

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 696 -

Chapter 696

Inside the chairman's office at Nicholson Corp., Dahlia stood before the expansive floor-to-ceiling windows, gazing pensively at the falling snow. The city shimmered with vibrant lights, yet she was there alone.

Her mother had returned home yesterday while she remained in Millsburg to settle pressing work commitments. On one hand, she truly had matters to attend to, but on the other, she was hiding. She didn't know how to explain James' death to the family. Until the real culprit was caught, Dustin remained the prime suspect.

While she was lost in her thoughts, her phone suddenly rang. She was surprised to see that it was a call from Regulus Nicholson, the Nicholson family patriarch.

"Hello, Grandpa Regulus. How can I help you?" Dahlia was quick to greet him.

"Dahlia, I heard from your grandpa that you won't be spending New Year's at home and will be working overtime at the office instead?" Regulus asked in concern.

"I have pressing matters to attend to at work. It's more convenient for me to stay here." Dahlia

smiled

"Dahlia, it's good that you're devoted to your work. But you need to balance work and rest as well. Don't overwork yourself."

"Thank you for your concern, Grandpa Regulus. I'll take care of myself."

"Right, I called you tonight as there is something important I wish to discuss with you."

"Please go on."

“As I’m getting old, I’m no longer able to take on as many responsibilities. That is why I have decided to step down from my position and appoint you as the new head of the family,” Regulus declared, dropping a bombshell.

“What? You want me to become the matriarch?” Dahlia was shocked and refused immediately. “Grandpa Regulus, that won’t do! I’m too young. How can I possibly be worthy of taking your place?”

“I’ve witnessed your talents and capabilities firsthand. You are entirely capable of taking on the position and leading the entire Nicholson family,” Regulus said in a serious tone.

“Grandpa Regulus, I’ve only recently returned to the family. I won’t be convincing as the successor. Besides, there are plenty of talented individuals in our family who would be more suitable for the role.” Dahlia was in a dilemma. Managing Nicholson Corp. alone was already giving her a headache. Since her current standing within the family was still low, leading an entire aristocratic family would be an immense challenge.

“Our family indeed has talented people, but they are not ready to lead the family. You, on the other hand, are different. You built up your own family with your own hands and have long been ready to take on this responsibility. You’re the best among the young members of the Nicholson family. No one else is more suited for the role.”

“Grandpa Regulus, you’ve overestimated me. Firstly, I don’t possess the family’s wealth. Second, I

1/2

lack connections, and third, I don’t have the resources. I’m simply not qualified.” Dahlia was feeling helpless. Even though she was ambitious and had considered fighting for the position, it was too early with her current standing.

“I can provide you with the wealth, connections, and resources you need. As long as you agree, I will personally support your succession,” Regulus declared boldly.

“I…” Dahlia was at a loss for words. Regulus was not merely valuing her but showering her with affection by sweeping away all obstacles for her.

“Grandpa Regulus, I don’t understand. Why did you choose me?” Dahlia inquired cautiously. With Regulus’ abilities, wouldn’t it be better to groom his grandson to be his successor? Why did he choose an outsider like her?

“Because you are the most suitable candidate and have the greatest potential to bring our family to greater heights!” Regulus sounded resolute. If he were honest, he made the decision not solely based on Dahlia’s exceptional talent but mainly because she had the support of a nobleman. 1

“But-” Dahlia was about to continue when Regulus interrupted her.

“Dahlia, stop refusing. Some things are meant to be fought for. I trust in your abilities. If you won’t be the matriarch, nobody else can!”

Since Regulus put it that way, Dahlia had no other reason to refuse. She could only nod, saying, “Thank you for having confidence in me. I will try my best. Please guide me when I fall short.”

[An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 697 -](#)

Chapter 697

Regulus chuckled heartily. “All right, as long as you agree! I’ll arrange a family meeting tomorrow morning and officially announce you as the new head of the Nicholson family!”

The surprising news came without warning, leaving Dahlia in a daze even after Regulus had hung up. She hadn’t achieved much, yet she was suddenly the Nicholson matriarch, dramatically elevating her status.

It felt unbelievable. Although Dahlia believed she had the talent, she lacked the confidence to lead such a prominent family at this time. However, she also realized that this was an opportunity for her to rise, and she shouldn’t let it slip away. She had to give it a try, regardless of whether she was prepared.

The next morning, the heavy snowfall had stopped, and it was finally the New Year. Dustin had just returned to the Flame Dragon Gang when he saw Nelson approaching him happily. “Sir Rhys! I have good news!”

“What? Did your wife give birth?” Dustin asked curiously.

“It’s better news than that.”

“She gave birth to twins?”

“Sir Rhys, can you have a better imagination?”

“A better imagination? Oh... I get it now. The children are not yours?”

Nelson was speechless, and the corners of his mouth twitched. Dustin’s responses were getting

more absurd.

“Sir Rhys, I’ll just tell you. We found James’ killer.” Nelson was not going to let Dustin continue guessing. Dustin might just say his wife ran off with another man next.

“The killer? Where are they?” Dustin’s gaze grew cold, and he turned serious.

“We beat him up half to death. He’s unconscious now, but he already ratted out the mastermind,” Nelson responded.

“Who was it?” Dustin asked.

“Nicholson Corp.’s Vice Chairman-Hank Hoffman!” Nelson’s expression was serious.

Dustin was surprised. “Hank Hoffman? Are you sure?”

Nelson explained, “Based on the statement, Hank intended to remove Ms. Nicholson forcefully from her position, but he couldn’t do so with you backing her. So, he decided to sow discord between the two of you. It would be easier for him to accomplish his goal if you weren’t on good

terms with Ms. Nicholson.”

“I can’t believe he resorted to such underhanded methods to gain a small advantage. This bastard deserves to die!” A murderous gaze flickered in Dustin’s eyes. He had previously rejected Hank’s attempts to bribe him. He didn’t expect Hank to retaliate by setting him up. If he hadn’t investigated the situation thoroughly, he would have fallen into Hank’s trap.

“Sir Rhys, what Hank did was unforgivable. I’ve already obtained his address and will send someone to capture him immediately!” Nelson said furiously.

“There’s no need. I’ll handle it personally this time. Show me the way,” Dustin said with a hardened expression.

“Right away!” Without hesitating, Nelson quickly went to get the car. The gravity of the situation was evident since Dustin had decided to get involved personally. Hank wouldn’t be able to escape this time!

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 698 -

Chapter 698

In a luxurious private room at Ibiza Club, Hank was enthusiastically entertaining a bald man in glasses. A few alluring hostesses were by their sides, providing attentive service.

“Mr. Niles, thank you for traveling all the way here. This is our show of sincerity. We hope you like it.” Hank took out a check and placed it on the table, sliding it forward. The bald Niles only glanced at it before ignoring it, and he continued to drink with the beautiful women beside him.

“Oh, look at me. I almost forgot to pass you a welcoming gift as well.” Hank caught on immediately and took out another gift box, passing it to him with both hands. Niles opened the box and saw a gold bar that weighed a few kilograms. It was worth around one to two million dollars.

Niles chuckled gleefully. “Hank, that’s so generous of you. There’s no need for such extravagant gifts between us,” he said as he put them away nonchalantly.

“Considering you traveled from Stonia, these are nothing.” While Hank smiled politely, he inwardly mused that this cunning individual seemed to be growing greedier. However, since he

needed Niles’ assistance, he could only remain silent.

“Mr. Niles, I’m wondering if you brought anything with you on your trip this time?” Hank asked tentatively.

“Don’t worry, I didn’t forget. This isn’t the first time anyway,” Niles said as he took out a small, purple vial from his pocket and passed it to Hank.

Hank’s eyes lit up as he reached out to receive the vial. However, Niles retracted his hand with a

warning. “Mr. Hoffman, I’m just reminding you that this is an extremely valuable item. There is

only one such vial made every year, and your grandmother relies on this precious herb to live. You

better not lose it.”

“Never. This treasure is more valuable than my life. I assure you, I won’t lose it!” Hank nodded

incessantly.

“Very well, I’m entrusting it to you now. You’re responsible for anything that happens after,” Niles said, placing the purple vial in Hank’s hands.

“Thank you, Mr. Niles!” Hank was delighted. He took out a safe he had brought with him, carefully placing the vial in it. This item was worth a fortune and couldn’t be bought with money. It was also a precious item that Alma relied on to survive. Naturally, he had to take extreme care of it.

“Hank Hoffman!” Suddenly, the private room was violently kicked in, and a group of fighters with menacing expressions barged their way in furiously. Each of them had a knife in hand.

“Who are you? How dare you make a scene in my area?” Hank’s expression darkened.

“You seem to be having fun, Mr. Hoffman. How is it that you have the time to be drinking here?” The men stepped aside to make way for Dustin and Nelson, who slowly walked inside.

“It’s you!” Hank’s brows furrowed. “Mr. Rhys, what is the meaning of this? There are no grievances between us, why have you brought your men here?”

“You son of a b*tch! You’re still pretending, I see. What do you mean by ‘no grievances’ when you set up our leader?” Nelson bellowed.

1/2

Aldon't understand what you mean." Hank acted clueless.

You ordered James to be killed, didn't you?" Dustin asked out of the blue.

James? Hank shook his head. "I'm sorry, I don't know who that is. There must have been a misunderstanding."

"A misunderstanding?" With a frosty smile, Nelson gestured. "Bring him in!" On his orders, a man covered in injuries was forcefully brought in. Hank's expression shifted at the sight of the man. He finally realized something was up. These people had come prepared.

"Hank Hoffman, do you know this man?" Dustin asked calmly.

"No, I don't. Who is he?" Hank remained unyielding.

"You son of a b*tch!" Nelson raised his hand, delivering a forceful slap that sent Hank sprawling to the ground. Nelson berated. "You're still trying to argue at this point? This man confessed to everything, and you were the one who hired him!"

"Nonsense! I don't know any murderers! Stop making false accusations!" Hank shouted in fury, I'm warning you. I have the matriarch of the Glenstead Nicholsons backing me!"

[An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 699 -](#)

Chapter 699

"You dickhead! I don't think you realize the gravity of the situation!" Nelson was furious and was about to smack Hank again when Dustin stopped him.

"You mean the Nicholsons were involved in this?"

"Why, are you finally scared?" Hank sneered. "That's more like it. You'll be offending the Nicholsons if you offend me. Now, get out of here!"

"I'm giving you one last chance. Confess and surrender yourself to the authorities, and I'll let you go" Dustin's expression was cold.

“What a load of crap!” Hank glared at Dustin. “Don’t think I’m afraid of you just because you’re the

leader of the Flame Dragon Gang! Your small gang is nothing compared to the aristocratic

Nicholsons! They could exterminate you in seconds!”

“It seems like you won’t talk without a lesson. Slice his hand off!” Dustin cut through the

nonsense.

“Yes, sir!” Nelson smirked. He ordered two of their henchmen to pin Hank to the table.

“Wait! I’m warning you, don’t you dare touch me! The Nicholsons will not let you get away with it if you do!” Hank panicked and struggled desperately.

“Go on, don’t stop! Let’s see how long you can keep up this act!” Nelson raised his knife and

ruthlessly brought it down on Hank’s wrist.

“Ah-!” Blood splattered everywhere as Hank’s blood-curdling scream echoed throughout the room.

“Y-you!” Hank’s expression twisted in agony as he groaned. He couldn’t believe they had hurt

him. Weren’t they afraid of the Nicholsons’ wrath?

“Still not going to talk? Slice off his other hand,” Dustin ordered again.

“Yes, sir!” Without another word, Nelson raised his knife once more.

“Mr. Niles, save me!” Hank screamed in fear.

“Stop right there!” At that moment, Niles, who had been silent the entire time, finally stood up.

“Who are you? I’m warning you to mind your own business!” Nelson’s expression was hostile.

“Hmm?” Niles’ expression darkened. “Do you know who I am? How dare you talk to me like that?”

You must not want to live!”

“I don’t f*cking care who you are!” Nelson was getting impatient.

“The audacity! He’s a prominent figure from Stonia-The Killian family’s butler!” Hank cried out.

“The Killians?” Nelson could feel his eyes twitch, and his earlier arrogance disappeared instantly.

The Killians were one of Stonia’s prestigious aristocratic families. As a family with a history spanning over a hundred years, they wielded immense power. Even the Tremendous Three of Millsburg were inferior to the Killians. After all, Stonia was the capital city. Any random, minor aristocratic family from Stonia was already leagues above any family in Millsburg, let alone an influential one like the Killians.

1/2

I don’t understand what you mean.” Hank acted clueless.

“You ordered James to be killed, didn’t you?” Dustin asked out of the blue.

“James?” Hank shook his head. “I’m sorry, I don’t know who that is. There must have been a

misunderstanding.”

“A misunderstanding?” With a frosty smile, Nelson gestured. “Bring him in!” On his orders, a man covered in injuries was forcefully brought in Hank’s expression shifted at the sight of the man. He finally realized something was up. These people had come prepared.

“Hank Hoffman, do you know this man?” Dustin asked calmly.

“No, I don’t. Who is he?” Hank remained unyielding.

“You son of a b*tch!” Nelson raised his hand, delivering a forceful slap that sent Hank sprawling to the ground. Nelson berated. “You’re still trying to

argue at this point? This man confessed to everything, and you were the one who hired him!”

“Nonsense! I don’t know any murderers! Stop making false accusations!” Hank shouted in fury, “I’m warning you. I have the matriarch of the Glenstead Nicholsons backing me!”

2/2

Chapter 699

“You dickhead! I don’t think you realize the gravity of the situation!” Nelson was furious and was about to smack Hank again when Dustin stopped him.

“You mean the Nicholsons were involved in this?”

“Why, are you finally scared?” Hank sneered. “That’s more like it. You’ll be offending the Nicholsons if you offend me. Now, get out of here!”

“I’m giving you one last chance. Confess and surrender yourself to the authorities, and I’ll let you go.” Dustin’s expression was cold.

“What a load of crap!” Hank glared at Dustin. “Don’t think I’m afraid of you just because you’re the leader of the Flame Dragon Gang! Your small gang is nothing compared to the aristocratic Nicholsons! They could exterminate you in seconds”

“It seems like you won’t talk without a lesson. Slice his hand off!” Dustin cut through the

nonsense.

“Yes, sir!” Nelson smirked. He ordered two of their henchmen to pin Hank to the table.

“Wait! I’m warning you, don’t you dare touch me! The Nicholsons will not let you get away with it if you do!” Hank panicked and struggled desperately.

“Go on, don’t stop! Let’s see how long you can keep up this act!” Nelson raised his knife and ruthlessly brought it down on Hank’s wrist.

“Ah-!” Blood splattered everywhere as Hank’s blood-curdling scream echoed throughout the room.

“Y-you!” Hank’s expression twisted in agony as he groaned. He couldn’t believe they had hurt

him. Weren’t they afraid of the Nicholsons’ wrath?

“Still not going to talk? Slice off his other hand,” Dustin ordered again.

“Yes, sir!” Without another word, Nelson raised his knife once more.

“Mr. Niles, save me!” Hank screamed in fear.

“Stop right there!” At that moment, Niles, who had been silent the entire time, finally stood up.

“Who are you? I’m warning you to mind your own business!” Nelson’s expression was hostile.

“Hmm?” Niles’ expression darkened. “Do you know who I am? How dare you talk to me like that?

You must not want to live!”

“I don’t f*cking care who you are!” Nelson was getting impatient.

“The audacity! He’s a prominent figure from Stonia-The Killian family’s butler!” Hank cried out.

“The Killians?” Nelson could feel his eyes twitch, and his earlier arrogance disappeared instantly.

The Killians were one of Stonia’s prestigious aristocratic families. As a family with a history spanning over a hundred years, they wielded immense power. Even the Tremendous Three of Millsburg were inferior to the Killians. After all, Stonia was the capital city. Any random, minor aristocratic family from Stonia was already leagues above any family in Millsburg, let alone an influential one like the Killians.

1/2

“Hah! Why did you go silent? Where’s all that arrogance now? I dare you to try anything with the Killian family’s butler here!” Hank’s expression twisted into a hideous sneer. He knew that few would dare to provoke the Killians.

This is between us and Hank. It's best if the Killians stay out of it," Dustin responded calmly.

"Hey, kid, are you lecturing me?" Niles took his time lighting a cigar before taking two deep puffs. With an air of arrogance, he declared, "You seem oblivious to my status. Listen up; I'm not going to repeat myself. I am the Killian family's butler. You ants will always remain beneath me, as I hold the power to play with your lives! I can have all of you killed with just one word! Now, I order you to immediately-"

Before Niles could finish his sentence, a thunderous noise similar to an explosion rang out. He had been sent flying, crashing heavily into a wall. His bones shattered as he spewed blood, and he was rendered unconscious on the spot.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 700 -

Chapter 700

"My ears hurt." Dustin's expression turned frosty. Without hesitation, he sent Niles flying with a brutal kick.

"What?" Nelson and their men were dumbfounded at the sight. Hank couldn't believe his eyes either, and he momentarily forgot about his pain. Nobody expected Dustin to act so ruthlessly without uttering a single word

He had just kicked the Killian family's butler and a prominent figure from Stonia! One simple word from him could end their entire lives. Most importantly, the butler represented the Killians. Humiliating their butler was akin to humiliating the family themselves. How could Dustin be so daring and seemingly unconcerned about his own life?

"Y-you... You dared harm Mr. Niles? Do you know what you just did?" Hank was scared and furious as he cried out.

"He's just the Killians' servant. What's the big deal?" Dustin turned his attention back to Hank and warned coldly, "You, on the other hand, will be in big trouble if you don't start talking.

After meeting Dustin's icy stare, Hank felt a chill run down his spine. He was genuinely terrified at that moment. To him, Dustin seemed like a madman for daring to harm Niles.

“Silent still? Cut off all his limbs,” Dustin ordered once again

“Yes, sir!” Nelson grinned as he raised his blade once more.

“Wait! I’ll talk...” Hank was terrified and surrendered immediately.

However, despite that, the steel knife still came down with a whoosh, slicing Hank’s hand off Hank’s mind went blank as he met Nelson’s twisted smile.

“You damned-!” Hank’s words were cut off by the intensity of the pain, and he lost consciousness. “Lightly bandage up his wound. We’re heading to Nicholson Corp.,” Dustin ordered.

“Yes, sir.” Two henchmen dragged Hank out after wrapping his arm up

“Sir Rhys, take a look at this. Suddenly, Nelson’s sharp gaze noticed the safe on the table. After they opened it up, they saw a delicate purple vial inside.

Dustin picked it up and brought it to his nose. After a sniff, his expression betrayed his surprise. “I didn’t expect it to be Zirtanium. Interesting.”

“Zirtanium? What is that?” Nelson was curious.

“It’s a slow-acting poison, but taking it induces a comfortable and energized feeling. They won’t even feel any more pain. It’s effective in treating specific illnesses. As it is extremely rare, it is worth a fortune,” Dustin explained.

“Is it really that amazing?” Nelson’s eyes lit up.

“Indeed it is, but it is still poison after all. One will get addicted easily, and it has been banned in the martial world,” Dustin responded.

“What would Hank need it for?” Nelson scratched his head.

“Who knows? Let’s just hold onto it for now It’s worth a lot anyway Dustin replied nonchalantly and kept the vial in his pocket. He knew it could act as a lifeline for certain people

In the chairman’s office at Nicholson Corp

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 700 -

Chapter 700

“My ears hurt.” Dustin’s expression turned frosty. Without hesitation, he sent Niles flying with a brutal kick.

“What?” Nelson and their men were dumbfounded at the sight. Hank couldn’t believe his eyes either, and he momentarily forgot about his pain. Nobody expected Dustin to act so ruthlessly without uttering a single word

He had just kicked the Killian family’s butler and a prominent figure from Stonia! One simple word from him could end their entire lives. Most importantly, the butler represented the Killians. Humiliating their butler was akin to humiliating the family themselves. How could Dustin be so daring and seemingly unconcerned about his own life?

“Y–you... You dared harm Mr. Niles? Do you know what you just did?” Hank was scared and furious as he cried out.

“He’s just the Killians’ servant. What’s the big deal?” Dustin turned his attention back to Hank and warned coldly, “You, on the other hand, will be in big trouble if you don’t start talking.

After meeting Dustin’s icy stare, Hank felt a chill run down his spine. He was genuinely terrified at that moment To him, Dustin seemed like a madman for daring to harm Niles.

“Silent still? Cut off all his limbs,” Dustin ordered once again

“Yes, sir!” Nelson grinned as he raised his blade once more.

“Wait! I’ll talk...” Hank was terrified and surrendered immediately.

However, despite that, the steel knife still came down with a whoosh, slicing Hank’s hand off Hank’s mind went blank as he met Nelson’s twisted smile.

“You damned-
!” Hank’s words were cut off by the intensity of the pain, and he lost consciousness. “Lightly bandage up his wound. We’re heading to Nicholson Corp., Dustin ordered.

“Yes, sir.” Two henchmen dragged Hank out after wrapping his arm up

“Sir Rhys, take a look at this. Suddenly, Nelson’s sharp gaze noticed the safe on the table. After they opened it up, they saw a delicate purple vial inside.

Dustin picked it up and brought it to his nose. After a sniff, his expression betrayed his surprise. “I didn’t expect it to be Zirtanium. Interesting.”

“Zirtanium? What is that?” Nelson was curious.

“It’s a slow-acting poison, but taking it induces a comfortable and energized feeling. They won’t even feel any more pain. It’s effective in treating specific illnesses. As it is extremely rare, it is worth a fortune,” Dustin explained.

“Is it really that amazing?” Nelson’s eyes lit up.

“Indeed it is, but it is still poison after all. One will get addicted easily, and it has been banned in the martial world, Dustin responded.

“What would Hank need it for?” Nelson scratched his head.

1/2

“Who knows? Let’s just hold onto it for now. It’s worth a lot anyway.” Dustin replied nonchalantly and kept the vial in his pocket. He knew it could act as a lifeline for certain people.

In the chairman’s office at Nicholson Corp