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This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr Chapter 599 - 600

Chapter 599 Candidate for the Next Chairperson: Jessica Reed

The other shareholders and executives present, including Asher's own men, were left shocked by the unexpected turn of events.

"There is another candidate for the chairperson position? President Dafoe, what could you possibly mean by that?" one of the attendees asked before another continued the questioning.

"Well put! President Dafoe, who other than President Reed would be qualified for the position?"

As those who held no more than 10 percent of the company's shares were normally ineligible for the position of the chairperson, even the shareholders who had the second and third most shares would not even dream of becoming the next chairperson as they knew it was an automatic disqualification on their part.

As of now, the only person in the room who had more than 10 percent of the shares was none other than Sonia.

Just who was this second candidate that Asher mentioned?

Could this person actually be holding just enough of Paradigm Co.'s shares to make him or her a candidate?

However, what Sonia and the shareholders had should have been all the shares available. Where on earth could this extra 10 percent come from?

Furthermore, Paradigm Co. had not been selling its company shares. Thus, there shouldn't be anyone who would have an extra 10 percent to compete with Sonia.

Asher looked at the confused attendees for a moment before his eyes suddenly shone.

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Sonia, on the other hand, pursed her lips as an uncomfortable thought hit her.

Could Jessica be the other candidate?

Sonia had been observing the faces of everyone in the meeting room when Asher dropped his announcement and judging by how clueless they were as she was, she could only come up with the conclusion that the other candidate was not someone from within the room. It must be an outsider, she thought.

Also, Jessica had made an appearance in Sonia's company today. Her sudden appearance only further convinced Sonia that Jessica was the other candidate Asher had in mind.

After connecting the dots, Sonia turned to look at Asher with narrowed eyes as she spoke up, "President Dafoe, since you are suddenly mentioning there is another candidate for the position, I'm sure everyone here is curious to know who it is. Why don't you bring that person here so that we can get to know that person?" She then turned toward everyone else and asked, "Don't you all agree with me?"

"She is right. We want to know who--other than President Reed--qualifies for the position!" someone quickly agreed.

Despite the commotion the crowd was gradually making, Asher stayed calm while he put down the teacup in his hand. "I will have that person come in since that is what everyone wants. Oh, President Reed, just a heads up, it is your blood-related sister. I'm sure you know who it is," he casually said.

Sonia's pupils dilated as her hands unconsciously clenched into fists upon hearing his words.

It was as she had expected.

Sonia never expected Jessica to join hands with Asher--it seemed like Sonia had underestimated her sister.

Confused, the other attendees of the meeting asked, "Sister? Since when did President Reed have a sister?"

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However, the ones who were puzzled by the situation were the shareholders and executives that had only joined Paradigm Co. in the last 6 years. The old-timers, on the other hand, showed only the least bit of surprise at the news.

In fact, they had known that Sonia was not an only child all along. Though they might not have known what her name was, they knew that the sister was Henry's second child.

Besides that, all they knew about Henry's second child was that she embezzled the company's funds with her mother--which ultimately led to Henry's suicide 6 years ago.

If Asher had not used his personal savings, on top of getting a loan from the bank just in time to save Paradigm Co. when it was on the brink of destruction, Paradigm Co. would have ceased to exist right there and then.

Those who knew the story behind Paradigm Co.'s revival could not help but feel uneasy at this moment. They then started voicing their dissatisfaction.

"President Dafoe, could Mr. Reed's second daughter be the candidate you are talking about? How can she even be considered for the position?"

"Exactly my thoughts. Did you forget about what had happened 6 years ago, President Dafoe? That woman and her mother were the reason why Paradigm Co. was in such shambles then. Someone like that can't possibly be the face of our company. Also, she doesn't hold any shares of the company!"

"That's right!"

At that moment, both Asher and Sonia's men joined forces as they opposed Asher's decision in making Jessica a candidate.

The ones under Asher were especially fervent as they had zero ideas of what had led him to make a choice like that.

They were reacting in a way that it was hard for Asher to not feel the anger they were holding back.

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However, he was unaffected by the commotion Sonia's people were making, as all he did was throw his men a glance implying that they should calm down, and he would give a proper explanation at a better time.

After acknowledging Asher's gaze, his men immediately quieted down. They obediently held back the questions they had regarding Jessica being the other candidate for the position.

Seeing that, Asher nodded in satisfaction where he then waved at his secretary who stood behind him.

Seeing his cue, his secretary promptly nodded in response before walking toward the door to the meeting room and opening it.

The clear clacking of high heels against the floor could soon be heard reverberating throughout the space as it gradually loudened.

With her lips pursed, Sonia coldly stared at the door, and soon enough, Jessica finally appeared by the entrance. Clad in a women's suit with her hair tied back into a ponytail, she looked every bit like a female boss. However, she failed terribly at concealing the excitement and zeal in her eyes, and that had immediately ruined everyone's first impression of her.

After Jessica entered the room, she casually looked at all the people in the meeting room before landing her eyes on Sonia. A smirk appeared on Jessica's face as soon as she saw Sonia, but it only lasted for a while as she quickly looked toward Asher. As soon as she did that, the smirk on her face turned into a genuine smile.

"Uncle Asher," she called out warmly.

Sonia's face instantly fell when she heard that.

Uncle Asher?

Jessica actually has the nerves to call him that?

Did she not know how bad Asher's and Henry's relationship was when Henry was still alive?

But then again, Jessica wasn't someone who would care about the details. After all, she was someone who did not mind poisoning her own father!

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“Jessica, my dear niece, you are finally here! Come. Take a seat beside me,” Asher laughingly said as he moved to pull the chair beside him for Jessica.

Their interaction would have easily convinced people who did not know better that they had a good relationship.

Asher was seated directly across Sonia, and now that Jessica sat beside him, she too was face-to-face with Sonia.

“Sonia,” Jessica called out with a smile. “Did my return surprise you?”

Sonia couldn’t be bothered by her existence so she chose to not answer her and only frowned in response.

Jessica—–who was easily provoked—–was immediately angered by Sonia’s silence.

She would rather Sonia retort than give her a cold shoulder like this.

Sonia’s silence only made Jessica feel like she was unworthy. It was as though she was trash that Sonia would not even want to spare a glance at.

“Hmph! Stay on your high horse all you want. We’ll see how much longer you get to keep your act up,” Jessica scoffed. Her expression changed the next moment as she turned to Asher and said, “I will be in your care then, Uncle Asher.”

Asher’s eyes darted at Sonia as he swiftly replied, “Don’t worry, Jessica. I will get you the position you deserve. And even if I can’t get you in, I will make sure that she can’t have what you don’t.”

Asher’s reassurance got Jessica so excited that she could hardly stop herself from shaking. “Thank you in advance for your help, Uncle Asher!”

Surprisingly, Asher’s eyes held a glint of disdain as he briefly looked at Jessica. However, the emotion quickly disappeared as he said, “Sonia, as I said earlier, I am not against you being the chairperson. But now that your sister is here, you will have to show us what you got if you want the position. It all depends on both of your performances from this point on.”

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"I have a question for you, President Dafoe." Sonia's cold voice rang out as her fingers slowly tapped on the surface of the table. "What makes you think that Jessica has the right to compete with me for the position? Does she have what it takes? Does she even have the shares to qualify for the position? Aren't you being a little too impulsive to let someone like her compete with me? You are making me doubt your capabilities as the company's president, President Dafoe. I might just disregard your contributions to Paradigm Co. in the past, remove you as a shareholder, and arbitrarily take over as the chairperson!"

Sonia had always had the power to do so but had constantly restrained herself as Asher was undeniably Paradigm Co.'s messiah when times were tough for them.

She would have gotten rid of him years ago if she had not let her conscience stop her.

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr Chapter 600

Chapter 600 Asher Dafoe's True Colors

Asher's expression immediately tensed up when Sonia mentioned bringing in an arbitrator to settle their dispute.

He was visibly starting to feel nervous because he knew that losing his shares meant losing his influence and position in the company. It would be equivalent to getting banished from Paradigm Co.!

"Sonia, you..."

Right when he was about to say something in an attempt to calm Sonia down, Jessica angrily interrupted as she loudly banged the table and cried, "Don't go overboard, Sonia!"

Everyone's heads whipped in Jessica's direction at her sudden outburst.

"Oh? What did I do?" Sonia asked with her eyes narrowed.

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“Stop playing innocent! Uncle Asher is our relative—–not to mention, an elder. You should show him some respect. Your attitude is an embarrassment to the Reeds!” Jessica reprimanded. The way she pointed at Sonia made it seem as though Sonia had done something unforgivable.

Sonia could not help but let out a scoff at her sister’s answer. “Our relative? Jessica, you even had it in you to murder your own father. I doubt you really think of President Dafoe as an elder that you respect.” She then turned to Asher and reminded him, “President Dafoe, please don’t ever let down your guard around her. She did not hesitate to push her father to his death. You know it will be much easier for her to plan your death if she wanted to.”

As soon as Sonia said that, a guilty look flashed across Jessica’s panicked face as she shouted, “You better stop spouting nonsense! Who are you accusing of murder?!” Jessica’s heart felt as though it could stop at any time at that moment.

Did Sonia know something?

No, she couldn’t possibly have known about the poisoning. Sonia must be talking about the embezzlement incident that made their father take his own life.

Her eyes had started rolling around nervously at this point. Right. The embezzlement. That must be it. Stop panicking, Jessica. You can’t give yourself away now, Jessica convinced herself.

Unbeknownst to Jessica, Sonia had been observing her the whole time she was having inner turmoil with herself. Seeing Jessica’s reaction only made Sonia clench her fist tighter.

It seemed that what Nancy had said about Jessica being the one who poisoned Henry was true. Otherwise, Jessica wouldn’t have reacted so anxiously if she was innocent.

Sonia remembered how Jessica had reacted fairly calmly when Sonia had talked about the embezzlement and suicide back when they were in Kosovo. All Jessica had mocked in reply was how their father had ended his life because he didn’t have the mental and emotional capability to endure a little bit of setback.

Her reaction now could only mean one thing—she did poison their father.

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It was hard to believe that someone could actually do something so cruel to their own parents. Just you wait, Jessica Reed, Sonia promised to herself. I'll make you pay for your actions.

"I'm spouting nonsense, you say?" Sonia let out another scoff. "Jessica, you know what you did. You know exactly how big of a part you played in Dad's death. I won't get into it, but mark my words: you won't live another day in peace now that you have me as your enemy."

Jessica disgruntledly rolled her eyes and retorted, "That's your threat? Okay then. I'll wait and see what tricks you have up your sleeves. But first, we are all here to discuss who will be taking the chairperson position!"

"No need for a discussion!" Sonia announced. She had her head held high as she coldly looked at Jessica. "Anyone but you can have the position. Need I remind you again? You have neither the power nor shares to qualify as a candidate. What exactly are you putting on the table to claim that you have what it takes to go against me?"

Unexpectedly, Jessica smiled as she swayed her arms and said, "Who said I don't? I'll admit that I have no experience in running a company, but I have Uncle Asher to lead me through the process. As for my shares... I am Dad's biological daughter, aren't I? That means that I'm entitled to half of what you have! Lawfully speaking, I should have 25.5 percent of your 51 percent. Now tell me, am I still unqualified for the position?"

Opinions were divided by Jessica's words, and another discussion broke out among the attendees.

"That's true. The previous chairman did not leave a will regarding the distribution of shares due to his sudden passing. The second daughter should have half of what President Reed has."

"I have to agree with that."

Naturally, the ones who agreed were all Asher's men.

The soft mumbles made Asher and Jessica exchange satisfied gazes as things were finally going the way they wanted.

At the same time, the ones who disagreed also started to chatter.

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“Even though Mr. Reed did not mention to leave all the shares to President Reed, he also never said that the shares have to be split with the second daughter.”

“That’s correct.”

Jessica jumped and glared at the people who still opposed, and before Sonia could say anything to her people, Jessica quickly interjected, “Dad never said anything about giving me his shares, but as his daughter, I am a rightful successor of what he has left behind. Also, I am not wrong for trying to get back what originally belongs to me. The only reason I don’t have any of those shares is because I left Seafield too soon 6 years ago. You know that the law would naturally assign me half the shares if we were to take this to court.”

Asher, too, started to persuade Sonia as he sipped on his cup of tea. “Jessica’s right. Why don’t you just concede and let her have what is rightfully hers, hmm? I’m afraid that it will earn you a big smear to your reputation if word were to spread that you have claimed all of your father’s inheritance for yourself and that you refuse to share it with your own sister.”

Despite hearing those words, Sonia still calmly looked at both of them before suddenly letting out a laugh.

When Asher saw her reaction, his eyebrows instinctively knitted together. He was suddenly hit by a feeling of foreboding.

He then slowly set his teacup back onto the table, and as calmly as he could, he asked, “Dear Sonia, what are you laughing about?”

“Oh, it’s just that... You had me wondering about the reason you were so enthusiastic about holding this meeting at first. It’s not like it will benefit you in any way if there was a new chairperson in the seat. I think I know why now,” Sonia said before pausing momentarily.

She then leaned forward and rested her head in the palm of her hands that were propped on the table. “I don’t know how you managed to get in contact with each other, but I’m sure you both have come to an agreement of some sort. Let’s see if I can guess it correctly,” she said in a mocking voice.

“You,” she said with a finger pointing at Asher. “You will aid her in taking away all my current shares and then—manage Paradigm Co. on Jessica’s behalf. And as for you...”

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This time, Sonia was pointing at Jessica. "Your role in this is probably to cause trouble for me so that I will be too distracted from properly managing the company, am I right? And when it gets bad..." Sonia glanced at Asher. "You will completely take charge over Paradigm Co., and maybe even rob Jessica of her shares if things somehow go your way. Did it get it right?"

Asher stiffened for a while before he could find his tongue again, where he then incredulously looked at Sonia and managed to utter a word. "You..."

Was she really so observant that she had managed to accurately read his mind?

Seeing him looking like a deer caught in the headlights, she sneered and sarcastically cheered, "Bingo. But I have to applaud you, President Dafoe. It is a wise move for you to use Jessica in exchange for the things you want. Not only is she an idiot, but she is also a fairly useful idiot that you get to bend at your will. It is a pity that you are so ambitious that you held no cards back. I could see through you in a glance."

As Asher heard that, his grip on his teacup only further tightened as he thoughtfully stared at Sonia.

Jessica, on the other hand, couldn't contain her rage any longer as she suddenly yelled at Sonia. "Did you just call me an idiot?!" At that moment, she would have loved to carve a piece of flesh off Sonia's body if she could.

However, that short sentence alone had managed to show all of Jessica's worst sides.

Everyone in the room, no matter if they were Sonia or Asher's men, turned to scornfully look at Jessica.

Was this woman stupid or something?

Sonia was just talking about how Asher was using her to ultimately get Jessica's shares if she had managed to claim half of it from Sonia.

And yet, Jessica was so caught up with being called an idiot that she had completely missed the point of the conversation.

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It was almost laughable that someone like this actually had the audacity to say that she wanted to be the chairperson.

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