

# Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 569

On the phone, Matthias did not feel a sense of displeasure from Heather, and both of them tacitly remained silent about what happened yesterday. It was a brand new day and a new beginning; yesterday had already passed. He had improved a lot in dealing with relationships.

“What is your decision about the date, Miss Langston?” Since she did not reject him at once, she would very likely agree to his offer. Therefore, he certainly should take advantage of this situation to persuade until she nodded.

“Well, I’m afraid that Director Locke is doing this for his private reasons under the disguise of business matters,” replied Heather in a teasing manner. This was not the first time he had done such a thing and it used to happen very often. Therefore, in her eyes, he was like a person with previous convictions.

Upon hearing her words, he smiled while looking resigned, as he was unable to continue with what she said. By using the name of official business matters for his private interests, he had indeed done such a thing countless times. Right at this moment, he couldn’t help but feel ashamed while he looked back on his actions.

“We’ll only be talking about business and not about the other things.” He then pledged in all honesty and sincerity, but even he himself could not believe in these words.

“Alright, then. I wonder what matter Director Locke wants to talk with me about?” She was having the thoughts of teasing Matthias. As she recalled his embarrassed look, she smiled broadly.

Meanwhile, he flipped through the documents that he was holding. These were all the information regarding the cooperation between the Locke Group and the Langston Group,

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and it would possibly take half a day to read through these thick bundles of documents without missing a word.

“It’s about the cooperation between the Locke Group and Langston Group.” As he spoke, he pushed the documents aside. He would need to bring it along later for the date, and it could be said that he indeed spent a great effort just to meet Heather.

Upon hearing his reply, Heather frowned. She did not want to take care of this matter and since it was about the company’s cooperation, Blake was far more qualified than her to further discuss it with Matthias.

“Can I not accept it?” She hesitated a little, as she thought of the words that Robert had told her back then, which were hinting at her implicitly yet obvious.

She used to think of fighting for it in the past, but she completely gave up on this thought later on. However, Robert brought up this matter again all of a sudden, and it caused a total mess in her mind. On top of that, she was surprised that Matthias dared to brazenly ask her out by using this reason, which meant that Robert was indeed backing him up. As she thought about this, she did not know whether she should comply with his wish.

“The cooperation will be happening soon but a lot of things are yet to be finalized. Miss Heather, are you really not feeling worried about it?” Speaking in a businesslike tone, Matthias was trying his very best to ask Heather out to meet him.

He insisted on using this reason as he had set his mind to talk about this matter with her, so he certainly would not go to Blake Langston for this. If she refused again, he could only compromise in the end. Moreover, she had envisioned various possibilities that might happen in her mind.

“I’m not working at the Langston Group anymore, so I’m afraid that I’m not eligible to have a hand in this matter.” Still, she refused. The only thought she had right now was to develop her own company well and she did not want to compete with Blake any further.

“But that’s not what Old Master Langston said to me. He told me that you’ll always be a member of the Langston Group’s board of directors. Other than Blake Langston, you’re the director with the most company holdings among the Langston Family.” Matthias’ words were so high-sounding but it left her feeling startled.

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“Where did you hear this rumor? I don’t even have the slightest share of the company in my hands.” Heather said inexplicably. Was it really what Robert told him, though? She thought.

At the same time, Matthias was surprised too. Robert did not tell him that she was not aware about this matter back then, and it seemed like he wanted to inform Heather about it through his mouth.

“It was your grandfather. He gave you the shares.” Looking at this situation, he was certain to conclude that it was definitely Robert who transferred the shares to Heather.

“But I’ve never signed any share transfer agreement.” She did not have the memory of signing such an agreement, but she indeed signed a lot of contracts and documents before.

“I’m not clear about this either. You can ask Old Master Langston about it.” This time, he had been used by Old Master Langston. As soon as he thought about this, he held his forehead in distress.

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In the meantime, a scene had popped up in Heather’s mind while she recalled. There was a time when Robert called her over to the study alone, asking her to sign for a document. At that time, he only asked her to sign, but he did not show her the contents of it. Could it be...

It was simply unknown whether it would be good news or bad news. She was feeling both helpless and amused about this, as she couldn’t believe that Robert would do such a thing behind her back.

“Alright. Where did you plan to meet?” Not wanting to stress herself about this matter anymore, she changed the topic in a split second and agreed to meet with Matthias.

For him, he had achieved his aim. Therefore, he no longer cared about the messy things of the Langston Family too.

“Wherever you like—you can decide.” He was afraid that Heather might not like the place that he chose, so he might as well let her choose on her own.

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After thinking about it for a moment, she decided to go to the tea house. The place was rather quiet and they could also book a VIP room for themselves, so they would not be disturbed by anyone.

Matthias agreed with her suggestion and he then hung up the call before picking up the documents instantly which were placed near to him. At the moment, all he wanted was to hurriedly arrive at the teahouse they agreed upon.

The place that Heather picked this time was not in the city center. It was located in a remote alley at the outskirts of the city, as good wine needs no bush. She once came here by chance, and she liked the charming, attractive lady boss here. On top of that, she also admired her proficient tea ceremony.

It was a kind of artistic enjoyment when you watched her brewing the tea, and what Heather liked the most was the boss' smile—her smile was extraordinarily enchanting, as though it could hit the deepest part of one's heart.

Besides, she would also discuss the tea ceremony with the guests, as she felt that the tea ceremony was similar to the humane way of life. If one had been to this tea house for once, one would definitely think about coming here for the second time. During this period of time, Heather was swamped by various kinds of tasks. Fortunately, the weather today was great, so this simple and unsophisticated tea house came to her mind, and it was also just in time to fulfill her promise which she made to the lady boss.

Back then, she had promised the lady boss that she would come over again next time. When such words were coming out of Heather's mouth, it certainly was meant to be a promise, not just a casual remark.

This was the first time for Matthias to come to this place and he navigated it on the map for a pretty long while. The roaring machinery sound could be heard coming from the side, as this place was a development area. He did not expect that there would be an antique tea house in such a place.

Heather, on the other hand, had arrived ahead of him. The tea house only had one VIP room and since it would be served by the boss personally, the cost of the room would be a lot more expensive. Therefore, the people who would purposely book the VIP room were few and far between.

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After all, sitting in the cubicles would not be disturbed either; it would already be good as long as the guests tried their best to speak with a soft and lower voice. Sometimes, the lady boss would even jokingly say that nobody had ordered her for a very long time.

As soon as Matthias arrived, the waitress noticed him with the first glance and she then greeted him and asked, "Are you Mr. Locke?"

When Heather arrived, she had told the waitress some of Matthias' characteristics for her to keep an eye on. And so, once she saw him, she could then lead him to the VIP room immediately.

"Yes," Matthias replied decisively.

The waitress then put on a gentle smile and added, "Miss Langston is already waiting for you in the VIP room. Please come with me."

The etiquette of the waiters and waitresses of this tea house was very good. Besides, when he saw this building from the outside, he thought that he had travelled back to the ancient times, as it was builded with retro architectural designs.

After entering the tea house, the shop assistants were all wearing traditional costumes, and they were mainly young and comely girls with a few beautiful little boys.

It seemed like the shop owner had a pretty good eye, as all of the service would be done by these good-looking boys and girls. As Matthias smiled politely, he followed after the waitress.

Meanwhile in the VIP room, Heather and the boss were chatting eloquently about some life principles, and the former would put on a soft smile from time to time. Compared with the boss, who looked past her prime but was still attractive, Heather had an appearance that was extremely cold but glamorous.

Matthias' arrival had interrupted their conversation, so the boss looked at him and smiled politely. However, his gaze was fixed at Heather and he only spared the boss a glance.

"Come here," said Heather while she pointed to the seat beside her.

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In the past, he had always been sitting at the seat opposite her but this time, he could finally sit next to her. As this thought came to his mind, he couldn't help but smile softly as he sat by her side.

The boss looked at them curiously and she then said to Heather, "Since Miss Langston's honored guest has arrived, then I'll be leaving first."

Heather nodded slightly. "I'd like you to pour a cup of tea for him," she then added while pointing at Matthias.

Upon hearing her words, the boss adeptly lifted the exquisite ceramic teapot to pour a cup of tea for Matthias. She raised the teapot very high and a slender stream of water slowly flowed into the teacup. Surprisingly, not a single drop of water was spilled.

After she was done, she said to him, "Enjoy."

"Thank you." He replied in a polite manner.

The lady boss merely smiled. As she was about to leave, she glanced at Matthias and said, "The both of you are truly a match made in heaven."

As soon as she was done speaking, she left in a hurry before both of them had the time to respond to her words. Heather blushed in an instant, as this was the first time someone said that Matthias and her were a heavenly pair. This felt a little abstruse.

On the other hand, Matthias was elated and he thought that was the best phrase he had ever heard. He then said to Heather, "This boss even knows some metaphysics?"

"Well, she's a rare sober person in this mortal world," Heather replied, which was a pretty high compliment toward the boss.

"This is really such a great place." As he spoke, he scanned around the designs of the surroundings. The screen beside him was definitely embroidered by hand, stitch by stitch.

"But it's a pity that it would be razed to the ground very soon," said Heather while she sounded a little regretful.

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“Oh—that’s indeed a pity.” Matthias let out a sigh along with her, as it was really a pity for every inch of the wholehearted designs in this tea house.

Upon hearing his words, she sneered while looking at him. “Did Director Locke forget that this place is a development area under the Locke Group?”

If she hadn’t reminded him, he would have really forgotten about this matter; no wonder he felt that the surroundings were so familiar while he was on his way here. Recently, he had only been thinking about the ways to surmount the Hart Group, so he did not put his focus on the development projects. Therefore, he had become a little forgetful due to his overwhelming thoughts.

“I wonder what Miss Langston wants me to be alert of with this matter?” After a moment of contemplation, he finally figured out that there was another intention behind her decision to meet at this place.

“Nothing. It’s just a coincidence.” She skipped over the topic, but he had already understood it.

The bold and drastic moves of Locke Group lately were indeed extremely impactful to many places, and it also harmed the interests of some of the people.

“Have you brought the documents?” Heather went straight to the point.

Matthias took the documents out from his briefcase and handed them to her, and she then took the thick bundle of documents. The words on it were so densely packed and perhaps even when the pot of tea had become cold, she still couldn’t finish reading it.

However, it was fortunate for her that she had a whole day to spare, so that she could take a good look at these documents. After all, deep down she was still concerned about the cooperation between the Locke Group and the Langston Group, and until now she still disagreed with this matter, as they were still unable to judge on which side the Locke Group was taking their stand on.

The enemy’s friend was still an enemy, but the enemy’s enemy would be a friend. In fact, Heather was still hoping in vain that the Langston Group could achieve the aim of cooperating with the Hart Group.

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“This tea house also has local specialties. You can just order anything if you’re feeling a little hungry.” She said to Matthias before she immersed in the documents. Meanwhile, he was staying so quietly by her side, fearing that he would disturb her.

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The tea house had a good sound insulation effect as the roaring sound of the machinery not far from here could not be heard. Sitting in the tea house made them feel as though they were in another space, isolating them from the noise out there.

The aroma of the tea wafted around the room, which teased Matthias’ olfactory. He knew that Heather was a person who liked to enjoy life and he thought that it wouldn’t be boring in the future when he was together with her. While he was deep in thought, anticipating his future with her, she remained quiet as she flipped through the documents.

At this moment, he remembered some of his old memories. They had once sat by the lakeside while enjoying the breeze and at that time, he would secretly peek at her. It was something that even Myra had taken notice of—when he was with her, he would feel comfortable, but if Heather was there together with them, he would feel nervous.

Although it was a memory from some time ago, he could still recall his nervousness. As he gently stroked his chest, his heart was racing unsteadily and loudly. He was unsure whether it was the aroma of the tea or Heather’s light fragrance; he just couldn’t help but want to get closer to her.

Cough, cough. Upon noticing that sight, Heather softly let out a few coughs and said, “You squashed my documents.” She wondered when they had sat so close to each other as it made her feel slightly uncomfortable.

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“Oh, I’m sorry,” Matthias apologized, having done something dumb once again. He was thinking of quietly approaching her, but his plan had failed even before he could start.

She took a faint glance at him. When she realized that there was a slight issue regarding the distance between them, she moved slightly to the side. After all, she was not used to being so close to him and he had already far exceeded her safe distance with him.

“Aren’t you hungry?” Heather asked.

“Are you hungry?” Matthias countered. With only a pot of tea in front of them, things were indeed looking a little dull.

“Nope,” she answered before continuing to fix her gaze on the documents in her hands.

It was the most frightening when the air suddenly drowned in silence. Looking at her, she looked like she did not want to bother him any longer, so he lowered his head and looked at his phone. Meanwhile, she inadvertently took a glance at him. She felt that he was acting a little strange, but she could not tell exactly what was wrong with him.

Heather poured herself a cup of tea. The tea tasted especially bitter when it was being sipped at the very beginning, but the aftertaste proved to be sweet. It was extremely good, and it was exactly as how the saying went—‘after the suffering came the happiness’.

On the other hand, the teacup in front of Matthias was still full. It seemed like he was not really fond of the tea, so upon noticing it, she responded, “If you don’t like this pot of tea, you can order another pot.”

Her sudden words had left him a little dazed before he looked at the teacup in front of him. He merely took a sip when he first came, but he wasn’t feeling thirsty at that time. All he tasted was just the tea’s bitterness, so he did not drink it again.

On second thought, since Heather had ordered this pot of tea, this could be the kind of taste that she liked. There was an old proverb that went ‘love me, love my dog’, so Matthias should certainly show her that he loved the tea too.

“No, it’s alright. I really like this taste.” In fact, he didn’t like the tea to be that bitter. His tongue was astringent by the bitterness of it and he did not care much about its aftertaste either.

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“Tea should be savored slowly.” As she lifted the teacup in her hands, the corners of her lips were slightly raised to reveal a soft smile. She liked tea and she would also love to make friends who liked tea as much as her.

Mimicking her actions, Matthias lifted his cup of tea and took a sip again. As their eyes met, they smiled at each other. This time, he felt that the tea was not as bitter anymore; he could even taste a tinge of sweetness.

“It’s good tea.” He honestly thought that it was a good cup of tea, but Heather had already ignored him and turned her gaze toward the documents once again.

It was a quiet afternoon where the sound of pages flipping could occasionally be heard as the ray of sunlight shone through the window. Her side profile looked as if it was coated with a layer of soft halo and one could hardly resist giving her a kiss.

Time had swiftly passed and it took her a whole three hours to finish pursuing all the documents. Rubbing her temples, Heather felt that she had not read such a thick bundle of information in such a long time.

“Seems like the Locke Group is pushing their luck.” She expressed her initial evaluation on the matter.

A confused Matthias looked at her. He had tried his absolute best to compromise in the collaboration, but he could not understand why she would still make that sort of comment.

“I can’t feel the sincerity from Locke Group in this document. Mr. Locke, you’ve said that you want to sincerely cooperate with the Langston Group, but it seems like you’ve mistaken the definition of collaboration.” When it came to business matters, it had to be dealt with in a business-like manner and she would not give him even a sense of mercy.

Those words had left him even more puzzled, and he was speechless toward Heather’s query. In terms of interests, Locke Group had compromised a lot. If she was still dissatisfied about it and they had to make further concessions, it would become an unequal treaty for them.

“I don’t quite understand what you mean, Miss Langston.” He transformed into his working state in a split second.

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"Well, we can cooperate. However, to do such a thing like sharing the same hatred against one enemy, the Langston Group will never be involved in it," she replied in a gentle manner, but she had also pointed out the main problem.

The corner of Matthias' lips twitched, and he put on a businessman's formal smile. "I see. So, this is what you're concerned about, Miss Langston. Since both of the companies are going to have an in-depth collaboration, it's not that unreasonable to have the same enemy."

It seemed like Heather did not care about the concessions that he had made since what she was concerned about was the aspect of in-depth cooperation. She refused to let both of their companies have an extensive collaboration and it seemed like it was because she did not trust the Locke Group.

"In-depth collaboration? Both the Locke Group and the Langston Group are large enterprises, so there's no need for us to collaborate extensively. Furthermore, we have our own style of running our businesses. It will easily turn into a situation where a great man cannot break a rival." She continued to play riddles with him. After all, it was her who was not willing to budge.

"If you think that the in-depth collaboration is unnecessary, then I'm afraid that the cooperation between the two groups will be difficult to develop further." Firmly standing his ground, Matthias could not make any more concessions on this matter. What he wanted was to allow both the groups to have an extensive collaboration, not a cooperation for a shallow project.

Upon hearing his words, Heather gave an unkind smile. "If this is what you think, Director Locke, then I guess you can just refuse to cooperate with the Langston Group." She would rather ruin this collaboration than submit to his request.

Matthias then took a deep glance at her. He knew that Heather had her own plans and he also understood why she disagreed with the collaboration between the two companies. However, business is business and he could not allow his emotions to outweigh business matters. He needed to gain her trust on this matter. Even though she was no longer working in Langston Group, her words still carried the most weight in front of Robert. If he failed to persuade Heather, then he would be looked down on by Robert.

When Matthias was having this thought in his mind, he could finally understand the meaning behind the words that Robert had told him back then. It turned out that Robert was having such an intention in his mind—to kill three birds with one stone. He could bring Matthias and

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Heather together on this matter while on the other hand, he could also bequeath something that was difficult for him to convey to her through Matthias. Thirdly, he could even make things exceptionally difficult for Matthias. At that moment, Matthias could not help but admire Robert's tactics. No matter what, he needed to break through the predicament in front of him. Since Robert had given him a difficult problem to handle, he should just resolve it!

"Alright. Since you're not satisfied with this document, Miss Langston, then I'll take it back and revise it." As his middle finger tapped lightly on the table, the expression on his face turned serious.

"No matter how you amend it, I will never be satisfied with it," Heather aggressively responded. In fact, Matthias had also made compromises for her. If it was for other people, he would have lost his temper.

"Well then, what should we do to ensure that you'll be satisfied with it, Miss Langston?" Not losing his patience, he asked steadily. At that moment, she was not only the woman whom he fancied, but also the business partner of his project that he needed to convince.

"We are having conflicting ideas. Right now, isn't it the most urgent to resolve this conflict of ours? I don't agree with the in-depth collaboration between Locke Group and the Langston Group since these two big companies do not have the need to form a so-called ally." However, Heather was still tightly holding onto this point of hers and she would not compromise unless Matthias gave in to her request.

"Miss Langston, the alliance that you've mentioned is a little exaggerated. If the two companies are merely cooperating, then I will not need to dedicate so much time in drafting this cooperation plan." Trying to persuade Heather, Matthias slowly expressed his opinions.

"The Langston Group is now facing a bottleneck and the Locke Group can help to procure new resources involved in the company's business. This is something that will benefit the both of us, so I don't understand why you would keep refusing it." He had long investigated the Langston Group and the company's current situation was indeed not in an optimistic state.

"In this document, I don't see the necessity for both of the companies to cooperate. Besides, Locke Group is not the only company that can help in obtaining new resources for our company. I'm afraid that this reason does not make sense." Unshaken, she skipped the topic of the bottleneck period that the Langston Group faced. It was indeed true, but it was also

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true that it was not a necessity to cooperate with the Locke Group. If they could fight for cooperation with the Hart Group, then it was bound to be better than cooperating with Matthias.

“Well, what you said is also true. However, you need to understand something. Throughout the whole Bradford City, are there any other companies that can be so well-capitalized and disposed to make concessions for the Langston Group?” Not willing to surrender, he firmly responded. The concessions that he made were extremely tempting and his principal issues would not be changed. Moreover, it was not a big deal to give more benefits to the Langston Group.

“Well said, Director Locke. Although businessmen do value and will seek benefits, it doesn’t mean that two sides with totally different opinions can come together reluctantly. Also, although the Langston Group is not as strong as before, we still have our own limits. We are not interested in becoming other people’s bullies.” Heather cut to the chase. She would definitely not compromise and would also try her very best not to allow Matthias to achieve his wish.

“Alright, it seems like you and I can’t agree with each other’s opinions.” Matthias did not want to argue further as it could possibly affect their personal relationship afterward.

Upon hearing his words, she smiled without saying a word. What he said was true, so she did not want to argue with him either.

“Please give me another chance then, Miss Langston. I’ll modify the cooperation plan once again. Since the both of us can’t represent the whole company, when the time comes, both of the groups can hold a board of directors meeting together. By then, we can let everyone decide.” Since it was hopeless to persuade Heather anymore, Matthias could only come up with his killer idea. He knew that the people in the Langston Group who wanted the cooperation to happen were not small in numbers, so he would not lose in terms of voting.

As soon as she heard his words, her expression changed in an instant. She did not expect that he would force her into a situation of despair. If they were involved in the meeting together, she was afraid that the directors supporting her would not be many.

“This sort of cooperation plan is not suitable to be brought up to the public, so it is not necessary to make the decision through the board of directors. Moreover, both of us are the ones who hold the most shares in our companies. Can’t we decide on this small plan instead?” At this moment, Heather had no choice but to bring up the matter of shares to

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support her stand, as she definitely didn't want to bring the matter of cooperation to the board of directors.

“Miss Langston, you're really not being careful with your thoughts. We indeed have a lot of shares on our hands, but there are also a few other large equity holders. Are you really ignore them? Don't forget the current President of the Langston Group—Blake Langston, your big brother. I guess he has a lot of thoughts about this cooperation too, right?” As Matthias spoke, he emphasized the last sentence in an intense manner. A ghastly expression was slowly creeping up on Heather's face for the situation now had been reversed.

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