

The Lawyer's Romance in Law Chapter 11 - 2

Chapter 11 Close Call Inside the Conference Room

“I’m doing well, and everything’s going fine. Baby and I will personally welcome you when you return.” “Sure. Wait for me.” After hanging up the call, Amanda saw her son standing before her. He was looking up and grinning at her. “What’s with the silly grin?” The child was ecstatic, smiling charmingly while asking, “Mommy, do you think Mr. Simon’s a great guy too? Did you bond with him?” This kid... “What are you talking about? Go take a bath and go to bed early. You’re going to the kindergarten tomorrow!” Then, she picked up her son and headed for the bathroom. Aiden was unconvinced and continued asking, “Mommy, is your heart made of stone? Mr. Simon is such a great guy. You should capture his heart quickly, or he’ll become another kid’s father!” “Alright, alright. Let’s continue after your bath, okay?” She couldn’t win against her stubborn son, but on the other hand, she felt quite sorry for him. It seemed like he really wanted a father... . . . Early morning the following day, Amanda sent her son to kindergarten and got ready to head to the law firm. When she got into the driver’s seat, her phone rang. It was a call from Helean. “Hello? I’m about to head to the law firm.” “Wait, Amanda. Come straight to Winters Enterprise. There’s something we need to discuss about the infringement case.” Another trip to Winters Enterprise! Amanda didn’t want to take on this case, but when she remembered the perverted Jackson, she thought it would be better to make that trip. “Fine. I understand. You should get there soon, too.” “I’m already here. I’m currently inside the company’s high-level conference room. Come over, quick.” “Okay.” After hanging up, Amanda drove her car toward Winters Enterprise. . . . On the other hand, Elias was working at his desk in the president’s office at Winters Enterprise. At that moment, the secretary entered and informed him, “Mr. Winters, do you want to sit in during the infringement case’s negotiation session? The lawyer responsible for this case, Amanda Bailey, will be...” Before the secretary finished speaking, Elias’ pen tip stopped at the signature line, and he asked, “What’s the lawyer’s name again?” The secretary was terrified. She didn’t know what she had done wrong, so she carefully repeated, “Amanda Bailey from Justice & Associates.” Amanda again! A flash of surprise appeared inside Elias’ obsidian eyes as he wondered, Amanda became a lawyer after four years? He faintly remembered Amanda graduated from the Imperia University of Political Science and Law. However, could it be a coincidence that she was the lawyer responsible for this infringement case? At that moment, he seemed to recall the words Grace said yesterday and the recording he heard there. Did Amanda really return to get

back with him and regain everything she lost? Putting his pen down, he instructed the secretary, "Make the arrangements. I'll be sitting in during the negotiation." "Got it, Mr. Winters." The secretary was almost scared to death. She thought she had made a rookie mistake. Luckily, everything was fine, and she brought the documents Elias signed and quickly exited the president's office. ... In the high-level conference room. Amanda rushed all the way here and entered the conference to find the other party's lawyer and the person in charge had already arrived. A taboo during legal negotiations was being late, but Amanda just happened to get stuck in a traffic jam on her way here and got delayed. After composing herself, she sat beside Helean and explained herself, "My apologies. I got caught in a traffic jam just now." The opposing lawyer smiled without saying anything, indicating that it was fine. Helean whispered, "Let's get started. Winters Enterprise hopes we can achieve a preliminary result after the first round of our first negotiation." "I understand." Amanda took out her documents and got ready to start working. But at that moment, the conference room door suddenly opened, and someone came in. Since Amanda was busy organizing her documents, she had no time to look. Unexpectedly, everyone stood up in unison and respectfully greeted, "Mr. Winters." Mr. Winters! Amanda, who was organizing her documents, was so surprised that her eyes widened. Could it be... The moment she turned around, she felt like dying. It was Elias! She got up unwillingly and shot Helean a death stare before whispering in a voice only they could hear, "Didn't you say Elias was busy with day-to-day work and wouldn't participate in this case? What is he doing here then?" Feeling wronged, Helean shrugged as if saying he didn't know what was happening. Meanwhile, Elias immediately spotted Amanda. This was the first time he saw her in a professional suit, and he discovered she seemed more charming. She wore exquisite but light makeup, and her waist-long hair was worn down. As for her attire, she wore a nude pink chiffon shirt with a white skirt that hugged her hips and a pair of black heels. Her waist was so slim that it seemed like he could break it with a slight pinch, and her long, beautiful legs were very attractive. That woman... seemed to have changed a lot in the past for years. To be more precise, she became more beautiful. Back then, Amanda never wore any makeup and only wore tacky clothes. It was completely different from now. Elias withdrew his gaze and sat in an empty seat before saying, "Please continue. I'm just sitting in." He was exuding a majestic aura, and the chair he was sitting in didn't seem like a chair but a throne. His strong temperament felt suppressive to everyone present. Meanwhile, Amanda was a little out of it. How could she focus on her work with Elias sitting there? She wanted the floor to swallow her up, but she still forced herself to get into working mode. Looking up at the lawyer opposite her, she said, "Let's begin. We don't have much time." ... An hour later. The negotiation process lasted an hour, and Elias' gaze was glued to Amanda's side

profile the entire time. After the negotiation session ended, the other party's lawyer and the person in charge left. "Mr. Winters, Miss Bailey and I will also make our leave," Helean announced respectfully. Unexpectedly, Elias smiled and ordered, "You head outside. I would like to have a private conversation with Miss Bailey." "Uhm... Sure." Helean glanced at Amanda and left. Meanwhile, Amanda ignored Elias and exited the conference room after packing her things. The man suddenly stood up and blocked her way. At the same time, he pulled her into his embrace and pinned her to the conference table. Amanda's eyes widened as she panicked. "Elias, are you crazy? What do you think you're doing?" She struggled to get up but couldn't move because the man had pinned her to the table. "Isn't this what you're after? Didn't you want to get my attention? Why are you acting innocent now that you have it?" Elias held her slim waist and caressed it.

Chapter 12 Kissing Amanda

Amanda tried to break free while hitting Elias' shoulders, screaming. I think you've gone mad! Why would I want to get your attention?

Are you sure? You didn't want a penny from me when signing the divorce papers, but now you're here earning my money. Don't you find that intriguing?"

Elias punitively tightened his grip on her slim waist.

Looking at Amanda's face in such a close range, Elias discovered she had clear, bright doe eyes and snowy-white skin that was delicate and smooth. In addition, her moving lips seemed very

tempting.

"Do you think I did this willingly? I never wanted to take on this case. It was—"

Before Amanda could finish her words, Elias sneered and took out his phone to play the recording Grace showed him yesterday,

Amanda instantly turned ashen while her eyes were filled with shock at the fact that Grace had recorded their conversation.

Observing the changes in her expression, Elias was a little disappointed and mocked, “Why did you stop? Surprised that Grace recorded everything? Are you trying to deny the words you said?”

Those those were words of anger! I didn’t mean it!”

Amanda turned her face to the side, embarrassed.

She didn’t expect Grace to record their conversation, and everything she said was spoken out of anger. There was no way she would get back together with Elias!

Then, Elias pulled her face back and asked, “Do you think I would believe that?”

“What will it take for you to believe me? I told you. Those were words of anger, and I never wanted to remarry you. I’ve finally escaped a living hell, so why would I return to that situation?”

Living hell? Elias was pissed. Countless women didn’t even have the chance to get in his bed, but Amanda described him as a living hell?

Rip-

Amanda’s shirt was ripped open, and her eyes widened in shock while she silently screamed, “Elias Winters!”

Td like to see whether your body is more honest or if you are just being stubborn. Aren’t you looking to remarry me? I’m giving you a chance to let me see what you’ve got.”

Right after he finished, he unexpectedly lowered his head and forcefully sealed her lips.

He had been staring at her lips for a long while, and they seemed fatally attractive, evoking his desire to taste them.

The moment Elias kissed Amanda, he discovered he seemed to have fallen for her.

Those lips were soft and sweet... He was a little reluctant to let her

“Uhm... you b*stard!”

1.

Amanda's eyes were wide as saucers. Her whole body felt like being electrocuted, and she bit down hard.

Then, she heard the man groan in pain and tasted blood inside her mouth before she was finally.

released.

Slap! Amanda slapped Elias, creating a loud sound that echoed inside the giant conference room.

The force of the slap turned Elias' face to the side and woke him up from his trance.

There was

trance. also a blood stain at the corner of his lips.

“Elias Winters! You're a jerk! Don't you worry. I won't come to you even if you're the only man in the world!”

Once she was done screaming, she held her ripped clothes together and hurriedly fled the conference room. Her frantic figure was obviously filled with terror.

She didn't expect Elias would dare to make such an outlandish move inside the conference room!

On the other hand, Elias plopped onto a chair and sneered while gently wiping the blood from the corner of his lips.

Had he gone mad? How could he suddenly have the urge to take Amanda right here?

That slap came at the right moment, or else he didn't know what he might do.

The conference was dead silent, and no one dared to enter without his consent.

In the meantime, Helean was pacing outside the conference room and occasionally checked the time, wondering what Amanda and Elias might be talking about inside.

"Why isn't she coming out..." Helean muttered and then heard the door behind him opening.

He turned around happily but saw Amanda coming out in a disconcerted state. She was covering her chest like she had been taken advantage of, and her hair was messy.

"Amanda... W-What happened? What were you and Mr. Winters talking about inside?"

With a pale complexion, Amanda headed straight for the elevator, not wanting to say another

word.

“Amanda, talk to me. What happened?”

By now, Helean felt a little panicked. He promised Simon he would care for Amanda before his

return...

“Nothing happened. I just want to go home. I’ll head to the law firm in the afternoon.”

Since that se*mbag had torn her clothes, she had no choice but to return home and change her clothes.

However, it was a small world indeed. Amanda didn’t expect to see Grace standing before her when the elevator doors opened.

Grace stared at Amanda standing outside the elevator with a shocked expression.

“Amanda... Why are you here? What are you doing here?” Since she found this place, it’s clear that she’s trying to get back with Elias!

Suddenly, Grace noticed Amanda’s messy hair, swollen lips, and blood at the corner of her

mouth...

What does that mean? Why does she look like she has been kissing someone?

At that moment, another elevator opened. Amanda didn’t want to speak a word with Grace and only wanted to go home.

She turned around and entered the other elevator while Helean quickly followed.

“Amanda! Explain to me why you’re here!”

Wanting to know what had happened. Grace chased after them, but the elevator doors had already closed.

What the heck is happening here?

Confused, Grace decided to ask Elias about it and went straight to the conference room.

Back inside the conference room, Elias had his arms propped on the table while massaging his temples with his fingers, seemingly resting with his eyes closed.

Suddenly, the conference room doors were opened again.

Elias opened his eyes and saw Grace in front of him, asking. “Elias, I just bumped into Amanda. Why does she-”

Before she finished, she noticed the same blood stain at the corner of Elias’ lips.

Her eyes contracted suddenly, and her mind went blank.

Amanda also had a blood stain on the corner of her lips, so what did that imply?

The scene of two people kissing appeared in Grace’s mind!

She suddenly lost her balance and stumbled backward. Then, she lost her cool and loudly accused. “What... What were you guys doing just now?”

“Why are you screaming?” Elias seemed frustrated as he lazily rose to his feet.

Tears streamed down Grace’s eyes as she sobbed. “Elias, you told me you never had feelings for her, so why did you kiss her? Don’t tell me you’ve fallen for her?”

“Of course not!”

“Then why did you kiss her?” Grace felt overwhelmed with pain. It was like her heart was being ripped into pieces.

Elias avoided her question. “Why are you here? You’ve just gotten discharged, so shouldn’t you be resting at home? I’ll send you back.”

While he spoke, he turned to leave the conference room.

But Grace pulled his arm. “You won’t abandon me, will you? You promised Yelan you would care for me. He even sacrificed his life for you!”

Chapter 14 Can You Become Mommy’s Husband?

The teacher had not finished speaking when Amanda picked up her son and angrily exclaimed, “If all the teachers at this school have your work ethic, I’ll have to consider switching my son to a different one. I didn’t pay for him to come here and be humiliated.” She left with Aiden in her

arms.

Amanda carried her son outside the school gate and placed him on a bench by the roadside. She gently rubbed his little head and said, “Aiden, it’s wrong for them to call you a wild child, but it’s also wrong for you to hit someone. Do you understand?”

He sat on the bench, swinging his short little legs adorably. The pouting kid did not respond and merely turned his head away.

She smiled helplessly and concluded, “Alright, I know you’re upset. Are you hungry? Mommy will take you to eat something delicious.”

“Mommy, I don’t want to return to that place!”

“Okay, Mommy will find you a new school tomorrow, okay?”

Aiden finally smiled and nodded happily, then jumped off the bench and shouted, “I wanna eat steak!”

She felt a twinge of pain in her heart as she watched her dear son. He must’ve felt awful when others called him a wild child. Is it time for me to find him a.... dad?

After returning home that night, Amanda bathed and changed her son into his pajamas before putting him to bed. “Baby, read your book for a while. Mommy will go take a shower.”

“Okay.” He obediently took out his picture book and started reading, but as soon as she entered the bathroom, he secretly dialed Simon’s phone number using her phone.

The call was quickly answered before a man’s gentle and charming voice came through. “Amanda, why are you still up so late?”

“Uncle Simon, it’s me!”

Upon hearing the adorable voice, the man chuckled and asked, “Little guy, why aren’t you asleep yet? Don’t you have school tomorrow?”

“Uncle Simon, can you be my mommy’s husband?” Aiden asked seriously into the phone.

Simon had long been the perfect candidate for his father, but his mommy was not making things happen! How frustrating!

The man’s voice was full of indulgence as he laughed and asked, “Little guy, do you want me to be

your dad?”

“Yeah, if you marry my mommy, you can be my dad, and we’ll all be perfect. Besides, you don’t have a baby or a wife.” Aiden blinked his big eyes and felt that he had a valid argument.

At that moment, Amanda walked out of the bathroom and overheard his words. “Aiden Bailey, what are you talking about?” She walked over and snatched the phone away from him.

The kid looked at her with a pitiful expression and shouted, “Mommy...”

“Go to sleep! Mr. Simon is very busy. Why do you keep bothering him with phone calls?” she scolded him. Embarrassed, she took the phone to the balcony and awkwardly explained, “I’m sorry, this little brat keeps bothering you with his calls.”

“It was nothing, so don’t be angry at him.” The man chuckled.

“Well... Don’t take to heart what he said earlier. You know how children can be,” she said.

She knew she was not good enough for Simon and had never thought otherwise. He was so outstanding while she was a divorcee with a son. How could she be worthy of him?

On the other end of the phone, he surprisingly said, “What if I told you that I did take it to heart?”

“Huh?” She was stunned and did not know how to react for a moment. What does that mean?

“You should go to bed. Goodnight. I’ll get back to work.”

“Okay.”

Amanda hung up the call, still confused. She laughed in resignation as she did not believe Simon was serious. I’m way out of his league.

Soon, it was the day of Howard’s birthday banquet. Before Amanda had even finished work at the law firm, he phoned her, after which she answered, “Grandpa.”

“Amanda, today is my birthday banquet. Since you promised to come, you must be here. I’ve been waiting for you.”

“Grandpa, I-

“Don’t make excuses! Can’t you even attend my birthday banquet? I’ve doted on you for nothing.”

She was rendered helpless and laughed. “Okay, I’ll be there on time, Grandpa.”

“Good! I’m waiting for you.”

After hanging up the phone, she opened her office drawer and took out a black velvet box. It was a birthday present she had prepared for Howard four years ago, but she never got the chance after

her divorce.

This was the perfect opportunity to deliver the gift to him, but that was all she planned to hand over the present and leave right away.

What she did not know, though, was that he had set a trap for her and was determined to get her back together with Elias!

Night fell, and Amanda handed her kid over to the nanny. She changed her clothes and set off for Howard’s birthday banquet. As she arrived at the hotel banquet hall, she saw Elias and Grace in attendance. This is awkward... I can neither walk nor back off.

Luckily, Howard spotted her immediately and walked over with a smile. “Amanda! You finally made it. I’ve been waiting for you. I thought you weren’t coming.”

She smiled and said, “Of course, I came, Grandpa. I always keep my promises. Happy birthday to you. I wish you a long and healthy life.” She took out the birthday gift she had prepared long ago and handed it over. “Grandpa, this is a rare Moldavite pendant I sourced for you. I hope you like it.”

When Elias saw her, a hint of displeasure crossed his handsome but frowning face; he did not expect her to show up. Meanwhile, Grace’s face was even uglier. Amanda’s presence felt like a deliberate attempt by Howard to embarrass her. He was cold to her but warm to Amanda, clearly trying to make her look bad in front of the other guests.

Howard accepted the gift and opened it, revealing a pleasantly surprised expression. “Amanda knows me best.”

Grace glanced at it with disdain, thinking it was just a piece of rock. What's so special about it? She could not help but chime in. "You know, Grandpa, the Kashmir sapphire I gifted you were sold for four million at the auction. I—"

As soon as she spoke, Howard became unhappy and retorted unkindly, "Did you buy it with your own money? Wasn't it bought with money from Elias? Why not just say that it was a gift from my grandson?"

Her face instantly turned pale, and she was speechless in response.

Elias roared, "Grandpa!"

"Am I wrong? She spent our family's money on a piece of sapphire. Do I not know how to spend my money? Do I need her to do it for me?" His words were full of sarcasm, and he completely looked down on her.

"Elias, stop it. It's my fault..." uttered Grace as she grabbed the man's arm, her face as pale as

paper.

Amanda was a little frightened when she saw the scene, not expecting Howard to be this good at pissing someone off.

Chapter 15 Amanda and Elias Got Locked In (1)

She didn't want to get involved in this matter, and she could sense that it wasn't safe to stay around for too long. I've already received the gift, so I should come up with some excuse to leave now. Amanda pretended to glance at her phone before looking up at Howard. I'm afraid I have some matters to handle at work, Grandpa. I think I should-

Howard cut her off before she could finish her sentence. "Are you going to leave now? How could I allow that? What company is this-how could they take up your personal time now that it's past working hours?" Howard wasn't about to let Amanda off just like that. He had to go on with his initial plan for the night.

“I just started this job a while ago, so it’s a little more hectic, Grandpa, I’m really sorry...” Amanda uttered in an awkward tone.

Howard, on the other hand, spoke in a much firmer tone. “Who’s your leader?”

Jackson’s voice came out of nowhere. “I’m Jackson McCalister from Justice & Associates, Old Mr. Winters. I have the authority to let Amanda off work for today, so she can spend your birthday with you. She won’t have to work overtime.”

She was too stunned to speak after she turned around to see Jackson stepping out of the crowd. I can’t believe Mr. McCalister is at the party too!

Howard grinned with satisfaction when he heard Jackson’s words. “Look at that, Amanda. Your leader gave you his orders! You can stay since you don’t have to work overtime,” he said.

“I...” Amanda could no longer find another excuse to leave. I can’t say I have a baby at home to care for,

can I?

“Why don’t you just stay around to spend Old Mr. Winters’ birthday with him, Amanda?” Jackson could tell that something was up when he saw how much the Winters Family cared for Amanda. The law firm happened to be targeting Winters Enterprise as one of its legal clients, so Jackson saw this as the perfect opportunity.

“Okay...” Amanda had no choice but to nod in agreement.

“Come here and take a seat beside me. It’s been a while since we last had a chat.”

Howard led Amanda to take a seat at the table with him.

Grace happened to witness this scene, and she felt extremely aggrieved at the sight of what was going on. She bit her bottom lip so hard that it nearly bled. “I need to use the washroom, Elias.” With a sullen look on her face, Grace walked over to the washroom. She had the urge to walk over and start an argument with Howard, but she could only force herself to keep it all in because of where they were at.

Elias had his usual icy look on his face as he shot the woman a glance before he quietly shifted his gaze back to Amanda. Amanda was dressed in a light blue dress that showcased her slim figure and her curves. She had slender, fair thighs that caught everyone’s eyes and soft silky curls that

went down to her waist. She gave off a feminine but sexy aura, especially with her makeup that enhanced her clear, bright eyes. One would find it hard to tear their gaze away after looking at her.

Meanwhile, Grace quietly sobbed to herself in one of the cubicles in the washroom. Her tears were ones of resentment and sorrow. Right then, she overheard a conversation that was going on outside.

“What a joke. Did you see the look on Grace’s face earlier? She looked utterly furious! Old Mr. Winters doesn’t seem interested in her at all, and he even placed all his focus on some other woman just to make things awkward for Grace,” someone said.

“Exactly! It was hilarious. If I were Grace, I would have been too embarrassed to even stay around and just left,” another person said.

“I’m sure Grace will never be a part of the Winters Family!”

“There’s really nothing special about her. I have no idea why Elias chose her! She’s just some rookie celebrity in the entertainment industry, and she only got to where she is because of all the money Elias invested in her.”

All of a sudden, a loud slam filled the washroom as Grace threw her cubicle door open. “What are you guys talking about? Do you think I’d be afraid to slap all of your faces?!” she cried.

The two women who had been chatting let out a shrill scream when they turned and saw Grace. They were so terrified that they scrambled out of the washroom immediately.

At the same time, Amanda was seated in a tense posture beside Howard in the dining hall. She felt especially uneasy as she could sense Elias’ gaze on her. Is he mad because I showed up and took the spotlight away from Grace? I didn’t want to do this!

Amanda subtly turned her body sideways just to avoid the man’s sinister glare. Then, she pulled her phone out to send the nanny a text, telling the nanny to stay a little longer with the baby as she might be home late that night.

While Amanda was on her phone, one of the bodyguards walked up and whispered something into Howard’s ear. Howard nodded and gave the bodyguard a look that told the bodyguard to stand down. A complacent grin formed on the old man’s face, and moments later, she let out a loud gasp. “Ah!”

Howard had accidentally spilled a glass of red wine all over her dress.

“Oh, gosh. I’m so sorry, Amanda! I didn’t mean to do that. Are you okay? You should get changed.” He wore an innocent look on his face as he repeatedly apologized to the woman.

Amanda wiped off some of the wine with a napkin. “I’m fine,” she replied with a smile.

“Please bring Amanda over to the guest room where she can get changed.” Howard called for the bodyguard to come over, and a burly man stepped forward “This way, Miss Bailey.” A huge section of her dress was stained, so Amanda had no choice but to get changed.

Elias frowned as he watched the woman walk off. “You did that intentionally, didn’t you. Grandpa?” he muttered in a deep voice. He had witnessed the entire scene, and he saw how his grandfather had intentionally tipped the glass while he was holding it earlier.

Howard’s expression was calm as he spoke. “I’m getting old. Isn’t it normal for my hands to tremble a little?” Howard took a glance at Elias’ wine as he spoke. Elias was almost done with his glass.

After a short while, Howard spoke again. “Why isn’t Amanda back yet? Why don’t you go check on her, Elias?”

Elias was speechless, Isn’t Grandpa being a little too obvious with his intentions? He’s clearly trying to give me and Amanda a chance to be alone. “I don’t want to check on her. Women take forever to get changed, anyway.”

Howard fumed at Elias’ words. “You little brat! Are you going to make me mad even on my birthday? Do you want to give me a heart attack? My blood pressure is getting higher nowadays...”

Elias was silent for a moment before he lifted his wine glass and finished the rest of his drink. Then, he got up and left the table. Howard couldn’t help but chuckle when he saw Elias’ empty glass.

Once Amanda got to the presidential suite, she froze at the sight before her eyes. Gosh, Old Mr. Winters sure leads a luxurious life, but... I just need to get changed. Why did he take me to the presidential suite? And... where is my change of clothes?

Amanda waited for a while more, but no one brought her clothes at all. She wanted to head out to ask around, but she then realized that she couldn't open the door! Her eyes widened in shock. What does this mean? And why does my head feel like it's spinning... That's weird.

At that moment, the guard was keeping watch by the entrance. Elias showed up at the end of the corridor before he walked over.

"Isn't she out yet?" Elias glanced at the bodyguard.

"She's not," the guard replied.

Elias frowned at this, a hint of confusion in his gaze. Regardless of how slow a girl can be, she should be done by now. What's going on?

He wanted to go in to take a look, so the guard pulled out the keycard and tapped him in.

Elias was suspicious for a brief moment, but he ended up walking in anyway. The moment he entered the room, he heard the door closing behind him, and a loud click sounded as the door

Chapter 16 Amanda and Elias Got Locked In (2)

Elias didn't think much about it at first-he simply walked into the room. However, he then noticed that Amanda seemed to have fallen asleep on the bed. Did she really fall asleep here? No wonder she's been gone for so long. Elias walked over to glance at the

sleeping woman, and he realized how her cheeks seemed rather flushed. She was mumbling something in her sleep...

“Amanda? Wake up,” he called. Amanda still seemed rather drowsy as she mumbled a few words. “Switch on the air-conditioning. It’s too hot...” Hot? Elias looked around the room to realize that he was in a presidential suite. Grandpa put in this much effort, huh? The man patted the woman on her cheeks as he gave her orders in a stern voice. “Wake up right now!”

Amanda seemed to sober up a little after that. She weakly pushed herself into a sitting position before she took a good glance at the man before her eyes. “When did you come in?” she gasped.

“I came to check on you because I was afraid that you might sleep through the night here.” The man’s tone was harsh, and his demeanor was as cold as ever. All of a sudden, Elias realized how warm the room was. He loosened his tie with a frustrated sigh before he turned to leave the room. He wanted to step out for some fresh air. However, when he got to the door, he realized that the door had been locked from the outside. This is a hotel, so for the door to be locked from the outside... It has to be one of the staff members who did it. Does this mean that all of this is... part of Grandpa’s plan?

At that thought, Elias couldn’t help but curse to himself. “F*ck!”

Amanda dragged herself over to the man before she addressed him in a weak voice. “Is it locked from the outside? I couldn’t get out earlier-that’s why I was so surprised when I saw you in the room.”

Elias was speechless for a while. It seems like Grandpa planned this whole thing out. Elias sensed that there was something wrong with the way his body felt, and he then recalled the glass of red wine he drank in the hall earlier. Could Grandpa have drugged us? The man lost his temper immediately. How could Grandpa drug his own grandchild? He sure is a reckless man!

“Open the door. Open the door now!” Elias kicked the door hard, but the guards outside didn’t respond to his protests at all. Amanda only realized what was going on then. Was this all part of Grandpa’s plan? “Is Grandpa the one who locked us in?” she asked.

Elias tried his best to contain what he was feeling. “He even drugged us!” he hissed through gritted teeth.

What?! Amanda widened her eyes in shock before she stumbled a few steps backward. She couldn’t believe that Howard would do such a thing to them. He’s really trying to get us back together! That explains why I’ve been feeling so dizzy and uneasy. I can’t even describe how I feel now. “I’m warning you, Elias! Don’t you dare come near me! You can take a cold shower if you feel unwell. Just don’t touch me!” she cried.

Then, Amanda took a pillow and held it in front of her chest as if it would shield her from the man. The man turned around with a dark gaze in his eyes. A look of disdain formed in his

expression when he saw how cautious and alert Amanda seemed. “I never laid a finger on you, even when you were my wife. What makes you think that I would touch you now? You think too highly of yourself?” he hissed.

“Have you forgotten how you bit me like a wild animal back when we were in the meeting room?” she snapped.

A wild animal? Elias felt rage building up in his chest as he stormed over and reduced the gap between Amanda and him. “How dare you call me a wild animal, Amanda? You sure gained some courage, huh!” The more he looked at the woman’s pink cheeks and her moist, soft lips; the more he felt like kissing her.

Eventually, he pushed her back down to sit on the bed. She figured that it was best if she kept her lips sealed. Elias had also been drugged, after all-Amanda knew that she would be no match for him if he were to lose his cool and succumb to the effects of the drug.

Grace was beyond puzzled when she returned to the dinner party. Where did both Amanda and Elias go? Did they just disappear while I went to the toilet? Grace started feeling rather anxious after waiting around for a while more. She called Elias, but she couldn’t get through to him at all.

“Where did Elias go, Old Mr. Winters? Did he have something to do?” she asked Howard with an awkward smile on her face. Howard felt annoyed just at the sight of the helpless and meek look on the woman’s face. “Do you expect him to stay by your side all the time? He’s a man, and he’s the heir of Winters Enterprise!” Howard replied sternly.

“I’m sorry, Grandpa. I was just curious,” Grace muttered. She had intended to ask about Amanda’s whereabouts as well, but she stopped herself after seeing the way Howard responded to her. She had no choice but to continue calling Elias. However, her call still didn’t get through, and even when it did, no one picked up the call. What is Elias up to? Why isn’t he picking up his phone?

The guests began to leave after the party ended, but even then. Elias and Amanda were still nowhere to be seen. Grace was close to panicking at this point, and she couldn’t

contain her worry for much longer. “Why isn’t Elias back, Old Mr. Winters? Everyone’s about to leave. Also, where’s Amanda? Has she left?” Grace asked Howard.

“Perhaps they’re handling some business,” Howard replied with a serious tone. However, a rather sinister smirk then formed on his wrinkled face. Judging by how long they took, I’m sure they’re feeling the effects of the medication, he thought. Grace froze upon hearing the old man’s words. “What do you mean? What business do they have to deal with?”

“You should give up on your dreams of marrying Elias. You won’t get to do that as long as I’m around. I’ve already arranged for Elias and Amanda to share a room tonight, and I want them to give me a grandchild before remarrying each other.” Howard was transparent with his wishes. He no longer felt the need to hide anything-he wanted to make it clear that he didn’t like Grace.

Grace felt as if an explosion had just gone off in her head. She looked shocked and felt her legs turning weak. They... They’re sharing a room... Amanda and Elias?!

Tears started gushing down Grace’s cheeks as she wailed. “How could you do such a thing. Grandpa? I’m the one that Elias loves! Why would you force him to marry a woman he doesn’t like? Why would you force him to have a child with someone he doesn’t love?” Upon finishing her sentence, Grace turned and hurried off. She had to find Elias-she didn’t want him in the same room as Amanda.

“Stop her and send her home! I don’t want her to roam around!” Howard gave orders to his bodyguards. The two bodyguards immediately rushed over to hold Grace back. She couldn’t escape their grip, so all she could do was cry and wail frantically. “This is unfair,

Grandpa! How dare you ruin my relationship with Elias? How could Amanda do this? Elias doesn't even love her! Elias belongs to me! I'm the one he should marry!"

"Stop dreaming. I'd never let some actress like you into the Winters Family." Howard could no longer be bothered to deal with Grace, so he simply turned to leave the hall. The bodyguards hauled Grace out of the hall, and she couldn't free herself no matter how hard she tried. Hatred surfaced in her eyes as she stared at the old man and her cheeks were stained with tears. That damned old man! I won't be able to enter the Winters Family as long as he's around. What if I kill him? A sinister idea began to form in her mind.

Chapter 17 Let's Go Along With Grandpa's Wishes

Meanwhile, the air in the presidential suite was warm and filled with sexual tension, although both Amanda and Elias were silent. Amanda had gotten back into bed and wrapped herself tightly with the sheets while Elias sat on the couch. Beads of sweat formed on his forehead, and he eventually took his tie off as he felt too suffocated by it.

"What are you doing? Don't you dare remove your clothes!" Amanda assumed that he was about to start stripping when she saw his actions and her eyes widened with fear. They were starting to feel the full effects of the drugs, and they were both clinging to their final bit of sanity. Elias had finished his entire glass of red wine, so he was feeling a lot more of the effects. The horrible sensation spread across his entire body, and he eventually got to his feet before walking over to the bed.

When he saw Amanda, who was all wrapped up in the large, comfortable bed, he couldn't help but let out a laugh. "Why don't we just go along with Grandpa's wishes?"

What?! Amanda was stunned. “Have you lost your mind?” Elias bent down to press his arms against the bed and edged his flawless face a little closer to Amanda as he spoke in a seductive tone. “You were once my wife, yet we’ve never slept together. Come to think of it, it’s a pity,” he whispered.

Amanda was speechless for a while. I don’t understand. Why won’t he admit to what happened during the celebration four years ago? If we never slept together, then where did the baby come from? We only slept together that one time, and I got pregnant immediately after that, she thought. She couldn’t contain her frustration when she saw the shameless look on Elias’ face. “A pity? What nonsense are you talking about? F*ck off!” she hissed as she sent a kick toward his groin area.

At that moment, he lurched forward and pulled her over to lie on top of him. His six-foot-tall figure seemed especially powerful and domineering at that moment. “Elias!” Amanda let out a scream. Elias seemed to have lost his mind at that point, and he leaned in to give Amanda a kiss. His sharp jaw and the veins on his neck made him look especially sexy then.

Amanda quickly turned away before growling at him. “You can look for Grace if you’re that horny! Aren’t you deeply in love with her? I’m sure she’d love to sleep with you!”

The man’s expression changed immediately. “Shut up!” he shouted directly in Amanda’s face. Then, he sat upright before storming over to the washroom with a hard, cold look on his face. He no longer looked at the woman on the bed after that. Soon enough, Amanda heard the sound of the shower being turned on in the washroom.

After all the wrestling that happened in bed earlier, a layer of sweat had formed on Amanda’s smooth, pale forehead. She was still dazed after Elias shouted at her-she had no idea how she had triggered him.

Meanwhile, Elias turned on the cold shower right after he got into the washroom. He stood still as the icy water splashed all over him. For some reason, his head ached whenever he recalled the whiny look on Grace's face. He could hear her wailing and begging for him to take responsibility. She's probably going to cry to me again after tonight. Just the thought of it made him frustrated.

Elias spent about half an hour in the shower before he stepped out of the washroom in a bathrobe. Amanda was alert from the moment she heard sounds coming from the washroom, and she quickly sat upright even though her entire body felt weak and shaky. "I'll sleep on the couch. Don't worry, I won't lay a finger on you," Elias muttered in his deep and raspy voice. Then, he walked toward the couch before lying down. When he pulled his phone out to take a look, he realized that there was no signal on his phone. Well, Grandpa sure is one heartless man. Is he trying to get himself a great-grandchild by tonight?

Amanda, who was still on the bed, stared at the man's figure for a long while. She only heaved a sigh of relief after the man was motionless for a long while. Then, she mustered her last bit of energy to bring herself to the washroom to take a cold shower. However, she simply couldn't stand on her own two feet-she felt like her whole body was being eaten up by tiny ants at that moment. Without warning, she fell onto the ground.

Amanda could no longer bring herself to move-she didn't have the strength to even crawl into the washroom. Upon hearing the noise, Elias walked over to check on her. "Do you need help?" His figure towered above her. "No... Go away..." Amanda didn't have the energy to shout, so her voice was soft and weak. The very next second, Elias bent down and picked her up before bringing her to the washroom.

“What are you doing?” Amanda was close to panicking. I know my Grandpa well-he probably used really strong drugs in our drinks. Your body can’t handle it. You need to take a cold shower.” Elias helped her into the bathtub before he began to fill up the tub. She felt much better after lying down in the tub. It felt as if she had finally found an oasis after being in the desert for days.

Elias made sure that the tub was filled up with water before he gave her instructions. “You can stay for about half an hour. I’ll help you out after that,” he uttered before turning to leave the washroom. Amanda felt rather puzzled then. Why does Elias look completely fine? Did the drugs wear off for him already?

However, outside the washroom, sweat continued

Stream down Elias’ face. Only the heavens knew how much he had been controlling and restraining himself when he carried Amanda into the bath earlier. He felt as if his entire body was about to combust into flames. He could feel

himself heating up and was desperate to get himself inside of her.

The next morning, Amanda slowly opened her eyes to find herself lying in bed. She gazed toward the couch to realize that Elias was no longer there. With a look of confusion on her face, she sat upright in bed. She couldn’t recall how she got into bed the night before. Elias was probably the one who helped me to bed. But... Can we open the room door now?

Amanda threw the sheets aside and walked over to try the door handle. As expected, the door was no longer locked. They had survived the long night. All of a sudden, Amanda was reminded of her child! I wasn’t home the whole night. I bet that little baby threw a tantrum!

Meanwhile, Grace was seated on one of the couches in the president's office of Winters Enterprise. She had arrived earlier that morning with a pale look on her face and dark circles under her eyes. She hadn't slept at all the night before, but she kept her gaze fixed on the door as she waited for Elias to show up.

All of a sudden, the door was pushed open from the outside, and Grace shifted her gaze up to see Elias walking in. Tears streamed down her cheeks immediately and she threw her arms around Elias the moment he stepped into his office. "You're finally here, Elias! I stayed up the whole night for you! Why did Grandpa have to do that? I don't understand. Why does he have to torture me?" Grace wrapped her arms tightly around Elias as she cried her heart out.

"Alright. Stop crying." Elias stroked the back of Grace's head. When Grace thought about how Amanda and Elias might have slept together the night before, she pushed him away from her. "Last night, did you and Amanda... have any..."

"Nothing happened between us," Elias explained. Then, he walked toward his table as if he was no longer interested in discussing this matter.

"How could that be? Don't lie to me! You guys were drugged, so how could you guys have controlled yourselves? Elias!" Grace shouted like a mad woman. She was acting just like how Elias had expected her to-she showed up to cause a fuss early in the morning. He massaged his brows before speaking in a rather annoyed tone. "I'm telling the truth. Do you think I'd lie about sleeping with a woman?"

Chapter 18 I'm Angry! I'm Sad!

When Grace noticed the look of frustration on Elias' face, she panicked a little. "Okay. I'll trust you! But... Wasn't it hard for you to hold yourself back last night, Elias? How did you control yourself?" Grace asked in a cautious tone. She didn't want to make him angry. It wasn't that she didn't trust him-it was simply that she couldn't trust Amanda! That was the perfect chance for Amanda to reconnect with Elias. Why would she give up on such a good opportunity?

"I took a cold shower, Elias muttered flatly. Grace felt a lot more relieved after hearing his explanation. She knew him well enough to know that he wouldn't bother to explain himself if he had slept with Amanda-he would've just admitted to it instead. Elias wasn't a man who liked explaining himself, after all.

A smile surfaced on Grace's face as she walked over to Elias. "Do you still feel the effects of the drugs now, Elias? Do you feel better....?" she asked bashfully.

"Yeah." Elias sat down on his office chair to prepare for work. He had a meeting with higher management later that day. "If you need anything, I... I can help you feel better, Elias. I'm your girlfriend, and I..." Grace was too shy to even look him in the eyes. Elias had never once laid hands on her, and she couldn't seem to get him to do it no matter how hard she tried.

Up until then, Grace was still lying to him about the night of the celebration four years ago. Would Elias still feel responsible for me if he found out that he didn't sleep with me at all that night? Grace was too afraid to imagine how Elias might react if he ever found out. So, she knew that she had to sleep. with him before he found out about the truth. Otherwise, she would be at risk of getting dumped. by him.

Grace's fists were clenched as she waited anxiously for the man's answer. Elias, who was signing some documents with a pen, halted his movements for a second. "There's no need for that. I'm fine." An awkward silence filled the air after that.

A look of disappointment and shame appeared on Grace's face. It was embarrassing enough for a woman to be the one making such suggestions, and it was worse to be rejected! In an attempt to deal with the awkwardness, Grace changed the topic. "Are you busy this afternoon? Can you spend some time with me? I need you."

Amanda hurried back to her house in Lotus Waterfront to find the nanny and her baby having breakfast together. She heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that the nanny had stayed the night. “Why are you only home now, Miss Bailey? I nearly called the cops! The baby was crying for you, and I didn’t want to leave him alone.” The nanny couldn’t help but complain when she saw

Amanda.

Aiden’s big, round eyes lit up when he saw his mother, but he then turned his head away grumpily. He didn’t want to look at her. Amanda gave them a helpless smile. I’m sorry. I couldn’t come home last night as something came up. Thank you for staying around to care for the baby. I’ll give you an extra allowance for it, she told the nanny.

“It’s not about the money. I was just worried about you! I’m glad you’re back. I guess I should leave now-I have a bunch of things to do at home, too, the nanny uttered.

“Alright. Thank you for last night. Goodbye. After sending the nanny off, Amanda came back to the dining table to find Aiden stuffing his face with breakfast. The young boy hadn’t met her gaze since she came home, and it was obvious that he was angry at her. Amanda couldn’t help but giggle when she saw her son’s chubby and smooth cheeks. “Why won’t you look at me. Aiden?”

“Hmph!” The young boy grunted at his mother before he went back to eating his breakfast. He didn’t want to speak to Amanda at all.

“Aiden? Are you really going to ignore Mommy?” Amanda tried her luck again. The child was throwing a pretty bad tantrum as he was persistent in ignoring her. “Baby? Don’t ignore me. Didn’t you say that you’d always forgive me?” Amanda knew that the boy had every reason to be mad at her, yet she couldn’t help but feel amused at how adorable he looked when he pouted. In the end, she couldn’t contain her laughter, and she chuckled while pinching the young boy’s chubby cheeks.

Aiden responded with an impatient cry. “Hmph! I’m angry! I’m sad!”—

“What do I have to do to make you happy again? Should we go to the theme park later today?” Amanda offered. Upon hearing her suggestion, Aiden’s round eyes sparkled with interest, but he forced himself to put on a nonchalant look right after that. “You’re the one who wants to bring me there. I don’t really fe

like going at all,” he mumbled.

Amanda burst into laughter. The young boy’s cuteness was simply irresistible. “Sure, sure. I’m the one who’s forcing you to go to the theme park, right? For my sake, would you let me bring you there?” she asked.

The young boy’s spirits lifted after that. “Let’s go right after I’m done with my meal!” He grinned. excitedly.

“Alright. You should finish your meal now, then. I’ll go get changed,” Amanda replied.

“Okay!”

Amanda spent a few hours under the hot sun, and she felt like her legs were about to give way at any moment. She had brought Aiden to the theme park for some fun, but Aiden made it his mission to try out every ride at least once. “Mommy’s going to use the washroom for a while, Aiden. Can you stay here and wait for me?” Amanda uttered.

“Sure. Hurry up, Mommy. I’m hungry, and I want some food,” Aiden replied.

“I got it...” It was a nightmare to spend a day out with a young boy like Aiden-Amanda was physically drained to the point where she felt like puking. Meanwhile, Grace happened to be on the phone in the washroom. “Where are the reporters that you’ve hired? Are they all prepared and in their positions?” she asked.

“Don’t worry. They’re all in their spots, and they’ll upload the pictures after they snap them later. I’ve contacted the other magazines and entertainment media as well,” the person on the other end. of the call said.

“Great.” A cunning smile formed on Grace’s face after she ended the call. I want the rest of the world to know who Elias is really dating! Unfortunately for Grace, Amanda happened to walk into the washroom at that moment. Grace wiped the smile off her face when she saw Amanda. “Amanda?”

“What are you doing here?” Amanda froze when she saw Grace. She hadn’t expected an actress like Grace to show up at a public space like the theme park. When Grace recalled how Amanda and Elias had shared one whole night together, she couldn’t help but feel hatred toward Amanda. “Hmph! I bet you were disappointed last night, Miss Bailey. Elias

didn't lay a finger on you even when you guys were in the same room. How embarrassing is that? Do you think you'll get to remarry Elias just by getting on Grandpa's good side? Elias doesn't like you at all!" Grace cried.

Amanda stared at Grace as if Grace were an idiot. Amanda had no intentions of speaking about what happened the night before, but she figured that she had no reason to hold herself back since Grace was being so pushy. "How are you sure that he didn't touch me?" Amanda asked.

"Elias told me about it, of course! He didn't touch you at all!" Grace was firm with her tone as she had complete trust in Elias.

Amanda let out an icy scoff. "Do you believe everything that he says? We were locked up together the whole night! The drug took effect later that night. Do you think he managed to hold himself back?"

"What do you mean?! Elias would never lie to me. Stop trying to ruin our relationship!" Grace cried. She felt as if her mind was about to explode at that moment. Just the thought of Amanda and Elias messing around in bed gave Grace a mental breakdown.

Chapter 19 A Lesson Taught

"Oh, come on. Do you think I have nothing else better to do than drive a wedge between you both? Keep your man in line and tell him to leave me alone. Amanda shuddered at the thought of Elias' shameless act of forcing a kiss upon her in the meeting room the night before.

When everything is over, I'm going to take Aiden with me and head to someplace abroad once Simon is back, the lady thought to herself. She was determined to cut ties with Elias.

"Don't worry. Elias will leave you alone. If Old Mr. Winters hadn't gotten in our way, we would have gotten married a long time ago. Hmph!" Grace turned around and left the bathroom.

In the meantime, the little boy was waiting for his mother outside the restroom, and he caught sight of Grace walking out the door angrily. When Grace left, she glanced at the boy beside her and stopped in her tracks for a while, finding him somewhat familiar. Have I seen this brat somewhere before? For some reason, he reminds me of someone.

When Aiden realized the lady was staring at him, he only grunted coldly and looked the other way. Meanwhile, Grace didn't dwell on it any longer as she quickly moved on and made her way toward Elias, but little did she know that the child was the son of the man she loved.

A few seconds later, Amanda came out of the restroom and saw her son waiting for her obediently. "Let's go, Aiden. We're going to grab something to eat at the cafeteria over there."

"Sure, but I'm not having a kid's meal." The boy looked at Amanda with a skittish expression on his face, acting like someone arrogant yet familiar to his mother.

Suddenly, Amanda stopped in her tracks when she saw a familiar silhouette. It turned out that she had spotted Grace walking into the cafeteria with a man who looked like Elias. In that instant, her eyes widened in disbelief. Damn it! That's Elias. What am I going to do now? What if he sees my boy?

"Mommy, can we hurry up? I'm getting hungry now." Aiden seized Amanda's hand, his stomach growling desperately after playing for a few hours.

"Baby, why don't we dine somewhere else? Let's call it a day for now. I'll promise to bring you back here again." The only thing that Amanda had in mind was to leave the place with Aiden, for she knew it would be over for her if Elias saw her son. After all, she would be no match for him in court due to the Winters' influence and power.

Aiden was angry as he pouted bitterly. "Hmph! You're making empty promises, Mommy. You said we'd be here until night, so I'm going to eat here and continue playing after that. I haven't had enough yet!"

"But you've already played for hours, and I'm getting tired."

"Well, you can rest in the cafeteria, Mommy." Aiden was adamant and determined to do what he wanted, reminding Amanda of his father.

Knowing that she couldn't change her son's mind, Amanda came up with an idea.
"Alright. Wait

for me outside the cafeteria while I get some takeaway for you. We'll dine elsewhere, okay?"

"Alright..."

"Good boy. Wait for me right here until I come back, okay?" Amanda then entered the restaurant alone, thinking she would just let her son play for a bit after lunch and take him home. Well, what are the odds of us running into each other? The theme park is packed with people, after all.

She decided to take her chances, though she didn't want to risk losing custody of her son to Elias. Nevertheless, it would appear that fate liked to prank her as she bumped into Elias and Grace almost immediately after she stepped into the cafeteria. What a small world!

"Oh, it's you." Elias paused when he saw Amanda. After all, he didn't take her for a woman who liked spending her time in a theme park. While the man wasn't implying anything with his brief response, his words somehow made Grace feel jealous, reminding her of the same thing Amanda said to her in the restroom earlier.

Seriously? This is too much of a coincidence.

"Yeah, I'm here... to have some fun, just like everybody else. Amanda walked toward the cashier briskly, wanting to place an order before getting out of there.

Nevertheless, Grace tried to play on Elias' sympathy and said. "Elias, there is something I want to talk to you about. I ran into Amanda in the restroom earlier, and she told me what happened last night was not like what you said. Are you hiding something from me?"

When Elias heard that, he felt helpless, wondering why she had to give him a headache. Oh, boy! Here she goes again.

"What did she say?" He turned to look at Grace,

“Amanda said... that you guys... did it last night!” Grace pretended to look sympathetic.

Elias knitted his eyebrows and looked at Amanda, asking in a deep voice, “What do you mean by that?”

“Seriously? Do you really want me to tell you what we did last night? Are you sure about that?” Amanda was disgusted by Grace’s pretense. Goodness, how did this b*tch get so good at acting?! She can be such an innocent little girl in front of Elias but act like a b*tch when I’m around.

At Amanda’s words, Grace was overwhelmed by disappointment, feeling as if she was about to fall apart. Did Elias lie to me earlier? Did they sleep with each other?

“Amanda!” The man gritted his teeth, thinking he would have choked the lady right away if they hadn’t been in a public area.

“I’m busy right now, and I don’t have time to waste on your nonsense.” Amanda made her point and headed toward the cashier.

“What are her words supposed to mean, Elias? What did you do with her? What did you guys talk

about?” Grace’s eyes were filled with tears in that instant.

Elias eventually grew tired of Grace’s fuss and snapped at her. “Do you trust her or me?! Because if it’s her whom you trust, you should stop asking me stupid questions!” He turned around coldly and headed toward a table by the window.

In the meantime, Grace was left behind with her eyes fixed upon the indifferent man as her heart was filled with rage and bitterness, but even so, she was forced to suppress her emotions.

Meanwhile, Aiden, who was watching through the window from the outside, witnessed the entire confrontation between his mother and the duo. Although he had no idea what was going on, he could tell that the two adults were bullying Amanda.

Hmph! How dare you both bully Mommy?! I'm going to teach you guys a lesson now. He then opened the door and sneaked behind Amanda, who was busy ordering food, making his way toward the window.

At that moment, Elias was already seated while Grace was just heading his way to grab a seat. Then, Aiden quickly sneaked behind the lady and pulled her chair away just when she was about to sit down.

“Ah!” Grace immediately fell to the ground and collapsed on her butt, but Aiden had already run

away

with a cheeky chuckle. At the same time, her loud screech instantly drew the attention of all the patrons in the cafeteria.

“Wait a second! Isn't that Grace Murphy, the celebrity?”

“Yes, that's her! How did a grown adult like her fall on her butt? Haha...”

“Isn't she concerned about her image? By the way, the man sitting opposite her is so handsome. I wonder who he is...”

Hearing those murmurs, Grace got up from the ground in a clumsy manner just as the other tourists started to take pictures of her. She felt embarrassed. Oh, this is humiliating! I wish I could just dig a hole and bury myself in the ground!

On the other hand, Amanda hurriedly left the cafeteria upon retrieving her orders out of fear that Elias would discover Aiden's existence. Therefore, she didn't notice what Grace had just gone through moments ago. Soon, she exited the cafeteria and saw her son chuckling, wondering what was so funny. “Why are you laughing, Aiden?”

Aiden pretended as if nothing happened when he saw his mother. “Nothing, Mommy. Let's go. I want to have my lunch and continue playing after that. I don't want to waste more time because time is precious. Isn't that what you always say?” The boy then seized Amanda's hand and walked

away.

Not long after that, two people happened to walk out of the cafeteria while gossiping about Grace's embarrassing situation. "The woman who fell onto the ground earlier was Grace Murphy, the celebrity, right? It was hilarious, don't you think?"

"Yeah, I saw a boy sneaking behind her back before he pulled her chair away. Kids are naughty. aren't they?"

"By the way, the man sitting opposite Grace Murphy looked so handsome. Is he the wealthy boyfriend she's said to be dating?"

Amanda's face darkened when she overheard their conversation. Needless to say, Aiden, who noticed his mother's expression, quickly tried to change the subject. "I'm getting hungry, Mommy. I want to eat now. Let's go over there."

Amanda grabbed her child and questioned, "Hold it right there. You were the naughty boy who pulled the chair away, weren't you?"

"No!"

Then, Amanda pretended to be mad and pointed at the boy's head. "What have I always told you? Never lie to me!"

Aiden immediately gave in and pouted. "Fine, it was me, but I just wanted to teach them a lesson. since they were bullying you."

Although Amanda was supposed to be angry, she felt touched and amused by her son's response. Unable to bring herself to lecture the boy, she took Aiden elsewhere and gave him the hamburger and coke she bought earlier. "You mustn't do that again, Baby. That isn't the right thing to do."

Deep down, Amanda was more afraid that Elias would discover Aiden's existence, thinking her innocent, cheeky son was playing with fire. Phew! Fortunately, Elias didn't see him at all, or things would have gotten ugly.

"Alright, Mommy. I heard you, and I won't do it again."

Chapter 20 Someone Else i...

“Good boy! Once you’re done with your food, you can play for a while longer before we head back, alright? I’m getting really tired now.” Amanda was too worried to stay there any longer, fearing that Elias would run into Aiden by accident.

Despite Aiden’s desire to continue playing, he reluctantly nodded when he noticed the tired look on Amanda’s face. “Alright, then...”

“That’s my boy! I’ll bring you here again next week, okay?”

“Mommy, why does that man keep bullying you?” Aiden suddenly asked while taking a bite of his hamburger, staring at his mother while waiting for her answer.

Amanda was stunned for a second before she realized Aiden was referring to Elias. She then chuckled and said, “Nah, he wasn’t bullying me. We were just having a conversation. Don’t worry. Your mommy is strong, and no one dares to mess with me.”

Aiden grunted coldly and asked, “Mommy, are you trying to make that man your husband? No, I will not have it that way! I want Mr. Nicholson as my daddy.”

What’s this little guy thinking? What makes him think I was trying to make Elias my husband? Amanda speechlessly thought to herself. “You’re reading too much into it. I won’t let that man be your father.”

At that, Aiden let out a sigh of relief and took a bite of his hamburger. “That’s great, Mommy! I want Mr. Nicholson to be my daddy. You guys are a perfect match.”

A perfect match? What is this boy thinking? He’s way more mature than he should be at his age now, isn’t he? Ring! Ring! Amanda took a look at her phone and realized that Howard was calling. However, she lacked the courage to speak to him when she thought about what he had done to her and Elias the night before.

You took it too far, Grandpa. After hesitating for a while, she decided to answer the call.

“Hey there, Grandpa.”

“Amanda, I’ve booked a table at a restaurant. Why don’t you join us for dinner tonight? I’d like to have a word with you.”

Great! I've been looking for a chance to tell Grandpa about my stance. Amanda wanted Howard to quit playing matchmaker for them, and she was determined not to remarry Elias. "Alright, send me the address, Grandpa. I'll be there tonight."

When evening came, the entire city was lit up with beautiful streetlights, and it presented a spellbinding night view. Upon arrival at the restaurant where Howard had booked a lounge, Amanda opened the door, only to feel a sudden urge to turn around and leave. What is Elias doing here?

"Here you are, Amanda. Finally! Come on in and have a seat." Howard was seen with a long face until Amanda's arrival put a smile on his face.

Amanda slowly walked into the lounge, feeling reluctant. "Grandpa," she called out to Howard and sat beside him.

When Elias saw Amanda, his eyes were slightly filled with surprise, but even so, he was quickly able to fathom what his grandfather was up to.

"So, what's next for the two of you?" Howard placed a teacup in front of Amanda and asked.

"What's next?" Amanda and Elias responded simultaneously and looked at the old man at the same time.

"Well, you guys are reacting in sync. It looks like you both must have had a great time last night." Howard chuckled, amused by the duo's synchronized movements. "Of course, I'm talking about you both getting remarried. What's wrong? Don't you want to be responsible for what you did last night?" The old man spoke threateningly while fixing his piercing gaze on Elias.

"You're overthinking things, Grandpa. Nothing happened last night." Elias grabbed a teacup and guzzled the liquid down his throat..

As the air stiffened around the two men, Howard stared at his grandson and questioned, "Come on, are you a real man? How can you not do what you're supposed to with her even when you've been drugged? How useless of you!"

When Amanda heard what Howard called his grandson, she couldn't believe her ears.

“Come on, Grandpa! Are you seriously proud of what you did to us? You drugged us! Aren’t you ashamed of yourself?!” Elias grew furious at the thought of Howard’s cheeky plan the night before.

Howard became even angrier as he smashed the teacup onto the ground. “How dare you talk to me like that?! Whom do you think I did that for?! I did that for both of you! Why must you make me worry all the time? I created such a perfect opportunity for you both, yet you did nothing at all! Are you trying to give me a heart attack?!”

Elias was helpless, unable to talk sense into Howard’s head at all.

While the conflict appeared to escalate further and further between the two men, Amanda coughed and replied, “Can you hear me out, Grandpa?” Only after she started talking did Howard calm down a bit.

“Alright. I’m listening, Amanda.” Howard gasped for breath and looked at Amanda with a tender

look on his face.

“I appreciate what you’ve done for us, Grandpa. I also know you love me, but Elias and I have divorced. We can never be together again, and I don’t want to remarry him either. He has someone else in his heart, whereas-”

“What about you? Is there someone else in your heart too? Are you in love with another man?!” Howard’s heart pounded rapidly.

Is there someone else? Likewise, Elias felt his heart skipping a beat, overwhelmed by an unspeakable sense of disappointment. He then fixed his gaze on Amanda and waited for her answer. Why does it hurt so much to think that Amanda is in love with someone else?