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## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 396

### Chapter 396 No Intention to Go Back

"I know what I'm doing," Austin said unhappily. "Anyway, from now on, no one is allowed to mention that Faye was adopted."

"You! I'm done arguing with you!" Jeanie couldn't win against Austin, so she simply shut her mouth and felt resentful.

I don't understand what happened. Before the coma, Austin was a man who could distinguish between right and wrong, so how could he be so unwise in this matter?

Elise watched all this with cold eyes, but she was not too surprised. Even Alexander also understood that the problem had no solution now. The superficially well-behaved, perfect adopted daughter who had been raised within the family for more than ten years juxtaposed against the sudden appearance of the biological daughter, and Austin had obviously made his choice between the two.

"I'm tired, so please leave." Elise's longing for her family suddenly dissipated, and her tone was cold and icy.

"Right, you take a good rest," Austin said. "Your sister has already made arrangements. There is a car outside waiting for us, so we will go back first, and when you are well-rested, you can have someone send you back to the Anderson Residence."

With that, he stood up. Holding the arm of the chair, he turned around to prepare to leave. As he turned around, Elise's icy cold voice resounded from behind. "No need, I already have a home. I'll leave the Anderson Family to you and your precious daughter."

When Austin heard this, he slowly turned around in confusion and snapped, "What do you mean you have a home? The Anderson Residence is your home. You are the eldest daughter of the Anderson Family, and since you have come back, you should live in the Anderson

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Residence and wait for the welcome back ceremony we'll hold for you. How could you live somewhere else by yourself? That's inappropriate!"

"Let Elise decide these matters on her own!" Jeanie already felt guilty about Elise, and she did not want Elise to suffer again. "All of us live in the same city and are not far away from each other. We can see her at any time we want. Let's give Elise a little time, Austin?"

After thinking about it, she added, "The people who raised Elise are an old couple. Elise owes them for raising her all this while. We can't ask her to be ungrateful and leave them behind without care like that, can we?"

Austin thought about it and was persuaded, so he nodded and said, "Then when you go back this time, explain the situation to them, then officially move back. If the old couple has no one to support them, they can live in the Anderson Residence too. Their kindness is worth supporting them for the rest of their lives."

"I have no intention of going back," Elise refused sharply.

"What?" Austin didn't hear clearly for a moment, so he looked at her weakly and asked again.

Jeanie understood more or less about Elise's nature. Fearing that the father-daughter duo would clash again, she hurriedly interjected, "Nothing. Let's just go according to what you said. Elise knows how to handle things, and you are also tired, so let's hurry back first!"

Austin nodded slightly and did not refuse. Only then did the group leave. Even so, the atmosphere in the ward didn't get better. Alexander knew Elise was angry at Austin and would not listen to any explanation at this time. In fact, he knew that just now, even if Austin showed malice toward him on the surface, he did not feel that it was wrong at all. He knew that it was just a father trying his best to defend and protect his daughter. A father's love is perhaps more internalized, Alexander thought.

Then, Alexander accompanied Elise and stayed at the hospital for another two hours before returning to the Sinclair Residence. When Laura saw that only the two of them had come back, she couldn't help but ask, "Did you save them?"

"Mm." Elise's response was light, and after she finished, she walked toward the side door. "I'm a bit tired; I'll go back to my room first."

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Laura instinctively sensed that something was wrong, and when Elise was far away, she grabbed Alexander to ask about the situation. "What's going on here? She was all excited when she left. Who has upset my Elise again?"

"She's okay, Grandma. Elise was saving people and expending too much energy, so that's why she's like this." Alexander didn't want to make the older woman worry too much.

"Is that so?" Laura looked at him with doubt.

"Mm." Alexander nodded and changed the topic. "Grandma, Elise has agreed to marry me today, so we are ready to get married. I hope you and Grandpa can give us your blessing."

"You've thought it through?" Robin came out of the house.

"Definitely," Alexander said. "From long ago until now, from the beginning to the end, the only one I want to marry is her."

"In that case, then go and prepare. Everything must be done according to tradition, and my granddaughter must have the best of everything."

"Thank you, Grandpa! I promise you I will give her the best!"

"Mm." Robin didn't say anything else but lowered his head to think about Elise.

If they succeeded in saving Elise's real father and brother, the Anderson Family should be grateful and escort Elise home. Why did she come back by herself instead? It seems that this Anderson Family, too, is no good! Humph, since they despise my precious granddaughter so much, it's better for her not to go back!

Meanwhile, at the Anderson Residence, the news that Austin and Trevor had woken up had spread, and by the time the two arrived home, they were already blocked by a bunch of relatives. It took a while to finally get rid of all the people. Austin just got into bed when Jeanie wanted to talk to him about Elise and Faye, but he raised his hand and asked the maid to call Faye over.

Faye came quickly with a well-behaved look. "Dad, you wanted to see me?"

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"Mm." Austin nodded and said in a serious tone, "Get the preparations done. Tomorrow, hand over the company to me and your brother. All these years that we are not here, you've taken over the company's affairs alone. I'm sure it has been very hard for you. In the future, just stand behind your brother and me, and be a carefree little princess."

As soon as Faye heard this, her expression became a bit unpleasant, but she hid it well and did not show it too obviously. "Dad, you just woke up, and your body has not recovered yet. What I mean is that I am already familiar with all those businesses anyway, so it doesn't matter if I do it for a day or two more. Why don't you and Trevor take a break for half a month first, and I will continue to take care of the company for the time being? If you two fall ill any further, I will feel bad." Faye pretended to be worried.

"I think that you simply do not want to hand over the control!" Jeanie was extremely exasperated with Faye. "Let me remind you, this company is still under your father's name, so if you do not want to be thrown out of the family, then hand over everything right now!"

"Jeanie!" Austin spoke impatiently again. "Why do you always use this tone with Faye? Did you forget that when Yoyo didn't come back, it was Faye who accompanied us? Without her, how sad we would be during those days! I've said before that the matter of the adoption cannot be mentioned again, and that we are all family. You are not allowed to hold a grudge against Faye because of that misunderstanding again."

Jeanie's face was dark, and she didn't answer.

After a long time, she remembered Bertha, who was imprisoned, and with a sudden flash of inspiration, she grabbed Austin's hand and said, "If you don't believe me, call your mother and ask her! Then the truth will come out!"

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### Chapter 397 She Might Change Her Mind

Austin waved his hand. "That's not necessary. Mom is old, so let's not bother her."

"For now, I just want to return to the company as soon as possible. It's a sizable enterprise, so I cannot allow it to die in my hands!"

"How are you so stubborn?" Jeanie was fuming at Austin's conservative outlook. "You've really gone blind!"

With that, she sent Faye a death glare before stomping out of the room. A grin crept into the corners of Faye's mouth, betraying her inner thoughts.

My dear mother, it's still too early for you to be going up against me.

"Faye." Austin suddenly called her name.

"What is it?" Faye was so caught up in her delight that she almost forgot to respond.

"I'll be off to take over the company tomorrow, so you don't have to go. If you find staying home a bit boring, you can hit up the others in the family for the preparations to welcome your sister to the family. She has been through a lot out there, so make sure that every part of the ceremony is the way it's supposed to be. Make it as grand as you can so that she will be given due justice."

"For sure. I look forward to her return as well." Faye readily agreed, but she was still a little reserved about handing over the company. "Still, the company has undergone drastic changes recently, so I think I should serve as your assistant. The shareholders have gotten more powerful lately, and they're starting to get ahead of themselves. I fear that if you face them alone, you'll get so worked up you might not be able to take it."

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"It's not a bad idea. We'll do that, then." Austin dropped his persistence, while Faye sighed in relief. After a few exchanges laced with fake concern, she went out and closed the door behind her.

In the room, Austin gazed in the direction Faye went, the look in his eyes gradually getting fiercer.

The next day, Austin returned to the company as promised and took over the president's office once again.

On the other hand, Faye stood in front of the desk with a man and a woman by her side, making introductions. "Dad, I've appointed them as your assistants. If you have any plans you need to carry out, you can give them the orders, and they'll make it happen."

Austin gave them a nonchalant look, then nodded. "Good. That's very thoughtful of you."

Faye's smile was innocent, but she was actually sneering in her heart. The president's position and Austin's return didn't matter to her; after all, all the employees in Anderson Pharmaceuticals still obeyed her, so it wouldn't matter whether she still held the position.

Hah! My poor and innocent father will soon have a taste of how hard it is to do things without me. As she was entertaining her thoughts, a secretary came knocking on the door behind.

"President Anderson, someone by the name of Mr. Alexander Griffith is here to see you."

"Let him in." Austin nodded, then looked at Faye and said, "You can leave with them first. I want to have a good look at your sister's future husband."

"Understood."

Faye didn't question anything as she turned around and left. At the door, she passed by Alexander and exchanged meaningful glances with him.

In the president's office, as soon as Faye went out of sight, the smile disappeared from Austin's face. When Alexander came in, he was greeted with the sight of a stern and steady president.

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"Good day." Alexander took a seat in front of him.

Austin quietly examined him for a solid two seconds. "I heard you cut ties with the Griffith Family, and you're working alone now? And you took over Frazier Pharmaceuticals, right?" he drawled.

"Just a little something on the side," Alexander said lightly.

"With your qualifications, you could've looked for someone better than Elise. Why are you in such a hurry to get married?" Austin asked.

"She's the one, so it has got to be her." Alexander was straightforward.

Austin half-closed his eyes as he remained silent, as if contemplating the truthfulness of those words.

After a long while, he spoke up. "It is true that the Fraziers' net worth has risen considerably, but you must understand that the pharmaceutical industry is one of the country's pillars. The Anderson Family has remained steadfast in this field for years, so it is still fundamentally different from the Fraziers. I'm afraid this is not enough to ask for my daughter's hand."

Alexander smiled faintly as he took those words in his stride. "Name your price. I promise I won't ask for discounts."

"What, I'm selling my daughter now?" Austin's expression turned cold.

"No, of course not." Alexander remained calm. "I just want to express my sincerity. I would sacrifice everything I have for Elise."

With that, the two faced off for a long while before Austin finally decided to break the silence.

"Show me your sincerity, then. In one month, you have to join Anderson's board of directors on your own. If you can do that, I will agree to your marriage with Elise."

"One month?" Alexander raised his left eyebrow as he asked.

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"What's wrong? Too short for you?" Austin responded.

"No, that's not it," Alexander said lightly. "It's too long a time, and I simply cannot wait that long. What about one week? You don't understand Elise; if I drag it on for too long, I'm afraid that she might change her mind."

Austin was surprised, but he quickly recovered himself and nodded in satisfaction. "All right, one week it is. Let's see how great my future son-in-law is."

"I will not let you down."

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At Dawn Villa, Nathan York sat on the couch, swirling some blood-red liquid in a wineglass he was holding. The irresistible scent of the liquid was continuously emanating from the glass.

In the corner of the room, Elise was engaged in a game of darts. Her gaze seemed to meld with the dart in her hand. A few seconds later, she swiftly threw the dart, landing on the bullseye and knocking out another dart before it.

"Oof, who pissed you off this time, Elise? You're feral," Nathan commented as he took a sip of the wine.

Elise didn't even bat an eye as she raised her arm, taking aim once again.

"Let me guess. I heard your good old father took in a daughter he shouldn't have, and when he woke up, he didn't take it up with Faye, nor did he blame Pinewood Hospital. I'd say he's more forgiving than a saint." Nathan's voice was light, but every word he spoke was laced with mockery.

The next second, Elise turned around, and the dart in her hand flew right at him. Almost immediately, a figure dashed out from a door at the side and blocked off the dart right before it touched Nathan.

Nathan turned around, realizing the situation all too late. He was so frightened that he jumped up and screamed, "What the f\*ck! Are you trying to kill me?" With that, he took the



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dart from the man in front of him and said, "I thought you're only good with needles, but I never knew you're so adept with darts as well. Does A play this too?"

"You're trying too hard to get information from me," Elise narrowed her eyes and said warily.

"Heh... If you were more open about it, I wouldn't have to go to such lengths, would I?" Nathan grinned, completely ignoring the fact that he was breaking character.

"Elise!"

Just then, Danny ran in, only to witness Nathan's behavior.

"You're Nathan York?" Danny asked in confusion, for he had heard from the news that Nathan never smiles.

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Chapter 398 You're on the Losing End of the Deal!

"Do I not look the part?" Nathan shrugged.

"No," Danny replied in an ever so monotonous sounding tone. With that, he went right over to Elise and announced dramatically, "Elise, you're the only one who can help me now!"

"What's the matter?" Elise always preferred to cut to the chase.

"Help me look for someone with your genius computer skills!" Danny said.

Elise simply looked at him as she awaited his next words.

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"Claude Strike!" Danny began to explain, saying, "You know I'm busy trying to join SK Group these days, right? Just now, the recruiter sent out the entrance exam, and the task is to locate Claude, the legendary doctor!"

Claude himself was part of SK Group, so his tracks were hidden by the group themselves.

Wouldn't it be counterintuitive to ask newbies to take on this challenge? "What's the other task?" Elise asked, trying to keep her hopes up.

"What other task?" Danny looked extremely confused.

Elise was speechless, and her eyelids dropped. This guy doesn't even know that the entrance exam for SK Group always has two options to choose from! Well, it's not like I can do anything about it. "Never mind that. Where did you get the exam information from?"

"Someone in the field. It's like an endless hierarchy, very complex stuff. I had to pay 200,000 to register."

Elise had never been so speechless in her entire life. He's on the losing end of the deal! Does this guy even think? He paid them money and promised to help them look for Claude free of charge!

"Can you still contact the person who took your registration fee?" Elise looked at Danny, exasperated.

"Yep." Danny nodded innocently. "He gave me a private number."

Elise crossed her arms and said in annoyance, "Call him up."

"What for? I haven't even found the guy."

"I have," Elise replied, irritated.

"Really! Whoa, you truly have mad skills, Elise! I'm calling him up right now. Haha! I'm going to be the only person who joined the group this year! You know, once the task was announced, everyone immediately went to team up and stuff..."

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As he spoke, he took out his phone and managed to find the person on his contacts list. He then proceeded to make the call before the other person picked up.

"Hello, I found Claude!" Danny exclaimed excitedly.

Meeting! Set up a meeting! Elise stood opposite him and tried to get her message across by mouthing her words.

Danny didn't get the message. He covered the receiver with his hand and leaned over to ask, "What?"

Elise sighed, exasperated. "I said, get him to meet you in person," she hissed.

"Oh, all right, okay!" Danny was stunned, but he gave her an 'OK' sign before going outside with the phone.

A few minutes later, he jumped in excitement and announced, "Done! We're meeting at The Waterway Restaurant!"

As soon as Danny finished speaking, Nathan couldn't help but burst out laughing. Then, he put a hand to his mouth in an attempt to hide his subsequent laughs.

"What are you laughing at?" Danny realized that the news wasn't so reliable after all. They had claimed that Nathan never even smiled, much less laughed, but the reality was proving otherwise.

Also, Danny felt that Nathan laughed like a wicked man, and he really wanted to just send the latter a punch across the face.

"Nothing." Nathan held back his laughter though he appeared to be hiding something.

At this point, Elise couldn't stand by and watch anymore, prompting her to challenge the man, asking, "Do you believe that people from SK Group would reveal themselves at The Waterway Restaurant so easily?"

"What's wrong with The Waterway Restaurant?" Danny couldn't even begin to comprehend. "Big business deals are made at The Waterway Restaurant all the time. That place is good with privacy!"

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Nathan laughed even louder now, and he was still chuckling as he got up before walking to Elise. Patting her shoulders, he said, "Your friend is a little, uh, naive."bAfter saying that, he strode outside with the expressionless man who had rushed into the room just now.

"What does he mean by that?" Danny glared warily at Nathan's figure. He must be looking down on me.

Elise decided not to answer the question and changed the topic. "What time did you agree on?"

"Tomorrow evening at 9," said Danny.

"Got it," Elise replied before throwing the remaining three darts in her hands. The darts landed steadily on the target.

Danny's gaze followed the darts to their target, and by the time he had come to, Elise was gone. He scratched his head in confusion, muttering to himself, "What's going on? So weird..."

...

By the time Elise returned to the Sinclair Residence, it was already 11 at night. Joshua and his wife were trying to flatter Robin and Laura by washing their feet for them.

When they saw Elise walk in, they said mockingly, "Elise, remember, you're still a girl. How can you be outside all day and only come home at this hour? Our reputation might be ruined if word gets out!"

"Exactly! Your grandmother recently got discharged from the hospital, so you should stay here and take care of her more often!"

Elise pretended not to hear them as she walked in and reached out to feel Laura's pulse. "Grandma, do you still feel palpitations?"

"Once in the afternoon, I think. I'm feeling much better now, compared to before. Don't worry too much about me, and don't take your uncle's words to heart," Laura answered.

"I've never," Elise said calmly. "I'm going back to my room now."

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"Go ahead," the two elders said simultaneously.

"Okay," Elise responded, then went back to her room. Seeing her calm countenance, Robin and Laura couldn't help but feel worried.

However, Joshua failed to react to the situation as he chastised, "Look at her! It's just as expected of an outsider. See who's helping you do all the dirty work at the most important times—me, your own son!"

Hearing that, Robin immediately kicked over the basin they were using to wash feet, and the water splashed all over Joshua.

"Dad! What are you doing?" Joshua shot to his feet and wiped away the water on his body with a used towel.

"Elise isn't someone you can lecture!" Robin said in exasperation.

"Just because of that?" Joshua complained gloomily. "Did I say anything wrong? Am I not the person looking after you and taking care of you? Your old age is getting to you, Dad. You should know who's closest to you!"

Robin looked away and didn't even bat an eye. "I'd rather have you hire a care worker!"

"Mom, did you hear what Dad said?" Joshua turned to Laura, injustice written all over his face.

"Why? What did he say?" Laura wasn't the least bit considerate as she barked, "If you keep picking on Elise, the two of you will have to leave as soon as you can!"

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## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 399

### Chapter 399 Elise Will Not Be Marrying You

It was early in the morning the next day when Austin visited the Sinclair Residence with Jeanie. They were getting along well at first, but when they talked about where Elise should belong in the future, Robin and Laura started to take on less friendly behavior.

The atmosphere was tense for a long while, then Austin broke the silence.

"Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair, you have taken good care of Elise all these years. However, she must return to where she came from. She has Anderson's blood running in her veins, and no one can change that. We wish for her to come back to us, but it doesn't mean that she has to cut off ties with the Sinclairs. We just want to fill in the missing parts of her life. I hope you can understand."

Robin nodded, for there was nothing wrong with Austin's words. However, when he thought of Elise's lonely return home yesterday, he wasn't quite willing to let go.

As soon as Elise left their line of sight, they wouldn't know of her sufferings or anything that happened to her among that den of snakes.

Laura cut to the chase as she said right out, "Mr. Anderson, according to what I know, your second daughter isn't easy to get along with, correct? How can you guarantee that Elise would be safe when she goes over to your place?"

Austin nodded. "I understand your concerns, but Elise is our biological daughter. She has gone through so much suffering, so we'll give her all the love we can when she returns. We'll take extra care of her, and we'll treat her way better than her other siblings."

"A sensible calculation." Laura refused to believe him as she asked, "The Sinclairs have everything that Elise needs, so if she continues staying here, she would be the only precious daughter of the Sinclairs. However, if she returns to the Andersons, she'll have to compete

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with her other siblings and counter all the plots they'll pit against her. She's better off remaining as she is!"

"I... am afraid that's not possible," said Austin. "I have already sent orders to prepare the ceremony where she would be recognized as an Anderson. Soon, the whole city, even the whole country, will know that Elise is my daughter. If she continues to stay outside, people might think that we're treating her unfairly."

"It's a matter within the family, so you shouldn't care about what others think. In the end, you're just trying to benefit the Anderson Family." Robin waved his hand. "That's enough talking. You cannot have Elise, and that's final!"

The atmosphere was tense once again, and Joshua took the opportunity to barge in on the conversation.

"Dad, why are you so stubborn? Elise is just a child you picked up, and she's not even a real Sinclair. Now her own family is coming to take her back, and they have every right to do so. Why are you holding on to her so firmly? You have taught me to be a good person, but now, you're just like a bad guy who has taken someone else's belongings and hidden them!"

"Be quiet!" Robin reprimanded, "You have no right to speak here. Just the sight of you drives me mad, so get lost!"

"Stop telling me to get lost! I'm your only son, and you can't just dispose of me when you feel like it!" Joshua retorted. He couldn't care less about his pride. As long as he stuck around with the Sinclair Family, its property would fall into his hands, eventually.

"You... You b\*stard!" Robin was so worked up that he was at a loss for words. He hit his cane on the ground, which produced two heavy and muted knocks. Seeing this, Austin knew that his chance had come.

"Mr. Sinclair," Austin stated, "I know I shouldn't talk about the circumstances in your family, but I can see that Elise won't be entirely happy even if she stays here. Since it's the same on both sides, it's only reasonable that she stays with her biological parents, yes?"

As he spoke, he looked toward Joshua, as if hinting that with Joshua's presence, this family would still have its fair share of troubles.

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"You don't have to worry about me!" Elise suddenly walked in from the side door. The look in her eyes was cold, and it roused feelings of guilt within certain individuals.

She walked in and looked around at the people gathered in the room, then she raised her voice and announced. "Since everyone's here, I'll say this one last time. No matter how my identity changes, as long as Grandpa and Grandma are alive, I will forever stay with the Sinclairs. This decision will not be swayed by any person or any matter!"

"Yoyo, I mean, Elise, please calm down. Your father means well; he just wants you to have a part of the family. You know well that it belongs to you in the first place!" Jeanie was a little anxious because she didn't want to lose her long-lost daughter again soon after finally finding her.

Jeanie didn't care about anything else; she just wanted to be with her daughter. Elise looked at Jeanie calmly, but she didn't say anything.

Just then, Austin's phone suddenly rang. He frowned as he unlocked his phone, immediately jumping to his feet when he read the message he received. Jeanie leaned over to look, but Austin quickly turned off his phone and put it in his pants pocket.

"Who is it from?" Jeanie asked. She knew something was up from the way Austin reacted.

"Nothing, just some spam mail." Austin steeled his expression as he spoke.

With that, he looked toward Elise, frowning and hesitating. Then, he finally said, "Since you wish to live with them, we'll let you have your way. However, we still expect you to be there for the ceremony. This is your responsibility, all right? I'll be waiting for you, Yoona." He strode out as soon as he finished his words.

When Austin stepped out of the hall, Elise's cold voice rang behind him. "There's no need to wait. I have no interest whatsoever in the Andersons. I welcome your visits, but I will never go to you."

Austin turned around to glance at her. A million emotions rushed through his head, but he stayed silent till the end and left without looking back.

Jeanie, however, was less willing to leave. She looked at Elise and clasped her hands together, saying humbly, "Yoyo, if you don't want to go back, can I stay here with you? I don't



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know what's wrong with your dad. He still refuses to chase Faye away. I really don't want to stay another second in that house!"

"Sure," Elise responded calmly.

Outside the Sinclair Residence, Austin sat in the car and took out his phone. He had a complicated expression as he stared at the scandalous photo of Matthew and Elise in bed.

Elise was engaged to Alexander. If this photo got out, Alexander would still be fine, maybe get joked about for a while, but Elise would face far worse consequences simply because she was a girl.

He was more worried that the owner of this photo would leak it during the ceremony.

Now, he could do nothing but cancel the marriage between Alexander and Elise. Hence, even if this incident was leaked, they could claim that it was just young people in love. Then, when everything blew over, they could make a statement to clarify the situation, so they wouldn't be affected too much by the chaos.

At that thought, Austin dialed Alexander's number again.

Alexander was checking the proposal for the wedding, and he immediately picked it up when he saw that it was a call from Austin. "Mr. Anderson, I think we're still a long way from the deadline we agreed on," Alexander said.

"I had a change of mind," Austin said. "Elise will not be marrying you."

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## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 400

### Chapter 400 My Enemy

"I don't understand." Alexander's expression was frozen on his face.

Austin thought for a while, then tried dropping hints. "Matthew is one of the Griffiths, and there's this thing between him and Elise... Well, anyway, with that sort of relationship, she mustn't be married to any of you. As her father, I have to ensure that she stays unharmed."

Alexander went silent for a while, after which he blocked the receiver of his phone as he told everyone in the office, "We'll take a break for 15 minutes. Everyone out."

Within a minute, everyone else had already left the room. It was only after that when Alexander returned to his call with Austin. "You mean that photo with Matthew and Elise?"

Austin was stunned, for he didn't expect Alexander to know about this.

"Since you already know, there's no reason for me to hide. If anyone learns of the history between your brother and Elise, the only one to be hurt will be Elise, and you know it. If you're a gentleman, you would call off the wedding," Austin said.

"Impossible." Alexander then repeated his vow, claiming, "I have to marry Elise!"

"So you're saying that you want to go against me?" Austin's voice turned cold. "Do you think you're qualified enough to fight me just because you have Frazier Pharmaceuticals and that measly amount of money you got from the stock market?"

"You are Elise's father, so I won't hurt you. However, anyone who dares stand in the way of my union with Elise will be my enemy!" Alexander said gravely, every syllable laced with warning.

"All right, then. We'll see how you spout nonsense when you get in trouble!"

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With that, Austin hung up. In the office, the look in Alexander's eyes grew cold. He was lost in his own thoughts as he tried to guess where Matthew was at the moment.

Just as expected, I should've gotten to the root of the problem while I had the chance. New problems will keep popping up if this does not end well.

Alexander had to think of a way to lure Matthew out. As he was thinking, his phone vibrated again. It was a message from Brendan telling him that Adam was hospitalized. He gave it a quick glance, then took his phone with him as he left the meeting room.

Elise had received the news at the same time, so the two of them were headed for the hospital simultaneously. However, Alexander got there before Elise did.

In the ward, Adam lay on the bed, and Madeline was accompanying him. Alexander hadn't seen them in a few days, but Madeline seemed to have aged considerably. A few strands of her hair were turning white, and there were wrinkles at the corners of her eyes.

Even though Adam was the one on the hospital bed, he appeared to be in better health than Madeline.

When Alexander walked in, he called lightly, "Dad."

Hearing his voice, Madeline got up in excitement as she waited for him to greet her. In the end, however, Alexander didn't seem like he would open his mouth again, and Madeline was terribly heartbroken by that.

Does this mean that he was serious when he said he wanted to cut off ties with me?

"You're here." Adam acknowledged his presence before he turned to look at a chair beside him. "Sit down."

"It's fine." Alexander's face was cool, without much emotion. "How did you end up in the hospital?"

Adam let out a long sigh, as if unwilling to recount the events.

Madeline did Adam's job instead. "It's all because of those relatives! My goodness, all of them gathered at our house and claimed that if the Griffiths went bankrupt, they would die

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right in front of us! Some of those in power even pointed at your dad and told him that his own son abandoned him, then your dad got so worked up that he fainted.”

Madeline adjusted the blanket for her husband, then turned to Alexander and complained, “And you. If you knew that Frazier’s stocks would rise, why didn’t you tell the Griffiths? I don’t mind if you don’t care about those distant relatives, but how are you willing to watch your own family die?”

Alexander was indifferent as he looked coldly at her and retorted calmly, “You’re the one who asked me to choose.”

“But I never thought you’d choose that woman! What spell did she put on you? What sort of son would abandon his family for a woman?” Madeline accused. “You are my son, and you have my blood running in your veins. Blood is thicker than water, is it not? Please come to your senses, Alexander. We’re the people closest to you! Don’t you see the suffering we’re going through?”

Just then, Elise had already arrived and was standing outside the door. However, when she heard Madeline’s voice, she stopped dead in her tracks.

“One has to pay the price for one’s decisions.” Alexander’s voice rang calmly in the ward, and no one could hear any emotion in it.

“Elise is my woman and fiancée. If you keep badmouthing her, I’ll have to take my leave,” Alexander said coldly.

Adam sighed hastily. “What did I tell you? You shouldn’t have forced him!”

“You know nothing. This is all Elise’s fault! She brought misfortune to all of us. Grandpa Griffith is dead because of her, and we’re next on the list! She also brought ruin to our family, but she’s still clinging on to Alexander like no one’s business! I can’t rest in peace as long as they’re still together!”

Alexander’s expression was frightfully dark. In the end, he inhaled and turned around to leave.

“Alexander,” Adam called to him in a frail voice.

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Alexander could abandon his mother, but he couldn't cut ties with his father.

"Dad, if there's anything you want to tell me, just go ahead and talk," Alexander said.

"I... Well, I don't know how!" Adam's face was guilt-ridden as he hesitated, unable to humble himself.

Alexandar, however, could guess what he wanted to say. He spoke calmly, saying, "You want me to fork out some money to help the Griffiths through these trying times, is that right?"

Adam didn't respond, silently admitting.

"It's only proper for you to give us money. Alexander, when you took over the company, you were also in charge of the whole family. You are responsible for the survival of the Griffiths, so you can't just stand by and watch. If you aren't willing to give us even one cent, how would you be able to face your family in the future? We're asking you to do this for your own good," Madeline cut in.

Alexander ignored her and continued to ask, "Dad, is this what you want?"

"Alexander, oh, Alexander! Just let me live for a few more days, please. Our home has turned into hell, so if you don't do anything about it, your mom and I would have no place to call home." At this point, Adam seemed to be out of choices.

"All right." Alexander agreed almost immediately because it was his duty as a son, after all.

"Then you agree to come back and cut ties with that woman?" Madeline asked in delight.

"No," Alexander replied coldly. "I will be marrying Elise very soon. I can give you my money and my life, but as long as I am breathing, I want to stay by Elise's side. I want to be someone she can depend on all her life."

"W-What sort of son are you?! You'll be the death of me one day!" Madeline shouted in anger and disappointment.

Alexander remained silent, for he didn't want to worsen the conflict. Even if the whole world disapproved of his relationship with Elise, he would still stay with her.

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He lowered his gaze as he contemplated, but then quickly caught sight of a small figure entering his field of vision.

"Why are you here?" Alexander was shocked by her presence.

"If I weren't here, how much longer do you plan on being bullied?" Elise said, then walked right past him to look Madeline in the eyes.