

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 861 -

Chapter 861

“Stop right there!” Dahlia caught up to him and grabbed his arm.

“Do you

have to be like this? Can’t we have a decent talk?”

“I don’t think that’s necessary. I’m wasting my breath. Not to mention, I’m busy. Let’s not waste each other’s time any longer,” Dustin said with little interest and headed straight for the door.

“You’re not allowed to leave!” Dahlia suddenly hugged him from behind, holding him tightly. It was an extremely bold move coming from her, especially when she was usually aloof.

“I’m not letting you go!” Still maintaining her tight grip, she rested her cheek on his back.

She mumbled softly, “Consider me wrong this time, okay? I know I’m difficult sometimes, but I’ll do my best to change.

“If you say Gavin is the bad guy, then he’s the bad guy. I won’t see him ever again, alright? I’m terrified of losing you. Let’s get back together, please.

“I won’t be stubborn anymore and won’t hit you again. I swear. As long as you stay, I’ll do anything you tell me to.

“I don’t need wealth or power. I don’t need everything I have now.

“Why don’t we sell off the company and go on a trip? We don’t need to care about anything. Let’s just live a happy and carefree life together. That’s enough for me.

“As long as you agree, I’ll give up everything for you!” Dahlia got more frantic the more she spoke.

She had thought it through. It didn’t matter who was right or wrong.

Compared to wealth, having the person she loved the most next to her was the most important thing. She hoped to win his heart and grow old together with him.

“Dahlia, if you had said that three months ago, I would have agreed without hesitation. But it’s too late now.” Dustin shook his head and let out a soft sigh..

“What’s done is done. Some things can never go back to how they used to be. I don’t want to return to when my life revolved around you. I’m tired of trying to please you in every way.

“I don’t want to keep worrying about you either, living every day in anxiety. It’s too exhausting. I just want to live life my way without burden, finding satisfaction in settling old

scores.

“We’re over.” With that, he pried her arms open, slowly but determinedly.

“Why? Why! If you’re still angry with me, you can scold and hit me, but you can’t just walk

away.

“We’re not over yet. We can still go back to how it used to be! I won’t ever doubt you again, and I won’t ever get mad at you again. Give me a chance to turn over a new leaf, please!”

Dahlia’s eyes were red, and she choked on sobs. At this point, she was begging.

In the past, when Dustin got mad, a little coaxing would suffice. But she felt his coldness and determination today.

Her intuition told her that letting go today would be the end for them. She was terrified at the thought and was trying her best to make Dustin stay.

“Dahlia, just let go. Let’s not torment each other anymore. Perhaps you’ll meet someone better in the future, but we aren’t meant for each other.

“Let’s go our own ways. Goodbye...”

After he spoke, he broke free from her grip and walked out of the cafe. He left without looking back.

It was time to let go.

Dahlia's heart twisted in pain as she watched him leave. She burst into tears, sobbing uncontrollably.

"There's no one better. No one is better than you! You are the one I love the most!"

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Chapter 862

Early the next morning, at Zephyr Lodge, Dustin sat on the rooftop and watched the sunrise. His expression was devoid of emotion.

Since bidding farewell to Dahlia last night, he had been on the rooftop since midnight till the sun rose in the sky.

His emotions gradually shifted from turmoil to calmness. After a night of deep contemplation, he found a newfound sense of acceptance and detachment.

He would no longer be stuck in the

"Sir Rhys..."

past.

At that moment, Cornelius leaped onto the rooftop and reported, "I've received news that the Jade Maiden Scripture you are looking for has been located."

"Oh? Where is it?" Dustin raised his eyebrow.

"A group of foreign merchants have it. We've contacted them, but they're unwilling to sell to us directly. They insist on meeting face-to-face," Cornelius replied.

"A face-to-face meeting?"

Dustin nodded. "Alright, go get Nikki. We'll go and have a look together."

“Yes, sir.” After Cornelius replied, he jumped down the roof again.

One hour later, a black executive car stopped at the entrance of Auspicious R restaurant. As the car doors opened, Dustin and his two companions stepped out.

“Hey! You didn’t trick me, did you? Is the Jade Maiden Scripture here?” Nikki looked at the restaurant, evidently skeptical.

“Why would I lie to you for no reason? If you don’t believe me, then let’s just go back.” Dustin turned around, about to get back into the car.

“H–hey! Alright, I trust you. Are you happy now?”

Nikki grabbed him and grumbled, “Come on, seriously? You’re a grown man. How could react so stingily? You’re worse than a woman.”

you

“Are you going in or not?” Dustin asked impatiently.

“Yes! Of course, I’m going!” Nikki repeatedly nodded, pulling Dustin inside with haste.

The Jade Maiden Scripture was a precious treasure of theirs and a crucial factor in helping Edith make a breakthrough. Therefore, no matter the cost, she had to get her hands on it.

The three of them entered the restaurant. After identifying themselves, a waiter led them to the second floor before finally stopping in front of a luxurious private room.

They knocked, and the doors opened.

Upon entering, Dustin and his companions saw a chubby, middle-aged man seated in the main seat.

The man had a cleanly shaved head and a gentle look. He reminded them of a priest, exuding an indescribable sense of comfort and familiarity.

Meanwhile, two bodyguards wearing sunglasses stood behind him.

“Oh! My esteemed guests have arrived. Please, take a seat!”

When the chubby man saw Dustin and his companions, he stood up to welcome them. He had a warm and enthusiastic smile.

“Who are you? Do we know you?” Nikki narrowed her eyes, feeling cautious,

“My name is Samuel Franklin. I’m new here. Our meeting today is surely fated. It would be my pleasure to befriend you all,” The chubby man said with a warm smile.

“No need for the pleasantries. Let’s get straight to the point. We heard you have the Jade Maiden Scripture. Is that true?” Nikki cut to the chase.

“Of course, it’s true,” Samuel answered, smiling.

“Oh? Well, then, let me first have a look.” Nikki’s interest was piqued.

“There’s no need to hurry. Please, have a seat and enjoy a cup of tea. We can take a look in a

little while.”

Samuel poured three cups of tea and passed them to Dustin, Nikki, and Cornelius.

“I’m not interested in your tea. Just name your price!” Nikki urged.

With her hot-tempered behavior, she had no patience for beating around the bush or engaging in unnecessary formalities.

Even when it came to movies, she preferred the simplistic, rough-

produced than the drawn-out, sluggish movies Kimboku made.

“Dear guests, please be patient. I can’t name you a price yet as a few more buyers have yet to arrive,” Samuel said with a smile.

“More buyers are arriving?”

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Nikki frowned, "What do you mean? You're not selling it directly to us?"

"Recently, I've received many inquiries about the Jade Maiden Scripture. I was in a difficult position and was unable to make a decision.

"That was why I gathered everyone here to discuss the price collectively. It would be fairer this way," Samuel explained.

"Fair?"

Dustin shook his head with a smile. "Mr. Franklin, you have a gift for words. You're raising the price without reason yet making it sound sophisticated."

Gathering all the buyers to discuss the price collectively was an obvious attempt to start a bidding war. That way, the price of the Jade Maiden Scripture would surge dramatically. It was a cunning strategy indeed.

"You flatter me, mister. I'm a humble merchant who hopes to earn a little extra profit."

Samuel continued to smile even when his plan was exposed. He was good at maintaining his composure.

"Hmph! I hate people like you the most" Nikki looked at him contemptuously.

Why couldn't he just name a price? Those who could afford it would pay, while those who couldn't could just leave.

It would have been a much simpler approach. It was such a waste of time to resort to such

ways.

While they were enjoying their tea, the private room door swung open again. Then, a man with a golden mask entered with confident strides.

"It seems like another esteemed guest has arrived. Please, take a seat." Samuel remained hospitable and stood up to welcome him.

The man in the golden mask nodded. He was about to sit down when he noticed Dustin.

Instantly, he took a few steps backward and exclaimed in shock, "You... What are you doing here?"

"Do I know you?" Dustin asked with doubt.

The man in the golden mask gulped and realized he had lost his cool.

He put on a calm front and said impassively, "My apologies. I mistook you for someone else just now."

"The heck? You scared me!" Nikki was upset.

He looked like he had seen a ghost as soon as he walked in. Was that necessary?

The man in the mask took a deep breath and calmly sat. However, he occasionally glanced at Dustin with resentment.

As time passed, a few more buyers entered the room.

Men and women were present, dressed in luxury, and carried themselves well. They were far from ordinary individuals.

"Hey, most of the buyers have arrived. Can we start now?" Nikki was getting impatient after waiting for so long.

"Please be patient, miss. We are missing one last person." With a gentle smile, Samuel refilled their tea, being courteous throughout.

"Who's running late? Will we sit here all day if he doesn't show up?" Nikki frowned.

"What are you rushing me for? I'm here!" Just then, a well-dressed young scion strolled in.

He was accompanied by a few arrogant women who were all dolled up.

The

young scion was none other than Julian Nicholson!

"Who the f*ck was rushing me just now? If you don't like waiting, then get the hell out!" Julian held his head high, looking arrogant.

“Hey! Do you want to get beaten up?” Nikki slammed the table angrily as she stood up, her expression icy.

“Are you trying to pick a fight with me? Who the f*ck do you think you are? You’re asking for trouble!” Julian responded to Nikki in disdain.

“She’s asking for trouble, but what if I join in?” Dustin stood up slowly, asking with a sneer.

“What?” Julian took a closer look and was shocked.

“I—it’s you?”

“What? Are you surprised?” Dustin’s gaze was hostile.

“I haven’t had the chance to get revenge when you put me in jail. Now that we’ve crossed paths today, don’t you think it’s time to settle the score?”

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Chapter 864

“Hey! I’m warning you, don’t mess with me!” Julian took a few quick steps back in fear when he saw Dustin’s threatening posture.

He hadn’t brought any bodyguards today; only a few pretty women came with him. It would be difficult for him to handle such a reckless fellow alone.

“Fellow guests. Please, calm down.” Samuel noticed the tension in the air.

He mediated the situation with a smile. “We’ve gathered here today for serious business. Let’s not spoil the mood. Whatever it is, we can discuss things calmly while seated.”

“Alright. Since Mr. Franklin has spoken up, I’ll respect that.” Dustin nodded and settled back into his seat.

Since they came for the Jade Maiden Scripture, it was inappropriate to fight now. He could deal with someone like Julian anytime he wanted, anyway.

“Hmph! And here I thought you had the guts. But it seems like you’re all bark!” Julian sneered. He assumed Dustin was hesitant to act because of his identity.

“You dress up so shabbily, and yet you dared challenge Mr. Nicholson? Don’t flatter yourself!” The haughty women with Julian looked at Dustin with disdain.

“Alright, since our esteemed guests have arrived, let’s begin.” With everyone seated, Samuel proceeded without delay and gestured.

Soon, a bodyguard opened a safe nearby and retrieved a delicately crafted wooden box. Upon opening the wooden box, an ancient sheepskin scripture was inside.

Three unmistakable words were on the cover—Jade Maiden Scripture.

“It is the Jade Maiden Scripture!” Everyone’s eyes lit up.

Nikki, especially, was so excited that her breathing grew rapid. She couldn’t believe that it was real.

It would have been a lie to say she didn’t have doubts about coming here, but it was a delightful surprise!

“Fellow guests, getting my hands on this treasure wasn’t easy.” Samuel pointed at the Jade Maiden Scripture.

He said confidently, “I believe you should know that the Jade Maiden Scripture is an ancient and long-lost knowledge with many secrets.

“Those who practice the ways of the Jade Maiden Scripture will not only improve their skills. They will also live longer and maintain eternal youth!”

As soon as they heard those words, everyone grew excited. Especially the group of women could not hide their greedy expressions.

They weren’t interested in the prospect of greatly enhanced skills. They cared about the promise of long life and eternal youth. Every woman cared about their looks and desired to maintain a youthful look.

“Mr. Nicholson, you must not let the treasure fall into someone else’s hands. We must take it home!” The haughty women were excited as their eyes burned with hunger.

“Don’t worry. No one will dare take it from us as long as I am here. No one has the power to do so either!” Julian raised his head, looking confident.

“I wonder if Miranda will be happy if I give this treasure to her as a gift,” The man in the golden mask murmured to himself.

“Name a price; I’m taking it home with me!” Nikki was impatient.

“Its value is not up to me but to you, my fellow guests. Whatever you suggest as the price will be the price.” Samuel smiled faintly and reflected the question to them.

“You’re letting me decide the value of it? Alright, I’ll pay ten million!” Julian raised his index finger, taking the lead.

“Hmph! What’s a measly ten million? I’ll pay 50 million for it!”

“50 million for the Jade Maiden Scripture? You must be dreaming! I’ll pay 100 million!”

“200 million here!”

Within a minute, the price of the Jade Maiden Scripture broke through the hundred million

mark.

Everyone knew ancient and long-lost knowledge like the Jade Maiden Scripture was priceless. It couldn’t be bought with just money.

Today, their wealth would determine who takes the treasure home.

“I’m offering one billion!” With gritted teeth, Nikki raised the price. Immediately, the voices,

hushed down.

Everyone glanced at Nikki, sizing her up.

"Hmph! Do you think one billion is impressive? I'll pay 1.5 billion!" Julian raised the bid again.

The Nicholsons may not have much of anything else, but they certainly had a lot of money.

Not to mention, recently, he was in luck and earned a few billions. He had so much money now that he didn't know how to spend it.

"Two billion!" Nikki would not let up.

The Jade Maiden Sisterhood had a budget of around five billion. As long as she could get the Jade Maiden Scroll, spending it all wasn't a problem.

"My, my. Are you challenging me? I'm curious to see what you're capable of. Three billion!" Julian thundered with confidence.

When he raised the price, several buyers gave up and left. Although the Jade Maiden Scripture was a precious treasure, it came with a major limitation. It was only useful for women.

While spending a few hundred million to please their lover wasn't an issue, a few billion wasn't worth it.

"Nikki, how much can your guild afford to pay?" Dustin asked suddenly.

"About five billion, why?" Nikki raised an eyebrow.

"Alright, sounds good." Dustin nodded.

He raised his hand. "We'll pay five billion."

"What?"

Many were shocked when they heard the amount. Did they think five billion could fall from the sky?

"That's crazy? Who raises the price like that?"

"I'm done playing. What's this nonsense of adding two billion in one go?"

Following the muttered complaints, several buyers left the room.

"Hmph! Let's see how long you can keep up with your arrogance!" The man behind the mask stood up and left, his gaze filled with resentment.

However, he didn't leave immediately. Instead, he found a secluded corner and made a call.

"Hello, Miranda, I've spotted that guy. This time, we mustn't let him get away!"

Meanwhile, back inside the private room on the second floor.

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