

The Lawyer's Romance in Law Chapter 21 - 30

Chapter 21 Out of Jealousy

If admitting that will make Grandpa stop what he so doing no 1 gladly do it. At the thought of that, Amanda took a deep breath and replied. "Yes, that's right. I'm in love with someone else?"

When Howard heard Amanda's words, his face was filled with doubled. At the same time he was stunned and unable to react. Meanwhile, Elias only stared at Arunda without blinking, seemingly trying to see through her soul. Deep down, he was overwhelmed by a stab of pain that he couldn't explain why

While the two men fell silent in a preoccupied manner. Amanda seemed a little shocked by their reactions, wondering what was going on. This is creepy. Say something fellas. Stop staring at me in eerste silence.

Feeling uncomfortable, she probingly said. "As you can see, Grandpa, there's no way we're going to remarry each other. Thus, I'd like you to stop wasting your time."

Suddenly, Howard slammed the table with his palm and grunted. "Unless you show me the man you've fallen in love with. I won't believe you. I want to see how he managed to replace Elas in your heart. Don't tell me the feelings you had for Elias were all fake. How did you move on so easily!! I don't buy your story!"

Amanda was speechless at Howard's stubbornness, wondering where she could find a man to play along with her. "I. He is a busy man, Grandpa. He's now somewhere abroad, and it's probably going to take him a while until he comes back." She came up with an excuse to convince Howard.

"No problem. I'll wait for him to come back. I will only believe you when I see him in person. Otherwise. I'm convinced you're lying right now," Howard answered.

On the other hand, Elias squinted before grabbing his teacup to take a sip of tea, wanting to question Amanda like he was interrogating a criminal. He asked. “What’s his name and job? How much do you know about his family background? How old is he? Is he a disciplined man who doesn’t mess around with women?”

Amanda became annoyed with Elias' interference. What are you doing!! Are you out of something? It’s bad enough that Grandpa doesn’t buy my story, yet you’re trying to make things more difficult than they already are.

“That’s none of your business! Who do you think you are? A police officer interrogating a suspect? What does it concern you?” Amanda wished she could just tape the man’s mouth and shut him

1.

Elias grunted in response. “You’re in love with a man whom you barely know anything about. Where is your brain? Do you still think you’re an 18-year-old or something?”

“Elias!”

“What’s wrong?”

“Shut your mouth up!”

The man sniggered. “Your mom would probably die twice if she knew about this,”

What’s with the abusive words?! Is it necessary to bark at me like a crazy dog. Elias?! All I did was just say that I’m in love with someone else. It’s not like I messed with you or something. Fine, I’ll just stay away from you, knowing I can’t mess with you.

Amanda left the lounge angrily without even saying goodbye to Howard. Not long after that, Elias rose from his seat and grabbed his vest, whereupon he headed toward the door.

“Where are you going?” Howard, who witnessed the duo’s reaction, asked.

“I have a dinner appointment to attend, so help yourself to the food. The guards will take you home when you’re done.” Elias left the lounge as soon as he finished speaking.

Howard was the only person left in the lounge, but after seeing Amanda and Elias arguing, he chuckled happily, believing it wouldn’t end so easily for the duo. After all, Howard knew his grandson so well that he could tell Elias was insulting Amanda out of jealousy.

Amanda was still furious when she walked out of the restaurant, but even so, she had nowhere to release her frustration, especially when she couldn’t flag down a cab. Suddenly, a white sedan pulled up right in front of her, whereupon the car window was rolled down. Then, Elias’ annoying face came into view. “Get in.”

Nonetheless, Amanda ignored the man and continued to walk forward. Elias followed behind her in his car with one hand on the steering wheel and the other on the window, propping his face. “If you’re not afraid of holding up traffic, carry on with what you’re doing.” As soon as he finished his words, loud honks began echoing throughout the street from behind.

When Amanda turned around, she began to realize why traffic was holding up. Elias cruised slowly on the narrow street, worsening the traffic even more. As the cars behind him continued to honk, she was quickly overwhelmed by the noise pollution. Then, she shifted her gaze to the man sitting inside the car through the window, noticing his shamelessness as though he had no qualms about creating the traffic jam.

Fine, I’ll put up with it! It’s not worth my time fighting with him. I have better things to do, after all. With that, Amanda took a deep breath and suppressed her anger, opening the car door before she sat in the passenger seat.

Seeing Amanda’s annoyed look somehow put a smile on Elias’ face. He then curled his lips and accelerated, leaving the narrow street. “Where are you going?”

“Paradise Night Club!” Amanda answered in frustration.

Elias furrowed his eyebrows as surprise flashed across his face. What a coincidence! That's where I'm heading as well.

"I'm going there too. Why don't I give you a ride?"

Amanda glared at the man coldly without saying a single word. Deep down, she was reluctant to accept Elias' ride, thinking she would resign from her job and disappear with her son as soon as Simon returned from overseas. I mustn't let the Winters discover Aiden's existence, or they will take him away from me.

Upon arriving at Paradise Night Club, Amanda immediately unfastened her seatbelt and opened the car door, walking off without looking back as Elias watched speechlessly.

"Mr. Winters, I didn't expect you to be so punctual. How rare!" Aiden ran into his friend, Lazarus, who greeted Aiden sarcastically the moment he stepped out of his vehicle. Then, Lazarus walked up to Aiden and smiled cunningly, his eyes fixated on Amanda's back.

"It looks like you have a new target, Mr. Winters, but I would give up on her if I was in your place. After all, she is promiscuous, and who knows if she's carrying any sort of disease?"

Elias knitted his eyebrows and gazed at Lazarus, baffled. "What are you talking about?! Do you want me to rip your mouth apart?" Although Amanda was his ex-wife, he didn't allow anyone to degrade her like that. He had kept it a secret when he married Amanda back then, so not many people were aware of their marriage.

Nevertheless, Lazarus didn't seem surprised. Instead, he acted as if he knew Elias' secret. Then, he said in a hushed voice. "This lady may be a beauty, but a few years ago. I saw her at the hospital. Back then, it seemed like she was preparing for an abortion. Can you imagine how messed up her personal life must be? We're all people who have great things to inherit, so women like her are not worth it..."

Elias squinted in shock and asked, “Wait, did you just say abortion? Are you sure she was the one

you saw?”

An abortion? Amanda? A few years ago? His mind was overwhelmed with confusion as his old memories came back to haunt him. At that, he had a flashback to when Amanda presented him with a positive pregnancy test the moment he asked for a divorce.

Chapter 22 Were You Really Pregnant?

I’m certain! Back then, I saw her at the hospital, thinking she was really hot. It’s a pity she went in for an abortion. Do you think I’d forget such a hottie? But it seems like she’s even hotter than before. Although she’s beautiful, she’s toxic We can’t get involved for the sake of our well-being” Lazarus was completely immersed in his world as he talked to himself.

At this moment. Elias mind was filled with the scene from four years ago. What about our child? Are you that heartless? The woman’s pitiful and sorrowful voice echoed in his mind, but he paid zero attention back then, only wanting to pressure Amanda into signing the divorce agreement quickly.

Was Amanda really pregnant back then? But I’ve never touched her, so where did the child come from? Was it mine!

“Hey! I’m talking to you. What’s on your mind?” Lazarus had been going on for a while, only to realize that Elias wasn’t concentrating. The next second, Elias turned around and rushed into the

club.

“Hey! I’m still talking here. Where are you going?!” No matter how he shouted, Elias didn’t even look back. The way he sprinted anxiously seemed as if he had something more important than life itself.

On the other hand, Amanda was walking toward a private room, for she had a meeting with a client tonight. After glancing at the time, she thought to herself, I’ll try to finish the meeting within an hour so that I can go home and put Aiden to sleep.

Just as she was about to enter the private room, a figure rushed toward her and pulled her aside. unexpectedly.

“Ouch!” Her body was forcefully pressed against the wall, causing her back to ache. She looked up while furrowing her brows, only to realize it was Elias. Immediately, her anger flared up. “What are you doing? Are you crazy?!”

While pressing her against the wall, he stared at her eyes intently and gasped for breath as if he had run all the way. However, he simply stared at her without saying a word.

What the hell?! She struggled to push him away, but he held her firmly against the wall, rendering her unable to move. “What the f*ck do you want? Are you trying to annoy me? Is this your way of seeking revenge because I let Grace misunderstand us? You-”

Before she could finish her words, he suddenly asked. “Were you really pregnant four years ago?”

She froze in place upon hearing that, her eyes widening. How did he know? At once, she panicked. Her palms turned sweaty, and every nerve in her body tensed up. Does he know about the child? Is he going to take my baby away?

Noticing her silence, he angrily shouted at her, “Speak up! Did we have a child four years ago Were you really pregnant? Did you go to the hospital for an abortion?”

“Didn’t you refuse to believe me? Why are you asking me this now? She wanted to push him away, but he seemed possessed at that moment, desperate to seek an answer.

“Answer me! This is the last time I’ll repeat my question. Were you really pregnant four years ago? Was it mine?”

Amanda was slightly startled, feeling that if she didn’t say anything, she wouldn’t be able to get through tonight. As such, she pretended to remain calm and countered, “Whose child could it have been?”

“But I don’t remember ever touching you, so how did you become pregnant with my child?” Elias couldn’t seem to figure this out. No matter how he searched his mind for any recollection of when he had touched her, he couldn’t remember anything at all.

When she heard his words, a bitter and desolate laugh escaped her lips. After four years, he still hasn’t changed one bit. He’ll never admit that he has touched me.

“I just want to know why you’re suddenly so hung up on this question now, Elias. You doubted me like this four years ago, and now you’re doubting me again. We’ve already divorced, so why are you asking me this?”

As she recalled everything from four years ago, she wanted nothing more than to rip the man in front of her to death. He was incredibly heartless for using all sorts of despicable tactics to force me into getting a divorce.

As he held her slender shoulders tightly, a glimmer of anticipation appeared in his black eyes. “So... where is the child?”

At this moment, she couldn’t help but swallow nervously. As expected, he was asking about the child. Although she was extremely nervous, she remained calm on the outside, afraid that he might see through her. “I aborted it. When you forced me to divorce, I went to the hospital and had it done.”

For a slight moment, she seemingly saw a hint of disappointment in his eyes, and he appeared to be hurt.

Suddenly, Elias felt his heart wrench. I had a child four years ago, but it was aborted. Not only that, I was the one who forced Amanda to do it. I never knew that she would get pregnant.

When Amanda saw his despondent expression, she thought, Did he believe me?

Gradually, he released his grip on her shoulders and asked in a deep voice, “Did it hurt..... during the surgery?”

Hearing his question, she couldn't help but laugh sarcastically. “What do you think? Did you think. it would be comfortable?”

“Do you hate me?”

She was momentarily taken aback, then replied. “To the core”

His emotions were incredibly complex at that moment. I indirectly caused the death of my own child. Had he survived, he would probably be in preschool by now....

Suddenly, Elias lost control of his hot temper again. “Why didn't you explain it to me back then? Why didn't you show me the ultrasound? How am I supposed to believe you with just a pregnancy test?”

Hearing his words, she nearly laughed out of anger. Is this se*mbag blaming me now? Where did he find the confidence to be so self-righteous?Smack! Amanda mercilessly slapped the man's handsome face, and he turned his face to the side. “Elias Winters! What right do you have to say such things to me now? How dare you blame me! You brought another woman home and told me she was pregnant, asking me to divorce you and get lost. Do you know how I felt at that time?”

He had no comeback. As he closed his eyes, he regretted yet another matter in his life.

“You told me to stop pestering you and to be dignified, so how could I explain anything to you? You never believed I would get pregnant. How could I have explained it? Tell me, how was I supposed to do that?”

The tall figure of the man standing in the corridor looked as though it was overwhelmed by loneliness and desolation.

“The child has been aborted, and there’s no point in talking about this now.” After she regained her composure, she adjusted her emotions and turned to enter the private room. She still had to meet with her clients and return home to be with her baby tonight. She couldn’t afford to waste even a single second.

As the door closed, the entire world seemed to descend into a profound silence.

Elias slammed his fist forcefully against the wall. It emitted a muffled sound, and blood soon flowed from his knuckles. It hurts! Of course, it would hurt! That was my child! He never imagined becoming a father briefly four years ago, but he simply abandoned the child. How did she feel when she went to the hospital alone to get the abortion? She must hate me to the core....

Chapter 23 Drunkenly Calling For Amanda

In one of the private rooms at Paradise Night Club, Elias sat in a corner as he drank himself silly, downing one glass after another with a solemn expression.

His group of brothers couldn’t bear to see him like this “Why are you drinking alone here. Mr. Winters? What’s weighing on your mind?”

“Yeah, you don’t usually join us when we invite you. Now that you’re finally here, you’re just drinking alone in a corner. What’s the matter?”

After observing him for a long time, Lazarus walked over to him sneakily and couldn't help but ask, "What's wrong? Are you still thinking about that hottie? I've told you-you can't touch her She's toxic! What if you catch a disease?"

Suddenly, Elias glared at him with a death stare and bellowed, "Shut the f*ck up!"

"Okay, I'll shut up. Go ahead and drink. Lazarus realized that Elias was quite drunk, so he didn't want to argue with him. After all, Elias' temperament was well known within their circle-he was violent, cruel, and cold-blooded.

Just then, the phone beside Elias started vibrating, and Grace's name flashed across the screen. Elias glanced at it indifferently and had no intention of answering her call. Instead, he poured himself another glass of wine and continued drinking.

"You're not even answering Grace's call, huh? Are you really enchanted by that hottie?" Lazarus couldn't help but comment.

Everyone knew how important Grace was to him. No matter how Elias' pals convinced him to stay, a call from Grace would typically make him leave. What's happening to him today? He isn't even answering Grace's calls.

The phone kept vibrating, but Elias refused to answer, only drinking glass after glass of wine.

As Lazarus looked at the man drinking excessively, he shook his head helplessly and got up to walk to his side.

On the other hand, Grace was almost going crazy, for she had been unable to reach Elias all night; it was as if he had vanished into thin air. She could only keep dialing his number over and over again.

After some time, Elias was still drinking, and he seemed intoxicated at this point.

When Lazarus walked over, he noticed that the phone on the table was still vibrating, displaying Grace's name. "These two are persistent," he murmured. One is persistent in bombarding Elias with phone calls, while the other is persistent in refusing to answer.

He couldn't bear it any longer, so he picked up the phone to answer the call. However, even before he could speak, Grace's breaking voice came from the other side of the phone. "Why aren't

you answering my calls, Elias? Where are you? Why won't you answer my calls? Have I done something wrong?"

Her series of questions left him dumbfounded. After he cleared his throat, he said, 'Umn, Miss Murphy, this is Lazarus, Elias is drunk. You should come and pick him up. Otherwise, he'll keep drinking until the next day.'

"What? Okay, I'll come right away. Please send me the address"

Half an hour later, Grace arrived at the club with red-rimmed eyes. It was clear that she had been crying for a long time.

As she pushed open the door to the private room, she found only Elias inside as he lay on the single couch, still holding a square-shaped glass in his hand. There were even several empty bottles on the table. How much did he drink?

At once, she walked over and snatched the glass from his hand. “Elias? Why are you drinking so much? I’ve been calling you, but you won’t answer. What’s wrong with you?”

At this moment, Elias’ vision was blurry since he was completely intoxicated. “Give it back,” he uttered in a deep and ominous voice.

“No! How long do you want to keep drinking? You’re already drunk. You can’t drink anymore. Let’s go home.” She tried to pull him up, but he pushed her away and picked up a bottle, directly pouring the wine into his mouth.

Grace was stunned by the sight before her, for she had never seen him like this. Even though he would occasionally drink, he always maintained the image of a wealthy young gentleman and never went overboard. As such, seeing him completely intoxicated like this was a rare sight; it was something she had never witnessed. “What’s wrong with you, Elias? Why are you drinking so much?”

When Elias looked at the woman in front of him, he seemingly saw multiple silhouettes belonging to Amanda.

“Please stop drinking. I beg you. You’ll get GI bleeding if you keep drinking like this!” Grace cried. as she tried to snatch the bottle from his hand.

“Don’t touch me!” he roared all of a sudden, accidentally dropping the bottle to the ground and shattering it.

Shocked by that, Grace screamed and was unable to contain her tears anymore since she was already feeling upset the entire night.

The moment he saw her cry, his black eyes paused slightly. Amanda... He gently touched Grace’s cheek with his large palm, stunning her for a second. However, to her surprise, he said, “Amanda...”

At once, she froze in place. Amanda? Is he calling out for Amanda in his drunken state?

Before she could react, he forcibly pulled her into his embrace. As he caressed her head with his big palm, he said in his deep and seductive voice. “Why didn’t you tell me earlier that we had child four years ago? If I had known earlier, perhaps I wouldn’t have chosen to get a divorce..”

When she heard that, her eyes widened in shock, and her mind was in complete chaos. The information was too overwhelming, and she had trouble processing it. What does this mean? Was Amanda pregnant with Elias’ child four years ago? It felt like a bolt from the blue to hear this piece of information.

Instantly, anger surged within her, and she tried to push Elias away. However, he held her tightly. in his arms, and he even whispered, “Why didn’t you persist with

me until the end, you fool? Why didn't you explain it a few more times to me? Our child was aborted just like that. How much pain.

he must have felt..."

Meanwhile, her heart was torn apart after being mistaken for Amanda, and she listened to Elias' deep remorse in his embrace. How did he come to know about the child? Did Amanda tell him on purpose? Is she trying to make Elias feel guilty, then use this opportunity to reconcile? There's no way I'm letting her do that!

Grace felt that she couldn't just sit around and wait anymore. If things continue to progress like this, Amanda will have his heart completely. They once had a child, after all. Elias is a man with a strong sense of responsibility. Otherwise, he wouldn't have done so much for me based on Yelan's dying wish, I can't lose Elias. Absolutely not!

At the same time, Amanda walked out of another private room. Well, my hopes of ending the meeting within an hour failed because of that b*stard, Elias. She glanced at the time and hurriedly made her way toward the elevator.

As she passed by the private room named 'Dream Room, she noticed that the door was open. Inadvertently, she caught a glimpse of what was happening inside, causing her actions to come to

a halt.

She saw Elias holding Grace tightly in his arms, looking so loving and affectionate. At that moment, her heart seemed to skip a beat, and her gaze flickered for a moment.

Although she had already anticipated this scene, seeing it with her eyes still caused momentary pain in her heart. At the same time, she couldn't help feeling slightly disgusted.

He had just been pressing her for answers about their child a moment ago, seemingly full of guilt toward the baby, but now, he had another woman in his arms. I want to tear open his heart to see what he's truly feeling. Does he even have a heart at all?

Every additional second of watching this scene made her heart wrench, so she quickly turned around and left.

Chapter 24 Elias Is at the Door and She's Extremely Nervous!

The following morning, Elias slowly opened his eyes to find that he was lying on the club's couch. a crystal chandelier hanging above his head.

He suffered from a splitting headache due to the hangover. He sat up while propping his forehead against his hand before shaking his head, but the headache didn't go away.

Just then, Grace's voice rang out from beside him. "Here you go, Elias. Something to cure your hangover."

The man looked up and found Grace holding a cup of liquid. When did she come?

“What are you doing here?” he asked while leaning against the couch. The splitting headache made him frown.

“I called you last night, but Lazarus answered it. He said you were drunk, so I came to take care of you.”

“Busybody.” Elias muttered with displeasure.

At that, he took the cup from Grace and took a few sips before placing it on the coffee table.

“I’m heading to the office. Should I send you home or…” he asked while grabbing his suit jacket. and wearing it in one swift move.

“I’d like to go to the office. I have a variety show to record.”

Elias grunted in agreement as he headed out. What he didn’t know was that Grace’s smile disappeared the second he turned around.

“Get me a cemetery plot now,” Elias ordered over the phone as soon as he stepped out of the

room.

A cemetery plot? Grace was baffled. Why would he need a cemetery plot? He’s not finding one for the baby Amanda gave up, is he? But is it even necessary?! That fetus wasn’t even fully formed when he was taken out! It can’t even be considered a human, yet Elias wants to give him a proper burial?!

The young woman grew panicked by the second, as she could tell Amanda still meant something to Elias. It was just that he didn't realize it yet.

I'll have to do something before he's aware of his feelings toward Amanda!

At that, Grace pulled her phone out and sent a text. Initiate the operation!"

Meanwhile, in Lotus Waterfront, Amanda found her child was still asleep when she went into his room.

She came in to awaken Aiden half an hour ago before heading to the kitchen to make breakfast. She did not think that her little munchkin would still be asleep even after she returned.

"Aiden, you'd better wake up or you'll miss kindergarten!"

However, Aiden was having the sleep of his life, lying on his little tummy. But I'm sleepy. Mommy. I don't want to go.." he mumbled.

"No way. Get up, or you're really going to be late!" At that, she picked him up and dressed him up before carrying him to the bathroom.

Just then, the doorbell rang, and Amanda assumed the nanny had arrived. Hence, she squeezed some toothpaste onto the toothbrush and handed it to Aiden. "Here, be a good boy and brush your teeth. I'm going to open the door for Mrs. Colette. When I come back, I want to see that you're done with brushing your teeth."

“Okay..” Aiden slurred groggily, brushing his teeth half-heartedly.

Meanwhile, Amanda went to answer the door. Sure enough, it was the nanny, Colette.

“I got Aiden some breakfast, Miss Bailey. He hasn’t eaten, has he?”

“That’s really sweet of you, Mrs. Colette. The breakfast I made happened to be a little simple and I was worried he wouldn’t be full,” Amanda replied with a smile.

She was pretty pleased with Colette, for the older woman did a great job at caring for Aiden.

After entering the house, Colette went to Aiden, and Amanda was about to get changed when the doorbell rang again.

Huh? Who could it be this time?

Meanwhile, the doorbell rang ceaselessly. Whoever it was, they seemed to have a bad temper, and it seemed that they were hell-bent on pressing the bell until it broke.

“Who is it?!” Amanda froze the moment she opened the door, and her heart nearly stopped when she realized who it was.

Bam! She closed the door at once. What is Elias doing here?! What does he want?! Aiden’s at home right now. My lie will be exposed if he finds Aiden! Ding-dong!
Ding-dong!

Elias hadn't even said a word when the door was slammed in his face.

Understandably, he was grim.

That said, he wasn't giving up. He pressed the doorbell for a long time again before Amanda finally answered it, and she looked pretty nervous.

What is she so nervous about? Is she hiding a secret lover in the house?

Amanda had gotten changed at this point and after answering the door, she stepped out, having

no intention of letting Elias in.

“What are you doing here? How did you find my place? What the heck do you want, Elias Amanda was freaking out right then, for only a door separated the father and son Elias would learn of Aiden's existence as soon as he barged in, which explained why she was a nervous wreck.

“What are you so nervous about? Are you not going to invite me into your house?” he asked, causing Amanda to stand her ground, making sure he couldn't go inside.

“W-What are you talking about? I'm not nervous. Why do you want to go inside? I'm in a hurry to get to work now. If you have something to say, say it now.”

Meanwhile, Elias scrutinized her expression and couldn't shake off the feeling that she was hiding something.

“Come with me. We’ll talk downstairs. It won’t be good if the neighbors see us.”

At that, Amanda grabbed Elias’ arm and dragged him to the elevator. Talking at the door would only make her

even more nervous.

Elias, on the other hand, simply let her take him to the reception room in the lobby via the elevator.

Finally, Amanda heaved a sigh of relief and asked, “What are you doing here? Make it snappy. I’m pressed for time.”

“What? Are you hiding a secret lover in your house? Why are you so nervous?”

“What is wrong with you? Do you have something to tell me or not?! I’m leaving if you don’t!” With that, Amanda turned to leave, but Elias grabbed her hand.

“Clear your schedule for the day and come with me.”

With that, she was dragged out of the building.

“Where are you taking me? I have a case to get to!”

“I’ll give you a day off.”

Amanda fell silent at that. She was indeed working on the Winters Enterprise’s case, and she would have to head to the company for negotiation later.

An hour later, they arrived at a graveyard in Imperia, and she was stupefied when she got out of the car. Why has Elias brought me here? The place is so eerie and lifeless.

“Why have you brought me here?” Suddenly, a thought occurred to Amanda and she snapped, “Don’t tell me you actually moved my mother’s grave?!”

After all, the man had threatened to move her mother’s grave a few times.

“Am I that evil to you?” he asked with narrowed eyes.

“You were the one who threatened to move my mother’s grave a few times. Why would you bring me here if you hadn’t done it?”

At that, Amanda couldn’t help wanting to visit her mother. However, she hesitated, worried she would cry.

Meanwhile, Elias said nothing and only headed into the graveyard.

At that, she followed him, her mind filled with questions. What in the world is this sc*mbag trying to do?

Suddenly, he stopped in front of a grave, and so did Amanda. She found a picture of her mother smiling on the tombstone, looking gentle and amiable.

Chapter 25 Elias Erected a Tombstone for His Son

“Mom....” Tears welled up in Amanda’s eyes when she saw her mother’s tombstone.

At that, she looked up to force her tears back. She didn’t want to shed any tears in front of Elias. She didn’t want him to see her vulnerable side.

“Cry if you want, Elias murmured when he saw her holding her tears back. “It’s just you and me here.

“But you’re here!” she retorted before asking, “Why in the world have you brought me here?”

Elias did not say anything. He only walked over to the adjacent grave and stood there, his tall, handsome figure shrouded in loneliness.

Baffled, Amanda followed him and when she saw the words engraved on the tombstone, she was dumbfounded.

Here lies the beloved son of Elias Winters’

The corner of Amanda’s lips twitched in response. This... He... What blasphemy is this?! How can Elias curse my son?!

“W-What is the meaning of this? Why erect a tombstone? Is it even necessary?”

Despite being a lawyer, Amanda was at a loss for words and her thoughts were scattered. She wasn’t sure how to feel anymore.

I can’t possibly tell Elias that our son is still alive and that he’d only be cursing the little one by erecting a tombstone in his name, can I?!

“This is proof that my child existed,” Elias muttered as he fixed his profound gaze on the empty tombstone, rendering Amanda speechless.

You’ve got to be kidding me! She, on the other hand, didn’t like this idea. After all, the little brat was alive and kicking at home. You... This... He...

Amanda cleared her throat and attempted to dissuade Elias as she looked at his handsome side profile. “Um... Hear me out, alright? I was only a little over a month into my pregnancy back then. The fetus wasn’t even fully developed yet. If anything, it was only the size of a blueberry at most. It technically couldn’t even be considered a fetus, so you don’t have to do this. You’ll have other children in the future.

“So what?! It won’t be the same! They won’t be this little one, no matter how many other children. I have! You’re his mother. How can you be so heartless? How can you not stand seeing a tombstone erected for him?! Elias hit the roof, suddenly

thinking that the woman before him was rather ruthless. Why haven't I noticed it before?

Amanda, on the other hand, was stumped by Elias' accusation. Me? Heartless? Who was it who

refused to believe we had a child together and led me to nearly give up on Aiden?! But the key now us that Aiden is alive and kicking, and an adorable little munchkin at that! How rude of Elias to erect a tombstone in Aiden's name!

"What does this have to do with me being heartless or not? Why did you have to erect this tombstone? Aren't you just upsetting people? Does it not make you upset when this constantly reminds you of the child you gave up?" Amanda nearly blurted out the fact that Arden was still alive. Thank goodness....

"Being upset is good. It'll remind me to never make this mistake ever again," Elias commented with great remorse as he continued to latch his gaze on the empty tombstone.

Why did I refuse to believe Amanda was really pregnant? Why didn't I question it? Even for one second...

Amanda fell silent at that. It seemed that there was no way around this unless she told him the child was still alive.

Whatever. If having Elias live under the illusion that the child was lost four years ago means that I can keep Aiden by my side forever, so be it. It will be good for everyone too. Ring! Ring!

Just then, her phone rang, and she found it was a call from Howard.

"Grandpa!" Amanda greeted, drawing Elias' attention. With that, he fixed his gaze on her.

Suddenly, she turned shocked and repeated with incredulity. "You want to set me up on a blind date? Please tell me this is a joke, Grandpa. W-What are you doing? I

told you I already have someone I like. He's away on a business trip... No, I'm not lying to you, I swear..."

Amanda felt beyond exasperated. First, Elias set up a tombstone for their 'dead' son and now, Howard wanted to set her up with some man!

What is with all this hullabaloo?! I swear these two Winterses are sent by the heavens to torture me!

Out of the blue. Elias snatched her phone and caterwauled furiously to the phone. "What kind of mischief are you up to again. Grandpa? Who said you could set Amanda up with other men?!"

"Why are you with Amanda?" Howard asked with displeasure when he heard Elias voice coming from the other end of the line. "Last time I checked, you two have divorced. What are you doing. badgering her?!"

"Are you out of your mind? What are you thinking, setting Amanda up with other men?" Never had Elias thought his grandfather would come around overnight when the elder still wouldn't give up keeping him and Amanda together just the day before.

Set Amanda up with another guy? What is this old man up to?!

Suddenly, a bodyguard's voice came from the other end of the line. "Old Mr. Winters? Old Mr. Winters, are you okay? Wake up!"

At that, the bodyguard said directly to the phone, "Mr. Elias, Old Mr. Winters has fainted. Please

come over!"

"Passed out? Send me the address!" Anxiety overcame Elias at once. Howard wasn't always in the best shape and he would suffer from high blood pressure now and then.

Amanda, too, became anxious when she heard Howard had fainted. “What are you standing here for? Go to your grandfather!” she stated as she retrieved her phone.

With that, the two left the graveyard in two shakes, leaving the empty tombstone behind, looking oh-so-ridiculous....

Meanwhile, a certain child having fun in kindergarten sneezed several times in a row.

On the other side of the town, in Bamboo Hall, Howard gave his bodyguard a thumbs latter ended the call. “Good acting

up

after the

Lo and behold, the elder was doing just fine. It was just a plot tricking the two into coming over.

However, the bodyguard felt somewhat worried. “Will this really work, Old Mr. Winters? What if the two separate for good because of this?”

Howard, on the other hand, was confident. “Don’t worry. This is called going against the tide. I’ve figured it out. The more I force them together, the more they resist me. It’s time to try a different approach.”

“But Mr. Elias’ temper.”

“I figured it out last time. That rascal still cares about Amanda and is very jealous. Hmph! Let him worry, or he’ll really think no one else other than him would want Amanda.” Howard smiled smugly with his hands behind his back.

Things will be easy as long as that rascal still has feelings for Amanda. I’d like to see him remain calm when his competition really shows up.

Sometime later, Elias and Amanda arrived at the private room Howard had booked.

“Grandpa!” Amanda shouted once she entered, thinking the elder had passed out. To her surprise, Howard was sipping his tea leisurely.

Elias, on the other hand, blew a fuse and couldn't help storming, "Do you think this is funny? How can you be at this again?!"

"How is this not funny? Will you two come obediently if I don't fake it?" Howard retorted with the teacup in his hand.

Chapter 26 Howard Set up a Blind Date for Amanda to Intentionally Provoke Elias

"Grandpa... You...." Howard's behavior left Amanda at a loss for words, unsure of what to do with him.

I really shouldn't have left home today! Why has this grandfather-grandson duo decided to screw with me today!!

On the contrary. Howard was in seventh heaven as he got up and led Amanda to the dining table "Come, Amanda. You really are a sweet child,"

At that, the elder gazed disdainfully at his grandson and muttered, "Go on! Your business is done here. Go back to whatever you were doing and don't be an eyesore. Amanda and I have something to discuss."

Bewildered. Amanda looked to Elias, who was behind her. He then sat directly opposite her with seething rage. "Why have you tricked us into coming here?"

"Correction, I only asked Amanda to come. You invited yourself. I already said it over the phone, haven't I? I want to set Amanda up with a fine young man," Howard announced, deliberately aggravating Elias and making the latter frown in response.

"You're being ridiculous!" he snapped.

Someone's getting feisty... Howard chuckled inwardly. He knew his grandson still cared about Amanda; he was just unaware of it.

That said, Howard remained plain on the surface. "How is this ridiculous? I handed Amanda to you a few years ago, thinking you were a decent, responsible man, but

look at what you've done to her! Look at how you bullied her! I've resigned to fate now. It's fate that you two can't be together, and I won't force it on you two anymore. Since you can't give Amanda the happiness she deserves, I'll find her the man who can. It's only then I can be at ease."

While Elias was rendered at a loss for words, Howard turned to Amanda. "I know you don't like him and have no intention of remarrying him. I won't force you anymore, but I also know you're lying when you say you have a boyfriend. Do you think I can't tell? That's why, my dear, I have to find you a good man you can rely on for the rest of your life."

"Grandpa, I... It's fine, really. I can look for one on my own. These things depend on fate."

Amanda genuinely felt defeated. She couldn't believe Howard did a one-eighty overnight. How can the elder want to set me up on a blind date now when he was still doing everything to have me and Elias remarry yesterday?!

"Don't worry about it. We'll just have a chat with him. If you think he's not the one, we'll move on to the next one. I have many fine men here, and I promise we'll eventually find someone better than that rascal," said Howard, not forgetting to roll his eyes at his grandson.

Meanwhile, Elias gazed silently at his grandfather with a tense expression, waiting to see what the elder had up his sleeve.

Amanda, on the other hand, just wanted to escape this situation. "Grandpa, I'm kind of busy lately. I don't have the time-"

"He'll be here soon," Howard murmured. "Give him a chance, okay? I think this young man is pretty decent. He's outstanding in many ways.

At that, he turned to Elias. "What are you still sitting here for? Shoo! Don't bother Amanda on her blind date. Go back to whatever you were doing."

“Do you think this is fun, Grandpa? Setting up a blind date for someone without their consent?”

Though Elias had nothing to do with Amanda anymore, he still felt inexplicably vexed to see her on a blind date.

“What does it have to do with you?” Howard snorted disdainfully. “What? Do you still have feelings for Amanda? Does it upset you to see her on a blind date?”

“No!”

Then shut up and get out! Don’t interfere with our business!” Howard would like to see how long Elias could remain obstinate.

Just then, the door opened, and a gentleman in a suit came in. No doubt he was the man Howard had set Amanda up with.

“Sorry for being late, Old Mr. Winters.”

“Brooklyn, come, come!” Howard greeted the man with a smile. “You’re not late. We’re just early. Let me introduce you to Amanda Bailey. She’s gorgeous, isn’t she? She’s a lawyer too. I’m sure you two have a lot in common, seeing that you’re both lawyers.

Amanda was dumbfounded, unsure of how to react. Grandpa went to great lengths this time. He even found a fellow attorney for this blind date!

“Amanda, this is Brooklyn Wrenn, a grandson of my friend. He’s one of the partners at a law firm. and a pretty outstanding young man,” Howard mentioned while observing Elias’ expression. At that point, Elias was thunderous.

Elias scrutinized the man before him judgingly and came to a conclusion-unworthy. This man is unworthy of Amanda.

Meanwhile, Amanda smiled awkwardly, then gazed toward Elias for help as though asking him to do something about his grandfather.

Elias wanted to interject as well. However, given Howard's current state, nothing he said would get through to the elder.

Sometime later. Howard suddenly suggested, "Now that you two have gotten to know each other, you should go out for a stroll and spend some alone time."

"Grandpa... very well." Amanda felt so awkward at this point that she wished she could bury herself in a hole. Still, she obliged and just like that, she headed out of the private room with Brooklyn.

Howard, on the other hand, sipped his tea leisurely while observing his dear grandson's reaction.

Suddenly. Elias got up and got ready to leave.

"What do you think you're doing? Sit down and don't cause trouble!"

At that, Elias glanced over his shoulder and snarled, "I'll go be the chauffeur!"

As if I'll let Amanda be alone with that man!

Amanda wanted to leave after following Brooklyn out. However, she couldn't come up with a good excuse.

Just then. Elias' deep, alluring voice rang out from behind her. "Amanda, I'll send you home."

Amanda's eyes lit up at once and she turned to look at Elias, who pulled her behind him and said to Brooklyn. "She already has a boyfriend. You've lost your chance."

Then, he dragged Amanda toward his vehicle, leaving a shouting Brooklyn behind. "But Old Mr. Winters asked me to come on a blind date!"

"And now, I'm asking you to go back," Elias said without looking back.

Amanda was then shoved into the front passenger seat. Looks like this b*stard is as overbearing as

ever!

With that, Elias ignited the engine and slammed on the gas, leaving the wretched place.

All this while, Howard continued to sip his tea leisurely.

“Sir, Mr. Elias forcefully took Miss Bailey away.” the bodyguard came in and reported, causing Howard to guffaw. It seemed that he had foreseen the situation as he mumbled to himself, “I knew he still has feelings for Amanda. He just doesn’t know it! This reverse psychology trick will soon be effective.”

“You truly are amazing, Old Mr. Winters. The bodyguard was genuinely impressed. “You still know Mr. Elias best.”

At that, Howard fiddled with the teacup in his hand smugly. “I watched that rascal grow up before my eyes. As if I can’t tell what he thinks!”

Chapter 27 Simon Is Finally Returning

Later, the vehicle slowly came to a stop outside Lotus Waterfront. Just as Amanda was about to get out, Elías asked, “Have you really gotten yourself a boyfriend?”

“Sorry?” His question caught Amanda off guard.

“What I’m saying is if you have really gotten a boyfriend, you can bring him over to Grandpa and put an end to his attempts to set you up on blind dates,” said the man who secretly hoped Amanda didn’t actually have a boyfriend. In fact, Elias wanted her to personally deny it

“Got it. Amanda opened the car door, then suddenly recalled the wretched tombstone. At that. she turned around. “Is the tombstone really set in stone? No room for negotiations?”

“No.”

Amanda said nothing more. She got out of the car and headed straight into the compound while Elias stared at her retreating figure for a long time from inside his car.

Why would Amanda reject the tombstone so strongly? Can it be that she thinks our child doesn't deserve a proper burial? But little did Elias know that said child was never forsaken. In fact, he was already three.

When Amanda arrived home, she found that Colette had already sent Aiden to kindergarten. As such, she decided to take a nap before heading to the law firm.

Just then, her phone rang, and she checked it out to find that it was an international call from Simon.

She answered the call immediately. “What can I do for you, Boss?”

A gentle chuckle escaped Simon and he asked, “It's nearly 12.00PM back home, isn't it? Have you had your lunch?”

As if she had the time to eat, thanks to the morning episode. Still, Amanda lied, “Yeah, I've eaten. Have you called me for something?”

“I may be coming back early. Someone will take over the things on my end.”

“Really? Congratulations!”

“As we agreed, you and Aiden will welcome me back when I return. You haven't forgotten, have

you?”

“Of course not!” Amanda chuckled. “How could I forget? When are you coming back? Aiden and I will pick you up at the airport.”

“My flight is the day after tomorrow. I should arrive at around 8.00PM.”

Simon is finally returning, which means I can flee this place once I'm done with the work at hand!

“Alright. Aiden and I will pick you up the day after tomorrow, then.”

“I'm going to bed. See you in two days.”

“See you.”

An idea struck Amanda after she hung up. If Grandpa forces me into another one of his blind dates, can I ask Simon to pretend to be my boyfriend? Either way, Simon will be coming back in two days. If I leave Grandpa be, I certainly won't get peace of mind during my time in the country.

No way did Amanda want another episode from the Winterses like this morning again.

At the thought that Elias erected a tombstone for their 'dead' son, she couldn't help feeling both amused and frustrated. Yet, she couldn't speak the truth.

Oh, how I wish I could just tear that tombstone apart in the middle of the night! Seriously, what father curses their child like that?

As she lay on the couch and scrolled aimlessly through her phone, a viral headline popped up on her screen, titled, 'Grace Murphy's wealthy boyfriend revealed! It's actually him!'

Amanda didn't even need to click on it to know it was Elias. Yet, she still did, and sure enough, the news article described in great detail the power and wealth of the Winters Family and how Grace would marry into wealth soon.

The question was whether this was Elias' doing or Grace's.

At that, Amanda recalled how Elias and Grace fell into a deep embrace.

Ha! How could I have forgotten that Elias is deeply in love with Grace?! That man can do anything for her. No doubt the tombstone for Aiden is merely a pretentious act to appease his consciousness of being with

Grace.

At the same time, Grace also saw the entertainment news that popped up on her phone.

This was her operation. She wanted the whole world to know Elias was hers, and if Amanda ever dared to interact with Elias in private, she could just call Amanda out as a homewrecker who wanted to take her place. By then, the public would be on her side for sure, and there was no way Amanda could withstand public criticism.

Just then, Grace's phone rang. It was a call from Elias.

Upon seeing the caller ID, the young woman burst into laughter and answered the phone after collecting herself. "Elias!"

"Are you free tonight? Let's go out for dinner."

"Sure, I've got time. I'll make time for you even if I don't."

"I'll send someone to pick you up tonight."

"I'll be waiting for you at home."

Grace was on top of the world after hanging up. I knew it! Elias still loves me. Amanda is only intentionally getting in our way!

On the other hand, Elias wanted to make it up to Grace because he thought he had neglected her a little lately.

Before long, night had fallen. Grace deliberately donned a sexy strap dress and some glamorous makeup before being escorted by Elias' bodyguard.

After delivering her to a hotel, the bodyguard said, "Please take the elevator directly to the rooftop. Miss Murphy. Mr. Winters is waiting for you there."

"Alright." Grace smiled gently before heading into the hotel.

She was surprised that Elias was beginning to show some interest and had chosen a romantic rooftop restaurant with a view of the whole city.

When Grace arrived at the rooftop, she looked around and sure enough, the man was sitting in a corner. At that, she walked over to him with a smile and purred. “What’s the occasion, Elias? To think you’d pick such a romantic restaurant.”

“You call this romantic?” Elias asked with a frown after turning away from the night cityscape.

His secretary had recommended this place. It was his first time here.

“Yeah. Women love dining in this kind of place.” Grace had a feeling she could get Elias to stay over for the night, and the thought of it excited her.

An attendant came over with the menu while Elias asked casually after checking his phone. “Did you leak our relationship to the press?”

The news stirred the entire showbiz, so he naturally received a push notification.

At that, Grace stopped flipping the menu for a second and feigned innocence. “Was it not you? I would never release that kind of news without your consent, not to mention I want to leave a good impression on Grandpa.”

After a moment of silence, Elias commented, “Let’s order.”

Just then, his phone, which was on the table, vibrated. The voice of Howard’s bodyguard came as

Chapter 28 1 Already Have a Boyfriend! He’ll Be Returning in Two Days!

Anger consumed Elias after the call ended and he immediately got up to leave.

“Elias, where are you going? Didn’t we agree to have dinner together?” Grace couldn’t help asking.

“My grandfather’s forcing Amanda into another blind date. I’m going to check it out. You go ahead and cat. I’ll come back as soon as I’m done.”

With that, he left without looking back.

What? He did not just leave me here! We have already agreed on having dinner together! Amanda Bailey, it’s you again! Grace sank her nails deep into her palms. You’d better not be doing this on purpose!

At that, she grabbed her bag and chased after Elias. “Elias, wait! I’m coming with you.”

At the same time, inside the car. Howard sat in the back seat with his eyes closed as he rested. The bodyguard in front turned to him after making the call. “Mr. Elias sounded pretty agitated over the phone.”

“Good!” Howard guffawed. “Let’s put on a good show tonight and let them realize their feelings. for each other.”

The elderly man refused to believe Amanda had moved on. No way would the girl stop loving Elias just like that!

Soon, the car slowly came to a halt in front of a corporate building. One of the offices inside was the law firm Amanda worked for.

Howard had long monitored everything and knew Amanda would be coming out soon.

Sure enough, the young woman came out of the lobby and headed toward the parking lot as soon as Howard's car pulled up.

On the other hand, Amanda found Howard coming out of the vehicle right as she came out of the building.

No way! She widened her eyes in shock. What is Grandpa doing here? Is he coming toward me?

"Amanda!" Howard called out with a chuckle, and Amanda replied with an awkward smile. "What are you doing here, Grandpa?"

I'm worried for you, of course. I heard your date with Brooklyn in the morning was a no-go," Howard commented with feigned innocence. Even the bodyguard was wholly impressed. You have to hand it to Old Mr. Winters for coming up with such believable acting!

The night breeze blew gently, tousling Amanda's soft long curls, yet it couldn't conceal the embarrassment on her cheeks.

"Grandpa... you can't force love..."

"I know, and that's okay. I have plenty of fine young men on my list. You've gotten off work now, haven't you? I'll take you to another one. I promise you this one will be a keeper!"

Again? Amanda felt distressed. Goodness! Somebody save me! Why do I have to go on another blind date?

“Grandpa, please spare me...” She was genuinely on the verge of begging.

Just then, another luxury car pulled up nearby, and one glance was all it took for Howard to know it was Elias’ car.

Sure enough, Elias slammed the car door shut and strode over angrily, with Grace following right

behind.

“Just what are you trying, forcing Amanda into another blind date, Grandpa?” Elias raged. “Will it please you more if she marries right here and now?!”

Of course, Howard was pleased to see his grandson infuriated. However, when he saw Grace standing behind Elias, he snorted disdainfully. “What’s it to you? I didn’t force you into a blind date, did I? I just don’t want to see Amanda live out her life alone. What’s more, you’re such an irresponsible man-

“Grandpa, please don’t talk about Elias like that, Grace interjected in a whisper.

“He has his reasons. Love isn’t something that can be forced.”

“Shut up! You have no right to speak here!” Howard roared angrily, and Grace shut up at once. After all, the elder never liked her.

“Please watch your attitude, Grandpa!”

“If you have a problem with my attitude, take this clown away with you! I didn’t beg you to come here!” Howard was vexed at this point, and seeing his grandson and Grace together made him feel uncomfortable all over.

“Grandpa...” Tears pooled aggrievedly in Grace’s eyes, and she looked piteous.

Amanda, on the other hand, thought her head was going to explode. How did the Winterses end up arguing again?

“Grandpa, stop it! That’s enough!” Amanda finally spoke up. “I already have a boyfriend, and he’ll be coming back in two days. I’ll bring him over for dinner the night he returns if you don’t believe me!”

At that, the entire world fell into silence, and Elias and Howard both stared silently at her for what felt like a century.

Amanda, on the other hand, felt as though a weight had been lifted off her shoulders.

It looks like I really need Simon’s help, or the blind dates will never end! Then again, why have these two frozen over?

“Grandpa? Why aren’t you saying anything?”

At that, Howard shifted his cane and asked, “Didn’t you say he’s busy with work overseas? How come he’s coming back in two days? You’re not lying to me, are you? You’re never one to lie!”

A hint of guilt arose within Amanda at once, but this was her last resort. She would not be able to stand it if Howard were to force her into a series of blind dates.

“I swear I’m not lying to you, Grandpa. His flight will land the night after tomorrow. I’ll bring him to you then. How about that?”

However, Howard didn’t believe her at all. “Very well, then. Bring your so-called boyfriend over to my place the day after tomorrow. I’d like to see who you have gotten as a boyfriend! I will know if he’s just an actor. Don’t think you can fool me.”

With that, the elder turned to his vehicle.

Just then, Elias let out a disdainful sneer before mocking. “You really spare yourself no mercy. Whom do you plan on bringing to be your actor?”

“What’s it to you? Am I not allowed to have a boyfriend?!” Amanda snorted, then headed toward the parking lot, leaving Elias behind to fall into a deep thought as he watched her retreating figure.

Is she telling the truth? No... That’s impossible! There’s no way she will have found a man in just a few days!

“Elias, maybe Amanda has really gotten herself a boyfriend. After all, she is a bombshell and a lawyer at that. She has many chances to interact with the rich and powerful. Who knows, someone might have wooed her.” Of course, Grace wanted nothing more than for Amanda to get herself a boyfriend and stay far away from

Elias, whose dashing face was currently enveloped in grimness, growing increasingly upset at Grace's words.

Amanda was indeed a bombshell. In fact, she could survive in the entertainment industry with just her looks alone, and she would have a better chance of becoming popular than Grace.

“Enough!”

“Elias...” His exasperation startled Grace. Does it upset him so much to hear Amanda being wooed by other men?

“Are you still hungry? Let's go back to the restaurant,” Elias muttered as he headed back to his car.

Grace, on the other hand, fell silent for a few seconds before catching up to Elias. However, her sense of crisis was growing stronger by the day, as she was certain Elias still had feelings for Amanda.

Chapter 29 An Awkward Dinner

Later, Amanda returned warily to Lotus Waterfront and found Colette making dinner while Aiden's chirps came from inside the bedroom.

He seemed to be on the phone with Simon again.

Why does this little brat call Simon whenever he gets the chance?

At that, she tip-toed to the doorway and quietly pushed the door open, only to find the little one giggling over the phone.

She leaned closer, wanting to hear what the two were talking about.

“Will you really be coming back the day after tomorrow, Mr. Simon? You’re not lying to me, are you? Why didn’t Mommy tell me anything about it?”

“Really. Maybe she wants to give you a surprise.”

“Wow! What a surprise! Will you treat me to yummy food when you come back, Mr. Simon? Mommy won’t let me eat any of them. Hmph!”

“Sure thing. Your mommy and I will take you out for yummy food. You can eat whatever you like; I’ll back you up.”

“Yay! Thank you, Mr. Simon!”

After hearing their conversation, Amanda had to admit that Simon had a way of coaxing a child despite never having been a dad himself. How does he have so much experience? Is he gifted at it?

With that, she entered the bedroom and deliberately cleared her throat.

Instantly, Aiden jumped out of bed like a startled bunny and said to Simon, “Mommy’s home! She doesn’t like it when I interrupt your work. I’ll see you in two days, Mr. Simon. Bye!”

At that, the boy speedily hung up and chucked the phone to the armchair aside.

“Mommy, I’ve only talked to Mr. Simon for a few minutes. I definitely didn’t interrupt his work. I called during his break,” Aiden explained solemnly with eyes filled with innocence.

“Really? How do you know that he’s on a break?” Amanda feigned sternness.

“I calculated it. The time difference between here and Esmos is such that it’s Mr. Simon’s break time now,” said the little one as he calculated with his tiny hands. It seemed that he had indeed taken a lot of time to get to the result.

Tsk... This little devil is quite smart.

At that, she ruffled his hair and sighed. “Do you like Simon that much?”

“Of course!” Aiden looked up at his mother with twinkling eyes, thinking she was finally struck with an epiphany. “I’ve done the calculations, Mommy. Mr. Simon suits you very well. He’s the epitome of a perfect man!”

Amanda was rendered speechless. Perfect man? Where did this child learn all of that from?

“Alright, enough playing. Just look at the time. Go wash up and go to bed now!” She turned the boy’s tiny body around and led him to the bathroom.

However, Aiden was still going at it. “Mommy, you really have to think about it! A fine man like Mr. Simon is very popular with the ladies. You’ll be doomed if someone else gets to him first!” he said over his shoulder.

“And how will I be doomed? There are plenty of men in this world.”

“But none of them are Mr. Simon! They’re different. Different, I tell you!”

Amanda had no comeback to that. Suddenly, it hit her that her little boy had grown up and was beginning to develop his own ideas. He could no longer be deceived so easily.

Very quickly, it came the day Simon returned to the country. After work, Amanda went to the airport to pick him up before heading to Winters Manor for dinner.

She needed to quickly stop Howard from arranging further blind dates for her.

Amanda waited at the airport exit for a long time until she finally saw Simon approaching her with a luggage cart. He had a handsome face with a gentle smile. He wore a beige windbreaker, standing tall and elegant like a noble gentleman. As Aiden put it, he was the epitome of a perfect

man.

“Have you been waiting for long, Amanda?” he asked gently, to which Amanda shook her head. “I just got here too.”

“Why didn’t you bring Aiden along? I thought you two were supposed to welcome me together,

no?”

She felt a little embarrassed and didn't know how to put it to him.

Simon, too, noticed her discomfort and couldn't help asking, “What's wrong? Has something happened?”

“Can you do me a favor tonight? It's really urgent and I can't find anyone suitable, so...”

“What is it?” Simon turned solemn at once, thinking Amanda had encountered great difficulty.

At that, she smiled awkwardly and rubbed her wristwatch while stuttering. “Well, can you... maybe... pretend to be my boyfriend for the night? To get through this situation I'm in.”

Pretend to be your boyfriend? Surprise overcame Simon before a chuckle escaped him. “Sure thing. It's not a problem.”

“Don't you want to know why I need you to be my boyfriend?” She looked up in astonishment.

“You must have your reasons. I'd like to hear it out if you're willing to share, but it's fine if you

don't.”

Amanda was touched. Simon really was gentle and considerate. He would certainly be a perfect husband who doted on his wife and children.

But the next second, insecurity washed over her again. I guess I don't deserve him. Whatever. Enough overthinking, Bailey.

"Thank you so much, Boss! I shall work hard to repay you." Amanda would take up more cases for Simon while she was still in the country and make some achievements to repay him.

"Sure." Simon chuckled. "You're the kind of employee I need."

At that, the two exchanged a smile.

With that, Amanda drove them to the Winters Manor, where Howard was pacing around anxiously like an ant on a hot griddle.

Inside the Winters Manor, Howard paced back and forth anxiously, still having trouble coming to terms with the fact that Amanda already had a boyfriend.

Has Amanda really gotten a boyfriend? He wished she didn't and that she wouldn't come over. That way, Elias would still have a chance.

But what would he do if Amanda came over with her boyfriend? That would mean the chances of Elias and Amanda ever remarrying would be completely gone.

Just then, the butler approached Howard. "Old Mr. Winters, Miss Bailey has arrived. She has brought a man over, and the way I see it..."

“What did you see? Tell me!” Howard felt nervous and uncomfortable. It was like a massive boulder was weighing down on him.

“They look like a pretty good match and very much in love too...” the butler revealed, disheartening Howard as the latter slumped onto the couch like a deflated balloon.

“Grandpa. I’m here!” Amanda and Simon arrived in the living room to find a devastated Howard, who looked toward them in response, only to resign completely after seeing Simon for himself.

“Oh, Amanda.... Is this... your boyfriend?” Howard asked as he slowly got up. The longer he sized the young man up, the more heartbroken he was, for Simon didn’t appear any lesser than Elias in terms of appearance.

It was completely reasonable that Amanda would fall for a man like him.

“Hello, sir. I’m Simon Nicholson of Justice & Associates. I work alongside Amanda.” Simon introduced himself politely, briefly, and modestly, and Amanda couldn’t help but add, “He’s one of the founders of our law firm too, Grandpa. I guess you can say he’s my boss.”

Howard chuckled wryly in response and felt a heart attack coming on, for the two genuinely looked perfect together.

“Come, let’s go to the dining room. I’ve got dinner ready for you guys.”

“Thank you, Grandpa!” Amanda even took the initiative to wrap her arms around Simon’s while he smiled gently at her.

Naturally, Howard’s blood pressure skyrocketed when he saw their interaction.

After everyone had taken their seats at the dining table, the servants brought out the food.

Just then, the butler approached Howard again. “Old Mr. Winters, Mr. Elias and Miss Murphy have arrived.”

As if showing up now can salvage anything! Howard sighed glumly. That b*stard rascal ultimately pushed Amanda to another man!

“Sure. Whatever.” The elder wasn’t even in the mood to talk anymore. He just wanted to finish this dinner quickly so that everyone would go home. Just looking at Simon made him uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, Amanda frowned. Elias has come too? What is he doing here?

Just then, footsteps were heard approaching, and Elias and Grace showed up in the dining room to instantly find Simon, who sat next to Amanda.

For a moment, an inexplicable aura filled the space.

“So, this is your boyfriend?” Elias asked as he sized Simon up with squinted eyes that exuded intimidation.

“Yeah. This is Simon Nicholson.”

“Hello. Simon dipped his head calmly at Elias, who eventually sat across from Amanda. Grace, too, followed Elias, and the servants added another set of cutleries.

“I wonder what your job is, Mr. Nicholson?” Elias asked with his gaze boring into Simon.

Simon’s gaze bore into Elias as well, and the intense stare-off was like a silent competition.

“Justice & Associates.” Simon smiled. “I’m a lawyer too.”

“Oh...” Elias sneered, seemingly disdainful, and it pissed Amanda off. “He’s my boss, one of the founders of Justice & Associates,” she retorted.

Justice & Associates was one of the top law firms in the country, and Simon had won many awards from the Monterrey Lawyer Association, far surpassing Elias, a libertine scion.

“So what?” Elias asked with a slightly quirked brow, unimpressed.

Chapter 30 Elias Is Jealous.

Not wanting to entertain him, Amanda snorted under her breath before taking a sip of the ice

Water.

Howard was beginning to feel troubled. He just wanted to finish this meal and go to bed.

The original plan was to have Amanda and Elias remarry eventually. Now, however, it was a different ball game. Amanda wasn't lying when she said she had gotten herself a boyfriend!

Is there really no more hope between the two?

Howard still didn't want to resign to fate. However, he couldn't find any faults with Simon when he looked at the fine young man.

"Let's eat, the elder announced absentmindedly.

Meanwhile, Elias continued to stare at Simon, and his gaze was one of staring at his love rival.

"Mr. Nicholson, have you known Amanda for long?" Grace initiated a conversation to ease the atmosphere.

"About four years," Simon replied.

Four years? Elias frowned slightly. Amanda and I divorced just four years ago, and these two have already known each other for four years?!

"In other words, you two were already acquainted before we even divorced. Amanda, are you sure you haven't cheated on me?" Jealousy filled Elias' tone. How come I never caught any anomaly from her four years ago?

Livid, Amanda snapped, "Elias Winters, don't make trouble out of nothing! I met Simon abroad after divorcing you!"

Meanwhile, Simon smiled silently and put a shrimp on Amanda's plate after peeling it for her. "Here, have the shrimp while it's hot," he cooed.

However, his tenderness only made Elias scoff, for the way he saw it, Simon was being pretentious. As if you need to put on a show for others just to please a woman!

“Thank you.” Amanda beamed when she saw the peeled prawn.

Naturally, Howard only felt even more upset when he saw the interaction between Amanda and Simon, not to mention Elias’ arrogance.

Does this rascal even know how to court a woman? How can his emotional intelligence be so low?!

Unable to resist the urge to help his grandson, Howard spoke up, “Were you ever married, Mr. Nicholson?”

“Not yet.”

The elder’s eyes lit up at once. No way would Simon’s family allow him to marry a divorcee when he had always been an eligible bachelor! “Will your family accept Amanda, then? Our Amanda might be a divorcee, but I’ll have you know that I won’t allow her to be treated unfairly.”

Amanda’s expression stiffened at that, and she suddenly lowered her head meekly.

However, Simon was very calm as he held Amanda’s hand with a smile. “Don’t worry, Old Mr. Winters. My family is very open. The only thing that matters to them is that we’re happy. Besides, Amanda is amazing. I don’t want to miss out on a girl like her.”

At that. Howard couldn’t help sighing in disappointment. With an attitude like Simon’s, Howard would choose the young man too if he were a woman.

Suddenly, the elderly man lost all his appetite. “It’s hard to stay up late when you’re my age. You kids go ahead and eat. I’m going back to my room,” he announced while slowly getting up, feeling

uneasy.

“Rest well. Grandpa,” Amanda said.

Howard turned around and took a gander at her. As reluctant as he was, he could only sigh and say, “You should eat more. You probably won’t get the chance to eat here anymore in the future.”

With that, he left the dining room. He walked away with the help of his cane, painting a frail and lonely figure.

Meanwhile, Elias leaned back against his seat, shrouded in grimness. “Are you sure your family will allow you to marry Amanda?” he asked icily, his chin slightly raised.

“Yes.”

“What do you like about this woman? What else does she have other than beauty? I can’t find anything else good about her.” Elias deliberately debased Amanda, hoping to get her attention, for she barely spared him any glances since he showed up. Her eyes were only ever on Simon.

“And that’s why you two would divorce, huh?” Simon smirked, infuriating Elias, “What did you say?!”

“I said, you can’t seem to appreciate Amanda’s qualities, but I can. I can see all her strengths, as well as her efforts and sacrifices.”

Simon’s words sure were pleasant to hear, and Amanda couldn’t help beaming at him. However, her smile was an eyesore to Elias.

At this point, jealousy had swallowed him, overriding all his senses. “Does it not bother you even if Amanda gave up a child for me?” Elias asked out of the blue, causing the space to fall into an eerie silence.

A hint of surprise laced Simon at that. What? What does he make of Aiden, then?! Isn’t the child alive

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and kicking? Is it me, or is Elias unaware of Aiden’s existence?

Amanda, on the other hand, stood up and slammed the table in anger. “What’s the point of bringing this up, Winters? Do you want the whole world to know that I used to be pregnant with your child?!”

She began panicking, for Simon was completely unaware of the situation. If he accidentally mentioned Aiden, then all her efforts to hide the truth would be in vain.

“Elias... why bring that up?” Grace couldn’t help but tug on Elias’ arm too.

Meanwhile, Elias snorted disdainfully at his livid ex-wife and mocked, “What? Did I burst your little bubble? Don’t you think your boyfriend has the right to know about this? What if he despises and abandons you when he only learns about this after marrying you? Won’t you come crying to me by then?”

“Don’t worry. I will never bother you and your happily married life!” Amanda was beside herself with fury at this point. She couldn’t believe how much of a d*ckhead the man was. If there weren’t so many people around, she would’ve jumped on him and mangled him.

Simon, too, stood up and held Amanda’s arm. “Thank you for your concern, Mr. Winters. I will accept all of Amanda since I’ve decided to be with her.”

Elias sneered in response and took a few sips of the ice water in front of him.

“I’m afraid this isn’t a very pleasant dinner. Amanda and I will take our leave now. You two enjoy your meal.”

With that, Simon grabbed his suit jacket and took Amanda away.

Naturally, the young woman left the dining room without a backward glance, believing she would really mangle Elias if she stayed there one second longer.

“See yourselves to the door.”

Fury engulfed Elias as he watched Simon take Amanda away, and he slammed his glass onto the ground, making a loud noise that startled Grace.

“Ah!” she screamed in fright.

“Elias, are you okay? You...” Of course, Grace knew Elias was being jealous.

Suddenly, he shot up from his seat and left the dining room, his towering figure filled with anger.

At that, Grace hurriedly got up and followed him. “Aren’t you going to eat?”

“No! I’ve had enough!” He was indeed fed up because of Amanda.

And back then, she said that I’m the only man she’ll ever see, that I’m the only man she will ever love. Lies, all lies! Now, she’s flaunting her love for another man right in front of me! Absolutely disgusting!

