

One Night Surprise Chapter 71

Chapter 71 Conceal and Strike

"You've had that arranged too?" Courtney appeared stumped when she heard that. "Where will we stay? A hotel?" I'd like to head directly to the hotel if possible. After all, hotels have staff accommodation, and the facilities there are convenient too.

"Forget about hotels." Alexander burst her bubble straight away. "There are no rooms left."

"Huh? There are no rooms left? But the last time I counted, there should be still—"

"Get into the car." Alexander shoved her into the car before she could even complete her sentence, and he ordered the chauffeur to start driving.

The car drove straight to the entrance of the Royal Park Manor. We've come full circle. I can't believe I'm back here after merely staying at home for a day.

Courtney pursed her lips. "President Duncan, you can't be telling me that this is the accommodation that you've arranged for me."

"This is it."

The servants from the residence were already shifting the suitcases into the house efficiently; Courtney could do nothing to stop them.

"This isn't appropriate."

"We have a lot of empty rooms, and it doesn't make a difference with you living here. There's always transport to drive Tina around, and it isn't too far away from your workplace as well," Alexander regarded Courtney while explaining. "Plus, you are not staying for free. You are in charge of breakfast and dinner during weekdays, and you'll have to prepare three meals during the weekends. Jordan only enjoys the food you cook."

His demands were fair, and so Courtney couldn't fault him at all.

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Even the official cook in Alexander's house has her meals and accommodation included apart from her monthly wage. I'm just required to cook in exchange for accommodation, so I'm not truly taking advantage of the situation.

"Well, alright. I will move out once the situation dies down."

Alexander nodded while keeping a straight face. "Let's go in first."

The servant led Courtney to the room beside the master bedroom. Previously, it was just an ordinary extra bedroom, which Courtney had stayed in previously. However, she noticed many changes this time round as there were clearly more decorations now. There were all sorts of luxurious and expensive makeup products on the dressing table, but Courtney felt that the most surprising part was the husky plush toy at the headboard.

"This must be for Tina! Thank you so much!"

The servant looked especially respectful. "Miss Tina has her own bedroom. Young Master mentioned that usually, you might have to work overtime, and so you will get home late. Hence, it is inconvenient for you to share a room with Miss Tina. That is why this room is specifically for you, and the plush toy is for you too."

Courtney did not expect Alexander to make such an arrangement, but it warmed her heart nonetheless. She toyed with the husky plush toy while smiling faintly. "Why would you prepare this for me? I'm no longer a child."

"I was worried that you might not be used to sleeping alone." The servant didn't look too old. In fact, she looked like a young woman in her early twenties, but she was very shy. She seemed especially anxious with Courtney's questions. "I have many toys at home, and so I simply picked one for you. However, I'm not sure if you'd like it. I'll take it away if it's not suited to your taste."

"No worries at all," Courtney replied hastily. "Don't panic; I didn't say that I did not like it."

The servant finally let out a sigh of relief.

Courtney stared at the husky for the longest time before she suddenly burst into laughter. "The husky kind of looks like your young master. He looks like everybody around him owes him money—don't you agree?"

"Huh?" The young female servant looked shocked because this was her first time hearing somebody bold enough to compare Alexander to a dog. "I-I have no idea."

Courtney felt rather helpless since the young female servant had such a serious and timid response. Alexander must have been instilling fear in her all this while, and that is most probably why she is so scared. Well, I shall stop teasing her. After chatting for some time, Courtney learned that the young female servant was named Chloe, and she soon let her take her leave.

Courtney walked around her room once while she observed the newly changed purple curtains. She couldn't help but break into a satisfied smile at that. It is undeniable that the furnishings at Alexander's house are rather tasteful.

On the other side, it had been arranged for Shay to stay at a Sunhill Hotel branch in the East Side of Melrose City, which was extremely far away from the city center. Shay was livid after hearing what Alexander's assistant, Josh, had to say. He snatched his phone away to call Alexander.

"Alexander, you cunning old fox! How dare you lure me away! You deliberately got me to leave just so that Courtney would stay at your place."

Alexander held the phone farther away from his ear to prevent damaging his eardrums due to the screaming over the phone. In the end, he merely answered lightly, "You are overthinking it. Did you truly believe that you'd get to stay after what happened today?"

"Do you take me as a fool? You've already arranged for the security team and the hotel room ten minutes after the reporters showed up. Spill it—were you the one who informed the reporters that I was at Courtney's house?"

A glimmer of excitement flashed across Alexander's eyes. This fellow is rather smart. I can't believe he saw through it so quickly.

Shay was even more convinced that he had hit the bull's eyes since he was greeted with a deafening silence over the phone. Therefore, he raised his voice straight away. "D*mn you, you cunning old fox! You are such a hooligan! Here you are, claiming that you are the

president of Sunhill Enterprise, but you are unscrupulous in achieving what you want. Does your family know about this trait of yours? You are shameless to try to fool our simple and innocent Courtney!"

Alexander had never been scolded in such a horrible way before, but he wasn't angry at all. On the contrary, he corrected Shay matter-of-factly. "I don't think she's considered innocent at all."

The headquarters have long heard about Courtney's abilities to carry out tasks exceptionally with vigor and drive while maintaining a smooth character. She is not just an innocent little bunny who is at the mercy of others. She has never been particularly favored ever since she took office, but now, she has been entrusted with utmost important responsibilities. How could an innocent little bunny achieve that?

"Yes! She is not innocent at all!" Somehow, Shay changed tactics all of a sudden. He sounded panicked as he spoke. "She is especially conniving, and so it might be too late by the time you realize that she's sold your house off. You had better not let her stay with you."

Alexander smirked when he heard that. This is truly a first for me to meet a person like Shay. Courtney truly has a variety of talents around her, as well as a best friend who is able to beat Gale into a pulp. Besides, she has a possessive younger brother who is extremely capable—he could handle everything from being charming to scolding and beating people, right up to threatening me.

"I am letting her stay here because Jordan enjoys her cooking. There's nothing more to it. You are overthinking it."

"Only a fool would believe you! You are able to hire any famous chefs from Couver, Loam, Hagen, and Youver! However, here you are, claiming that you want Courtney to cook for you!"

"It's up to you whether you believe it or not, but Jordan only enjoys her cooking," Alexander started to sound somber at this point. "Besides, I have something else to tell you. I am close with the owner of Pride Media, and so I can recommend you to sign on with them. I'll get them to contact you after you've mulled it over."

"Who says I need your recommendation?" Alexander was greeted by a stream of expletives over the phone. "I am extremely popular, so why would I need a recommendation from you?"

Alexander did not have the patience, and so he hung up on the call.

Shay takes pride in his natural talent in music. Furthermore, he has had a rather smooth sailing journey until now, and so it's expected for him to be arrogant. Naturally, he will go against me no matter what advice I give him.

Soon, Josh's number was calling in again, and this time, it was Josh himself, indeed. "President Duncan, the issue has been handled. The agent from Starlight Media will be signing this fellow on."

"Mm-hmm, got it." Alexander hung up on the call as his lips curled into a smile.

company which approaches him just to prove a point to others. Hence, I'm sure that he wouldn't put much thought into it now that an agent from Starlight Media is knocking on his door, as long as it's a good deal.

In reality, I own 23% of Starlight Media. This method is to conceal my intentions by creating a distraction.

"Have you confirmed it? Did he see the picture?"

In an independent dressing room, a bespectacled man placed a portfolio on top of the coffee table before he leaned backward and sat still. "I am 100% sure. Louis is still as fit as a fiddle, and his eyesight has not been affected at all. In fact, he immediately recognized the woman in the picture as the surrogate woman from years ago. He assumed that I was Alexander's subordinate, and so he admitted to everything."

Britney's expression turned ashen while she tightened her fists. Her knuckles turned white as she squeezed her fists tightly. "I can't believe it really is her," she hissed through gritted teeth.

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Chapter 72 Only the Dead Can Keep a Secret

"Hang on, that doesn't add up. Courtney is the Young Lady of the Hunter Family; how could she possibly end up as somebody's surrogate?" Britney frowned deeply, looking as though she was struggling to make sense of this. "Besides, if it's true that Courtney was the surrogate mother, how many children did she give birth to? Why does she have a child with her now?"

Benjamin adjusted his spectacles while opening the folder calmly. "According to Louis, they caught the wrong person from the nightclub six years ago. They only realized their mistake after everything had been done. Later, the butler, Louis, observed Courtney in secret until she was on the way to the hospital for a surgery. Then, he sent people to stop her because he was trying to make the best out of a bad bargain. He even forced her to sign a contract.

Previously, the first child was a boy, and so Louis took him away; it was only later on that he learned from the doctor that there was a daughter too. However, Courtney had taken her away by then. On one end, Louis felt guilty, and on the other, he did not dare call attention to the situation, and so he did not go searching for Courtney again. In fact, he resigned and returned to his hometown soon after that."

"That means..." Britney was bracing herself against the dressing table, and her expression relaxed significantly. "Alexander has no idea that the surrogate woman was at fault all those years ago."

"Judging by the current situation, I believe so. Louis was the only person who knew about the entire incident, whereas the subordinate who carried out the dirty deed is nowhere to be found. Furthermore, we can't even confirm if he's alive."

"We can never let Alexander know about this." I have a feeling that I will never have the chance to marry Alexander if he were to learn that Courtney is Jordan's biological mother. I will never allow that to happen.

“Well, that’s your business.” Benjamin arranged the documents before standing up. “My work is done here. Please transfer the rest of the balance to me as soon as possible.”

“You’re the best detective of Melrose City; I can’t imagine that you actually value money so much. Do you think I’d not pay you?” Britney glanced at him with a scornful expression.

Benjamin, however, was unfazed while he answered her directly, “It is only natural that I value money. I also believe that money deserves to be valued because it is the only thing in the world that wouldn’t lie to you.”

This was the first time she had heard such a refreshing and unconventional description for being greedy for money. Britney burst out laughing in response, and she didn’t seem to agree with him. Nevertheless, she instructed her agent, who was just beside her, “Jason, transfer the money to him.”

While Jason was transferring the money, Britney stared at the pile of documents in her hands. She started ripping them apart unhappily before tossing them all into the trash can. “These are all copies. Where are the originals? Where’s the contract from all those years ago?”

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“Louis isn’t a fool. Later on, when I couldn’t prove that I was a subordinate of Alexander’s, he took them back and wouldn’t let me view them anymore. I managed to take pictures of those documents discreetly. Besides, I was only responsible for finding out the truth, and I wasn’t tasked to collect the original copies for you. You can’t deduct my fees over this matter because it was clearly written in the agreement.”

Money, money, money! This fella, Benjamin, is always talking about money. Britney could feel a throbbing headache forming after listening to all his money-talk. However, she thought of something suddenly and turned to Benjamin to say to him, “You seem to like money. I need you to do something for me—once you’ve accomplished it, I’ll give you 5 million. What do you say?”

“5 million?” Benjamin regarded her carefully. “What do you want me to do?”

“I want no one else to find out about the truth of this incident.” Britney’s gaze gleamed with an eerie and sinister look.

"It doesn't matter how much you pay me, because I will not commit murder and arson." Benjamin rejected her decisively. "I am involved in skilled and technical work. You should hire a thug for that sort of thing."

However, Britney explained, "Who says that I wanted you to kill anyone? I just want you to come up with a way to destroy all the original documents in Louis' hands. Can't you do that?"

Upon hearing that, Benjamin hesitated for a moment. It is undeniably challenging, but it's doable.

"6 million." After weighing his options, he looked up to meet Britney's gaze. "There is a risk in this matter. If things go south, I could get into trouble for trespassing."

"Sure." She agreed swiftly. "Deal."

After Benjamin left, Jason locked the dressing room door while uttering to her, "It is not appropriate for you to have asked him to do that. He doesn't look skilled physically. I don't want something bad to happen."

"Well, I want something to happen." Britney had a mysterious look when she spoke. "Jason, hire someone else to follow him. Once he destroys all the documents, dispose of Louis."

"Do you mean..."

"Only the dead can keep a secret."

Jason did not know what to reply.

The next morning, Alexander woke up to the fragrance of steamed stuffed buns. From the second floor, he saw the two children, who were already up, sitting at the dining table enjoying their meal. The tray of steamed stuffed buns gave off a delicious aroma.

"You're up! Come down for breakfast." Courtney was walking out of the kitchen while carrying a pot of porridge. "We have Jujube porridge, steamed meat buns, and steamed vegetable buns."

Alexander nodded lightly; there was a tinge of warmth in his expression when he turned away.

“Miss Hunter, let me do it. Please, have a seat.” Chloe saw Courtney about to serve the porridge into smaller bowls, and so she rushed forward to help her. After serving a bowl of porridge each to the children and Courtney, Chloe served Alexander the fourth bowl carefully in front of him. “Young Master, please enjoy your porridge.”

Alexander glanced at the bowl before he asked casually, “Where are the chopsticks?”

Courtney and the two children were using spoons for the porridge, and they enjoyed the steamed buns with their bare hands in a very casual manner. Therefore, there were no chopsticks on the table.

However, Chloe was startled when she heard Alexander’s sudden question, and she spilled the bowl of boiling porridge all over the place.

His expression changed drastically while his chair made a screeching noise as it scratched against the floor. He scowled deeply as he stared at the spilled porridge on his pants. “What’s wrong with you?” he asked in a deep and icy tone.

Chloe was so scared that her legs turned into jelly. She kneeled onto the ground with a thud, her eyes turning red with tears. “Young Master, I didn’t do that on purpose.”

Courtney was shocked when she saw that too. Hence, she rushed over to check on him. “Are you alright? Were you scalded?”

Alexander was clearly upset because he found it embarrassing to be in such an awkward position in front of Courtney.

“You should be fine,” Courtney said before she looked down at Chloe, who was trembling uncontrollably. “Don’t you think you’re too fierce to your servants? She’s just a young girl; you startled her.”

Alexander’s gaze darkened when he heard that; he asked rhetorically, “How am I fierce?” I merely asked ‘what’s wrong with you?’—how is that fierce at all?

“Well, weren’t you? Look, Chloe has been scared witless.” Courtney helped her up, and she realized with a start that she had just blurted something out without processing it. Hence, she corrected herself hastily. “No, I wasn’t saying that you were fierce. I was just saying that, well, Chloe is only 19 years old, and I heard that she’s only been here for about a month. It might help if you’re gentler with her.”

Great! The more I try to justify it, the worse it gets. I'm still saying he is fierce.

"Forget it." Alexander was losing his patience, and so he waved his arm to dismiss Chloe. Then, he strode back upstairs.

The two children exchanged meaningful looks with each other. Tina understood the situation straight away, and she said while looking concerned, "I think Mr. Alexander has been scalded. I'll check on him."

Courtney turned around abruptly to look at her. "Why do you want to check on him? You don't even know how to handle burns. Stop messing around. Take your seat and finish your food. I'll go and check on him."

With that, Courtney wiped her hands before she went upstairs in the direction of the changing room.

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Chapter 73 Let Go of Your Hand

Before going up the stairs, Courtney asked the maids for some ointment and knocked on the door of the dressing room.

"Come in."

Alexander had already changed his attire; the previously worn pajamas were bunched up and simply thrown to the floor.

"Is your leg fine? I've brought you some ointment," Courtney stood at the door and said.

He nodded as a reply. "Thanks."

"You're welcome; It's your ointment anyway. I'll just leave it here for you to use. I'm going out now."

"Alright."

After putting down the ointment, she turned around and left the dressing room. However, upon taking a few steps, she suddenly remembered something, so she turned back and opened the door straight away.

"Remember to put the ointment—"

Before she could finish her words, her expression immediately froze the moment she saw the scene in front of her.

Alexander's hand twitched as his belt fell from his hand, causing his whole pants to fall to the floor and revealing his pair of muscular legs.

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Instantly, Courtney came back to her senses and covered her eyes while turning around. "Why are you taking off your pants?" she asked anxiously.

At the same time, Alexander looked embarrassed as his face sulked. "How else can I apply the medicine on my body? Besides, I should be the one asking you why you came in without knocking on the door."

With a flushed face, Courtney refuted, "I came in to tell you how to use the ointment. Who knew you would..."

As Alexander noticed her frightened looks, he suddenly found the situation a little funny, so he simply grabbed a towel to cover his legs and sat down. "Is that so? Then I would like you to teach me how to use it."

Even so, she was still facing him with her back. "Have you put on your pants yet?"

Alexander lowered his head and looked at the towel covering his thighs before answering her seriously, "I guess so."

"What do you mean 'I guess so'?" She then furrowed her brows and turned around carefully. The moment she saw him sitting on the couch with a white towel covering his legs, her face immediately turned red as she turned back instantly and growled, "How does that count as putting your pants on?"

"What did you see?"

"I saw nothing." She quickly denied.

"Then it's fine." He put on a natural tone. "Hurry up. I have other matters to attend to later on. Aren't you going to help me apply the ointment?"

"I... Do it yourself."

At the moment, Courtney regretted coming back to the room.

I knew I shouldn't have troubled myself. There are so many servants in the house, so why did I come up here myself? Am I not purposely looking for trouble?

"But it was the porridge you cooked that burned me."

As soon as she heard his words, she suddenly exploded with rage, so she turned around angrily and ranted, "Hey! Why are you so unreasonable? Did I make porridge just to purposely burn you?"

"I didn't say you did it on purpose." Alexander gazed at her and scanned her looks with interest as he tried to test her limit. "Since you offered to help, you should do exactly that. I really don't know how to use this ointment anyway."

As Courtney's face started to boil under his gaze, she hesitated for a while before walking over to him with the ointment.

Then, she bent over and lifted a corner of the towel on his lap, revealing a huge piece of burned skin. For some reason, her heart twitched when she saw his injury. This is quite a serious burn.

"Please pay attention. You need to rub the ointment on your palm to make it warm before applying it on the wound." She sat and demonstrated to him by rubbing a small piece of

paste in her palm. However, just as she was about to apply the ointment, she hesitated. "I think you should do it yourself."

She backed off upon saying that, but Alexander suddenly grabbed her wrist. "You do it."

"Why me? You can do it yourself."

"It's troublesome."

Instantly, Courtney was speechless.

"You can just wash your hands afterward. You really are troublesome, 'Young Master'." When the words 'Young Master' and her mocking tone reached Alexander's ears, his cold eyes trembled slightly.

Thinking about his privileged life, Courtney assumed that he probably had never applied medicine on himself before, so she braced herself and nodded after taking a glance at the ointment in her hands. "Then I'll do it. Please let go of your hand first."

After warming up her palm, she placed her hands on the skin of his thigh, sending waves of heat through his skin. Alexander lowered his eyes and saw her hair slipping down her shoulder, blocking her face.

As his emotions became uncontrollable, he reached out and brushed the hair behind her ear.

For a moment, Courtney was startled as she turned her face around in shock, and the two of them looked at each other.

Their gazes connected for a long while before she suddenly came back around and stuttered, "I-It should be fine. Y-You can handle the rest yourself. I'll leave now."

However, Alexander pulled her again, and this time, it was a little harder, so she screamed and fell on his left leg.

"Alexander, you..."

Immediately, she struggled to get up.

She didn't know whether she had touched his wound, but she could hear the cold gasp behind her.

"Did I touch your wound?" she asked anxiously while remaining still.

After that, Alexander grabbed her waist and spoke in a hoarse voice. "It's fine."

"You... should let me go." Courtney gritted her teeth while her face looked flushed. Even though they were separated by two thin layers of cloth, she could almost feel the shape of the object underneath.

What if someone sees us?

However, Alexander didn't seem to hear her as his voice grew deeper. "You were more proactive that night than now."

At the moment, Courtney's face had turned red all the way to her neck as she yelled, "Let me go. I don't know what you're saying."

That night was just an accident. I've tried multiple times to convince myself to forget that accident, but he just has to mention it again in front of me.

However, Alexander was quite upset with her attitude.

How could she be so indifferent toward what happened that night?

As soon as the thought came to mind, he felt a burning sensation surging up from his heart. Without much consideration, he lifted her chin and leaned over.

"Urgh..."

Courtney's eyes widened as her pupils started to lose focus. She stared at the blurry figure in daze while her mind became blank.

In the meantime, Alexander moved his hand down her waist and slipped into the hem of her skirt, causing goosebumps on her skin.

Just when he was about to go further, she suddenly had a realization and came back to her senses, so she started to struggle hurriedly.

However, Alexander was holding her waist with one hand so she couldn't move around, while his other hand had already slipped into her skirt, unceremoniously moving between her legs.

Immediately, a sense of shame arose spontaneously as Courtney pushed him away with strength that she didn't know she had. Then, she raised her hand and slapped him ruthlessly.

Slap!

The crisp sound echoed through the dressing room. Even the servants downstairs were staggered as they stared blankly at the second floor.

Courtney panted heavily while her dangling hands were still trembling.

At the moment, she was frightened because she had never thought Alexander would suddenly do something like this to her. She suppressed her anger and tried her best to calm herself down.

"If you think that this is how I should repay you for taking me in, then I'll move out with Tina right now. Getting myself involved in other people's marriage is against my moral principles."

One Night Surprise Chapter 74

Chapter 74 She Can't Wait That Long

A bright red palm print was left on Alexander's face, which showed how ruthless Courtney was with her slap.

This was the first time he had seen her this determined, so he could not help but feel upset by his abrupt actions just now.

"I'm sorry."

Upon hearing his response, Courtney was startled instead since she didn't expect him to apologize so soon. After all, he was a young master and president with a high status, so no one dared to question him. No one would even be surprised if he did something as spontaneous as what he did just now.

She grabbed her faintly hurting hand and felt a little awkward. "Forget about it. Just forget about it. I'll just move out with Tina."

"Wait." Alexander called after her. "You don't need to move out. I'll go on a long business trip this evening, and my flight departs at 3.00PM, which means I won't be staying here for the time being. During this period, I would like you to help me take care of Jordan."

Courtney instantly halted her steps and hesitated for a while before nodding her head.

At this point, if she suddenly moved away, there was nowhere for her to go anyway.

I can't bring Tina out with me to find a place to stay. How could a child stand that?

After changing his attire, Alexander went downstairs, and without finishing his breakfast, he reminded Jordan to always listen to Courtney and the butler before leaving.

While the sound of the engine in the yard slowly disappeared, Courtney was still holding her hands together, her heart beating wildly.

She must admit that she had an inexplicable affection toward Alexander, but he was about to get married, and she couldn't bring herself to destroy other people's marriages. After what happened with Isaac and Vanessa, she hated third wheels for the rest of her life, so she herself definitely wouldn't do that as well.

That night, Alexander didn't return. She found out from Harry that he went to Shanghai on a business trip, and this time, he was waiting for a huge client from New York, so he wouldn't be back for at least another two weeks.

“Should I not stay here?”

At night, she leaned on a pillow and talked to herself while pinching the nose of a husky doll.

“Please tell me what I should do.”

She then shook the husky’s head with her hand and pressed her lips to show that she was in her thinking state.

“You don’t know either?”

After that, a long sigh echoed in the dim room.

The next morning, after sending the two children to kindergarten, she went to work in her company.

Not long after she arrived at the hotel, the current manager of the housekeeping department came rushing toward her. “Miss Hunter, please go and take a look in Room 1023. There’s been an incident. They are quarreling right now.”

“What happened?” Courtney furrowed her brows and asked about the situation while walking out.

“The female guest who checked into Room 1023 said that there were cockroaches in her room, so we went in and dealt with it. Indeed, we found two cockroaches, but I don’t know whether the previous attendant had a bad attitude because she’s now making a scene.”

In the meantime, they had already arrived at the door of Room 1023, which had a group of onlookers surrounding it.

Immediately, Courtney scolded, “Don’t you all have work to do?”

The manager of the housekeeping department, who was beside her, quickly waved his hands. “Go and do your work. What are you all gathered here for?”

As the crowd dispersed, a sharp scream came from the room. “Hey! You’re simply bullying your guest just because you have an impressive business. Where is everyone going? You should send someone to deal with this matter.”

“Miss Heather, please calm down.”

The manager of the housekeeping department went in to greet her, but the woman simply ignored him. “Where is your general manager? I request to speak to him. I don’t want to speak to you arrogant people.”

Courtney also went in with the manager and saw the typical face of an influencer who had such a plastic face that her own mother possibly wouldn’t be able to recognize her.

She had a sharp pointy chin and a pair of large European-style double eyelids with the currently popular peach-colored makeup. There was also glitter at the corner of her eyes. Wearing a ginger-yellow camisole, she sat cross-legged on a marble table while swaying her two snowy-white legs around, looking extremely arrogant.

However, Courtney had been working in this industry for many years, so she had seen all sorts of people before. At the moment, she was quite tolerant as she said, “The general manager is now traveling abroad on a business trip, so he isn’t here. You’re Miss Heather, right? May I ask about your dissatisfaction with the hotel? You can tell me, and I’ll see if I can deal with it. We can look for the general manager afterward if we are unable to solve it. Is that fine with you?”

“Who are you? Do you even have any power here?” The influencer glanced at her. As soon as she saw the name tag on the front of Courtney’s chest, her eyes darkened slightly. “You are Courtney Hunter, the hall manager?”

“Yes, that’s me.” Courtney followed her gaze toward her name tag before she nodded politely and reached out to touch it. “Our hotel always rotates the housekeeping and hall manager. We both serve the same role, so you can inform me if there’s any problem. There’s no difference.”

“Don’t tell me that. I’m not interested in your hotel’s rotation at all.” The influencer impatiently crossed her other leg. “You are a five-star hotel known for your top service in the country, but you’re telling me that you can’t even meet the minimum hygiene requirements? You are practically scamming your customers.”

“Miss Heather, our hotel definitely meets the hygiene requirements. If you don’t believe me, I can ask someone to flip the bed over for you to see. I can confirm that the underside of the bed is completely clean and free of dust. You won’t find a better hotel than ours in the country.”

Even though Courtney was firm with her words, the influencer still looked disdainful. “Who wants to see the underside of the bed? I don’t even sleep there. Don’t think you can escape the fact that there are cockroaches in this room. You’d better give me a reasonable explanation for this.”

Upon that, Courtney furrowed her brows. “To be honest, Miss Heather, it’s impossible for any cockroaches to breed in our hotel. If there really are cockroaches, it might be because they came in accidentally from a trash can or somewhere outside. But this is the hotel’s mistake, so why don’t we give you a new room, and we won’t charge you for your stay here in the hotel?”

“Do you think I lack the money?” The influencer jumped off the table and glared at Courtney. “You are saying as though I’ve wronged you. Could it be that I brought in the cockroach myself? Also, you are not sincere with your apology at all. If that’s the case, there is nothing much to talk about. I’ll call the Commerce Department and the Health Department straight away. I’ll ask them to shut down the hotel, and we’ll get to the bottom of this in two days.”

Although this influencer looked like she only had a pretty face, she was very harsh and stubborn with her words. Without saying much, she was already trying to take full control of the situation.

Immediately, the manager of the housekeeping department was getting anxious. “Please don’t do that, Miss Heather. Let’s just talk about this.”

Of course, the Sunhill Enterprise wasn’t afraid to be investigated by the Commerce and Health Departments, but in today’s digital age, if any actions were taken that would cause the Sunhill Hotel to be shut down, it would be a huge topic on the internet, which could be devastating to their business for some time.

“She’s right, Miss Heather. Let’s sit down and have a talk. You can ask me for any compensation.” Courtney was also starting to become worried.

Her public relations crisis awareness wasn’t bad, but she couldn’t wait that long because she was still in a bet with Alexander.

Even though the centennial celebration was postponed for a month, the ceremony is still looming on the horizon. If it clashes with this incident, I’m afraid the performance of the hotel during this period will plummet drastically.

“Alright. Since you’ve mentioned it, it’ll be unreasonable of me to keep on being stubborn.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 75

Chapter 75 Malicious Reviews

The influencer held her arms and sat on the couch before uttering a few words faintly, “I want 100,000.”

Upon hearing the numbers, Courtney’s face instantly became gloomy.

Beside her, the housekeeping manager also revealed a shocked expression. “Miss Heather, you must be joking. 100,000? How can we possibly give you 100,000?”

This is daylight robbery!

However, Courtney composed herself and pulled the housekeeping manager’s sleeves to tell him to calm down. “Miss Heather, both of us are in no position to fulfill your request. Why don’t we change your room first, and I’ll put in a request to the general manager for your compensation? I’ll try my best to give you a quick reply. What do you think?”

“Hold on.” The influencer smirked. “The 100,000 I mentioned is only for one cockroach. I saw two of them here just now, which makes the price 200,000.”

The housekeeping manager’s face turned ashen.

Not only is this a daylight robbery, she is now upping the compensation. This is a blatant scam!

She was obviously someone who was not negotiable. Courtney wrapped one arm around the furious housekeeping manager while still remaining a calm expression.

“Alright. I’ll report this to the general manager and provide you with a satisfying answer before you leave the hotel. What do you think?”

“I’m fine with that. Do you really think I’m that unreasonable?”

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“Of course you’re not. Addie, ask someone to arrange Miss Heather to a cleaner room.”

Courtney remained unfazed as she gave out the orders. Then, she forced out a professional smile before leaving Room 1023 while pulling the housekeeping manager’s sleeves.

“Are you mad?” As soon as they went back to the office, the housekeeping manager slammed the desk with rage. “Courtney, I brought you there to solve the problem, and your solution was to agree to whatever fee she demanded? If that’s the case, our hotel doesn’t need public relations crisis management anymore. After all, anything is solvable as long as we have the money.”

Alfred Conrad was much older than Courtney, and he had been working in Sunhill Hotel for a long period of time. Usually, he had a good temper, but now, he was fuming like an angry cat.

Courtney furrowed her brows at that. “Mr. Conrad, I don’t think we can handle this situation like we usually did. Seeing that our company’s centennial celebration is about to be held in our hotel, there can be no accidents during this crucial period.”

Naturally, Alfred understood the gravity of the situation, but he was furious at the moment, so he sighed.

“Then what should we do? Let me remind you that we definitely won’t be getting that 200,000.”

“I don’t plan to give her the money either.” Courtney’s eyes darkened. “I’m afraid this isn’t just a coincidence. As for what actually happened, we still need to investigate.”

After Alfred left, Courtney asked her assistant, Addie, to bring her the data sheet for the month.

“Miss Hunter, the negative reviews of our hotel in the past half month has been oddly high.”

After flipping through the negative reviews, mostly about ‘dirty room’, Courtney saw a review mentioning ‘cockroaches in the room’.

“Addie, have there been any hygiene problems in the hotel lately? Has any staff who lives in the hotel seen a cockroach before? What about the cleaning ladies?”

“There haven’t been any problems. When I first saw that review, I went around and asked, but no one in the hotel had seen a cockroach. Also, the guest who gave the review was anonymous, so we didn’t know which room to check,” Addie furrowed his brows as he murmured. “At first, we thought that someone was giving malicious reviews, but we didn’t expect the incident today. Why is it always the guest who sees the cockroaches, but not us?”

Courtney scanned through the data sheet and realized that all the negative reviews during this period were anonymous. Other than that, they were weirdly unanimous, seeing that they all mentioned dirty rooms, with two guests saying they saw cockroaches.

The more she thought about it, the weirder it seemed.

“Addie, no one has touched Room 1023 yet, right?”

“We don’t dare to. You ordered us to leave it for investigation, so we left it untouched. We even vacated the place where the cockroaches were killed and locked the room.”

“Alright. I want you to put the two dead cockroaches in a bag and give it to me immediately.”

“Huh?” Addie’s eyes widened straight away. “Me? But I’m afraid of cockroaches.”

Courtney glared at him. “Or you want me to do it myself? You are a big northern boy. What’s so scary about cockroaches?”

“We don’t have cockroaches this big in the north. They look so scary.” Addie put on a bitter face.

“Then you don’t have to go. I’ll do it myself.”

“Thank you, Miss Hunter.” Addie was immediately grateful.

However, Courtney glared at him and pretended to get up. "I have to do everything myself anyway. I'll inform the human resource department tomorrow that I don't need an assistant anymore."

"Huh?" Addie's face instantly turned pale. "Please don't do that. Miss Hunter, please take a seat. I'll go get it. Alright?"

As he tried his best to suppress the fear before even seeing the cockroaches, Courtney shook her head resignedly. Why are men these days so fearful of everything?

After the two dead cockroaches were sealed in a plastic bag, Courtney brought it to the laboratory of a nearby medical school. She spent 300 to ask the school laboratory's master student to do research on the cockroaches, and the final result was as expected.

"President Duncan, there seems to have been a problem at the Sunhill Hotel."

Inside the presidential suite of a five-star hotel in Shanghai, Josh, who had just returned after receiving a phone call, reported the situation in Melrose City to Alexander.

At the moment, Alexander was reading a contract. As he heard Josh, he put down his pen and asked while lifting his head, "What is it?"

"Lately, the online ordering reviews of the Sunhill Hotel in the city have been quite poor. It feels like someone is giving malicious reviews of the hotel. I've heard that someone even caused a commotion in the hotel today."

Alexander furrowed his brows. "Who is it that dares to go against the company?"

"It doesn't look like the person is aiming at the Sunhill Enterprise because the reviews are only targeting that hotel in the city. Looks like Miss Hunter is going to have her hands full for now."

Upon hearing the name 'Miss Hunter', Alexander's eyes darkened slightly.

When he was on the plane, the whole affectionate scene that happened in the dressing room kept on playing in his mind during the entire journey. He couldn't point out why he was so obsessed with this woman.

“President Duncan, do you need me to help Miss Hunter deal with the situation?” Josh asked tentatively.

Alexander came back around and thought about it for a while before replying seriously, “There’s no need for that. If she can’t even handle this matter properly, there’d be no point for her to stay in her position.”

At noon the next day, the influencer from the ‘cockroach incident’ arrived at the reception with her neon light backpack to check out from her room.

Her nails that were studded with rhinestones glittered on the desk. The moment she arrived, one of the two women behind the desk quickly went to the office to get the manager.

Soon after, Courtney was here. “Miss Heather, you’re leaving after just one night?”

“Yes.” The influencer put on a smug face. “I think one night is enough for me to stay in your hotel. How long do you think I should stay?”

“Very well. Please help Miss Heather check out from her room.”

Courtney gave the receptionist a glance.

The influencer watched as the receptionist completed the formalities and refunded the deposits. However, she furrowed her brows straight away after hearing them saying, “We look forward to having you again.”

“Wait. Aren’t you forgetting something?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 76

Chapter 76 That Would Be Murder

"We aren't," Courtney answered the influencer with a straight face. "Miss Heather, what do you think we are forgetting?"

The influencer immediately came back to her senses and shouted while pointing at Courtney's face, "Are you now discarding your previous promise? Where is your shame? Do you really think you can get away with what happened last night?"

A bunch of onlookers were starting to gather in the hall.

However, Courtney didn't hesitate and went straight to the point. "Miss Heather, last night you claimed that there were cockroaches in your room, so we immediately handled it and arranged a new room for you. I promised that we'd provide you the compensation needed if the situation was true, but now, we believe that the cockroaches had nothing to do with our hotel at all."

Upon hearing her words, the influencer was so enraged that her face turned red.

"I have seen many shameless people before, but I've never met anyone as shameless as the staff of the Sunhill Hotel. Are you now bullying your guest? Just you wait as I call the Commerce and Health Departments right this instance."

"You can make the call all you want." Courtney remained calm as she spoke slowly. "I specially took the cockroaches in your room last night to the medical school for an inspection, and the results showed that the cockroaches had been dead for at least five days because their bodies had dried out. However, last night, you claimed that you killed the cockroaches on our carpet 30 minutes after staying in our hotel. This is really odd."

The moment her words came out, it stirred up the crowd surrounding them.

This is the same situation as someone throwing a bug in the bowl after their meal just to frame the restaurant. She is obviously here to play victim and scam the hotel.

As soon as the influencer noticed that the people around were starting to criticize her, she immediately lowered her head and ran away as fast as she could without uttering another word.

After the situation had been settled, everyone in the hotel was more impressed by Courtney, especially her assistant, Addie, who admired her for having the courage to deal with those two cockroaches.

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“Miss Hunter, I can’t believe you dared to bring such a terrifying thing out for an inspection. That day, I used up half my breath just to put it in the bag.”

“That’s why you still need more training. Now, I need you to think of a way to deal with the negative reviews.”

She calmly patted Addie’s shoulder and strode back into the office with her head held high. The moment she shut the office door, she lay against the back of the door and released a huge sigh of relief.

Actually, ever since last night, she was absolutely disgusted by the two cockroaches to a point where she couldn’t even bring herself to drink water.

I’m no better than Addie. This is all to maintain my reputation.

After a week, the hotel’s negative reviews still weren’t resolved.

Therefore, Courtney personally checked every room in the hotel, but after confirming herself that there weren’t any problems, she went back to her office confused. In the office, not only did she realize that the hotel’s performance was far from what had been set in the bet, it was also drastically declining, so she sighed resignedly.

What the hell! Did the hotel offend someone lately? Is someone purposely sabotaging the hotel behind the scenes?

A few minutes before getting off work, she answered a phone call from her father, who told her to meet him in a cafe near the company.

When she got there, her father, Lucian, had already arrived, looking a little uneasy.

"I've ordered a cup of hot milk for you. Drinking too much coffee is bad for your sleep. However, if you don't like it, you can order something else."

Courtney shook her head. "It's fine. I'll drink anything."

Finally, Lucian let out a sigh of relief and smiled. "Courtney, I'm quite surprised and happy when you called me."

With her head down, Courtney stirred the milk in her cup as she refused to look at her father. After a while of hesitation, she said, "Dad, I asked to see you because I wanted you to help me with something."

"What is it? You can tell me."

Courtney rarely asked him for favors, so he was quite delighted to hear her asking him for help.

"On my 18th birthday six years ago, didn't you give me a house as a gift? Is it still mine?"

Even though the company had lots of work and was very busy during this period, she still wanted to move out of Alexander's house because she felt that it was inappropriate for her to stay in his house with Tina. After much consideration, she had no choice, but that was when she recalled the house gifted to her by her father.

"Of course it is." Lucian's brows were raised slightly, showing signs of excitement. "Your name is still on the property deed, which means it's technically your house."

"Thanks, Dad." Courtney felt a little uneasy. Although she was trying to make herself look more gentle, her tone still had traces of alienation, as if she wasn't talking to her own father. "But I didn't take the keys when I left. When will you be at home? Can I go back and take it?"

"It doesn't matter whether I'm at home or not. You can come by anytime you like. However, you must remember to inform me before coming home so that I can ask your aunt to prepare a proper meal for us to eat as a family."

"I don't want to trouble you, Dad."

"There's no trouble at all." Lucian seemed to be firm with his words. After a moment of hesitation, he continued, "Remember to bring your daughter too. After all, she is my granddaughter. The family and I would like to meet her."

Upon mentioning Tina, Courtney bit her lips tightly. "I'm not so sure about this. She is still young, so she can't handle too many people gossiping about her. I'll bring her to meet you when she's older."

Lucian furrowed his brow, as if he wanted to persist on his request, but at the end, he let out a sigh of relief and gave up.

After leaving the cafe, Lucian got into his car and started coughing uncontrollably. He used a handkerchief to cover his mouth while coughing, and when he removed it, he could clearly see stains of blood on the cloth.

"Mr. Lucian, are you alright?" the driver asked nervously while looking through the rearview mirror.

However, Lucian waved his hand and clenched his handkerchief. "I'm fine. It's just an old ailment. Let's go."

In Shanghai, the negotiations between Alexander and his client continued till midnight. After returning to the hotel, he lay down on the couch and glanced at the dinner sent over by the hotel when he suddenly remembered Courtney's cooking.

"President Duncan, the person you sent to Lowton Town just called me." Josh served a plate of fruits that he had just washed on the coffee table, but his expression looked a little complicated. "He said that Louis is dead."

Alexander's brows tightened. "What happened?"

"He died in a fire. It happened the night before we sent Luca to his house. When he got there, there was nothing left in the house, and Louis had already become a pile of skeletons." Josh sighed as he brought up Louis' death. "Luca sent me photos of the scene. Other than Louis' house, the neighbors on both sides were also caught in the fire, but the two houses were empty because they weren't occupied by anyone. Therefore, Louis' house kept on burning until early in the morning before someone finally found out. When the fire trucks arrived to put out the fire, everything was already burned to the ground."

Alexander's brow tightened even more. "What a coincidence."

Louis just so happened to have an accident when I sent someone over to investigate the surrogacy back then? Is there such a coincidence?

"Do you think someone did this?" Josh was starting to look nervous. "No way. That would be murder."

"Haven't you ever heard of murder before?" Alexander stared at him. "There's something fishy about all this. As soon as I'm done with my business in Shanghai, I want you to go there personally to investigate what happened before and after the fire."

Firstly, Louis was the only one who knew about the surrogacy, so I need answers. Secondly, he was an old butler of the Duncan Family, and he had stayed beside grandpa for many years. If there's anything fishy about this, I have the responsibility to find out the truth.

"Will do."

"Also, don't mention Louis' death to my grandpa."

"Understood."

As Alexander nodded his head, he suddenly thought of another matter. "What's the progress with Shay?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 77

Chapter 77 You're Not Her Mother in the First Place

"Everything is done. He signed a five-year contract with Starlight Media straight away. If he breaches the contract, the compensation fee will be enough to put him into bankruptcy." Josh wanted to laugh as he reported the situation to Alexander. This little brat, Shay, is so

easy to deceive. A slight feint by President Duncan is enough for him to take the bait instantly. After all, he is still young, so he couldn't read the minds of bosses like him.

"Why would I want to terminate his contract?" Alexander flatly refuted. "Isn't it better to keep him so that he can make money for me?"

After hearing his explanation, Josh was dumbfounded as he started to sympathize with Shay upon his realization. President Duncan is trying to drive him insane! Imagine being the servant of someone that you especially hate and being forced to make money for him. If he doesn't earn money for President Duncan, he won't be able to support himself, but if he does make money, half of what he earns will be taken away by his boss. What a painful way to live!

In the Hunter Mansion, Courtney deliberately chose a Monday afternoon to come back and retrieve the keys. This was because Anna was at work, and even though Courtney's stepmom, Susan Yves, wasn't a nice person, she was still polite toward her on the surface, so she wouldn't trouble her. I can just take the keys and leave. It should be fine.

"Miss Courtney." The moment the old maid of the Hunter Family, Mrs. Bell, saw Courtney, she almost burst out in tears. "Miss Courtney, why are you back? Where have you been all these years?"

Mrs. Bell was a maid who followed Courtney's mother in her early years, but ever since her mother's death, she had always stayed beside Courtney to take care of her. In later years, she followed her to the Hunter Family.

At the moment, Courtney's eyes were getting a little teary as she held Mrs. Bell's hands and sobbed. "It has been a while since I returned, but I didn't come back here. I'm sorry that I had you worried, Mrs. Bell."

"My worries don't matter. I have no idea how much you've suffered outside. If your mother found out about it, I'm afraid she'd blame me for not taking good care of you."

"I'm quite well actually, Mrs. Bell."

"Courtney?"

While they were talking, the voice of a woman suddenly broke into their conversation.

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Susan was wearing a blue-grey traditional outfit as she stood on the stairs. Her well-preserved face made her look like a 30-year-old lady who still had her charm. When she saw Courtney, Susan's face was filled with shock, but soon after, she composed herself and went down the stairs while welcoming her enthusiastically.

"Courtney, why are you back? You should have told me in advance. I would have asked the kitchen to prepare your favorite dishes."

Hearing that, Courtney let go of Mrs. Bell's hands. "I came back to take something. I'm leaving afterward, so there's no need for all the trouble, Aunt Susan." For many years, she always called her Aunt Susan, and it never changed.

In the early years, she secretly heard Susan complaining to Lucian with an aggrieved face, saying that this daughter of hers was ungrateful and unwilling to call her 'mother' even though she did all her best to treat her well. However, Lucian rendered her speechless by saying, "You are not her mother in the first place. She's polite enough to call you 'aunt'."

Back then, Susan didn't dare to say anything in front of Lucian, but ever since he left the house, she smashed countless objects in the house and even abused the maids in the bedroom. At that time, she yelled, "If she isn't my daughter in the first place, why won't he tell me to stop treating her well?"

Courtney had seen through a two-faced woman like her long ago when she was a child, but she couldn't never understand why her father couldn't realize that after all these years. Is he blind? she wondered.

After a few greetings, Susan didn't stop Courtney from going upstairs. Her room was still the same as before as nothing was touched. Following her memory, she opened the right drawer of her desk and furrowed her brows because the key wasn't there. When I received the gift that year, I clearly placed it here. Someone has gone through my stuff.

Upon seeing her coming down the stairs, Susan got up from the couch and asked gently, "Have you found it?"

"Nope," Courtney answered straight away. "Aunt Susan, the key to my house isn't in my drawer. Has someone gone through my stuff?"

Susan was startled. "House key? What house key?"

"The house key to the villa that my dad gave me six years ago. It's in Golden Water Park."

"I really didn't know about that." Susan denied knowing about it while looking innocent. "I've never entered your room, and it's usually Mrs. Bell who cleans the room for you. Occasionally, your dad would go in to sit for a while. Why don't you ask him?"

"I see. Alright." Courtney didn't want to talk too much with her, so she prepared to leave.

"Courtney, do stay for lunch." Susan tried to ask her to stay. "I've already asked the cooks to prepare your favorite sweet and sour fish."

With her back facing her, Courtney was suddenly a bit frustrated. "If I stay for lunch, I'm afraid you wouldn't even dare to take a bite."

"Courtney, what are you talking about? Why would I—"

"Why wouldn't you?" Courtney turned around and glared at her profoundly. "There isn't anyone here; my dad isn't here either, so you can just stop pretending. My dad can't see what kind of a person you and your daughter are, but I can see it clearly."

With these words, Courtney left the Hunter Mansion without turning back.

Susan leaned on the back of the couch as her face grew gloomy. Slowly, she directed her gaze toward Mrs. Bell, who was standing by the door. "Let me ask you something. What did you tell her?"

Mrs. Bell put on a cold attitude with her head down. "Miss Courtney was only here for less than 10 minutes. What could I have told her?"

"I'm asking about the past. What did you tell her in the past?"

"In the past?" Mrs. Bell lifted her head as her eyes seemed to be bruning, striking fear into Susan's heart. "Do you still remember the past, Madam? I thought you'd forgotten all about it."

The moment her words came out, Susan's hands couldn't stop trembling. This means that the girl knows everything. No wonder... No wonder she refused to come back for so many

years! After clinging herself onto Alexander Duncan, what does she actually want now that she's back?

On the other side, Courtney took a cab away from the Hunter Mansion, but she was still feeling uneasy. Back then, when her mother gave birth to her prematurely, she died in a few days due to excessive blood loss. It wasn't until the year she was admitted into Melrose Medical University that Mrs. Bell told her the truth.

If Susan didn't come to our doorsteps and provoke her, my mother would not have been so stressed out that she gave birth prematurely! That is why my mother's death is closely related to this two-faced woman.

After two years in university, she chose to study in the city, so she seldom went back home. Even though it was a long time ago, and it would be meaningless to pursue it, she was still sad for her mother. In the end, she simply chose not to face the lying hypocrites in the Hunter Mansion.

After clearing away the disturbance in her mind, she took out her phone as she wanted to call her father, but for some reason, she suddenly thought of how Susan dodged her gaze just now. All of a sudden, she had an idea in her mind.

"Mister, I'm not going to the Royal Park. Please change the course to Golden Water Park."

Her stuff in the study was left untouched probably because of her father's orders. Two days ago, she just told her father that she was going to retrieve the key, so he definitely wouldn't go to her room and take it away on purpose. That was why there was only one place the key might have gone to.

Someone who had always thought of snatching away other people's stuff must have taken it.

One Night Surprise Chapter 78

Chapter 78 Her Performance All Depends on This

Golden Water Park was located in the middle of Melrose City, and due to the complete infrastructures around it, the price of its houses had soared in recent years. The two-story villa under Courtney's name had a yard of its own, and its price had already risen to 90 million.

After closing the car door, Courtney turned around and gazed at the villa before pressing the doorbell right away.

Soon after, a maid in her fifties came to open the door and scanned Courtney suspiciously. "Who are you looking for?"

With a calm demeanor, Courtney's eyes flickered as she said, "Hello, madam. Is this house for sale?"

"For sale? Are you a real estate agent?" The maid shook her head. "Why would my master sell the house? I think you should ask elsewhere."

"Your master? Isn't this house yours, madam?" Courtney continued with her conventional talk. "I thought it belonged to you. Many elderlies nowadays want to sell their houses in the city so that they can live a rural life in the countryside."

"Haha, if I could afford such a house, why would I still be someone else's maid?" The maid laughed unwarily. "I believe you're mistaken."

"What is your master's name, then? Maybe he would like to sell his house. Can you leave me his contact information? I have a small gift here to give you." Then, Courtney went through her bag and took out a bottle of colorful candies that hadn't been opened yet. "Look. This is the gift."

Upon seeing the candy, the maid was delighted. "My granddaughter loves to eat this sort of candy." However, after a thought, she sighed. "I'm sorry, but I really can't give you my master's contact information. Actually, I think I can tell you that my master is actually an actor. But no matter how rich he gets, he won't be able to afford such a house." Suddenly, she lowered her voice. "In fact, this house belongs to the lady of Sunrise Enterprise. She gave the house to my master, so how can I sell it to you? Am I right?"

Upon hearing the information given by her, Courtney was internally shocked.

Anna is now acting so boldly. How dare she keep a man outside for herself! Not only that, why did she take my house and give it to someone else?

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"Alright, then." She smiled and shoved the candy into the maid's hands. "Madam, I'll give you this candy, but can you tell who your master is? I'm quite curious about it. Don't worry; I promise that I won't tell anyone else. I'm just trying to quench my curiosity."

After receiving the candy, the maid couldn't stop smiling, so she answered mysteriously, "It's alright. He isn't that famous anyway because he's always playing secondary roles. His name is Michael Evans."

Sure enough, Courtney had never heard of this person before, but she secretly remembered his name and thanked the maid.

On the way back, she couldn't help but find the whole situation hilarious.

Anna has always dreamed of marrying into an elite family in the upper class, but she now has a kept man. If her real boyfriend found out about this, it'd be fun to see how she and her mother would react to this. However, I don't need to get anxious first. I'm not in a hurry to move in here anyway.

"Miss Hunter, the performance summary for the last three months are all here."

After Courtney came back to the company from the villa, she requested for the hotel's performance summary starting from when she joined. Overall, the performance wasn't satisfactory, and it was far from the goal she had agreed with Alexander back then.

She sighed while her eyes glanced across the desk, and she then saw a lucky draw segment planned for the centennial celebration. When she saw the prizes for the draw, she suddenly had a new idea.

“Addie, please show me the budget of the centennial celebration plan. Also, we haven’t bought the prizes, right?”

“We haven’t.”

“Good. Except for the prizes for the first three winners, don’t buy anything else. Wait for my notice.”

Addie was confused. “Miss Hunter, the celebration is next week, which means it’s only a few days away. Are you really going to change the plan? Won’t it be too late?”

“I’ll be responsible for any mishaps,” Courtney stated clearly.

Besides, this is a matter of life and death. If I don’t give it my all this time, I can only wait and plead as I get kicked out of here.

That night, she entered ‘famous actor rankings’ into the search bar on her computer.

Quickly, she found a list on the internet with the top one hundred popular actors’ names.

She didn’t care whether the rankings were real as she only wanted to select a few with a fanbase that had a strong purchasing power.

After a while, her eyes twinkled as she stared at the four androgynous ‘young hunks’ she had chosen, as if she was looking straight at her performance report.

If I hadn’t taken a look at the villa today and found out Anna had been fooling around with a kept man who’s an actor, I really wouldn’t have thought of this idea. These days, fans have a huge effect, and nothing is more appealing than celebrities. My performance all depends on this.

At the International Shanghai Hotel, Alexander was ready to fall asleep when his phone rang, and a text appeared.

He swiped his phone and took a look at the text before calling the sender straight away.

"Y-You're still awake?" On the other side, the familiar voice seemed to be suppressing her excitement.

"Did you send me the text just to see if I was awake?"

"I have something work-related to ask you. I was afraid of disturbing you, so I sent a text first."

"You want to change the centennial celebration plan?"

"Yes, but not too much. I'm only changing the lucky draw segment at the end."

"We are less than a week away from the ceremony. Are you sure you can make this plan work?"

"As long as you agree to it, I can implement my changes immediately. I promise that if this works, it will attract far more consumers than the previous plan."

"And if it doesn't work?"

"If it doesn't work, I'll quit on my own accord."

"But you were already losing your job." Alexander pierced straight through her heart. "Are you planning to bet your all on this celebration and just see how it goes? If something happens at that time, you'd just quit and leave me a huge mess to deal with."

Courtney let out a dry cough. "I admit that I thought of that before. You wouldn't believe me anyway even if I denied it. Besides, I'm only doing this for my performance. If my performance turns out good, I won't leave, and the hotel will be in a better situation. Both of us win."

Courtney was fast with her words, but this little trick of hers had no effect on Alexander.

Overall, the hotel is the sole bearer of risk due to the change in plan. She has nothing to lose at all.

However, he still agreed, but he didn't know why he did it. For some reason, he wanted to give her a legitimate opportunity and reason to stay.

“Thank you. I’ll definitely make good preparations.”

“Your thanks are meaningless to me. How about you buy me a meal when the celebration is over?”

Courtney immediately agreed.

After hanging up the phone, Alexander opened the curtains and gazed at the beautiful moonlight outside. Suddenly, he had an urge to rush back to Melrose City.

Before he went to sleep, he made a call to Josh. “For the centennial celebration, I want you to contact the finance department tomorrow morning and tell them to increase the original budget by 20%.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 79

Chapter 79 I Can’t Believe You Remember Me

The centennial celebration of Sunhill Hotel was still three days away, and the popular young hunk, Austin Webb, had helped catapult the hotel’s celebration to the top of the search engine. Not only that, but the hotel even remained as the most trending topic on the internet for an entire day.

‘During the celebration, guests who stay at the Sunhill Hotel in Melrose City can participate in the lucky draw on the day of the celebration. Five people will be selected for the first prize, which is a five-day tour around the Maldives alongside Austin Webb! Oh, my God!’

The moment Sunhill Hotel announced the news, it immediately caused an uproar on the internet. Austin debuted in a popular talent show that had been airing for the last two months, and the young hunks who debuted from the show came out extremely popular with an almost unprecedented crazy fanbase. As soon as his album came out, it was sold out in a matter of seconds.

It was every fan's wildest dream to be able to go on a personal trip with him.

Ever since the news started trending on Facebook, the hotel's ordering line was almost destroyed.

"I can't believe she thought of this!" In a hotel room, Britney was fuming after receiving the news. "These fans are so irrational! Are they crazy? Just because of a young brat, they'd spend all their money to stay in such a poorly rated hotel?"

Her agent, Jason, was standing aside while wiping his sweat. "Aren't all fans the same?"

"Sunhill Hotel's cheapest room costs at least 2,000. If they have the money, why don't they just use it to buy tickets for a concert? Why do they need to be involved in this? This is just a lucky draw. It's not like everyone will get the chance to win it!"

"Not all of them are Austin's fans. I've heard that Sunhill Hotel has invited five male celebrities. For the first prize, the fans will be divided into categories based on their idol, and each celebrity will get to draw a fan to go on a trip with them. Not only that, the whole trip will also be filmed because Starlight Media is planning to follow up the celebration by shooting a travel program with the celebrities and their fans."

"How did our company get involved in this?" Britney looked gloomy.

"After all, President Duncan is a huge shareholder of our company. Starlight Media and Sunhill Enterprise have always had a good collaborative relationship. It has already caused a stir on the internet before the celebration even started, so shouldn't the company take the chance while they still can?" Jason sighed. "Britney, I think we should stop going against that woman for the time being. If the company's senior officials find out about this, they might think that we are deliberately sabotaging the company's benefits."

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With an upset face, Britney smashed everything on the table angrily.

On the other hand, although Courtney noticed the feedback from the fans on the internet and the rapid-growing performance of the hotel, she still didn't dare to let her guard down as she kept on deducting the overspend in the budget to calculate the remaining profit.

Fortunately, these young hunks had not officially debuted yet, so their asking price wasn't that high, which was a huge relief for her.

"Miss Hunter, we still need one more male celebrity. Do you have any candidates in mind? We need to make a deal with him quickly."

Courtney had a look at the list and said, "I'll go talk with the last celebrity myself."

After Addie left, Courtney stared at the celebrity's profile on her desk before revealing a profound smile.

On the profile, there was the name of a celebrity—Shay Spencer.

I've been so busy lately that I didn't notice that Shay had already joined Starlight Media. A singing show that he just participated in completely turned him from a cello player to an actual singer. He has also gained a lot of fans recently.

That was why for the last celebrity, she planned to find Shay.

Even though his appeal to the fans wasn't as strong as the previous four, it would still help elevate the hotel's status by having a cello player in their ranks.

On the day of the celebration, the entire lawn in front of the Sunhill Hotel was decorated with colorful balloons and ribbons that were flying around, making the place look very festive. Even the hall was looking splendid with its bright decoration.

Except for the companies which had a long term collaborative relationship with Sunhill Hotel, the guests who stayed in the hotel during the celebration were also on the invitation list. The transportation department even set up a cordon around the perimeter of the hotel early because safety measures must be taken in advance for the celebrities to enter.

As the main person in charge of the celebration, Courtney was required to give a speech on stage before the opening ceremony.

Today, she wore a grey tube-top dress with white lotus dots scattered at the hem. As she lifted her dress and walked onto stage, she looked like an elegant walking flower that no one could keep their eyes off of.

"Are most senior officials in the Sunhill Hotel this young and pretty?"

“Not only that, but she is also very capable. All of these were planned by her.”

After taking a look around, Courtney bowed respectfully.

“Thank you all for taking your precious time to attend Sunhill Hotel’s centennial celebration. I’m the hotel’s housekeeping manager, Courtney Hunter, but I don’t think many of you recognize me because I only joined the company a little over three months ago. However, I hope that from now on, I will be fortunate enough to cooperate with all the presidents, guests, and friends we have...”

Before getting up the stage, she memorized the whole speech down to every word. Besides, her mannerism was particularly composed, and she would occasionally put in a few humorous jokes. Therefore, the guests below were all smiling as they gazed at her with admiration.

Among the crowd, there was a slender figure who arrived late to the celebration, but his 1.8-meter height was enough to make him stand out from the crowd.

“President Duncan, you still need to attend a meeting tonight in Shanghai. Are you here early in the morning to take a look because you’re worried about the celebration? It seems to me that Miss Hunter has arranged everything perfectly.”

However, Alexander’s eyes were glued to the stage. “Is that so?”

The assistant hesitated for a while and said, “However, if you hadn’t asked the finance department to increase the budget by 20%, I’m afraid none of this would have been achievable.”

Alexander glared at him. “You are a little talkative today.”

Immediately, the assistant shrunk his neck. Did I say something wrong?

Just when the two of them were having a conversation, an old and solemn voice came from behind.

“President Duncan.”

Alexander turned around and saw a man in his fifties, who was wearing a formal suit and leather shoes. Even though he looked old, his back was still firm. However, he seemed to lack a bit of energy as his eye sockets were deep and tired.

“Mr. Hunter?”

The person who had arrived was Courtney’s father—the president of Sunrise Enterprise, Lucian Hunter.

“It’s me. I can’t believe you still remember me,” Lucian said in a calm demeanor. “Can I talk to you for a minute?”

Alexander furrowed his brows and gave a nod. Before leaving, he glanced at the stage and saw Courtney, who had finished her speech, leaving the stage to the host.

Due to the ceremony, the open-air cafe on the second floor of the Sunhill Hotel was empty except for the staff.

The two of them ordered two cups of tea and sat face to face under a parasol.

“Why didn’t you ask me why I’m here?” Lucian started the conversation.

Alexander remained composed. “The Sunrise Enterprise has a collaboration with the Sunhill Enterprise. You focus on high-end tourism while we focus on high-end hotel franchises; both of us have a mutual benefit, so it’s no surprise that you are on the invitation list.”

“But I have been in poor health over the past few years, so it was always my daughter who had attended these banquets for me.”

Alexander’s eyes flickered. “But this time, you didn’t let your eldest daughter attend because your other daughter is now working for my company, right? Not only that, she is also in charge of this event.”

Upon hearing his assumption, Lucian revealed a somewhat unpleasant look as he thought that Alexander was mentioning the feud between Courtney and Anna. After all, this matter had already spread across the upper class due to the incident during Isaac’s engagement ceremony.

"It seems like you have looked into my family's affairs quite thoroughly. However, making assumptions about your employee's family affairs doesn't seem like what a president should do."

The atmosphere immediately became intense upon his words.

One Night Surprise Chapter 80

Chapter 80 She Told Me Everything

However, Alexander was unfazed as he took a sip of coffee before putting down the cup.

"You've misunderstood me. I was only making an assumption that maybe you came here personally for Courtney's sake."

His excuse was ingenious and plausible.

After that, Lucian calmed down a little as he declined to make any comments.

No matter what the true reason was, elite families would always put their reputation as their first priority.

Upon mentioning her daughter, Lucian felt a little proud. "From a young age, Courtney has always been focused with her work, so there shouldn't be any questions about her ability, but the working environment in the country is still much different than the ones abroad after all. Looks like you have been taking good care of her, President Duncan."

"That's because she is already superb." Alexander couldn't help but remember the interview that day and the confidence on her face when she laid down the performance target she could achieve in just two months. "I didn't help much, and even if I did, it'd only be considered a normal act of me taking care of a subordinate."

Even though there was nothing special in his words, it wasn't what Lucian wanted to hear, so he furrowed his brows and took a sip of tea with his head down.

Realizing that they had not gotten to the point of the conversation, Alexander took a glance at his watch. "Mr. Hunter, I have a plane to catch later on, so I'm afraid I can only chat with you for a while."

Then, Lucian took a deep breath and gazed at him. "You should know why I came to see you."

At the engagement ceremony back then, Alexander announced to the public that Courtney was his fiancée, and news about it was already spreading across the upper class like wildfire. Actually, from the moment he saw Lucian, he instantly figured out why he came to talk to him.

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It's reasonable for a father to worry about his daughter, so he came here today to see what kind of a person his potential future son-in-law is.

"Courtney told me everything." Lucian slowly exhaled a suffocating breath while looking emotionally hurt. "She lost her mother at childbirth, and I wasn't there with her when she was a kid, so I owe her a lot. Before she went abroad, I came to the conclusion that no matter who she chooses to marry, as long as the person treats her well, I won't oppose it."

At this point, Alexander was suddenly curious. "What did she tell you?"

"Aren't you and Courtney together? I thought that the two of you were already preparing to get married."

Alexander was dumbfounded for a while, but for some reason, he actually nodded his head and said, "It's exactly like what she said."

Upon Alexander's confirmation, Lucian let out a sigh of relief and spoke earnestly. "If you two ever find the time, please come and visit us in our home. I know that young people these days don't care much about formalities, but please consider the perspective of us elders. It'll be nice if you two can just come by our house."

At the moment, Alexander was in a complicated mood as he wanted to know why Courtney lied about their relationship to her father.

Does she have any affection toward me? Or is she only using me to deal with her family's constant questioning?

"If you and Courtney get married, I will rest assured, knowing that the company will be handed to you two in the future."

Upon hearing his words, Alexander was surprised at first, but after much thought, he finally understood.

The Sunrise Enterprise has a certain status in Melrose City, but a few years ago, Lucian's health started to decline, so he began dividing his position to his eldest daughter and a few nephews. Immediately, following that year, multiple incidents occurred in the company one after another, which caused Sunrise Enterprise's reputation to decline rapidly. Hence, Lucian had no choice but to return to the company to turn the tide. For a family enterprise like Sunrise Enterprise, what they lack the most is a capable leader who the people in power can trust, but sadly, Lucian only has two daughters. Although Courtney has no experience of truly running an enterprise, from her current ability, I can see that she has the potential to take that position. As for Anna, I've never met her before, but by the looks of it, other than buying luxurious handbags and showing off her wealth to her friends, she has no abilities at all.

However, Alexander didn't promise him straight away as he tried to change the subject with a few trivial words. Then, Josh realized that it was almost time for his flight, so he came up to urge him to leave.

As he got up and was about to leave, Lucian suddenly stopped him. "By the way, there's one more thing I want you to do. The 15th of next month is Courtney's birthday, and it's also the anniversary of her mother's death. If you have the time, please spend more time on her then."

Alexander halted his steps and nodded with a rare sense of seriousness.

When he got downstairs, the celebration was lively, and it was time for the last segment, which was the lucky draw. The moment the young hunks went up the stage one by one to perform, the fans below screamed, almost turning the celebration into a fan meeting.

Josh, who was standing beside Alexander, couldn't help but praise, "Miss Hunter is really capable. I've heard that ever since the lucky draw was announced online, every Sunhill Hotel in the country has been fully-booked for a few months."

“How does that count as capable?” Alexander gazed at the slim figure afar and concealed the admiration in his eyes by pretending to sneer. “Not only is the preliminary investment too large, there are also many uncertainties, which makes this a huge risk. If it weren’t for the celebration, she wouldn’t have had the chance to make money from this short-lived fan effect. Besides, this plan is useless to the long term development of the hotel, and there may be subsequent negative effects.”

“Huh? It’s unsustainable, and there may be negative effects? Then why did you order me to call the finance department to increase the funds?”

As soon as his words came out, Alexander glared at him with murderous intent.

Immediately, Josh was trembling with fear as he was completely unaware of what he had said wrongly.

As the person in charge of the whole celebration, Courtney needed to greet all the invited guests, so she went around the venue with a wine glass in her hand, but she never noticed the slender figure standing afar in the blind spot among the crowd. Occasionally, she would greet the people she recognized around her, but she never got close to the figure.

“President Duncan, shouldn’t we go over there to greet her? We are leaving for the airport in a little while.”

Alexander narrowed his eyes. “There’s no need for that. Let’s go.”

“Huh? They are now drawing the winners. Don’t you want to see the outcome?”

“It’s not important.”

As soon as his cold words came out, Josh could only sigh secretly inside him before leaving the scene hurriedly with Alexander.

I knew I shouldn’t talk too much, but I’m still curious about the outcome!

“Now is the most exciting moment of the event—the lucky draw,” the host announced loudly on the stage. “Let’s welcome our five celebrities to the stage so that they can personally pick their fans.”

In front of the five celebrities, there were five separate red lottery boxes with their names printed on each of them. Before entering the venue, each guest would place their invitation card into the lottery box of the celebrity they wished to go on a trip with. Then, the celebrities would draw the winner personally.

The prize could be transferred to other people, so the elites among the guests, who didn't like young hunks, could give it to their employees instead as a company benefit.

"Now, our celebrities have all drawn their winners. Starting from the left, please announce the name of the lucky guest you have drawn!"

The five dashing men lined up on the stage, and every one of them wore a loving smile on their faces. Their interactions from time to time would cause waves of screams in the crowd.

At the moment, Courtney was standing below the stage with her hands covering her ears due to the loud cheers.

People always say that a woman is as noisy as 1500 ducks. I believe that we have enough ducks in the audience to circle the globe several times.