

Chapter 565 No Mercy

Liam and his team arrived at the airport before Kohen and his people because they were nearer and because Liam was notified by Ulises immediately.

After Riel recovered from his injury, he styled his hair into a crew cut and got a new tattoo on his neck.

He found Salem increasingly intriguing the longer he stayed there. He had to be cautious about his actions in Invone, where so many powerful people were likely to be hiding in plain sight. In Salem, though, he could act any way he wanted.

Riel smiled at Liam and stated, "It feels so great to be able to act freely without worries. Everything is really better here than in Invone."

"Don't worry. Soon, we'll be able to do everything we want in Invone too," Liam reassured in a calm tone.

Their conversation was interrupted when they saw a long, black commercial car approaching the airport.

Liam recognized its license plate number. It belonged to the Cortez family.

"They're here. Get out of the car and get ready," Liam ordered.

Riel nodded, then hopped out of the car to finalize the plan.

Within a short time, Riel and his team had surrounded Kohen's car, forcing it to stop in the middle of the road.

Kohen, thinking that they were robbers, stepped out of the vehicle, slammed its door shut, and started yelling, "Are you blind? How dare you get in my way? Do you know who I am?"

Liam's face contorted into a sneer, and he finally showed himself to the man. "Of course, I know you. You're the head of the Cortez family."

Kohen's eyes widened when he recognized Liam. "How did you get here so quickly? Ulises told you everything, didn't he?"

Liam said nothing, but his smile became more unfriendly.

With contempt in his eyes, Kohen continued, "We're following Mr. Timothy Hewitt's order. You can't risk offending him. Now, get out of my way!"

Liam let out a humorless laugh. "I was just wondering who gave you the guts to do something like this. Do you even know that the person you're taking orders from would never come to Salem even if his life depended on it?"

Before Kohen could respond, Liam waved his hand, and Riel sprang into action.

The members of the Dark Night Organization charged forward, and Kohen's minions did not even last a minute before they were all defeated.

Now, Kohen and Yesenia were the only ones standing on the other side of the battlefield. Yesenia's expression soured the moment the last of their men collapsed to the ground.

She snarled, "How dare you go against the Cortez family, you bastard? My daughter will never marry you!"

At last, Liam's temper had reached a breaking point, and he bellowed, "What rights do you have to make decisions for Julie? Just wait and see. I'm going to destroy the Cortez family, like I did to the Evans family!"

Riel had already pulled Julie out of Kohen's car. Not wanting to waste any more time arguing with the two, Liam hopped into his car and drove away with Julie and the members of the Dark Night Organization.

Still standing in the middle of the road, Yesenia and Kohen exchanged glances. In addition to being angry, they were also unnerved.

The news of the Evans family's destruction sparked an uproar in Salem, but no one knew that Liam was the one behind it.

The Evans family was more influential than the Cortez family,

which meant it would be easier to destroy the latter than the former, who got eliminated from the face of the earth overnight.

Kohen's anxiety increased as he considered the situation further.

Trembling, he hurriedly contacted Timothy. "Mr. Hewitt, Liam took Julie from us and threatened to destroy our family. Please, you have to save us!"

His cries for help had Timothy scowling. "Damn, you're so useless. You made me wait for nothing!"

Kohen immediately replied, "I'm really sorry! Please save the Cortez family, and then I will personally hand over Julie to you."

Timothy clicked his tongue in annoyance before grunting, "Fine."

With that, he ended the call.

The truth was that he did not give a hoot about the fate of the Cortez family. He did not care even if they got wiped out. He just wanted to piss Liam off.

Chapter 566 Decision

At Liam's private residence, in the spacious bedroom, Julie lay on the big bed with her upper body uncovered. Liam had fed her the antidote and was now gently massaging her upper body, to help her throw up. With time, the effect of the anesthetic in Julie's body began to fade away.

Soon after, Julie's eyelids fluttered open, and she was taken aback to find herself naked from the waist up. Her cheeks immediately flushed with embarrassment.

She hurriedly pulled the quilt over herself and asked, "Wasn't I supposed to visit my mother? How did I end up here?" Liam was momentarily surprised, then it dawned on him that Julie had been unconscious all this time.

He felt a mix of anger and amusement.

But, when he saw Julie's reddened face, his anger subsided.

With a sigh, Liam said, "You've got some nerve asking that. You were knocked out by your mother and grandfather. They wanted to send you to Timothy in Invone!"

Julie's heart raced as she absorbed his words. Her memories before her blackout began to slowly return.

Her face turned pale as she struggled to accept that her own blood relatives would conspire against her in such a way.

The gravity of the situation dawned on her. If their plan had succeeded, she could have been raped by Timothy.

In that case, she would have never been able to face Liam again.

Then Julie asked, "What's your plan for the Cortez family?"

She understood Liam's temper and her significance in his heart.

Julie was his greatest weakness. No matter the adversary, regardless of their status, they would meet their end if they dared to hurt Julie.

Though the circumstances were different this time and even Julie didn't know what to do, Liam seemed to have made up his mind.

"The Cortez family's existence has become useless!" Liam's cold voice rang out and a heavy silence settled between them.

Liam sensed Julie's internal turmoil, but this time he was determined to help her rid herself of the family that had only brought harm her way.

But, no matter how determined Liam was, Julie ultimately had

to resolve to deal with her blood relatives.

Julie's expression became intricate and her eyes revealed a shift in emotions. After grappling with her feelings, she finally said slowly, "She's still my mother. I don't want my family to be broken."

Liam nodded seriously.

He understood what she meant. He then pulled her into a tight embrace to comfort her.

As they nestled together, a thought crossed Julie's mind, prompting her to ask, "By the way, what about the Evans family? How are Kevin and his family doing?"

Liam wasn't keen on discussing that topic.

He aimed to protect not only Julie's health, but also her innocence and kindness.

Liam was protecting her from the gruesome truth.

With a gentle smile, Liam responded, "No need to worry. The Evans family won't pose a threat to us anymore."

Julie nodded. Although she said nothing, she had pieced together some of the truth.

Clasping onto Liam, she suddenly lifted her head and said with an unusually firm tone, "Liam, can you promise me

something?"

Liam smiled and nodded. He would fulfill not just one promise, but countless requests for Julie.

Assertively, Julie stated, "If you ever undertake such dangerous ventures again, you must inform me beforehand and ensure that you return safely."

Liam was a bit stunned, and then nodded solemnly. "Alright, I promise!"

In that moment, Julie's face softened and a smile graced her lips. "Hmph, I refuse to be a widow. If you die, I'll find a better-looking man immediately."

Liam laughed and they both began to tease each other again.

Chapter 567 Compensation

The aftermath of the incident finally made Julie realize the truth.

She understood the importance of Liam in her life, realizing she couldn't imagine a life without him.

Liam had left an indelible mark on her heart, making it impossible for her to even envision a future where they wouldn't be together.

At this moment, Julie leaned against Liam, taking in his scent with eagerness.

The tragic events involving Jaxtyn remained vivid in her memory.

She admitted that her argument with Liam had hastened Annie and Jaxtyn's departure, leading to the unfortunate ambush by Fuller and his group.

She felt responsible for the situation and recognized her role in the events that took place.

Though her recent actions might not have been terribly wrong, she knew they weren't exactly right either.

Gazing affectionately at Liam, she said softly, "I apologize. I

shouldn't have been so stubborn. I should have shared my concerns. I shouldn't have let baseless anger drive us apart. Our time together is precious, and we should cherish each moment."

In this moment, Julie openly displayed her affection for Liam with no hesitation.

The emotional turmoil she had experienced in recent days seemed to dissipate as she declared her feelings. She not only revealed her deep affection but also owned up to her recent missteps.

However, Liam didn't blame her at all. Just seeing Julie's release from her negative emotions brought him happiness.

They both cuddled, and after a while, Julie shifted to sit on Liam's lap.

"Tonight, let me make it up to you!" Julie muttered and her face flushed. Her gaze was full of charm as she locked her eyes onto Liam's. He found himself captivated by her alluring eyes.

Before Liam could react, Julie's cheeks flushed red, her entire being emanating warmth.

She wore a short skirt and a T-shirt that had been removed earlier when Liam helped her recover from the effects of the knockout drug.

Now, her upper body was exposed, and as she sat on Liam's lap, her breasts moved with her every motion.

At the same time, her waist also moved gently.

Although they still had clothes on, the softness of their contact aroused Liam!

At this moment, Liam had already felt Julie's private part.

Julie playfully nipped at Liam's ear and whispered, "Stay still. Let me take the lead."

Her hands moved between Liam's legs, and she unzipped his pants. With a gentle pull, his erect penis came out.

Blushing even deeper, Julie marveled at the size of Liam's penis, though it wasn't their first encounter.

While primitive desire began to take over Liam, Julie gently halted him as he wanted to flip her over.

"Remember, I said I'll make it up to you today,"

With a captivating smile gracing her lips, she pressed against Liam's lower body.

Their rhythm grew more frantic and gasps of pleasure filled the air. His penis slid in through the side of Julie's underpants, and they began to have sex!

Liam's desire surged beyond control, and he moved frantically. Beads of sweat formed on Julie's forehead as she embraced the intensity, matching Liam's fervor with hers.

With every sex they had, they both reached orgasm.

"Ah! This feels amazing!"

In the dim room, both of them had sex again and again and continually reached orgasm.

And so it continued...

It wasn't until four hours later, as the night advanced into its second half, that the room finally eased into stillness.

Chapter 568 Returning To Kingland Group

The following morning, Liam and Julie went to Kingland Group together.

Inside the CEO's office, they engaged in a conversation about their future plans.

After their discussion, Julie made the choice to rejoin Kingland Group. However, she didn't intend to abandon her newly established clothing company, Pearl. She believed she could manage both companies given her capabilities.

Meanwhile, Liam got in touch with Keanu, the manager of the market department and instructed, "Stop all partnerships with the Cortez family immediately. Don't worry about the compensation. It will be handled according to the terms of the contract."

The Cortez family, a prominent player in Salem's manufacturing industry, was grappling with a significant challenge, which was sales.

Recently, they had gotten into a live stream sales agreement with the Funbuy app, pouring substantial funds into production with hopes of capitalizing on live commerce to make profits.

If they failed to sell out their products, the losses would be substantial.

As for the liquidated damages stipulated in the contract that Liam had to pay, they amounted to a trivial sum. Liam had intentionally included this contingency when signing the contract with the Cortez family.

Liam also contacted several major business partners affiliated with Kingland Group. He came to agreements with them to sever ties with the Cortez family.

During these phone calls, Liam assured the partners that if they could impede the Cortez family's sales strategy, whether through pricing battles or other methods, Kingland Group would provide whatever support they needed.

These partners depended on Kingland Group for their livelihoods. This motivated them to work diligently. They aimed to seize this chance to win Kingland Group's favor, in the hopes of securing greater advantages in the future.

When it came to dealing with the Cortez family, a local clan in Salem that paled in comparison to the Norris family, no one had reservations.

Seeing that Liam kept making phone calls, Julie felt a mix of emotions.

However, the Cortez family's own actions had led to this situation. If they had truly treated her as part of their family, things wouldn't have come to such a point.

Thirty minutes later, in the conference room of Kingland Group, a high-level meeting was convened. Liam, having made his plans about dealing with the Cortez family, promptly announced Julie's return to the group. He also bestowed upon her the role of vice president.

In accordance with Kingland Group's standard procedures, for appointments as high as the vice president, a formal vote was typically required.

However, given Liam's prestige and Julie's identity and capabilities, the voting process was merely a formality.

As expected, after the vote, all senior executives agreed with no complaints.

Meanwhile, the Cortez family found themselves under unprecedented stress as they grappled with the obstacles imposed by numerous factions within Salem.

Kohen was plagued by anxiety, unable to sleep for several consecutive nights. The Cortez family's warehouse was brimming with excessive inventory. If this persisted, the family's finances would deplete rapidly, and they would be

doomed.

Kohen felt immense pressure and even pressured Yesenia to talk with Julie again.

But no matter how frequently Yesenia dialed Julie's number, she received no response as Julie refused to pick up the call.

Eventually, after several attempts, Yesenia managed to connect with Julie. Before Yesenia could speak, Julie communicated her stance.

"Mom, don't blame me for being heartless. The guilt lies with the Cortez family. Blaming others won't change that."

Having said her piece, Julie ended the call, removed the SIM card from the phone, and flushed it down the toilet.

Chapter 569 The Destruction Of The Cortez Family

A week later, the Cortez family had reached the brink of collapse, crushed under the weight of insurmountable pressure.

Each day, a bank representative appeared, demanding repayment of the loan. Some banks, aware of their dire situation, abandoned politeness and replaced it with threatening words.

Kohen, who was growing older, was struck hard by this blow. He felt an overwhelming burden on his shoulders and often felt like he was about to lose his life.

During these recent days, Kohen had attempted to reach out to Timothy. However, his attempts were met with mere brush-offs, with Timothy ignoring his calls..

Kohen finally grasped that Timothy had been deceiving them all along. He had never taken the Cortez family seriously and never cared for their fate!

And Beatrice fled with the little assets remaining as the Cortez family crumbled, With no alternative, Kohen had to give in.

Early in the morning, Kohen went with Yesenia to the entrance of Kingland Group. They hoped to see Liam and extend their

personal apologies, seeking a chance for the Cortez family's survival.

But Liam had instructed the security guards to bar Kohen and Yesenia from entering the Kingland Group's building.

In a moment of despair, Kohen smiled bitterly. He understood that he had no other solution.

As the head of one of Salem's top ten clans, Kohen swallowed his final shreds of pride and knelt before everyone.

With a resolute tone, Kohen's voice echoed towards the Kingland Group's building, "Liam, I kneel before you. Please grant forgiveness to the Cortez family!"

On the top floor, Julie gazed at the monitoring screen with a hint of pity in her heart. After all, they shared a blood connection.

However, this time, she just looked at Liam impassively, and said nothing.

After a long time, Liam rose from his seat and took the elevator, making his way towards Kohen with Julie.

His expression remained cold as he brought out a check from his pocket and cast it before Kohen. "Since you're Julie's grandfather, I find it necessary to show you some measure of

respect. However, it's unfortunate that your Cortez family amounts to nothing more than mere beasts. You are unworthy of any respect from my end." Here is one million dollars. Use it to live the rest of your days in a peaceful place. The Cortez family's fate now lies in my hands, and I will deal with all the mess. From now on, you don't have any business with any of the Cortez family property."

These words ignited fury within Kohen.

The notion that a mere million dollars could acquire a family with assets worth tens of billions seemed an unbearable reality. Overwhelmed by despair and fury, Kohen spat out a mouthful of blood.

His lips quivered as he said, "Liam, you have crossed the line."

As soon as he finished speaking, Kohen collapsed and stopped breathing.

The sight sent shivers through Yesenia, who pleaded with Liam with desperation, "Mr. Hoffman, please forgive me. I beg you. I promise to change my ways, to lead an upright life and not cause any troubles."

Liam remained silent. His gaze coldly locked onto the humility etched across Yesenia's face.

Memories of her stubborn and arrogant demeanor resurfaced

in his mind, and his aversion towards her deepened.

He found it hard to believe that someone like Yesenia could harbor any goodness. To him, she epitomized a woman who lacked self-awareness and was susceptible to being swayed by personal gain.

But after all, she was Julie's mother. Liam gave the check a disdainful kick in Yesenia's direction and walked away with Julie without looking back!

Chapter 570 A New Plan

Following Kohen's demise, the Cortez family fell under the control of the Kingland Group. Ranking last among the top ten families, the Cortez family didn't have many real possessions.

But after all, they still ranked among Salem's prominent clans. The Kingland Group's market value grew to nearly eighty billion dollars due to this, edging closer to its goal of one hundred billion.

News of the Cortez family's downfall created waves in Salem, as Kingland Group had managed to destroy almost half of the city's top ten clans.

Even the Norris family, a mighty clan with assets worth hundreds of billions, couldn't withstand the Kingland Group's onslaught. Their company, the Riley Group, faced bankruptcy at the hands of Kingland.

If Kingland Group's success against an enemy could be attributed to luck, their several accomplishments showcased their undeniable strength!

The word of these events soon reached Fuller in Invone. Seeing Kingland Group's growing power, Fuller brimmed with anger. He promptly sought out Timothy, who was also in

Invone.

Fuller's voice resonated with frustration. "Mr. Hewitt, when are you planning to take me back to Salem? Kingland Group is growing rapidly!"

Timothy's tone turned cold as he rebuked, "Do you think I don't wish to return? If the circumstances were different, I would have already headed back to kill Liam. But the situation isn't in our favor, and if I return now, I'll only be inviting trouble."

Fuller said softly, "We can't simply stand by while Kingland Group flourishes. We need to do something about it."

Timothy's eyes gleamed with determination. "Hmph, be rest assured. I'm already making plans. Isn't Liam using his family name to wield his arrogance? Well, then I'll start with the Hoffman family!"

A shade of fear crossed Fuller's face. "Mr. Hewitt, please don't jest with me. After all, the Hoffman family ranks among the four major families in Invone. How could we possibly confront them?"

With an intense expression, Timothy declared, "Normally, we can't confront them by ourselves. But what if we seek alliances with other forces? And don't overthink it. I

mentioned starting with the Hoffman family not to destroy them. I'm not one to overreach."

Fuller inquired cautiously, "So, what exactly are you suggesting?"

Timothy smirked. "As long as the detestable man, Theo, can return to Invone, would we still fear returning to Salem to teach Liam a lesson? Sure, Kingland Group has made strides, but it's nothing more than a little thing to the Hoffman family. After all, Liam is just a discarded member of their family. When Theo returns to the Hoffman family in Invone, we'll have the upper hand in Salem, won't we?"

Only upon hearing Timothy's words did Fuller suddenly grasp the concept. He broke into an ominous grin and inquired, "Mr. Hewitt, what course of action should we take now?"

Timothy waved his hand impatiently and said, "Hold off on the questions for now. I'll let you know when the time is right!"

Fuller refrained from further inquiries, but hoped that the action would begin soon.

Secretly, Timothy was already setting the wheels in motion for his scheme.

His primary target for an alliance was Rennes, who had

suffered significant losses of his subordinates because of Liam.

At the moment, tensions ran high within the Duncan family's residence. All of the elite members dispatched had fallen at the hands of Liam, particularly Disguiser.

An expert in the art of disguise held immense value.

And Disguiser's demise dealt a severe blow to the Black Spider!

Timothy and Rennes immediately reached an understanding. After the call ended, Rennes's face darkened and he erupted into a roar. "It's time to repay the years of suffering we've endured at the hands of the Hoffman family! Given the Hoffman family's disregard for us, it's about time we teach them a valuable lesson!"