

One Night Surprise Chapter 51

Chapter 51 Just How Much Does She Want This Marriage?

When she heard Cameron say 'you've got your heart set on him' in such a calm manner, a rock that had seemingly been suspended in Courtney's head for many days crashed to the ground with a loud smash all of a sudden, shattering into countless shards in her mind. How is this possible?

"Anyway, there's no such thing as pure friendship between men and women. Alexander's a young guy, and he's the CEO of Sunhill Enterprise. He's one busy man; why would he help you out with your daughter in his free time? Other than his mutual interest in you, I can't think of any other reason that can explain his actions. It's that simple."

"He only likes me because Jordan loves my cooking."

"In that case, he's definitely thinking of marrying you for life."

"No way."

Cameron turned a deaf ear to Courtney's constant denials, even going as far as to giggle jovially at her; it was as though Cameron had already won the argument and was preening over her victory. She didn't care how Courtney was going to perceive her for this.

That night, Courtney couldn't sleep at all. Cameron's words about how she had her heart set on Alexander kept replaying themselves in her mind, as well as the various bits of daily life she shared with Alexander.

When she got up to drink some water and groped her way to the living room, she saw a new tea set on the table. At that moment, she recalled how one of her cups at home had been chipped, but she made Alexander drink out of that cup. The next day, he showed up at her home with a new tea set. That wasn't all; during this period of time, Alexander would

constantly bring new things over. It was to the point where he had practically invaded every corner of her apartment.

At that thought, Courtney clutched at her cup, her heart beating erratically.

The next morning, Courtney received a text from Alexander on her way to work. 'Tina has been sent to school already. Don't worry.'

She typed out a single 'thanks' with much difficulty as she stood there, squashed inside the subway carriage; the corners of her lips curved into a sweet smile without her realizing.

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Cameron stayed with Courtney ever since coming back from her trip, but Alexander didn't mind. He still came over for meals regularly. On the first day of eating together, Alexander was thoroughly interrogated by Cameron about his family background. Courtney felt awkward and embarrassed as she heard them from the kitchen. How she wished she could storm out and whack Cameron on the head with a ladle to make her shut up.

Fortunately, Cameron didn't mill around at home every day; she still had her job, which kept her well and busy with work. Being able to eat at home for one day out of the week was considered a luxury for her.

As night crept on, Courtney pulled Tina over to her bedroom. Meanwhile, Cameron was lying on the couch, a sheet mask on her face as she scrolled through her phone in a hard-earned moment of relaxation. When she saw Courtney coming out of the bedroom, she suddenly got up and asked, "I heard an assistant at the studio gossiping earlier today. Supposedly, Alexander's going to marry Britney?"

"That's true." Courtney's expression was even as she took a sip of water.

"Whoa there." The black sheet mask on Cameron's face wrinkled up. "In that case, why is he still showing his face here and showering you with attention? Isn't he two-timing then?"

"Where are you getting the idea that he's been showering me with attention? Anyway, I've already told you earlier that I'm just his employee. You don't believe me, that's all."

Courtney rolled her eyes at Cameron, but a lost expression flitted across her face when she turned around. Once that moment of impulsiveness was gone and she could think rationally

again, she mulled things over. He was indeed going to marry someone else. How could he have feelings for her then?

Cameron was about to say something when Courtney's phone rang. Courtney took a look at the screen before simply rejecting the call.

"Why didn't you pick it up?"

"It's just a spam caller." With that, Courtney picked up the clothes from the washing machine and headed to the balcony to air them. There was a clear cloud of darkness hanging around her.

The phone on the table lit up again, displaying a notification from a text message. Cameron got up from the couch and edged toward the table, catching a glimpse of the message. 'The engagement is this Saturday. Don't forget about it. Isaac and I have...'

Cameron tensed up at the sight of the name Isaac. If her memory served her right, wasn't that her friend's jerk of an ex-boyfriend that Courtney unwittingly told her about when they went drinking abroad? There was a high chance that the woman who sent this text was that shameless homewrecker of a friend!

Courtney came back from drying the clothes on the balcony, and she caught sight of Cameron still sitting on the couch. "Why aren't you done with your sheet mask? It's drying up," she chided.

"That's not important." Cameron's arms were folded as she sat straight. "Come here and take a seat."

"What for?" Courtney was amused by Cameron's seriousness. "What kind of prank are you pulling on me in the dead of the night?"

"What is this?" Cameron pulled out a large, red invitation card and placed it on the coffee table. She had dug the invitation out from under the coffee table after she saw the text; it was buried under a stack of newspapers and magazines. From the looks of it, Courtney had received the card a while ago.

The stark red of the card was somewhat harsh on the eyes, making Courtney frown. "Where did you get that?"

"I found it under the pile of magazines. If I'm not mistaken, the groom here is that douchebag who cheated on you with your friend back then, yeah?" Cameron couldn't help but roll her eyes when she brought up Isaac. "I thought that it was a wedding invitation. I'm amazed that she had to send such a fancy invitation card just for an engagement party. Just how badly does she want this marriage?"

Courtney was exasperated. "That's their own business."

"The real question is, what are you going to do about it?"

"I don't plan on going." Courtney immediately announced her stance.

"Why not?" Cameron leaped up from the couch. "I've already thought of a whole plan for such an opportunity. I'll personally make this amazing gown for you. You're guaranteed to wow the entire crowd there; that jerk will immediately break up with that girlie and come crying to you, asking you to take him back while admitting how blind he was."

"There's no need for that. It's all in the past." Courtney shrugged, a nonchalant look on her face. "How they live their life has nothing to do with me, so I don't want to go. There's nothing I can do about it anyway."

"Look at you saying that. That clearly shows that you still haven't gotten over things. Don't you still feel something about it? The guy didn't even give you an explanation for that."

Courtney's gaze turned complicated at the mention of that. She was naturally resentful about this. If Isaac hadn't cheated on her back then, she wouldn't have been taken to be a surrogate mother by accident.

"Anyway, I already answered that text for you." Cameron winked, a smug look on her face.

"What did you say in your text?" Courtney's expression stiffened, and her gaze immediately flitted over to the phone on the table. When she hastily opened up the messaging app, there was a reply to the text that Vanessa had sent.

'Oh, you actually called? I thought that it was some insurance company spamming me every day. I've gotten the invitation already. Of course I'll be going! After all, it's my best friend's wedding. I'll definitely be there on the dot.'

“Cameron!” Courtney’s expression morphed before she grabbed a cushion and hurled it at Cameron.

“Well, I’ve already accepted the invitation for you. You’re on your own now. At most, you’ll just have to call her again and say that you’re not going.” Cameron peeled her sheet mask off and leaped off the couch from the other end, running barefooted into her own room.

“That little b*tch definitely thought that you wouldn’t attend the party. If you don’t go, you’re the one who’s going to be humiliated!” she taunted through the door.

Courtney was so furious that she became speechless. Right then, another text message popped up on her phone. ‘In that case, I look forward to seeing you there.’

Even through the screen, it felt as though she could see Vanessa’s insufferably smug face. Courtney clutched her phone tightly. All of a sudden, she changed her mind.

“Who said that I’m not going? I’ve just decided that I will go. You’d better get started on that gown soon,” she said as she looked at Cameron’s door.

One Night Surprise Chapter 52

Chapter 52 You Can Go With Her

On Friday afternoon, Courtney went to the headquarters of Sunhill Enterprise for a meeting.

“After our last meeting, here is the improved plan after taking everyone’s feedback into account. If there is anything else that needs to be amended, there is still time to do so.”

Courtney stood before the projector, dressed in a crisp business outfit with a skirt. Her bouncy waves were tied up, leaving only her side bangs as it swept across her forehead. While she looked mature, there was an air of loveliness peeking through her maturity.

The attendees discussed among themselves for a while, but they seemed to have no opposing opinions.

“Well, that’s that. We’ll begin decorating the venue next Monday.” Alexander’s voice reverberated through the meeting room. “This matter is now completely under Miss Hunter’s jurisdiction, and that is all for this meeting.”

The sound of chairs scratching the floor could be heard the moment he said that. Everyone scattered like the wind, leaving Courtney alone at her seat as she gathered her laptop and the documents she brought along.

“I’ll pick you up at 9.00AM tomorrow.” Alexander’s voice came from behind her. He was talking about their promise to have a picnic at the forestry center.

Last week, Sapphire Kindergarten gave the children their final homework before the start of the summer holidays. The kids were supposed to go to the woods to find different types of leaves and draw a picture of them.

However, Courtney stiffened for a moment before returning to her senses. She hastily turned around, an apologetic look on her face.

“I’m sorry—I might not be able to make it since something cropped up at the last moment. Cameron’s on holiday, so she’ll be taking Tina to help her out with her homework. If you don’t mind, you can go with her.”

Alexander tipped his head slightly. He didn’t seem to have much of a reaction to that; a barely discernible frown simply appeared on his face.

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After Courtney left, Josh followed Alexander back to his office. As they walked, Josh flipped through Alexander’s schedule.

“Mr. Duncan, tomorrow is the night of the young Graham scion’s engagement party. If you are sure that you won’t be going, I will arrange for the secretary to go as your representative.”

“Alright.”

"Also, there will be a fitting session with the designer at 7.00PM tomorrow night for your wedding clothes. Are you sure you can make it in time?"

Alexander's expression slipped for a moment, seeming as though he had just remembered about the wedding ceremony. Hesitation made its way into his eyes, but he nodded in the end.

"Yeah."

He just needed to do everything by the book; the safest way to live was for everything to be under his control.

The next day, Cameron drove Tina over to the forestry center.

Alexander and Jordan had seemingly arrived there a lot earlier, for they had already gathered a whole basketful of leaves. They sat on their picnic mat as Jordan made his art masterpiece.

At the sight of Tina, Jordan got up from his pile of leaves, his bright eyes flitting about. However, he still couldn't see the lady that he had been looking forward to meeting even after looking for a while. Jordan immediately frowned and tugged at Alexander's sleeve.

"She has an urgent matter, so she's not coming today. I told you earlier this morning before we came." Alexander patted his son's head as he explained patiently.

When Alexander told Jordan that Courtney wouldn't be coming, the kid looked like he didn't believe him. He even thought that Alexander was lying to him.

Jordan pouted, a dark fog immediately descending on his expression.

Meanwhile, Cameron led Tina over by the hand and greeted Alexander.

"The weather's so nice today. It's a pity that Courtney can't come today," she exclaimed.

"What's the urgent appointment that she had?" Alexander asked in an offhand manner as he picked up the leaves that Jordan had scattered.

"Mommy went to a wedding party." Tina poked her head over and blinked at Alexander. "Not only that, it's her ex-boyfriend's wedding!"

Alexander stopped what he was doing. He lifted his head to look at Cameron, as though he was seeking her confirmation.

"Don't say such nonsense, kiddo." Cameron pretended to pinch her. Tina screeched and leaped into Alexander's arms.

"Save me, Mr. Alexander!"

Alexander was somewhat distracted as he held Tina. "She went alone?"

"Of course." Cameron sighed. "She's always been a good-tempered girl. She didn't want to go, but that woman kept pestering her with phone calls every day; even I couldn't stand to see this. She ended up going because she had no other choice. She's such a sweet girl, and I figured that it won't do her any good to go. She's going to cry her eyes out later when she gets back."

"Cry? It won't get to that point, right?"

Alexander found it hard to imagine Courtney crying. Based on his impression of her, Courtney was a strong and smart woman. Even in her day-to-day life, she never gave in. It was difficult to believe that she would be so easily cowed.

"Why do you think that she wouldn't?" Cameron's eyes narrowed. "You've never seen how Courtney was before. She was molded into the woman she is now after her ex cheated on her back then and she went abroad alone. She used to be a soft girl."

Alexander didn't know when Courtney became friends with Cameron. Based solely on Cameron's words, there were a lot of holes in her testimony. However, he couldn't pick out anything actually problematic about what she said. Besides, he was a little worried now.

"I heard that you need to go with someone else when you get invited to a party. Mommy's definitely going to be bullied since she went there by herself." Tina sighed as well from where she was curled up in Alexander's arms.

Jordan quickly lifted his drawing board and tugged on Alexander's sleeve to get his attention.

"If you don't help Aunt Courtney, then you're not my daddy."

Alexander wasn't sure whether he should laugh at this. "What are you doing? She didn't ask me for my help. I won't necessarily be able to help her even if I go."

"That's because Courtney doesn't like to bother others," Cameron explained. "Besides, the man has to be a bit more willing to take the initiative when it comes to these kinds of things. I guess you don't know that Courtney's ex actually two-timed her with her best friend. That friend is still parading the guy around and rubbing it in Courtney's face. Courtney wasn't willing to go to their wedding at first, but Vanessa pulled a dirty move—she blamed Courtney for not valuing their sisterhood. No one else knows what happened back then, so they'd be wondering what's wrong with Courtney."

Cameron's words made Alexander's expression shift. After a moment's thought, he looked at Cameron. "Please help me take Jordan home. I'll head over there."

Seeing Alexander come to this snap decision, an admiring look came over Cameron's face. "Relax, I promise you that I'll look after the kids properly. Hurry on now," she said.

Alexander nagged at Jordan for a bit before driving off the hill.

The forestry center was a distance away from the center of Melrose City. As he drove down the hill, Alexander suddenly received a call from Britney.

"Alex, the designer for the wedding gown will be here at 7.00PM. Don't forget that."

Alexander glanced at the clock in his car before pressing a hand to his wireless buds. He said in a low voice, "Something urgent came up. Let's move it to another day."

"An urgent matter? What is it?"

"I'm driving right now. Talk to you later."

Britney seemed like she was about to continue speaking, but Alexander had already ended the call.

With her call forcefully cut off, Britney stared at the darkened screen of her phone. The joy she initially had on her face was gone, and it was replaced by a dark fog instead.

Her manager knocked on the door before entering.

“The filming is about to start, Britney. Please get ready.”

Britney frowned. All of a sudden, she stood up. “Tell the director that I have an urgent matter and won’t be filming today.”

“Huh? Britney, that won’t do—hey, where are you going?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 53

Chapter 53 To Steal You Away? In Your Dreams

“Start the car and head to Royal Park Manor,” Britney said to the driver the moment she got into the car, completely ignoring the manager as he chased after her.

She was supposed to get fitted for her wedding dress today; it wasn’t like Alexander had no idea how important this day was for her. Furthermore, he hadn’t made his suit yet and was meant to be fitted for it today as well. They had already booked the designer, and Alexander’s schedule had been completely cleared for this. Why would he cancel the appointment all of a sudden?

She suspected that Jordan, the little pest, was the one pulling the strings.

Meanwhile, Courtney had just arrived at the engagement party’s venue. After she showed her invitation, she picked up the gifts that she had prepared and stepped into the banquet hall.

An entire floor of the restaurant had been booked for the engagement party itself. It was decorated lavishly with helium balloons festooning the place. All the guests here were either wealthy individuals or people of high standing.

Courtney surveyed the place, but she didn't recognize anyone there. She had never been quite used to situations like this, so she silently walked over to a corner and ate.

In the dressing room on the second floor, a gaggle of people dressed in party finery surrounded the soon-to-be bride Vanessa. They were her classmates from her days at university, all of whom she hadn't seen in a long while. Currently, they were all flattering Vanessa, envious words and titters tumbling out of their mouths.

"I've always thought that you were the prettiest out of all our dorm heads back then, Vanessa. You and Isaac practically look like a match made in heaven."

"When your wedding comes, you've got to let me be a bridesmaid. Perhaps I'll be able to snag a guy out of the groomsmen."

"You're so stunning. I heard that Isaac hired an Italian designer to personally design the dress that you're wearing, right? Doesn't it cost over 200,000? Let me touch it."

Vanessa let out a giggle as she caressed her gown. "I guess it's pretty alright. What's 200,000 anyway? No regular person can just hire this designer, though."

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Isaac was neglected in the corner as this went on, growing more irate by the minute as Vanessa continued to talk. With that, he simply left the dressing room and headed out into the corridor, lighting a cigarette as he walked. He glanced over the banisters in boredom to observe the merriment one floor down, looking as though he was an outside observer.

"You're about to get married. Why do you look so glum?" asked Ezra Arneil, who was Isaac's best friend. He playfully slipped an arm around his shoulders. "Don't tell me you're having last-minute regrets, are you?"

Isaac flicked away some cigarette ash, his expression tired. "Will you believe me if I say yes?"

Ezra's expression stiffened.

"Are you for real? You and Vanessa have been going out for six years already. What have you been smoking?"

Isaac let out a bitter laugh. "Never mind. You won't understand even if I tell you."

Six years ago when he went behind Courtney's back to be with Vanessa, all he felt at that time was a fresh, interesting, and exhilarating experience. Vanessa was more gung-ho than Courtney, and she always let him experience new things that delighted him. Courtney had been busy with her medical research back then, so she didn't have much time to spend with him. He ended up forgetting that he actually had a proper girlfriend as he continued his affair with Vanessa.

Later on when Courtney left the country and cut all contact with everyone, Isaac knew deep down that she probably had uncovered his relationship with Vanessa; Courtney had gone abroad out of sorrow. He beat himself up for a while and even broke up with Vanessa, but he wasn't able to withstand Vanessa's wiles in the end.

He started officially dating Vanessa down the line, but the freshness disappeared as time went on. He began to miss Courtney's niceness after he was subjected to all the restrictions and rules that Vanessa imposed on him.

Ezra patted his shoulder, seeming as though he understood. "Women are actually like that. You'd think it's a fresh and new experience at first, but they all turn out the same as time goes on. Don't think too much about it."

Isaac didn't say anything about that.

"Anyway, there are plenty of pretty ladies at the party today; they're all from good families too. I'm going insane from all the blind dates that my mother has been arranging for me every day. Maybe I should just pick a lady that's easy on the eyes."

The dark fog clouding Isaac's face lifted a little and he smiled.

"Yeah? Who do you have your eye on? I'll be your wingman."

"There, that one. Gorgeous, isn't she?" Ezra looked at a corner one floor down and pursed his lips, a smug look on his face. "I think that woman's the best one out of all of them here. Nothing much to say about her body and looks, but that aura of hers! She exudes maturity, but there's this hint of pureness peeking through it. Hehe, it's gonna be a wild experience in bed with a woman like that."

Once he followed Ezra's gaze and glanced at the woman, Isaac could no longer shift his eyes away. The woman was dressed in a strapless silver gown; the front of her skirt was short, but the tail dragged along the floor. Slender legs peeked out from under her skirt, and

her bouncy curls fell in a curtain across her shoulders. She leaned back against a deserted corner, enjoying the dessert she had in one hand.

She was like a fresh breath of air in the bustle and opulence of the banquet hall, so clean and pure that there was nothing sullyng around her. Yet, she also made others inexplicably want to approach her.

"I'm going to end this conversation right here. I'd better snap her up before anyone else makes a move."

"Wait a moment." Isaac returned to his senses and promptly stopped Ezra by grabbing hold of him. "Don't go yet."

"What is it?"

"You can hit on anyone else here except that woman."

As Courtney polished off her third dessert, the waiter by the side couldn't help but sneak a few glances at her. After all, no one actually came to this kind of party to eat.

She was just taking a sip of water when a familiar voice called out from behind her.

"Courtney."

When Courtney turned around, she saw Isaac in his white tuxedo; his hair was combed back with nary a strand out of place. He looked far more mature than he did back when he was a university student. He was currently staring at her, sparks of excitement dancing in his eyes.

"It really is you. Why are you here?"

"Naturally, it's because I got your invitation. Besides, your fiancée kept pestering me with phone calls to ask if I'd come. If I kept declining after all that, it would make me seem petty. Why else do you think I'm here?"

To steal you away? In your dreams.

"Sorry." Isaac clearly didn't think that it would be because of this. The sparks in his eyes died down a little, and the regret he felt deepened. "I didn't know Vanessa would do that. I'm sorry you had to go through her antics."

Seeing how he was still polite, the glumness that Courtney felt dissipated a little.

“It’s okay. It wasn’t anything bad. All of us used to be classmates anyway. It’s something that I should do—showing up at your engagement party and giving my blessings, that is. Here’s the present I brought for you two.”

As she said that, she handed over the gift that she had been lugging around forever.

“It’s not much, but I hope that you’ll like it.”

“I know.” Isaac took the present, but his gaze never once shifted away from Courtney’s face. He looked a little dejected. “I know that a present’s value comes from the giver’s sincerity.”

Back then, she had left so suddenly that he didn’t get to talk to her, nor did he get the chance to see her. Now that he looked at her carefully, he could see that she was even more beautiful and stunning than she was six years ago. She was like a beautiful jewel that had been cut into its own dazzling shape.

“Well, may your marriage be filled with happiness.”

Courtney smiled politely. The only reason she came to this engagement party was to bid farewell to the past.

“Courtney, I actually...” Isaac looked conflicted, as though he was holding back his words. “I’ve actually missed you all these years. I even asked people about your whereabouts, but I was never able to find out anything. Have the last few years treated you well?”

“Quite well, actually.”

“T-That’s good then.”

Isaac clutched the bag that the gift was packed in. Sometimes, there wasn’t a second chance for people to say the words that should’ve been said long ago.

“Isaac!” A sweet voice suddenly rang out. The two of them turned to the side at the same time to see Vanessa descending the stairs, her gown hiked up as she made her way over. “I was wondering who was talking to my dear Isaac here. It’s you, huh?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 54

Chapter 54 She's Your Fiancée?

Many people crowded over with the appearance of both the bride-to-be and groom-to-be, including many of the former university classmates that Vanessa had invited. Two of them were Courtney's roommates from back then.

Vanessa silently took Isaac's hand, seeming as though she was establishing her ownership over him.

"Isaac told me that you wouldn't want to come, so he asked me not to call you. However, I told him that he was being petty. We were so close in the past; why wouldn't you come to our engagement party?"

Courtney looked at her with a smile that didn't reach her eyes. "Of course. Why wouldn't I?"

Meanwhile, Isaac was frowning as he attempted to free his arm from Vanessa's grip. "All right, I still have to greet the other guests. I'll be off now."

"What's the rush? It's not time yet." Vanessa pulled him back and deliberately raised her voice. "Courtney, why didn't you come with your boyfriend?"

"Boyfriend? Who is it?" someone asked from behind Vanessa as she stepped out at the same time. She was dressed in an expensive Chanel gown, and Courtney could tell with a glance that her hair had been meticulously styled. The woman's hair was coiled up behind her head, and the diamond necklace across her neck dazzled so brilliantly that it was blinding. Who else could this woman be other than Anna, who was dressed as though she was afraid others wouldn't know just how wealthy she was?

Right then, Courtney remembered that the Grahams and the Hunters had always been on good terms; it was expected that Anna would represent their father at Isaac's engagement party.

"Don't you know, Anna?" Vanessa looked shocked. "Why don't you know that your sister has a boyfriend? Didn't she tell you?"

Anna raised her wine glass with a contemptuous expression. "That sister of mine has always been a lone wolf; she doesn't even come to see us at home. Why would she tell us about her dating life?"

"It doesn't matter if she's seeing someone else, but she's actually dating Alexander." Vanessa lifted an eyebrow as her tone took a dramatic shift. "He's the CEO of Sunhill Enterprise. Why didn't she tell you about such a major thing?"

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The crowd was sent into a furor at those words. Everyone knew that the CEO of Sunhill Enterprise took no notice of women; how could he possibly be in a relationship with Courtney?

Courtney clutched her bag tighter, her expression darkening.

She had made that up when she ran into Isaac and Vanessa and was put on the spot back then. She was lucky that Alexander had played along with her, but she didn't imagine that Vanessa would throw it back in her face right now, especially with Anna present.

As expected, a mocking expression made itself known on Anna's face when she heard that.

"That is the biggest joke I've ever heard. Courtney, don't you think that you're thinking too highly of yourself? You didn't even finish your university studies before running off abroad for five years or so, and then you came crawling back. What? Were you thinking of snagging a rich husband as your financial security blanket the moment you came back? Why don't you look at yourself in a mirror? All you think about is getting to play mother to Alexander's son, but do you know this? I heard a few days ago that Alexander and Britney have fixed their wedding date."

The noise of gossipy voices turned louder at that. Some were gossiping about Alexander and Britney's love life over the past few years, while some insisted that Britney actually gave

birth to Alexander's son. Some even mocked Courtney for being a fame-chaser who didn't know her limits—a woman who would just make things up for the sake of it.

"You're still my younger sister, so don't go around embarrassing me. If our father finds out how you're so gung-ho about being some boy's stepmother and how you're lying to everyone by pretending to be Alexander's girlfriend without even asking for his opinion, he might blow a gasket."

Anna's tone was cold and sharp, her attitude harsh. She didn't treat Courtney like a sister at all.

The attendees here only knew Anna. Very few people had met Courtney before, so they thought that this was a squabble between members from the same elite family. They thought that Courtney might be a child that the Hunter patriarch had in an illicit affair with a woman outside of the family, so no one spoke up for her.

"I never heard that you have a sister. Who is she actually?"

"Who knows? The Hunters have money and power. It's not strange if the head of house has a b*stard child or two."

Courtney could put up with everything else, but the gossip that she was a child born out of wedlock clearly twisted facts into things they weren't. Even more so, the crowd's words poked at her painful past. She immediately balled her fists up and chided her sister coldly, "Anna, don't you think that it's embarrassing for you to tell me off in front of so many people?"

"Why? As the eldest daughter of the Hunter Family, I am your elder sister. Of course I have the right to chastise you."

At that, Courtney gave a chilly laugh before she continued languidly and said, "Only someone who is on the official family register can be called the eldest daughter."

There were many implications to that statement, and Anna's face promptly turned stony. She couldn't restrain her rage as she raised a hand. "Stop your nonsense."

"That wasn't nonsense. It's not something that you can prove otherwise by hitting her," said a man with a deep voice that reverberated throughout the hall. Courtney was pulled into

someone's arms when they grabbed her by the shoulder. Before Anna could bring her hand down, the mystery man grabbed her hand and stopped her in her tracks.

"Alexander?"

"Why is he here?"

The discussions got even louder.

Courtney lifted her head in surprise and saw part of Alexander's face, which had an icy expression on it. Under the light of the crystal chandeliers above them, he looked unbothered and unharried.

"Alexander."

Both Vanessa and Anna's expressions had taken a turn. They had initially plotted together to make a scene and humiliate Courtney. After all, Anna did personally hear Britney say that she was going to marry Alexander. That also meant that Courtney was lying when Vanessa overheard her talking about her relationship with Alexander.

Neither woman had imagined that Alexander would actually make an appearance.

"You're the CEO of Sunhill Enterprise, Mr. Duncan?" Anna's expression was ghastly as she asked in confirmation, unable to help her curiosity.

Alexander's demeanor was chilly indeed. "Do I have to show you my ID?"

"That wasn't what I meant." Anna hastily shook her head.

"I'm not interested in what you're implying, but I would like to know why exactly you were about to hit my fiancée in front of everyone here."

"Fiancée?" Anna's face froze completely as she asked in disbelief. "How is this possible? S-She's your fiancée?"

Courtney was also stunned. She hadn't thought that Alexander would say that in front of such a crowd.

“What’s impossible?” Alexander wrapped an arm around Courtney’s shoulders, looking all leisurely as he did. “Who else would be my fiancée, if not her? You?”

Anna pressed her lips together before asking mutinously, “In that case, why didn’t she say so earlier?”

Courtney snapped back to her senses right then and immediately fired back. “Did you give me a chance to speak? You and Vanessa had been doing all you could to make me look bad in front of everyone. Would you have allowed me to explain myself?”

“I didn’t mean that, not at all.” Vanessa quickly cut in. It was as though she was fearful of earning Alexander’s ire.

However, Vanessa’s words seemed to have let something slip, for Anna shot a glare at her.

Now that Courtney had Alexander here to back her up, she was more confident.

“Alex was just a little busy—that’s why he’s late. You kept cornering me without letting me breathe; not only that, you tried to take your temper out on me over a grudge or something. Weren’t you trying to humiliate me? Aren’t you guys my sister? My best friend? I really have to thank my lucky stars for being able to meet you two.”

One Night Surprise Chapter 55

Chapter 55 Why Would I Cry?

Courtney’s words were food for thought.

However, Alexander wasn’t one to stand by. He continued to speak up for her and said, “Courtney is no stranger to the Hunter Family’s affairs. If you’re deliberately trying to cause trouble for her because of this, I won’t mind having a word with her father. I don’t think he knows that Anna has been throwing her weight around and picking on her innocent little sister.”

Now that Alexander was here, everyone began singing a different tune. Those who knew the truth but hadn't dared to speak up earlier now began to whisper.

"I heard that Mr. Hunter's current wife is actually his second one; he had a daughter with his previous wife. She's that daughter, right?"

"I think so. Anna's probably the illegitimate child."

"There's a high probability of that. His previous wife never made any public appearances, so no one knows who she was; we can see that Mr. Hunter protected that daughter well, though."

Anna was so furious that she shook. The proper lady image that she had carefully sculpted over the years was now being destroyed right in front of her eyes. All of a sudden, her boyfriend, who had been standing by her, also turned and left. She stomped her foot and yelled as she chased after him. "Dean? Where are you going?"

With Anna gone, only Isaac and Vanessa were left.

Having heard the commotion, Isaac's parents came running as well. When his father caught sight of Courtney, he stiffened for a moment as well. Nonetheless, he had experienced his fair number of surprises before. Once he returned to his senses, he quickly began to apologize to Alexander and Courtney. Mrs. Graham tugged on her son's sleeve and shot him a glare.

"Why are you not apologizing to Mr. Duncan? Look at the fuss that you've caused."

Isaac frowned as he looked at Alexander and unwillingly said, "Sorry."

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Vanessa was quick to respond. Having seen the tables turn on her, her expression changed faster than a flash of lightning. She was all smiles as she pulled on Courtney's hand in a friendly manner.

"That was just a misunderstanding. You and Mr. Duncan are both our esteemed guests. Please don't take notice of that. Let's open a bottle of champagne to wash all of that away, all right?"

“Yes, yes! Let’s get some champagne to get over that ruckus.” Mr. Graham nodded as well.

The guests who had been watching the show had all scattered, but no one knew what they were thinking on the inside. However, Courtney knew that news of her being Alexander’s fiancée was going to spread now that that commotion had occurred.

After drinking some champagne, Courtney and Alexander walked side by side in the banquet hall. She lowered her voice to ask him about the lie he made earlier. “I ended up causing trouble for you. Is it going to be easy for you to deal with the consequences?”

Alexander was calm, looking as though he wasn’t thinking of that earlier event at all.

“Never mind that.”

Courtney naturally thought he meant that she didn’t need to bother about it; someone would probably handle the matter, so she nodded. Suddenly, a thought occurred to her and she immediately asked him, “By the way, why are you here? Shouldn’t you be at the forestry center?”

“Your friend took the kids back home. I heard that you’re here today for your ex-boyfriend’s wedding, so I got curious.”

“Curious?” Courtney’s expression stiffened.

“Curious about what you’d look like when you cry.”

“Cry? Why would I cry?” Courtney pouted. “It’s all in the past. You don’t think that I came all the way here to drink myself silly and crash their wedding, right?”

“If you actually can pull that off, Tina and Jordan wouldn’t have threatened me.”

Courtney froze for a moment, unsure if she should laugh. “Ah, so Tina and Jordan got you to come.”

“Yes.”

Amid her exasperation, Courtney felt a little disappointed. She naturally knew that Jordan liked her, and Tina would wish for nothing more than to tie the two of them together. It was no wonder those two kids were able to cook up something like this.

She was disappointed that Alexander probably hadn't come to see her because he wanted to act on his feelings.

As she stayed lost in her thoughts, Alexander's voice suddenly rang by her ear. He sounded somewhat amused.

"On the other hand, I'm more interested as to what kind of mental preparations you made before coming here. It's more interesting to see what a jilted ex-girlfriend would do at her cheating ex and two-faced best friend's engagement party than it is to help Jordan to collect leaves for his art homework at the forestry center."

"Hey." Courtney angrily pushed at his arm, embarrassed. "Don't poke at touchy subjects."

If he hadn't showed up and lent her some credibility, she would have treated him worse. "I didn't know that Anna would be here too. I was caught off-guard."

"You're afraid of her?"

"Who said that I am?" Courtney glared, her eyes wide as saucers. She looked like she was displeased with the whole thing. After glaring at Alexander for a while, a thought suddenly hit her. "How did you know that Anna's my sister?" she asked.

Alexander lowered his gaze a little. He looked like he was stating some facts as he answered, "Don't you think that I should vet the background of someone who picks up my son from school and spends a lot of time with him?"

Courtney looked embarrassed as she let out a dry cough. She had no comebacks for that.

On the other hand, Alexander simply continued. "Did you think that I wouldn't be suspicious as to why the second daughter of the Hunter Family would tamper with her resume and work as a manager at one of the hotels under my banner? Don't you think that I would've suspected you for having some ulterior motive? Isn't allowing you to have that job a sign that I trust you enough?"

"I absolutely have no ulterior motives." Courtney immediately shook her head. "I simply wanted to feed myself and my daughter."

Alexander studied her, as though something was on his mind. A beat later, he raised a hand and swept the messy strands of hair covering her forehead behind her ear. He then bent down slightly and whispered, "I know."

Courtney immediately blushed a brilliant red.

In the distance, Isaac took in this romantic moment. As he watched Courtney's lovely smile and their flirtatious movements, he balled his fists up in envy. If it hadn't been for his momentary lapse in judgment, she would have been the woman he was going to be engaged to today.

Meanwhile, Vanessa was chatting with her friends next to Isaac. At the mention of his name, she looked back to see the unhappy look on his face. She followed his gaze and saw Courtney in the distance. Her smile slowly disappeared at that.

Despite all her efforts over the years, she still wasn't able to make Isaac completely forget about Courtney.

"What are you thinking about, Vanessa?"

Her friends' voices pulled her out of her thoughts. Vanessa stared at the glass in her hand for a moment before whipping her head up.

"Give me a hand, Leah," she said breezily.

During the banquet, Alexander received a call from his butler. He went to the balcony by himself, leaving Courtney alone to eat in boredom.

"Courtney."

When she looked up, she saw that two of her roommates back from her university days were standing before her. There were two young men that she didn't know. One of her former roommates greeted her warmly.

"It's been a long time since we last saw you, Courtney. You've gotten prettier."

"Thank you." Courtney smiled politely. She had only lived with them for a year, so they weren't particularly close. They were barely on a first-name basis.

After some idle chatter, someone said, "Since it's been a long time since our last meeting, we should drink to this."

That wasn't anything strange, so Courtney lifted her glass and drank. But before she could even put her glass down, the other former roommate lifted another glass of wine.

"Me too, me too. Courtney, do you remember that I used to sleep across from you? Come on, let's have a toast." With that, she clinked glasses with Courtney's own. "You've got to accept this drink too."

"I remember." Courtney nodded. She had no choice but to drink another glass.