

Surprise 266

Chapter 266 Unreasonable

No wonder the woman that night kept calling another person's name.

Because of Louis' mistake, the woman that night had been changed to another person. After that, he did not want to make a big fuss out of this, so he forced the woman who slept with me to give birth to the child, replacing the surrogate woman. Worried that this might be exposed, he changed all the bodyguards around him before he announced that he was going to retire and return to his hometown.

After thinking about it, everything became clear at once.

"I'm afraid Louis was planning to bring this secret along with him to the grave," Josh said in a heavy tone.

"However, I'm not sure who we have offended because of this. Someone found out and went to find out the truth from Louis. Apart from that, they also know that we are suspicious of the incident, so they decided to attack first and kill Louis. It wasn't an accident."

"In simple terms, someone doesn't want me to know that the surrogate woman has been changed."

"The woman back then..."

"Look into it."

Alexander frowned and glanced at Jordan, who was focused on eating his food, using the corner of his eyes. Then, he lowered his volume as he said, "If necessary, take Jordan's genes and compare them with the genetic bank of Melrose City."

The whole incident was not that simple. Initially, Alexander had no interest in Jordan's biological mother at all and he did not want the woman to appear in front of him ever. However, looking back at the incident now, there were many problems with the surrogate woman being switched. Alexander had to know the entire picture.

Josh also realized how serious this issue was, so he quickly nodded. "Got it. I'll look into it immediately."

At two in the afternoon, many reporters had already arrived at the press conference held by Citrus Apparel in the Hibiscus Hotel located at the city center. Since many knew about the relationship between Courtney and Alexander, they came here to dig for more gossip about the both of them.

Backstage, Courtney glanced through the script that Lionel had prepared for her. There were five minutes left until she would appear on stage.

"Madam, I'm afraid you can't enter."

"What are you doing? Call the police!"

A sudden commotion happened at the door of the preparation room. Just when Courtney thought someone was here to ruin the press conference, a familiar woman's voice rang authoritatively.

"I'm here to see President Hunter."

Courtney froze before the door was opened the very next second.

“Aunt Alicia.”

In an army green coat, Alicia stood at the door with a scarf elegantly tied around her neck. Even though she was already in her fifties, she looked like she was in her early forties. There were three bodyguards behind her who blocked others so that they would not get closer to her.

Obviously angry, she said right after she entered, “Courtney, you don’t have to attend the press conference later.”

“What? Why?” The script that she had been holding was taken by Alicia immediately.

After glancing at it, Alicia threw it into the trash. “It’s useless for you to speak out. The bunch of reporters are shameless fellows. After Lucian died, he can’t even rest in peace knowing that he left such a huge mess for you to clean up. You have to listen to me, Courtney.”

“Aunt Alicia, this won’t work.” Courtney looked at her sullenly.

Everything is already well-arranged. Why did she suddenly appear? Is she planning to destroy all my plans?

“What do you mean by that? Are you saying that what you say has more weight than mine?”

As they were arguing, Alexander’s voice rang from outside.

“What’s wrong?”

Courtney suddenly felt someone hugging her thighs. When she lowered her head, she saw Tina and Jordan clinging onto her as though they were accessories on her leg.

hen, Tina raised her head and said sweetly, “Mommy!”

This is getting even messier.

Courtney looked at Alexander helplessly before saying, “Why did you bring them here? I’m not holding a party later, you know. Why are you guys here?”

“You silly kid—let me tell the reporters that Lucian is a useless man who cannot even be considered as your father. You have no relations with the Hunter Group whatsoever. Don’t you want that?”

Alicia was a short-tempered person. Seeing her furious demeanour right now, even Courtney did not know how to communicate with her.

“It’s not like that, Aunt Alicia.” Courtney felt that she could not explain herself clearly anymore.

Alexander motioned for the security guards to clear out the unrelated people around them before he closed the door.

“Alicia, how about this?”

Alexander then spoke to Alicia.

At the press conference, the reporters sat below the stage. On Citrus Apparel's side, Courtney sat in the middle, with the PR manager, Lionel and her aunt, Alicia, flanking her.

Obviously, the reporters were up to no good. Their first question was quite sharp indeed.

"Miss Hunter, are you the eldest daughter of Lucian Hunter and the Hunter Group?"

Courtney nodded in response.

"In that case, since you are Lucian's daughter, no one in the Hunter Family can get away from the incident this time. How could you retreat completely and even start another company? Is it like the rumors say that Lucian moved his assets to you and your new company?"

"Of course not. Not a single cent in my father's will belongs to me. As for the Hunter Group, I don't even own any shares. To be honest with you, I have never even entered the offices of the Hunter Group. I'm not related to them at all."

Everyone below the stage was shocked to hear that. The reporter obviously did not believe her, so he continued to ask, "Miss Hunter, you said that you are Lucian's daughter, yet you have never even entered your father's company. This is impossible! According to our understanding, you have plenty of assets under your name. For example, the mansion on Lotus Road is already worth 100 million by now."

"Based on insider's information, that house is a coming-of-age present to you."

"Since he already gave you a mansion for your coming-of-age present, it does not make sense to say that you are not included in his inheritance."

"Lucian put the money he invested in properties into his own pocket, resulting in the blue collar workers not able to get their pay right now. Is it because after he knew that he had cancer, he could escape the legal responsibilities by secretly transferring the money to you?"

Without waiting for Courtney's reply, the reporters below the stage started to make wild speculations that soon spun out of control.

"Enough!"

A sharp and stern voice reverberated throughout the entire conference hall. Next to Courtney, a figure rose, casting a shadow on her. In her peripheral vision, she saw that Alicia slammed her fists on the table as she stood up.

"This is a pile of bullsh\*t!"

There was a moment of silence before someone asked, "Who is this?"

"How can she be so rude?"

However, the voices soon died down, as Alicia's voice was powerful enough to stop the discussion.

"What do you guys know? As reporters, you don't even have basic legal knowledge? If you don't have to take responsibility for illegal transfers of money after you die, the world would be full of people trying to kill their bosses, their parents, and their siblings!"

Her cold voice pounded through everyone's eardrums. Once Alicia opened her mouth, she took control of the entire situation.

"Let me tell you why Lucian Hunter did not leave even a single cent to his daughter, Courtney. Before this, you have to know that although Courtney is the young lady of the Hunter Group, she is Lucian's second daughter. The one who jumped off the building was her step-sister from a different mother, and the one who ran away was her stepmother, not her biological mother."

The gossip of a rich family captivated the reporters even more and everyone was silently pumped to hear this news.

#### Chapter 267 A Perfect Plan?

"In your eyes, not only is Courtney Lucian's daughter, but she is also the Young Lady of the Hunter Family and the legal beneficiary of Hunter Group. However, the prerequisite for enjoying all these titles is the opportunity for her to be treated fairly by the Hunter Family."

Alicia's strong and powerful voice silenced the rest of the reporters at once.

"How do you think the Hunter Group was founded? Do you think Lucian built it from scratch? He merely depended on his ex-wife's family. After his business became successful, he dumped his wife who stuck with him through thick and thin. On the day that Courtney was born, her mother passed away as she lost a lot of blood during delivery. Use your brains for a moment—how would a mistress who finally chased the wife away treat Courtney? Courtney has shares in Hunter Group? Just how great do you think humanity is?"

Hurt and pain were apparent in her voice as she spoke about Courtney's miserable life, which she had witnessed all those years. From a young age, Courtney was with her grandfather. When he died, she was callously sent to Lucian's family because Alicia did not want her to be pampered. The harsher the environment, the more her will could be trained. Alicia's worst fear for Courtney—Cecilia's daughter—was for her to follow in her mother's footsteps. Hence, she did not want to raise Courtney as a young lady who did not know the harsh realities of the world. Alicia would rather Courtney hate her in the future as long as she knew how to protect herself.

After ten years in the Hunter Family, Courtney did not disappoint Alicia at all. She had great achievements—she managed to enroll in the best medical university in Melrose City.

"Apart from having the title as the Second Young Lady of the Hunter Family, she did not experience any treatment that matched the title. Ask yourselves—why would you expect a young woman like Courtney, who's in her twenties, to take responsibility for a company that's going bankrupt for the people who were never kind to her at all?"

Upon listening to Alicia's words, the reporters below the stage awkwardly looked at each other as they were unable to answer the question. Truth be told, not many among them knew about Courtney's complicated relationship with the Hunter Family. In fact, they even thought she was Lucian and Susan's daughter—based on the pictures that were exposed and her appearance at Anna's funeral.

Everyone took it for granted that Courtney was a pampered young lady raised in the Hunter Family, which was why everyone thought she had to take responsibility for the Hunter Group. After all, they discovered that she had many assets under her name.

Alicia was so furious that her body could not stop trembling. Courtney shot a glance at Alicia's assistant, who understood what she meant before she helped Alicia down the stage to take a rest. I guess that's the most Aunt Alicia can help. The rest depends on myself.

"You might not know this, but the person who just spoke up for me is Aunt Alicia, my mother's closest friend and sister-in-law. She's my family." Courtney stood up and looked at the group of reporters below the stage. "Initially, I didn't even invite her to the press conference today, but you know how much coverage this incident has been receiving, so it alerted her. Well, this is actually a good thing, so I won't have to explain everything again."

"So, are you really unrelated to the Hunter Group?" a reporter asked amidst the pressure. "However, we heard that Citron Apparel used to be a subsidiary of the Hunter Group."

"I guess everyone has investigated the assets under my name. I don't have any shares in the Hunter Group. As for Citron Apparel, it originally belonged to my mother. Before my father died, he asked me what I wanted from him, so I merely took what belonged to my mother. This isn't too much, is it?"

"Miss Hunter, what about the incident when the blue collar worker committed suicide by jumping from the building that housed the Hunter Group? Didn't you help by saying that you will take responsibility for this incident? If you are really unrelated to the Hunter Group, why did you rush over there to save him?"

Courtney froze before looking to the source of the voice. After all, criticisms can never be easily stopped.

When the rest of the reporters were talking among themselves, a man wearing a face mask looked at her fiercely with a hint of slyness in his eyes.

"President Hunter—" The PR Manager, Lionel, wanted to stand up and reply on her behalf. However, Courtney pressed him back. She then looked at the reporter as she replied in a low voice, "Saving a human's life is more important than anything else. If I don't try to save him, are you expecting me to watch him fall to his death and happily clap after that?"

Upon hearing her reply, the reporter who questioned her was momentarily stunned. After he heard the people around him agreeing with her, he panicked for a few seconds before regaining his composure to continue asking the next question.

"Since you are such a kind person, Miss Hunter, why don't you take care of Hunter Group and the blue collar workers? Even though the temperature has been dipping these few days, they have been sitting outside the headquarters of Hunter Group for an entire day while waiting for a reasonable explanation."

"Did I say that I'm going to ignore them?" Courtney shot a glance at him. "I don't think I said that, right?"

The facial expression of the reporter who questioned her immediately changed. Suddenly, everyone around her started to enthusiastically discuss the trending articles. Meanwhile, an article that a popular page posted on Facebook had already been shared millions of times.

The news about Courtney helping a blue collar's daughter who suffered from leukemia swept Facebook like a tide. Because of that, the Hunter Group's official website announced that the property project, which had previously been suspended, would be resumed once again.

The reporters present at the scene started to receive calls from their headquarters—one after another—with the news that there was a change in the interview plans. In mere moments, the entire direction of the press conference had changed.

“Miss Hunter, are you implying that you are going to deal with the mess left by the Hunter Group? Aren't you worried that this black hole will drain all of your money?”

“Miss Hunter, since the relationship between you and your father is not that great, why are you still willing to inherit the Hunter Group? Are you doing this purely because of business or kinship...”

Questions after questions were being directed at Courtney.

In the Ivory Apparel's vice-president's office situated at the Melrose City business district, a middle-aged man dressed in a business suit angrily barged into the office. With a loud thud, he threw a newspaper on the vice-president's desk. “Look at this! This is your so-called ‘perfect plan’!”

His roar immediately rang in the entire area. The young man wearing a coffee-colored checkered suit and seated behind the office table froze. After reading the contents of the newspaper, his expression immediately changed. “Why is this happening?”

“Shouldn't I be asking you this question?” With a dark look on his face, the middle-aged man continued yelling, “What did I tell you? Once we receive the bid from Sakura Group, do not think about taking those illegal routes! If you do it often, you will be caught one day!”

“It's not like that.” The young man looked anxious. “This is impossible! Martin from Citron Apparel told me that it's impossible for Courtney to agree to settle the mess left behind by the Hunter Group. Even if he doesn't tell me that, it's impossible. Is she crazy? That is—”

“Why don't you take a look at the people behind her?” As his entire body trembled in fury, the middle-aged man pointed his finger at the newspaper. “Clearly have a look at them. Who's this person sitting next to her? How about that one? Have you really looked into her background? Yet, you dare to play tricks on her! Are you planning to bring the entire company down?”

As the young man was still stunned, the middle-aged man's anxious voice reverberated throughout the entire room.

“Alexander Duncan from Sunhill Enterprise, Mrs. Somerfield, President Lewis of AW Group, and the chief editor of Vivi Magazine—these are the people who are backing her! Apart from that, she has connections abroad that even I myself can't investigate! Andy Greene, you are digging your own grave!”

## Chapter 268 Willing to Suffer for Her

While looking at the picture on the newspaper that a reporter took, Andy recognized a few big shots as his face paled.

“What the f\*ck is wrong with you? How many times have I told you that a small company like theirs is not a threat to us? You don’t have to waste your time laying traps on them!”

Amidst his brother’s scoldings, Andy looked embarrassed. “I really didn’t know that Courtney has such a powerful background. Britney only told me that she’s Alexander’s ex-girlfriend. I thought that there’s nothing special about Courtney—”

“Britney?” The middle-aged man’s expression immediately changed. “Are you still hooking up with the celebrity? I think you must be out of your mind.”

Without waiting for Andy’s explanation, he slammed the door and left after saying, “You better take the next two days off to reflect on your wrongdoings at home.”

With a loud thud, silence fell on the office once again.

Andy tore the newspaper on the table into pieces and threw it into the trash.

His phone suddenly rang at that moment. After seeing the caller, his face darkened as he immediately accepted the call. “You still have the nerve to call me? Haven’t you seen the news?”

The other end paused for a moment, but her soft and gentle voice soon rang. “Vice-president Greene, you don’t have to be furious. Isn’t it a good thing that you know more about your future competitor’s background through this incident?”

“Good?” Andy snorted coldly. “Do I look like an idiot to you? Do you know how my brother yelled at me?”

“It’s fine if he merely yelled at you. It doesn’t hurt you at all, right? Look at me now—I’m also being scolded by you, but I’m still trying to gently appease you.”

Upon hearing that, he froze for a moment before his fury slowly subsided. “I’m in a bad mood now. Where are you? I’ll go and pick you up.”

“I’ve already prepared everything for you. Let’s meet up at the pub outside Melrose City. I’ll wait for you there.”

After he hung up on the phone, he looked completely different from the moment he answered the call. Grabbing his jacket, he happily left the office without any trace of his sullen look after being yelled at. No matter what, Britney is the number one celebrity in the entertainment industry. In just a few words, she’s able to appease me. Even if I have suffered because of her this time, I’m willing to do so.

After the press conference was over, Oliver helped Courtney to fire a few employees who betrayed them; one of them was Martin. Oliver was saving their reputation by asking them to tender their resignation.

The incident had caused a fiasco all over Melrose City, yet it was only the beginning.

Later in the evening, Courtney invited the people who had helped her out at the press conference for dinner at a nearby restaurant. After the event was over, she personally sent Alicia home.

“Courtney, if you want to handle the Hunter Group, I won’t stop you. I know very well that I can’t stop you, but I have to warn you that the Hunter Group is like an empty tree that has been eaten up by termites. The old fellows in the group are all up to no good. After you are there, the first thing you have to do is to throw them out.”

Alicia gave some advice in the car. From her expression, it was clear that she did not want Courtney to be involved in the messy affairs of the Hunter Group.

However, since everything had arrived to that stage, there was no other option to win the people’s hearts back.

“I know. I’m not a kid anymore. Don’t worry, Aunt Alicia.” Courtney held Alicia’s hands with warmth. “Thanks for helping me out today. Actually, I used to hate you before. I’m very sorry about that.”

Back then, when her grandfather passed away, Alicia was the person who chased Courtney out of the hospital and dumped all her belongings at the Hunter Family. The harsh look on her face was Courtney’s worst nightmare for years.

However, when she recalled the past incidents many years later, she realized that the person who suffered from the most pain was Alicia herself.

Susan’s involvement with Courtney’s parents’ marriage had caused many tragedies—Cecilia died from excessive blood loss, Alicia lost her first and only child as well as her chances to have children, and her grandfather died from depression.

Even though the culprit behind all that mess was already dead, she still could not forgive the person.

“Don’t worry about it. You have nothing to be sorry about.” Alicia frowned. “The only people who should be sorry are Lucian and that shameless b\*tch. If your mother is as tough as you, perhaps the subsequent incidents might not have happened.”

The impression that Courtney had was that people would use the adjectives ‘gentle’ and ‘kind’ each time they mentioned her mother. However, someone who was gentle and kind was also soft and weak. That was also the reason why her mother could not even handle a single blow.

“By the way, have you found that woman?” Alicia asked.

Courtney shook her face. “Since there aren’t any issues with the Hunter Group’s taxes, the cops are not going to arrest her. Perhaps after some time, when she realizes that the Hunter Group does not have any issues, she might return on her own accord.”

“That woman is a disaster.” At the mention of Susan’s name, Alicia’s face darkened once again.

“Aunt Alicia, don’t think too much about her. It’s not worth it to let someone irrelevant affect your mood.”

The car slowly came to a stop in front of the gates at the vintage mansion built with red bricks. Then, a man’s low voice rang from the driver seat.

“We have arrived.”



Alicia glanced outside the window and looked at the back of the driver's head. She was half-smirking as she said, "I'm leaving now. Drive carefully on your way home."

"Got it."

Courtney waved to Alicia while watching her aunt leave. After the door was closed, the car started to move again as it left the mansion.

Once they arrived home, Oliver stood right at the entrance as soon as the door was opened. He stretched out his hands while hungrily looking at them. "Where's my food?"

Courtney and Alexander exchanged looks with each other before she asked in confusion, "What food?"

Upon hearing that, Oliver immediately flared up and answered with a dark face, "My dinner! After the press conference ended, you did not allow me to join the dinner and insisted that I return here to look after the two kids. Where is the dinner that you promised me? I'm starving to death, so please don't tell me that you have nothing for me!"

"Didn't you tell me that Oliver himself refused to join the dinner?" Courtney looked at Alexander.

"What's wrong with you?"

"I knew that you were up to no good!" Oliver immediately turned to glare at Alexander angrily.

"Alexander Duncan, with me here, I forbid you to enter this house! You don't even allow me to eat! If you enter, I wonder what might happen in the future!"

"Oh, really?" Alexander looked at Oliver. "During dinner, Josh found a penultimate university student from the Public Security University in Campus City who's helping with the security tasks. He also invited students who are studying Data Mining and Countersurveillance—"

Upon hearing that, Oliver's expression immediately changed as he interrupted, "I'm just joking. I myself didn't want to join the dinner."

With that, Courtney looked at him in confusion. "Why did you change your expression so quickly?"

In embarrassment, he replied, "It's nothing. I'm just cracking a joke because I'm dying from boredom."

While they were speaking, Alexander had already changed his shoes at the entrance. When he walked past both of them, he threw a bag into Oliver's arms before he headed to the living room.

Oliver froze before he lowered his head to look at the bag—it contained takeaways of various dishes.

## Chapter 269 You Seduced Me First

He has clearly brought food home for me, but he chooses not to clearly express himself. I've had enough of him. Oliver slightly pouted and complained in his heart, but there was a warm look in his eyes as he saw the scrumptious food in front of him.

As night had already fallen in Melrose City, the cityscape flawlessly merged with dusk as various lights shone in the background.

After Courtney took a shower, she froze when she saw the uninvited guest after she walked out of her bathroom. Damn, how can I forget to lock the door?

As there were many matters to deal with during the day, her brain and body had been working tirelessly. Hence, right after she returned home, she immediately entered the bathroom to take a shower while completely forgetting about guarding against Alexander.

“What are you doing here?”

Sitting on the couch near the French windows by the balcony, Alexander had ‘The Brief History of Time’ in his hands; the book was Courtney’s bedtime reading material. He raised his head and closed the book. Without replying to her question, he stated, “Nice choice of bedtime books.”

“It’s not what you thought. I chose this book because I’m able to fall asleep while reading it.” Courtney crossed her arms as she kept a safe distance—the equivalent of almost the length of a bed— from Alexander.

“In my opinion, instead of looking at my bedtime books, you should knock on Oliver’s door while he’s still awake. Otherwise, you’ll have to sleep with Jordan again.”

He raised his eyebrows. “I haven’t even showered yet.”

“Then, go ahead. There’s a bathroom outside.”

“The shower head is broken. There’s no water.”

“How is that possible?” Courtney glared at him.

“Well, see it for yourself if you don’t believe me.” Without arguing with her, he placed the book back on the shelf and stood up.

“Fine.”

I don’t believe that the showerhead breaks down just like this. Oliver has been staying here for so long and he often uses the bathroom outside. Nothing has ever broken down there. Five minutes later, Courtney looked at the water dripping from the shower head with a frown on her face.

“See, I’m not lying to you.” Alexander’s voice rang from behind her.

“I-I-In that case, you can take a shower in my room. But after that, get your \*ss out of there immediately.”

Without any other option, Courtney closed the tap and returned the shower head to its original position. “If you are home tomorrow, remember to call the property agent to ask them to fix it.”

“Sure.”

Alexander decisively agreed with a glance at the tap on the edge of the wall from the corner of his eyes. A trace of glee and slyness flickered in his eyes.

The master bedroom was serene. As she sat on the couch, she flipped through 'A Brief History of Time' in boredom. Apart from the sound of water splashing around from the bathroom, there were no other sounds in the bedroom.

The physics knowledge in the book was rather dry, so she became even more bored after looking at it for a while. Then, she simply took a medicinal book from the shelf to revise what she had studied in university.

After opening the book, she wistfully looked at the notes she made in the past. If it weren't for that accident, I would have become a doctor in a hospital by now.

A slight glint of light peeked through from the slit of the door as a small hand quietly opened the door.

"Mommy..."

Courtney raised her head from the book and saw Tina looking at her with a pair of bright eyes. She was in her pink strawberry pajamas.

"Tina?" Courtney was shocked to see her. "Why are you still awake?"

Tina ran to her with fluttering eyelids. "I'm so tired, but I have something to tell you, Mommy."

"What is it?" Courtney felt slightly amused. "Don't tell me that you dreamed of me promising to bring you to the playground again? Are you coming to hoodwink me again?"

A pouting Tina said, "Of course not. It's a serious matter this time."

"What is it?"

"When I went out for lunch with Mr. Alexander, he asked Josh to look for Jordan's mom. Is that you, Mommy?"

Upon hearing that, Courtney's expression immediately changed. "What did you say?"

After all, Tina was still a child. Even though she tried her best to attentively listen to the conversation, she could not remember all of it. She only remembered the gist that was related to Courtney as she knew that it was an important incident. As such, she kept reminding herself to tell Courtney once they arrived home.

However, as Courtney was busy with her company matters, she arrived home rather late. Tina had already fallen asleep by then, but she woke up after hearing the commotion in the living room.

Based on Tina's vague recollection, Courtney deduced what Alexander had asked Josh to investigate. Her fingers tightly grabbed the book as she blanched. Based on Alexander's resources and intelligence, he would discover the truth soon. After a few pieces of related evidence, he would probably figure out that the woman back then is me. What should I do when that happens?

The sound of water had stopped in the bathroom.

He wiped the water vapor from the mirror, which revealed his handsome and perfect facial features. After simply drying his wet hair, he opened the bathroom door and walked outside.

The bedroom was quiet and only a yellow night lamp was lit by the bed, making the room look cozy that could make one easily fall asleep.

Alexander had been suffering from insomnia for many years. If he did not sleep next to Courtney, he could not have a good night's sleep at all. It was the reason why he insisted on sleeping in her room.

There was a bulge in the blanket where she was fast asleep. Her steady breaths had irregularly blown the hair on her nose tip.

Alexander flipped open the other end of the blanket and lay down on the bed while taking her into his arms. Now, she can't ask me to sleep outside anymore.

Courtney moved in his arms, as if she had woken up. He lowered his head and saw her squinting her eyes in drowsiness and confusion that looked innocent.

He kissed her forehead and said in a low voice, "Continue sleeping. I can't sleep outside."

She slowly stretched her hands out to wrap them around his waist. Then, her knees slightly rubbed on his thighs. "Alright."

Alexander froze before he spoke with a hoarse voice that suddenly seemed to have overpowered him, "Courtney, don't move."

However, Courtney seemed to be unaware of what went on as she moved around in his embrace while she muttered, "What? It's not comfortable for me this way. Let me change my position."

Her sleepy, lazy voice had melted his heart, making him unable to hold himself back. In the next instant, he rolled over and pinned her below him.

Her eyes widened as the drowsiness faded, as if she was shocked by his actions. However, she immediately regained her usual alertness and gulped. "What are you doing?"

"Stop pretending." After saying that in a hoarse voice, Alexander bent down to Courtney and breathed on her neck with his voice vibrating in her ears. "You are the one who seduced me first."

Courtney froze before pushing his chest away with her hands. "I-I-I did not."

She had a conflicted and flustered expression on her face, as if someone had exposed her.

However, when Alexander saw that, he merely thought that she was embarrassed and shy.

In addition to that, he liked her to be shy. No longer being able to stop his inner beast, his long kiss sealed all her attempts to explain the situation. His huge hands controlled her entire body and her soul, as he sank deeper into her.

## Chapter 270 Taking a Bet

"So, you guys have reconciled."

In the video call across the Pacific Ocean, Cameron looked quite healthy and energetic. Her black iris turned as she was eager to hear the latest gossip.

After that night, Alexander officially moved into Courtney's bedroom and they became even closer than the time that they started dating. Since he did not have to handle his company, he had much more free time than before, so he sent her to and from the office.

However, she still had worries that she could not deal with. She needed to tell someone about it and since there were not many people who knew about the matter, Cameron was the only person whom she could tell.

"Actually, I think this is pretty good. When you are together with Alexander, you don't have to think about many problems. Your daughter is still yours and his son is also yours now—one less trouble to worry about."

"It's not that." Courtney looked conflicted. "I feel like I'm lying to him."

As the days passed, she could clearly feel Alexander's feelings toward her. He was definitely loyal and genuine toward her while only wanting her to be happy. On top of that, he also loved Tina a lot.

However, if Courtney did not hear from Tina that Alexander was searching for the surrogate woman, she would not have been impulsive that night. However, her advance was merely a safeguard that she created for herself before the storm arrived.

If he ever discovered that she was the surrogate woman, she could feign that she knew nothing about it. Since she was already his girlfriend, he probably would not even bring up the incident back then.

She was merely gambling with the fact that he cared for her enough to prevent any pain from hurting her.

"You just think too much." On the other side of the call, Cameron snorted. "Actually, as an outsider, I think you can tell him the truth before he finds out about this huge incident. If you are really worried, you can send Tina to Elijah's place. With her being there, I don't think Alexander can take her away."

"Let me think about it." Courtney frowned. Even if I'm coming clean to Alexander, it's definitely not the right timing now.

"Alright. Do you even have the time to deal with this? I heard that you took over the Hunter Group's mess. Will the old fellows work with you?"

Upon the mention of that, Courtney returned to her senses. "Work with me? My \*ss! You don't know that for the last two meetings involving the board of directors, only half the people arrived. I have to go now—since I have arranged another meeting that is compulsory for everyone to attend."

After hanging up on the video call, Courtney leaned against the chair and she pinched her nose, feeling ominous about the storm that was about to happen.

In fact, news about the money being siphoned from the Hunter Group was not as much as the rumors had made it out to be. It was just a temporary break in their chain of income. She volunteered to join the company as they reallocated the shares. After pouring all the money left from Lucian's insurance, she was now the main shareholder of Hunter Group as she held 36% of the total shares.

Even though Courtney's shares were lower than the ones held by Susan and Anna combined, her sister was already dead. Anna's shares now belonged to Susan, but the latter was nowhere to be seen. Hence,

after following the company constitution, it was only reasonable for Courtney to be appointed as the interim director.

However, the board of directors was not satisfied with the decision at all. Together with Susan, who was missing, there were 17 people on the board of directors; half of whom were her relatives, nephews and nieces. The person who loved to go against Courtney was the daughter of Susan's third brother and Anna's cousin—Kelly Yves.

Courtney had plans to change the three supervisors of the finance department this time. Without even thinking about it, she was sure that an imminent fight was waiting ahead of her.

In the meeting, right after Courtney informed them about her plans, Kelly slammed her fists on the table and immediately stood up. "What do you mean? What is the problem that the finance department is facing? How can you just change the employees as you wish? Are you planning to change everyone in the company until they are all your allies? Don't forget that you are only the interim director here. The official director is still Aunt Susan!"

As the young lady of the Yves Family, Kelly knew nothing about finances and economy. Apart from throwing tantrums whenever things did not go her way, she only had a beautiful face. However, people like her were the most difficult to deal with because they were completely illogical.

Courtney merely shot her a cold stare before replying, "Sure. Now that I'm the director, even if it's interim and as long as I'm here, you guys have to take my orders. The three supervisors in the finance department are seniors and they have an interconnected relationship with each other. I don't see any good in people like them staying in the finance department, so they need to be immediately changed."

"I don't agree." Kelly raised her chin haughtily. "All my uncles and my dad will not agree too."

"I am not discussing this with you. I am merely notifying you." Courtney closed the folder on the table. "If you don't agree, wait until you are in my position."

With that, she rose to her full height and left the conference room without taking another look at them.

Natasha, her assistant, quickly announced to everyone as she followed Courtney out, "The meeting is now over."

The entire meeting only lasted for five minutes due to Kelly's outburst and the rest of the elders could not even say a single word. It was no wonder that the Hunter Group lacked talents and was at the verge of bankruptcy just because of a tiny disturbance in their income chain.

Courtney proudly and confidently walked out of the conference room.

"Courtney Hunter, stop!" Kelly yelled anxiously as fury was apparent in her voice.

"Yes?" Courtney's high heels came to a stop after she turned. With a look of indifference, she faced Kelly, who was flushed red.

"You are not helping Hunter Group at all. I bet you can't wait for Hunter Group to be bankrupt!"

"Are you kidding me? I'm now the main shareholder. Why would I wish for the company to go bankrupt? I would lose all my money."

“Who knows what’s wrong with you?” Kelly’s face darkened. “Don’t think that everyone has to take orders from you. Sure, you are one of the shareholders. If my shares are combined with both my dad and my uncle’s, our total shares are not less than yours. Why does the company have to listen to you? Who do you think you are? Don’t forget that the Sunhill Enterprise is not backing you anymore. Alexander Duncan is now a good-for-nothing who has been chased out of the family.”

Courtney’s relationship with Alexander was not a secret—everyone in the industry knew that he fell out with his family because of her. It soon became the hot topic that people talk about whenever they run out of topics for conversations.

As the former prince charming and former president of Sunhill Enterprise, Alexander was usually arrogant and lofty. However, he had to rely on a woman for his livelihood. The people who used to suffer under him took the opportunity to take revenge on him.

Just as Courtney was about to retaliate, she felt a pressure on her shoulders. Then, a familiar low voice rang coldly.

“Before you say that another person is a good-for-nothing, think about the miserable shares that you have in your hands.”

With one arm around her, Alexander icily glared at Kelly. Even at such moments, he still had the air of a proud leader.

“Alexander Duncan?” She panicked for a while, but she quickly calmed herself down. “This is an internal matter of the Hunter Group. It’s none of your business!”

His cold and sharp gaze swept past her face and stared straight into her eyes. “Yes, it’s not related to an outsider, but it’s certainly related to the newly appointed head of finance.”