

One Night Surprise chapter 21

Chapter 21 You Ask Too Much

Alexander subconsciously turned to look when he heard someone calling him 'Mr. Alexander'. He froze for a moment when he saw the little girl waving at him, feeling that she looked rather familiar. As he stared blankly at the girl, Jordan had already let go of his hand and ran over. Hence, Alexander had no choice but to follow him.

Courtney was blocking her face when she felt a tight grip on her legs. As she looked down, she saw a pair of big eyes staring back at her—Jordan was hugging one of her legs with an ecstatic look on his face.

"We've met before, Mr. Alexander!" Tina stood by the table as her black, pearl-like eyes blinked at Alexander.

Alexander pondered for a moment and finally associated the young woman in front of him as the clumsy, little girl who had bumped into him at the airport. His expression softened as he realized who she was.

"How do you two know each other?" Courtney was still confused.

"Mr. Alexander was the one who gave me chocolates at the airport the other day, Mommy!" explained Tina as her eyes lit up. "What a coincidence! I can't believe we'd bump into each other here. Mommy, do you know Mr. Alexander too?"

Courtney's face stiffened. "He's... the boss of my company."

Alexander stood by the table and looked down in a condescending manner. "This is your daughter?"

"Yes."

He felt an indescribable feeling in his heart when he heard Courtney's answer. She's actually married with a child? He quickly changed the subject and asked casually, "Has your hand recovered?"

Why do the things I don't want to happen keep happening? Courtney bit her lip as she pulled Jordan out from under the table, using him as a shield. She replied shyly, "It's not fully recovered, so it's still a bit uncomfortable."

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"In that case, you should rest for a while longer. You don't have to rush back to work."

Courtney was stunned by Alexander's words. Since when did he become such a nice person to talk to?

"Her hands are fine! She can go back to work tomorrow!" Tina interrupted.

"Tina!" Courtney glared at her. Since when did her daughter become a snitch?

However, Alexander seemed unfazed by Tina's words. He simply thought of it as a child's joke and swiftly changed the subject. "Thank you for rescuing Jordan. I'm sorry for not visiting you at the hospital earlier, but when I finally went over, I was told that you had been discharged. I even thought about bringing Jordan to your house to express my gratitude."

"No, no." Courtney shook her head. "The holiday that you've given me is already considered a form of gratitude. After all, it is my duty as a company employee to ensure the safety of our guests anyway."

"That's another issue." Alexander glanced at Tina as his expression darkened. "However, you shouldn't forget about the bet. I don't plan on extending the three-month deadline."

Courtney's face turned sour when she heard his words. What does he mean by that? Is he trying to imply that the holiday I'm on right now is equivalent to wasting my time? All the good feelings she felt toward Alexander moments ago dissipated in a flash. This man is definitely good at giving people a hard time!

Before Courtney could come back to her senses, Alexander beckoned toward Jordan. "Let's go, Jordan! Let's not disturb their meal."

However, Jordan clung tightly onto Courtney's arm. He turned to look at Alexander like he was about to battle an enemy.

"Jordan!" Alexander frowned.

The little boy's stubborn face was an exact replica of Alexander's, which was right in front of him. Seeing this, Courtney quickly jumped in to smoothen things over. "If you don't mind, both of you can just join us. This is a four-person seat anyway."

It wasn't busy at the restaurant, so the waiter had arranged a spacious seat for Courtney—who knew that it would've come in handy at this moment?

Realizing that Jordan had no intention of leaving, Alexander sat down with a grumbled look that Courtney found to be quite amusing. Even the President of Sunhill Enterprise has a soft spot.

Tina wanted Alexander to be here, so she pulled out a chair enthusiastically. "Why don't you sit down first, Mr. Alexander? I'll go and get some fruit."

As she was about to leave, she looked at Jordan and invited him earnestly. "Do you want to come with me?"

Jordan took in Tina's cheerful and pleasing manner; he hesitated for a while before letting go of Courtney's hand and followed Tina. I want to get along with Ms. Courtney's daughter.

Meanwhile, Alexander was amazed. Jordan is actually willing to get along with this little girl? He knew that his son had always been temperamental and had no friends among his peers. Alexander even tried to get his friends' children to play with him, but Jordan couldn't be bothered to make friends with them. As such, his son's emotional disorder had always been like a thorn in his heart.

"Your daughter is very lively."

"Are you talking about Tina?" Courtney smiled. "She is such a little brat. Most of the time, I don't even know how many weird ideas she has inside her head. She usually gets along well with her peers, so you don't have to worry about it, President Duncan. I'm sure they'll be fine."

Alexander wanted to explain himself, but he decided to drop the topic. "You don't have to be so formal. Jordan is really fond of you, and I'm afraid that he'll throw a tantrum if you call him Young Master."

After that, he ordered a few more dishes and handed the menu back to the waiter.

Soon, the two children came back with fruits. When they realized that their food hadn't been served yet, Tina and Jordan ran over to the slide at the children's play area. Courtney was at ease because the view from their seats was good enough to watch over them.

The atmosphere was light and relaxed. After some small talk, Courtney felt that Alexander was not as unfriendly as he was in the company; the two of them chatted casually. She thought about Jordan's episode back then and asked, "By the way, is Jordan's ability to speak congenital? Is it due to his mother's weak body?"

All of a sudden, Alexander's bland expression darkened and his gaze snapped from the children's area to Courtney—it was a piercing look laced with warning.

"I'm sorry." Courtney was flustered by his stare and realized that she had crossed a line. "It was just a simple question; I didn't mean anything by it."

Alexander glanced at her and said coldly, "You ask too much. You should just mind your own business."

Courtney clenched her fingers under the table in embarrassment; she regretted asking so many questions. After all, how could she casually ask about the disability of someone else's child—especially from someone as proud as Alexander?

The temperature of the atmosphere dropped instantly. Meanwhile, Alexander was lost in thought because of her words as he stared at the distant children's area.

In fact, Jordan's speech disability was not a congenital disease. When he was two years old, he could already speak in full sentences; he was even smarter than his peers. If it hadn't been for Alexander's negligence back then, Jordan wouldn't have nearly died from a high fever—the situation today would have been much different.

All the doctors they had visited throughout the years circled back to the same conclusion; Jordan's vocal cords weren't damaged, but it was rather his own unwillingness to talk

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Chapter 22 Let Tina Come Over and Play

At the end of the day, it simply meant that Jordan had autism.

“I’m sorry—I didn’t mean to pry too much,” said Courtney as she apologized sincerely. “How about this? Let me pay for today’s meal in order to express my sincerest apologies.”

Right then, Alexander came back to his senses and saw her flustered face. He soon realized that his attitude was too harsh. After all, she was the one who saved Jordan’s life. He softened his tone and explained, “It’s not that Jordan can’t talk; he just chooses not to talk.”

Courtney nodded and decided to stop asking questions.

Meanwhile, Jordan sat in the midst of an ocean of colorful balls. When he suddenly lost sight of Tina, he frowned and a panicked look crossed over his face.

“Haha!” All of a sudden, the ocean of balls exploded in front of him as Tina emerged under it and looked at him with a big smile. “I’m here!”

Jordan was startled by her and clamored up; it seemed like this was the first time someone had ever played with him like that.

Tina was taken aback. “What’s wrong?”

Jordan shook his head. Suddenly, he grabbed her hand and pointed at the table—he wanted to go back.

Even though she still wanted to play, Tina saw the look of shock on Jordan’s face and nodded understandingly. “Are you hungry? Let’s go back.”

While they were having their meals, Jordan insisted on sitting next to Courtney despite Alexander's countless attempts to discourage him. Tina was quite generous as she climbed onto the seat next to Alexander and said, "Since he likes my mommy so much, you should just let him sit next to her. I'll just sit here."

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Since Courtney seemed fine with it, Alexander let the matter slide and looked at the cute little girl who was sitting next to him; he felt that she was quite pleasing to the eyes. "His name is Jordan," said Alexander to Tina.

"Jordan." Tina nodded obediently. As she thought of a question, she immediately asked, "That's right—how old is Jordan? What if he's younger than me?"

"He's five years old. His birthday is a day before the Mid-Autumn Festival."

Courtney's expression froze for a moment. A day before the Mid-Autumn Festival? What a coincidence! He shares his birthday with Tina!

"What about you?"

When she heard Alexander's question, Tina scratched her head and looked at Courtney for help. She was unable to remember her own birthday—after all, she was only a five-year-old child.

Courtney had no idea why she blurted out that Tina's birthday was a month apart from Jordan's.

"Tina's birthday is on the 14th of September."

Alexander didn't follow up with his question, dismissing it as a casual and unimportant question.

While they were eating, Tina and Jordan had the same taste in desserts. When the last dessert arrived, Tina ate it with excitement while Jordan ate in silence, but judging from the clean dessert plate, it was quite obvious that he was pleased as well.

The young kids couldn't seem to sit still as they ran to the play area again after finishing their meal. Meanwhile, Courtney and Alexander waited around for a bit. They were calm as

they waited in the beginning, but as time dragged on, Courtney began to check her watch frequently.

After countless reminders, Courtney finally said, "We have to go home now, Tina."

Tina stuck her head out from the ocean of balls. "No, I want to play with Jordan for a little while longer."

"Tina Hunter."

Whenever Courtney called Tina by her full name, it meant that she was about to get angry.

This tactic normally worked, but Tina seemed so courageous all of a sudden that she completely ignored her mother's warning and continued to play with Jordan in the ocean of balls.

Eventually, Courtney went down herself and dragged Tina out. "It's already late—you have to go home with me, Tina."

One of Tina's arms was held by Courtney, so she quickly used the other to grab Alexander's pants. "Save me, Mr. Alexander."

Alexander had planned on keeping his son company while he played outside, so he didn't care how long Jordan wanted to play. Besides, he seemed to have taken a liking to Tina. With that, he swiftly fished Tina out of Courtney's hands and held the latter in his arms. "Children just like to play; it's okay to let them play a little while longer."

Tina wrapped her arms around Alexander's neck and made a face at Courtney. "You have nothing to do at home anyway, Mommy. Why don't you talk to Mr. Alexander and improve your relationship?"

Courtney almost had a heart attack when she heard those words.

"What are you babbling about? Tina Hunter, you come down right this instant... I'm sorry President Duncan, I'm not trying to hit you..."

Tina was like a monkey that held onto Alexander's body, refusing to come down. Courtney usually raised her hands to pat Tina's buttocks as a threat, but now that the latter had Alexander as her shield, Courtney had no other means of getting her daughter.

The mother-daughter duo messed around for a while as the people in the restaurant giggled at their antics. Courtney finally gave in and huffed helplessly. "You'd better put her down, President Duncan. It seems like she's lacking discipline—I'd have to go back and talk to her about it."

"It's alright." Alexander showed a rare smile. "Tina is quite cute; she's just a little hyperactive. It's a good thing that she gets along with Jordan."

Tina's sharp ears picked up his words as she chipped in and said, "In that case, can you please bring me over to play at Jordan's house, Mommy?"

Courtney's face turned red as she spoke through gritted teeth. "Tina Hunter!"

That's Alexander Duncan! How can a company intern like me visit his house so casually?

"I'll go home if you promise me this, Mommy."

As Courtney was about to forcefully grab Tina, Jordan quickly took out a pile of sticky notes from his small backpack and wrote on it. He raised it up and showed it to Alexander. 'Please let Tina come over and play.'

Alexander was stunned. Jordan rarely asked anything from him, let alone something about making friends.

He remembered his psychiatrist suggesting that children with autism needed to meet more people. Alexander's heart wavered slightly. After a moment of contemplation, he suggested, "How about next Saturday? I'll send someone to pick you and Tina up."

"Huh?" Courtney stared at him with her eyes wide open. Am I imagining things?

Tina, on the other hand, jumped down from Alexander's arms in excitement and grabbed Jordan's hand as she gave him a forceful high five. "Yay! I'll be coming over to your house, Jordan!"

Since Alexander had invited them, it would be rude to blatantly refuse him. Once Courtney had approved their playdate reluctantly, the two kids finally agreed to leave the Japanese restaurant.

If I stay here any longer, the entire restaurant staff will know who I am.

Once they were out of the mall, Alexander's driver drove the car over as Alexander offered in a deep voice, "Let me send you guys back."

Before Courtney could refuse his offer, Tina had taken a step forward and climbed into the back seat of the MPV. She sat in the car and waved at Courtney. "Come on. Get in, Mommy! It's a very comfortable car!"

Courtney pressed her forehead against her palm ashamedly. Her instincts were telling her that after today, Alexander would definitely think that she had a spoiled brat and was one of those parents who didn't know how to educate their children!

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Chapter 23 You Finally Said Something, Jordan!

The MPV continued to crawl along the congested highway after sending Courtney and her daughter home. Since it was the evening peak hour in Melrose City, there was a traffic jam on their way back. Jordan would normally start to get a little agitated in such a situation, but he was oddly quiet that day. He held a crayon in his hand and was doodling on his tiny drawing board.

Meanwhile, Alexander was still in disbelief; he couldn't stop thinking about what had happened at the Japanese restaurant that afternoon. I guess it's possible for Jordan to take a liking toward Courtney because of how she had saved him once previously, but what about her daughter? Sure—that little girl may be lovable, but I've also tried to get Jordan to interact with my friends' sons and daughters in the past, and he never seemed interested in any of them. Right as he was caught up in his thoughts, Alexander felt a tug on his sleeve and quickly turned toward the children's safety seat beside him. Jordan had lifted his drawing board up and turned it toward Alexander excitedly. On the blank, white canvas, he drew a man and woman holding the hands of a young child between them. The skies were

blue, the grass was green, and the sun was a golden yellow color in the drawing; it was a beautiful sight to see.

Alexander froze for a moment upon looking at the drawing. "Do you want to have a Mommy, Jordan?" he asked belatedly. Jordan nodded his head furiously in response to this. His cheeks were flushed as he forcefully croaked a two-syllable word. "Mommy!"

Alexander felt his jaw hanging loose and his eyes widening the moment he heard Jordan's words. Although he had always been a calm and collected man, Alexander's voice was trembling with shock when he spoke. "You've finally said something, Jordan!" Jordan had gone mute ever since his high fever three years ago, and this was the first time anyone heard his voice in such a long time.

The young child gazed at Alexander hopefully right then, his fingers curled tightly around his drawing board. It took Alexander a while for him to contain his own emotions. Perhaps Jordan felt a little envious after watching the way Courtney and Tina interacted with one another just now. He felt a little guilty upon that thought. When Alexander first decided to have a child in the past, he was younger and more energetic; he thought that raising a child would be simple and figured that his grandfather would be able to handle it. However, he was surprised to find himself getting so attached to the child as time passed. I wouldn't have allowed for such a little life to be born alone in a scary world like this if I had known any better. I, of all people, should know how important it is to have a complete and healthy family. With that thought in mind, Alexander gently stroked the young boy's head. "Daddy's going to find you a Mommy then." Jordan's eyes curved into a crescent, moon-like shape as he grinned joyfully.

"I took a look at the schools nearby, but their medical services aren't that great. None of the schools are close to a hospital either. I'm afraid that they might not be able to get help for Tina in time if she experiences an asthma attack." Courtney got on the phone with Cameron as soon as she arrived home. She had first met Cameron while overseas, and they shared the same, straightforward personalities. They got along extremely well, and Cameron even made Tina her goddaughter. Since Cameron was on a work trip abroad, Courtney asked if she could stay in Cameron's house for the time being after she made the sudden decision to bring her daughter back to seek medical treatment.

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Chapter 24

"Did you ask Miss Hunter about the plans for the company's centennial celebration?" Alexander asked after he recalled the orders that he had sent out that morning.

Josh nodded as he came back to his senses. "I did. She said that she would hand the plans over as soon as possible. As expected, she didn't know about the company's tradition. Thankfully, we managed to remind her of it in time. However, I think she might not have much time to prepare for it soon as she seems to be pretty busy recently.

"What is she so busy about?" Alexander asked

"I heard that she's looking for a kindergarten to enroll her daughter in." Josh always had an impressive, photographic memory he even managed to name the kindergarten that Courtney had been planning to apply for. "Miss Hunter is still so young though I can't believe her daughter's already in kindergarten he added

Alexander's face muscles had been relaxed, but he pressed his eyebrows into a frown upon hearing Josh's words. His face clenched a little. Right then, Jordan trotted over excitedly before he ran past Josh and shoved a little drawing board over to Alexander. 'I want to go to kindergarten', he wrote.

*Stop nutting out The environment in the kindergarten is too chaotic. You already have a tutor at hand here. This made Jordan extremely furious, and the young boy instantly DUSHI set off the table onto the ground. The papers flew all across the room, and Josh anxious to put them up. Meanwhile, Jordan quickly scribbled something on his drawing board

at Move to Alexander once again.

Twent test the meandergarten as Tina', it said. This made Alexander frown even harder. "No." Since O p e ld definitely get bullied by the other immature kids in the kindergarten. The last tim

we to send Jordan into a completely foreign environment, leaving the young children o gents before he could even fully treat his symptoms for autism.

Nonetheless, tant myned to throw a tantrum, all the documents that Josh had just picked up were shoved be n efit with another loud *thud*. Then, the fuming young boy scribbled more words on his or g m going to tell Grandpa if you don't let me go. You're a bad person. I want to stay with Grandpa

Defeated. Alexander simply pressed a palm against his forehead as he looked at Jordan helplessly. Josh had to stile a laugh as he watched the almighty CEO of Sunhill Enterprise turning feeble and powerless in front of his own son. *Who would believe this if they didn't witness it with their own eyes, eh?*

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After what felt like hours, *A*lexander finally gave in "Let me think about it for two days. However, you can't throw tantrums at me, okay?" Jordan didn't seem too pleased by this response, but the sound of a door opening interrupted the young boy's protests.

"*A*lexander." Britney's slender figure appeared from behind the door. "Am I disturbing anything? I brought lunch for you and Jordan," she said with a smile. Jordan immediately finched upon hearing the woman's sweet voice. He quickly ran over to the lounge next door with his drawing board in his hands. Alexander didn't pay much attention to this as he thought that Jordan simply left after he complied with his requests.

"No. Come on in." Alexander glanced at Britney.

"I'll leave if there isn't anything else you need me to do, President Duncan." Josh thoughtfully offered to step out, but Alexander stopped him. "Josh, I want you to let go of all the unimportant tasks that you've been handling recently. I need you to plan a marriage," he ordered.

"A marriage? Who's getting married?" Josh was confused.

"Me." Alexander had a neutral look on his face, looking as though he was just having a regular conversation. Even Britney, who stood behind Josh, was shocked to hear this, "Alexander, you're..."

"You can get yourself ready. We'll get married once I'm done with the things I'm working on." Alexander was too casual as he spoke about this it was an utterly shocking piece of news for both Josh, who knew Alexander the best and Britney, who held the title as Alexander's fiancée for the past five years. Josh was still dazed by the news as he walked out of the office, while Britney looked as if she had just awoken from a dream when she finally snapped back into reality. "Are you serious, Alexander?"

"Do I look like someone who would joke about such matters? I'm not going to force you into anything, though. You can tell me if you don't want to do it," he uttered

"No, of course not I was just taken aback it came as a pleasant surprise for Britney, but Alexander didn't seem especially enthusiastic about it. "You were right, Jordan needs a mother. Apart from our maids at home, you're the winner the most familiar with, so you'd suit this role perfectly. Alexander said with a calm look on his face

A loud clung sounded the moment Alexander finished speaking Jordan had Nung his drawing board onto the ground and her sonday by the door of the lounge with a look of disbelief on his face as he glared at

Ante Tomboy began to stomp his foot on the ground, his face turning red as he did 50

"What is it about

Jordan 1 tematy u head with all

As Alexander hurried over as he didn't know what happened. He grabbed onto Alexander's sleeve and began to shake his

"What is it! Are you angry but Jordan shove Alexander bent down and attempted to touch Jordan's forehead,

on a bottom as he lost his balance. "Jordan. he muttered.

Jordan couldn't express it within him He lost it when he heard that his father was about to marry Britney- ketti lice s latter had lied to him. No matter how much Alexander

tried to coax him the young boy samolyused to calm tumsell down. Instead, Jordan turned around and stormed back into the ounce his new tale stiching out in all directions like a lion's mane. He began to thrash around and smash everything he could get his hands on to the ground. Soon enough, he turned the lounge into an etter mess

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This wasn't the first time such an incident had occurred As Alexander stood by the door and watched the young boy, he felt a stabbing ache in his heart although he wasn't surprised by the boy's actions. Alexander knew that Jordan had to unleash his anger in such a manner because he couldn't express himself with words The young boy *needed* an outlet to release himself, but his acts often hurt himself as well as the people around him After a while, the lounge finally sell silent.

"Come out, Jordan" Alexander knocked on the door. Jordan had locked himself inside, and he refused to open the door no matter how many times Alexander called for him. Although Alexander could open the door from the outside, he was *worried* that he might trigger Jordan even more if he simply barged into the room, so he hesitated to make the move. "Jordan..." he cried.

"Let me go in and take a look, Alexander." Britney's gaze was filled with concern as she stood beside the man. "I'm pretty close to Jordan. Let me try to talk to him."

Alexander frowned and stared at the shut door for a moment before he nodded. With a calm expression, Britney pushed the door open gently. "It's me, Jordan-Aunt Britney. I'm coming in."

Jordan was curled up in a ball at the corner of the room. Once he heard Britney's voice entering the

lounge, his entire body froze as if someone had just injected poison into him; his still gaze was filled with fear. Britney walked in and closed the door behind her with a soft *thump*. Then, she carefully stepped over all the toys and plushies on the ground as her towering figure made its way toward Jordan. The young boy crouched in a corner where he hugged his trembling elbows together.

“Don’t be afraid, Jordan. I’m Aunt Britney” Britney whispered. The room was dark, and the only weak source of light came from a lamp that was lying on the ground. The gentle look in Britney’s eyes was rather disquieting—the gentler she appeared to be, the more sinister it seemed.

“Didn’t I tell you to behave? Are you supposed to throw things around like that?” she said in a hushed tone.

Jordan pressed his back against the wall with all his might, his eyes filled with fear and helplessness. A series of messy flashbacks played itself in his mind, all of them involving the evil woman in front of him. *How can Daddy ask for an evil woman like her to be my Mommy?*

“Jordan, you have to remember what I tell you at all times, alright?” she said.