

# One Night Surprise Chapter 81

## Chapter 81 | I Prefer This Kind of Handsome Face

The four young men in front reported the numbers that they had drawn in turns, arousing envy, jealousy, and indignance from the crowd at the scene.

When it was finally Shay's turn, Courtney focused her attention and gazed at the stage.

Shay currently had a considerably large fanbase. Therefore, a huge group of young ladies crowded in front of the stage with their eyes beaming with eagerness when it was time for the lucky draw by Shay.

"The card number that I've drawn is number 28." The clear voice of the young man echoed in the scene, and the fans below the stage looked at their respective numbers in their hands before sighing.

Suddenly, a childish voice rang from among the crowd. "I'm number 28! Shay, it's me!"

The adorable voice of a little girl successfully attracted everyone's attention. The crowd automatically gave way, revealing a young girl in a soft yellow T-shirt and blue overalls, who was jumping on the spot non-stop. Upon seeing that the path was clear, she dashed to the front and got onto the stage using both her hands and legs before throwing herself into Shay's arms.

"I can go on a trip with you now, Shay!"

"Why is the winner a little girl?"

"Aww, that girl is cute."

"She's so lucky."

“Oh, my! She’s overwhelmingly cute!”

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Everyone was immersed in the little girl’s cuteness except Courtney, whose expression instantly fell as she immediately rushed to the stage while picking up the skirt of her gown. “Tina, what are you doing? Get down now.”

Tina refused to leave Shay’s embrace. “No, I won the lucky draw. I want to go on a trip with Shay.”

Hearing that, the audience burst into laughter.

“What nonsense are you saying?” Courtney involuntarily frowned and pulled the standing mic beside her. “I’m sorry, everyone. This is my daughter. It’s against the rule for the hotel employees to participate in the lucky draw, so this draw doesn’t count. We will have Shay draw a number again.”

“No! I’m not an employee! Mommy, you are taking this too far!” Tina pursed her lips, wearing a dissatisfied expression.

The audience was abuzz as they discussed among themselves.

A person suddenly shouted, “What the girl said is right—she is not a hotel employee, so just let her go on the trip. This is something we should be glad for.”

“That’s right.”

Voices of agreement came from the crowd.

Standing before the super adorable little girl, the fans, who would usually put up a fight till the end, were unusually generous; all of them agreed to let Tina win the prize.

Courtney was put on a spot, so she explained, “Thank you, everyone, for your kindness. However, I don’t think that this is a good idea—I can’t allow her to go on a trip with Shay on her own. So just forget it.”

“That’s no big deal. You can go along with them.” A plump girl waved and openly laughed as she spoke. “We’ll be more than happy if it is a mother and a child going on a trip with Shay!”

To this bunch of girls, Courtney was a 'safer' choice—rather than to let some unknown fangirl, who had her own motive, go on a trip with Shay, it would be better to give this chance to some stranger. On top of that, this stranger had a child, which would greatly reduce the chances of their idol getting into a relationship after the trip!

Courtney was dumbfounded. Who could have thought that something so unexpected would happen at the final part of the celebration?

Tina returned to the lounge in high spirits while carrying a large bag of snacks that were given to her by Shay's fans. "Jordan, look at what I have here. Many pretty ladies gave me yummy food."

Pouting, Jordan sat on the couch while staring at her, as if she was a traitor.

She soon realized something and sat down beside him. "Jordan, it was unintentional. I initially wanted to go on a trip with Shay on my own, but Mommy unexpectedly wanted to follow along. It was out of my control, so please don't be mad."

Jordan, who felt disgruntled even after listening to her explanation, wrote something on his newly-bought drawing board and turned on the voice mode, and then a mechanical voice was heard. "Do you really like him so much? My father is way more handsome than him, and richer too!"

"That's not the same! Mr. Alexander is very handsome, but his kind of handsomeness is more suitable for my mommy. On the other hand, Shay's kind of handsomeness is more suitable for me. Hahaha!"

Jordan, who was rendered speechless by her fanatic words, turned around and ignored her.

"Jordan, what are you doing?" Tina leaned closer to check out what he was doing but was blocked by his body. He refused to let her see that his fingers were deftly typing a message before sending it out.

Meanwhile, Alexander had boarded a plane. He received Jordan's message right before he switched off his phone.

It was extremely rare for Jordan to send him a message because the former would usually ignore him when he was with Courtney.

'If you don't come back, Courtney and Tina are going to leave with someone else.'

The message left him in puzzlement. He then thought of something and asked Josh, who was beside him, "What happened at the celebration after we left the hotel today?"

"The celebration at the hotel?" Stunned for a moment, Josh quickly tapped open to read the messages in the work chat group in Messenger, and his eyes suddenly brightened up. "Oh, my! Miss Hunter's daughter was actually the winner for Shay's lucky draw, and all his fans agreed to let Miss Hunter and her daughter to represent them to go on a five-days trip to Maldives with Shay. This is such a coincidence."

When Josh was still astonished by the news, he suddenly realized the heavy atmosphere around him. He turned to take a look, only to realize that Alexander's expression was inexplicably gloomy. It gave him a fright, causing the words of exclamation to be choked in his throat.

After the celebration ended, the performance report showed that Courtney had already accomplished the bet she made with Alexander back then. Her profile was readministered by the human resource department, which made her an official employee of Sunhill Enterprise. When she finally got her new work tag, the worries that had been troubling her for the past few months were finally gone.

After completing the procedures, she returned home to pack her luggage.

The company gave her a week off before she would start as an official employee, also taking into consideration that she needed some time off to shoot for the show 'A Trip With an Idol'.

Before departure, Courtney stroked Jordan's head and worriedly said, "Jordan, are you sure that you will be alright to stay at home alone? Or maybe I should wait for your daddy to come home and hand you over to him before I leave."

Jordan shook his head in a serious manner and raised his drawing board. 'Daddy just told me that he has arrived at the airport. You and Tina don't need to stay and wait with me. Just go and have fun.'

This time, he actually did not cling on to her and refuse to let her go, which made Courtney a little surprised. However, since he had said so, and he had butlers and nannies taking care of him at home, she called a cab and took Tina to the airport without pressing on.

As soon as Courtney and Tina alighted from the cab, two videographers followed them all the way to the airport security checkpoint.

Shay, who had long arrived, was surrounded by a bunch of fans, who were asking for his autograph. He had a cameraman following beside him.

Upon seeing that Courtney had arrived, he immediately handed over the last autograph to his fan and walked toward her with a grin.

“Shay!” The passionate Tina called his name loudly and threw herself into his embrace. Her action overwhelmed the surrounding fangirls with her cuteness, causing them to take photos of the scene non-stop.

When the slightly anxious Courtney saw the cameramen putting down their cameras when they were at the security checkpoint, she finally dared to speak. “Have we started filming?”

“Don’t be nervous; just act normal. Just pretend that the cameramen were invisible.”

It was easier said than done. The shooting along the way here nearly made her lose the ability to walk. On top of that, they still had five more days to go!

# One Night Surprise Chapter 82

## Chapter 82 I Wish That I Could Take Care Of You

After a ten-hour flight, their flight arrived at the Velana International Airport in the Maldives.

As soon as they alighted from the plane, they were greeted by a refreshing sea breeze that seemed to contain the salty scent of the ocean, but it was not unpleasant.

Tina, who had been gluing herself to Shay throughout the flight, was exhausted when she exited the plane. She wrapped her arms around Shay's neck like a koala bear and dozed off when they were on their way to the hotel.

Upon arriving at the hotel, Shay first made arrangements for Tina to sleep in a room on the ground floor before moving his luggage into the suite. He then took a look around the place and arranged everyone else's accommodation. "Courtney, you and Tina should take the first-floor room since it is larger. I will take the room downstairs."

Courtney handed him a glass of water. "You must be tired now. Drink some water, and I will go and take a look upstairs."

He burst into a guffaw. "You don't have to be so nervous. I'm not used to you acting so courteous around me."

She helplessly looked around the house, which was filled with cameras, and sitting in a tent placed in the corner of the living room was a cameraman, who was pretending to be invisible—it would be difficult for her not to be nervous in such a place.

"I don't think I can do this. I have a feeling that the upcoming five days will make me break down."

"Don't worry and just relax. They will focus on shooting Tina and me, and they will cut out most of the scenes if you are caught on the camera."

She hesitated for a moment before her eyes suddenly lit up. “What if I have Tina to follow you most of the time starting tomorrow? If the two of you have less interactions with me, I guess that I won’t be caught on camera.”

Her words rendered him speechless.

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“Tina will be in your care for the following two days, then.” After saying that, she went directly upstairs.

It was soon evening when the night breeze brushed by.

She pushed open the glass door to the balcony on the second floor as the faraway sea, which was dyed orange-red by the sunset, entered her sight. A few pairs of couples were taking a stroll by the beach with swaying shadows of coconut trees and a shimmering ocean as background.

Supporting herself on the balcony, she took a deep breath, feeling refreshed. It had been a long time since she had felt so relaxed.

Although filming for this traveling show was something unexpected, she still felt grateful for it, since having an all-expenses-paid vacation was not something one would usually encounter.

Ding! The phone in her pocket rang—she had a message. Just as she was lowering her head to check her phone, the corner of her eyes caught a glimpse of a familiar figure downstairs.

The sight of that figure caused her heart to skip a beat, so she raised her head to get a clear view of that person. At the entrance of the coffee shop next to the swimming pool was a man, who was dressed in a beige casual shirt, sitting on a chair with his back facing her. His figure looked like that person.

This sudden thought gave her a fright. Have I gone crazy? Why do I think that it is him?

Ding! Just when she was deep in her wild thoughts, the sound of notification that came from her phone made her come to her senses. She lowered her head and found that it was a message from Shay. ‘Tina hasn’t woken up yet. I am going downstairs to get dinner, so you should accompany her.’

Courtney replied, 'Sure.'

After that, she turned around and went downstairs. The moment she turned around, she happened to have missed the scene at the coffee shop downstairs, where a little boy crawled up to the chair opposite that person with both his hands and legs.

A sentence was written on the drawing board. 'Why don't we straightaway go and look for them?'

The man leisurely took a sip of tea. "Don't be anxious. They have plenty of cameras by their sides, so it's not convenient for us to appear before them."

Feeling a little dissatisfied, the little boy pouted in disgruntlement. Then, two or three lines of words appeared on the drawing board. 'I am not going back if I don't get to meet them. You can't go back as well.'

The man's cold expression was replaced with a somewhat helpless expression when he saw what he wrote. "Alright, I understand. Can you properly eat your food now?"

Hearing that, the expression of the little boy, who was sitting opposite him, eased a little, and he forced himself to take a bite although he still felt indignant deep inside. This is not yummy at all; it tastes nothing like Courtney's cooking. This place is not fun at all.

It was late at night. When Shay brought their dinner back from downstairs, Tina happened to have woken up, so the three of them had dinner together on the ground floor. As they had been exhausted after a long ride here, they returned to their rooms after having dinner.

Tina and Courtney slept on the first floor at night. It was a starry night outside, and a gentle breeze entered the room through the gap of the floor-to-ceiling window and the undrawn curtain, bringing along the salty smell of sea breeze, which was a soothing scent.

Two figures, one large and the other small, could be vaguely seen at the balcony. Upon seeing Courtney, the little boy was eager to barge into the room but was carried by the man, who then uttered in a small voice, "If you wake them up now, we won't be able to have fun tomorrow."

Although the little boy was reluctant, all he could do was to enviously gaze at the little Tina, who was soundly asleep in Courtney's arms, with his spirits droop.

“Now that you have seen them, it is time for you to go back and sleep.” His intentionally lowered voice was drowned out by the wind. The figures on the balcony then turned and left in light footsteps.

The next morning, Shay suddenly threw them a question when they were having breakfast. “Come to think of it, did you lock the balcony door last night?”

“What’s the matter?”

“In this hotel, two suites share the same balcony, and you can access the neighboring suite via the balcony on the first floor. I don’t know if there is anybody staying in the neighboring suite, so you have to lock the door and draw the curtains at night. I forgot to remind you yesterday.”

Courtney nodded, but she seemed unfazed by his words.

“Really? I think I didn’t lock it, but it seems like nobody is staying in the neighboring suite. It has been quiet next door; I spent some time on the balcony outside yesterday afternoon but I didn’t see anybody.”

Hearing that, he adjured her that it would be safer to remember to lock the door at night. Then, he packed some things like sunscreen, cups, and hats and finally left after Tina’s impatient urges.

Courtney saw Shay and Tina off at the entrance of the hotel as they got into the car.

“Are you really not coming along?” Before the car door was closed, Shay asked again with a hint of eagerness.

“You know me well enough to know that I have seasickness.” She shrugged her shoulders helplessly. “If I follow along, you’d probably not only have to take care of Tina, but me as well. It will be a hassle, so just forget it.”

Shay murmured that he hoped to care for her, but his words were so slurred that she could not hear them clearly.

Shay was going to take Tina out to the sea today. On one hand, Courtney was worried that she might get seasick; on the other hand, she disliked having cameras following her around,

capturing her every move. Therefore, she told him last night that she would not be going out with them today.

After seeing them off, she returned to the hotel room.

“I’ll have a cup of coffee. Thanks.” Next to the hotel’s open-air pool, Courtney ordered a cup of coffee and leisurely relaxed till noon.

A little figure in the distance was caught by a waiter, who spoke to the former.

Casting a glance in that direction through her sunglasses, she was suddenly stunned and immediately sat up straight. Isn’t that Jordan?

“Jordan?” she rose to her full height and shouted at him from afar. The little boy expectedly turned around, escaped the waiter’s grip, and dashed toward her before throwing himself at her and hugged her leg.

“Jordan, why are you here alone?”

## One Night Surprise Chapter 83

### Chapter 83 You Should Come With Us

Courtney nearly could not believe her eyes—a little guy like Jordan should have been staying back in their country, but why did he appear in front of her all of a sudden?

The waiter came over to check out the situation, gesturing and asking her about the little kid. She carried him in her arms and explained to him, “This is my friend’s child, so he should be staying in this hotel as well. I will send this child over to him. Don’t worry.”

Seeing that Jordan was close to Courtney, the waiter did not suspect anything and left unworriedly.

As soon as the waiter had left, she put Jordan down before squatting down and asked, "Jordan, why are you here? Where's your daddy?"

He stared at her while gesturing something.

Knowing that he was not able to speak, she changed the question. "Is your daddy here with you?"

Jordan nodded.

She frowned. "Are you staying in this hotel with your daddy?"

He nodded again.

"So why are you here alone?"

Upon hearing this, he pouted on the spot, a look of dissatisfaction on his face.

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He seems upset... Courtney felt helpless as she did not understand what he was gesturing, so she turned on her phone and gave Alexander a call.

"Hello, the person you have called cannot be reached at the moment. Please..."

There were nothing but clearly pronounced words which stated that her call was not answered by the person at the other side of the phone, which made her frown. What's with Alexander? Why did he leave his kid here all by himself and is not answering calls?

When she was deep in her thoughts, she caught a glimpse of Jordan's neck, which was red, from the corner of her eyes. "Jordan, what happened to your neck?"

She tugged open his collar and discovered that not only his neck, but his chest was red as well. It was obvious that he was sunburned. After asking him for a while, he took her phone and typed out the whole incident. 'Daddy took me out to play at the beach yesterday afternoon, so I got sunburned. It hurts.'

Alexander actually arrived yesterday afternoon? She could not afford to care about this at the moment as she felt extremely distressed for Jordan when she saw his sunburn. "Your daddy didn't even apply sunscreen on you."

Jordan pouted, looking even more pitiful.

Feeling distressed for him, she took him upstairs to deal with his sunburn before she could think of how to look for Alexander; otherwise, Jordan's skin would definitely peel in a couple of days.

Just when she was applying medicine on Jordan's sunburn, the doorbell rang.

"Jordan, don't make any move first. I'm going to answer the door."

When she saw Alexander's never-changing poker face from the peephole, she immediately opened the door and muttered in an upset tone, "Why are you here?"

"Jordan's with you?" He sounded righteous.

"Shouldn't you have your son by your side?"

"Is he not here?" he asked again.

Courtney was pissed off by his attitude. "Alexander, what kind of father are you? Since you have brought Jordan out to play, can you pay more attention in taking care of him? Do you know that he has sunburn?"

His expression slightly changed. "Let me have a look."

"Of course you should take a look." As she was speaking, she subconsciously gave way to him and allowed him to enter her suite, overlooking the shred of slyness flashing across his eyes the moment he entered.

He held Jordan's chubby little hand and carefully examined the sunburn on his body. "Let's stay in today," he frowned as he adjured.

"Why can't he go out?" she darted him a look and grumbled. "Don't you know that there is this thing called sunscreen in this world? Even if you don't, you should know about summer hats and long sleeve shirts. I have just asked Jordan—he said that you actually allowed him

to wear nothing but a swimming trunk when playing by the beach under the hot sun yesterday afternoon. Why didn't you go and play under the sun yesterday, then?"

Alexander looked at her and explained in a stern manner, "On one hand, I wasn't interested in a low-difficulty activity like building a sandcastle of The Great Wall; on the other hand, I felt that it was too hot."

"Haha! You thought that it was too hot, yet you let Jordan go under the sun?" Courtney was speechless, thinking that Alexander was definitely the most careless father that she had ever met in her life when it came to taking care of a child.

Seeing that Courtney kept reprimanding Alexander, Jordan carefully tugged her sleeve and showed her the word that he had just written. 'Hungry.'

It made her come to her senses and frown. "Jordan is hungry, but as his father, you don't know about it as well. You are too busy working everyday—is work more important than your son?"

"I totally understand what you mean. I was ordering some food downstairs when... Jordan disappeared in the blink of an eye." His gaze was deep as they landed on her.

Hearing that, her throat tightened; a shocking expression appeared on her face as she realized what she had done.

If Alexander had been downstairs, the waiter would have taken care of Jordan and sent him back to the former in the end if she had not taken Jordan away. It was because of her action of taking him upstairs that gave him the extra work of looking for Jordan.

Recalling her attitude earlier, she felt awkward and coughed before nervously explaining, "Umm, I saw that Jordan was sunburned, so I brought him upstairs to treat them. I didn't know that you were downstairs too. I'm sorry."

"It's fine." His expression was as cold as usual, as if he was unfazed by her scolding. He then reached out his hand at Jordan. "Our food is ready downstairs, Jordan. Let's go down to eat something."

Jordan hesitated for a while before taking Courtney's sleeve while using his eyes to gesture at Alexander.

Alexander glanced at him and turned to her. "Jordan hopes that you can join us for a meal."

Courtney was alone right now since Shay had brought Tina out, and she had no idea when they would be coming back. Hence, she felt that she preferred eating with the little guy instead of doing that alone, so she did not reject their invitation.

After having their meal, Jordan asked where Tina went.

"She went out to the sea with Shay to an uninhabited island nearby."

Hearing that, he was incredibly envious of Tina. He turned to Alexander with a look of eagerness on his face.

Alexander took a sip of tea and calmly uttered, "You can't swim, so even if you go, you will only be making sandcastles by the beach, which is just the same wherever you are."

"What's the matter? Do you want to go as well, Jordan?" Courtney asked. When she saw that Jordan nodded, she suggested to Alexander, "Take him there, then. Anyway, I heard that it is not far from here—it's only a ten-minute boat ride from the jetty."

Alexander pondered for a moment. Lowering his head, he saw Jordan looking at him with eagerness in his black, beady eyes. He nodded after a moment of consideration. "Okay, let's go after having our meal."

"That's how you do it. Since you have brought him out here to have fun, you shouldn't keep him in the hotel room all the time."

Courtney was satisfied with his attitude this time. Although he was quite careless in taking care of his child, he was willing to humbly listen to the advice of others, which made him at least salvageable.

After lunch, Courtney fished out a bottle of sunscreen from her bag and handed it to Alexander. "Take this with you. Apply it on Jordan every hour so that he doesn't get sunburned again."

Alexander did not accept it and sternly replied, "What Jordan meant was for you to come with us."

# One Night Surprise Chapter 84

## Chapter 84 Daddy Wants to Give You a Surprise

“Huh? I-I don’t want to go.”

Upon thinking about going out to the sea, a hint of resistance flashed across her eyes as she immediately waved her hand. “I can’t go.”

After she said that, she felt a pull on her sleeve. She lowered her head and found Jordan pitifully tugging her sleeve with a look of eagerness on his face as he gazed at her, while his other hand was holding a note with a line of words, which she had no idea when it was written. ‘I want you to go together with me.’

Stunned, Courtney stroked his head, and her heart suddenly softened. “Alright. If that’s the case, let me go to my room and get changed.”

Jordan had no mother, and Alexander was indeed a careless father—he managed to let Jordan get sunburned from playing under the sun for too long even though they were merely staying in the hotel, so it might be worse if they went out to the sea; not to mention that Jordan could not swim, as according to Alexander.

“Okay.” Although it did not show on Alexander’s face, there was, in fact, an inexplicable feeling of gladness that filled his heart.

He saw her at the entrance of the coffee shop early in the morning, spending her whole morning drinking a cup of coffee. After asking the film crew, he learnt that she had allowed Shay to bring Tina out by himself, and this news caused him to be in great spirits throughout the morning.

They rode on a speedboat to the little island. When Courtney was putting on the life jacket, she felt a little dizzy, but she forced herself to put it on and sat still on her seat, trying her best to not look at the waters.

“Mister, please go a little slower.” Her voice slightly trembled, and even Alexander noticed the difference in her voice.

“Are you alright?”

“I’m fine.” She nonchalantly smiled, masking the fact that she was struggling. She adjured, “Fasten Jordan’s hat properly. If the wind is strong later, his hat may be blown away.”

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Alexander nodded and helped Jordan to adjust his hat, only to realize that Courtney was having a hard time fastening the button of her hat with her trembling hands.

“Are you really fine?” He frowned. “Let’s not go if you are not feeling well.”

“I’m fine. I’m fine. It’s just that the boat is a little shaky, so I can’t fasten the button.”

He hesitated for a moment before leaning forward and held her hands. “Let me help you.”

Her hands were suddenly wrapped by his warm palm, causing her to be momentarily stunned and even forget about the seasickness that she was currently experiencing. She looked at him in a daze as he helped her to fasten the button. The tingling feeling on her chin actually gave her a fleeting moment of breathing difficulty.

“All done.” The low, husky voice rang by her years, pulling her back to her senses. She then abruptly turned her gaze away. “Oh, t-thank you.”

“You are welcome.” Alexander stared at her. “Do you feel hot?”

“N-Not really.”

“Why is your face so red, then?”

“Huh?” She immediately covered her face, her speech incoherent. “I-Is that so? M-Maybe it’s because of the hot sun.” As she was speaking, she suddenly pointed at the sun. “The weather is too hot today. You should help Jordan button up his long sleeve shirt.”

Alexander raised his brows, revealing a cryptic smile as he was pretty sure she was lying.

Jordan, who was curious about anything, pointed at everything and kept asking various questions.

Meanwhile, Courtney patiently explained them to him, but there were some questions that she did not understand herself, especially when he asked about the mechanical equipment on the boat, which she knew nothing about. It was Alexander who explained to him about the operation principle of ships at this moment.

“President Duncan, has anybody ever told you that you look professional when you talk about boats?”

Alexander initially thought that this was a compliment, but she then continued with an unexpected statement. “People who don’t know you would think that you were a shipyard worker.”

Hearing that, his expression fell.

Alexander, who usually would be able to easily render people speechless with a word or two, seemed to have lost his ability to refute her statements for some unknown reason today, which instantly put her in a good mood—even her seasickness subsided a little. She uttered, “Speaking of which, why did you bring Jordan over here to the Maldives all of a sudden? You didn’t tell me about this before. If I had known about this earlier, we could have come together.”

He was impassive. “Jordan wanted to come.”

Jordan glared at him and wrote on the drawing board that he brought along with him all the time. ‘Daddy wanted to give you a surprise.’

Upon hearing this, Courtney’s heart skipped a beat, and she subconsciously gazed at Alexander, who happened to be looking at her as well. Their eyes met, and the air around them seemed to have become a little stagnant.

She had always thought that Alexander’s care for her was due to her close relationship with Jordan. If it were not because of the incident during the night she was dead-drunk, which she had been struggling to forget, she would never have thought about the possibility of them getting together.

Even if she had indeed thought of it, the thought was merely a tiny spark, which could be easily extinguished in the blink of an eye. He is about to get married soon, so it would be impossible for us to have a future together.

Upon having such thoughts, she avoided his gaze and intentionally smiled to ease the awkward air. "You are still so young, yet you know how to say things that make people happy."

Jordan cast Alexander a glance, hoping that he would say something, but the latter turned a blind eye to him, as if he did not understand his gesture, and turned to look at the faraway island.

Pissed, Jordan quickly wrote on his drawing board with his head lowered. 'You said that my words made you happy. In other words, this surprise from my daddy really made you happy, right?'

Upon seeing his question, the smile on her face froze—she did not know how she should answer his question.

She had to admit that she was delighted to see Alexander and Jordan here. In fact, when she saw a figure from the balcony last night, which she had mistaken for him, she was actually glad at that instant.

Seeing that she seemed to be troubled, he attempted to ask further, but the boat suddenly shook vigorously.

Courtney screamed in shock and fell to the side at once. The sharp-eyed Alexander swiftly pulled her arm, but before he could firmly grab on her, the boat shook again.

His expression tensed as he tugged her into his embrace with a sudden pull before asking the boat driver, "What's happening?"

He was wearing a life jacket, so when her face knocked into his chest, it felt a little painful due to the friction. Before she could react, she felt her world spinning—her sight started to blur in an incomprehensible speed, and her stomach started churning.

The boat driver's anxious voice came from the front of the boat. "Sir, we can't travel far in these strong waves, and it seems like it is about to rain. Should we head straight to the island or turn back?"

Looking at Courtney, who had passed out in his arms, Alexander's expression was dark.

This woman is obviously seasick. She hasn't been feeling well since the moment we boarded the boat, yet she forced herself to endure it. Now that she is in such a state after the boat merely encountered some waves, how is she going to get to the island like this?

"Let's turn back." It was an adamant decision. He then glanced at Jordan and asked, "Jordan, can you sit properly on your own?"

Jordan solemnly nodded. Holding Jordan's hand with one hand, Alexander wrapped his other hand around Courtney's shoulder, holding her in his embrace.

The weather instantly changed, and large rain droplets hit the speedboat. Without any shelter above their heads, the people in the boat were soon drenched to the skin.

When he was frowning, sobbing sounds suddenly came from his arms. "Grandpa, don't go. Please don't go..."

## One Night Surprise Chapter 85

Chapter 85 I Don't Want to Go to That House

"I don't want to go there. I don't want to go to that house..." Incoherent words that sounded like she was sleep talking came from his embrace, causing his stern expression to reveal a shred of tenderness amongst the storm.

Alexander's father passed away when he was 13 years old. Even though his mother wasn't around, he still had his grandfather to take care of him and raise him. His grandfather was currently still alive and kicking, and he loved to act against him.

But this was not the case for Courtney—she had lost her mother ever since she was born, and though her father was still around, he had formed a new family with someone else. She

had lived with her grandfather for a few years before the latter passed away. After that, she was taken back to the Hunter Mansion by her father, which had obviously put her in an awkward situation—she should have been the original family member but was treated as a guest in the family instead.

Alexander's only friend since childhood had once remarked him as an obstinate person, and he himself also thought that a person's surrounding environment was the cause of one's obstinance. Therefore, the type of environment that Courtney grew up in should have caused her to become a more obstinate person than he was, but in contrast, she was actually able to live a carefree and comfortable life. She even gave up on her identity as the second young lady of the Hunter Family and became a manager in a hotel.

He initially thought that he knew her very well—an ordinary woman who was shrewd in work but silly in life. However, after getting along with her for so long, he realized that there was much more to learn about her.

The rain got heavier. Looking at the hazy sea with a frown, he asked, "How much longer before we can dock?"

"Very soon. Don't worry. It usually stops raining within five to ten minutes here," the boat driver explained while controlling the steering wheel, intending to return to the mainland as fast as possible.

However, after half an hour, when Alexander had taken the two of them back to the hotel, there was still a downpour outside. The weather station announced at the last minute that there might be a rainstorm coming and ordered all the fishing boats to urgently evacuate from the sea. There were plenty of small boats that had been capsized by the strong waves, and rescue teams had been dispatched.

"President Duncan, who's this..." A few persons-in-charge of the show from Starlight Media were waiting for Shay's news at the hotel lobby. They were stunned when they saw Alexander back with Courtney.

"Get a doctor here." He went straight to the point and threw them a brief and concise order. Under their dumbfounded gaze, he carried her in his arms and went upstairs.

"It was just seasickness. Since she is not on the boat now, there is no need for her to take any medicine for it. She probably got wet in the rain and caught a fever, so she will be fine

after taking some antipyretic drugs." After the doctor diagnosed that it was nothing serious, the person-in-charge of the show showed the doctor out, and Alexander followed them out of the room as well.

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After that, the person-in-charge turned and saw Alexander. Stunned, he greeted, "President Duncan."

Alexander nodded in response. "Get a caretaker to look after her for the night."

Upon hearing this, the person-in-charge revealed an expression that he seemed to have been put in a spot. "President Duncan, you might not know this, but this sort of heavy rain had never occurred even once in many years, so many incidents happened following this downpour. The medical facilities here are lacking in the first place, and I heard that a cruise ship that was heading toward the resort island capsized, so the hospitals here have all been occupied. There is a shortage of medical staff, so it will be difficult to look for a caretaker."

Upon hearing this, he became anxious. "A cruise ship has capsized? Which one?" He suddenly thought of the fact that Tina had not returned yet.

The person-in-charge, who thought that he was worried about Shay, quickly explained, "Don't worry, it was not the ship that Shay boarded. Shay and Miss Hunter's daughter have safely arrived at the island, but they can't come back at the moment. They have reported to us that they are now safe."

Alexander's expression slightly eased.

"About the caretaker..." The person-in-charge seemed nervous.

"It's fine, then." Alexander waved his hand, gesturing to him to leave before he returned to the room.

The ash-blue bed sheets made her face look even colder, which looked different from when she was awake earlier. He sat beside her and stared at her face, recalling the incident when he met her in the lift, when she daringly claimed that he was her boyfriend. Traces of gentleness involuntarily appeared in his eyes.

This woman was astonishing when she was daring, but she could melt his heart when she was weak and helpless.

He leaned over at her, attempting to take a closer look at her face, but when he got closer to her, he found that he seemed to have lost control of himself as he leaned even closer to her and finally planted a kiss on her lips.

The sound of the rain was loud outside the window as the curtains swayed in the wind; raindrops fell on the ground and splashed in all directions. A large shadow was cast on the wall—it was kissing an unconscious person.

Courtney felt that her head was heavy, as if she had fallen into the water. When she was drowning in her muddle-headed condition, she seemed to feel that someone had covered a blanket on her and placed a cold, wet cloth on her forehead to reduce her fever.

Although she knew that there was someone next to her, she could not stop herself from spiraling into a dream about her past from years ago.

At that time, her grandfather was soon dying from heart failure. The young Courtney stayed with him by the bed while he held her hands with his old withered hand, which resembled a wilted branch. His eyes were filled with worry as he repetitively adjured, “Court, you have to be a good girl when you go back, but you don’t have to pay too much attention to what they think. You still have a place in your father’s heart. If you are bullied, just tell him straight, and he will help you.”

“Grandpa, I don’t want to go there. I will be a good girl, and I won’t eat too many candies.”

She was like a bystander, listening to the girl with pigtails as the latter cried miserably, as if she did not understand that her grandfather was dying. The girl thought that he was going to abandon her and send her away.

The hospital suddenly became noisy as a few mean-looking men and women barged into the ward. A fat woman with permed hair, dressed in an expensive-looking purple coat, cursed at the young Courtney the moment she saw her. “You jinx, your mother died because of you the moment you were born. You are still so young and immature, yet once again, you’ve caused your grandfather to die. Why are you still here? Do you have a death wish? Send her away. Her presence alone irritates me.”

“I’m not leaving. Grandpa, Grandpa—”

The young Courtney was dragged out from the ward by two adults. Before she was thrown out of the ward, she looked behind and saw the old man on the bed looking at her with his

eyes widened, as if he still had some last words that he had yet to tell her. Amidst his children's sorrowful sobs, his withered arm finally fell from a height and drooped on the edge of the bed.

"Hey, isn't that the jinx?"

"She is the bearer of bad luck."

"That's right. It's her."

As she grew older, she gradually understood the comments made by the people around her. There was once when she was driven to a corner, a roar suddenly burst out from her heart, rushed through her throat, and escaped her lips. "I'm not a jinx!"

Then, she forcefully pushed the chubby kid that spat on her face to the ground.

"You even have the guts to push me? You damn jinx! The jinx is trying to kill someone!"

"I'm not a jinx!" Courtney suddenly screamed as she awakened from her nightmare, but she was slowly calmed down by the warm sensation on the back of her hand. She was stunned when she saw Alexander, who had just opened his drowsy eyes, lying on the bed beside her.

"Ah!" A loud shriek cut through the rainy night.

## One Night Surprise Chapter 86

Chapter 86 I Am Not Your Mistress

Alexander was woken up from his deep sleep by her shrill scream in the wee hours of the morning. He frowned for a few seconds before returning to his calm composure as he sat up. "What are you screaming at? Take a closer look—we're both wearing clothes," he said in displeasure.

Courtney looked at him in a daze for a long time. After noting that both of them were indeed wearing pajamas, her face immediately flushed red.

He shot a glance at her before he explained indifferently, "The hotel attendants were the ones who changed your clothes. Apart from that, you should ask yourself why I'm sleeping next to you. You insisted on speaking to me in your dreams for the entire night—surely you don't expect me to sit next to you throughout the night, do you?"

Her face had the hue of beets as she could not wait to dig a hole in the ground to hide herself. This man looks like he is a mind reader! He knows what I'm thinking with just one look. "Then, why am I here?" she asked as she bit the bullet .

The structure of the hotel room was similar to the one she stayed at, but there were no hidden cameras around, so it was rather obvious that it was a different room than hers.

After Alexander rose from the bed, he poured a cup of tea before passing it to her. He asked her again, "You clearly know that you are seasick yet you insisted on coming with us. Are you really doing this for Jordan, or are you deliberately..."

"Deliberately what?" Courtney looked perplexed.

He gazed at her. "Deliberately creating a situation like this."

Her expression immediately changed as she raised her eyebrows and questioned, "What? What do you mean by me deliberately creating such a situation? Do you think that I'm such a shameless woman who intentionally throws myself at you? Are you thinking that all the women in the world fancy you?"

The tone of her retaliation was strong and violent, as if he had greatly insulted her.

"What if I actually hope that you are deliberately doing this?"

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That sentence from him was enough to douse the flames of her anger and render her confused.

"Y-Y-You must be joking. T-T-This is not funny at all." Courtney's face stiffened as she lowered her head to drink the entire huge glass of water in order to avoid Alexander's gaze.

"Do you think I'm someone who likes to joke around?"

"Umm..."

Upon hearing that, Courtney suddenly choked on the mouthful of water. Her face reddened after she tried to suppress her urge to cough.

"I don't understand what you are trying to say."

It's better to continue to play dumb. If I speak too much and the feelings aren't mutual, I'm the one who would be embarrassed again.

Alexander frowned. "Raise your head."

"What?" Although she was taken aback, she subconsciously raised her head.

In that instant, a shadow fell on her as her plump lips were covered by a warm sensation. She felt him lightly nibbling her lips and when she exclaimed, his tongue took the opportunity to kiss her.

Her mind seemed to have exploded, as if a land mine had blasted every thought she had into rubbles.

The kiss lasted for a long time. When he let her go, she was dangerously out of breath and she grabbed the bed as she panted. She lost all of her strength to blame him.

"Do you understand now?"

Alexander stood up with a straight posture. His tall shadow cast on Courtney, making her unable to calm her breathing while his deep, hoarse voice that was filled with lust made her heart thump violently.

After keeping her head low for a while, she demanded through gritted teeth, "If I say that I don't understand, do you think that I don't know any better?"

When Alexander saw her disgust after she lifted her head, he was stunned for a while.

"If I have previously made you misunderstand that I am such a woman, I apologize for that. It's just that I hope that this will never happen again and I hate to repeat myself."

With that, Courtney rose from her full height and walked to the door.

However, he grabbed her arm from behind. "Tell me clearly what do you me—"

Smack! A loud slap echoed in the room. She roughly shook his arm away with a humiliated look in her eyes and sounded quite aggrieved as she roared in a low voice, "I'm not that shameless to be your mistress!"

Once she said that, she barged out of the door.

Thud! The loud slam of the door reverberated in the room, making the entire structure seem as if it was shaking.

Alexander touched his cheek that she slapped him on. As his shock gradually subsided, he did not feel angry at all, but rather, he was amused.

The first ray of sunshine rose from the sea level and brightened the entire dark room.

After listening to the beeping sound from the phone as it rang, his voice was heard. "Josh, cancel the wedding."

Upon hearing that, Josh was speechless, as if he could not believe his ears.

"Yeah, I'm calling it off. Please speak to Britney about this."

The silence remained.

After hanging up on the phone, Alexander walked to the windows. As soon as he opened the French windows, the sea breeze entered the room with exceptionally fresh air after a night of storms. Without even asking about my thoughts, this woman immediately slapped me! She really does think that I'm a playboy who f\*cks around.

On the other end, when Courtney returned to her room in annoyance, she lay on the bed for a long time without even lifting her head.

The mix of humiliation and anger had made her very uncomfortable. What the hell is Alexander thinking? Does he think that he can easily take advantage of me? This is too much!

In the afternoon, Shay returned with Tina. Due to Tina's ignorance, she was unafraid of anything. Even after returning to the room, she animatedly described the dangerous situation that happened the day before. "Mommy, the wind was so strong at the place where Shay and I stayed. The entire house was about to be blown away! When it rained, even fish fell from the sky and it's so astounding!"

Courtney still looked frightened as she tightened her grip on Tina's hands. "It's all my fault. I should have gone with you."

"Luckily you were not there. When I was with Tina on the island, I was worried that I couldn't explain to you if she got hurt." Shay's face paled as she added. "But if you went there with us, I would have to worry about the both of you. In such a dangerous situation, I'm not sure if I can take good care of you two."

Fortunately, the danger was over. Courtney went to hug Tina, who did not look like she was traumatized by the situation. The little girl merely complained that she was hungry and wanted some food. Hence, Courtney had to freshen up and headed downstairs for a meal without caring about the fact that a few photographers were following behind them.

After they ordered some food, Tina's black iris flickered around and saw two familiar figures—an adult and a child—entering the restaurant and walking toward them. At that moment, she immediately exclaimed, "Mr. Alexander! Jordan!"

After Courtney heard Tina's exclams, her expression stiffened as she raised her head. Sure enough, Alexander and Jordan are here.

"Mommy! It's Mr. Alexander and Jordan!" Tina looked like she had discovered something new. While shaking Courtney's arm in happiness with one hand, she waved to both of them with another hand. "Here! Over here, Mr. Alexander!"

Shay, who was seated beside them, frowned and muttered unhappily, "Why is he still here? Is he pestering us?"

# One Night Surprise Chapter 87

## Chapter 87 The Owner of the Custom-made Necklace

As soon as he heard Tina calling him, Jordan's eyes immediately brightened and he released his grip on Alexander to run to her. He could not stop smiling as he looked at her.

As she shared many common topics with him, she started to share with Jordan about everything that happened in the past two days—the incident on the plane, at the beach, the storm that she encountered when they were at the sea... The topics were endless.

Alexander subtly pulled the chair next to Courtney and deliberately asked, "You don't mind me sitting here, do you?"

Courtney forced a smile. Even though she told him that she did not mind, one look at her eyes illustrated that she could not wait for him to leave.

However, he ignored it and politely nodded at her. She was so infuriated by his actions that she could have flipped the table in front of him countless times.

Upon seeing them 'flirt' with each other, Shay felt rather disappointed. For many years, Courtney has only been treating me as her younger brother. Even though I usually joke about marrying her, she has never treated it seriously enough to give it a thought. Even though I'm closer to her, my chances are not that high, compared to an outsider. Now that this sly fox, Alexander, has suddenly appeared, he's adding fuel to the fire. This fox has even tricked me to sign a contract with the media company that he has stocks in! As he thought about it, he gritted his teeth in resentment.

He could not resist being sarcastic. "The President of the Sunhill Enterprise has come all the way here—you are not planning to expand your business here, are you?"

Alexander merely shot him a glance. "Your suggestion is pretty useful. When I have more time, I will consider doing business in this area. However, this time around, I'm just here to travel with my son."

"There are so many places to travel with your son. Why do you have to follow us here? I find it hard to believe that this is all just a coincidence!"

With a calm composure, Alexander responded, "It's not a coincidence. Both Jordan and I have always thought that it's best to come here."

Shay immediately clenched his fists as he asked, "What's so good about this place?"

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"There are many people around, so it's lively."

"You—"

"Let's dig in." Courtney's voice suddenly interrupted them as she looked uneasy. "The food is becoming cold."

Alexander's eyebrows were slightly arched as he slowly took a sip of his tea.

However, Shay looked quite upset. "Aren't you about to be married soon? Why didn't you bring your fiancée along?"

His question was exactly the same as what Courtney had in mind. In that instant, she became more nervous. Even though she did not lift her head, she still listened attentively.

Alexander merely put his glass down with a relaxed expression. "I don't remember announcing it publicly that I'm getting married. Where did you hear about this 'fiancée' of mine?"

As soon as she heard that, the expression on her face immediately changed and she subconsciously raised her head to look at Alexander. When she saw his serious composure, which did not indicate that he was joking, she suddenly became more nervous. Is he saying that he has no plans to marry Britney at all?

"Everyone in the industry has said so. Yet, you still want to deny it?" Again, Shay had asked the question that she wanted to ask as well.

With his head lowered, Alexander cut his steak and retorted slowly, "Have you confirmed the gossip about you and the other celebrity? Seems like you don't need the company to clarify for you anymore."

"You..." Shay was speechless by Alexander's comeback. In fact, he was so angry that his cheeks blushed red. "Stop using the company's name to pressure me. If you hadn't forced me to sign the contract in such a despicable manner, I would never have signed it!"

The moment he mentioned that, Courtney was also unable to remain silent. "Shay, Starlight Media is a huge company and I've also looked at your contract after you signed it. As long as you don't breach the terms, there is no problem at all. President Duncan is also doing this for your own good. Why do you have to put it in such a way?"

"Courtney, it's clear that he's trying to control and threaten me and yet you are still defending him."

"Threaten you?" She was confused after hearing that. "Threaten you with what?"

"Of course, he's threatening to—" Shay suddenly stopped himself and gritted his teeth. "No matter what, it's definitely not something good. Once I earn enough money to pay for the penalty, I'm going to breach the contract. To hell with staying in the company!" With that, he glared at Alexander without showing an ounce of respect to his boss.

However, Alexander was not angered by Shay's words. Instead, he was rather calm as he placed the steak that was cut on Jordan's plate nonchalantly. Apart from that, he even voluntarily poured a glass of water for her.

As the weather report in Maldives showed that there could be heavy rain in the late afternoon, the filming crew did not dare to travel far even though it was still sunny. Hence, they changed the location of their plans to a beach near the hotel and gave Shay and Tina some tasks to carry out. He was going to dive to look for starfishes in the sea.

After dinner, both Tina and Jordan had changed into their swimsuits. Then, they ran to the beach with some pails and small shovels in their hands. She was quite adventurous—with her arms on her hips, she proudly declared that she was going to build a castle fit for a princess on the circled area of the sand. It was after Jordan's solemn nod that both of them started to get busy.

Behind them, Courtney lay on a reclining chair in a long yellow sundress. Next to her, Alexander was doing the same with a table in between them that had a glass of juice on top of it. A sunshade above them blocked the scorching sun.

After holding it in for a long time, she finally could not help herself and blurted out, "So, the news that the company has been spreading about you and Britney getting married is fake?"

"It's true." Alexander's low voice rang from next to her. "But I regret it."

She was stunned to hear that and with mixed feelings, she asked, "Why is that so?"

"I decided to marry her because of Jordan, but he doesn't seem to like her."

Alexander's reply was short and succinct; it did not have any unnecessary words.

However, she felt disappointed, as though she had fallen down from the clouds. To people like Alexander, marriage is nothing. The only person important to him is his son. Hence, he would only get married because of Jordan, and he would also call it off because of his son. Does this mean that all of his actions and his words before this are also because of Jordan?

Not far from them, Tina and Jordan seemed to have conflicting opinions on building the sandcastle—she was explaining her ideas, but he said nothing apart from shaking his head and making some hand gestures that even adults could not understand.

Courtney frowned and tried to shake off her earlier messy thoughts to ensure that everything was back on track. At that moment, the sudden ringing of her phone interrupted her thoughts.

"Hello, are you Miss Hunter? I'm the branch manager of Brilliant Jewelry of the branch at the East Road of Melrose City. Do you still remember me?"

A sweet lady's voice sounded on the other end. After she introduced herself, Courtney's expression froze as she walked further with the phone in her hands. "Yes. Have you found some clues about what I have asked about before?"

"Yes, I have." The female branch manager sounded confident.

Courtney merely felt as if only half of her blood rushed to her head. As her breathing quickened, she asked hastily, "Have you found the person who ordered the necklace? Who is it?"

"After checking the custom-made jewelry orders made in the last 10 years, we found out that this necklace was made here in April eight years ago. The person who made the order—it was a Mr. Alexander Duncan."

"Alexander Duncan?" Courtney's expression immediately changed. "Which Alexander Duncan is that?"

"The President of Sunhill Enterprise—Alexander Duncan."

## One Night Surprise Chapter 88

### Chapter 88 Mommy, Why Are You Crying?

As soon as Courtney heard that, she felt as if her blood, which was boiling moments ago, was frozen in an instant. The entire Melrose City is such a big place—why does it have to be him?

However, after carefully thinking about it, apart from the Duncan Family, no one would have been able to use the Sunrise Enterprise's future to threaten people back then.

At that moment, Alexander was not at the same location as he was earlier—he seemed to be preoccupied with other matters and had already returned to the hotel.

Upon thinking about that, she looked at a spot not far away from her and saw a tiny figure who was building the first prototype of a sandcastle with her daughter. His young facial features looked increasingly familiar to her.

Apart from slightly panicking, she had believed the truth without any hesitation. The son whom I've been thinking about for the past five years has been right in front of me all this while. Yet, as his mother, I couldn't even recognize him!

As the waves crashed into her feet, she stood frozen on the ground as she could not even move her feet. After taking a few steps with great difficulty, she could no longer withstand her anguish and sobbed.

"Mommy!" Tina suddenly ran to her. "Look at the castles we just built..."

Courtney quickly turned to hide the tears swimming in her eyes, but Tina saw everything and asked in a fluster, "Mommy, why are you crying?"

"I didn't cry." Courtney's words did not have any logic in them. "It's the wind. The wind is too strong, so the sand has entered my eyes."

Jordan also ran toward her. With a worried expression on his face, he took her hands and looked at her carefully when he saw her. She thought to herself, His eyes look exactly the same as Tina's. I've never even suspected this—even though both of them have similar features!

As Courtney thought about that, she could no longer control her tears from streaming down her face. Then, she slowly crouched and looked at the child who did not grow up with her—the complicated feelings that she suppressed almost tore her into pieces.

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He was anxious upon seeing that. His little hand carelessly wiped the tears away from her cheeks as he himself almost burst into tears.

"I'm fine. I'm fine. Don't worry, Jordan." Courtney took his hands and grabbed them. "Mommy is happy."

As soon as he heard the words 'mommy', he was stunned for a while. However, Tina did not notice anything weird as she winked and explained, "Jordan, Mommy says that her eyes hurt because of the sand entering into her eyes from the wind. Let's blow it away for her."

After a moment of hesitation, Jordan nodded. The two kids then carefully blew into Courtney's eyes. As the warm breath landed on her face, she could no longer suppress her feelings and hugged both of them in her arms while laughing and crying at the same time.

“Mommy, what’s wrong?” No matter how unobservant Tina had been all along, she now understood that there was no sand in Courtney’s eyes.

After releasing both children from her embrace, Courtney hesitated for a long time. She was close to revealing the truth a couple of times, but forcefully responded in the end, “Nothing.” Jordan is Alexander’s son. If I tell the truth at this moment and even if Jordan would like to take me as his mother, what about Alexander?

Thinking about how he asked people to coerce and entice Jordan back then and how he interacts with the child now, it’s clear how important this child is to him—and way beyond my expectation. I definitely can’t take him away just because I am his mother. That would be the worst thing I could do!

Apart from that, once Alexander learns that Jordan is not his only child and he has another daughter, would he take Tina away as well?

When she thought about it, a chill ran down her spine as fear spread to her entire body.

There was a huge possibility of that happening and she could not afford to take the risk.

After wiping her tears away, Courtney forced a smile as she took the shovel. “Tina, Jordan, let’s make some sandcastles together!”

They were kids after all—their attention was diverted as soon as she assured them that she was fine and wanted to play with them. Then, they happily pulled her to their building site.

During dinner, Alexander frowned when he saw that Courtney’s eyes were slightly red. “What’s wrong with your eyes?”

Courtney did not dare to look into his eyes as she kept her head lowered while saying in a low voice, “Nothing. I was seasick earlier, so I haven’t been feeling well all this while.”

His frown deepened and a look of concern appeared in his eyes. “Take a good rest after the meal and hand everything to the filming crew. They will take care of the kids. You don’t have to worry about them.”

She quickly hummed in agreement, but the expression on her face did not look natural.

After calming down from the huge shock, she recalled everything that happened that night six years ago. A chill ran down her spine as she felt enshrouded in darkness that was filled with fear.

The Duncan Family was immensely powerful and it had always been difficult to guess what Alexander was thinking. If he knew that she was the surrogate mother whom they had mistaken back then, the peaceful life that she had just regained would be flipped upside down once again.

After dinner, Courtney hastily returned to her room. Without thinking about it, she pulled the suitcase out from the corner.

The next day, both Alexander and Jordan were having breakfast at the restaurant downstairs. Not long after that, Shay brought Tina over while holding her hand and confidently walked over to sit opposite Alexander with a relaxed expression on his face.

“Excuse me, waiter, I would like a latte, a glass of milk, and two waffles, please.”

Alexander looked in the direction of the elevator, but he did not see the person whom he was expecting. “Where is she?”

“Who?” As if he had been waiting all along for Alexander’s question, Shay looked slightly triumphant.

Alexander shot a glance at Shay, making no attempt to hide his disdain at the latter’s childish attitude. “She’s probably upstairs, isn’t she? Women are troublesome indeed.”

“Women are troublesome indeed,” Shay repeated playfully. “However, Courtney is the least troublesome woman I’ve ever met. Even when she has to return home immediately, she’s able to manage all of that alone without troubling anyone.”

“She went home?” Alexander’s expression slightly changed. It’s just been a night; how could she suddenly return?

“You didn’t know?” Shay asked in an exaggerated tone and clucked his tongue. “I thought that she would at least inform you, seeing that you are her boss. It seems like I’m the only person whom she informed.”

Courtney had left Maldives overnight, saying that she needed to return home to make arrangements for moving houses. Before her departure, she left a note for Shay and asked him to take care of Tina.

Alexander frowned. "What did she tell you?"

"It's a secret."

"Is that so?" The chair under him let out a shrill squeak as it scratched on the floor. He rose to his full height and tidied his suit with an indifferent expression on his face. "Even if you don't tell me, I have my own ways to know."

"Oh yeah? What are you planning to do?"

"Return to the country as well."

As soon as he heard that, Shay's face immediately darkened. "What?" I'm making it worse now, huh! For the past few days, at least they were right in front of me. It'll definitely go out of control once they return to the country!

Alexander did not look like he was fooling around because he left hastily with his son. With a frown, Shay shouted to his manager, who was not far away, "Fatty, I also want to head home! Book the earliest flight for me!"

Upon hearing that, the manager's expression immediately changed. "The show is still on. We can't leave since the remaining schedule requires you to be present."

"When I say I want to leave, it means I want to leave!!!"

"T-T-The penalty costs 20 million!"

Shay was speechless upon hearing that. He gave himself a facepalm, feeling troubled that he had landed in such a situation. If I didn't sign the contract with Alexander—this sly fox—I don't have to be enslaved right now!

# One Night Surprise Chapter 89

## Chapter 89 Draw a Line

As there was a storm that afternoon, all of the flights were canceled, causing everything to be on hold for two days before normal operations could be resumed. Because of that, Alexander had no choice but to stay in Maldives for an extra two days and it was already three days later when he finally arrived in the country.

At a mansion in Royal Park, he stood in front of the guest room with a deep frown while his butler tentatively reported, "Mr. Alexander, Miss Hunter had already moved all her belongings out when she returned two days ago. She said that she has found a place to stay, so she will not disturb us anymore."

"What else did she say?"

"She also said that the rough estimate of her rent for staying here for more than a month is 30 thousand. She has left all of it here." The butler held up a bag. "I didn't want to give her our account number, so she brought this bag here the next day."

When Alexander saw the paper bag, his face immediately darkened. Is she so anxious to keep a distance from me?

Meanwhile, Jordan was pulling on Alexander's sleeves with an anxious expression.

Alexander replied angrily, "Can't you see it for yourself? She's gone! We can't do anything about it."

Jordan immediately pouted as tears formed in his eyes before he burst out in tears.

When the butler saw that, he and the maids were helpless as they could not calm him down. While feeling angry and sorry for his son, Alexander said loudly, "Is she this amazing? She's not your mom! Why do you like her so much?"

Jordan was crying so much that he almost ran out of breath. The butler quickly asked the maids to bring him out before he advised Alexander, “Mr. Alexander, please don’t be angry. I saw that Miss Hunter looked rather troubled when she returned this time. Did something happen during the vacation that caused her to be unhappy?”

When Alexander heard that, his frown deepened. Well, something did happen, but at that time I clearly didn’t see her getting upset—apart from the night when she left. She was still fine at the beach, but she looked distressed during dinner. According to Shay, something seemed to have happened with her family?

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“Mr. Harry, where is the house of Lucian Hunter, the president of Sunrise Enterprise?”

After a moment of silence, the butler replied, “I think it’s at River Park.”

With the lavishly decorated living room, the house was probably worth tens of millions.

In the lounge, the maid brought a cup of tea over and spoke coldly—‘please enjoy the tea, Miss Hunter’—before leaving with the plate in her arms.

“Is my uncle home yet?”

The maid stopped and looked at Courtney with a lukewarm attitude. “He is very busy. At this hour, he is still dealing with the paperwork, so he has no time to return home.”

“So what? He still has to attend to clients on Sundays! Miss Hunter, if you are willing to do so, just wait for him here. Perhaps he might come home for dinner tonight.”

With that, she left without looking at Courtney, who slowly sighed with mixed feelings.

When she left the Somerfield Family, she was only five—and it was a messy departure. She had caused her grandfather’s death and Alicia sent all of her belongings to the Hunter Family in a manner that was interpreted as never wanting to see her again.

Many years passed since that incident and she never returned.

If it was not because of her future custody battle, Courtney would not return to take the assets her mother left for her during that time.

After some time, shuffling footsteps could be heard on the second floor, which was followed by someone walking down the stairs.

Upon looking toward the source of the sound, Courtney's heart tightened.

The footsteps stopped in the middle of the staircase—it was a slightly plump woman in her fifties, who was looking down at Courtney with a pair of sharp, shrewd eyes. “Oh, hey, I was just thinking, who the hell is the one interrupting my sleep? You haven't returned in two decades. If I didn't hear the maids telling me about you after I woke up, I thought I would never stand the chance to meet the granddaughter who has been spoiled by Dad back then,” she said sarcastically as soon as she opened her mouth.

Clenching her fists tightly, Courtney replied with difficulty, “Aunt Alicia, you're home?”

It was at least half an hour after her arrival and the maids had been heading upstairs several times. Judging by Alicia's attitude, if Courtney had not been waiting all the time, her aunt would not have planned to meet her downstairs.

“I was taking a nap! All of the maids know my temper. When I'm napping, no one can wake me up—not even the mayor.”

Courtney awkwardly looked at her, not knowing what to say for a long time.

Alicia was from a family of influential diplomats in Kyoto's political scene. Back then, Courtney's uncle had been groomed by Alicia's family, which was why she always enjoyed a fair share of influence from her in-laws.

Even as a little girl, Courtney was always afraid of her.

“Take a seat.” Alicia then walked down the stairs and sat in front of her before asking with a cold expression. “Why are you here?”

After a moment of hesitation, Courtney replied, “I think it's better to wait for Uncle William.”

“Are you sure? You might not be able to meet him since I am not even sure when he will return.”

Upon hearing that, Courtney grabbed the edge of her clothes and thought for a while before repeating herself, "I'm here to take the assets that my mom had asked my grandpa to take care of on her behalf. I don't want anything else—only the house."

"Of course! I was wondering what else you could have been thinking of after decades of not returning." Alicia snorted coldly. "Your mom left the Hunter Family without a single cent and died after giving birth to you. Who told you that she left you something?"

Upon hearing that, Courtney immediately paled and tentatively responded, "Grandpa said that there was. Even though I might have been a young child back then, he reminded me about this countless times. Hence, I think I remembered it correctly."

Even though her mother had left the Hunter Family in a fit of anger without asking for any money, there were many assets under her name—some of them were from the family while the rest were given by her parents as her dowry when she settled down.

Alicia was still quite cold. "Is that so? Why is it that I don't remember it? You were only five when you left. Do you still remember this? Furthermore, when Lucian's company landed with some issues during these two years, he kept asking your grandpa for assistance. I wouldn't be surprised if the assets were used by him to set up the company back then. Your good-for-nothing mother left something for you? I bet you are day-dreaming!"

When Courtney heard that, the remaining blood was drained from her face. She almost bit her lips until they bled and she could not wait to immediately leave. Nevertheless, she clenched her fists tightly and spoke through gritted teeth,

"Aunt Alicia, if my memory serves me right, grandpa has told me that the house my mother left me has my name written on the deed. Even though the deed isn't with me, I can check with the Real Estate Bureau if you don't remember."

"Oh yeah?" Alicia's expression immediately changed. "Is this how you speak to me? Are you saying that I snatched your house? Are you going to sue me? If you have the capabilities, go ahead! Go to court and ask your Uncle William directly and see if he will settle it for you."

Courtney's heart sank as soon as she heard that, seeing that her uncle was the director of Melrose Municipal Court.

# One Night Surprise Chapter 90

## Chapter 90 Someone Like Him Is Too Terrifying

“Mr. William is back,” the maid reported from outside.

Immediately after she spoke, a tall figure entered the house from the front yard—he was a man in his fifties and wore a perfectly ironed suit that made him look powerful and solemn.

As soon as he saw Courtney, he stopped and looked at her in a daze. Then, he muttered in a low voice that only he could hear, “Cecilia...”

Courtney quickly stood up and greeted, “Hello, Uncle William.”

William returned to his senses before he was stunned again when he appraised her. Then, he happily asked, “Courtney, is that you? You’re now an adult! Why are you here today? I heard that you went abroad for a few years. When did you return?”

He bombarded her with many questions that made her low spirits slightly bounce back. Then, she nodded before answering, “I’ve been back for a few months now, but I’ve been busy with work.”

“You already have a job? Where do you work?”

“At Sunhill Hotel,” she replied honestly.

“Oh, Sunhill! It’s pretty good.” William was glad to see her. “It’s been almost ten years since I last saw you and I even thought you were your mother when I saw you earlier. Stay for dinner, will you?”

“What dinner?” Before Courtney could reply, Alicia’s harsh voice immediately interrupted him. “Your niece returned all the way from another country to take the assets that her

mother has left her. If it weren't for this, she probably wouldn't have come for the rest of your life. Do you think it's because she misses you?"

His expression slightly changed. "Assets?"

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Courtney pursed her lips without speaking.

Judging from the situation, he knew what had been going on after giving it a brief thought. He shot a glance at his wife in the living room before asking hesitantly, "Are you here because of this?"

"Yes." Since it had come to that, Courtney could only forcefully admit it.

"What assets are there? Even if there were, she has been staying with us since she was born. Are you telling me that we don't have to spend money for her clothes and food? Everything has already been spent!"

Alicia glared at William sullenly, making the atmosphere rather awkward.

After a while, he said in a low voice, "Courtney, I'll take note of this. Why don't you head home first?"

Courtney had never planned on staying longer. After hearing his words, she gave a mock smile before leaving angrily. I shouldn't have come here today. How could I have forgotten that Aunt Alicia blames me for being a jinx after Grandpa died? Then, she chased me out of the house and sent all my belongings to the Hunter Family. Her actions clearly show that there is no turning back and that I'm not welcome here. It's impossible that they would help me out even after I came.

After she left, William sat on the couch with his hands on his knees. "You didn't touch anything that Courtney's mother left her, so why did you speak to her in that way to make her hate you?"

"I just want her to hate me." Alicia, who had been quite cold, looked spiteful at that moment. "Cecilia was too weak back then. Look at where she ended up after she did everything for Lucian. How could he leave his wife and daughter for a more stable life? Courtney is his daughter—no matter how he wants to ignore her, he has to take care of her. This girl looks

smart, but she is also an idiot like her mother. Whenever she has problems, she doesn't know how to look for her dad. Instead, she comes to us. What the hell?"

"I think he's remorseful. I just met him two days ago and we talked about Cecilia."

"He still has the audacity to speak about her?" Alicia gritted her teeth. "So what if he's remorseful? I want him to always see the daughter that Cecilia Somerfield died while giving birth to, all because of him. By seeing Courtney, he will remember that Cecilia died because of him and he doesn't deserve any peace in his life at all."

When William heard that, he sighed without saying another word.

Before his sister, Cecilia, died, she grabbed his hand and told him that her only worry was her daughter. Now that we've forced her to this point, I wonder if it's good or bad.

After leaving William's place, Courtney hailed a taxi and immediately went home.

"How's everything? Did you manage to get your house back?" Cameron's voice came from the study. Then, the door was opened before she came out of the room with a mask on her face as she had returned from a business trip the night before. Before she could even do anything, Courtney dragged her to move houses with her, so she slept through the entire morning.

Courtney helplessly shook her head as she sank into the couch and sighed.

Cameron took a cucumber from the fridge and crisply bit it before saying with a muffled voice, "Aren't you like the most unfortunate person? The mansion that your father left ended up with Anna, who used it to keep men. Then, the one your mother left for you was taken away by your aunt. What kind of luck do you have?"

"Stop it. I'm so frustrated now." Courtney sighed. "If I don't even have a house, what can I do in the future?"

"Stay here with me? I'll take care of you for my entire life, as long as you cook for me." Cameron chuckled and cheerfully sat down next to her. "Why are you in such a rush to have your own house?"

Courtney frowned. "I'm worried that in the future, if I have to fight for child custody, the judge might conclude that I don't have the ability to provide for my children."

“Child custody?” Cameron was stunned to hear that. “Who are you fighting for child custody with? Someone’s taking Tina away from you?”

“It’s not Tina.” Courtney slowly raised her head. After a long moment of hesitation, she decided to tell Cameron. “The jewelry shop called two days ago, saying that they found the owner of the necklace.”

“The owner of the necklace?” Cameron finally recalled the incident after thinking about it. “You mean Tina’s father? This means you have also found your son, who was taken away back then?”

Courtney nodded. “But, do you know who that man is?”

Upon seeing that, Cameron’s expression became more solemn as she realized that something was amiss. “Who is it?”

“Alexander Duncan.”

Silence lasted for half a minute as she looked at Courtney in a daze. After making sure that Courtney was not joking, she exclaimed, “Oh my God! What kind of fate has tied you two together?”

Courtney started to frown.

“Hey! Why do you have to give such an expression? Isn’t it better if it’s Alexander? Grab this golden opportunity! You are the mother of his baby son, after all. Since he loves his son so much, you will be important as well, seeing you are his mother. Just marry into their rich family and become his wife! Why are you fighting for child custody? Are you nuts?” Cameron spoke away and almost spilled the cucumber juice in her mouth.

However, the more Courtney heard Cameron’s logic, the more headache she felt. Hence, she could not help but interrupt Cameron. “Come on, Cameron. Stop joking. I’m not in the mood at all.”

“What’s wrong?”

“It’s impossible for me to be with Alexander.”

“Why not?”

Courtney explained morosely, "If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have delivered two babies back then. In order to keep Tina, I couldn't even graduate university and hastily went abroad. The Duncan Family is so powerful that they could rewrite my life story with ease. To him, he just has one more son. What about me? Has he ever given a thought about the future of a girl who's not even 20 years old? Someone like him is simply too terrifying."