

Chapter 1551 The Stock Value Plummet

Johanna's words further heightened the somber, depressing ambiance within the living room.

After a while, Brandon reclined against the sofa, his expression tinged by a slight frown. "I don't believe that Jeremy is really dead. This must be part of his scheme against me."

With a heavy sigh, Beal rubbed his temples wearily and said, "It doesn't matter what we believe, let alone what the truth is. What truly matters is public perception. Everyone online believes that you've killed him, and unless we can provide substantial evidence right now, we have no way of proving your innocence."

Brandon pursed his thin lips slightly. Despite looking a bit weary due to the several days of travel, he maintained an air of poise and nobility. Even in the face of this unfavorable situation, he remained composed. "Since Jeremy is still alive, he must've left some clues behind. Once we find him, the false rumor will be dispelled."

In contrast to his composure, Johanna expressed her anxiety, asking, "But what if we aren't able to find Jeremy? You'd end up being charged with murder, wouldn't you?"

Beal, too, was a bit anxious. He couldn't understand why Brandon remained so calm despite being labeled a murderer. He immediately echoed Johanna's concerns, "Indeed, since it seems like Jeremy is well-prepared, he won't make himself easy to find. There's a chance he could remain beyond the reach of the law even after you're successfully framed for the alleged murder."

Lifting his chin slightly, Brandon said arrogantly, "Even if we're unable to locate him, that wouldn't serve as proof that I've killed him."

Johanna was taken aback by this. She couldn't fathom why Brandon was so confident. "Why?" she inquired.

Gently tapping the armrest of the sofa with his slender fingers, Brandon narrowed his dark eyes and said in a calm tone, "The so-called evidence that Jeremy released can't prove that his death was as a result of getting stabbed by me. After all, I merely stabbed him in the shoulder—hardly a fatal blow."

As he explained the logic behind his position, a glint of realization suddenly flashed in his eyes. No wonder Jeremy had been deliberately provoking him in the room that day. It became clear that Jeremy had already planned that if the poison scheme failed, he would agitate Brandon, capture a video of Brandon stabbing him as evidence, and exploit it to frame him.

After regaining his composure, Brandon glanced at the concerned Johanna and Beal before adding, "No matter how dire the situation may appear, it's only a matter of public opinion. There's no way for the police to prove that I've killed him based solely on circumstantial evidence."

Even so, Johanna remained apprehensive. "We need to deal with it as soon as possible. If your reputation suffers because of it, the Larson Group will definitely be significantly impacted."

As businessmen, their reputation was intricately tied to their groups' interests. They couldn't afford any missteps. Once their reputation became tarnished, what awaited them was an inevitable stock plummet and rival companies seizing the opportunity to undermine them.

Beal nodded with a sigh. "Less than an hour after the news of your alleged murder broke, the Larson Group's stock hit rock bottom. The White Group was also impacted, experiencing a significant decrease in its stock value."

Brandon had anticipated this outcome. He rubbed his forehead wearily and said, "I apologize for getting you involved in this mess. I've already instructed Sean to buy back all the stocks that were sold on the market to temporarily stabilize the stock value. I'll do my best to reimburse you for the losses once this crisis subsides."

Johanna waved her hand dismissively and said, "We're family. There's no need for apologies, let alone compensation. However..."

She paused for a moment, her expression suddenly turning dark.

Just as she was about to continue speaking, Beal tugged at her sleeve, shaking his head with a disapproving frown on his face.