

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 513

Heather pushed open the windows and turned around to smile at Leon as she inhaled the fragrant scent of the flowers in the air. "Leon, have you heard of Caleb Moriarty?" Perhaps Leon knows something about him, she thought to herself.

However, Leon stared at her with a confused expression. In all honesty, he couldn't quite recall this person at all, so he asked rather perplexedly, "Is he from Bradford City?"

Heather shook her head in reply. "Could you help me look into this man? He's a general from Leisfeld."

Surprised, Leon wondered, How did she get involved with someone from Leisfeld? He furrowed his brows and placed his cell phone aside.

"Why are you asking me to investigate this person out of the blue?" he asked, needing a plausible reason from her.

Heather, on the other hand, said resignedly, "Today, he paid us a visit and mentioned our arranged marriage..." She couldn't quite bring herself to mention the rest of it. Obviously, no one would be able to accept this sudden appearance of a so-called fiancé!

"Arranged marriage? Between you and him?" Leon stared at her with an incredulous expression. What the heck? They don't even know each other!

Generally, an arranged marriage was all due to benefits, but he couldn't comprehend the reason for this arranged marriage between Heather and Caleb. After all, he couldn't see what benefits their marriage would bring to the Langstons.

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"I'm equally confused too! Otherwise, I wouldn't have asked you to investigate this person," Heather muttered with a glum face. There's no way I'll agree to this arranged marriage with Caleb!

I'd rather choose Matthias over Caleb! Truth was, she herself was quite surprised by her sudden notion. Leon noted the indignation on her face and wondered, Did Caleb do something to offend her? Why does it seem like she hates him so much?

"Do you dislike Caleb?" he asked carefully.

"It's more than just dislike. Frankly speaking, I loathe him. I presume you are aware of the current situation in Leisfeld? For him to achieve his position, surely there would be a lot of innocent lives who suffered from his actions." Heather could not bring it upon herself to have good feelings toward one who disregarded human lives. She intensely disliked Caleb's pair of eyes that resembled a deep, lifeless pool of water that lacked glimmer.

"I know what you mean, but we can't quite judge whether people like him are good or bad. You, however, have biasedly decided that he's a bad guy."

"Come with me into the bedroom." Leon considered the situation before mentioning that. Heather's words had managed to pique his curiosity.

His set of tools were stored in his bedroom. As soon as Heather walked in, she furrowed her brows. How did his bedroom get to this state?

She was met with the sight of an extremely messy room; there was even an opened bag of potato chips on his bedside table. How can Leon live in such a mess?

"I'll send the cleaners over tomorrow." Heather couldn't stand this mess but she was quite anxious to get the important things sorted today, so it wasn't the best time for any cleaning right now.

Meanwhile, Leon stared at her questioningly. He reckoned that his room was quite tidy, and he had even sprayed some air freshener too. Why is she giving me such a disgusted look?

"I can clean my own room and I don't need a cleaner," he protested vehemently. I can do this quite nicely, so there's no need to hire a cleaner!

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However, Heather didn't want to pursue this topic regarding hiring a cleaner further and she thought to herself, I don't care what he says but I'm definitely sending the cleaners here tomorrow! Out loud, she said, "Let's put that aside for the moment. Find me the information on Caleb first."

Leon nodded to indicate his response before he headed straight to his work desk, which was chosen for him by Heather. The minimalist, European-designed desk looked simple yet elegant.

Then, he switched on his computer. Truth was, he had spent a lot of his pocket money on this machine; it wasn't like any ordinary computer and it was actually his personal computer, which belonged to him exclusively.

Leon didn't take much time to investigate Caleb this time around. This was all due to the ample and detailed information provided by Heather.

He flicked through the information and it confirmed her deduction. Caleb is indeed a military general! Staring at the picture of Caleb in his military uniform, Leon concluded that Heather was quite right in her description. This guy does tend to instill a sense of fear.

"How did someone like him seek an arranged marriage with you?" Leon asked this with a look of disbelief on his face. He's young and talented with a bright future ahead of him. Shouldn't he be going after someone with a political background to further cement his position? Why did he go after one with a corporate background all of a sudden?

"According to him, our families were close to each other during Grandpa's generation," Heather murmured, but she was skeptical about this because Robert clearly didn't look enthusiastic upon seeing Caleb. The former was at most in awe of the latter.

That's not how close family friends would be around each other. Besides, Caleb didn't even show Grandpa much respect, so I don't believe that they're our family friends!

"But how is that possible? Leisfeld and Bradford City are miles apart from each other. I don't quite understand your definition of close family friend," Leo remarked snidely, feeling perplexed by the situation.

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Just then, Heather pointed to a string of words on the computer screen. “Look—Caleb’s of Asian descent and the Moriartys actually originated from Bradfort City, not Leisfeld.” She shot him an annoyed look. He seems to be enjoying himself making snide remarks about the situation.

“Sorry; I didn’t notice that. I have to say, he’s quite a legend to have achieved the position of a general in Leisfeld despite being of Asian descent, and at less than forty years old at that!” Leon couldn’t help but admire the other man. After all, it was quite natural for men to have their goals and to yearn for power too.

Heather, on the other hand, looked at him quite solemnly. In fact, she was quite unhappy to hear these words.

“Are you trying to say that I’m not good enough for him?” she questioned with a sarcastic tone. Frankly, she had no interest in Caleb.

“Heather, you sure have a great imagination!” Leon muttered and he had the sense that he couldn’t seem to communicate with women well, as each of them seemed to be on their own planet somehow.

“Can you get me a more detailed report? I can’t find anything on the Moriartys relationship with us, and this is the most crucial part!” Heather tugged on Leon’s elbow and persuaded him; right now, she could only depend on his skills.

“It’s not that simple. Leisfeld keeps a tight lid on the information of their military staff, especially with him being a general,” he said with a troubled look. Although he was an experienced hacker, there were some things that were difficult to achieve as well.

“So, do you need to hack into Leisfeld’s Department of Intelligence to get the true information on Caleb?” Heather made a quick guess.

“That’s about right. The details of their important military personnel are stored safely in the database of the Department of Intelligence,” Leon said this with a resigned look, and there was nothing else he could do about it.

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“Forget about it then. I’m worried that you’ll eventually get kidnapped by some Leisfeld secret agent because of this someday,” she playfully remarked. I guess this is all the information I can get.

“It looks like you lack confidence in my skills.” Leon winked at her with a playful look on his face. “Although I don’t dare to hack into the Department of Intelligence, I’m actually quite good at gaining speculation and news from my informants. I can’t guarantee the authenticity of the information, but at least we can cross-check all the information and compare everything. We should be able to get the big picture by doing so.” In fact, Leon was quite confident in himself; his previous actions were merely a joke and he quite enjoyed pulling her leg.

“Hurry up then!” Heather rushed him urgently. She had no time to entertain his antics as she was quite anxious to obtain detailed information on Caleb.

“Be patient. Data analysis isn’t that simple and there’s quite a complicated process involved. You should join me.” Analyzing all that data was not only a boring job, it also required great judgment. Just then, Leon felt quite energized at the thought of having Heather working with him.

“How long will it take?” She glanced at the time. If it takes too long then I might not make it for dinner.

“If we’re quick enough, then one or two hours would be sufficient; otherwise, it could take us half a day if we’re not that productive.” For now, Leon couldn’t quite give a specific timeframe as he hadn’t started on it yet.

“I need to start preparing dinner in two hours’ time,” Heather said this with a solemn voice. Cooking dinner was a serious event for her as she had never cooked for anyone else before. This was her first attempt today and it was all for Leon.

“That’s not a problem. Let’s do this first. I must say that I’m so lucky to have you cooking for me!” Leon exclaimed excitedly. He was so happy that he nearly wanted to burrow himself into Heather’s arms.

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“Hurry up and do your work!” She pushed his head, which was moving closer and closer to her, aside without hesitation. This boy is so hyperactive and I don’t want to be his mother figure.

In the end, Leon quickly dug up information on Caleb and recorded everything he found—regardless of its authenticity—into a Word file. Meanwhile, Heather looked at him working so skillfully and lamented in her heart, This is my first time seeing him do this.

After some time, Leon finally finished his data collection and he had compiled a fair amount. That was all obtained from multiple different sources, and he had hacked into every other website except for the government agencies.

Heather opened the Word file and she immediately had a headache upon seeing all the words bunched up together. As for Leon, he had done this for the whole afternoon yesterday as well, and repeating this today was a pain for him too.

However, he had his own specific method to remove any similar information and just retain one of it. In no time at all, half of the information was deleted from the Word file.

“Look—everything is starting to fall into place.” He signaled to Heather with a comical expression and he beamed widely at her as he looked at the end result, feeling a huge sense of accomplishment.

Meanwhile, Heather glanced at her watch and saw that one and a half hours had passed without them realizing it. “How can you determine the authenticity of all of these results?” she questioned curiously.

Leon smiled without answering her question and he asked, “Isn’t it time for you to start on dinner?”

“I’ve got another half an hour to go, so I’d like to briefly go through this information first.” In all honesty, she couldn’t wait to look at this half-finished work.

However, he rejected her outright as he smiled cunningly. “Heather, why don’t you go and start on dinner earlier? I’ve got one last step to finish and I should be able to finish my work once you’re done preparing dinner.”

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It seemed that Leon intentionally wanted to string her along. Heather looked at him indignantly, but all she could see was him clicking on the close button for the Word file. From his actions, it was quite evident that he wasn't prepared to let her join in on the last part of the analysis.

"Okay, then." She curbed her curiosity and left. After all, it would only take at most one to two hours for her to access the information. There was no need to be anxious about things right now.

And so, she walked out of his bedroom and shut the door lightly after her. Leon then shifted his gaze back to his computer screen and rubbed both of his eyes. I'll eventually overwork my eyes if I keep this up. He yawned and prepared to continue his work once again.

Very soon, the answer would be revealed and he had his own method to authenticate the information. It was quite a complicated process and it required a lot of brainpower, so he reckoned he would be overworking his brain soon.

Meanwhile in the kitchen, Heather was preoccupied by thoughts of Caleb. A while ago, she had noticed something amiss in the pile of information she had seen. Although she wasn't sure of the authenticity of the information right now, it kept popping up in her mind.

The Moriartys originally owned a corporation in Bradford City and had close ties with the Langstons. Furthermore, the Harts were also closely linked with the two families as well. Never in a million years did she expect the Hart family to be implicated too. As far as she knew, since young, the Harts and their family steered clear of each other.

However, she was quite surprised to note the link between the three families and wondered what happened back then. It seemed that something major must have occurred then and been kept a secret, and she couldn't help but link this to the incident where Myra and Tony were trailed by someone when they were abroad. Perhaps the incidents are linked?

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A wonderful fragrance came from the cooking in the kitchen, and Leon sniffed the air curiously. All of a sudden, he lost all of his motivation for work and his stomach rumbled in protest. However, he pulled a face as he stared at his computer screen filled with words and codes; his work was unfinished so for now, he couldn't enjoy the fragrant meal.

And so, he continued to tap away furiously on his keyboard. He felt like he was a machine doing everything mechanically. In fact, the job of a hacker was glorified by everyone but in all honesty, the work required a huge amount of patience.

Meanwhile, Heather prepared a whole meal in just a short time and she eyed her accomplishments with a pleased look. All in all, she had finished preparing everything earlier than expected. However, Leon hadn't completed his work yet. As such, she quietly made her way to stand behind him.

She saw herself tip-toeing over to him and found her antics quite comical. As for Leon, his focused look during work was exceptionally attractive to her. Currently, his brows were knitted together and his eyes were dark and brooding, which looked quite captivating. His chiseled nose bridge resembled the groves of a valley and she was quite tempted to reach out and touch it.

All this while, Leon was engrossed in his work so he didn't realize that Heather was standing behind him. It was only when he stopped what he was doing that he finally noticed her presence.

"Heather, don't stand behind me without saying a word! It's rather frightening, alright?" Leon was quite perplexed by her strange behavior of entering the room without even greeting him.

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"I didn't want to interrupt your work." She came up with an excuse almost instantaneously. In order to shut him up, she immediately continued by saying, "Are you done with work? Dinner's ready so let's have the meal."

Soon after that, Leon gulped his saliva and revealed a hungry expression. He was quite used to behaving without any regard for his image in front of her, and she couldn't help but smile at his antics.

"I'm not quite done yet. Please don't forget to keep the dishes warm because it won't taste as good when it's cold," Leo said with a look of concern. This is her first time cooking for me so I want to taste piping hot dishes!

"Sure; I'll wait for you," she murmured and revealed a mysterious smile. Meanwhile, Leon faced his computer screen with a miserable look on his face.

The time passed by and Heather didn't realize how long she had been standing there for, but she started to feel bored. Suddenly, Leon lazily stretched his back while yawning and said, "Everything is finally done!" Truth be told, he felt quite tired just then. My stamina has dropped so much after being away from the gym for quite some time.

As soon as Heather heard that, she immediately rushed forward; right in front of her on the computer screen, she saw a simple Word file. Come to think of it, Leon seems to be a big fan of the Word application. That's quite rare in the hacker world.

She looked at the information and frowned—it was as if she had gone back to the past. There was indeed a close link between the Langstons and the Moriartys back then. It also looked like the severance of ties between them, and the Harts back then were not so simple after all. It was quite likely related to the Moriartys.

Leon had a worried expression on his face upon seeing Heather frowning so hard. It looked like they had uncovered a dark past and the information on Caleb was actually quite alarming. Just then, he stood up from his chair, feeling quite tired from being in a sitting-down position the whole afternoon.

"Relax, Heather. You should relax and breathe a little." Leon showed concern as he looked at her somewhat serious expression.

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"I can't believe I knew nothing of this!" Heather said this with a resentful expression. Robert had never revealed all this to her and she really couldn't comprehend his reason for hiding this.

Just then, Leon patted her on the shoulder. To him, this wasn't a big deal so he didn't understand why she was so upset. The older generation usually had their own secrets and he already had first-hand experience of that. Moreover, this was much more evident in large families like the Langstons so surely, she must be quite open to all this.

"Claris Langston—that's my grand-aunt who passed away. Her name is quite similar..." Heather rubbed her tired eyes. She was quite perceptive to this and Claris' name was something that irked her.

"It's purely coincidental," Leo hurriedly replied. He had noticed this too and it seemed quite odd to him.

"No; I don't think it is a coincidence," Heather mentioned quite insistently. Right now, she wanted to rush back home to talk things through with Robert. However, she suddenly recalled his face, pale and lacking pallor, and she immediately changed her mind.

"I want to know more about her." Heather was determined to work out the whole situation, and something in her mind nagged at her to keep probing.

This time, she had a strong hunch that she was supposed to figure out everything that happened in the past. However, Leon's expression turned immediately as soon as he heard her words. He was quite fearful of her now as he no longer had the energy to run another investigation on a different person in detail.

It suddenly dawned upon Heather and she awkwardly mentioned, "Let's have dinner first. This isn't urgent." She realized that she was jumping ahead of herself without paying regard to Leon's feelings.

"Heather, I think we should obtain information about the past from the actual party involved," Leon suggested. "You won't be able to gain the truth you're after from a lifeless computer," He said it while staring at his beloved computer.

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She merely flicked a look at him without responding. He's quite right about this. A computer isn't going to be able to restore the truth of the past. I need to ask Grandpa about it. Grandpa died in such suspicious circumstances after all, so it's quite likely that the Moriartys had something to do with it. Everything seems connected to the Moriartys, so it is very likely that they hold crucial information about the past. Caleb must be quite a dangerous guy.

...

During dinner, Leon suddenly brought up an important point and it caused Heather's heart to skip a beat.

"Heather, what if Caleb insists on entering into an arranged marriage with your family? How do you plan on handling this?" An arranged marriage with the Langstons means he's after her hand in marriage! I'd rather she marry Matthias than Caleb. I can't imagine someone as headstrong as her to submit to a vicious politician.

"No way!" Heather rejected this notion insistently. I would never agree to this arranged marriage! Sometimes, there were just some people which you knew things could never work out with.

Caleb was definitely not the other half that Heather sought. The future she envisioned with her beloved was them working together to develop their own corporation. Furthermore, she had no intentions of getting involved in a political storm.

"Actually, you shouldn't feel too pessimistic about this situation with this arranged marriage. Besides, he didn't specify that he wanted to marry you, and you're not the only woman in your family." Leon maintained a positive outlook as usual, and he tended to emphasize on the good side of things.

"I'm the only one who's close to his age." Heather suddenly recalled Everly, who had just turned twenty not long ago and was still quite childish in her ways. If Everly stood next to Caleb right now, they would look like such a mismatch due to their large age gap.

"You have to stop thinking of it this way. Don't assume that Caleb's fixated upon you. Perhaps that's just overthinking on your part?" Leon tried to comfort Heather by providing her with quite a far-fetched excuse.

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Meanwhile, she shot him an annoyed look. He's trying to show concern but those words don't make a difference at all!

"It doesn't matter who Caleb eventually decides on. No matter what happens, no one from the Langstons will marry into the Moriarty family!" she announced firmly. She could sense that the Moriartys harbored a grudge against their family, so there was a high chance that whoever married Caleb would lead a miserable life.

She recalled the moment of her dining together with Caleb and she could clearly sense his intense dislike toward her family. Although he sounded sincere in his words regarding the Langstons as family friends, clearly he did not mean it. In fact, his behavior was terrifyingly dark and sinister.

"Heather, you need an official boyfriend right away," Leon came up with this suggestion after considering the situation for quite some time. He had already gone through Matthias' background carefully and obviously knew about the speculations on their relationship.

Right now, Heather was in quite a tough situation. If Matthias took on the role as her protector, then perhaps Caleb would change his mind about setting his eyes on her.

She glared at Leon furiously upon hearing his words. Why is he bringing up Matthias all of a sudden? He must be trying to create more trouble!

Upon seeing her expression, he hastily appeased her with a smile. "Heather, this meal you prepared is really great! It's so tasty! I reckon it's almost comparable with my mom's cooking." Truth be told, Leon was quite skillful at changing the topic.

After hearing that, Heather's expression finally softened. However, she was feeling rather dejected and she didn't have the appetite to eat, so she picked at her food. What an irony—I can't even finish the meal I prepared!

"Should I meet up with Caleb privately?" she then asked with a torn expression. I think I should go and talk to him in person.

"No way! You'll be playing with fire," Leo immediately discouraged her from proceeding with such a dangerous plan.

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In the end, she consoled herself by muttering, "I guess you are right. I might not be the one he has decided to marry."

"Then there's completely no reason for you to meet with him!" Leon stared at her with an incredulous look. Why is she somehow turning dumber with each passing moment? I really wish I could crack her brain open to figure out what's going on in there!

"There are some things that I think he might be willing to tell me." Heather countered and she was keen to find out the truth from Caleb. Her sixth sense told her that he would be quite willing to reveal to her the secrets from the past.

However, Leon hurriedly shook his head. "Heather, why don't you reconsider my suggestion? The rumors about you and Matthias spread like wildfire previously and everyone seems to be under the assumption that you two are a couple. Why don't you make use of this relationship to fend against Caleb?" Leon decided to be frank about his opinion. At least Matthias and her look like a good match when they stand next to each other. At this moment, Leon was, in fact, quite supportive of Matthias and Heather to get together with each other.

"Make use of Matthias to fend against Caleb?" Heather couldn't bring herself to do this. Matthias had done the exact same thing and made use of me previously. Do I have to resort to the same tactics too?

"Do you have a better solution?" Leon retorted while he ate as he was famished.

Meanwhile, he looked at the spread of food in front of him and reckoned he could finish three helpings of it. He felt quite warm and fuzzy as soon as he realized that all of this was specially prepared by Heather. Moreover, her presence as they enjoyed this meal made him feel like they were family to each other.

"You should be aware of how hostile my relationship with Matthias is, so it's practically impossible for him to agree to work together with me for this." She thought of the tense relationship between her and Matthias and came to the conclusion that seeking help right now was evidently an impossible task.

"Heather, are you really that dense or..." However, he couldn't quite bring himself to finish his sentence. Her EQ isn't that low, but why can't she see his true feelings?

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“Why are you mumbling about? What do you want to say?” Heather had no patience for his hemming and hawing; she would rather he mentioned what was on his mind directly.

“Why don’t we place a bet?” Leon offered playfully. “I reckon Matthias will definitely help you fend against Caleb willingly,” he said with a confident smile.

“You don’t understand him at all.” Heather shook her head. Why does Leon keep bringing Matthias into our conversation?

“Well, Heather, perhaps you are the one who doesn’t understand males.” Leon was anxious beyond himself on behalf of Matthias. Is Heather really that dense?

She, on the other hand, was quite lost right now. “I don’t want to continue this topic,” she muttered, feeling a headache coming on as soon as someone mentioned Matthias.

Upon hearing that, Leon smiled cunningly and he said, “Ask him out after dinner!” I must be the coolest guy ever, he thought to himself. I mean, I’m pushing my crush into another guy’s arms!

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