Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1485

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Malcolm...came?

<u>Luna's entire body stiffened when she heard the servants' conversation.</u>

The servant said Malcolm had heard that she was pregnant, so he came to admit his wrongdoing.

With all the rumors swirling around, it seemed as though the child in her belly was Malcolm's.

However...

Luna knew it better than anyone that this child belonged to Joshua.

On top of that, when she reached Merchant City, Malcolm's legs had already been injured in his accident. The two of them could not have slept together at all, so what was Malcolm thinking, and why did he come?

"What does Luna's pregnancy have anything to do with Malcolm? What is he trying to admit to?" Jim's eyebrows furrowed in confusion as he glanced at Luna. Then, he turned and looked toward the door.

"Do you think he will say that the child is his? The timing is not possible. Besides, how long has he been crippled?"

Jim's words made Charles frown. He then gave Jim a stern look and said, "So what if he is crippled? Six years ago when you were weak, didn't you sleep with another woman and bring the child home too?"

Having been prod with his weakness, Jim did not say anything in response.

Heather pretended to sigh in lament and said, "I always thought this child in Luna's belly is Joshua's. Who would have thought it was Malcolm's. This must mean that the two of them can get married immediately. It's only been a month since she found out about the

pregnancy. If we claim that the child is preterm when she gives birth, then no one will find out that she had gotten pregnant before marriage."

Heather deliberately emphasized the words, 'pregnant before marriage.'

The color drained from Charles' face.

In the past, Lucy, too, had gotten pregnant before marriage, and when he had married her, she was already five months along.

Not only was she subjected to verbal violence at the wedding, but she had also fallen into depression after as well.

If she had not received such backlash from the public, Lucy would never have left home and returned covered in injuries...

As soon as he thought of this, Charles made up his mind and ordered, "Let Malcolm in! "

He would never let his own daughter suffer the same fate as Lucy!

Sitting in the corner, Rosalyn watched Charles' expression and knew that he had probably been reminded of Lucy. She lowered her head and did not say a word.

<u>It had been so many years...but she was still nothing more than a stranger that had been</u> with him for most of his life.

She would never compare to the woman he truly loved.

Even though she had sacrificed her health to make him a potent drug to cure his emotional issues...she still did not matter to him at all.

When Luna rounded a corner and descended the stairs, she caught sight of Rosalyn's pale face.

She was more than familiar with the expression on Rosalyn's face.

Luna let out a sigh. Even though she had been upset about Rosalyn's intimate interactions with Heather just a few minutes ago...

She still could not help pitying this poor woman.

<u>Luna walked over, sat down next to Rosalyn, and grabbed hold of her hand. Then, she said in a low voice, "What's wrong?"</u>

Rosalyn shook her head, leaned her head against Luna's shoulder, and let out a sigh. "Nothing..."

"Mr. and Mrs. Landry."

Malcolm soon arrived, escorted by a servant. As soon as he stepped foot through the door, he caught sight of Luna sitting next to Rosalyn.

He smiled at Luna, but she frowned and turned his head away.

She still remembered when she had rejected Malcolm's offer to get engaged backstage at the party, but... Malcolm had arrived at Landry Mansion because of the news of her pregnancy.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1486

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1486

Luna did not know what kind of expression to put on for Malcolm.

"Malcolm." Charles furrowed his brows and glanced at the man on the wheelchair with a stern look. "You said that you are here to admit your wrongdoing? What did you do?"

Malcolm sighed and turned to look at Luna's face, a small smile playing on his lips. "That's because the child inside of Luna's belly is mine."

The entire room fell into silence upon hearing this.

Jim frowned. "When did Master Quinn pick up the hobby of randomly claiming other people's child as his? You're claiming the child in Luna's belly is yours, but Luna has been pregnant for a month now. A month ago, Master Quinn, you had just been in an accident that crippled you and caused plenty of other physical damages... Are you telling me you managed to get Luna pregnant in that condition?"

His rude comments silenced the whole living room.

Charles' eyebrows curled up with rage, and he shouted, "Jim! Where are your manners?"

Jim grinned. "I don't have any. My father never set a good example for me."

<u>"You—"</u>

Seeing that the two of them were about to fight because of him, Malcolm smiled calmly and said, "Master Landry, Jim, please don't fight because of me."

He sighed and continued, "Jim's input was not unreasonable. Indeed, I hadn't been doing well physically a few weeks ago, but..."

He glanced at Luna out of the corner of his eyes and said, "Anything is possible, right?"

"Yes, it is." Heather pursed her lips and said, "Jim, you're too narrowed -minded. Even though Master Quinn's health had not been at his best, a sexual relationship between a man and a woman can be initiated by either party."

With that, she lifted her head to glance at Luna with a triumphant look. "Am I right, Luna? Nonetheless, I still pity you. Normal people will control their urges when they see someone's body in that state, but I guess you like taking on a challenge."

Luna's expression darkened all of a sudden.

Rosalyn sighed, gave Heather a light shove at the back, and said, "Don't joke about this. You are a virgin, so what do you know about things like this?"

Malcolm could not help curling his lips in a smirk when he heard this.

Heather, a virgin?

This was probably the funniest joke of the year.

When Heather and he were engaged, they had slept together plenty of times.

However, the fact that this woman managed to conceal her true nature for so many years was indeed very impressive.

With a deep breath, Malcolm raised his head and smiled at Luna. "Luna, can we talk about the child? I know you want to keep the child, but if you think we are not meant to be, and you're not willing to marry me... I do not think it's right to give birth to this child. I 'm sure you understand where I 'm coming from, right?"

As he spoke, he was staring right into Luna's eyes. Luna closed her eyes and let out a deep sigh.

A split second later, she stood up and pushed Malcolm's wheelchair out the door, heading to the small garden behind Landry Mansion.

The rain had stopped, and the air was filled with the smell of dirt that had been washed by the rainwater.

The two of them went to a corner of the garden that had no people milling about. Malcolm stared in the direction in front of him and said, "Luna, I don't know why you still insist on giving birth to Joshua's child, but..." He turned his wheelchair around and grabbed hold of Luna's hand. "If you're willing to do so, I will take care of this child like how I took care of Nigel, Neil, and Nellie. I will take care of you too."

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1487

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1487	

Luna's heart leaped when she heard this.

She pursed her lips and withdrew her hand from Malcolm's grasp. "Malcolm, I already owe you too much. I don't want to be indebted to you any further."

Besides, she already had the feeling that Malcolm was different from the past. Even though he had come to Landry Mansion to help her, but...

That night, backstage, he had wanted Charles to persuade Luna into marrying him.

Furthermore, Malcolm rushed over as soon as he heard that she was pregnant.

Luna could not help feeling uncomfortable about this, but she could not seem to put her finger on what was strange about

Malcolm's behavior.

"Luna." Malcolm let out a sigh and grabbed hold of Luna's hand once more. "You promised me that you'd marry me no matter what. I know it might be unacceptable for you that I wanted you to announce our engagement at the same time that you're announcing your return to the Landry family, but it's different now. You wouldn't want..."

He let out a sigh and continued, "You wouldn't want something terrible to happen to your unborn baby, would you?"

Luna could not help frowning when she heard this. "Something terrible?"

"Yes." Malcolm sighed again. "You know that the Lynch and Landry families have been nemeses for more than twenty years now.

"Your father didn't manage to protect Lucy Hamilton, so much so that when she died, her entire corpse was mutilated.

"On the other hand, because of this, the Lynch family killed your father's brother, Colin, and his body was so disfigured that there was only a leg left.

"None of these pieces of vengeance can be resolved by one person, much less you. Your decision to not bring Nigel, Neil, and Nellie along with you was a right one, but..."

His gaze fell on Luna's flat belly and continued, "If Charles found out that this child belongs to Joshua... Even if he couldn't force you to swallow the pill, he'd still think of other ways to stop you from giving birth to this child.

"After all, it's very common for pregnant ladies to get into accidents or suffer a miscarriage from

eating something suspicious...isn't it?"

Luna's heart leaped into her throat upon hearing this. She pursed her lips and clenched her fists next to her.

Malcolm was right.

If a pregnant lady suffered an accidental miscarriage..there was no one to blame for it, was there?

Seeing that Luna seemed to be wavering, Malcolm sighed and continued in a calm tone, "However, if everyone thinks that this child belongs to you and me, then this would be a different story.

"I'm the savior that saved your mother and the Landry family. Because of this, they'll try their best to protect this child in your belly."

Malcolm heaved another deep sigh and fixated his gentle gaze on Luna's face. "I know you don't want to get engaged to me so quickly...but Luna, I know what kind of person you are. You were willing to go through so much pain for Nigel, Neil, and Nellie...

"This time, you just have to push through and admit that we're in a relationship for this child. Are you still going to refuse?"

Luna closed her eyes as she tried to make sense of the feelings in her heart.

She knew that Malcolm was right. This was her only choice.

She was in Merchant City and living with the Landry family, so she could not leave here easily, and the Landry family would not let her go so easily either.

If something terrible, like what Malcolm had described, indeed happened...

Luna fell into silence for a long moment, weighing her options, before finally opening her eyes.

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1488

Pursuing My Ex-Wife Isn't Easy chapter 1488

"Alright."			

Malcolm was a detail-oriented man, and this was indeed the best way to protect this child.

After getting an answer from Luna, Malcolm was so excited that he hugged Luna from behind and said in a gentle tone, "Don't worry; I'll do my best to protect both you and this child so that your pregnancy and labor can go smoothly."

Luna finally made up her mind when she heard this, and she nodded earnestly.

The following day, the news of Luna, the second daughter of the Landry family, getting engaged with Malcolm became the headline of all the news outlets.

Almost everyone in Merchant City had seen this shocking piece of news.

Some of them gave their blessings, some of them were surprised, while some people even questioned Malcolm's intentions of getting together with Luna in the first place.

Some of the reporters even interview Heather, the eldest daughter of the Landry family.

Heather let out an expression of impatience when faced with the cameras. "They've been together since the start; it's not something new. On top of that, Luna is now pregnant with Malcolm's child—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Heather feigned shock and clapped her hand over her mouth. "I didn't say anything!"

"Luna, the second daughter of the Landry family, is one month along in her pregnancy and has gotten engaged with Master Quinn! Both times they had gotten engaged were because of the child in her belly! Now that the Landry and Quinn families are getting together not only in work but in marriage, what will happen to Lynch Group in the future?"

The sound of the daily news blared through Swan Lake Chalet early in the morning.

Jude listened to the news about Luna and Malcolm's engagement on the radio under the morning sun while staring at the man before him.

At this moment, Joshua was sitting in a rocking chair with his eyes closed, basking in the sun. There was an IV drip next to him, with the cannula in the back of his hand.

Joshua's face was expressionless, as though the woman that had gotten engaged to Malcolm was not the one he had loved for many years but a stranger instead.

Jude, on the other hand, was frantic. "Joshua, you have to think of another plan. Otherwise, Luna will get married to another man! Aren't you going to do something about this?"

Joshua's eyes were still closed as he sunbathed. " What can I do about this?"

If he had a plan, he would have employed it a long time ago.

Luna had abandoned him and the children in the pouring rain the night before. All of a sudden, she announced her engagement to Malcolm.

On top of that, she had even convinced everyone to play along with her act and claim that she had gotten pregnant with Malcolm's child so that Joshua would give up trying to get her back.

Joshua knew better than anyone what Luna's reproductive condition was like. A month ago, after having experienced the fire at Blue Bay Villa, Luna had suffered a miscarriage. Soon after that, she was kidnapped by Malcolm.

A woman that had miscarried less than a month ago could never get pregnant so quickly.

Therefore, the claims that she was pregnant were nothing more than a tactic to get Joshua to give up.

As soon as he thought of this, Joshua sighed and said, "Maybe I had indeed pushed her too hard."

The more desperate he was for her to leave with him, the more it made her want to get away.

At this moment, she was even willing to pretend that she was pregnant with Malcolm's child to get rid of him. If he did not give up soon, she might even come up with something even more outrageous.

Therefore, Joshua decided not to look for her anymore so that she would not have to resort to even more desperate measures.

Jude rolled his eyes and was about to say something when Lucas strode in from outside. "Sir, I've found evidence of Hunter Quinn impersonating Christopher to trick Mr. Smith into giving him the herb."

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