

# One Night Surprise Chapter 131

## Chapter 131 I'll Be Back as Soon as Possible

It was already dawn when Alexander finished his shower. Moonlight spilled through the window and after the bathroom lights were turned off, the room became somewhat colder.

Courtney felt Alexander hug her from behind and she was enveloped in heat. She felt like a steamed bun, the blanket turning into a piping hot steamer.

Feeling a little hot, she couldn't help but squirm.

"Did I wake you?" Alexander's voice sounded in her ears. His voice had dipped low, bringing with it a sense of temptation.

She went along with it and said, "Yeah. Why did you come back so late?"

"Some delays during the day."

"Is everything done?"

"Not yet."

Courtney thought of the message earlier and was silent for a moment. "How long is it going to take? Will you still be able to attend the farewell banquet next weekend?"

Hans, Jennifer, and the rest of their group would be staying in Melrose City for half a month and their farewell banquet was scheduled for next weekend. No matter how busy Alexander was, he should attend the party.

"I will."

Courtney frowned but held her tongue and did not continue to question him.

She was still brooding over the matter when Alexander spoke. "About Jordan's inability to speak... I've found a German doctor who specializes in this area but it's not easy to get an appointment, so I'm bringing Jordan to Germany tomorrow. I'll be back as soon as possible."

For a moment, Courtney was bemused. So this is what I was getting upset about?

Her mind had strayed too far off.

"You're bringing Jordan there alone?"

"Yeah, don't worry about it. We won't take long but I'm afraid you'll have to work harder to attend to the guests."

"I'll be fine. Jordan's more important."

Alexander was silent for a while before he took her in his arms again. He pressed his cheek against hers and murmured, "I feel very fortunate for Jordan that he's able to meet a mother as good as you when he's young."

When she heard this, mixed feelings surfaced in Courtney's heart. She didn't know how to express her emotions so she turned around and wrapped him in a tight embrace.

It was as if this was the only way she could suppress the raging urge to tell him the truth.

Alexander left early the next morning. The butler had already picked Jordan up and was waiting for him at the airport. When he left, the sky was still dark. He placed a kiss on Courtney's forehead before taking his coat and quietly leaving the hotel.

Following this, for more than a week, Courtney—as the hotel's representative—was in charge of attending to Hans and Jennifer's group. They visited all of Melrose City's famous attractions and tried all kinds of food.

During the tour, Jennifer expressed her enjoyment of the authentic delicacies that Courtney had introduced them to. They weren't even halfway through the tour but the two of them had already forged a friendship. Jennifer had even agreed to bring Courtney around should she have the time to travel abroad.

“Thank you very much for your hospitality this whole while.”

When they returned to the hotel on the night before the farewell banquet, Jennifer gave Courtney a hug and said in choppy Otharian, “I must give you a present during tomorrow’s party.”

Courtney smiled graciously. “I look forward to it.”

“You’ll love it. By the way, you should ask your friend, that very interesting young man, to join too.”

“Do you mean Oliver?” Courtney was taken by surprise.

The last time they went hiking, they happened to ‘bump’ into Oliver. Jennifer had taken a liking to him, saying that her son was about the same age as him and enjoyed sports like hiking as well. They talked for a long time and Oliver was even invited to join them for dinner that night.

“Yes, that interesting young man. Tell him to come.”

Hans was standing to one side, talking on the phone. He winked playfully before he asked, “Oh right, has President Duncan returned? Will he make it in time for tomorrow night’s party?”

“All right, I’ll let him know.” Courtney smiled. “And President Duncan will definitely make it back in time. He told me that before you leave, he would like to attend the party to make amends for his absence.”

“Great; I have something important to tell him,” Hans said meaningfully.

Courtney’s heart tightened. She had a vague guess of what it was about.

After Hans and the rest went back to their rooms, she turned to Josh, who had been following her around for the past two days, and asked, “Is President Duncan sure he can be back by tomorrow?”

“There shouldn’t be a problem. He’s already on the plane.”

“Great. I think Mr. Hans means to talk to President Duncan about multilateral trade tomorrow night.”

Courtney was worried for Alexander. Although the reception of the foreign guests was only a task given by the government, it was also a huge business opportunity. This was the reason why Alexander had wanted to follow along the whole journey in the first place. She didn't expect that he would be held up because of Jordan's appointment with the doctor halfway through.

However, Hans' attitude showed that he preferred them, as his implications were quite obvious. It seemed that as long as Alexander could make it back in time, there would be hope for cooperation.

The following afternoon, the farewell banquet was held as scheduled.

As Hans and Jennifer's flight was in the early hours of the morning, they had to leave right after the banquet, so it was brought forward to three in the afternoon. Due to this, Courtney had been busy since morning.

“Hasn't President Duncan gotten off the plane yet?” Holding her phone, Courtney gave Josh a call. “I've called him but the call is not getting through. What happened? Have you gone to fetch him? Didn't you say that he'd be here in the morning?”

“Don't panic, Miss Hunter. President Duncan is already here with me, so don't worry.”

“You've picked him up?”

Courtney breathed a sigh of relief. She lifted her wrist to look at the time then muttered, “If he's already landed, why didn't he answer my calls? He has got to be kidding me!”

“I need to focus on driving now, Miss Hunter. We'll talk at the hotel.” Josh sounded rather nervous when he spoke.

“All right. Drive safely.”

After hanging up, Courtney stared at the black screen. For some reason, a strange sense of uneasiness began to stir in her gut.

On the other side, Josh's hands were on the steering wheel and he couldn't help but take a peek into the rearview mirror as he asked carefully, "President Duncan, should I drive them home first or go directly to the hotel?"

"Go to the hotel, then send Jordan and the others back separately."

"Okay." Josh nodded, not daring to question any further.

It was almost half past six and the party in Sunhill Hotel's banquet hall was coming to an end. Hans and his wife sauntered over with wine glasses in hand. "Miss Hunter, it seems that President Duncan won't make it in time. It's such a pity."

Courtney glanced at her wrist. "Mr. Hans, President Duncan is on his way here. His flight was probably delayed but he should be here soon."

"Oh? I'm afraid we have to leave by seven thirty. Hopefully he'll make it so we can meet one last time." Hans gave her a smile, not seeming to mind if Alexander reached in time or not.

Courtney took one quick glance at the vibrating phone in her hand and saw that Alexander had sent her a text message—"I'm almost there'.

"He's here," she announced, a joyful look on her face. "Mr. Hans and Miss Jennifer, President Duncan has arrived. Please wait here for a moment. I'll go to the hotel to check on him; he should be at the entrance by now."

With that, she lifted her dress and walked toward the entrance of the banquet hall.

# One Night Surprise Chapter 132

## Chapter 132 I'd Like to Give You a Present

It was the height of summer in Melrose City and a rare breeze was blowing outside even though the sun had set.

In her five inch heels, Courtney walked into the hotel lobby. Just as she stepped out of the elevator, she caught sight of a familiar MPV parked at the entrance. An impeccably dressed Alexander got out of the car, fastening the buttons on his suit.

She was about to step forward when she saw another familiar figure getting out after him.

Despite dressing in a low-key manner, her simple white T-shirt and black skinny jeans couldn't conceal the star's stunning figure. Not to mention, the black baseball cap and huge sunglasses that she had on was simply accentuating her identity.

Courtney's steps halted. She quietly retraced her steps and went to stand in the corridor at the corner of the elevator, keeping an eye on the two figures at the hotel entrance. They looked like a lovely young couple but they began to blur into two dark silhouettes as anger clouded Courtney's vision.

Britney was adjusting Alexander's collar and he didn't seem to be resisting her advances. From her corner, Courtney couldn't see any changes in Alexander's expression and she couldn't hear what he was saying either. Eventually, Britney got back into the car. A tiny head peeked out and Britney rubbed it 'gently'.

Upon seeing that, Courtney clenched her fists.

This is the important matter that Alexander was referring to?

She gritted her teeth and couldn't help but imagine their conversation.

"Your tie is crooked."

"There's too many people here. Get in the car first; my assistant will send you back."

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"Okay."

"Take care of Jordan."

"Don't worry. I'll take good care of him."

Watching as Alexander walked into the elevator, Courtney frowned and glared at the elevator, nearly balding the fortune tree in front of the doors with her deadly stare.

In most cases, when a woman encountered a suspected cheating incident, she would lose the ability to think rationally. If she didn't get a reasonable explanation in time, the situation would take an uncontrollable turn.

Courtney lingered at the entrance to the banquet hall for a long while before going back in, but she didn't see Alexander anywhere.

"Courtney." Jennifer's voice pulled her back from her thoughts.

"Yes?" Courtney came back to her senses. When she turned around, her expression had already turned pleasant.

Jennifer enthusiastically tugged on her hand. "President Duncan is back and he has gone to discuss something with my husband. It just so happened that I was looking for you. Come with me."

Courtney followed Jennifer to her hotel room.

Three suitcases were in the living room. Evidently, the couple had already packed their luggage.

"What's the matter?" Courtney was slightly worried. "Is there a problem with the hotel?"

“Not at all.” Jennifer turned around and laughed. “The hotel’s great. Hans and I are very grateful for your hospitality. We like Otharia very much so I’d like to give you a present as promised yesterday.”

Upon hearing that, Courtney remembered and felt extremely flattered.

Jennifer then handed her a purple satin box and looked on expectantly. “Open it.”

The purple satin box appeared somewhat dated. It was a palm-sized rectangular box with a delicate copper latch. Courtney opened it to reveal an emerald gemstone earring.

She was flabbergasted. “It’s...”

“This is for you.” Jennifer tilted her head. Despite being in her fifties, she still had a certain charm to her and she sat with complete elegance. “The first time I met you, you told me that I could call you Natasha. From that moment on, I knew that this earring would suit you well.”

“This is too much,” Courtney hurriedly declined.

Although she didn’t know much about jewelry, she had heard that Hans and Jennifer were both famous jewelry collectors, so the things they gave away were certainly not cheap. She and Jennifer had only known each other for half a month and it was all for a government function, so it didn’t seem right to accept such a costly gift.

However, in her best attempt at speaking Otharian, Jennifer insisted, “I must give it to you.”

Puzzled, Courtney asked helplessly, “Why?”

Jennifer tucked her hair behind her ears before getting up and walking toward the tall wardrobe. She returned with a black and white picture. On it were two young children, both around five or six years old. The boy had a big figure and huge eyes; it was obvious that he was a mixed-race child. The girl, on the other hand, resembled an Otharian doll.

“This is my daughter and son when they were little.”

“They’re adorable.”



An enigmatic smile appeared on Jennifer's face. "Yes, they are. If my daughter was still alive, she would be around your age now, probably about to get married. Her name was Natasha."

Hearing this, Courtney instantly understood why Jennifer was giving her the earring.

No wonder Jennifer had never called her by her first name.

"So keep it. Your eyes look like my Natasha's. I know you Otharians call this fate, right?"

Jennifer's eyes were wet with tears. To Courtney, Jennifer had always been a humorous and elegant lady, an easily approachable person. She never thought that Jennifer would have such a heartbreaking story hidden behind that exterior.

Courtney didn't have the heart to pursue more about Jennifer's past so after a moment's hesitation, she took the earring out of the box and smiled, "I'll keep it, but can you put it on for me?"

It would be like helping Natasha put it on.

The earring was inlaid with a circle of beautiful diamonds, which brought out the dazzling emerald gemstone in the middle and made it glisten. It resembled a dark green pool of water, full of ancient mystery.

When putting it on, Jennifer was filled with excitement as she explained, "I got this earring at an auction when I was pregnant with Natasha. It should've been a pair, but I don't know where the other one is. Isn't it beautiful?"

Looking at her reflection in the dressing table mirror, Courtney admired the single earring glowing with luster. In the mirror, she could see Jennifer desperately trying to hold back tears. Courtney quickly grabbed her hands and nodded solemnly. "It is; it's beautiful. Natasha thinks so too."

Jennifer covered her mouth, her eyes rimmed red. Hugging Courtney, she sobbed, "Yes, my Natasha thinks it looks beautiful."

After the banquet was over, all the foreign guests got into their cars and left the hotel one after another. Before leaving, Hans saw the earring on Courtney's ear and cast a surprised

glance at Jennifer, but didn't ask any questions as he understood his wife's intentions. He gave Courtney a polite hug. "Thank you."

After seeing Jennifer off, Courtney felt a mixture of emotions gnawing at her heart.

Compared to Jennifer, who had lost her daughter to an accident, Courtney was fortunate enough to find her son after five years; that was her only consolation today.

"Let's go." A familiar voice from beside her brought her back to her senses.

Their guests were present earlier and Courtney couldn't say much during working hours. Now, she glanced at her wrist. Seeing that the hands on her red Longines watch showed that it was a little past eight o'clock, she said, "President Duncan, it's time for me to get off work now."

Alexander nodded. "Of course. You've worked hard these past two days so you may take three days off. I'll take—"

"Thank you, President Duncan." Before he could finish speaking, Courtney angrily interrupted him and turned on her heel before walking into the hotel.

Alexander frowned and stared at her retreating back for a while, then strode to catch up.

He chased her all the way to the hotel room, where she had wordlessly begun to pack up her suitcase.

"You're leaving?" Alexander's deep eyes were tinged with a hint of surprise.

Without looking up, Courtney snapped, "My work here is done and you've allowed me to take a short vacation. If I don't leave, am I supposed to stay here and work overtime for free?"

# One Night Surprise Chapter 133

Chapter 133 Buy Her Things to Win Her Back

That one sentence alone was filled with rage.

Puzzled, Alexander asked bluntly, "Who angered you?"

It was fine if he didn't bring it up but now that he did, Courtney could feel the fire in her rising. "Who angered me? Who..." The words were about to leave her lips when she saw Alexander's expressionless face and instantly felt as if she had been doused with cold water. Swallowing her words, she gritted out, "Nobody. I'm just tired."

"If you're tired, don't go back tonight. I'll send you off tomorrow morning."

Courtney was breathless from the infuriation burning inside her. She dumped all the unfolded clothes, along with its hangers, into her suitcase. "No; I want to go home to see my daughter. I have to leave now."

"I'll send you back."

"I have my own car."

Courtney had been using Cameron's car for the past two days, so now she could drive it back to her place. Without another word, she closed her suitcase and pulled up the handle before leaving, her actions sharp and clean. In the corridor, the sounds of the wheels rotating gradually grew further. Alexander stood in the doorway and gazed at her aggressive silhouette, feeling utterly baffled.

"He just let you leave like that? It's so late and he didn't even bother sending you back?"

"He tried, but I didn't let him."

“And he gave up just because you said no?”

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As soon as she got home, Cameron, who had on a facial mask, listened as Courtney explained the entire situation to her. Eventually, Cameron exploded and slapped the table while saying, “It seems that men will only be reliable when pigs fly. That b\*stard Gale isn’t any better than him. It’s no wonder they’re such good buddies; they’re both rotten men. I’ve really misjudged Alexander.”

“The problem isn’t whether or not he sent me back. Why did he have to bring Britney along if he was just taking Jordan overseas to see a doctor? He didn’t even mention it to me. What’s wrong with telling me? It’s not like I’m petty. If he needed his ex-girlfriend’s help for this matter, how could I have stopped him?” Courtney was so annoyed that she was nearly breathing fire.

“It’s a good thing you saw them. If you hadn’t, who knows what would happen?” Cameron continued to add fuel to the fire. “Didn’t you say that you saw Britney adjusting his tie? That’s such an ambiguous thing to do... and at the hotel entrance too! Isn’t this a declaration of war?”

“They didn’t know I was there.”

“It’s still a declaration of war. The receptionist must’ve seen it and Alexander’s assistant must know about this too. They’ve gone too far, trying to hide it all from you. Aren’t they just humiliating you?”

“It’s not that serious, is it?” Courtney hesitated slightly, thinking that Cameron was taking this a little too far.

“Listen to me. Don’t pay any attention to him for the time being. Men are despicable; just let him reflect for a couple of days and take the initiative to admit his mistake.”

“Admit his mistake?” The corners of Courtney’s lips twitched. “Alexander isn’t like Gale. This matter will be left unresolved.”

Cameron disagreed with a scowl. “Men can be trained! Mark my words!”

While the two best friends continued their heated discussion on men's unfaithfulness, the two men in question were conversing in a remote pub. In just a few words, Alexander recounted the tale of Courtney's show of anger.

"That's all?" Gale stretched out his arms. "You only told me that she's angry, not the reason behind her anger. How am I supposed to give you advice?"

"Perhaps it's because I came back too late this time." Alexander frowned, his expression perplexed. "Perhaps she's unhappy because I left her alone to attend to the guests."

"Impossible." Gale gave a dismissive wave and immediately rejected his assumptions. "Women like it when men entrust them with important tasks, so that's definitely not the reason. I think that one of the main reasons a woman gets angry is because of her boyfriend's ex."

"You're overthinking this." Alexander glanced at Gale, his face the epitome of calm. "That's impossible. The matter between Britney and I had been settled a long time ago."

"Is there someone else then?" Swirling his wine glass, Gale gave Alexander a knowing look. "Did she report on you? Perhaps you've left some traces at home that have been discovered?"

At the mention of this, Alexander's eyes flashed with displeasure.

Gale let out a dry cough. "Let's pretend I never said that. Since that's not the case, then it's for another reason."

"What is it?"

"There's simply too many. Women get mad multiple times a day, so who knows what trivial matter is the cause? However, they're very easy to win back."

"How so?"

"Just buy her things—bags, clothes, jewelry. Buy her anything."

"Well, that's easy." Alexander nodded thoughtfully. After finishing his wine, he put down the glass and stood up. "It's getting late. I'll go back first."

"What?" Gale stared blankly ahead before he fumed, "So you're getting rid of me now? You're just going to leave me alone here all night long?"

"You find the night boring?" Alexander's gaze swept over Gale. "Didn't you just open a new bar? Tired of it already?"

"Ugh—don't mention it." Speaking of this made Gale bitter. "Cameron has been fighting with me over this for several days. If I dare to step foot into that bar again, she'll break up with me for real."

"Isn't that what you want?"

"I'm serious this time."

"You say that every time." Alexander's expression grew somber. "But Cameron is Courtney's friend, so I'm advising you to not let things turn too awful."

"Damn it! Why won't you believe me? We've been friends for so long yet you still don't trust me." With a look of disdain, Gale waved his hand at Alexander, as if he was warding off flies. "Go on then. Don't stay here and provoke me."

Alexander calmly took his coat and patted his friend on the shoulder before preparing to leave. "I heard that many people are pursuing Cameron."

Gale froze and it was only after Alexander left that he recovered. He shouted at Alexander's retreating back, "Hey, you've got to be specific! Who's pursuing her? How did you know that? Is he from the hotel? Which b\*stard is blind enough to steal my girl? Is it that assistant of yours, Josh?"

Early the next morning, Courtney was still sound asleep under the covers when she was woken up by shouts from the living room.

"Wow! Mr. Alexander, did you bring all these presents?"

Tina's eyes sparkled while she stood at the entryway and watched as Alexander's assistant, Josh, brought in large bags of luxury goods. "President Duncan, there are still some bags in the car. I'll go get them."

With her long hair still in a mess, Courtney cracked open the bedroom door and saw that the weak-willed Tina had already been bribed with a box of chocolates. Tina's hands were wrapped around Alexander's neck as she showered him with fancy little compliments. "Mr. Alexander, did you come here just to give Mommy presents? Why didn't Jordan come?"

"Jordan's at home because he has jet lag." Alexander faintly directed his gaze in the direction of the bedroom. "Is your mommy still sleeping?"

"Yeah. I'll go wake her up so we can go get some food. You should stay for lunch, Mr. Alexander!"

## One Night Surprise Chapter 134

Chapter 134 My Life Experiences Have Never Failed Me

Courtney's expression tensed as she perked up her ears and leaned against the door. Then, she heard Alexander's voice coming from outside. "No need; I still have other things to do. Besides, it's enough that these items have been delivered here. Let your mommy have a good rest."

"Okay then."

Alexander did not reply to that.

"Goodbye, Mr. Alexander."

Alexander came and went in a hurry. Moreover, he left after delivering a large number of luxury items. What is this all about?

"I bet he's trying to make amends!" Cameron sat on the floor, hugging Chanel's latest product in her arms and refusing to let go—it was like it was her baby. At the same time, she explained the meaning behind the gifts to Courtney. She eloquently continued, "Can't you tell? This is what he came up with after reflecting upon his actions last night! It's obvious he has a guilty conscience! That's why he decided to use these luxury items to make up for his mistakes! This is the latest bag! How did he get this?! It's a limited-edition item!"

Courtney swept a trifling glance at the presents piled up under the table. The gifts were overflowing all over the floor. Listening to what Cameron said, she couldn't bring herself to feel happy. Rather, she felt the lump in her throat growing larger. "Are you saying that something is going on between him and Britney?"

"If not, why is he doing this?" Cameron leaned against the sofa as she analyzed the situation with a stern expression. "It's neither the holiday season nor a special occasion. Are you saying he gave you so many luxury items simply because he wanted to? Then, why did he leave without saying anything? So that he can look cool? In truth, he's probably creating a buffer period for himself, hoping that your happiness at receiving these gifts will overshadow your anger from before."

"Is that true?" Courtney felt slightly doubtful.

"Trust me."

This was the second time Courtney had heard these words since last night.

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"Then, I will return everything to him."

"What?!" Cameron looked shocked. "Y-You're joking, right? These are limited-edition items!"

"All the more reason to return them then."

"Keep one at least."

"No. I'm not keeping a single thing." If he is trying to make up for his mistakes by giving me these gifts, then it feels like I'm letting him off too easily just by accepting them. Courtney's upbringing did not allow her to let such matters go unresolved and be swept under the rug.

Cameron was speechless.



That night, in the same hotel, two men sat facing each other while drinking.

"She returned all the gifts? I guess she must be really angry this time." Gale rubbed his chin with a thoughtful yet dubious look on his face. "Most women won't be able to resist these temptations."

"Didn't I tell you before? She's not like other women." Alexander glanced at him. His eyes held slight displeasure in them. He had a vague feeling that it wasn't a big deal in the beginning. However, things seemed to have taken a more serious turn after he heeded Gale's foolish idea.

"You're right!" Gale seemed to have realized something. "Courtney Hunter is not like other women; she is a strong career woman! Under most circumstances, these tricks to fool women won't work on her."

Alexander said nothing in response.

"Women like her get more courageous the more suffering they experience! They are only motivated when there is competition!"

"What do you mean?" He frowned as he looked at Gale.

"To put it bluntly, they have a slight masochistic tendency in them." Gale looked extremely confident; he looked like he had it all figured out as he continued, "Women can do anything when they are consumed by jealousy. If she won't accept your peace offering, then you should do the exact opposite."

Alexander remained silent.

The three-day holiday passed by quickly.

"He still hasn't contacted you yet?" Cameron snuggled on the sofa while playing games on her phone. "That's strange."

"I'm not worried; why are you more worried than I am?" Courtney brought out a plate of fruit salad and placed it on the coffee table. Crossing her legs as she sat down, she let out a long and deep sigh. "On the contrary, I think it's a good thing. It's not as complicated as you make it out to be. To be honest, this is no big deal. I'll just ask him about what happened the other day when we meet again."

“Really?” Cameron sounded skeptical. “Based on my life experience, men—ah!” Before she finished her sentence, she exclaimed in surprise. At the same time, she practically bounced up from the sofa. Courtney was so frightened by Cameron’s actions that she jumped in shock. The grape on her fork fell to the ground and rolled under the coffee table. “What’s with you? That scared me to death!”

“My life experiences have never failed me before.” Cameron grabbed Courtney, who was kneeling on the ground and looking for the fallen grape under the coffee table. Then, she shoved her phone in Courtney’s face. “Look! I told you: my life experiences have never failed me before.”

The news headline wrote: ‘Britney Price Acting Intimate With a Mysterious Man and a Five-Year-Old Child At the Airport. Suspected Hidden Marriage!’

“Isn’t that Alexander and Jordan?” she asked straightforwardly. “Even if they’ve been censored out, I can still recognize them. Didn’t he say he was going to see a doctor in Germany? But, he looks like he’s going on an overseas vacation with his lover and his kid!”

Courtney tried to suppress all the suspicions growing in her heart. “No, he wouldn’t. He wouldn’t do that. Perhaps, it’s like what I guessed before—she pulled some strings to arrange the sudden doctor’s appointment for Jordan. I believe I’ve heard Alexander’s assistant mention that before.”

“A doctor’s appointment?” Cameron scrolled through her phone and brought up Britney’s personal webpage. “Can you still say that they went to Germany for a doctor’s appointment after seeing this?”

It was a picture of Britney lying next to a hotel’s swimming pool with the caption: ‘Thank you for being there with me. Happy birthday.’ It was posted on her birthday one week ago. The entire webpage was filled with birthday wishes. Moreover, her location was tagged at one of the resorts in Germany, which previously triggered a heated discussion on Facebook.

“Sc\*mbag.” Cameron turned off her phone while gritting her teeth. “Courtney, don’t feel down. I’ll hire some ghostwriters tomorrow to denounce those two cheating b\*stards on the internet!”

Courtney felt a little lost and bewildered at the moment. Furthermore, there was a constant buzzing in her ears. She had not realized how great an existence Alexander occupied in her heart. All this while, she thought the main reason she approached him was Jordan.

Therefore, she gave herself an extremely reasonable excuse to approach him. However, now that he was in an ambiguous relationship with another woman, she suddenly felt unimaginably heartbroken. It was no less than the pain she felt when she learned that Isaac was cheating on her back then.

"I need some time to think." She did not seem to hear any of the comforting words Cameron was saying to her as she locked herself in her study.

"What's wrong with Mommy?" Tina looked surprised; she was oblivious to what was going on online.

"Tina, the new daddy you found for yourself is not a good man. He's worse than Isaac! I'm going to go and question him about this!"

"Is this related to Mr. Alexander?" When Tina heard that it was related to Alexander, she made a fuss about going along.

Cameron was the type to take action immediately. She went back inside the house, changed her clothes, and came back out. Then, she brought Tina with her and hastily left the house.

"Are we going to meet Mr. Alexander? This doesn't seem to be the road to Mr. Alexander's house." Tina leaned against the car window. "Godmom, you're going the wrong way."

"Why would I want to meet that cheating b\*stard? Talking to him is a waste of my energy."

"Then, where are we going?"

"We're going to meet the other accomplice involved in this."

"Huh?"

15 minutes later, a servant served some tea in the living room of a villa at Westpark before leaving respectfully.

"Well, how are you going to explain this? What's going on?" Cameron pulled up the news from before on her phone and placed her phone on the coffee table. She looked extremely unhappy. "If you don't want to be on good terms with Courtney, then just be straight about it. Don't pull this cheating stunt. That's just plain nasty."

“Cheating?” Gale looked confused for a moment. After reading the news, he was taken aback for quite a while before he suddenly burst out laughing. “Alex sure moves fast!”

## One Night Surprise Chapter 135

Chapter 135 Mommy Hates Liars the Most

“How can you laugh?! Are you rich playboys all so shameless?!” Cameron glared at Gale. “If you want to be cursed at, let me know sooner. I need to cover Tina’s ears first.”

Upon hearing those words, Gale sighed helplessly. He glanced at the little girl sitting next to Cameron and said, “There’s a story behind this. It’s not what you think. Still... I don’t think the little girl should listen to this.”

“Why?” Cameron and Tina both asked in unison. Then, Tina pouted. Her young, childlike voice reverberated throughout the room as she said, “Mommy said only bad things cannot be told to others. What bad things are you going to tell Godmom that I cannot listen to?”

Scratching his nose, Gale didn’t know whether to cry or laugh at those words. “Alright then. In any case, this was done for the good of their relationship. I won’t hide this from you, but you must not add fuel to the fire when you return home. It wasn’t a big deal in the first place.”

“What do you mean?”

“This is something Alex deliberately leaked out for no other purpose besides reconciliation.”

“Bullsh\*t! Is this how you reconcile with somebody? By going on vacation with another woman?”

"That's obviously fake," Gale hurriedly explained. "Look; there are two ways to reconcile. The first method is to step back and give the other a way out. The second method is to give the other party a sense of crisis. We tried to give Courtney a way out but it failed. Hence, we were forced to take the desperate route."

Listening to his ramblings on women's psychology, Cameron scowled and remained silent for a long while. Then, she stared straight at him and questioned, "Whose lousy idea was this?"

He abruptly felt a chill going down his back. "O-Of course, it was Alex's idea. Don't look at me; it has nothing to do with me!"

"How shameless." She did not hesitate to spit out those words in a loud voice. "You don't even reflect on the mistakes you made, and you're always using these fancy tricks to fool women. Truly shameless. Let's go, Tina."

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"Hey, don't get mad. You must not tell Courtney about this! You promised me just now!"

"Even if I don't say anything..." she glared at him, "Tina will."

"Mommy hates liars the most!" Tina scoffed cooperatively before following Cameron out.

Gale was dumbfounded, and his thoughts were a complete mess. Both sides are not pleased with the results of this incident. If Alexander learns about this, he is going to skin me alive! No; I need to find a place to hide before anything happens!

The next day, Courtney saw a group of women gossiping among themselves as soon as she arrived at the office. She knew what they were talking about without even needing to think about it.

"Do you have nothing better to do? Has the customer data been entered into the system? Have you checked the guest room? What about the reservation information? Have you checked and confirmed them?" She stood at the door to her office. The group scattered as soon as she started scolding them. Then, she went back into her office without looking back.

Courtney's assistant, Addie, knocked on the door and came in. Looking at Courtney nervously, he said, "Miss Hunter, this is the customer data."

“Leave it there.”

After that, he hesitated for a long while before saying, “Miss Hunter, you’re such a catch. I’m sure you can find a better man.”

Upon hearing those words, Courtney felt her temper flaring even higher. “Are your lips loose because I have been too lenient to you? Gossiping like a woman all day... Get back to work!”

“I’m leaving now.” Addie nodded timidly and fled quickly.

Throughout the entire morning, Courtney received many surreptitious yet meaningful glances in the hotel. However, she was rather calm about it—so much so that she deliberately went to the canteen for lunch at noon. All the employees at the hotel stared at her as she expressionlessly sat down at the most conspicuous spot in the canteen. Don’t you want to stare? Go ahead; stare all you want.

As soon as she was seated, a sudden uproar swept through her surroundings. She secretly thought to herself, You don’t need to be so loud with your gossiping, do you? All of a sudden, she heard a name that had made her grit her teeth all morning. “President Duncan...”

A tall figure cast a shadow over the seat opposite her. In front of so many people, Alexander sat down directly opposite her. After that, a deep and clear voice came from opposite her. “I went to your office, but you weren’t there. I brought you lunch.”

She suddenly lost her temper and slammed her spoon down on the table. “This soup is too salty.”

Their surroundings fell silent for a moment. At the same time, the canteen chef, who was standing at the food distribution line, shuddered slightly when he heard those words. Despite the distance, he glanced nervously at Alexander.

Meanwhile, everybody else exchanged glances with each other. This was the first woman to throw a fit in front of Alexander! Even if he was caught cheating by a reporter, no other woman would have dared to display their anger to him in that manner. Miss Hunter’s temper is amazing!

Alexander did not show the slightest hint of anger in his expression. He simply frowned slightly. “Follow me to the office. I need to talk to you about the news article.”

Courtney crossed her arms and sat primly, glaring at him with a cold look. "If you have something to say, say it here. Everyone here is an employee; this is a public relations issue everyone should listen to."

Their surroundings became quieter than before. It wasn't just silent—the atmosphere was getting colder too. Everybody could feel the battlefield-like atmosphere that was rapidly expanding throughout the canteen—it felt as if the very air in the canteen had been frozen over.

After a few seconds of silence, Alexander looked around with a cold gaze. "The company has already dealt with the public relations issue. I'm sure the employees have seen the announcement. Does anybody have a problem with it?"

Everybody else held their breath in fear. That was a rhetorical question!

"Of course not. It's nothing but fake news; it was hyped up by celebrities..." Somebody spoke up and everybody else fervently agreed with him.

Amidst the noise, Alexander stood up and leaned forward slightly. Leaning across the canteen table, he lowered his voice and spoke to Courtney. "But, I have a private matter to talk to you about. I'll be waiting for you in the office."

His warm breath blew against Courtney's head. Clenching her fists, she lifted her head and curled the corner of her lips. "Sure." I'm curious about what tricks he prepared to resolve this issue he created himself. I'll see if his acting is worthy of an Academy Award.

Their departure left the entire canteen in an uproar. Aside from the canteen chef who was criticized for his overly salty soup, everybody else broke out into a fervent discussion about the nuanced battle that just took place.

"Miss Hunter is really unlike most ordinary women. She gets angry when she should! A man like President Duncan is one in a million, but it feels like she will be able to hold out! I'll bet 50 cents that she is the top candidate to become his wife."

"That might not be so... If President Duncan likes such a temperamental woman, why would he cheat on her? I think it's just a matter of novelty. Men value their pride the most. But, Miss Hunter was so rude just now... I don't think they can last long together."

Courtney felt a little speechless when she heard those words. Then, she closed the door and cut off the sounds of discussion outside her office. Her gaze seemed peaceful, but her eyes hid a trace of contempt in them. "Well? There's no one else here."

## One Night Surprise Chapter 136

### Chapter 136 Burdened by the Greatest Injustice Ever

"The news is not always true. Are you misunderstanding something?" Alexander looked composed as he took the initiative to bring up the news that had been creating a buzz since last night.

Courtney glanced at him. Despite the dissatisfaction in her heart, she did her best to maintain a calm expression. "Since the news written by reporters might not always be true, I certainly would like to hear about what that incident is all about. Don't you dare tell me that you coincidentally met her at the airport, and then just so happened to get photographed by a reporter during that time?"

"Of course not." He frowned slightly for some reason. "I did not conceal from you the fact that Britney was the one to contact the doctor in Germany. When I brought Jordan to Germany, she happened to be shooting a commercial in Germany too. That's how we met. As for being secretly photographed by a reporter on our way back... Josh is dealing with it. It will soon be removed from the trending posts."

He explained the situation clearly and concisely in several sentences.

She nearly fell for it. If not for what Cameron had told her last night, she would definitely have been frustrated with herself for being so petty and not trusting him over something so trivial. She took a deep breath; her eyes were as cold as frost. "Are you done?"



"You... don't believe me?" His eyebrows furrowed. He believed that he had made it clear enough. Throughout his 30 years in life, he had never spent so much effort to explain himself over such a trivial matter.

"I believe you. Of course, I will believe whatever you say." She glanced at him. Then, she lifted her wrist and pointed at her watch. "If you're done, you should leave, President Duncan. My personal time is almost over. In another five minutes, it will be my working time."

Looking at the indifference in her eyes, he felt a little strange. He fell silent for a moment and saw that her attitude remained firm. He said, "Courtney Hunter, I do not like playing mind games with women."

"I don't like it either."

The questions and answers occurred practically instantaneously. Thus, the atmosphere that was already tense in the first place seemed to freeze at that moment. A long while later, a loud sound rang out—it was the sound of the office door slamming against the wall. Looking at Alexander's back as he left, Courtney slowly tightened her fingers and grasped the edges of the table. Didn't you go to such lengths to cause such a huge fuss just to make me angry about your ambiguous relationship with another woman? Well, I'll do as you wish then.

After leaving Sunhill Hotel, Alexander got into the car with a suffocating fury in his heart that he had never felt before.

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Josh was unaware of Alexander's feelings. He reported about the reservation he was asked to prepare beforehand with his hand on the steering wheel. "President Duncan, I have reserved a restaurant for tonight at 6.30 PM."

"Cancel..." The cold and harsh tone that came from the backseat made him unable to continue with what he was about to say. Looking at the back through the rearview mirror in surprise, he saw that Alexander's expression was moody. He asked stupidly, "Alright, I understand. Is Miss Hunter working overtime tonight?"

As soon as his words came out, his eyes met with a cold and sharp gaze in the rearview mirror. He shuddered in response, feeling as if a cold wind was blowing down the back of his neck. Was that something I shouldn't have brought up?

Fortunately, the phone rang suddenly and he was saved by the bell. The call was from Gale. Alexander glanced at it for a moment before answering the call. "What is it?"

Gale's tentative voice came from the other end. "Has Courtney heard about the news?"

"Yes." Alexander's voice was very cold.

"Did you fight?" Gale asked boldly.

"No."

Hearing the answer that clearly indicated otherwise, the voice on the other end of the phone fell silent for a moment. "Alex, I plan to go on a vacation in the next two days. If anything urgent comes up at the company, you can ask my assistant to handle it. I won't be coming back for the time being."

Going on vacations was something Gale constantly did. Whenever he couldn't solve whatever issues arose from his playboy antics, he would use this method to escape. After so many years, Alexander had gotten used to Gale's behavior. Therefore, he readily agreed to it without enquiring further. "When will you be coming back?"

"That depends." Gale's voice was obviously unnatural. "Uh... There's something I need to tell you."

"What is it?"

"To be honest, Cameron learned about the news last night; she brought Tina with her to my house. I accidentally told them about the tricks to courting I told you about the other day. I didn't know you were going to move so quickly either. Only after one night, the news was already being reported..."

"What?" Alexander did not quite catch his meaning.

"Alex, I know you'll be very mad at me when you see me. So... I'm going to escape for now. I'm sorry..." Without waiting for Alexander to finish with his questions, Gale hurriedly ended the call.

Alexander stared at his phone screen, Gale's words echoing in his head. Then, he suddenly seemed to realize something. His gaze deepened abruptly as he quickly picked up his phone and called the number again.

"I'm sorry. The number you have dialed is unavailable. Please try again later." A robotic female voice repeated the same thing over and over again.

Upon hanging up the call, he swiftly typed several words on his phone and sent a message out: 'Don't you dare come back again.'

At that moment, he completely understood the meaning behind what Gale's words meant. No wonder Courtney was so cold and distant no matter what I said to her. It's as if she already knew what I was going to say. I really got slapped with the world's greatest injustice.

"Josh, no need to cancel the reservation for tonight. Also, head back to the hotel." His voice rang out inside the car.

"Yes, sir." Josh caught sight of the annoyed look on Alexander's face through the rearview mirror and was deeply surprised.

When Alexander returned to Sunhill Hotel, he immediately went straight to Courtney's office. However, there was nobody there.

"President Duncan." Courtney's assistant, Addie, walked in suddenly. When he saw Alexander's face, he became nervous. "Why are you back?"

Alexander and Courtney's exchange in the canteen during lunch was a raging topic in the hotel. All sorts of stories about the incident were flying about. Some claimed that Alexander had slammed the door behind him as he left. Moreover, the entire floor had heard him breaking up with Courtney. So, why is he here again?

"Where is Miss Hunter?" Alexander glanced at Addie's work badge and immediately recalled that this man was Courtney's assistant.

Addie came back to his senses and hurriedly replied, "Miss Hunter is taking the rest of the day off. She just left 10 minutes ago."

“Time off?” Alexander scowled. He was getting more and more worried that his words had been too harsh earlier. Don’t tell me she was so upset about it that she didn’t even feel like working anymore...

Addie studied Alexander’s expression before cautiously saying, “President Duncan, Shay Spencer is having a concert today. I believe Miss Hunter is going to attend his concert tonight.”

Upon hearing those words, Alexander’s expression changed abruptly. “Did she go alone?”

Hesitating, Addie shook his head. “No; I saw Oliver waiting for her at the entrance for quite some time. They are probably attending the concert together. I heard from Miss Hunter that she was also going to go home and pick her daughter up.”

Alexander’s face immediately turned icy—so much so that it seemed to be covered in a layer of frost—when the name ‘Oliver’ came up. That brat is really seizing any opportunity he can find. He keeps turning up everywhere!

## One Night Surprise Chapter 137

Chapter 137 Becoming the Stepmother of Somebody Else’s Son

“We’ve arrived. We’re looking for a parking spot right now. Don’t worry about us; just focus on getting ready for your concert.”

“Courtney, there’s an open spot there.” Oliver’s voice interrupted what Courtney was about to say.

“Really? Where?” Looking in the direction Oliver was pointing, Courtney hurriedly turned the steering wheel in that direction. “Shay, I can’t talk to you right now. I’ll call your assistant once I finish parking.”

“Okay.” The inside of the car reverberated with Shay’s voice coming from the speaker of the car. It wasn’t easy for Courtney to find an empty parking spot. After Courtney parked the car she borrowed from Cameron, she headed directly to the backstage area where Shay’s assistant had been waiting for a long time. Meanwhile, Oliver held Tina’s hand as he followed behind Courtney.

When the assistant saw Courtney, he breathed a sigh of relief. Hastily leading them to the dressing room, he talked as he walked. “I’m so glad you’re here, Courtney. Shay has been nagging me for over two hours now! He wanted me to wait for you there since noon! He was so worried you might not find the right place.”

Courtney felt a little exasperated. “How could I not find it? Seriously; Shay is looking down on me. It’s his first concert! How can he be so distracted? Who would dare to come again next time if he continues acting like this?”

While they were conversing with each other, she saw two workers carrying props in front of her. They hurried past her like the wind and nearly hit her in the face with what they were carrying. Fortunately, Oliver pulled her back just in time, and both parties avoided colliding with each other.

Shay’s assistant immediately paled in fright and shouted at the two workers, “What are you doing?! Watch it! You can’t afford to damage either this person or the props in your hands!”

“It’s fine; it’s fine.” Courtney quickly smoothed things over.

The corridor was bustling with people making last-minute preparations for the concert. Too many people were running about and too many things were going on at the same time. There was no need to create conflict. Still, she was worried about Tina. Looking back, she wanted to remind Oliver to watch over her child. However, she discovered that he was already carrying Tina in his arms. Moreover, he was carefully protecting Tina so that nothing could touch her.

For a moment, Courtney felt stunned. Her impression of Oliver had always remained the same. It was the first impression she got of him when she knocked him over—the terrified expression on his face when he first woke up in the hospital. Back then, he was like a child seeing the world for the first time. Filled with terror, he had regarded her as his sole support in this entire world. At some point in time, he became an adult even though his memories were not recovered. Perhaps, this is how he originally was. However, she couldn’t help

wondering, What sort of environment did this eighteen or nineteen-year-old child grow up in for him to be so mature?

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“There are too many people here. Why don’t I bring Tina to the front first?” Oliver’s voice pulled her wandering thoughts back to the present.

“Okay.” Courtney nodded. “Please bring her there first. I’ll head over after speaking to Shay for a bit. It should be almost time for the concert to start soon.”

Shay’s assistant made a sound of agreement as he glanced at his watch. “It’s almost time; the concert will start in less than 10 minutes.”

After that, Oliver carried Tina and went to the seats in front. On the other hand, Courtney followed Shay’s assistant into the dressing room.

“Where’s Shay?” Courtney glanced around the room. The hairstylist, makeup artist, manager, and everybody else were standing outside the room. However, she could not find a familiar face among them.

“He just headed to the restroom. He’ll be back soon,” the manager said. When he saw Courtney, he smiled warmly. “You’re here, Courtney. Have a seat. Why don’t I see Tina?”

“There are too many people in the backstage area. I didn’t want to cause extra trouble for you, so I sent her to the front.”

The team members in charge of Shay’s acting work were quite familiar with Courtney. When Shay was filming for a travel variety show in the past, both Shay’s manager and assistant had followed along throughout the entire journey. Moreover, the entire team especially liked Tina.

Although Alexander always claimed to dislike Shay, the team he prepared for Shay was first-rate. He was also very willing to go all out with publicity efforts. It was only months since Shay first made his debut on a variety show, but the tickets to his solo concert were almost sold out. At that thought, Courtney couldn’t help feeling a glimmer of appreciation growing in her heart. For a while, she forgot about the unpleasant encounter she had during lunch today.

“Miss, you can’t enter—”

“Why am I not allowed to enter? Don’t you know what relationship I have with Shay?”

A sudden commotion outside the room caught their attention. Following the sound of the door opening, a gigantic pink bouquet burst into the room. The size of the bouquet was large enough to cover half the body of the person holding it. Then, a coy female voice rang out. “Surprise, Shay! Congratulations on the success of your first concert!”

“Who is this?” The manager immediately frowned. “A fan? Who allowed her in?”

The security guard that followed this woman until the door looked nervous as he said, “She slipped in when I wasn’t paying attention. Besides, she claimed to be Shay’s sister. We didn’t dare to stop her.”

“Sister?” The manager’s friendly expression was gone. “Shay’s sister is sitting right here. How could another sister pop out of nowhere? Please leave immediately.”

“Courtney Hunter?” When the person behind the bouquet heard what the manager said, she quickly put the bouquet down and revealed her face. As soon as she saw Courtney’s face, her expression instantly changed. “Why are you here?!”

This time, the manager was the one taken aback. Hesitating slightly, he asked, “Courtney, do you know her?”

Courtney leisurely sipped on her tea and smiled perfunctorily at those words. “I guess you can say that.”

From the moment she heard Anna’s whiny voice ring out, she could tell who it was. That voice gave her goosebumps. At the same time, she happily watched the show playing out in front of her. She wanted to see how Anna shamelessly came in without Shay’s invitation.

“I guess you can say that?! What do you mean by that, Courtney Hunter?!” Anna placed the bouquet on a nearby sofa. Looking around, she did not see Shay anywhere and immediately glared at Courtney. “Did you get so used to living outside that you even forgot what your family looked like? What an ungrateful thing you are! Why didn’t you say this to Dad when you asked him for a house?!”

Upon hearing those words, everybody immediately understood who this person was. Then, they gathered closer to each other and whispered among themselves.

“That is that, and this is this.” Courtney glanced at Anna coolly. “You barged in so arrogantly that I honestly did not dare to admit that I know you. I don’t want to bring shame to Shay’s name in the future.”

“You—” Anna was livid. Then, she sarcastically said, “What’s wrong about coming to cheer for Shay?! I grew up with him! How could I bring shame to his name?! You, on the other hand, fled abroad without getting married and came back with a daughter. I wonder whose illegitimate child that is? Did you think that you’ve become successful after getting together with the president of Sunhill Enterprise?! What are you so proud of?! You’re just his son’s stepmother!”

Courtney clenched her fists tightly—what annoyed her the most was other people talking about her child in front of her. Luckily for her, Tina is not here right now. If Tina were here, I would immediately rip her mouth to pieces.

“I don’t believe my private affairs have anything to do with me coming to cheer for my brother, right? Sister.” Courtney spoke up suddenly. Moreover, she emphasized the word ‘sister’. The way she said that word seemed to hold a different meaning behind it. “On the other hand, everybody knows just what kind of feelings you have for Shay, sister. Rushing here to cheer for Shay... Aren’t you afraid that boy toy you have at home might get jealous?”

As soon as Anna heard those words, her complexion immediately turned deathly pale. “What nonsense are you saying?!” How does she know about my personal affairs?!



# One Night Surprise Chapter 138

## Chapter 138 Freedom Is Your Faith

"It's not early anymore. Since you like staying here, you can continue staying here. I do not wish to fight with you. But, on the same note, I do not want to hear anything about my daughter from you again." Courtney stood up from the sofa. While walking past Anna, she turned her head slightly and indifferently continued,

"If you don't like the fiancé your mother arranged for you, you should bring your lover home and introduce him to her. If you don't dare to do that, as your younger sister, I can ask around on your behalf. After all, Dad wishes you to have a good match too. You should not misunderstand the painstaking efforts of our parents."

"I have no idea what you're talking about." Anna was panicking and freaking out—so much so that her words were slightly incomprehensible. Looking around at her surroundings, she noticed that the people around Shay were studying her. Hence, the look in her eyes became complicated. "Don't listen to her. She's talking nonsense; she's trying to ruin my reputation! I'm the young lady of the Hunter Family! How could I possibly keep a boy toy?!"

Anna was a woman filled with pride and vanity. That was something Courtney understood very well. It was a surprise that Anna was keeping a boy toy. However, keeping a boy toy was one thing. The courage to mention her boy toy in front of others was another thing altogether.

It was human nature to like gossiping and hunting for interesting tidbits. With such juicy gossip in front of them, everybody's attention was immediately drawn to it. They began discussing Anna's private life, and the atmosphere within the room became rather awkward as a result. If Anna had not provoked Courtney first, she would not have been humiliated in public in this manner.

"You!" When Anna saw that nobody was listening to her explanation, she panicked. "Courtney, you shameless slut! How dare you sully my reputation?! I'm going to tear you apart!" As she said that, she grabbed Courtney by the shoulder and lifted her hand.

Courtney had not expected Anna to hit her in front of such a large crowd. Just as she thought of avoiding the attack, she saw the open palm swinging in her direction—it was too late to dodge. Right before that palm struck her, a figure blocked the light coming from the doorway and grabbed Anna’s hand. That person stopped the attack, then an unreserved roar rang out. “Anna Hunter! What do you think you’re doing?!”

Upon seeing the person who just arrived, Anna’s expression changed immediately. “Shay—”

“This is my place! How dare you try to bully Courtney here?! Do you want me to call the police on you?!” Shay’s expression was cold and distant as he rudely slapped her hand away.

“Shay, you’re misunderstanding me. She was the one who slandered me in front of so many people and sullied my reputation! I was so furious that I couldn’t stop myself. But, I originally came here to cheer for you! I even brought you flowers! They just arrived this morning by air. Look!” Anna tried to push the blame onto Courtney.

Courtney sneered but did not try to explain herself. Instead, she simply watched Anna acting out with a frigid gaze. Meanwhile, Shay didn’t even bother to glance at the flowers as he icily said, “Courtney is not an unreasonable person. As for you, I don’t believe I invited you here. Get out.”

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What Courtney said previously had already embarrassed Anna rather badly. Combined with Shay’s actions of chasing Anna out in front of so many people, Anna felt utterly humiliated at this point. Pursing her lips, she scowled as her embarrassment turned into anger. “Shay, we grew up together. I’ve always regarded you as family. Ever since you returned to the country and made your debut, I’ve been sponsoring all your variety shows and dramas. I’ve always been supporting you unconditionally! How can you treat me in this manner?! Don’t you dare forget that if not for the Hunter Family, you would have died in the underground boxing ring back then!”

As soon as Anna said those words, the very air in the room seemed to freeze over. Courtney felt her heart clench as she worriedly glanced at Shay. Shay normally looked bright and lively. However, he currently felt like a huge iceberg—his entire body was radiating with cold air. He took two steps toward Anna.

On the other hand, Anna was starting to panic under his glare. She staggered backward and used the wall to support herself as her knees buckled under her slightly.

Then, he stared at her directly and said, “Anna Hunter, this is my last warning to you. Do not interfere with my personal affairs. Courtney and I are similar; we don’t need to rely on the charity of the Hunter Family to have a good life.”

“Shay, that wasn’t my intention! I—”

“Get lost.” His expression was frigid, and his inherently unique youthful voice was stained with a bloodthirsty coldness. Although his voice was not loud, it seemed to carry across the room.

At that moment, Courtney shot a look at Shay’s manager, who had long since turned into a statue. He finally came back to his senses and stepped in between Shay and Anna. Directing a polite smile at Anna, he said, “Miss Hunter, this way, please. The concert is about to start. If you bought a ticket, please head to your seat immediately.”

Under these circumstances, it was impossible to forcefully stay there. Thus, Anna bit her lip and glared at Courtney in resentment before turning to leave.

Everybody went back to their positions as the crowd dispersed. Those in charge of styling went back to styling; those in charge of makeup went back to putting on the finishing touches of makeup. Working in this industry, they were used to seeing all sorts of disputes take place. Hence, they did not bring up the matter again—it was as if they had unanimously agreed upon it beforehand. More importantly, Courtney saw Shay’s manager going around greeting everybody and handing them a small token of ‘appreciation’, which could also be regarded as hush money.

However, nobody noticed the man in the black baseball cap standing in the corridor next to the safety escape. He held a high-spec camera in his hands and recorded everything that had just taken place.

“You’re going on stage in 10 minutes. Shay, get yourself into the game. We’ll take our leave first.” After receiving a signal, Shay’s manager patted Shay on the shoulder to cheer him up before leaving with the styling team in tow. Afterward, only Courtney was left inside the room to accompany Shay, and the noisy lounge instantly became completely silent.

“Are you still bothered by what happened in the past?” Courtney’s voice rang out in the silent room. The dressing room was not large, so every word carried across clearly. To Shay, it felt like a pair of warm and gentle hands tearing open his wounds and exposing the unbearable

past that he was desperately trying to hide. Still, no matter how gentle it was, reopening closed wounds would always be painful.

His eyebrows twitched strongly. His vision went dark as the memories of various life and death situations in the boxing ring flashed before his eyes. Looking at the reflection of the gentle figure standing behind him, he finally gave a wry smile and whispered, "I wish I could say I'm not bothered by it."

"It's okay." Courtney placed both hands on his shoulders and comfortingly continued, "Nobody can truly forget about their past. And, letting go is even more difficult. No matter what you experienced in the past, it's a part of who you are now. There's no way to completely separate it from yourself. Everything you experienced made you who you are today. Do you not like the person you are today?"

"I do." His gaze gradually softened and became gentle. "I like everything as it is right now. If you hadn't taken me away from the boxing ring back then, I would never have all this. So, everything I have was given by you. And, everything I have... is yours."

"Did you forget what you said to me when I escaped with you?" She smiled. "I asked you what you wanted, and you said you wanted freedom. The freedom you want does not come with being trapped by my side for the rest of your life. That's no different from putting you into another cage."

Shay seemed stunned. It seemed like it had been a long time since he thought back about what he said back then. Thus, he was a little lost and a little disappointed. "Courtney, you know I—"

"The concert is about to begin. You have to go on stage soon." Courtney interrupted him abruptly. At the same time, she took her hands off his shoulders. "In my opinion, freedom is your faith; nothing else and nobody else is."

# One Night Surprise Chapter 139

## Chapter 139 Looks Like Daddy Isn't That Stupid

Shay seemed to care about Courtney very much, and she had never dismissed his feelings. However, his feelings mostly came from the time when she rescued him from the boxing ring—it was the turning point of his life. Therefore, the more successful he became and the closer he got to the life he always wanted to live, the more thankful he felt toward her.

Even so, he was still so young. Witnessing death, pain, and sorrow at such a young age had left him scarred and no longer attracted to girls around his age. As a result, Courtney, the one who turned the gears of fate and changed his life, became his faith. She had no right to judge whether or not his feelings for her were that of romantic love, but she knew that her feelings for him were simply that of familial love.

"I understand." Shay's eyes were gloomy, and he seemed a little lost when he stood up. Courtney followed him to the door when he suddenly turned around and asked, "Courtney, can I get a hug? For encouragement."

Courtney seemed stunned for a moment. Then, she spread open her arms and smiled. Wrapping him in a big hug, she said, "Good luck."

"Thanks."

"Good luck, Shay!"

"I love you, Shay!"

"Shay—"

During the concert, Tina pressured the girls surrounding her although they were several times her age. She waved her glowsticks desperately, causing the surrounding fans to

scream and shout at the top of their lungs. Toward the end, everybody was shouting, "Encore!"

Courtney felt as if her eardrums were going to burst from all the screaming around her. Then, she yelled at Oliver, "This girl has gone mad. If you can't stand it, you can leave first."

The corners of Oliver's mouth lifted slightly as he placed a pair of earplugs in her hand.

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"You're a genius!" Her eyes brightened up. Using her hair as a cover, she slid the earplugs into her ears perfectly, instantly cutting off the noise around her.

On the stage, Shay's return made the surrounding screams even more intense. Even so, Courtney was looking at the stage comfortably while nodding sagely as if she could really hear.

Standing on the elevator platform, Shay held a guitar in his hands. He was wearing a sultry white shirt as he glanced in her direction and smiled. "This song is dedicated to the most important person in my life. Her existence changed the entire trajectory of my life. I used to believe that she was my everything. However, she told me that what I used to believe in was freedom. And, it should never be something or somebody..."

Amidst the sea of pink light, the rhythmic swaying felt like the rippling of waves. Then, a strange silence fell over the audience. Only his clean and clear voice could be heard as it seeped into everybody's hearts with the sound of his guitar. He wrote his beliefs into his song. It touched many of his fans and brought tears to their eyes. Unfortunately, the only person who was not touched by the song was the very person the song was dedicated to. Courtney remained in her usual calm demeanor. Even her swaying was slightly out of sync with the song. Wearing her earplugs, she completely missed out on his romantic confession.

After the concert, Tina's voice was hoarse. She was so tired that she fell asleep on Oliver's shoulder before she reached the car.

"You can head directly to your house. I'll help you bring Tina in before taking a cab back to the hotel by myself."

"It's okay. Cameron is at home. I'll send Tina back to sleep, then send you back to the hotel. It's not that far." Courtney buckled her seatbelt and drove onto the highway. The concert was

held in a gym located in a remote location. It took an hour and a half to drive back to the city center. That was one of the reasons why she took time off today.

Just as her car left the parking lot, a small figure broke free of a man and chased after her car in the distance. The two short legs ran after her car desperately, but there was no way he could run faster than a car. He only managed to take several steps before the car vanished out of sight.

“Jordan.” The man rushed after him and bent down to hold his hand.

Jordan turned back and glared at the man fiercely. His small hand slapped the man’s hand away. Lowering his head, he lifted his drawing board resentfully. ‘Why didn’t you stop Mommy and Tina?’

Ever since Courtney and Alexander confirmed their relationship, Jordan began openly treating her as his own mother. Besides, it was easier to write—way easier than it was to write the word ‘Aunt’. Alexander took a deep breath and slowly let it out before earnestly saying, “Didn’t you see that she brought Tina with her to watch the concert with another man? She didn’t even ask if you wanted to come along. Why are you still calling her Mommy?”

‘Because I want to!’ The drawing board was lifted again, and Jordan’s expression was proud.

“Let’s go home.”

In response, he glared at Alexander with his arms crossed in front of his chest. The word ‘No’ was written all over his face.

Alexander didn’t get angry. “If you won’t go home with me, I’m going to leave you here. You can chase after her car yourself.”

Upon hearing those words, Jordan threw himself on the ground. He was pouting sulkily, and he looked like he was about to cry.

Then, Alexander turned back without even taking a step. He only wanted to scare Jordan a little. When he saw Jordan lying on the ground, his heart melted. He knelt beside Jordan and coaxed, “Alright, I get it. Let’s invite Courtney and Tina over for dinner this Thursday.”

Jordan had not managed to squeeze out a single tear. When he heard those words, the frown on his face immediately disappeared. His mood changed even faster than the weather as he hurriedly raised his drawing board in a panic. 'Mommy's birthday.'

Alexander frowned. "How did you know?"

Jordan couldn't be bothered to reply to Alexander. He got up by himself and dusted off his pants. Then, he swaggered toward their car and climbed in himself without Alexander's help, acting like a winner. Of course, Tina told me about it. Besides, why would you invite Courtney out for dinner on a weekday? Although he could not remember the specific date, he immediately recalled it when he heard the word 'Thursday'. Looks like Daddy isn't that stupid after all!

On Thursday, Courtney took a day off from work and brought Tina to the cemetery to visit her mother's grave. Seeing the bouquet of Calla Lilies in front of the gravestone, she looked startled and subconsciously glanced around her surroundings. However, she did not see anybody around. Hence, she secretly thought that it might have been one of her mother's friends. After all, so many years had gone by. Perhaps, they're beginning to care again.

The gravestone was very clean since it had just been cleaned by somebody else. Still, she wiped it down again carefully. "Mom, this is Tina, your granddaughter. I had no time to greet you when I left back then. So now, I brought her back to visit you."

Tina was still too young to understand what death meant. Looking at the picture on the gravestone, she exclaimed in amazement, "Grandma is so pretty! Mommy, you and Grandma look so similar."

Courtney smiled. "That's right. Your Great-Uncle William used to say that a lot."

At the thought of 'Great-Uncle William', Courtney suddenly glanced at the Calla Lilies again and realized who the visitor was. Well; on Mom's side of the family, no one else aside from Uncle William is so caring. He is the only one who has not forgotten my mother.

After a short prayer, Courtney held Tina's hand as they prepared to leave the cemetery. Before they walked out, Courtney saw a familiar figure. That person was wearing a grey dress, and her makeup was much lighter than usual. Thus, Courtney could barely recognize who it was.

"Aunt Alicia?" Courtney's expression changed suddenly.



Alicia lifted her head and frowned as she swept a glance over Courtney. She was as mean as ever. "Why are you looking at me as if you've seen a ghost? What's so strange about me visiting your mother?"

"That wasn't my intention. Thank you, Aunt Alicia."

"You don't need to thank me for this." When Alicia noticed Tina, she seemed taken aback for a moment. Then, she asked uncomfortably, "Is this girl your daughter?"

## One Night Surprise Chapter 140

Chapter 140 Do You Intend to Marry Her?

"Yes." Courtney hastily nodded, then instructed Tina, "Tina, this is your Grand-Aunt Alicia."

Alicia murmured the name 'Tina' under her breath several times before bringing her focus back to the present. She glanced at Courtney and said, "Why is she calling me 'Grand-Aunt'? That makes me sound so old."

"Then, what should she call you?" Courtney asked, feeling slightly nervous. Her childhood impression of Alicia was not a good one. Alicia was always a little mean and sharp-tongued toward her, so she used to be extremely scared of her aunt. Fortunately, her grandfather protected her. Otherwise, she would have been scared silly every time she met Alicia back then.

"Just call me Great-Aunt Alicia."

Upon hearing those words, Tina used her baby voice to greet Alicia without further prompting from Courtney. "Nice to meet you, Great-Aunt Alicia."

Alicia's usual cold and indifferent demeanor seemed to soften for a moment. She leaned down and beckoned to Tina. "Come; come closer for me to see you. I'm getting older, and my eyesight is getting worse."

Tina glanced at Courtney. After receiving approval from Courtney, she obediently stepped forward and generously lifted her head for Alicia to see her face. "Great-Aunt Alicia, is this close enough for you to see my face?"

Alicia's eyes lit up with a smile. "What's this? Are you not scared of me?"

"Why would I be afraid of you, Great-Aunt Alicia? It's not like you're a scary beast or a caterpillar."

"That's because all the children your age or younger are always scared of me."

"Is that so?" Tina widened her eyes in surprise; she looked as if she had heard something surprising. Then, she replied seriously, "Then, those children must be very timid. Parents shouldn't raise their children to be so timid. How will they protect their family in the future?"

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"Hahaha! Next time, you'll have to teach them then." Alicia suddenly burst into hearty laughter. Throughout her life, Courtney had never seen her laugh so happily before. Alicia laughed for a while, then patted Tina's hand. Straightening her back, she turned around and looked at Courtney. "I like this girl. In the future, why don't you leave her in my hands?"

Courtney could not understand the meaning behind the question. "What do you mean by that?"

"I know you went against the Hunter Family's wishes and secretly went abroad to give birth to this child. At the end of the day, she does not have a legitimate status. I couldn't care less about who the father of this child is. But, it's not appropriate to keep her by your side. You're still only in your twenties; how will you find a husband with her by your side? If I just leave things be, I'll be too ashamed to face your mother when I die."

Alicia's words had always been blunt. However, her words this time frightened Tina so much that she shrank back behind Courtney. "I don't want to be separated from Mommy! Mommy's boyfriend likes me a lot! And, I like him too! Great-Aunt Alicia, you don't need to worry about Mommy's marriage."

Alicia glanced at Tina before continuing the conversation. "I heard about you and Alexander. He has a son of unknown origins too. If it wasn't for the fact that you have a daughter of your own, I would never agree to such a marriage. Still, now that things have come this far, you better think it over carefully. The Duncan Family isn't as simple as you seem to think. I suggest you wait until after I finish investigating them before considering your options."

Courtney pursed her lips. She looked like a child listening to an adult scolding her as she obediently listened to her aunt's advice without any intention of rebelling. Ugh, my nightmare from the past has not gone away despite the years.

While Alicia was talking, two figures—one large and one small—walked in through the cemetery entrance. After listening to the second half of what Alicia said, they paused where they stood. "If you have any questions, you can ask me directly. You don't need to go to the trouble of investigating me."

Startled, Courtney gazed in the direction of the voice and saw Alexander walking over while holding Jordan's hand. As soon as Jordan saw Courtney, he immediately broke free of Alexander and flew toward her. After that, he and Tina happily played together.

Meanwhile, Alicia turned around. She stood in front of Courtney protectively and studied Alexander coolly. "The president of Sunhill Enterprise, Alexander Duncan, right?"

It was rare for Alexander to meet people who thought nothing of him. However, Courtney seemed to be surrounded by people like that. He had met so many of them by now that he was no longer surprised by it. "Yes, that's me. And, you are?"

"You don't need to bother about who I am. The meaning behind your words just now... Do you intend to marry Courtney?"

Upon hearing that question, Courtney felt her chest tightening in nervousness. Then, she stared at the man in front of her blankly. On the other hand, Alexander calmly and leisurely answered, "Yes."

"If that's the case, I have a few questions for you." Alicia's imposing aura was no less than Alexander's—she had the demeanor of a general.

"Go ahead." From their conversation, Alexander could tell that Alicia was probably quite a prestigious elder in Courtney's family.

"Aunt Alicia, forget it. He and I—" Courtney tried to stop the two of them. I'm still in a cold war with Alexander! I haven't talked to him in several days! What's going on?!

"Let's talk somewhere else." Alicia ignored Courtney. Then, she walked side by side with Alexander, heading toward the cemetery entrance.

Inside the car, a woman's calm and steady voice rang out. "My first question is related to the mother of your son. Who is she? I need to know about all the possible threats Courtney might face after marriage. If your ex-wife constantly wishes to see her child, it will be difficult to have a good life down the road."

"I have never been married, so there is no ex-wife." Alexander did not hide anything as he answered frankly. "As for who the mother of my son is... At present, Courtney is the only one Jordan recognizes as his mother."

Alicia frowned slightly. From the corner of her eye, she could see both children hugging Courtney from both sides and refusing to let go. It seemed like what he said was true. "Okay. Then, my second question... If you marry Courtney, how are you going to manage your assets?"

Compared to the first question, the second question was far more straightforward. He hesitated slightly. He had yet to consider it so deeply, but it wasn't too late to start thinking about it now. "Based on Courtney's personality, she would not wish to be a housewife. Besides, my assets are managed by financial advisers. If she wishes to, I can transfer some of them over to her."

"What if you divorce one day?"

"I guarantee she will never have to worry about money."

"When asked this question, most people would tell me that divorce will never happen." She glanced at him with a lukewarm expression. However, her gaze was sharp. "Why? Do you already plan to divorce her before you even marry her? Don't you dare think that Courtney has no family supporting her."

"Things like emotions are not predictable. I cannot guarantee everybody's feelings. Even if I can guarantee mine, I cannot guarantee hers. Aside from that, I can only promise what I can control, and that is the best materialistic conditions for her."

Alicia said nothing as she glanced outside the car window. Through the glass, she saw the two children surrounding Courtney as they played happily. Even in this solemn cemetery, they did not look out of place. After that, she continued asking many questions. Toward the end, Alexander asked her one question. "If you care about Courtney so much, why didn't you take care of her when she was being bullied by the Hunter Family for so many years?"

Alicia did not answer. However, she could tell that Alexander had guessed her answer. This man in his early thirties had a pair of piercing eyes belonging to a mature man. It felt as if he could see through one's thoughts. Survival of the fittest—that is the law of the jungle.

I did not want Courtney to follow in her mother's footsteps. Courtney's mother grew up in a sheltered environment. Whenever she met even the smallest setback, she would try to avoid dealing with it. In the end, she couldn't escape everything and lost her life as a result.