playing the whole afternoon; in the end, there was no clear winner out of the two.

The sky was getting darker, and Courtney summoned them for dinner outside.

Shay wasn't even sure when Courtney had left the room. It was only then when he realized with a start that he'd spent the entire afternoon with Alexander. He couldn't help but feel annoyed with himself.

After dinner, Shay spoke to Alexander directly. "It's getting late now. When are you taking your son home?"

Alexander took his time to sip his tea. "I don't think I'm going home tonight."

"What?" Shay stood up abruptly. "What do you mean you're not going home? This is not your house."

Courtney was stumped when she heard that because she wasn't sure what Alexander was implying. He can't be planning to stay overnight here, can he? That'd be too strange.

"Jordan doesn't want to go home." Alexander glanced at Courtney while speaking naturally. "He told me even before coming over. Previously, Tina stayed at my house for so long, and so he'd like to stay over at Tina's home too."

"No way! I disagree." Shay rejected him decisively. He knew that there was a period when Courtney brought Tina to stay in Alexander's house; otherwise, he would not have allowed Alexander to enter the house. It was clear that Shay treated him as his number one rival in love.

"This isn't even your home; you are just staying here temporarily, so your opinion doesn't matter." After glancing at Shay, Alexander turned to look at Courtney again.

On the other side of the room, Courtney looked especially embarrassed while she intertwined her fingers tightly together. Even if I were to agree for him to stay overnight, it is truly too strange to have two men staying for the night. However, Alexander has a point—I can't deny him because I'd lived for two weeks in his home with Tina previously. It would seem as if I'm ungrateful after receiving his help!

While she was struggling for the longest time, Tina suddenly came out of her room. She jogged toward Courtney while uttering, "Mommy, Jordan is asleep. Are Jordan and Mr. Alexander staying over at our house tonight?"

Courtney had no choice but to nod. "Well, I guess so."

"Hey, no way!" Shay tried to stop her. "You just need to carry the child away since he's asleep. After all, he is such a tiny boy. Why would you let them stay overnight here?"

"Jordan is generally weak, and so he'd catch a cold if he were to be exposed to the wind during his sleep," explained Alexander from the side calmly.

Courtney had always had a soft spot for Jordan. Therefore, she couldn't possibly allow him to head out and expose himself to the chilly night wind since he was asleep. "Yes, we can't let him leave right now because the child has always struggled with having a sense of security to begin with." Courtney nodded in agreement.

"Well, what about him? Why can't he leave if the child has to stay?" Shay was grasping at straws at this point while he hissed through clenched teeth.

"My son has never left my side his whole life, so he'll not be used to it." Alexander sounded nonchalant when he spoke, but Shay was rendered speechless by his response.

I'm losing my mind! I know that this man has an ulterior motive, but everything he says makes perfect sense! What am I dealing with here?

After confirming that they were staying overnight, Courtney tidied her room to offer it to him.

"I haven't informed Cameron, so I can't let you sleep in her room. I think it's best that you sleep in mine while I sleep in hers."

Alexander did not oppose that, of course, but Shay was furious at that point. "No way! I do not agree! Why is he allowed to sleep in your room? Courtney, you need to understand that men and women are different. You need to learn to protect your privacy! I will never agree to this."

"Well, what would you suggest?" Courtney stared at him. "We have only so many rooms in the house."

"I'll take one for the team and let him sleep with me!" Shay glared at Alexander. He seemed especially reluctant, as if he was making a huge sacrifice.

"I don't think so," replied Alexander as he glanced at him. "I do not like to sleep with men."

"How dare you..."

"Enough." Courtney cut Shay off. "Stop causing a ruckus. He will be staying overnight tonight, so it doesn't matter where he sleeps. Besides, there's nothing private in my room. You two should come out first because I need to change a fresh set of bed sheets."

With that, she pushed Shay and Alexander out of the room before she closed the room door and started tidying up.

Shay held his arms together while staring daggers at Alexander. "You are the president of an enterprise. Why must you insist on roughing it up in this house with us? You can't be wanting to experience real life after getting bored of your comfortable life, can you?" Shay snapped at him.

"Would you believe me if I said yes?"

Alexander's comment was filled with double meaning. He moved forward to the bookcase while obviously not taking Shay seriously.

One Night Surprise Chapter 69

Chapter 69 Don't You Trust Me at All?

Well, I don't believe him, of course!

Shay glared vehemently at Alexander's back, his youthful face etched with animosity.

He is the president of the Sunhill Enterprise, for God's sake. I'm sure he gets everything he wants, so why would he come all the way to experience life in a small apartment? I won't believe him even if he claims that he doesn't have an ulterior motive.

Courtney made the bed swiftly, and when she walked out of the room, she handed Alexander a new towel and some toiletries.

At night, Tina and Alexander were brushing their teeth in the bathroom. She stood on a small stool, and her mouth was foaming with bubbles. In fact, she looked especially delighted.

"What are you smiling about?" Alexander asked her.

Tina gargled and spat out the water. Then, she stood on the stool while beckoning to Alexander with her finger.

He got the hint and bent down.

She patted his shoulder reassuringly while lamenting like an adult. "Look, I told you from the very beginning—my mommy is outstanding. People are queueing up in a long line to pursue her."

Alexander was slightly upset when he thought of Shay, and so he asked, "Well, what do you feel I should do?"

“Work hard, of course! You need to take more initiative, Mr. Alexander.” Tina straightened her back, looking especially glad. “You’d be able to catch up if you work hard now. Besides, you’ll have such an obedient and adorable daughter, such as myself, without having to put in any effort. If you do not work harder and end up marrying Miss Price, I’m sure Jordan wouldn’t be happy about it. Furthermore, even if you two were to give birth to another daughter, I’m sure that she wouldn’t be as cute as I am.”

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Alexander chuckled involuntarily when he heard such an illogical statement. He picked up a towel to wipe Tina’s mouth with it, and then he caressed her soft hair while reassuring her. “Alright, I understand. Go and sleep now.”

“Okay, Mr. Alexander. Bear in mind that you have to work hard. I will support you.” Tina kissed him on the cheek. After that, she jumped off the stool and skipped to her bedroom.

Courtney entered the house after putting out the laundry. She picked up her mouth-rinsing mug on the way while asking him casually, “Why is she so pumped up? What did she say to you?”

Alexander regarded their reflection from the mirror as they stood beside each other. He observed that both their toothbrushes and mugs were red and blue respectively. The woman, who was standing beside him, was asking about her child in a relaxed way, making him feel the wonder of being with loved ones somehow.

Alexander’s heart skipped a beat, and he was in a daze.

Since she did not receive an answer, Courtney looked at him through the mirror to find that he was staring at her too. Caught by surprise, she asked in a thick and muffled voice while brushing her teeth, “What’s up with you?”

Alexander snapped back to reality. “Nothing. The toothbrush bristles are just too hard.”

“Oh?” Courtney glanced at the toothbrush in his hand in a hurry. “There’s a convenience store downstairs. Why don’t I buy a new one for you? I don’t pay much attention to this sort of thing, so I usually just buy the cheaper option.”

“That’s not necessary; I can use this.” Alexander barely had an expression. After brushing his teeth, he walked straight back into the bedroom.

Jordan was tossing and turning in bed, and it seemed as if he was in high spirits.

“Jordan, it’s time for bed.” Alexander pushed his wriggling shoulders down while tugging against the blanket.

Jordan nuzzled against Alexander’s arms. Finally, he found a comfortable position and settled down in an obedient manner.

Alexander couldn’t help but frown when he thought of the special feelings he harbored for Courtney. He just couldn’t fall asleep as he stared at the ceiling. These feelings that I can’t seem to explain must have stemmed from my concern for Jordan’s preferences. After all, it’s rare to come by someone whom Jordan is willing to be close with. After being acquainted with Courtney, Jordan’s temper has improved leaps and bounds. In fact, he has become more cheerful than before. Previously, I decided to marry Britney after considering Jordan’s feelings, but judging by the current situation, it is obvious that Jordan prefers Courtney more. Maybe he isn’t simply hoping for a mommy; perhaps he has already acknowledged Courtney as his mommy deep down in his heart. All the previous questions and doubts suddenly felt clearer and brighter when he came to that conclusion.

“Jordan, do you yearn for a mommy like Courtney?”

Jordan, who had already closed his eyes initially, scrambled up from Alexander’s embrace when he heard that. He then picked up his drawing board to write a sentence across it before he whacked the drawing board roughly against Alexander’s stomach. ‘What’s the use of my yearning? It’s not like you’d be able to pursue her. I saw everything today. She isn’t bothered with you at all. In fact, she allowed us to stay overnight all thanks to me. Tina says that Mr. Shay is very close to her mommy.’

Alexander felt especially depressed because two children doubted his charms consecutively.

“Don’t you trust me at all?”

Jordan responded by scribbling across the drawing board. ‘Have you pursued a girl before?’

Alexander rubbed his nose in embarrassment. Well, it’s true that I haven’t.

Jordan stared at Alexander's expression for a while, and he seemed to have deciphered his expression. Hence, the little boy sighed heavily and pulled up his blanket to sleep. It was obvious that he had given up on speaking with Alexander.

I do not have any practical experience at all because I'm used to being pursued ever since I was a child. So how could I possibly know how to pursue a girl? If it weren't for Tina's help, I doubt I'd stand a chance at all.

Glancing at Jordan, who was clearly disappointed, made Alexander feel gloomy. Later, he just couldn't fall asleep, and so he sent out a text message before turning the lights off.

The next morning, Courtney was still fast asleep in bed when a commotion started outside. Soon, Tina came barging into the room; she was wearing a bunny onesie pajamas when she hopped onto the bed to wake Courtney up.

"Mommy, bad news! Something has gone wrong! There are many people outside of our house!"

Courtney was bleary-eyed, and she yawned while asking sleepily, "What is it?"

"They are all holding cameras, and they are blocking the entrance of our house."

"What?" Courtney woke up with a start and sat up on the bed abruptly. "What cameras are you referring to? How many people are there?"

"There are too many of them."

Courtney walked out of the room while still wearing her pajamas. Alexander seemed to have just been woken up too. He opened the room door while glancing at the main door in confusion.

"What happened?" he asked.

"I have no idea," Courtney rushed to the main door as she replied to him. "Tina mentioned that there were many people at the door. I'll have a look."

The door had a peephole, and the small stool hadn't been moved aside just yet. Tina must have left it there when she looked through the peephole to check on the situation outside just now.

Courtney moved the lid away to peek into the peephole. Nevertheless, she was utterly startled the moment she took a closer look.

“Oh, my!” She stumbled backward a couple of steps, and she almost slipped and fell. Fortunately, Alexander was quick on his feet, and he managed to steady her by supporting her shoulders. “Are you alright?”

“I’m fine.” The color had drained from her face as she was exhaling slowly. “I think somebody is looking through my door’s peephole. I saw an eye staring back at me just now, and it caught me by surprise.”

“Let me have a look.” Alexander walked toward the door, and he glanced through the peephole to observe the situation outside for quite some time.

“What is it? What did you see?”

“There are quite a number of people in the corridor, but they aren’t looking for us.”

“Oh, they aren’t looking for us?” Courtney sighed in relief. However, she thought of something and blurted out, “That doesn’t seem right. We are the only ones living on this floor.”

Alexander glanced at another room while replying to her steadily, “Isn’t there somebody else living here apart from us?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 70

Chapter 70 They'll Be Safe With You Gone

There was a huge crowd carrying a variety of camera equipment outside of the door. They were reporters from the entertainment industry. In fact, they arrived here early in the morning after receiving news that the Cello Prince, Shay Spencer, had returned to the country, and that he was living here.

Not long ago, he was in Vienna, and the entertainment news from all countries revealed that a popular young actress, Rachel Sharpe, specifically attended his solo performance. The news reported that by the end of the concert, they even left together.

Reporters from the showbiz had been clinging onto his romantic affairs with Rachel for half a month now. On the other hand, Rachel had gone missing recently, and that was the reason the reporters were eager to get their hands on the firsthand report once they caught wind of Shay's location.

"This bunch of reporters must be insane! There's nothing going on between Rachel and me. I don't even know her." Shay shut the peephole before turning around angrily. "Why can't they get someone else to write about? Why must they look into me?"

"You were the only one there apart from Rachel that night. Why is it odd that the reporters are looking for you?" Alexander gave him a sideways glance. "Rachel is currently a popular female artist. How could you not know about her when even I know about her?"

"What..." Shay panicked because he was afraid that Courtney might misunderstand the situation. "What are you implying?" He glared at Alexander menacingly.

"I'm not implying anything at all; I was just asking casually. I just feel like you don't have to be so anxious in clearing the air regarding your relationship with her. After all, nobody here cares if you have anything to do with her."

Shay's expression changed drastically when he heard that. He almost leaped to his feet in anger. "Alexander, you had better not spout nonsense here."

"Stop arguing, Shay, because this isn't the time." Courtney was obviously distressed. "The most important thing now is to resolve the current issue at hand. We can't let them block the door forever, can we?"

"I'll phone the police." Shay spoke as he took out his mobile phone.

"That's useless," replied Alexander casually. "They're not breaking the law. The worst is that they've disturbed the peace of the public, and the police might chase them down the building. However, they will try to get up here once the police are gone."

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Shay's expression darkened since Alexander dismissed his suggestion without hesitating, and he retorted angrily, "Well, what do you suggest, then? Why don't you say something since you are so capable?"

Upon hearing that. Courtney turned to look at Alexander too.

After all, Shay and I aren't the only ones trapped in the house because Alexander and his son are here. In any case, I feel that this has a larger impact on him than on us.

"That's right, President Duncan. Do you have a solution?" Courtney broke the silence. Alexander decided to stop wasting time with Shay and answered Courtney calmly, "Start by phoning the building's management. Ask them to summon security guards to escort that bunch of reporters down."

"What's the difference between that and me phoning the police? How are security guards better than police officers?" Shay glanced at him in disdain.

Nevertheless, Alexander looked indifferent as he answered in a gravelly voice, "At least the security guards are always here, and they'd get here quicker than the police."

"Huh? Aren't you just arguing for the sake of arguing?!"

"Shay, let President Duncan finish speaking." Courtney knew straight away that Alexander would not just come up with a method that wouldn't resolve the issue. Therefore, she was sure that he had something else up his sleeve.

"There's no hurry." Alexander checked his wrist. "They should be here anytime now," he stated.

After his comment, the security guards led by the building management chased away the hoard of reporters before they knocked on the door to apologize to Courtney. After that, everything outside returned to its usual silence.

"They've all left," Courtney said while letting out a sigh of relief.

Just as she said that, the doorbell rang suddenly. Ding-dong!

"They can't be back again, can they?" She wore a bitter and resentful expression as she frowned deeply. Is the competition within the entertainment industry so fierce nowadays?

Alexander strode ahead to open the door.

"President Duncan, they are all on the ground floor for now. Don't worry." It was Alexander's assistant, Josh.

"Whoa?" Shay burst out laughing, looking especially contemptuous. "I see you even have your assistant here! Well, what are you planning to do next?"

I can't stomach it especially when Courtney trusts him so much. I'd like to see what else this man is capable of apart from earning big bucks. It's not easy to get rid of the reporters from showbiz.

However, Alexander couldn't be bothered to answer him. Hence, Josh, who was standing beside, got the hint and approached Shay. "Are you Mr. Shay?"

"Mm-hmm." Shay lifted his chin up slightly, looking especially arrogant. "That's me."

"Can you please come with me to have a change of clothes?"

"What for?" Shay covered his chest while jumping backward. He looked alert when he asked again, "What do you have in mind?"

Josh answered with a deadpan voice, "I'll put on your clothes to distract the reporters downstairs. After that, there will be people waiting for you downstairs to arrange for your stay in another hotel. Everything has been arranged for you."

Shay was stunned momentarily. "You want me to leave? Well, what about Courtney and Tina?"

In fact, there's nothing wrong with this idea because I was just trying to figure out a way to leave while leading the reporters away from here. However, Alexander has somehow managed it without me doing anything. It almost makes it seem as though I'm being chased away now.

"They'll be safe once you're gone," Alexander remarked indifferently.

Shay couldn't help but glare at him furiously, but he did not have a comeback. In the end, he was forced to leave with Josh obediently to change his clothes in the room.

After ten minutes, Josh put on a casual shirt, which the reporters had seen Shay in, and he carried the cello case on his back while making his way down the stairs. They saw Josh surrounded by a large crowd of reporters through the window, while he lowered the brim of his hat as much as possible. Under the escort of the security guards, Josh managed to get into the car after maneuvering potential risks and dangers. Soon, a large group of people and cars went chasing after Josh's car onto the road.

Once everybody had left, Shay left the building while being completely undercover. Two bodyguards wearing suits and leather shoes led him into the car before they drove him out of the residential area in the opposite direction.

"They are finally gone." Courtney let out a sigh of relief as she slumped onto the couch.

"This isn't the end." Alexander looked at her. "You need to pack a light suitcase for yourself and Tina."

Courtney was confused when she heard that. "Huh? Why should I pack a suitcase?"

"Do you think that this is still a safe location after the reporters learned that Shay has lived here before? When they realize that that's not Shay, they will send people over to camp outside of the house."

"Well, in any case, Shay is gone now."

“Do you truly believe that they wouldn’t start asking questions about a woman and a child who lives with Shay?” Alexander’s analysis was flawless, and so Courtney was at a loss for words. She inhaled deeply reflexively.

If I’d known all these, I wouldn’t have given in and agreed to that fellow’s request. I could have gotten a staff discount for him to stay in Sunhill Hotel; that sounds like a much better deal than getting myself into a homeless situation.

Alexander’s bodyguards carried Courtney’s two large suitcases, and the group left the building together.

“Well, mommy, where should we live now?” Tina looked up at Courtney while blinking her eyes innocently in the elevator. She looked especially worried while she asked, “Are we going back to grandpa’s house?”

Courtney scowled when she heard that. There is no issue if I were to return to the Hunter Mansion alone, but if Tina returns with me, I’m sure that it will raise questions and gossip. I do not wish for that to happen.

Suddenly, Alexander felt somebody tugging his shirt downward. He lowered his head, only to see Jordan staring at him warningly.

Hence, Alexander had no choice but to break the silence. “You don’t have to worry about accommodation because I’ve had that arranged too.”