

## Chapter 98 He Still Defended Her

Upon hearing this, Lily relaxed slightly, and her lips instinctively curled upward, but she quickly suppressed it.

She knew Lucian still cared for her. He must have been cold toward her recently because he was still mad that she left him to study abroad years ago.

Calista clenched her fingers and lifted her chin in pride.

She sneered at him and spat, "In your dreams! I would never apologise to Lily."

Lucian boiled with anger. His face was red like a raging storm, wanting to tear Calista into pieces.

"I'm not asking you to apologize to Lily. Apologize to the child."

Lily was about to interfere and gracefully defuse the situation, but she was speechless to hear Lucian's words.

Calista mocked, "I can't believe you're such a good father."

Lucian ignored her sarcastic comment and stood up. He was well-built and instantly towered over her. He forcedly grabbed her wrist and pulled her across the desk into his arms.

"Apologize."

Coffee dripped from his face onto her head. He was trying to make things harder for her because he was having a bad time.

"If you're afraid that my words will come true, you don't need to have the baby. You can live happily ever after with Lily, that scumbag and slut," Calista retorted.

"Calista, at most, our conflicts revolved around jealousy and petty stuff. Aside from a few occasional sarcastic remarks during our university days, nothing extreme happened between us in these years. Isn't calling me a slut going too far?"

Lily was not entirely wrong. Their rivalry mainly seemed like two people who were competing in secret. Although it got ugly at times, they never got into physical fights.

But Calista knew people were gossiping about her because Lily had said something behind her back.

She still couldn't figure out why Lily hated her so much. Was it because of that ranking competition online?

They excelled in different departments in their respective fields and couldn't be compared academically.

Some bored individuals started fanning the flames, pitting them against each other based on looks, physique, and family background.

Calista looked at the painting and said, "Lucian bought this

painting at a high price, and you immediately spread the news on campus. Then Sharon came out and accused me of orchestrating the whole thing. You all set me up just to frame me and pick on me. I had to be criticized and judged relentlessly by everyone. You really went to such great lengths just to crush someone as insignificant as me."

Lily felt panic rise in her and looked at Lucian. However, he appeared calm on the surface, but his eyes were strangely cold and eerie.

He asked, "Were you bullied?" 1

Calista pushed him away and sneered, "You've already known what would happen when you set me up. It's truly repulsive to see your hypocritical act."

Lily took a deep breath, trying to calm her anger.

"I don't know where you heard these rumors, but I didn't know that Lucian bought the painting. I found out about it accidentally when I overheard some teachers talking about it. I publicised it for the school's sake. I even discussed it with the administrators. You can ask them if you don't believe me."

Back then, she had accidentally seen Lucian taking the painting to be framed, and she had only learned later that he was the one who had bought the painting from Calista.

She had been furious at the time and set up the whole situation with Sharon after being incited by others.

After all these years, she never expected that this would be brought up suddenly, catching her completely off guard.

"Calista, there's no need to accuse me of such acts out of jealousy. I'm only here today to discuss business. The results of the discussion would have nothing to do with me."

Lily wanted to change the topic, but things didn't go as she wished.

Calista sneered, "If it wasn't you, then it must be someone eager to please you."

"I did buy the painting, but I didn't know what happened later on, and I had no part in setting anyone up."

Lucian's voice was cold, clearly displeased. Lily looked at him in surprise.

From her understanding of Lucian, he would never allow anyone to talk over him, no matter how much feelings he had for someone.

He had always maintained a calm and collected demeanor, except for the time when Calista cursed at an unborn child. This was not the decisive and intimidating President that people feared; he seemed like nothing more than a lapdog.

Calista gave Lucian a skeptical look.

"So, tell me, what drew you to this painting? Did you find it beautiful, or did you think it had value? Or did it simply bring

you joy?"

Although every painting was an artist's labor of love, Calista didn't like this particular one, as it represented her painful past.

Lucian remained silent for a few seconds, ignoring the question.

"I'll have someone investigate this matter."

"There's no need. I'll investigate it myself. I'd be grateful if you didn't interfere. We'll get on with the divorce tomorrow morning. I'll file a lawsuit if I don't see you at court," Calista replied, checking her watch.

As she turned to leave, Lucian grabbed her hand and stopped her.

"Lily, you should leave first. We can discuss this another day."  
"

Lily's face paled, and she turned to look at Lucian. However, Lucian didn't even glance at her. His gaze remained fixed on Calista. Lily shut her eyes. Her face was swollen from Calista's slap.

She said, "Lucian, she's throwing a tantrum, getting angry, and hitting people for no reason, and you're still defending her?"

"Go outside, Lily. Just tell me how much you need later."  
Lucian spoke again, his voice now icy cold.



Lily glanced at him, her eyes filled with disappointment and sadness as she walked out. The office door closed behind her, and Lucian immediately pulled her closer.

"Do you have to bring up the divorce?"

"That's not the point. We're about to get a divorce anyway," Calista struggled to break free from his grip. "Stay away from me, because of you, I now despise all males. I feel disgust for any men I see."



## Chapter 99 Teach Her How To Seduce Men

The two of them parted ways unhappily. As soon as Calista left, she called Harvey.

"I want to file for divorce."

Harvey had already looked over the advantages and disadvantages of filing a divorce for her before. So, he didn't say much and advised her on the documents she had to prepare.

After hanging up the phone, she let out a long sigh.

Calista had not planned to make such a big deal out of it. She wanted her marriage to end quietly, like how it started.

The media kept a watchful eye on the Northwood family due to their high social status. Any event would be publicized.

She didn't want to expose this troubled marriage to the public, subjecting herself to gossip, sympathy, and sarcastic remarks.

But she hadn't expected that she would ultimately end up in a courtroom with Lucian.

She found a coffee shop, ordered a simple meal, and arranged to meet someone in an hour.

Soon, a man in a black jacket and a face mask walked in.

He looked around before heading straight for Calista's table.

"Calista."

Josiah Neil removed his mask and ordered from a waiter, "An Americano please."

"I need your help to investigate someone."

Calista took a photo of a person and handed it to him.

Josiah used to be a journalist with impressive skills. He exposed insider information that other reporters couldn't get. He was even able to provide previews of the news.

He was the nightmare of any celebrity or public figure with skeletons in their closets.

However, due to his high profile, he got beaten up pretty badly and was left lying in the ditch. Calista saved him by chance, and he owed her his life.

Josiah looked at the photo and raised an eyebrow.

"What information are you looking for?"

He had a hunch that she was not after any general information that anyone could find since she came to him.

Calista looked at the arrogant photo of Nikolette and said with a slight smile, "The kind that can ruin a person's reputation."

Josiah didn't ask any further questions. He took a photo



with his phone and asked for some basic information.

"I'll call you if I find anything."

Dealing with such matters directly through text messages could be easily used as evidence against him.

"Also, please help me look into any news related to Lucian and any women," Calista added.

Josiah shook his head.

"I've dealt with him before. Any reporters investigating him would be caught almost immediately. Besides, the Northwood family practically owns the media industry. Anything on the news would have been leaked deliberately by them."

Of course, some foolish individuals tried to gain a moment of fame, but their reports were quickly taken down. No one would make such a mistake nowadays.

Although she had expected this, Calista still felt a bit disappointed.

"Alright, then I'll leave Nikolette to you."

Their coffee arrived not long after they finished their discussion. Josiah didn't stay, and he took the coffee and left.

Calista wasn't rushing to leave, so she sat at her table and sipped her coffee. There was a notification on her phone.

She opened it to see a text message from Zachary. It was an attempt to rekindle their relationship.

Previously, he spoke about their future as a family and tried to talk to her about the importance of acquiring wealth for the family.

He had now switched to reminiscing since she had ignored him.

However, he didn't know that ever since her mother's death, all memories of her family had turned into hatred directed at him, her stepmother, and Nikolette.

The thought of how Nikolette would soon fall from grace as a well-respected executive in her company because of what Lucian did slightly eased her frustration.

On the other hand, Lily was having a fit in her apartment! She had thrown and smashed everything on the table, leaving a mess on the floor.

Queenie sat on the nearby couch, watching coldly without a word.

She finally spoke after Lily finished her venting, "What's the point of making a mess in front of me? Do you expect me to help you?"

She looked at Lily carefully. The handprints were no longer visible, but her face was still flushed from her outburst. It emphasized her exceptional looks.

However, Queenie couldn't help but shake her head. Even God couldn't save a woman who played poorly after being dealt a good hand. Yet, here she was, tied to this fool.

"You don't need to worry about the painting. I will handle it. What's most important for you now is to find a way to rekindle Lucian's interest in you. As long as he loves you, whatever you did in the past won't matter."

Queenie thought for a moment before adding, "I'll find someone to teach you how to seduce a man tomorrow."

Lily pursed her lips tightly as if she was insulted.

"You want me to seduce him?"

What else could she do? Did she think she was so charming that anyone would fall head over heels for her?"

Queenie struggled to suppress her sarcastic remarks and patiently said, "Lily, I know you're proud, but Lucian doesn't seem to be falling for your usual charm right now. Can you still sway him with your past relationship? What happens when his feelings for you run out? Don't expect men to stay loyal. Their love comes and goes. Soon, they would forget you."

She thought this would make Lily realize, but she was adamant.

"No. He won't stop seeing me."

Queenie raised an eyebrow at her confidence.

"Why?"

Lily didn't answer.

Instead, she said, "He just won't."

Queenie was speechless. Even the most confident people in history couldn't match her self-esteem.

But she had said her piece, and if Lily insisted on being foolish, Queenie couldn't force some sense into her brain.

In the following days, Calista prepared the documents required for the divorce.

She met with Harvey once, and he said, "Miss Calista, Timothy's cases are classic case studies. I don't have the confidence to win against him."

He didn't hide his lack of confidence regarding the outcome. Timothy was an experienced lawyer and had never lost a case. Harvey wasn't about to be the first or only one.

More importantly, civil cases differed from criminal cases and depended heavily on emotions.

Calista replied, "Okay."

She was prepared for a long legal battle.

A week after filing the lawsuit, it was time for the court

hearing. The hearing was kept private due to Lucian's status. They met during the court recess.

This was the first time Calista had seen Lucian since their previous argument. He was dressed formally and appeared even colder and more imposing than before.

Timothy stood by his side, but he was overshadowed by Lucian's dominating presence. He ignored Calista and instead went straight to an empty seat nearby.

The waiting room was small, and the atmosphere tensed up.

Calista pursed her lips and broke the silence, saying, "Lucian, your waiting room is next door."