

This Time I Will Get My Divorce, Mr

Chapter 422

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Chapter 422 For Sonia's Sake

Needless to say, Sonia had of course thought about it and approached other companies in the same industry. Nonetheless, she didn't think those companies could bring much potential in the joint venture with Paradigm Co. since they were just small firms. On the other hand, those companies had also refused to work with Paradigm Co. as they were concerned about its bleak future. Due to that reason, her company soon found itself in a position with little room for improvement and growth.

Although Paradigm Co. was still operating as usual for the time being, she knew that her company would once again face an inevitable crisis if nothing was done to improve the status quo. After all, the revenues that Paradigm Co. made from its cooperation with the Fuller Group's subsidiaries were not enough to keep the business afloat, let alone pay its debt that was worth tens of billions owed to Toby. Thus, having a joint venture with a new company was definitely a pressing matter for her.

Furthermore, Sonia also agreed with Toby that as the biggest shareholder in the company, she should get to know more people to expand her social network. After all, the commercial world was complicated and unforgiving. Those who fought alone wouldn't last long, which resulted in cooperation becoming the most crucial way of survival.

It's only by meeting more great people that I'll know what I must do to improve myself, which is essential for my long-term success. Otherwise, I could be left out or even ostracized by the people in the commercial world. At the thought of that, Sonia suddenly caught on to Rose's intention of giving her the jewelry. She then took a deep breath and stared blankly at the man in front of her. "Grandma wants me to meet those big shots during her birthday dinner. Am I right, President Fuller?"

As Sonia quickly understood the gravity of the situation, there was a trace of admiration in Toby's eyes as he nodded. "Exactly. That's what Grandma wants. If you want to know these people and work with them, you need to make yourself look valuable. Those people judge your ability to bring value to them from your appearance. So, if your outfit fails to impress them, you may not even get a shot to greet them, let alone meet them. Do you get me now?"

Unfortunately, that's how grim the reality is! Despite his desire to introduce her to those big shots, he knew she would definitely turn him down because she didn't want to depend on him. Thus, he had to create an opportunity by using his grandmother's name to gather those big shots in one place before having Sonia do the rest. While he optimistically believed that she would learn a thing or two from the exposure, he would also be secretly observing her and be ready to create another opportunity for her should she fail to seize the chance this time.

Deep in his heart, he wished for her to become better and more successful in her career.

"I get it now." Sonia nodded, feeling touched. "Alright, I'll take the jewelry. Please thank Grandma for me. She should be enjoying her twilight years, yet she is still so concerned about me."

Soon, Sonia recalled how Rose was the only one who treated her kindly in the six years that she was in the Fuller Family. Because she only had eyes for Toby then, she turned down Rose's invitation to move over in an attempt to avoid Jean. Thus, Sonia never really had the opportunity to repay Rose's kindness because of her stubborn decision to stay in the Fuller Residence. I'm no longer the Fuller Family's daughter-in-law, but Grandma still cares about me all the time. Oh, I really don't know how I should repay her.

"Don't mention it," he chuckled in response. "It's the least I could do."

"What?" Sonia frowned doubtfully and opined, "I'm telling you to thank Grandma on my behalf. I wasn't saying that to you, so what do you mean by that?"

A speechless Toby puckered his lips, somehow feeling a little bitter in his heart. Although it was his plan to begin with in the first place, he also had every right to say what he just did to Sonia. Nonetheless, he couldn't speak the truth or she would immediately return the jewelry to him.

"Fine, you don't have to be my messenger. I'll thank Grandma myself later." Sonia pursed her lips, thinking she should also assure Rose that she wouldn't disappoint the old woman as she would close a few deals during the birthday dinner. At the same time, she would guarantee the old woman that she would take excellent care of the jewelry until she returned it after the birthday feast.

"Alright, please go ahead and talk to Grandma then. It's getting late, so I should make a move and you should get some rest." Toby took a look at his watch and stood up. Man, if it weren't for this upcoming important meeting, I wouldn't leave right now.

Sonia nodded and rose to her full height as well. "Have a safe trip home, President Fuller. Wanda, please see President Fuller off."

"Yes, Miss Reed," Wanda replied and showed him the way.

"Alright, I'll head off then." He looked at Sonia, who only responded with a cold grunt.

Upon fixing his gaze on her face for a few seconds, he eventually turned away and walked toward the exit with a heavy heart.

"Be careful on your way home, Young Master Toby." Wanda followed behind the man and saw him off at the door.

"I will, please take good care of her. By the way, the jewelry she is having now doesn't belong to my grandma. Furthermore, I want you to say nothing about the matter regarding my mother." Toby made his instruction heard and understood.

Deep down in his heart, he was sure that Sonia wouldn't want to wear the jewelry that he gave her if she knew it was from him instead of Rose. In fact, before his mother took her own life many years earlier, she mentioned in her suicide note that the jewelries she left behind was for her future daughter-in-law. Therefore, he swore to himself that he would give Sonia what he should have in the past six years, bit by bit.

To him, it didn't matter whether they were divorced or not because he had treated her as his own wife anyway. She is my wife and no one can have her. Even if she won't forgive me for the rest of her life, I'm going to keep her by my side and do whatever it takes to keep her away from any other man. At the thought of her being with some other men, he couldn't help but grit his teeth in annoyance.

"Don't worry, Young Master Toby. I know what I should do," Wanda said with a smile.

"Alright, you should get back to her now. Don't leave her alone for too long. She is going to need someone to help her since she can't see." Toby waved his hand.

She nodded and closed the door while he made sure he heard the door closed before going to the elevator. After taking a few steps forward, his phone rang, whereupon he quickly checked it out and realized it was a call from Rose. Thus, he answered, "Grandma."

"Toby, why am I unaware about my own 80th birthday feast? I remember telling you that I prefer a simple meal with everyone in the family on my birthday instead of a grand feast. You agreed with that, so what made you change your mind? What's up with all this surprise?" Rose chuckled happily and sarcastically added, "Furthermore, even my friends knew about it way before I did. You're such a filial grandson, huh!"

Upon sensing her unhappiness, Toby faked a cough and decided to come clean. "I'm sorry, Grandma. I should have informed you earlier. I'm sorry about it."

"Alas! It's fine. Now that you've already distributed the invitation cards, there is no turning back now. The show must go on, so there is no point for me to blame you now. Tell me, what changed your mind all of a sudden?" she asked impatiently.

"It's all for Sonia's sake." He turned around and set his eyes on Sonia's apartment.

"Sonia?" Rose appeared to be stunned.

Toby nodded. "Yes, the future of Paradigm Co. is bleak and unpromising. If the situation persists, it will not end well for her and her company. Furthermore, she is an ambitious woman who has always wanted to expand her company, but under the given circumstances, she didn't seem to have much of a choice, so..."

“So, you’re planning to use my birthday feast to pave the way for Sonia’s future?” she responded with a cold grunt.

“I’m sorry, Grandma.” He squinted as he had always wanted to create an opportunity for Sonia to expand Paradigm Co. However, he struggled to find a chance to do so until he realized he could execute his plan through his grandmother’s 80th birthday feast. After all, this would prevent Sonia from becoming suspicious since she would probably think that it was all Rose’s idea. Unknown to her, Rose’s birthday was in fact held for her.

In the meantime, Rose could see through her grandson, knowing that he felt guilty for using her birthday feast to pave the way for the future of the woman he loved. However, she only shook her head and replied, “What a silly boy!”

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Chapter 423 The Truth Behind the Death of Toby’s Mother

As soon as Toby heard Rose grinning through her voice, his eyes brightened. “Aren’t you mad at me, Grandma?”

“Why would I be? You don’t always take things seriously, so why should I stop you when you finally do?” she asked with a smile.

“Thank you, Grandma.” He appeared to be relieved.

“There’s no need to thank me, but even if you manage to create an opportunity for Sonia to meet more people, I’m afraid—”

Knowing what his grandmother was going to say, he interrupted, “I gave Mom’s jewelry to her in your name and she accepted it. By then, all she needs to do is wear it during your birthday feast and she should have no problem talking to those big shots.”

After all, Toby knew that the valuable jewelry would help Sonia to create a decent and well-mannered illusion. Even if Paradigm Co. might appear to be unstable, the jewelry could change their impression as they would probably think she was from a decent and established family. For that, they would be willing to interact with her; otherwise, she would struggle to even greet anyone during Rose’s birthday feast. She can never get away with the grim reality.

“Ah, I see.” Rose nodded. “What a meticulous plan you have there! It seems that I have worried too much.”

Toby responded with a faint smile just as something crossed his mind. “By the way, Grandma, Sonia now thinks that you’re the one who gave her the jewelry.

She'll be calling you to thank you later, so please don't tell her anything I just told you," he reminded his grandmother in a serious manner.

Rose laughed helplessly. "Do I look like someone who is too dumb to know what should be done? Don't worry, I know what to do."

He chuckled, "Thank you, Grandma."

She responded with an affirmative hum shortly before an incoming call came in when she was about to say something. When she took a look at the caller, she couldn't help but raise her eyebrows. These 2 kids can really read each other's minds, can't they? Toby was just telling me that Sonia would call a few seconds ago and here comes the call. "Toby, Sonia is calling now. So, I'm going to hang up first and answer her call," she replied.

"Sure." Toby nodded, staring at his phone screen for two straight minutes after the call ended. Then, he kept his phone in his pocket and headed toward the elevator shortly before he found himself at Bayside Residence's main exit.

Meanwhile, Tom was leaning against the car when he saw his boss coming in his direction. He then straightened his posture and greeted Toby, "President Fuller."

When he noticed his assistant's stern look, Toby knitted his eyebrows and asked, "Do you have something you want to tell me?"

Tom nodded. "The investigation team working on your case seems to have found new leads on the culprit."

"New leads?" Toby squinted. "I thought the culprit who tried to kill me and Sonia was caught the last time."

"Yeah, but this time, the investigation team managed to dig deeper and find something that might lead us to the mastermind behind everything," Tom replied with a deep voice.

As Toby radiated a cold aura, his stare became intense and chilly. "So, that culprit has a mastermind?"

"That's right. The mastermind is the actual culprit who has been hiding for twelve years without anyone ever discovering a single lead on him until recently."

"What's the lead about?" Toby clenched his fists.

"That person seems to know your mother." Tom looked at Toby, seemingly noticing the need to clarify his words as he added, "And I'm not talking about Madam White. I'm talking about your biological mother."

"My... My biological mother!" Toby's expression changed. This mastermind knew my mother and killed my father. What on earth is going on? "What evidence do

they have to prove that the murderer knew my mother?" He fixed his gaze on his assistant.

Soon, Tom nodded. "The evidence is a picture of your mother. Ever since you were caught in that traffic accident, the investigation team took a long time before they were able to find and bribe the driver who knocked you down. After some time, they managed to get their hands on the security footage of the entire Seafield, through which they successfully identified the target's residence. However, that person was nowhere to be found by the time they sent someone after him."

"After that?"

"Then, the investigation team proceeded to do some digging about the house and discovered that it was owned by someone else. Thus, they approached the owner and found out that the house was rented to three people."

"Three people..." Toby pursed his lips.

Tom then continued to say, "According to the owner, two of the tenants called the other one 'Boss'. Thus, if I were to venture a guess, the boss was probably the same person who killed your father and orchestrated the car accident you were caught in. Meanwhile, the reason why I think this person knew your mother was because the investigation team searched the house and found a picture of her. Besides..."

"What else do you know?" Toby demanded with a dark look.

Tom took a deep breath and responded, "There were a few words found written on the back of the photo that read—I will avenge you! Those words were written so hard that it almost tore the picture apart. Thus, it was deduced that the actual culprit must have been in a good relationship with your mother, which was why he killed your father to avenge her."

"Avenge her?" Toby was seen with a bitter look. "Are you saying my parents shared a bitter history between them?"

"N-No, of course not. That's not what I meant. After all, it was a mere guess," an embarrassed Tom clarified with a smile.

At the same time, Toby clenched his fists, looking down to mask the coldness in his eyes. Deep in his heart, he knew there was nothing bitter between his parents since they were not in love with each other in the first place. In fact, they were only together because of the pre-arranged betrothal. Subsequently, when Toby's mother fell pregnant, his parents began sleeping in separate rooms and became spouses in name only.

When Toby turned 12, his father met Jean, but his mother wasn't mad about that at all. Instead, she even supported the man's decision to be with Jean and even put in a few good words for her in front of Rose, attempting to convince Rose to accept Jean. By doing so, Toby's mother would be able to divorce his father and

realize her biggest wish because she used to carry Toby in her arms and tell him that she wanted to leave the Fuller Family to live her own life.

Unfortunately, Toby's mother had an emotional breakdown one night before she could divorce his father. She drowned her sorrows with alcohol that night and strangely threw a tantrum in the Fuller Residence while murmuring complaints about a man who stopped waiting for her and betrayed her love.

At that moment, Toby finally understood his mother's indifference toward his father and her desire for a divorce because she was in love with another man, but he had fallen for someone else. Unable to accept the harsh truth, she committed suicide the next day by slitting her own wrist. Thus, he was sure that his mother's death had nothing to do with his father, which was why he found the killer's motive to avenge his mother absurd and laughable. Moreover, the culprit had also tried to kill Toby, which made him wonder whether there was something personal between his mother and this mysterious person.

"Please tell the investigation team to find out more about my mom's lover before she married into the Fuller Family," Toby instructed with a pair of glacial eyes.

Tom adjusted his glasses and asked, "President Fuller, are you implying that the murderer could be your mother's former lover?"

In fact, he had already known a thing or two about the matter related to Toby's mother. Thus, he could tell that Toby ordered him to investigate his mother's former lover because Toby suspected the murderer was this person. Furthermore, Tom also agreed with his boss' deduction since it was likely that the former lover of Toby's mother was jealous and mad at Toby's father for separating them. Well, if that murderer reckoned President Fuller's father was the one who caused his mother's death, that should explain his motive to kill Old Master Fuller. Why was he onto President Fuller as well? Perhaps I'll still need to do some digging about that.

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Chapter 424 Sonia's Vision Is Back

Toby nodded in agreement while Tom responded with a stern manner, "Alright, I heard you loud and clear. I'll contact the investigation team right away. Furthermore, your mother's photo will be sent over as soon as they verify whether the murderer's fingerprints are still on it."

"Alright, noted," Toby replied with an affirmative hum.

Soon, Tom reached for his phone and contacted the investigation team, whereupon he hung up the call two minutes later and turned his attention to

Toby. "President Fuller, I've just passed your word to them and they'll send someone to initiate an investigation in Fredburg soon."

In fact, Fredburg was where the Johann Family's base was initially located and the place Toby's mother lived in until she got married. Therefore, Tom could understand why Toby wanted the investigation team to head over to Fredburg to conduct some digging about his mother's former lover.

"During the investigation, please tell the team to keep a low profile to avoid any unnecessary attention." Toby rubbed his forehead, worried that his suspicion would be proven true as that would mean the person was still in Fredburg. Thus, the investigation team's arrival could easily alarm and scare the man off before they could capture him. If that happened, it would lead to an inevitable wild-goose chase that would be nothing more than a waste of time. After all, Toby had been waiting for twelve years to avenge his father.

"Don't worry, President Fuller. I've thought about that as well, so I already told them to do everything they can to avoid any unwanted attention," Tom replied as he adjusted his glasses.

"That's great." Toby raised his chin as he looked up and fixed his eyes on the building. A few moments later, he averted his gaze and opened the car door. "Let's go."

"Sure!" Tom nodded.

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Two days later, Sonia woke up and saw a glimmer of bright ray of light in front of her the moment she opened her eyes. Is that light? Oh my gosh! It's really a ray of light! Although she still couldn't make out what was in front of her eyes, she quickly understood that she was recovering her eyesight. Therefore, she clenched her fists and exclaimed in exhilaration.

In the meantime, Wanda, who was preparing breakfast, heard Sonia's voice before immediately leaving the kitchenware aside to turn off the gas stove. Then, she barged into Sonia's bedroom without even knocking on the door, thinking that Sonia was in trouble as she asked in a concerned manner, "Are you alright, Miss Reed?"

Upon hearing Wanda's response, Sonia knew her excited scream must have caused a misunderstanding, so she quickly calmed herself down and looked at the door. As soon as she turned her head, she was surprised once more at the sight of a blurry silhouette. However, she was sure that the person standing in front of her was Wanda.

"Wanda," Sonia called out to the figure and saw it moving. Oh my gosh! It's really Wanda!

Meanwhile, Wanda only fixed her eyes on Sonia's trembling body as she nervously approached Sonia. "Are you alright, Miss Reed? Please say something.

Don't scare me." If anything happens to Miss Reed, Young Master Toby will lose his mind.

Upon sensing Wanda's anxiety, Sonia took a deep breath to remain calm before she replied with a smile, "I'm fine, Wanda. I'm sorry that I scared you."

"You're fine?" Wanda didn't seem to believe Sonia's words as she proceeded to regard the lady seated on the bed. Nonetheless, she quickly became bewildered when she failed to notice anything strange upon taking a closer look at Sonia.

"Are you sure you're really fine, Miss Reed?" Wanda couldn't put her mind to ease, so she decided to ask again. "I heard you scream and saw your body shaking."

"I assure you that I'm fine." Sonia smiled once again. "The reason why I screamed is because I'm happy."

"Happy?" Wanda appeared to be confused. "What's the good news, Miss Reed?"

"My vision is back." Sonia couldn't hide the joy in her voice.

Upon hearing Sonia's reply, Wanda was caught in a trance for a while. Then, she agitatedly asked, "Is that true, Miss Reed? Is your vision really back?"

Sonia nodded. "Yes, but I don't think I've completely regained my sight. After all, I can only see shadows now but not the exact details including colors."

"That's not bad either." Wanda felt happy for Sonia. "Now that you can already see the silhouette, it means your eyes are recovering. Congratulations, Miss Reed."

"Thank you."

"Let's head to the hospital later for a check-up," Wanda suggested.

Sonia hummed in agreement. In fact, now that she could see shadows, she had also thought the same thing because she believed she would need new medication for her eyes. Thus, she understood how crucial it was for her to swing by the hospital for a check-up. "Wanda, please take me to the bathroom. I'd like to brush my teeth and take a shower now so that I can go to the hospital sooner." After saying those words, she crept out from the bed, desperate to have her vision back because she could no longer wait to return to Paradigm Co.

Ever since Sonia was out of action, she had asked Charles to momentarily take over all of her work. Asher was unhappy with this arrangement even though Charles was known as the director in Paradigm Co. because he reckoned that Charles had gotten in his way, which prevented him from appointing his own confidant to assume the position. When Daphne brought that matter up with Sonia, she mentioned that was the reason why Asher kept finding fault with Charles. Despite Charles' hot temper, he had tolerated Asher and stayed in Paradigm Co. for Sonia's sake.

Because of that, it infuriated Sonia so much that she wanted to stand up for Charles and retaliate, but due to her impaired sight, she didn't dare to rock up to her company. That in itself left her feeling guilty for throwing him in a tight spot. For now, all I want is to have my vision back so that I can return to Paradigm Co. and make Asher pay for what he has done.

Not long after that, Sonia was done with her morning ablution and breakfast, whereupon she was accompanied by Wanda to the First World Hospital. While they were on their way there, Sonia had already given Tim a call to secure an appointment. Thus, he was standing at the hospital's entrance the moment they arrived, but nonetheless, Wanda couldn't help but be wary at the sight of Tim because she was unaware of his relationship with Sonia. Who is this guy? Does he know Miss Reed? It looks like he is here to receive her.

As she had sensed nothing out of the ordinary from Tim's look, Wanda didn't think the doctor harbored any feelings for Sonia. Nevertheless, after witnessing his unusually cordial attitude, she couldn't seem to convince herself that everything was normal.

While a confused Wanda pondered for an answer, he walked closer and set his eyes on Sonia's face. "You mentioned over the phone that you can now see shadows, didn't you?"

"Yeah." Sonia nodded.

Tim stared at her eyes and asked, "Can you see me now?"

"I can only make out your silhouette, but not your facial features, your outfit and its color," she answered.

He pushed his glasses up his nose bridge while replying, "I think I know what's going on. Firstly, I'll have to check whether there is still any blood clot left in your brain. Thus, I'll take you to the neurology department to do a CT scan first before we head to the ophthalmology department."

"Please proceed with the arrangements as you see fit," she answered once again.

Soon, the three of them walked through the hospital's main entrance shortly before Tim took Sonia to the CT scan room. At the same time, Wanda remained outside and dialed Toby's number.

Meanwhile, Toby was in the midst of a meeting when he received her phone call. He then frowned and reached for his phone, but as he was about to decline the call, he quickly changed his mind when he saw who was calling. He immediately straightened his posture and raised his hand as a gesture to inform the department manager to pause in the presentation.

Now that the entire meeting room was shrouded in silence, Toby slid the green icon across his phone screen and greeted, "Yes, speaking."

On the other hand, Wanda covered her mouth the moment she heard his voice and spoke in a hushed tone, "Young Master Toby, Miss Reed's eyes are recovering."

"For real?" His eyes brightened whereas everyone in the meeting room could clearly sense the positive change in his mood. At that moment, they all looked at each other in curiosity, wondering what it was that lifted Toby's spirit so much.

"It is. Miss Reed can now make out blurry silhouettes, so we're currently heading to the hospital for a check-up. Will you be there, Young Master Toby?" she asked.

"Sure, I'll be there soon." Toby nodded and hung up the call, but as soon as he kept his phone away, the bright look on his face was immediately replaced by his previous glacial and emotionless expression. "Please carry on."

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Chapter 425 Kidnapping Sonia

"Sure," the departmental manager replied with an affirmative hum and continued his presentation.

Nonetheless, everyone else in the meeting room could no longer focus on their work as they secretly winked at each other in an ambiguous manner. Now that they had been taken over by their gossipy nature, they were all dying to know who Toby was talking so gently to over the phone. After all, he had never been so tender to anyone except Tina, but ever since she was sentenced to prison, no one had ever seen him being this gentle again. Thus, when they noticed Toby's expression, they couldn't help but wonder whether he was in a new relationship. Tsk! Tsk! That's sooner than expected.

Now that he was the receipt of everyone's visual banter, Toby knew what they were thinking. Nonetheless, he wasn't mad at all but rather happy to see them misunderstanding the situation. "That's enough. Pay attention to the presentation right now."

He knocked on the table after a brief murmur of gossip. Deep down in his heart, he couldn't wait to finish the meeting sooner so that he could head over to the hospital to visit Sonia as he wanted to be the first person she saw when her eyes recovered.

On the other hand, everyone else straightened their posture when they snapped out of their fantasies as soon as they heard his warning.

In the meantime, at the First World Hospital, Wanda kept her phone away and returned to the hallway outside the CT scan room, where she sat on the bench and waited for Sonia to emerge.

Half an hour later, Wanda immediately stood up from her seat when she saw Tim and Sonia leaving the room. "Miss Reed."

"Wanda," Sonia replied.

Wanda turned her attention to him and asked, "How is she, Dr. Lancaster?"

"The blood clot is completely gone and she'll have full vision probably by tomorrow. In fact, she could start to see things clearly today," he explained with both of his hands in his pocket.

She happily exclaimed, "Oh, that's definitely music to our ears!"

"Alright, we should take you to ophthalmology now for a check-up," Tim said.

"Sure." Sonia responded with an affirmative hum as Wanda seized her arm and followed them both to the ophthalmology department.

It was already close to the afternoon after the multiple check-ups when Sonia collected her medicine from the dispensary and was ready to leave. At the same time, a worried Wanda couldn't stop looking at her phone while wondering what took Toby so long to show up. Where is Young Master Toby? Miss Reed is about to make a move soon.

"Wanda? Wanda?" Sonia was waiting for Wanda to seize her arm but received no response as if the woman was not there. Failing to feel her caretaker's presence, Sonia began to panic because she didn't know what to do as a visually impaired person if Wanda wasn't around.

Soon, Wanda heard Sonia's fearful voice and immediately responded by looking over. "I'm here, Miss Reed."

Wanda's voice was like a soothing lullaby that calmed Sonia's restless heart. She then took a deep breath and questioned Wanda in a dissatisfied manner, "Where did you go, Wanda?"

"I didn't go anywhere, Miss Reed. I was just too absorbed in my thoughts and I'm sorry about that." Wanda apologized.

"It's okay, let's go now." Sonia rubbed her forehead.

Wanda nodded silently while letting out a sigh. It seems that Young Master Toby is going to have to wait for another chance to see Miss Reed. Then, she walked with Sonia all the way from the hospital's exit to the car park where she reached for the car keys and said, "Miss Reed, please stay still while I open the car door."

"Alright." Sonia nodded.

Soon, Wanda pushed the button on her car key to unlock the car door before opening it. However, as she was about to help Sonia enter the car, a van suddenly approached them at lightning speed and abruptly pulled up beside them.

As soon as the door was open, two emotionless and muscular men sprang from the van and grabbed Sonia while covering her mouth before they dragged her into the vehicle. Wanda, along with the other bystanders, were dumbstruck by what they saw in the face of the unexpected turn of events. After all, no one thought something that they watched in the movies would happen in reality, let alone expect a kidnapping to occur in broad daylight.

At that moment, every witness froze in their tracks and watched the abduction whereas Sonia had fear written all over her pale face. What's going on? Who is doing this? Who is trying to kidnap me? Needless to say, her questions were left unanswered as she didn't bother to ponder about it because she wasn't so calm as to continue thinking about it now that her safety was in jeopardy.

"Hmm..." Sonia tried to shout in a muffled voice but failed to make herself heard. Thus, she could only watch with saucer eyes as she futilely struggled to break free from the two muscular men. Nonetheless, her desperate effort to escape only proved to be in vain when the kidnappers continued to show no signs of releasing her. Now that she was at her wits' end, she turned her attention to her surroundings and made as much noise as she could, in the hope that she could draw Wanda's attention to rescue her.

Upon hearing Sonia's muffled cry, Wanda snapped out of her trance and shouted, "What are you guys doing?! Let Miss Reed go or I'm going to call the cops!"

Wanda! When Sonia heard Wanda's voice, she saw a glimmer of hope that she was about to be rescued and cried even louder in her muffled voice. However, the kidnappers weren't intimidated by Wanda's warning as they continued to drag Sonia into the van.

As Sonia was about to be dragged away, Wanda quickly approached the abductors to interfere. "I told you to release her! Didn't you hear me?! What you're doing is against the law, so let go of—" Before she could finish her words, a huge palm landed on her shoulder, whereupon she felt herself jolting backward. It didn't take long for Wanda to realize that she had been shoved aside as she painfully fell onto the ground. Her face paled a moment later and it was covered by cold sweat as she struggled to get back on her feet.

Although Sonia was unable to see what had happened, she could tell from Wanda's painful moan that she had been violently treated. At the same time, she was able to feel one of the kidnappers releasing his right hand, which she reckoned was the same hand that he used to hit Wanda.

At the thought of that, Sonia became worried because Wanda was in her advanced years and too old to put up a fight. Furthermore, she was concerned that in her attempt to stop the kidnappers, Wanda could become severely injured.

As Sonia expected, her worst fear came true when she felt two hands restraining her ankles, although one of the abductors had released her right hand earlier. Then, she felt those two hands hoisting her up before she felt herself levitating in the air.

“Ugh...” She violently shook her head and struggled by kicking in all directions as her fear suffocated her. What are these guys doing?!

Meanwhile, the two abductors became annoyed with Sonia’s struggle and they became even more aggressive. One of them proceeded to tighten his grip around her ankle to hurt her as a gesture of warning. Besides, he also glacially threatened,, “If you keep squirming, I’m going to crush your ankle and leave you crippled!”

When she heard the man’s words, Sonia froze in terror. Did they just say that they’ll crush my ankle?! Although those words might have sounded like a bluff, she had no doubt about what those kidnappers were capable of doing. While she reckoned Tina was the worst person she had ever dealt with, she was sure that there was someone else worse out there in the world.

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Chapter 426 It’s Too Late

After the spine-chilling threat, Sonia didn’t dare to even move a muscle. Noticing her obedience, the kidnappers stopped threatening her and eased up on her. The next moment, she felt herself being lifted in the air, and she guessed she was being dragged into the van. Just like she expected, she immediately dropped to the ground as soon as the hands that were grabbing her ankles released her.

The vinyl sensation of car seats told her that she was in the backseat of a vehicle. At that moment, even her heart reacted to the dire situation by raising her pulse rate. Am I in a van now? Man, I can’t believe I’m being taken away by these people. At the thought of that, Sonia immediately shivered in fear because she didn’t want to be taken away by some strangers to some place she didn’t know. After all, it could end up terribly for her if she was taken to some remote and desolate place. I must run for my life! She sat bolt upright when those words showed up in her mind.

Nevertheless, Sonia’s plan was quickly thwarted by the grim reality when one of the kidnappers twisted her arm and restrained it right behind her back before pinning her on the seat. Feeling her skin rubbing against the rough cushion, she moaned in pain. “Ouch! Let go of me!”

Needless to say, Sonia’s words were ignored by her abductors, who then sealed her mouth with duct tapes. At that moment, Sonia could no longer talk like she did earlier. Soon, one of the kidnappers said, “That should do it. Now, let’s tie her

up with the rope and get out of here before trouble catches up with us. The cops can be here anytime soon.”

“I know.” The other abductor responded just when Sonia felt her legs being bound by ropes.

On the other hand, Wanda endured the intense pain she suffered from the fall and got back on her feet to save Sonia from the van. However, she underestimated her own injury, as she was quite badly hurt from the fall. As soon as she tried to get up, she staggered backward and fell on her backside, hurting her tailbone in the process and aggravating her injury.

Knowing she was unable to save Sonia by herself in her current condition, she turned her attention to the people around her and begged them to do something. “Please save her, everyone! Please save Miss Reed! I’ll make sure Young Master Toby repays your kind favor! Don’t let them take her away!”

Since the two kidnappers were greatly outnumbered by the witnesses around them, Wanda believed that they could have saved Sonia’s life if they had interfered together. However, she forgot about the timid and indifferent nature among people in the modern unforgiving society as she realized they were just watching a show.

After all, they all backed away when they heard Wanda’s plea for them to step in and rescue Sonia. Some of them even left the scene, clearly showing their reluctance to help Sonia. Despite their sympathy for Sonia’s fate, they didn’t feel obligated to rescue her because they didn’t want to get themselves hurt. Deep down, they were all selfish for valuing their own lives more than that of the others.

In the meantime, Wanda felt an icy chill surging through her body when no one from the crowd was willing to lend a helping hand. Filled with disappointment and frustration, she pointed at them with her shaking finger. “You... How could you...”

As Wanda pointed at those people, they all turned around and avoided her gaze guiltily because they were also aware of their own indifference. In the end, Wanda could only watch the van leave as she sat on the floor and cried with a broken heart, blaming herself for failing to stop Sonia’s kidnap.

“President Fuller, it looks like something is going on up ahead. There is a huge crowd of people for some reason,” Tom commented as he set his eyes on the crowd in Toby’s Maybach.

In the meantime, Toby, who was never a busybody, somehow had a bad feeling at the sight of the crowd. Thus, when Tom was about to open the car door for Toby after pulling up not far away from the crowd, the latter exited the vehicle by himself. Then, he squinted at those people. “Please check out what’s going on.”

“What?” Tom felt surprised with what Toby told him to do because he knew his boss was not a busybody, which was why he overreacted upon hearing Toby’s

words. However, he didn't ask Toby why he wanted him to find out what was going on with the crowd. Instead, he did as he was instructed and walked toward the crowd of people.

As Tom approached the crowd, he heard murmurs mentioning a van with two kidnapers. Thus, he was able to quickly draw a brief conclusion about what was going on based on those words. Someone has been kidnapped and taken away in a van. Who would be so gutsy to pull off an abduction outside the hospital in broad daylight? Just when Tom was about to return to Toby to tell him what he learned, he suddenly heard a familiar cry that would change the look on his face.

Is that... Wanda's voice? Wait a second! Without a moment of hesitation, Tom turned around and weaved through the crowd to confirm his suspicion. On the other hand, Toby, who saw the sudden change in Tom's facial expression, was quickly overwhelmed by a strong feeling of anxiety. In the end, he gave in to his curiosity and walked toward the crowd to find out more for himself.

At the same time, Tom had successfully made it to the center of the crowd, where he saw Wanda lying on her belly tearfully in a seemingly injured state. In that instant, his blood ran cold while Wanda cried helplessly amidst the murmurs of discussion about a kidnap incident.

Therefore, Tom was sure that Sonia had been kidnapped because Wanda was supposed to accompany her for her check-up. Hence, now that Sonia was nowhere to be found around Wanda, his suspicion was the only logical explanation for her disappearance.

"Wanda!" Tom shouted out to the lady.

When Wanda heard the man's voice, she stopped crying for a moment and looked up, turning her attention to the direction she was called. At the sight of Tom, she shouted, "Tom, please hurry up and save Miss Reed! Someone took her!"

Oh my gosh! My suspicion is correct. Tom took a deep breath and was about to say something but was soon interrupted by an angry voice. "What did you just say? Sonia was taken?"

It turned out that Toby had weaved through the crowd and happened to overhear Wanda's words, unbeknownst to both of them. Sonia has been kidnapped. No wonder I had this strange bad feeling when I saw the crowd.

"Young Master Toby..." Wanda felt ashamed to face Toby because she reckoned she had failed her responsibility to look after Sonia as he told her to. Now that Sonia was gone, she knew that she had let Toby down and lost his trust.

Meanwhile, Toby had no idea what Wanda was thinking, but apparently, he had no intention of finding it out either. Instead, he walked up to Wanda and asked with a cold voice, "You said Sonia was taken. Who took her away?"

"I don't know." Wanda shook her head. "I only saw two muscular guys who looked especially intimidating. I bet they must be the muscle for someone in the underworld. They came and took Miss Reed away with a van."

"Van?" Toby asked with a cold voice as he set his eyes somewhere across the road. "Where did the van go? Did you see the license plate number?"

"It went that way, but I don't know about the license plate number because the van doesn't have one," Wanda answered.

"Alright, I heard you," Toby replied and weaved through the crowd, hastily making for the car before he hit on the gas pedal and drove off.

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Chapter 427 Declan and His Men

"President Fuller..." Tom extended his arm, trying to stop Toby, but it was too late. He could only watch him disappear from sight. Feeling discouraged, Tom put down his hands and looked at Wanda. "Wanda, I guess President Fuller must have left to pursue that van."

"Thank God!" Wanda heaved a sigh of relief and nodded while wiping her tears. Deep down, she reckoned there was nothing that Toby couldn't solve.

"By the way, why are you lying on the ground?" Tom recalled the confusion that bewildered him when he saw Wanda. She was lying on the ground in a strange posture without getting up despite his arrival.

Wanda rubbed her waist and smiled bitterly. "When Miss Reed was being taken away, I tried to interfere and save her but was shoved onto the ground. Now, my back is injured, and I can't get up."

"What?!" Tom exclaimed in a high-pitch voice. Wanda is hurt?! No wonder she keeps lying on the ground all the time. This is no joke! "No way! I must take you to the hospital now." Tom got closer to Wanda and carried her before rushing to First World Hospital as fast as humanly possible.

Soon, Wanda was taken into the CT scan room in the orthopedics department. Meanwhile, Tom stood outside the room as he reached for his phone to give Toby a call. On the other hand, Toby clamped the steering with his hands tightly while fixing his glacial eyes on the junction ahead of him, radiating a cold aura that filled the car's interior. Ugh! I'm now at the junction, but I have no idea which way to go. Which way did Sonia's kidnapper go? "Damn it!" Toby clenched his fists and thumped the steering in frustration.

At that moment, Toby heard his phone ringing in his pocket. Then, he took a deep breath to calm himself as he pulled over and reached for his phone. "Talk!"

"President Fuller, I've already called the cops and told them about Miss Reed's kidnap. The case has been handed over to the relevant department, and they're going to check out every security footage across the city soon. So, I think we're going to have news about the van in no time," Tom replied.

Upon hearing that, Toby appeared to lighten up. "Good! Once you get the location of that van, send it to me right away!"

"Understood." Tom nodded.

Toby tightened his fingers around his phone. "Also, get me a team of bodyguards. I want them to come with me as soon as the van's location has been pinpointed." After all, he remembered that Wanda mentioned the two muscular men who kidnapped Sonia were someone's muscle. While there was nothing much known about the mastermind's identity, Toby was not sure whether that person had more muscles. Thus, he needed more people to back him up in this rescue mission.

"Sure," Tom answered.

Not long after that, Toby put away his phone and sat in the car, trying to calm himself down while waiting for results from the law enforcement units and his bodyguards' arrival. Since there was nothing he could do at the moment, he only prayed for Sonia to be safe.

At the same time, he looked down while impatiently tapping the steering in a messy rhythm that clearly reflected his anxiety and vexation. Deep down, he couldn't stop thinking about who ordered Sonia's kidnap. Is it Titus? Or is it the culprit who orchestrated my accident the last time?

Toby squinted, deeming Titus his primary suspect between the two because of the personal vendetta between him and Sonia. Furthermore, he wouldn't be surprised if Titus was really the one who did that, considering what had happened recently.

Nevertheless, the culprit who put him through a car accident was also a possible suspect because he was quite close with Sonia. Therefore, Toby reckoned he could be using Sonia to make him suffer. Anyway, I don't care who kidnapped Sonia because I'm going to make that person pay.

On the other hand, the van with no license plate number pulled up by the roadside after traveling a long way through the highway out of Seafield City. At the same time, a black MPV showed up and stopped by the roadside as well. Soon, both parties stepped out of their vehicles at the same time, whereupon two muscular men, known as Stan and Dan, exited their van and stood before it.

In the meantime, a feminine-looking man with long hair, along with his muscular bodyguard, stepped out of their MPV. Then, the man fixed his eyes on the van for two seconds before he approached it and stopped before them.

Stan and Dan bowed to the man. "Young Master Declan."

"Where is she?" Declan fiddled with the ring on his finger, asking with a hoarse voice.

Soon, the two muscular men slid the car door open and answered, "Right in here."

As Declan took a step forward and looked inside, his eyes met with Sonia's. While Sonia was tied and gagged, she was not unconscious but only restrained in the backseat. Therefore, she could hear their conversation outside the van.

For that, she believed the person whom they called 'Young Master Declan' was the mastermind who ordered her kidnap. Nonetheless, she was confused because she had no idea who that person was. After all, she didn't know anyone who was called by that, so she couldn't help but wonder why she was wanted by the mysterious person.

Meanwhile, Sonia set her eyes outside the window. At the same time, her impaired vision seemed to improve even more. Earlier that morning, she was only able to see shadows, but now, she could make out blurry features, which felt like short-sightedness to her. At that moment, she could see a feminine-looking man with smooth long hair outside the van but was still unable to make out his appearance. However, she understood that the man must be Young Master Declan whom her kidnappers were calling. Who is this guy? I've never seen him before. "Hmm!" Sonia's eyes widened, her body wriggling while she spoke incoherently with her muffled voice.

"Remove the tape from her mouth." Declan sneered coldly and waved his hand.

"Alright." One of the kidnappers replied with an affirmative hum and grabbed Sonia by the collar, lifting her up before he ripped the tape off her mouth. Then, he shoved her backward, sending her to the stiffened backseat. Hurt by the man's rough treatment, she was in shambles but could do nothing but moan in pain.

Besides, the red marks around her lips only added to her messy look, thanks to the kidnapper, who ripped the tape off her mouth in a rough manner. Nevertheless, Sonia couldn't care less about how she looked as she tried hard to sit up straight. Then, she stared at the man and asked with a trembling voice, "Who the hell are you? Why are you after me?"

"Who I am doesn't matter. What matters is that I can finally achieve my goal with you in my hands." Declan chuckled with a soft voice, sounding almost like a sinister wizard.

Upon hearing that laughter, Sonia felt her scalp getting numb as her body tensed up from head to toe. Oh my gosh! That smile is definitely the scariest and most

chilly one I've ever seen. "Your goal?" Sonia took a deep breath to calm herself down. "What goal? If my memory serves me right, we don't even know each other. I've never seen you, so I don't think I can be of any use for you to achieve your goal."

"Of course you can!" The man leaned closer to her and added with a hoarse and deep voice, "You're the woman Lucius cares a lot about."

"Lucius Hayes?" Sonia knitted her eyebrows and wondered who that was.

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Chapter 428 A Rescue Mission

Sonia ran through a list of possible names and faces in her mind but failed to recall anyone she knew with the name Lucius Hayes. However, the name sounded rather familiar to her, like she had heard it somewhere else. That name rings a bell. Where did I hear it?

"That's right!" Declan looked away with coldness in his eyes and fiddled with his ring. "I've been searching for Lucius for a few years, but he is a hard man to find. In fact, he is so good I couldn't find a way to hurt him, so I turned my attention to you." The man stroked Sonia's chin with his cold fingers, sending chills down her spine and filling her eyes with horror.

Feeling utterly dismayed, Sonia acknowledged the distress signal her intuition was sending her. This man is definitely creeping me out. "Turned your attention to me?" She gulped and asked through her shivering lips, "Why me?"

"I just told you. It's because you're the woman Lucius cares about, and since he is my target, I can only execute my plan, starting from you. Once I have you, he is going to come and rescue you, and when he gets here, I'm going to kill him." Declan revealed his evil plan with an eerie smile.

"A-Are you going to kill him?" Sonia asked with a shaking voice.

"I can only find peace in his death!" Declan admitted his sinister intention to kill. In fact, he was Robert's fourth son, as well as his fourth illegitimate son. When Robert was younger, he loved to sleep around, which was why he had so many illegitimate sons. Although Declan was the fourth son, he still had a few other younger half-brothers.

While all of Robert's illegitimate sons wanted to be the Hayes Family's heir to inherit the huge fortune, they all fought among each other, yet Robert did nothing to stop that. Thus, their infighting grew more and more intense, as they all wouldn't rest until they got rid of each other.

Although Robert initially had more than 10 illegitimate sons, most of them were either dead, maimed, or exiled in other countries, leaving only Declan and four other of his half-brothers. Just when the five sons thought the place to be the Hayes Family's heir would be a fight among them, they were surprised by Robert, who had no intention of making any of them his heir. Instead, he had been secretly looking for the son that belonged to his wife because that was the legitimate son of the Hayes Family.

Nevertheless, Robert's legitimate son, Lucius, was cast away from home with his mother when he was 5 years old. Therefore, his half-brothers had never viewed him as an enemy, only to be stunned by Robert's sudden change in his inclination. Since Robert was growing old and ill, he began to miss his wife and son, so he dispatched his men to search for them, in order to make him his heir.

Because of that, the illegitimate sons were not happy, as they didn't think Lucius deserved to be the Hayes Family's heir. After all, he was just Robert's other son who grew up outside of the Hayes Family, despite his legitimacy.

Therefore, the five of them decided to set aside their differences and focus on their common goal, which was to—get rid of Lucius in order to ensure no one stood in their way of inheriting the Hayes Family's fortune.

Declan managed to discover Lucius' whereabouts ahead of his half-brothers, even sending hitmen to either intimidate or kill him. However, none of his plans proved to work, as Lucius was able to get away in one piece every time.

Thus, Declan could no longer wait anymore and decided to take him on by himself. Although he continued to fail his goal, he soon discovered what he deemed to be a turning point when he realized Lucius was close with a woman. Therefore, he sent someone to do some digging about the woman with whom he planned to lure Lucius out to kill him.

Sonia had no idea what was on Declan's mind, only looking at him in horror. "You're scary." Deep down, she wondered whether people like Declan, Tina, and Titus had a heart, as they seemed to always be filled with bloodlust.

"I'm scary?!" Declan was not mad at the way Sonia described him. Instead, he let out a burst of gleeful and maniacal laughter. "You're absolutely right. I'm scary, and I like to strike fear in people's hearts because that is how I can show the world how great I am!" He spread his arms open and looked up like a savior who was going to help the world.

Sonia curled her lips upward speechlessly, wondering how narcissistic Declan was.

"Young Master Declan!" one of the muscular kidnappers called out.

Lucius knitted his eyebrows and turned around. "What's the matter?"

The man held the phone. "I've just sent Lucius a message and told him that we have Sonia captured."

"Did he reply?" Lucius asked.

"Yes, he did." The man nodded. "Just two words. 'You dare?!'."

As the man showed Declan the phone, he set his eyes on those words and made a nonchalant grunt. "It looks like he is pissed off. That's a good thing. Tell him to come to Misty Mountain if he wants to rescue Sonia."

"Alright," the man replied and texted back before he waited for another response from Lucius.

In the meantime, Sonia asked, "Don't you think you're getting ahead of yourself? Why would this guy come over to save me?"

"Oh really?" Declan turned around and looked at the lady. "Did you just say he won't come and save you?"

"That's right. I bet he won't because I don't even know who the heck Lucius Hayes is. So, I'm sure he doesn't know me either. For that, what you said about me being the woman he cares the most is not true. Thus, what makes you think he is going to come for me? If I were you, I'd quit wasting my time on this. Just let me go." Sonia nervously gazed at Declan, hoping her words could convince the man. After all, she had no idea who Lucius was and thought that this was Declan's mistake. Maybe this guy will let me go once he finds out Lucius and I don't know each other.

"You don't know him?" Declan sounded like he had heard a funny joke and laughed out loud.

"What's so funny?" Sonia's scalp grew numb when she heard his laughter.

Declan folded his arms and replied, "Oh my gosh! I thought Lucius told you about his actual identity, but I guess that's fine. The most important thing is that you know Lucius, who really cares about you. Thus, I'm pretty sure he is going to come and save your life. Trust your own charm, won't you?"

Declan then let go of Sonia's chin and rubbed her face, but Sonia felt as if there was a snake slithering around her face. Feeling goosebumps all over her body, she backed away to stay out of his reach.

On the other hand, Declan somehow released her from his hand and said, "Alright, just be a good girl and do as you're told. Then, I might just let you live after I kill Lucius; but if you don't cooperate, I'm going to kill the both of you. After all, he loves you, so I might as well do him a favor and let you both die together. In fact, he may even thank me for that." Declan retracted his arm and stepped away from the van when he was done scaring the poor lady.

Meanwhile, Sonia was shivering uncontrollably with horror filling her eyes. This man is going to kill me! Skeptical about Declan's words to spare her life, she didn't think he would keep his promise because she had already seen his face.

Furthermore, she believed he wouldn't let her go in one piece, even if he would let her live.

Oh, man! Is he going to gouge my eyes, cut my tongue or chop my limbs off? He is not going to leave any loose ends behind. At the thought of that, Sonia's eyes were filled with despair as her heart froze in terror. Thinking that would likely be her end, she hopelessly doubted Charles and the rest would make it there in time to save her.

By the time they find me, I'll probably be as good as dead. What do I do now?

She was only left with the choice to weep and bite her lip in silence.

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Chapter 429 The Show Must Go On

At that moment, Sonia was overwhelmed by despair and pessimism. Deep down, she wished there was someone who could save her right away, no matter who it was.

However, she quickly understood that it was just her wishful thinking, but when she closed her eyes hopelessly, a person's silhouette flashed across her mind so fast that she wasn't able to see who it was. Nevertheless, she hoped that someone could come to her rescue and get her out of the sticky situation.

In the meantime, the kidnapper with the mobile phone came to Declan and said, "Young Master Declan, here is the location of Misty Mountain."

Declan took a quick glimpse at the phone and showed his acknowledgment. Soon, another guy approached him with a serious look on his face. "Young Master Declan, the road traffic department in Fredburg is now searching for our whereabouts through the security cameras on every street."

"What?" Declan's face darkened. "What's going on? Is that Lucius' doing?"

"No, Lucius is not so powerful that the road traffic department has to go through every security footage in the city just to help him look for us. In fact, it's the Fuller Group's president, Toby Fuller, who is onto us."

"That guy?" Declan frowned. Knowing Toby as the Fuller Family's patriarch and the Fuller Group's president, he deemed him as powerful as his own father, Robert. Thus, he understood why Toby was able to get help from the national road traffic department to extract the security footage from every corner of the city. However, something seemingly crossed Declan's mind as his eyes darkened. "Are you sure Toby is onto us?"

"I'm absolutely sure because our men in Fredburg have news for us that Toby has been digging around for the van in which Sonia was taken." The man nodded affirmatively.

Declan gritted his teeth, radiating a stern aura. "Why is he looking for our van?"

Is Sonia related to Toby by any chance?

Declan's suspicion was quickly confirmed when the man added, "Well, Sonia is Toby's ex-wife, whom he cares a lot about. So, now that Sonia has been captured by us, he is definitely on the move to look for her."

"What?" Declan's face changed. "They used to be married? How come you didn't know this when you did your digging about Sonia?"

If they had known that Sonia was someone important to the Toby Fuller, Declan wouldn't have allowed his men to execute the plan. After all, Toby was a powerful and influential man whom he could barely match. Moreover, he had limited manpower, considering the fact that he was in Seafield City at that moment. Thus, he was well aware of the odds between him and Toby if they were to take on each other.

Toby is known to be vengeful, so if he comes after me, I'm going to be as good as dead.

"Damn it!" Declan bellowed in anger.

The man looked down and apologized. "I'm sorry, Young Master Declan. It's our fault for overlooking this matter. We did as you said and only focused on learning Lucius' relationship with Sonia, so we neglected her relationship with the others. That's why..." He swallowed his words, pausing mid-sentence.

On the other hand, Declan glared at the man with a pair of bloodshot eyes and clenched his fist before swinging it across his face. Beaten, the man looked down and apologized once more. "I'm sorry, Young Master Declan."

Declan clenched his fists so hard that his finger joints began to make popping sounds. Then, he spoke with a chilly voice. "You should be grateful because you're still useful to me, or I'm going to maim you right here right away!"

Upon hearing those words, the muscular kidnapper was seen with fear flashing across his face. Despite his beefy build and strong physique, he was surprisingly scared of Declan because he couldn't forget the sight of how this crazy man tortured his victim. Therefore, he knew he would likely be skinned if he was going to be punished by him. Now that Declan decided to spare his life for the moment, he heaved a sigh of relief and calmed himself down. "So, what do we do now, Young Master Declan? Do we take her back to where she was taken?"

"Take her back?" Declan squinted. "Do you think Toby is going to let us off if we do that? Impossible." Ever since he ordered Sonia's kidnap, he had just made himself Toby's enemy, yet he knew sending her back was not going to resolve

their vendetta. Thus, he squeezed his fists and said with a glacial voice, "We'll carry on with the plan."

"What?" The man sounded surprised. "Are we seriously going to continue the plan?"

"What do you think?" Declan shot his underling a cold gaze. "There is no turning back for us now. Toby is never going to let us go easily, whether or not we send Sonia back. In that case, we might as well keep her until she outlives her usefulness."

"Wise words, Young Master Declan." The man nodded.

"However, this place is no longer safe for us, so tell the others that we're leaving for Misty Mountain. Besides, please gag Sonia's mouth so that she doesn't shout like crazy on our way to our new destination and draw unnecessary attention."

"Understood!" the man replied and did as he was told.

Declan pulled his long hair that was hanging in front of his chest with a distorted look on his face. After all, he thought his meticulous plan was so perfect that he would be able to successfully kill Lucius, only to be dismayed when he unknowingly dragged Toby into his mess.

Now that Toby was involved, Declan realized his plan had gotten out of control and deviated from his expectation. After all, he had no idea what would happen in the end, as he wondered if he would succeed in killing Lucius or suffer a terrible fate at the hands of either Toby or Lucius.

Without any option left, Declan could only take a leap of faith and play it by ear, no matter what kind of ending his plan would lead to. It's too late to turn back now, so my plan will have to work out, no matter what! He then clenched his fists and returned to his MPV. In order to prevent further exposure, Declan and his men decided to take the streets and avoid the highways due to the fewer security cameras.

Meanwhile, Toby, who was still at the junction, received a call from Tom. "President Fuller, the road traffic department has some information about the route the van took. Right after they left First World Hospital, they made a left turn at Southeast Junction and headed straight out of the city. Then, they passed by the toll on their way to the highway, where the toll attendant reported sights of that van."

"Really?!" Toby tightened his fingers around his phone.

Tom nodded. "Yes. Besides, an MPV and a small pickup truck were spotted along with it. So, I think they're probably working together. Anyway, the three vehicles stopped there for slightly more than ten minutes before they left the highway through the off-ramp."

"Alright, I heard you. Send me the route after that off-ramp." Toby placed his hand on the steering while instructing his assistant.

"Alright." Tom nodded in response.

As soon as Toby finished the call, he put away his phone and continued to wait. Two minutes later, his phone vibrated, whereupon he reached for it and viewed the map Tom had sent him. He then immediately opened it to take a quick glimpse at the route before he closed the webpage and started the engine, making a left turn at the junction. Unknown to him, he was followed by a few black sedans right behind his car.

In the meantime, Carl was sitting in front of his laptop in a hotel in Seafield City, seemingly typing on the keyboard with an intimidating look on his chiseled face. At the same time, his eyes were bloodshot as he radiated a cold and murderous aura. "How dare you kidnap her, Declan! I swear to God that I will make you pay!" Carl clenched his jaw, speaking with a menacing voice.

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Chapter 430 Hot Pursuit

Carl couldn't stop cursing Declan while actively searching for Sonia's whereabouts on the internet. In fact, he was the one who received Declan's message about Sonia's kidnap.

How dare you threaten me to hurt Sonia for the sake of your personal gains, Declan!

While Declan had successfully identified Sonia to be Carl's Achilles heel, presently Carl had no choice but to leave for Misty Mountain to save her. However, he was worried that Misty Mountain was just Declan's cover to fool him.

Sonia might actually be somewhere else.

Because of that, Carl knew he must pinpoint Sonia's actual location so that he could rush there to save her life. Unaware that Carl was actually the hacker, Declan unknowingly exposed his contact number when he texted the former. Therefore, he didn't know that his number had become the key for Carl to locate Sonia's whereabouts because Carl could track down the signal of the number and listen in on their plan.

"Come on! Hurry up! Just another 30 seconds more!" Carl fixed his eyes upon the command and timer that appeared on the monitor screen with a desperate look. Deep down, 30 seconds felt like an hour to him as he wished he could view what he wanted directly if only the hacking could be initiated without a timer. While

time continued to slip by, he quickly realized he was 5 seconds away from completion. Oh man! It felt like a century to me in the past 25 seconds.

Three, two, one! 'The protocol is ready to be initiated.'

Carl stared at those words on the screen in agitation, whereupon he hit the 'enter' key. Soon, he began to hear voices from his speaker, one that sounded hoarse, like someone who had something stuck in his throat. "What's going on?"

Wait a minute! This voice... Carl's eyes dilated in horror. He then stood up straight, clenching his fists so hard that his fingers began to turn white. While his shoulders shivered slightly, he radiated a strong, vengeful aura that filled the space around him. "Declan!" He gritted his teeth, but he couldn't believe he was so lucky that he could hear Declan's voice on his first attempt. This is awesome!

Not long after that, Carl heard another voice. "Young Master Declan, it looks like Toby knows the route that we're taking. He is currently heading toward the toll station that we previously stopped at."

"What?! How did he know that so soon?!" Declan exclaimed in surprise.

At the same time, Carl was stunned to know that Toby was already aware of Sonia's abduction. At the same time, he couldn't help but wonder whether Toby knew who Sonia's kidnappers were, but nonetheless, he was able to tell that Toby had already made his move, which suggested the fact that he had learned about Sonia's kidnap earlier than he did.

"Yes, Young Master Declan. Toby is a powerful man, so it's not surprising that he knows our whereabouts so soon," the man replied.

Apparently angry, Declan said in a cold voice, "Speed up. When we reach the junction, we'll split up with the truck to confuse Toby."

"Why don't we split up with the van? After all, our goal is just to kill Lucius, so it doesn't matter whether Sonia is with us as long as he thinks she is with us. I'm sure Lucius will head straight to Misty Mountain while separating from Sonia can help us keep Toby at bay and buy us some time." Declan's underling gave him a suggestion.

Declan squinted warily. "I know splitting up with Sonia is, of course, the best way, but why should we let things go in Toby's favor? He is not going to let us off anyway, so I say we might as well kill Sonia. She's seen us all, so she will be a threat to us so long as she lives."

"You're right," the muscular thug said.

While the two men were discussing their plan, they were completely unaware of the beeping breathing light. Despite their meticulous plan, they had no idea that Carl had learned everything about their next move.

In that instant, Carl was happy yet irritated at the same time. He was happy because Declan didn't split up with Sonia, so all he had to do to know Sonia's whereabouts was just continue to track down the number. After all, he would lose track of Sonia's position if Declan decided to separate from her. At the same time, he was mad at Declan's sinister intention to kill Sonia. Therefore, he became restless and transferred everything to his mobile phone, whereupon he grabbed his jacket and left the room.

Soon, Carl's assistant, Alex Dillion, saw him coming out of the room in a hasty manner. "Where are you going, Carl?" Alex asked in confusion. However, the question was not answered as Carl made for the elevator as soon as he could, shortly before he drove away from the hotel.

On the other hand, Stan, who was riding shotgun in the van, hung up the call after receiving the instruction from his accomplice in the MPV. He then turned around and looked at Sonia, whose mouth was gagged. "Hey bro, don't you think this lady is lucky? Besides her admirer, Lucius, the famous patriarch from the Fuller Family, Toby Fuller, is also coming to her rescue and chasing after us right now. Little Dee just said that over the phone."

Upon overhearing those words, Sonia opened her eyes widely. Toby? He is on his way to rescue me? How did he know I've been kidnapped? Despite her confusion, Sonia was too agitated to dwell on it. At the same time, her hopelessness was replaced by a glimmer of hope that lifted her spirit because she believed Toby's pursuit was a good sign that she would be safe.

Dan, who was driving the van, let out a sigh. "Indeed. Man, I wish I could be a woman like her if I got to live a second time."

Finding the comment hilarious, Stan laughed out loud and replied, "That's not going to be enough. You'd need to be pretty so that all men would come to rescue you."

Dan was then seen with a long face. "Alright, alright! Quit messing around. Did Little Dee say anything else?"

"Yes, he did. He told us to keep heading to Misty Mountain, but when everyone splits up, we should take the other way."

"Okay."

Sonia frowned upon overhearing the kidnappers' conversation. What do they mean? Why are they splitting up? Before Sonia could understand what was going on, the vehicle suddenly took a sharp turn, jolting Sonia so hard it sent her bumping her forehead into the car door.

While a painful and dizzy look showed on her face, the kidnapper in the front passenger seat only looked back at her for a split second before he took his eyes off her without a single bit of sympathy. Therefore, Sonia was left being stuck in the gap between the front and backseat. Unable to move a muscle, she couldn't

help but feel uneasy as she wished she could die to just get out of that uncomfortable position.

Meanwhile, Toby arrived at the toll station and pulled over, at which point he got out of the car and stepped forward to a man standing beside a sports car. He then walked closer to the man and said, "Give me the keys."

The man immediately gave Toby the keys he was asking for politely. Upon receiving the keys, he quickly got into the car and drove toward the off-ramp. In order to catch up with the van of Sonia's kidnappers, he knew he needed something fast to do the impossible. After all, his Maybach was no sports car, and it could only go so fast. Thus, he had to switch to a sports car before continuing his pursuit. For that, he had called the most expensive 4S automobile shop to get someone to drive a sports car to the toll station the moment he received the route from Tom. Now that he had a sports car, he was confident that he was able to catch up with the van.

Wait for me, Sonia! I will be sure to bring you back without a scratch!