## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1646

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Still, all of these were minor issues. Dealing with Quince would be ten times tougher than dealing with Lucas. Quince had already stated his goal—regardless of the authenticity of those photos, they were already in K City, so they were not going to return empty-handed. If we did not agree to their terms, then he would assume that we were deliberately going against them and looking down on them.

Even ordinary people would be livid being looked down on by another, let alone gang members like them. In order to make sure that they would not return empty-handed, the next course of action they might take would be to destroy all of Fuller Corporation's businesses.

After all, it was the typical act of the petty. If I can't get it, you can't too.

Ashton feared threats the least, so I thought he would mercilessly send these people out of the house like he usually would. To my surprise, he calmly looked at Quince with a small smile.

I knew Ashton too well. The more he acted in this way, the more dangerous he was.

Ashton was a man who could kill without leaving any traces behind. However, there were over ten thousand members in Skull. If anything were to happen to their two leaders in Chanaea, those men in M Country might find their way over to Chanaea. If anything were to go wrong, they would hold us accountable.

Nevertheless, Summer was still so young, and it was only her first business. How could we let her live among the vultures?

As of now, there seemed to be no other way than to lure them to ourselves so that Summer would not have to deal with them. However, that would mean that we would involve the company and our family in the mess. It was a very tough decision, so I was stumped.

"Okay," Ashton suddenly said. "We can work together."

He had always been a man of plans. Although we were surprised by his abrupt agreement, neither John nor I said anything about it. Even though we argued at home, we would always stand on the same side when outsiders were involved. After all, we were a family.

"Really? That's the right call you've made, Fuller."

Lucas' frown disappeared the moment he heard Ashton relent. He stood up joyously and plopped himself down beside John again. As he was a heavy man, the couch sank, and John was nearly sent flying upward.

Lucas then reached out past John's head to rest his arm on the latter's shoulder and merrily said, "Remember what I was saying earlier? We're the best business partners in the world!"

John had the figure of a model. Among our own people, he towered over them. Yet, he looked like a child beside Lucas.

"Stop it! Stop coming any closer to me. I'm not gay, okay?" John smacked Lucas' hand away before dusting his shoulder in disgust. As he did that, he said, "He's him, and I'm me. The old man is watching over the Stovall family, I'd dare you to do it if you're trying to end our business right as we start."

Upon hearing John's words, I guessed that he must have told them about Louis' identity before we came home. It was because when "the old man" was mentioned, Lucas flashed him a polite smile before stopping the topic.

Nevertheless, Ashton took it as a sign to say, "That's what I'm worried about. The Stovalls are raised in a strict environment, and Uncle Louis is about to leave the political scene. Perhaps you don't know, but Stovall Corporation isn't the only company that has to undergo frequent investigations from the relevant department; our company has to go through those as well. I'd have to ask if you'd be able to take these losses." Lucas waved his hand in an arc and dismissed it. "They're just cops. We can either use money or guns to deal with them."

Ashton subtly lowered his head as a meaningful grin grew on his lips.

I smiled as well before saying, "Perhaps you don't know how impressive the Chanaean law is. Not long ago, a politician called Grant had been taken off his position. After his incident, the internal investigations will only be more vigorous and thorough. The law enforcement officers won't be merciful anymore. Regardless of who you are, no one who breaks the law can escape. So, even after finding out about this, will you two still invest your life's savings into Chanaea?"

I had to admit that Ashton's reaction was swift. Once the issue of law was on the table, confidence swelled in my chest.

If they could create a diversion, then I could find a roundabout way to deal with them.

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It was not that we did not want to work with them, but that the law did not allow us to work with them. No matter how powerful Skull was, they would not dare to go against the law of a country.

For a moment, I wanted to commend myself for the abrupt improvement of my ability to shift the blame onto others.

I let myself be smug for a second as I reached out to grab Ashton's hand on his knee. It was a gesture of gratitude for the skill he had been teaching me for years.

Finally, I could say that I, too, had a Ph.D. in the blame game.

It was a fine line between calmness and hastiness when personal profit was involved.

Skull was well established in M Country, so every move they made there was watched closely by M Country's local authorities. Why they had tried to enter the Chanaean market without hesitation was because they realized that Chanaea did not know them well enough to be wary of them. That way, they would be able to get rich quickly.

Therefore, Ashton's talk about the legal matters had poured cold water on their idea. The money they had envisioned to be in their hands had grown wings and flown off, so neither Quince nor Lucas had a smile on their faces. Yet, they could not lose their tempers with us, so they had to suppress their anger until their faces turned bright red and the look in their eyes turned murderous.

Most of the time, being on the winning side in a situation like that would not be any good news, for we did not know how powerful they were. We certainly do not want things to spiral out of control.

The tension in the room was palpable, almost unbearable. It felt like a war between us was going to break out at any time.

Right then, footsteps came from the outside. It was Summer and Jared coming back with Joseph trailing behind them. He shot me an apologetic look for not having been able to stop them.

"We can work together," Summer said in a raised voice as she strode toward the center of the living room. After giving us a reassuring glance, she turned to Lucas and Quince. "Misters, we meet again."

It seemed like the two of them had already gone to look for Summer at the club.

Lucas' lips curled, and he lifted his head to look into her eyes. In a cold tone, he said, "It's been a day, Ms. Summer. Have you come to a decision? Shall we do business together?"

A composed smile on Summer's face, she answered, "I've heard everything you've said earlier. What Mom and Dad have said is what I think as well. Niche businesses like the ones you want will not work in broad daylight here. The club is under Fuller Corporation, so it has the same business goals as Fuller Corporation. Naturally, we'll be doing legitimate business. There will be no exceptions to that."

"Then, what did you mean by we can work together earlier?" Quince cut in.

Summer turned around to look into his eyes, unafraid. "It's simple. As long as the businesses you do are legal and meets Fuller Corporation's industrial needs, then both the club and other businesses of Fuller Corporation will be more than happy to cooperate with you."

"You're just messing with us!" Lucas bellowed as he leaped to his feet. "You know what kind of business we're in!"

"What are you trying to do?" John jumped off the couch and shoved Lucas in the chest.

Caught off guard, Lucas took a few steps back before he found his balance again. When he realized that John was the one who had pushed him, a look of disbelief appeared on his face. "Are you serious?"

"Am I serious? I'm always serious with whoever lays a finger on my precious niece!" John then undid his jacket and stuffed his hands into his pants pocket. It had been a while since he looked as arrogant as that.

The tension in the room was like a taut bowstring, both parties ready to strike.

"You—"

"Ha!"

"Summer," Ashton suddenly called out before Lucas could say anything else. "Come over and sit beside your mother."

Hearing that, I quickly motioned her to come to me. Summer was always an obedient girl, so she wasted no time before turning around.

Just as she sat down, Ashton parted his lips.

"My daughter has told you what the Fuller family's stand. We've shown you our sincerity, but it's up to you if you want to work with us."

"Sincerity?" Lucas sneered. "What kind of sincerity is this? You're clearly asking us to leave!"

Ashton ignored him and turned to Quince instead. "Mr. Quince, is this what you think as well?"

"I don't think you fully understand what kind of situation you're in!" Livid, Lucas moved his hand toward his waist. From my angle, I could catch a glimpse of the gun there.

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"Hold on." Just as things were going to go south, Quince raised his hand to gesture for him to halt.

"Why?" Lucas evidently could not read Quince's mind. "Can't you see that these people are toying with us?"

However, Quince grinned. His eyes were glued on Ashton as he enunciated, "As expected of the richest man in Chanaea. You're a good judge in both things and people. I will thank you on behalf of the organization for your goodwill, and we'll consider your offer."

After a pause, he cocked his head to the side and looked at me solemnly. "Regardless of whether we'll get to work together or not, we won't forget the benefits you have offered to us. Do wait for good news from us, Stovall."

With that said, he stood up and gave us a curt nod as a farewell before turning to leave. "We'll take our leave now."

Lucas was confounded, and it took him several seconds to snap back to his senses. "What the f\*ck are you doing?"

Then, he spat on the ground before begrudgingly following Quince out.

The sounds of the sports cars' engines revved up outside, and soon, they disappeared into the dark. Finally, the night was peaceful again.

"D\*mn those bast\*rds!" John cursed as he sat back down on the couch. As he tidied his clothes, he grumbled under his breath, "That guy isn't gay, is he? He kept touching me. F\*ck!"

It had been so many years, but still, he did not have a brain-to-mouth filter; he still swore relentlessly in front of the children.

I shook my head, exasperated, and pretended as though I had heard nothing. Instead, I quickly asked Summer, "Did they come after you before this? Why didn't you say anything to us?"

"It's fine, Mom." Summer seemed optimistic. "I'll have to deal with the club eventually, so I thought why not start now? However, I never thought they would come to the house. I'm sorry to have troubled you both." She held my hand.

The way Summer behaved was so sensible and courteous. That left me at a loss as to how I should close the gap between us. It felt like everything I said would be empty promises and nothing useful. I could only sigh inwardly.

"You're right to apologize," said Ashton suddenly.

Summer spun around. Like me, she never thought that Ashton would have actually blamed her for the situation. After a moment of contemplation, she lowered her head and softly said, "Sorry, Father, I'll do my best. I won't make the same mistake next time."

"Did you think that I'm berating you for not being able to deal with those two men?" Ashton's expression was grave, and his tone was icy. It was the same demeanor he had when he used to lecture Gregory.

Confusion was written on Summer's face. She frowned, but she did not reply to him.

Ashton stared at her for a while, and the temperature in the room dropped. Finally, he enunciated, "Mr. Cress."

Jared, who had been standing in the corner, stepped forward when he heard Ashton. "Yes?"

"Someone in M Country has contacted me and told me that they would like to invite you to be a lecturer in their university. You'll be treated well there, and I've agreed to it on your behalf. Your flight is tomorrow afternoon, so go ahead and make the necessary preparations for it," Ashton told him.

Jared frowned and fell silent.

At the same time, Summer tightened her grip on my hand.

Even I was taken aback by how Ashton was suddenly sending Jared away.

"Your silence is your agreement," Ashton declared. With that said, he uncrossed his legs, stood up, and went upstairs. "Say your farewells."

Soon, he disappeared behind the corner of the stairwell.

Only after he was gone, then did Summer let a reluctant look creep on her face. Quietly she asked, "Mommy, what did Mr. Cress do wrong to make Daddy mad?"

"Who wouldn't be mad?" John scoffed at the side.

When I raised my head to look at Jared, I realized that he did not have any other expressions than the usual one he wore. He still looked like the honest, mellow man he usually was.

However, Jared was not someone to be judged by his cover.

Maybe Ashton noticed something.

"Calm down." I patted the back of Summer's hand to console her. "Let me ask him."