

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 481

On the way to the office, Heather was still thinking about what Robert said in the morning. The deep meaning in his words was food for thought. In contrast to Robert, Blake's tricks weren't even worth mentioning. In fact, she felt like Robert was implying something to her.

She was unsure if she was overthinking, but she could vaguely feel that Blake was just putting up a guise. It seemed like even though Robert was old, he still had a big ambition.

It appeared that Bradford City was going to be lively in the near future. Both Locke Group and Hart Group weren't one to be messed with, and Robert didn't intend to get involved with any of them because he was planning to sit back and reap the benefits later.

No wonder he had been so angry today. Before this, Heather tried to get Langston Group and Hart Group to cooperate with each other, and now she was entangled with Locke Group.

At that moment, remorse welled up in her heart. She realized that she was only causing trouble to Robert. Although she didn't want to compete with Blake for Langston Group, she still hoped that Langston Group would become stronger.

On her way, she made a decision that she was going to meet Matthias immediately to terminate that contract. She couldn't be tied to him because of the contract, and she didn't want to have anything to do with Locke Group anymore.

As she drove to Locke Group, she remembered what happened the last time and quickly dialed Matthias' number. However, no one answered. She looked at the phone in her hand in distress, thinking that he must have run off again for a meeting about some important collaboration.

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As such, she could only turn to Evan, who was shocked when he realized the call was from Heather. Immediately, he picked up.

From her conversation with him, she learned that Matthias had gone back to the Locke Residence at Tasnia City, and it was probably inconvenient for him to answer her call.

Frustrated, Heather stared at the phone. Meeting Matthias wasn't an easy task. This time, he had gone a little further away than she thought, and it was unlikely that she would go straight there.

After ending the call, Evan immediately reported the matter to Matthias, who instantly replied. In fact, it wasn't inconvenient for him to answer the phone. It was just inconvenient to answer her call at Locke Residence. After all, Heather was the female protagonist of the gossip Matthias was involved in.

"Tell Heather that I'll be waiting for her at home in three days." Matthias didn't want to stay at Locke Residence any longer and was looking for an opportunity to leave.

The Locke Family had arranged an entire week worth of blind dates for him, which he felt was extremely insulting. He felt like he was being placed on the shelf like goods on a special sale. In fact, he didn't even want to spare a glance at any of the women he was supposed to meet.

Furthermore, ever since he came back, he felt like his every move was being watched. Even going outside became a difficult task. When he wasn't on a blind date, he would be in his room. He was even worried that they had bugged his room.

During his time at Locke Residence, he was tormented. There was no way he was going to obey them, and he didn't have time to play games with them for a week.

Just then, Matthias, who was alone and sulking in his room, heard a knock on his door. He replied with disinterest, "Come in." The only people who would dare to come to him at this hour were either the head of the Locke Family or the cousin whom Matthias disliked the most.

As expected, it was the head of the Locke Family. Matthias faintly glanced at him. In fact, he was the reason Matthias came back this time.

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Seeing his sullen look, the head of the Locke Family comforted him. “Matthias, why didn’t you tell me that you have returned?” He still cared about Matthias and he didn’t want to force him like this, but unfortunately, he was no longer in control of the situation now.

“I can’t marry a random woman. I can’t do it,” Matthias said sullenly without looking at him.

Just then, the head of the family smiled lovingly as he approached Matthias and patted his shoulder. “I went through it too. Marriage isn’t always up to you.” He spoke as someone who had experienced the same thing.

“What a joke. The Locke Family is powerful. Do they really need this kind of alliance to be better?” Matthias looked at the head of the family with mockery in his eyes. He couldn’t agree with him at all since that was an outdated approach.

“The Locke Family does not give up any opportunity to take shortcuts,” the head of the family said profoundly. It was because of this exact trait that was causing each and every one of them to be unhappy.

Perhaps it was because life wasn’t as good as it should be, so they were all fully devoted to work. Hence, there were many workaholics in the Locke Family.

“I will never marry a woman I don’t love.” Matthias stared directly at the head of the family and emphasised each word like an oath and with determination.

The head of the Locke Family didn’t want to continue to dwell on this matter, so he said, “A man becomes independent at thirty. You should count how many years you have left. After the age of thirty, if you’re still not married, then you definitely won’t be taking over the Locke Family.”

This was one of the rules of the Locke Family, and it was also one that Matthias hated. Every head of the family abided by this rule. Of course, the leader of Locke Group must do the same as well. Sometimes, the head of the Locke Family and the leader of Locke Group were the same person, and sometimes they were two different people.

All in all, the Locke Family was a peculiar family with strict rules which Matthias disliked. As such, he was unhappy. Sometimes, he really didn’t understand why he had to be the leader

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of Locke Group, knowing that he had to sacrifice so much as the leader. Perhaps he thought he could turn it all around.

But as time went by, he felt like it was more and more impossible to escape the vicious cycle that was the Locke Family tradition. He feared that one day, he would be swallowed up like his elders and live without a soul.

“Are you happy now?” Matthias’ sudden questions took the head of the family by surprise. It had been a long time since he thought about this.

After properly pondering for a long time, he answered quietly, “Does it matter?” It wasn’t an answer, or perhaps the answer was too obvious and there was no need to say it out loud.

“We only have one life. Why should we live so unhappily?” Matthias spoke with intention. He was directing it to the head of the family and also to himself.

“Well said, but reality will not go as you wish. Young man, you still have a long way to go.” The head of the family gazed into Matthias’ determined eyes and gave him a caring smile. It seemed that he wouldn’t be able to persuade him for a while.

“Well, I won’t forget why I started.” At this moment, Matthias was full of confidence. Later on, he would realize that he shouldn’t be too confident because life could drive one to the edge.

The rest of the days, Matthias remained indifferent as he was dragged to the blind dates. In his eyes, those women were all the same and couldn’t be compared to Myra, or even Heather. Just then, he was surprised that he even thought of Heather. As such, he revealed a self-deprecating smile. Unknowingly, Heather had left indelible traces in his heart which would bubble up from time to time recently.

The woman sitting across from him looked at the smile on his lips and an embarrassed look crept onto her face. Meanwhile, Matthias’ cousin who was accompanying him faked a cough which snapped Matthias out of it.

Giving the woman across from him a glance, he noticed that she had a good-looking face but was uninteresting. This was not what he was looking for in a lover in any case.

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"I'm sorry, ma'am. I'm not interested in what you're talking about at all," he said impolitely. He didn't want to waste his time on people or things he didn't like.

At once, his cousin's face darkened as he glared at Matthias, while the girl who was still admiring Matthias' handsome face just now became displeased in an instant.

The man sure was blunt. Even if she had some feelings toward him, there was no way she would stay, not to mention that she was a pampered and spoiled young lady. She was so infuriated that she took her bag and left at once. Meanwhile, Matthias remained seated with an indifferent face.

Instead, his cousin made a point of going after the woman and apologizing to her. Matthias watched his cousin's pretentious performance, knowing full well that this was how his cousin was. He had to let the whole world think that he was the best and most harmless one.

A beautiful name and gentlemanly manners were phony in the eyes of Matthias. After all, he could never forget what his cousin had done to hurt him. He had backstabbed Matthias countless times; after all, he was, in fact, a two-faced person. Matthias glared fiercely at his cousin who was walking toward him.

"Matthias, how could you be so rude?" his cousin questioned him. He was a slim man with little manliness and looked more feminine than a woman. So much so that Matthias even doubted his cousin's sexual orientation. If he hadn't gotten married before he turned thirty and gave birth to a pair of fraternal twins, Matthias would have thought that his cousin liked men.

"I've been sitting here and listening to her nonsense for an hour. That's as far as my patience goes." Matthias squinted his eyes at his cousin who was going to put up a performance anyway. As such, he didn't mind being accused of disrespecting his elder brother.

"Matthias, you can't go on like this. You're turning thirty soon. Please, you have to be more serious during your blind dates. Don't miss out on a good girl." His cousin looked like he was concerned about Matthias, but Matthias didn't trust him at all.

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“Feelings aren’t for trading. If you like to trade your life, then that’s your business. Do not drag me down with you.” At once, Matthias rose from his seat. He had spent enough time entertaining them. He was leaving tomorrow and no one was going to be able to stop him.

“We’re going to the next spot.” His cousin sighed with a look of frustration.

The corner of Matthias’s lips curled upward. “I’ll accompany you, but I’ve booked a ticket for tomorrow afternoon at three. I do not have the time to gallivant with you for a week.” He spoke dashingly. He had already compromised a lot and he didn’t want to carry on anymore.

“What do you mean, ‘accompany’ me? This attitude of yours is very problematic. Return the tickets. You have over twenty more blind dates, and if you don’t choose a woman by the end of it, you’re not allowed to leave.” His cousin’s tone was gentle, but every sentence he spoke was pressuring Matthias. However, he wasn’t going to fall for it.

Matthias sneered in response. “Gather the rest of the women tomorrow morning. I don’t mind meeting all of them at once. I will leave on time tomorrow at three in the afternoon. Nothing is going to stop me.” His tone was decisive and left no space for any argument.

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 482

When they returned to Locke Residence, Matthias wasn’t smiling and Regan had an unpleasant look on his face as he walked behind Matthias. Seeing their appearance, the head of the family thought they had another dispute. At that point, the two of them were the most outstanding members of the Locke Family. Unfortunately, Regan’s status wasn’t as legitimate as Matthias’.

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Although the Locke Family was prosperous, the most prosperous ones would be the younger generation. Among the elders, the head of the family was the eldest. Matthias' father had passed away a long time ago.

Regan was the child of Matthias' aunt, and Regan's father was a live-in son-in-law of the Locke Family. In fact, Regan contributed more to the Locke Family, but because of his status, he was always pushed down by Matthias.

The head of the family knew all of this. Based on Regan's personality, he wouldn't be comfortable being pressured by Matthias. However, the head of the family supported Matthias' lineage. The family rules mustn't be broken, and so he could only allow Regan to be aggrieved.

"Did the blind date go well today?" The head of the family asked Regan although he could already guess from their expression that nothing good happened.

"Grandpa, Matthias has angered all the girls," Regan complained. After all, Matthias' words and actions were a little too much.

In fact, the head of the family wasn't Regan and Matthias's grandfather. After all, the head of the family didn't have children. Matthias and Regan were the descendents of the head of the family's elder brother. But since he was the only elderly at home, everyone respectfully addressed him as 'Grandpa', except Matthias who didn't like to greet others.

The head of the family turned to look at Matthias and saw his stubborn face. He couldn't scold him in front of others, but he said in a not-so-subtle manner, "Matthias, the family rule of independence at thirty must not be broken."

Matthias' lips curled into a bright smile. "I'm not thirty yet, so you guys don't have to worry about it." While speaking, he shot a glare at Regan.

He just couldn't stand him at all, and he despised each and every movement of his. In the past, Regan didn't know how to hide his desires at all, but now he had learnt to disguise his intentions.

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Matthias would always remember the time when Regan beat him up and peed on him. In fact, he would never ever forget that kind of shame.

After making a fuss, everyone was unhappy, and the head of the family didn't want to force Matthias either. He had met countless people in his lifetime, and he could feel Matthias' desire for power. One day, he would compromise. Just as he said, he wasn't thirty yet. When that day came, he believed Matthias would give everyone a satisfactory answer.

"Matthias has booked a flight back for tomorrow afternoon." Regan didn't forget to continue backstabbing him. He was dying for Matthias to do something out of the line again so that the Locke Family would become more and more disappointed with him.

Including the head of the family, everyone was shocked. Even the head of the family didn't expect Matthias to be so reckless while Matthias had a look of nonchalance.

In fact, he had had enough of this. He used to keep a low profile in the Locke Family and would still get into trouble. Since those people wanted to oppose him at every turn, he thought there was no need for him to stay low, so he might as well show them his true temper.

"Yes. I will go back to Bradford City tomorrow. There are a lot of things to deal with at Locke Group, and I don't have time to spend on blind dates," Matthias said with emphasis on each word. What he said was true. As the executive director of Locke Group, he couldn't be away for too long.

However, Regan didn't think so and he said cynically, "I know that Matthias is a busy man who dedicates his life to Locke Group, but marriage is not child's play and is equally important. If a man doesn't have a family at the age of thirty, how is he going to further his career? Internationally, people prefer to choose someone who has a family as a business partner."

Matthias watched Regan's performance coldly with a look of disdain. He spoke so much and beat around the bush just to come back around to mock him.

At that moment, the head of the family didn't want to see them fight against each other and to treat each other like enemies, so he stepped in to mediate. The head of the family also had such a phase of mutual incompatibility with his elder brother, and later when his elder

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brother passed away, he regretted everything. As such, he did not want the younger generation to repeat his mistakes.

He knew how much effort Regan had made. Although on the surface the head of the family was more lenient to Matthias, in reality, it was also a test for Regan. In fact, he intended to pass the position of the Head of the Locke Family to Regan, but of course on the premise that he and Matthias could get along and treat each other like brothers.

If Regan still did not understand his intentions and still wanted to compete with Matthias, then the head of the family would consider giving the position of the family head and leader of Locke Group to Matthias.

Instead of watching them argue, it would be better to let Matthias alone take on the burden. The head of the family hoped to see their relationship improve in his last days.

Brothers working together were always more powerful than one person, and the head of the family had made a good plan for everything. He would also advise the two in private to love each other.

However, there was little effect. On the one hand, Matthias still could not let go of the humiliation inflicted on him by Regan, and on the other hand, Regan was always saying things he didn't mean. He was still unwilling to accept Matthias.

Just when the head of the family was lost in thought, Matthias' cold words echoed again. There was no way he was willing to be chastised by Regan.

"Cooperation depends on strength. Do I have to marry a woman I don't like just to please the other party?" Matthias spoke disdainfully. In his eyes, Regan was just a pathetic villain. After all, Regan's marriage was one of the biggest jokes.

The woman Regan married was like a puppet that depended on him for everything. Perhaps it was because of this nature that he was willing to marry the woman.

In fact, Matthias couldn't see any love between them. On top of that, Regan wasn't even willing to spare a second glance at the woman. It was obvious that he did not like her.

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He felt sad for the woman for having to marry a husband like that. She was just a victim of political and business alliances. Matthias wasn't going to become like Regan, and he was not willing to sacrifice the happiness of an innocent woman for the sake of power. He wouldn't want to get married if it wasn't for love.

Back then, Matthias' mother loved his father very much, but so what? His father had a family. Because he did not love his wife, he cheated on her with his mother and gave birth to him, an illegitimate son.

Then, it became a war between the two women. It was the man who made a mistake, and yet in the end, the women had to pay the price. Thinking of his mother's painful life, Matthias felt that he must not take marriage lightly.

The two argued, and finally Regan compromised. In front of everyone, he didn't want to be overbearing. He wanted to make it seem like he was being bullied by Matthias so as to win the sympathy of the crowd. Since Matthias wanted this, then he was going to further tarnish Matthias' reputation.

Just then, Matthias gratefully looked toward the head of the family. No matter whether he was right or wrong, he would always side with him. Sometimes, Matthias really didn't know why he was so good to him.

Once, the head of the family had said something strange that Matthias could still remember clearly until now. "You look a lot like him." Matthias regretted not asking the head of the family who he was referring to back then.

The head of the family was also overbearing in his youth and had done a lot of outrageous things to his brother. Perhaps as his retribution, he had no successor.

It was only when his brother passed away and the burden of the entire Locke Family fell on the head of the family that he understood his brother's good intentions. His brother always gave in to him not because he was afraid of how powerful he was, but for the benefit of the Locke Family and the greater good.

Moreover, his elder brother had always treated him as a brother. It was the head of the family himself who was narrow-minded, which led to the two brothers to be in constant disagreement. Even the day before his brother passed away, they had still been arguing.

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Perhaps it was intergenerational heredity. Matthias looked especially like his older brother when he was young. When he looked at him, there would be moments where he thought his older brother had come back to live.

The favoring of a junior was not without reason. Sometimes, the head of the family only treated Matthias as the reincarnation of his brother, and he would do anything in his power to protect Matthias.

Of course, when he came back to his senses, he would laugh at himself. There was no reincarnation. Although Matthias looked similar to his brother, there were still differences after all. Even their personalities were very different.

The next day, no blind dates were arranged for Matthias. It was specifically instructed by the head of the family. Although Regan was still unconvinced, he couldn't really say anything more. In the end, Matthias did not cancel his flight ticket.

The head of the family led Matthias to the garden behind the residence. Matthias would be leaving in the afternoon, and the head of the family still had a lot to say to him. As such, he wanted to take this opportunity to have a talk with him.

"Matthias, have you met a girl you like in Bradford City?" the head of the family asked in a straightforward manner.

Hearing this, Matthias was surprised for a moment. He did not expect him to mention this matter, and he did not know how to answer for a moment.

"I know you had a first love named Myra, but she is now married to another man. You need to accept that fact," the head of the family said with clarity. He knew Matthias better than Matthias thought he did.

"Grandpa, I'm already used to liking her. If you ask me to like someone else, I really can't do it." Matthias did not want to lie to the head of the family and he had been wanting to talk to someone about this, so he might as well talk to him about his feelings.

"Aren't you close with a girl named Heather Langston?" he asked tentatively.

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Matthias unconsciously frowned. Once Heather was mentioned, he was distressed. Now, he didn't have any more thoughts on Myra, but Heather was causing him to be distraught.

"She and I are only cooperating in a way," he said stiffly. Even he refused to admit to himself that he had feelings for Heather, so how could he admit to others that he had a special affection for her?

"Young man, do not try to deceive others and yourself. Sometimes, you have to quiet down and listen to your own heart," the head of the family said emotionally. He had also experienced intense love. In fact, everyone had a rebellious past.

"Grandpa, can we not talk about this? Nothing will ever happen between Heather and I," he said firmly. There was no way he would allow himself to fall in love with Heather.

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