

Divorce Anxiety (Kathleen and Samuel) Chapter 461

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Chapter 461

Chapter 461 She Is Ignoring Me

Levi gazed at her quietly. “No, but I’m acquainted with the owner.”

The owner?

“Kate?” Just then, a middle-aged woman with a mature charm came out of the restaurant, immediately recognizing Kathleen.

Kathleen froze, an inexplicable sense of familiarity rising within her the moment her gaze fell on the middle-aged woman before her eyes.

Mila gave her a faint smile. “My name is Mila Hunt. I’m a close friend of Wynnie. You used to love my cooking.”

Kathleen blinked a few times before responding, “Hello, Mdm. Hunt.”

“I had no idea you two knew each other, Mdm. Hunt.” Levi remained composed as he flashed a smile at Mila.

Glancing at him, Mila asked indifferently, “Mr. Levi, what are you doing here again?”

“Mdm. Hunt, I’m here to—”

“You’ve just had lunch here earlier, Mr. Levi. You shouldn’t come here again for dinner,” said Mila tonelessly.

Levi immediately turned to look at Kathleen.

Despite not fully understanding the conflict between Levi and Mila, Kathleen knew that this was her cue to step in.

Clearing her throat, she explained, “Mdm. Hunt, Levi is my friend. He came to Jadeborough on a business trip and dropped by to visit me. I was hoping to treat him to a meal, so...”

“Oh, I see. Come in, then!” Mila invited them in graciously the moment she heard Kathleen’s words.

Levi was overjoyed.

He had no idea Kathleen’s words and presence had such an effect.

Kathleen merely gazed at him speechlessly before following Mila into the restaurant.

“What would you and your children like to eat, Kate?” asked Mila with a smile after showing them to their seats.

“I have no idea.” Indeed, Kathleen had no plans, nor did she know what the signature dishes of the restaurant were.

“Allow me to decide for you guys, then.” Mila smiled kindly.

“I’d like to have Sizzle Steak.” Unlike Kathleen, Levi seemed to be very clear on what he would like to order.

Everyone turned their gaze toward him.

“That’s a limited-edition dish that you’ve already had earlier, so it’s only available for Kate and the kids now,” stated Mila bluntly.

“That’s fine, too. I just want them to try it,” Levi replied nonchalantly.

Kathleen knitted her brows.

Somehow, she felt that that was not Levi’s true intention, but she had no clue what he had up his sleeve.

“Please wait for a moment.” Mila flashed Kathleen a smile before she spun around and left.

Kathleen immediately turned to Levi and demanded in a stern tone, “What’s going on with you? Explain everything clearly, or I’m leaving with the children!”

“Calm down. You’ll know in a second,” answered Levi with a sheepish expression on his face.

A moment later, a young woman clad in a chef’s uniform approached them with a serving cart.

The woman was probably about Kathleen’s age. Not only did she have fair skin and delicate features, but faint dimples would appear on her cheeks when she smiled, too.

“Here it comes!” Levi became excited.

Kathleen turned to look at the woman.

Just then, Mila came toward them as well, walking alongside the woman.

Only then did Kathleen realize how strikingly the two women resembled each other.

“Kate, let me introduce you. This is our head chef.” Mila beamed.

Kathleen smiled faintly in response. “Hi, my name is Kathleen.”

She reached out her hand.

“I’m Queena Hunt.” The woman held out her hand as well.

Queena Hunt?

Kathleen shook hands with her. “Are you…”

“She’s my daughter,” Mila explained smilingly.

Realization dawned on Kathleen.

Oh, I see. No wonder they look so alike!

She shot Levi a sideways glance only to see that he was staring at Queena with a dazed look in his eyes.

Queena blushed slightly. “I’m about to make Sizzle Steak. First, I’m going to heat up this piece of lava stone here, and then I’m going to place this marinated steak on it. In just two minutes, the steak would be ready to be served.”

As she spoke, she began heating up the lava stone.

Then she picked up the steak with a pair of tongs and placed it on the lava stone.

Sizzle!

A loud, crisp sizzling rang out the moment the beef was laid on the lava stone.

Desiree watched in fascination. “The steak is really cooked.”

“That’s right,” Queena affirmed with a smile.

Meanwhile, Levi was staring at Queena like an idiot while the latter did not even bother sparing him a glance.

Kathleen felt rather helpless.

It was not hard for her to work out that both Mila and Queena were equally irritated with him.

After Queena finished grilling the steaks, she served them to the guests.

“Please enjoy your meal.”

“Thank you,” Kathleen responded with gratitude.

“You’re welcome.” Queena smiled warmly. “Just let me know if you guys feel like having anything else.”

Kathleen nodded. “We will.”

With that, Queena left with her serving cart.

Mila glared at Levi wordlessly before turning to Kathleen. “Kate, I’ll leave you and your children to your meal while I serve the other customers.”

“Okay, sure.” Kathleen nodded.

The moment Mila left their table, Kathleen looked sideways at Levi and snapped, “What was that all about?”

Seeing that Levi did not respond, she went on furiously, “Why do I feel as if you were using me? Explain yourself now!”

“Many things happened since we last met. Three months ago, I met Queena in Pollerton and fell in love at first sight,” explained Levi quietly.

“And what about her?” Kathleen asked in a cold voice.

“She liked me as well, so we got together. Perhaps it was because I was too busy and didn’t spend much time with her, but by the time I went back to see her again, she had returned to her country.”

Kathleen massaged her temples. “Then did you call her?”

“I did.” Levi nodded. “But she didn’t pick up. So, tell me. Why would she treat me like this?”

"It's hard to know the answer to that just by listening to your side of the story. Perhaps you'd done something that offended her," stated Kathleen indifferently.

"But I didn't." Levi was genuinely baffled.

"All the same, why didn't you just tell me about this earlier?" Kathleen was still mad at him.

"I'm sorry," Levi apologized at once.

"There better not be a next time. You just made things extremely awkward for me," Kathleen warned.

"All right." Levi smiled sheepishly before a look of despair washed over his face. "But she's totally ignoring me now."

"Then you should try to talk to her nicely."

"Talk to her?" Levi continued in a helpless tone, "How am I supposed to do that when she won't even give me a chance to do so?"

Kathleen furrowed her brows slightly. Looks like the problem is indeed quite serious!

"It's Daddy!" Desiree exclaimed suddenly.

Kathleen turned around, immediately noticing Samuel and Ashley entering the restaurant and Mila going over to welcome them.

"And that evil woman is with him too. If Daddy marries that woman, then I'm really never going to bother about him again. I'm being serious!" added Desiree in disappointment.

Kathleen retracted her gaze.

"Are you okay?" Levi asked in concern.

Kathleen nodded. "Yeah, I'm fine."

Mila was Wynnies close friend.

Since Mila just opened a new restaurant, it was expected that Samuel would be visiting the place.

However, what Kathleen had not expected was that he would bring Ashley with him.

Similarly, it did not occur to Ashley that she would bump into Kathleen here either.

What surprised her even more was that Kathleen was accompanied by a man, who also happened to be very handsome and charismatic.

“Looks like Kathleen’s been busy, Samuel. She found a new boyfriend soon enough,” Ashley remarked with a meaningful smile. “They look like a loving couple, don’t they? Do you see how affectionately that man is looking at her?”

Of course, Samuel saw it all.

He did not know who the man was, but he had to admit that Ashley was certainly right.

That man indeed had a look of deep affection as he gazed at Kathleen.

Besides, Kathleen seemed to get along well with that man. They seemed to be quite close.

Who is that man?

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Chapter 462 The Point Of No Return

Mila fixed her gaze on Samuel. “This way, please.”

She intentionally led them to a table as far as possible from Kathleen, fearing that things would turn ugly.

Samuel trailed behind Mila to the table and sat down.

“I didn’t expect you to bring your friend over, too,” were Mila’s words.

Samuel merely gave a flat response. “Mm.”

Then came Ashley’s declaration, “I’m not just Samuel’s friend, Mdm. Hunt. More accurately, I’m her girlfriend.” She wore a smug look at that.

The corner of Mila’s lips curled upward. “Oh, my. I hope I didn’t offend you with my choice of words, Ms. Zeller. I was just trying to stay neutral and as future-proof as I

possibly can be. It's just so I don't have to owe anyone any explanation if something were to crop up in the future. Don't get worked up, okay?"

"Oh, no. I also didn't mean anything else, Mdm. Hunt." Ashley's words clearly implied otherwise.

"That's good to know." Flashing a half-smile, Mila quickly changed the topic. "What would you like to eat, Samuel? Do you have any cravings?"

"My mom asked me to support your business. I'll leave it to you," uttered Samuel placidly.

To be honest, he was reluctant to show up at first.

It was Wynnie who had forced him to do so.

No matter his amnesia, he would never go against her wishes.

She was his mother, after all, so he had to do her bidding.

A faint smile appeared on Mila's face. "Okay, I'll serve you something nice, then."

Samuel gave a nod. His gaze unwittingly landed on Kathleen and her group.

At that time, Kathleen was chatting with Levi. "Why don't you try and talk to her nicely?"

"But she's been giving me the cold shoulder." Levi sounded aggrieved. "Why don't you help me, Kate?"

"Uh... Okay," said Kathleen as she massaged her temples. "If I happen to ruin it somehow, don't come after me."

Levi winced on that note. "Could it get any worse than what I'm facing right now?" he commented.

"No, indeed." Kathleen just had to admit it.

Levi fell speechless at that.

Looking at that intimate duo happily chit-chatting, the look in Samuel's eyes darkened slightly.

I never should've stepped into this restaurant in the first place.

To make matters worse, Kathleen was all smiles when Samuel laid his gaze on her from afar.

Look at the way she smiles! Why can't she treat me the same way?

Ever since his return, she had never once flashed him a smile, not even a faint one for that matter.

Desolation rose in his heart. Why couldn't she understand how insecure and lonely I must've been after losing my memories?

Right then, Queena pushed the food cart to the table where Samuel was at and placed a steak on the grill to begin cooking.

Halfway through the process, she must've gone into a daze, for she accidentally brushed her thumb against a grill stone. Immediately, her thumb was seared and reddened like a tomato.

Concurrently, a yelp came through her lips. "Ouch!"

At that juncture, Levi suddenly leaped up from his seat and bolted toward Queena.

Grabbing her injured hand with both hands, Levi was distressed as he urged, "Did you hurt yourself? Come! I'll send you to the hospital!"

"Let go of me!" Queena appeared to be agitated, hollering, "Don't you dare touch me!"

Huh? Levi froze as he witnessed her reaction. "I-I'm only worried about you..."

He loosened his grip sheepishly.

Queena, in turn, ignored him and directed her gaze at Samuel instead. "I'm sorry, Mr. Macari. Please excuse my clumsiness. I'll go get my colleague to continue serving you."

Samuel gave a curt nod.

Deep down, Samuel was puzzled by what he had just seen. From his perspective, something must've been going on between this pair.

Anyone can tell that he cares a whole lot for her.

With that said, Queena headed toward the kitchen right away.

To Samuel's surprise, Kathleen, too, rose to her feet and followed Queena's footsteps.

A deep frown was etched on Samuel's face.

Why on earth did she have to follow?

When Kathleen entered the kitchen, Queena was already rummaging through the first aid kit, seemingly looking for some medicine.

Kathleen walked up and clasped Queena's hand before dragging the latter toward the sink. She turned the pipe on and placed Queena's seared thumb under the running cold water. "Always give it a good rinse before applying any medication."

"Thank you." Queena expressed her appreciation, her eyes teary.

A faint smile appeared on Kathleen's face as she fished out her phone to dial Yadiel's number. The call quickly got through. "Fetch me some burn ointment," was Kathleen's command.

She hung up the phone right after that.

Queena bit her lip, gawking at her injured finger.

Out of the blue, Kathleen crossed her arms and asked, "Why did you break up with Levi?"

Her words stupefied Queena on the spot.

"Don't get me wrong. I'm not prying. Levi asked me to help him out, but that doesn't mean I take his side. He simply wanted to get to the bottom of this." Kathleen portrayed a fair-minded demeanor as she spoke. "Forgive my bluntness, though. If you've decided to let him go, surely you wouldn't mind telling me, right?"

Queena froze at that. Initially, she had really thought of keeping it to herself.

However, considering Kathleen had already put it that way, Queena was left with no choice.

"He's been seeing someone else. During his absence, a woman came to me and showed me some photos of them acting all lovey-dovey with each other. I couldn't accept it, so I left him," Queena gruffly blurted out the truth.

Kathleen blinked in disbelief. "Seriously?"

The look on Queena's face was stern as she said, "There's no reason for me to lie."

"No, no, no. I mean, Levi wouldn't do such a thing." Kathleen's visage was impassive, but her tone was all the more indifferent.

Queena knitted her brows. "What makes you say that?"

“His mom is one of those devoted bunch. Naturally, Levi is, too. They’re the kind of people who would forbid getting physical before marriage. I bet when you guys were dating each other, he had never crossed the line except giving you some pecks, correct?” remarked Kathleen. Her deadpan countenance didn’t waver at all.

Queena nodded in agreement.

Kathleen went on, “Trust me. I met Levi’s mom before. She’s super strict when it comes to educating her son. Well, even if he’s nothing of the sort, he wouldn’t just get himself another partner like that. I’ve known him long enough to know him inside and out.”

Listening to her claim, Queena pursed her lips. “But... what I said is also true.”

“How about that woman, though? Is she believable?” Kathleen shrugged. “You know, it’s relatively easy to composite photographs nowadays.”

Those words made Queena freeze for a moment.

“Actually, you should’ve confronted Levi about this. You’re his girlfriend. You have all the right in the world to do that,” added Kathleen in a heartbeat.

“It’s a little too late for that now...” Queena hung her head low, concealing the emotions behind her hazel eyes.

“I beg to differ. He still has a thing for you. No matter what, you two should really talk it out before jumping to conclusions. Everyone hates being set up, don’t we all?” Kathleen tried her best to talk some sense into Queena.

The latter inclined her head in approval. “I guess so...”

“That’s settled, then. I’ll ask Levi to wait for you to get off work. I’ve got to go now.”

“Okay,” Queena responded with a nod.

With that, Kathleen wheeled around to exit the kitchen.

Right after she stepped out of the kitchen, she bumped into Samuel.

Samuel clenched her hands and dragged her all the way into the restroom.

“What are you doing? Let me go!” Kathleen glared daggers at him.

Samuel released his clutch at once before piping up, “That guy’s not into you. He only cares for Queena.”

Kathleen’s brows furrowed. “Oh, really? What does that have anything to do with you?”

“That man doesn’t love you.” Samuel’s voice was as deep as the ocean. “Wake up!”

“So what if he’s not in love with me? Why should I care?” came Kathleen’s ice-cold retort.

Samuel’s dark gaze pierced deep into Kathleen’s eye. “You don’t care?”

A frown marred Kathleen’s mien. “Yes, I don’t.”

Of course, Kathleen couldn’t be bothered about Levi’s feelings toward her, for she herself wasn’t attracted to Levi.

Besides, Levi only had eyes for Queena.

Although Kathleen knew that Samuel had gotten the wrong idea, she hadn’t the slightest intention to explain anything.

Some nerve he has to intrude on my private affairs after getting Ashley pregnant!

Kathleen fumed furiously, “We’re no longer related, Samuel, so don’t pester me anymore!”

She left in a huff as soon as she finished her words.

Alas, Samuel wrapped his arms around her waist from behind, yanking her back into his embrace.

“Let go of me!” Kathleen struggled as she turned around.

As they grappled with each other, Samuel’s collar was unbuttoned by accident. A necklace then fell out, coming into sight. Attached to the necklace was the diamond ring that Kathleen had returned to him.

Huh? He even wears that diamond ring on his neck now?

Kathleen was stunned upon witnessing that.

Embarrassed, Samuel stuffed the necklace back under his shirt.

He acted as though he had been stripped of his very last bit of dignity.

“Fine. I’m staying out of your business from now on!”

After dropping those words, Samuel let go of Kathleen and strode off in no time at all.

A trace of helplessness and bitterness flashed across Kathleen’s face.

What's going on? Are things never going to be the same again? Have we really reached the point of no return?

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Chapter 463 You Cannot Slander Me

Kathleen came out of the restroom and went back to her seat.

Meanwhile, Levi was sitting there with a pained expression.

"I just saw you come out of the male restroom," he whispered.

Kathleen felt speechless.

He continued, "I even saw Samuel walking out of there."

She gave him the side-eye. "Do you wish to reconcile with Queena or not?"

"What did she say?" Levi asked, feeling agitated.

Kathleen knitted her brow as she questioned, "Did you lie to me? Do you have another woman?"

"How is that possible?" Levi huffed. "I don't have other women."

"But Queena told me a woman went to find her and showed Queena an intimate picture of you with that woman. That was why Queena left."

"What?" Levi was shocked to the core. "That's impossible!"

Kathleen glanced at him dispassionately. "Why would Queena accuse you for nothing? If she wanted to break up with you, she didn't need to find such a lame excuse."

Levi pursed his lips.

Just then, Yadiel arrived with a bag of medication in his hand.

It was medicated cream for burns that Kathleen asked him to buy.

“What are you waiting for?” Aloofly, Kathleen glanced at Levi. “Bring that cream to her.”

Upon hearing that, Levi shot to his feet and took the bag from Yadiel before dashing toward the kitchen at the back.

Sighing, Kathleen massaged her temples.

“What is Mr. Levi doing?” Yadiel asked curiously.

“Winning his girlfriend back.” She turned toward her children. “Are you guys full?”

Desiree and Eilam nodded in unison.

Desiree then glanced at a spot a stone’s throw away. “Huh? Where’s Daddy?”

Eilam replied blandly, “He left.”

Samuel was long gone. He had gone out right after he walked out of the restroom.

“Let’s go.” Kathleen rose to her feet.

Ashley stormed toward them. “Kathleen, why are you always around wherever Samuel and I go?”

Kathleen gazed at the furious Ashley nonchalantly. “Are you the owner of this restaurant? Why can’t I be here?”

Ashley was stumped.

“Are you the only one who can visit a new restaurant?” Kathleen’s sarcasm was almost tangible. “As a mistress, you’re the one who should learn to be a decent person. Don’t you find yourself ridiculous when you come here to question me?”

Ashley stared daggers at Kathleen.

“If Samuel didn’t lose his memory, would you even have the chance to talk to him?” Kathleen’s eyes were ice-cold. “Ashley, you should pray that Samuel will never get to recall the things in the past. The day he recovers his lost memory will be the day of your downfall. Just you wait!”

Ashley could only tremble with rage, not saying a word.

Kathleen looked at Yadiel and said, “Carry the kids. We’re leaving.”

With that, she picked Desiree up, and Yadiel went over to Eilam.

The boy shook his head and held Yadiel's hand. "I can walk on my own."

I don't need people to carry me. I'm a big boy now.

Holding Eilam's hand, Yadiel led him out of the restaurant.

As Ashley stared at the two children, she put her hand on her abdomen subconsciously.

If only I'm really pregnant. If I have his child, I'll be held in high regard and I don't have to be wary of Kathleen anymore. Nor do I need to worry about Samuel regaining his lost memory. I need to think of a way.

The next day, Kathleen went to the hospital to pay Diana a visit.

The latter had become conscious, but she still didn't look well.

As Kathleen checked Diana's pulse, the former frowned. "Old Mrs. Macari, the toxins in your body haven't been cleared out yet. That's why you feel so weak."

Diana sighed. "I'm old, after all."

"Old Mrs. Macari, I'm sorry," Kathleen apologized sincerely. "It's my fault for not disciplining my subordinates well. Otherwise, they wouldn't have dared to do that."

"No, don't beat yourself up," Diana replied in a hoarse voice. "You have so many subordinates. There's no way you could guess what each and every one of them is thinking about. Mistakes are bound to happen."

Kathleen held Diana's dry, cool hand. "Old Mrs. Macari, I'll help you to clear the remaining toxins in your body. Don't worry."

"I trust you, Katie." Diana beamed. "They won't get what they want. I trust you more than anyone else."

Kathleen was touched. "Old Mrs. Macari, I've already found some information for the moment. I'll keep you posted."

"Okay." Diana nodded and asked, "Are you really going to let Samuel and Ashley have their engagement?"

Kathleen pursed her lips.

It was the first time Diana asked her this question.

"I hope you can stop them," Diana continued. "Kate, think about it. No matter how Samuel is, he's just like a newborn baby ever since he lost his memory. He lacks a sense of security, so he would rely on the people around him. Do you get me?"

"Yes." Kathleen nodded.

"In my opinion, Samuel is not that foolish. He treats you like the person he loves the most, but he's throwing a tantrum. He just wants you to blandish him. Can you do that for my sake? You can teach him a lesson once he gets back home."

She can do whatever she wants as long as she can stop Samuel and Ashley from getting engaged.

Kathleen hesitated for a moment before agreeing to Diana's request. "Okay."

Actually, she didn't know how to break the news to Diana that Ashley was pregnant.

Forget it. Things will work themselves out sooner or later. If Samuel still insists on having an engagement with Ashley after I try to persuade him, so be it.

"Kate, thank you." Diana gave her a benevolent smile.

Kathleen nodded in reply.

After that, she left the hospital, not expecting that she would bump into Richard and Miley at the entrance of the hospital.

Miley was in a wheelchair.

It had been quite some time since they last met.

While Richard seemed to be slimmer and more stand-offish, Miley looked happy with a very sweet smile on her face.

Kathleen couldn't help but feel disgusted.

When Richard saw Kathleen, he was slightly taken aback and stepped forward. "Long time no see."

"It's not that long actually," Kathleen said flatly. "You came to me and asked about Gemma's burial site a few days ago, remember?"

She said that on purpose, causing Miley's expression to turn sour instantly.

Although she had gotten Richard to herself, she still hadn't won his heart.

He still had not forgotten Gemma even after she had passed away.

“Actually, I—” Richard began.

“I won’t tell you where she is,” Kathleen cut him off coldly, then landed her frosty gaze on Miley’s face. “Gemma’s death is not accidental. The one who caused Gemma’s death will get her comeuppance.”

Miley stared back at Kathleen. “Kathleen, why are you looking at me?”

Kathleen smirked. “I heard that you knew Marjory Garner.”

Miley was startled, uneasiness appearing in her eyes. “I don’t know her.”

“Is that so? Why did she visit you when you were at the hospital then?” Kathleen smiled sardonically. “Besides, I also know that you asked her not to find you anymore because you were afraid that Richard would know about her.”

Richard’s brows furrowed deeply as he glanced at Kathleen in puzzlement.

Meanwhile, Miley became emotional. “Kathleen, I know you don’t like me because of Gemma, but you can’t slander me.”

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Chapter 464 Scared of You

Kathleen scoffed. “Slander? What did I slander you for? I only said that you knew Marjory. How is that slander? Oh, is there something wrong with Marjory?”

Miley bit her lip in silence, as she had no way to retort what Kathleen had said.

Kathleen shot a cold look at Richard. “You can either find out the truth or stay as an idiot. It’s your choice.”

With that, she strode off.

Richard frowned deeply, having a feeling that Kathleen was hinting at something.

“Richard, don’t be tricked by her. She’s just bitter about Gemma’s death,” Miley uttered tentatively.

“Who is Marjory?” he asked, knitting his brows.

“S-She...” Miley stammered. “She’s a friend of mine.”

Is she admitting that she knows Marjory?

“What does she do for a living?” Richard was still frowning.

Miley paused for a while before answering, “She was hired by my parents to teach me self-defense tactics in the past. I was her student, but I was too pampered so I quit halfway. Then, she left my house.”

Richard stared at her quietly.

“Richard, let’s get inside. The doctor is waiting for us,” Miley reminded, trying to change the topic.

Richard then pushed her into the hospital, expressionless.

Miley clenched her fists secretly. Kathleen’s presence is a threat to me!

Meanwhile, Kathleen returned to the mansion and saw Rory taking out an ointment from the first aid kit.

“Rory, what happened?” Kathleen walked over.

“I...” Rory was at a loss for words.

Kathleen snatched the ointment from her. “Where did you get hurt? I’ll help you to apply it on you.”

Rory then took off her top, revealing a severely bruised spot on her shoulder.

“How did you get this?” Kathleen was shocked.

“I had a brawl with Marjory,” Rory replied in a low voice. “She was my teacher, so...”

“You didn’t win?” Kathleen cocked her brow.

“We tied.”

“There’s nothing to be ashamed of, then. Luckily, she didn’t pin you down on the floor and beat you to a pulp,” Kathleen comforted.

Rory was rendered speechless.

Kathleen's curiosity was piqued. "Why did you start fighting with her?" she continued.

"When we were secretly tracking Ashley, she noticed us. Dr. Johnson, Marjory is now Ashley's personal bodyguard. It's quite strange for her to provide protection to Ashley," Rory explained.

"Oh?" Kathleen raised her brow. "How so?"

Rory answered, "Marjory is very capable. Hiring her to be a bodyguard is costly. If Ashley didn't do anything, why would the Zeller family hire such a good bodyguard for her? Is it because they know someone would seek revenge on Ashley as she had done something wrong?"

Kathleen understood what Rory was implying.

If Ashley was just trying to steal Samuel while he was still suffering from amnesia, no one would want her dead.

Unless... she also did something else. In fact, I've always had a troubling question on my mind. I am not sure if my assumption is right, but I could have my surmise confirmed during the engagement ceremony. That's decided then.

Kathleen continued to apply the ointment on Rory. "Do you know Marjory well?"

"Not really. She was just my teacher after all. We didn't really communicate with each other in private," Rory elucidated.

Kathleen narrowed her eyes. "I have an idea. She poses a great threat to us. We should eliminate her as soon as possible."

"How should we do that?" Rory knitted her brow.

After pondering for a moment, Kathleen replied, "I do have an idea, but I'll need your cooperation."

"Okay." Rory nodded. "When should we make our move?"

"Tonight!" A hint of solemnness emerged on Kathleen's beautiful face. "We can't delay this."

"Understood."

After the fight with Rory, Marjory went back home.

She didn't expect that Rory, her ex-student, had the same level of capability as herself.

If it were in the past, she could definitely overpower Rory and defeat her student easily, but now, they tied.

Rory is not to be underestimated, so I have to be careful.

"You're back." Lauren yawned as she came out of her room. "What happened to your face?"

"Nothing." Marjory's pride didn't allow her to tell other people about her draw with her ex-student.

"I'm not being nosey." Lauren spoke in a low voice. "It's fine if you don't want to talk about it, but I just want to tell you that Kathleen will definitely do something during Ashley's engagement ceremony. You'll need to keep her under control. Nothing can happen to you at this critical juncture."

"I know." Marjory was unperturbed.

Upon seeing her reaction, Lauren did not bother to speak more with Marjory.

After that, Marjory went back to her room.

If it wasn't for money, I wouldn't have cared about this matter.

Just then, her phone rang.

She took her phone and found that it was a message from Rory.

Rory texted: See you at the warehouse at twelve o'clock tonight.

Marjory replied: I'm not going.

Rory: Then, I'll expose you.

Marjory: What?

Rory: Do you think I'm unaware of what you did for Miley? What do you think Kathleen would do to you if she knows what you had done?

Marjory: What do you want?

Rory: Meet me, and we shall fight again!

Marjory: Fine!

Left with no choice, Marjory could only agree to Rory's request.

Her greatest worry was Rory giving the evidence she had to Kathleen or Richard. If that happened, Marjory knew she would be in deep trouble.

When midnight came, Marjory went to the abandoned warehouse.

The moment she stepped foot in that warehouse, a beam of light shone on her.

Standing on a stack of wooden boxes, Rory gazed down at Marjory from above.

"I knew you'd come," Rory said. "Seems like you're scared that I'd leak your secret. As a teacher of a bodyguard training institution, you didn't fulfill your duties to protect other people. Instead, you helped someone else to harm a person. You violated the rules of the institution. Your reputation will be tainted, and you will no longer be a teacher, let alone take on missions."

Marjory gritted her teeth. "Rory, there are many people like me in the institution. The higher-ups of the institution will just turn a blind eye to it."

"Why did you come then?"

Marjory froze on the spot.

Rory smiled inwardly. Kathleen is so smart! She's guessed it right.

"Come down, and let's have a duel!" Marjory was ready.

Rory gave her a frosty smile. "We'll just have a draw in the end. It's going to be boring, so there's someone else who wants to fight you."

"Who is it?" Marjory furrowed her brows in confusion.

"Me." Kathleen strode over from the side. She was wearing a black trench coat, looking cool and pretty.

Marjory scoffed, "Are you kidding me? You?"

Kathleen narrowed her eyes. "Are you scared?"

"How ridiculous. Why would I be scared?" Marjory sneered, "I'll finish you off right here and save myself a lot of trouble."

"Come on then." Kathleen flashed a provoking half-smile.

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Chapter 465 Fend For Yourself

“Be careful,” said Rory in a hushed tone.

Upon hearing that, Kathleen nodded in response.

Just then, Marjory dashed forward, intending to land an uppercut on Kathleen with her left fist.

Kathleen dodged the attack easily. She grabbed her opponent’s wrist and gave it a hard squeeze.

A pang of pain shot up Marjory’s arm in an instant, and it felt as if her wrist was burning.

She tried her best to wriggle her wrist out of Kathleen’s grasp but found out her wrist had turned black.

What... is this?

While Marjory was distracted, Kathleen dashed forward, bellowing her opponent’s name, “Marjory!”

A fistful of powder hit her face when Marjory looked up, and upon inhaling the powder, she instantly slumped to the ground.

Every inch of her body was twitching uncontrollably, and her limbs felt limp.

D*mn it! How could I forget that Kathleen had that trick up her sleeve!

Casting a cold glance at Marjory, Kathleen taunted, “Do you reckon anyone would find out if I were to get rid of you right here and now?”

“Don’t you dare!”

“Do you think Ashley and the others would dare to look for you out in the open?”

Marjory remained silent while wearing a grimace, for she knew Ashley wouldn’t do that for her.

“Miley’s suicide was your idea, wasn’t it? You were the one who taught her how to jump without hurting herself, isn’t that right?” queried Kathleen impassively.

“No, I have nothing to do with it.”

Marjory stubbornly refused to come clean. Hence, Kathleen whipped out her phone and played a recording on it.

The recording was none other than the conversation between Marjory and Miley that had taken place three months ago.

Marjory’s face instantly turned as pale as a sheet. “You—”

“I’ve always known. It’s just that Gemma got hurt before I could do a thorough investigation.” Wearing an icy expression, Kathleen continued, “Was it Miley who instructed you to hurt Gemma?”

“Gemma’s death has nothing to do with me!” yelled Marjory.

“Then what about Samuel? Do you dare say it had nothing to do with you?”

Kathleen’s words rendered Marjory stumped.

“Did you think I was sitting around doing nothing in the three months I spent at Smealand?” A mocking smile hung on Kathleen’s lips as she continued, “I sent people to investigate if any organizations had been to the area or if any local organizations were working with anybody. I didn’t expect something so interesting to fall right into my lap.”

A hint of guilt flitted across Marjory’s face when she heard that.

“It seems like I hit the nail on the head. You brought a bunch of people to ambush Samuel, isn’t that right?”

Biting her lips, Marjory continued to deny her involvement in the scheme. “No! I don’t know anything!”

“It’s fine if you don’t admit it because I’ll still expose your schemes on the day of Samuel’s and Ashley’s engagement. I’m sure you and Ashley both know Samuel’s temperament very well,” said Kathleen while glaring daggers at the other woman.

In spite of all that, Marjory still refused to believe her. “Impossible! There’s no way you’d have any evidence!”

“As long as you did it, there will be a trail leading back to you. Did you truly believe you two executed a flawless plan? Where did you get that sort of confidence, hm?”

“Let go of me!” Marjory struggled but she couldn’t muster an ounce of strength at all.

“Don’t waste your energy.” Kathleen laughed. “This medicine is specifically made for you. You’ll continue to be like this for a week, unable to muster any strength. As for the engagement ceremony, you can stop thinking about attending it because you won’t be able to.”

Marjory bit down on her lips, glaring at Kathleen fiercely. “If I disappear, Ashley will definitely look for me.”

“Tomorrow’s her engagement ceremony with Samuel. Do you think she’d have the time to look for you?” The corner of Kathleen’s lips curved upward, but the smile didn’t reach her eyes as her gaze remained frosty.

It was then that Marjory knew she couldn’t escape.

She had been careless.

I should’ve listened to Lauren and not come out at all.

“Rory, tie her up and take her away. However, do not leave a trail. I don’t want anyone discovering this,” instructed Kathleen.

“Understood.” Rory nodded.

Right before turning around and leaving, Kathleen shot one last glance at Marjory, who clenched her teeth in rage.

The following day, Lauren took a peek into Marjory’s room.

She noticed the latter hadn’t been home all night.

Where did she go?

At that thought, she whipped out her phone and gave Marjory a call, only to find out Marjory had switched her phone off.

What’s going on?

Lauren also called Marjory’s subordinates, but none of them knew where she had gone off to.

Upon hearing that, Lauren instantly had an ominous feeling.

She quickly gave Ashley a call. “Bad news. Marjory might have gotten in trouble.”

“What?” Ashley was enraged. “Where did she run off to?”

“I don’t know. I even called her subordinates, but none of them knew her whereabouts. I suspect something has happened to her,” explained Lauren worriedly.

A sense of anxiousness arose within Ashley when she heard that. “How could it be? Today is such an important day. Marjory is too disobedient!”

“What’s most important right now is the engagement ceremony between you and Samuel. Besides, you only employed her to deal with Kathleen. You can always employ someone else to take her place in the future.” Lauren then lowered her voice, adding, “After all, this is the most important thing.”

“All right.” Ashley nodded. “Just let her subordinates look for her then.”

“Marjory’s disappearance must have something to do with Kathleen. You should be cautious. I can’t step up to deal with it, so you should be more careful.”

“Got it.” After that, Ashley hung up the phone.

Lauren placed the phone down and clenched her fists. For some reason, she had a bad feeling that something was about to happen.

Kathleen’s approach was aggressive.

Meanwhile, Ashley was in the lounge.

She had already gotten her makeup done and changed into her outfit.

At the same time, the banquet hall was quickly filling up with guests.

However, Samuel hadn’t arrived.

This made Ashley slightly uneasy, for she was deathly afraid he might not show.

If Samuel doesn’t show up, won’t I become the butt of the joke? How can I maintain status in Jadeborough?

Just then, the door to the lounge was pushed open, and an older lady walked in.

“Aunt Luna.” Ashley stood up, looking dissatisfied.

The older woman was none other than Luna Zeller, Ashley’s paternal aunt.

Luna merely hummed in acknowledgement of Ashley's greeting. In an indifferent tone, she stated, "Samuel hasn't arrived, but the guests are all here. Aren't you going to call him and ask him to hurry up?"

"I called him, but he didn't pick up. I suppose he's still on the road," said Ashley quietly.

Displeased by her niece's answer, Luna thundered, "It's been so long. Why don't you have him in the palm of your hand yet? You knew him so well in the past, yet you still haven't succeeded."

"Back then, Samuel wasn't truly in love with me. The one he loved was Kathleen, and in fact, I don't know him that well either. He never gave me the chance to."

"It's already too late to back out now. You have to hold onto Samuel or you'd be in dire straits yourself. Don't say I didn't warn you! Think about how much the Yoeger family has hurt you in the past. If you don't work hard now, you won't have another chance to!"

After she was hauled over the coals by her aunt, Ashley meekly responded, "I understand."

"If you fail today, I won't bother with you anymore. You'll have to fend for yourself in the future."

As soon as her words fell, Luna stood up and strode out of the lounge.

Ashley bit her lips hard, determined to not let all of the hard work, effort, and sacrifices she had made go to waste.