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Chapter 511 Unable to Resist

Kenneth looked at her cynically, but he did not utter a word.

To Faye, his behavior was indicative of a silent approval. She turned around to look at Elise before saying, "I'm sorry to snatch your limelight, Elise, but you should know that I've been unhappy for a few years since I was engaged to Johan. Now that I finally have the opportunity to pursue true love, I must be brave."

Elise raised her eyebrow. "Whatever. Perhaps this is not a good thing after all. Faye, women who blindly seek 'true love' usually do not end up well."

"Now, aren't you quite petty, Elise? Even though your fiance has gone bankrupt, you have been loyally staying by his side. If you are with the right person, you don't have to worry about the unpredictable future," Faye said haughtily, as though she was already Kenneth's fiancee.

"Very true indeed. I don't have your guts to do anything I want, though." With that, Elise smiled sarcastically.

Faye's facial expression slightly changed upon sensing that there was a hidden meaning in Elise's words, but she could not understand what Elise was implying.

Soon, she remembered that it was a party after all and was excited and eager once again. "Kenneth, Elise is the main guest of this party here, so let's have a chat in the room."

With that, Faye walked forward to hold Kenneth's arms.

However, before her fingers could even touch him, Kenneth raised his arms delicately to avoid her.

"Please have some self-respect." His face darkened as he left her hand dangling mid-air in an awkward position.

Her smile became quite awkward, but she still forced herself to smile as she tried to resolve her faux pas. "Kenneth, you are so good at teasing!"

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"Who said I was teasing you? Do I even know you?" He looked at her impassively.

Faye's body gave a jolt. "You just told my father that you want to marry me..."

Kenneth finally realized the miscommunication and calmly explained, "Oh! I thought the Anderson Family only has one daughter. I didn't know that the foster daughter is also counted."

Even though the rest of the guests knew that Faye was adopted, they did not say anything about it publicly as they had to take her feelings into account. At this moment when everyone's focus was on them, it was undeniably an insult to Faye that Kenneth had pointed it out in such a straightforward manner.

She was dazed for a brief moment before her anger flared up. "Since you are looking down on me, why did you request to marry me?"

In other words, how high and mighty could you be for wanting to marry the foster daughter of the family?

"From where did you get the idea that I want to marry you? You think too highly of yourself." Kenneth flashed a fake smile at her.

To begin with, he was already a man of high status. Now that his face was clouded with a tinge of anger, he emanated a powerful air around him that stunned Faye, whose mouth fell agape as she dared to retaliate.

His gaze only lingered around Faye for less than two seconds before he looked at Elise gently. "The woman whom I want to marry is the second daughter—the biological daughter—of the Anderson Family, Yoona!" he announced clearly.

"My gosh, this is too awkward!"

"Have you guys seen Faye's behavior earlier? She seems very forward with him, as though she can't wait to sleep with him. How embarrassing!"

"Tsk, tsk! As soon as her fiance passed away, she immediately went for another man. A woman like her is no good at all! Fortunately, God is fair and did not let her tarnish Mr. Bailey's reputation!"

"I know, right? She is merely adopted, yet she dreams of being together with Kenneth. Does she even know who he is? He stands out even among a group of talented men. Will he choose a woman who doesn't even know who her father is? I'm actually impressed by her wild imagination, though. She even says he's her true love—how shameless!"

"Serves her right! I've been dissatisfied by her arrogant attitude for a long time now. It's finally her turn to be rejected today."

The crowd's ridicules rang one after another. Faye's cheeks were flushed as she gritted her teeth, but she had to tolerate their insults.

One had to have self-control to achieve great heights. She had already embarrassed herself enough earlier. If she could not keep herself in check this time, she would be a complete joke.

Elise pouted in confusion. I have already made it clear to Kenneth in Dukethorn. Why is he still so persistent? Could it be that the famous Kenneth is actually a masochist who likes to be rejected again and again?

"Mr. Bailey, I think you know that my youngest daughter already has a fiance," Austin interjected.

"I know." Kenneth looked at Elise affectionately without looking elsewhere. "Since they are just engaged, I still have a fair opportunity as long as they are not married. Isn't that so?"

"I don't need it, though." Elise rejected him again. "I love my fiance very much and I don't need anything else."

He retracted his gaze and turned around. "Bring it here," he ordered.

Upon hearing that, Melody took an exquisitely wrapped gift and placed it in front of Elise. "Miss Anderson, Mr. Bailey has personally prepared this for you."

"What is it?" Elise had no plans to accept it.

"Something that you yearn for," Kenneth replied. "Look at it first before deciding whether you want to give me a chance or not."

As she looked at his confidence. Elise's firm decision wavered.

Excluding his relentless attempts to pester me, this man has actually boosted the economy of Landred City until it surpassed Athesea. He definitely wields some power that might help me in unexpected ways.

However, I don't want to owe him any favors.

Elise was a person who liked to keep things clear and had never completely relied on Alexander.

She stretched her hand and took the present over as she gave it a thought.

After all, she suddenly realized that it was not the first time she owed him a favor. If he wanted to use these to ask her to do something in exchange, she could not reject him. Since this was the case, she would not have to hesitate any further. Since she had already owed him many favors, she might as well graciously accept this.

"That's it." Kenneth's lips twitched into a smile.

"Young woman, settle your relationship issues privately and think about us. We are here today to have a look at the red jade. Have you brought it with you?"

An elder could not stand it anymore and pressured Elise.

After so many twists and turns, I can't escape from showing them the red jade anymore.

She turned around to look at Joey behind her and nodded.

"The red jade is too heavy and it's not quite safe to bring it here. I have asked a professional to take down a piece and bring it here. If you don't mind, you can have a look at this."

With that, Joey walked forward and opened the box that she had prepared.

In an instant, the amber glow from the red jade immediately attracted everyone's attention.

"It's an invaluable treasure indeed..."

Joey had no intentions to be the model who showed the jade, so she found a bar table and asked the waiter to bring the champagne away before she placed it there for the guests to admire.

The group of people stared fixedly at the bar as they took a few steps closer, encircling the bar in the process until they were about half a meter away. As they were cultured people, they politely left some space for the Anderson Family members as they looked at the red jade from a distance.

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Chapter 512 So What If You're Born Into a Good Family?

As everyone was still obsessed with the red jade, Faye finally couldn't help but start her so-called performance.

"The red jade is such a precious item. I'm sure you took a lot of effort to buy it for the Anderson Family."

With that, she took out a check and forced it into Elise's hand. "Here's the ten million that you spent for the red jade. You can take the balance as your tip."

Elise looked at the check in her hand and arched her eyebrow. "What do you mean? Are you buying my red jade for ten million?"

Her words attracted the attention of the guests.

"Ten million? I can't believe Faye has the guts to even say it out loud!"

"The red jade is so rare that we can only see it once in a century! A while ago at Pete's Auction, the necklace made from the cerulean jade was worth almost 100 million, let alone the red jade!"

"It seems like the pair of sisters from the Anderson Family will have enough to fight with each other."

Without waiting for Faye's reply, Elise turned around to hand the check to Joey.

"Take this, Joey. This is a gift from Miss Faye to you as your tip for bringing the red jade here."

What? I'm getting a tip for bringing such a small item here?

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Joey froze for a moment and lifted her head to look at Elise, who winked at her. She instantly understood the situation and waved the check at Faye. "Thanks for the tip, Miss Faye. You are really generous!"

"What nonsense are you saying? This is not a tip for her! The money is to be used to buy the red jade!" Faye explained anxiously.

"What? Are you kidding me? This isn't funny at all, Miss Faye. I remember at the auction, Elise didn't even sell it when others offered it at 100 million. Are you going to use some sweet words to make Elise suffer a loss?"

Faye could no longer cope with the situation alone, so she quickly mentioned Austin's name to support her. "Yoona is a part of the Anderson Family, so her belongings are also owned by the family. Apart from that, this is what Dad wants too!"

While she was speaking, she shot a look of disgust toward Joey. This brat wants to get a share of everything! When I'm free, I'm going to teach her a good lesson. Her sharp words always make me lose my composure in front of everyone!

Her initial plan was to force Elise to sell the red jade to her at a low price in front of all the guests. However, now that she had no choice, she had to let Austin take the responsibility.

"That is our father's intention too?" Elise chuckled coldly as she looked at Austin steadily. "Do you really mean to give your biological daughter 10 million to gloss this matter over?"

Austin heaved a sigh before he said thoughtfully, "Yoyo, just give it to her. If you are still not satisfied, I can arrange for you to have another 100 million, alright?"

"No." Elise's face darkened immediately. "No one can buy the red jade from me. I have enough money to begin with and I've already made a deal to give this to Mr. Shaw from Shaw's Jewelry Co.. Even for such a small piece of jade like what you are seeing now, I'm still going to give it away."

"The Anderson Family can help you to terminate your deal with Shaw's Jewelry Co.." Faye gave a cunning smile.

Elise was so furious that she let out a snort of laughter. "Is this how you do business? You don't take your word seriously and just terminate the contract whenever you like it?"

Faye thrusted her chest arrogantly. "The way I do business has always been putting the profits of the Anderson Family first and making decisions that are the most favorable to our family."

"How selfless of you." Elise's lips curled into a cold smile. "Why don't you hand over the jade worth 5 million that you received last time? Set an example that I can follow. If you hand it over, I will naturally follow suit."

"You—" Faye was so furious that she gritted her teeth. Elise still has the guts to mention that jade? She was the one who hired people to steal my jade, and she even accused me of stealing it myself! How dare she take this matter out to attack my weak points! It's all her fault that the police in Landred City thought I was a lunatic! Even now, I can't even find the jade. How do I even hand it over?

"Please don't change the topic. We are now talking about you now. It's fine if you don't listen to my advice, but are you going to defy our father's wishes and disrespect him as soon as you return?"

Elise smiled at her condescendingly as she said meaningfully, "Hah! I'm not the only one who defies him. In fact, I want to thank you for starting the tradition, dear sister!"

"Stop diverting the topic here. Answer me clearly—are you going to hand the red jade over?" Faye looked at Elise fiercely as she had formulated some plans in her mind.

If Elise handed the red jade over, Faye would be credited as the person who brought a highly valued asset to the Anderson Family.

However, if Elise rejected her request, she could use this reason to further aggravate the shaky relationship between Elise and the Anderson Family, making Elise unable to receive her fair share of the family assets. Even if Elise has some special powers tonight, I will be the ultimate winner. This is the price Elise has to pay for ruining my plans repeatedly. So what if she's born into a good family? She can't win against my foolproof plan, and she will remain defeated by me.

At this exact moment, the huge screen that was temporarily built in the garden suddenly buzzed alive. It let out a shrill sound in the beginning before it gradually softened.

As the electricity went off, the Anderson Pharmaceuticals' promotional video that had been playing on the screen suddenly disappeared.

Just as the technical team went over to fix it, the screen suddenly brightened again.

At the same time, the promotional video had been changed to a powerpoint slide that was set on autoplay mode and at a comfortable pace for the crowd to read.

The contents of the powerpoint was the evidence of Faye using Anderson Pharmaceuticals to collaborate with Jordan to conduct some illegal activities.

From the evidence, one could tell that it was normal for her to commit money laundering for mafia bosses behind the stakeholders' back, and it was also beyond normal for her to renege on her word. However, apart from forcing others to buy the company products, what was the most shocking was that she embezzled the company funds several times. The sum of the money she had embezzled was almost a billion and the most recent case happened three days ago, where she transferred 100 million from the company's account in two transactions.

In other words, Faye was not as selfless as she portrayed herself to be. On the contrary, she was a gold-digger who kept transferring money from the Anderson Family into her own pocket while ruining their reputation in the process.

Upon seeing this, Austin, who had been siding her all this while, could not help glaring at her. "You better explain yourself!"

Faye's expression instantly changed as blood drained from her face. She was so nervous that she gulped, and her eyes anxiously darted everywhere as she thought about the excuses that might be able to cover this as well as the alibis that could convince the present stakeholders.

"Dad, this is not true! Someone is trying to frame me! This is clear as day that someone is trying to accuse me of something that I have not done! They deliberately showed this at such an occasion to destroy the Anderson Family's reputation! All these years, I have been supporting the Anderson Family so that we won't be defeated by our competitors. Because of this, they have fabricated such lies to ruin our relationship!"

Austin's anger abated rather significantly when he heard that.

After all, the contents of the powerpoint were just a one-sided accusation that was not credible. However, he knew that Faye had left some loose ends indeed.

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Chapter 513 And You Have the Right Instead?

Truth be told, Austin was hoping that the accusations were true.

However, although Faye's dirty laundry had been aired in front of everyone, none of the elders from the Anderson Family commented about it. Obviously, her connections at the company were far more complicated than he imagined. It wouldn't be that easy to defeat her.

"How about this? I'll ask someone to investigate this issue, but you have to explain to me how you used the 100 million that you just transferred."

"Why do we have to wait?" Before Faye could even reply, Elise answered the question. "We will have a way to find out whether it is accurate or not."

Then, Elise glanced at the crowd and said loudly, "Captain Gleeman, I know you are here. Please show yourself."

From the back of the crowd, a muscular man walked through the crowd toward her with a cocktail glass in his hand.

An impatient Jackson asked, "Who told you that I'm here?"

I used someone else's identity and invitation card. How did this 'murderer' find out?

Elise beamed. "I'm sure you won't dare to miss such a good opportunity to observe me."

He heaved a long sigh. "Alright. I will look into this. If this evidence is true, none of you can escape."

After that, he took a slight pause before adding, "You know that I'm not referring to today's incident."

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"Of course, none of us can escape from the mighty law." Elise shrugged.

"This is a serious matter." Jackson chastised her.

"I'm just joking." Elise rolled her eyes in exasperation. "As usual, you lack humor, Captain Gleeman."

He did not reply to her.

"Alright. We have enough of a scene for today. Let's discuss this later," Austin added solemnly.

After all, he did not want the police to bring his daughter away from the party that his family hosted.

Elise nodded. "Oh, right. It's time to talk business."

"You have something else to discuss?" Austin frowned and murmured quietly, "Yoyo, if it's private, we can discuss it among the family members once the party is over. We don't have to make a fool of ourselves in front of the guests."

"Are you worried that I might continue to disgrace Faye?" Elise asked directly.

Austin was instantly at a loss for a reply.

To be precise, he was worried about the Anderson Family's reputation and since Faye was a part of it, it meant he could not deny the truth.

Elise immediately turned indifferent as she said coldly, "Don't you worry about that. There are many people who want to teach her a lesson. I have no interest in her for the time being."

Upon hearing that, Austin sighed. I'm afraid I'll have to interact with this daughter of mine as if we are strangers for the rest of my life.

Elise ignored him and walked to a nearby table. Then, she took a small spoon to hit her champagne glass, letting out a crisp sound.

"Everyone, I have some good news to share with you. You know that I have been enjoying myself abroad and I know little about the Anderson Family's business. Now that I have returned, I finally thought it through and understood the hard work that my father and my sister have put into it. From now onward, I will officially join Anderson Pharmaceuticals to help them to bear the burden."

As soon as Faye heard that, anger pulsed through her veins as she yelled, "No!"

After realizing her faux pas the next second, she lowered her voice and pretended to be kind as she responded, "I was just trying to say—how could you do that? You are still studying at university. You should live your life without any burdens, Elise. It's enough that one of us is helping out with the business. Since you are still a student, you should focus on your studies."

"Don't I have the right to do so?" Elise stared into Faye's eyes without any humor. It was clear that she was not making a joke.

"If you insist on taking that perspective, my reply will be yes. Indeed, you are not fit to take charge of Anderson Pharmaceuticals. I don't want to say this, but you are from the countryside..." She pretended to accidentally let slip of the fact and quickly paused before she continued. "I mean, the countryside abroad. You have been having fun with farmers and they are the people whom you have interacted the most with. Our business is worth hundreds of millions. It's not something you can simply play with."

"I see." Elise blinked carefreely. "So, as the person who embezzled the company funds, you have the right to manage the company instead? Don't forget that I acquired the land that we need for the development of the next six months without spending a cent. If this is not enough to prove my abilities, I'm going to suspect that you actually don't want me to join the company."

Finally, the stakeholders of Anderson Pharmaceuticals, who had been observing the situation all this while, opened their mouths.

"So, that land was auctioned off by the second daughter of the Anderson Family!"

"Once we get the piece of land, we don't have to worry about the development for the next three years, do we?"

"Faye even wanted to halt the plan before this. It turns out that she just wants to bully her sister and ignore our profits!"

"We are businessmen, after all. There's no reason why we won't want to earn more profit. Say something about this, Mr. Anderson!"

Austin, who was suddenly brought into the conversation, had no idea how to explain this and glared at Faye. It's Faye who asked me to hide this from the stakeholders, and she's the one who privately asked for the land from Elise. Now that everyone knows this, how can I even defend her?

Faye did not look well either. It was completely out of her expectation that Elise could be so ruthless as to completely ignore Austin's feelings and embarrass both her and Austin in public. This woman is too cruel! I still lost to her in the end!

"Hahahaha! Interesting!" Kenneth, who had been observing the situation all this while, suddenly clapped. "Since you would like to learn how to manage a business, Yoona, I will announce this—as long as you join the management of Anderson Pharmaceuticals, Smith

Co. will collaborate with Anderson Pharmaceuticals on the properties that we plan to invest in Landred City."

With that, he did not forget to lean toward Elise to get her approval for his help. "How about that? I helped you out again."

Elise shot him a sideway glance. "I can succeed even without you."

"That's true. But with me, it's way easier for you, isn't it?"

With that, Kenneth straightened his back and looked at the crowd arrogantly as if he was a victor.

However, Elise was stunned upon hearing his question because her thoughts had wandered elsewhere.

At that moment, she felt a familiar feeling and even wanted to reply to his dominance. It was just an instantaneous feeling, yet it created even more doubts in her.

She did not believe that a man like Kenneth would be willing to help her out so much without asking for any return, just for her beauty.

It was probable that this man would bring even more mystery to her.

Kenneth's promise of working together with Smith Co. had attracted the stakeholders who valued profit.

"Miss Yoona, you are so talented at such a young age. You should have a spot in the company!"

"I support Miss Yoona to join the company and inherit the business."

"It's time for Anderson Pharmaceuticals to have some new blood. Please take up your responsibility, Miss Yoona!"