

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 221 -

Chapter 221

Bang!

As the room door was kicked open, the lightbulbs in the room exploded simultaneously, shattering into pieces of glass, and an ominous chill blanketed the room.

“Who the f*ck is it? Who’s ruining my fun?” Matt spun around, scowling. He was unable to identify the person due to the sudden darkness in the room.

“Matt Laney, you have a death wish!” An icy voice growled as the shadow approached.

The moonlight peeked through the window, and Matt saw the other person’s face. It was Dustin!

“It’s you!” Matt’s expression changed, and he hastily pulled out a handgun from the bedside drawer. He yelled.

“You imbecile! I haven’t paid you back for ruining my plans so many times, yet you approached me first!”

“Dustin? Hurry up and go. Don’t care about me — Dahlia cried out weakly. When she saw Dustin, she thought she’d finally be saved, but she never expected that Matt would have a gun, so she instantly panicked.

“Weren’t you talking so big, dipshit? Ha, you still have to admit defeat to our family. I guess you’re scared now,

eh?” Matt raised his gun and sniggered. “You better grovel if you don’t want to die, or I’ll send a bullet straight

through your head!”

“Grovel? As if you’re worthy of that.” Dustin glared at the other man.

“Worthy?” Matt grinned maniacally and fired two shots near Dustin’s feet. “I don’t want you to just grovel. I’ll f*ck your woman right in front of you!”

“Y—
you shameless bastard!” Dahlia’s chest rose and fell violently as she fumed. However, because of the

drug, her flushed face looked more alluring than ever.

“So what? I’ll have my fill with you before dealing with that brat!” Matt declared

“I planned to finish you off in one go, but I changed my mind.” Dustin approached calmly, his overwhelming presence making it hard for Matt to breathe, and Matt’s hand began to tremble uncontrollably.

“Stop right there! You better stop, or I’ll f*cking shoot your Matt yelled.

However, Dustin continued his way forward as if he hadn’t heard the other man.

“You’re dead meat!” Matt gritted his teeth and aimed the gun at Dustin’s head before pulling the trigger.

Ear—
splitting bangs rang out as the chamber was emptied of bullets. However, Dustin had disappeared.

Abruptly, he appeared less than two feet away in front of Matt.

“You—”

Startled, Matt tried to jerk backward, but Dustin grabbed his hair and slammed his head into the wall with bang. Matt immediately passed out, his head bleeding.

“D—
Dustin Now that the danger had passed, Dahlia’s body finally relaxed, and she fell into slumber.

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Dustin glanced at the fallen man and pulled out his phone to call someone. 15 minutes later, Hunter and a

dozen bulky men walked into the room.

“Mr. Rhys, here are the men you wanted.” Hunter said politely. These men were not only large, but they were also studs who only had an interest in pretty boys.

“Good job.” Dustin nodded in approval before waking Matt with acupuncture.

“W—
what are you guys doing? I’m warning you. I’m the heir of the Laney family, so you won’t
get away if you do something to me!” Matt began making threats as soon as he woke up.

“Mr. Laney, I purposely asked these men to serve you. Enjoy.” Dustin gestured with his hand, and the men instantly pulled Matt away, beaming sinisterly.

“Let me go!” Matt paled, terrified.

“I’m sorry, Dustin! Please forgive me! I won’t do it again!” Matt shrieked before being hauled into a car. All that awaited him was pain and misery.

“Mr. Anderson, tell your men to take good care of him. I want him to suffer as much as possible!” Dustin ordered coldly.

“No problem!” Hunter promised before leaving. Matt’s ass was going to be gaping after tonight for what he did to Dustin’s woman.

After everyone left, Dustin walked over to the bed and began applying ointment to Dahlia’s wounds.

“Dustin. I—I’m sorry...” Dahlia finally mumbled the long-awaited apology dazedly. Dustin’s body stiffened, and a sense of loss glinted in his eyes. After a second, he shook his head and continued applying the ointment.

All of a sudden, the door opened again with a boom. Florence, James, and many others barged into the room, their faces darkening as they spotted Dahlia’s unconscious body.

“Rhys! How dare you touch my daughter, you despicable man! I’ll kill you!” Florence darted forward to slap Dustin, but the man grabbed her hand with ease.

“What? Are you going to strike me back? You disgusting asshole!” Furious, Florence kicked Dustin in the shin

instead. The man frowned but didn’t fight back.

“Call the police right now! We need to arrest this motherf*cker!”

“That’s right! A hypocritical asshole like him should be in jail!”

Several people shouted, and James pulled out his phone to call the police.

“It doesn’t matter whether you believe me or not, but this has nothing to do with me,” Dustin stated. indifferently.

“Bullshit! Why would she be here if you didn’t kidnap her?” Florence shouted, glaring at him.

“Exactly! Everyone here can tell that you were planning to do something nasty to her!”

“You dare to defend yourself even though we caught you in the act? I guess you refuse to give in until the end!”

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The crowd threw out accusations indignantly as they glared at Dustin like they wanted to skin him alive. They

were disgusted that Dustin stooped so low because he couldn’t have Dahlia.

“Whatever. I didn’t do anything wrong anyway.” Dustin shook his head and got up to leave. He knew that these people wouldn’t believe him if he tried to explain himself anyway.

“Hold right there. Who said you could leave? You’re not stepping out of this room without explaining everything!” James put himself between Dustin and the door, but with a shove from the latter, James went

tumbling to the ground.

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“You f*cker!” James got up and was about to spew insults when he realized that Dustin was already gone. Damn it! That kid’s lucky he got away, or I’d have taught him a lesson!”

“He can’t run away forever! After doing something like this, I’ll make sure he stays in jail for the rest of his life!” Florence gritted her teeth.

“That’s right! You can’t let him go!” Julie and the others quickly agreed. Dustin had gone too far!

“Hmm

Just then, Dahlia began to wake up.

“You’re finally awake!” Florence lit up. “How do you feel?”

“What are all of you doing here, Mom?” Dahlia rubbed her aching temples, her memory was a mess.

“Lyra called and told us that you might be in danger, so we hurried here. Thank God we made it in time, or Dustin would have raped you!” Florence got angry again.

“Dustin?” Dahlia frowned, seeming to have recalled something. She asked, “Where is he?”

“Don’t worry. We chased him away.” Florence reassured Dahlia.

“That’s right. We called the police too. We’ll catch that asshole!” James nodded.

“Why would you arrest him? He was the one who saved me!” Dahlia blurted.

“What? He saved you?” Everyone was shocked to hear that. Exchanging incredulous looks with each other, confusion was written across their faces.

“You’re kidding, right, Dahlia? He can’t be the one who rescued you. We clearly saw him touching you and was about to do something nasty!” Florence obviously didn’t believe Dahlia.

“She’s right, Sis. He tried to take your clothes off while you were unconscious!” James fanned the flames.

“We can all testify that Dustin was the one who did it!” Julie and a few others agreed.

Dahlia shook her head frantically, which made her alcohol-ridden head heavier.

“Who else could it be? There were only two of you in this room when we came in,” Florence said.

“It was Matt Laney, that bastard!” Dahlia struggled to organize her memories.

“You must be drunk, Dahlia. Matt’s a decent man. There’s no way he’d do something like this.”

“Sis, did Dustin slip you a drug? Is that why you’re so confused?”

“I heard that some drugs can cause hallucinations. That must be why your memory got jumbled up.”

One after another, the people in the room refuted what Dahlia said, making her doubt herself.

“Did I really remember wrongly? But how could that be?” she thought. Staring at her injuries, she had a hard time believing that Dustin was the one who did this.

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“Hey, there’s a phone here, and it’s recording a video.” Julie spotted the phone on the television cabinet and brought it over.

“It must be that asshole’s!” Florence fumed. “He was even planning to record himself assaulting Dahlia! How disgusting!”

“There’s no way that brat can defend himself now that we have this evidence!”

“We have to put that guy in jail!”

The crowd began to hurl insults at Dustin.

“It can’t be. Dustin wouldn’t do that Dahlia shook her head, unable to accept that.”

“Why are you still defending him, Dahlia? Why do you still have feelings for that asshole? I’m telling you, Matt’s the better man for you. He’s leagues above Dustin! I’ll show you Dustin’s true colors right now!” Florence yelled and began the playback, showing exactly what happened. By the time they reached the middle of the video, everyone had frozen in dismay.

“Matt Laney?” Florence was rooted to the spot as she stared in disbelief at the man violently assaulting Dahlia

in the video.

Everyone else’s jaws had dropped as well. Never in their dreams would they have imagined that the person who kidnapped Dahlia and tried to assault her would be Matt, a respectful man from a noble family.

How could this be possible?

However, the video was right before their eyes. It turned out that the despicable person had been the “decent”

man, Matt, instead of Dustin.

Everyone’s faces began to burn in shame as they recalled what they had said just now, and they fell silent.

“I told you it wasn’t Dustin, but none of you believed me! How about now? Who’s the despicable person? Who’s the hypocritical asshole now? I’m sure all of you should know.” Dahlia cried exasperatedly.

“I might have made a mistake, but so what? You two were once married, so it’s his duty

to protect you. We didn’t ask him to do that! Besides, why didn’t he explain himself? We wouldn’t have misunderstood if he had.” Florence insisted stubbornly, having no intention of apologizing.

“Explain himself? Dahlia chuckled mirthlessly. “Would you have believed him if he had?”

“That’s up for us to decide, but it’s his fault for not explaining. He had it coming!” Florence defended herself.

“That’s right! He deserved it! James agreed. So what if they misunderstood a loser?”

“All of you are incorrigible!” Dahlia was utterly disappointed.

She staggered to her feet and bumped past the two of them to run out. She wanted to stop Dustin from leaving. Unfortunately, by the time she reached the hotel entrance, he was already nowhere to be found.

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At the Laney villa. Phineas paced back and forth in the living room, looking extremely anxious. It was the break of dawn, but he hadn’t slept a wink since he lost contact with Matt, who left at midnight. It was as if Matt had vanished into thin air.

Phineas sent a group of bodyguards to search, but there was still no news of Matt, which told him that something was wrong.

Suddenly, someone’s car beeped at his door. He glanced outside and saw a black SUV parked outside.

The car door opened, and a figure wrapped in a burlap sack was dumped out as the car drove away.

“Huh?” Confused, Phineas nodded to the bodyguards at the entrance, who quickly opened the sack to reveal a

naked man with a swollen nose and bruised body.

“Dad ...The young man opened his eyes dazedly and cried out hoarsely.

“Matt?” Phineas was flabbergasted. “W—what happened to you?”

“It was Dustin Rhys H—he

Matt burst into tears. No one knew what he’d been through last night. There had been many times when Matt wanted to kill himself but couldn’t bring himself to do it. He had no idea how he pulled himself through the agonizing pain.

“Don’t cry. Tell me what happened. I’ll take care of it!” Phineas quickly told his men to bring Matt inside.

Because of the adrenaline shots he received. Matt was still conscious despite his injuries. So, under his

to finish, withholding some details.

father’s questioning, he told Phineas everything that happened from 5/

“That bastard! How dare he do that to you! He’s gone too far!” Phineas slapped the table furiously. A shiver went down his spine every time he thought of what Matt had to endure.

“Dad. I want you to tear him to pieces, no matter the cost!” Matt seethed loathingly.

“Matt, that asshole is being protected by the Harmon family and the Brooks family. It’ll be hard to deal with

him.” Phineas considered.

“Do you expect me to pretend like nothing happened?” Matt scowled, his eyes bloodshot. “I want my revenge

no matter what!”

“Fine, I’ll avenge you!” Phineas decided to light after seeing how miserable his son looked. As long as he was willing to pay a hefty sum to hire a killer, getting rid of Dustin should be easy.

Suddenly, someone knocked on their door. Phineas signaled for the guards to open the door, and three men strolled into the house. One of them wore a dated suit while carrying a cane with a dragon head attached to it. He was followed by Hunter and a burly man with an overwhelming aura.

“Who are you?” Phineas was puzzled,

“Dad!” Matt pointed at Hunter. “That’s the guy who helped Rhys!”

He could clearly recall the man watching him get ravaged.

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“So you’re Dustin Rhys’ men. Are you here to apologize?” Phineas growled.

“Well, it doesn’t matter if you grovel. There’s no way I’ll forgive that punk!” Phineas’ expression was murderous. What happened last night would be his nightmare for the rest of his life, so he had to avenge Matt.

“Apologize?” The old man in the suit smiled faintly. “You’re mistaken. I’m here to collect a debt.”

“A debt?” Phineas sniggered. “With just the three of you? You’re delusional!”

He clapped his hands. Immediately, a few dozen ferocious and bulky men engulfed the villa. Phineas had been prepared since Matt went missing, and it came in handy now.

He chortled. “You didn’t expect this, did you? You’ve fallen into my trap! I’ll make sure none of you make it out alive today.”

“How dare you!”

The strong man flung out his arm at lightning speed, and Matt immediately went flying.

“How dare you hit someone on my turf!! You’re dead meat!” Phineas was outraged. Just as he was about to

order his men to attack, a gold badge landed near his feet with a clink.

He picked it up and froze in terror at the sight of the majestic five-clawed golden dragon emblem on the front of the badge. On the back of the badge, “Rhys” was engraved in bold.

In Dragonmarsh, the five-clawed dragon meant utter domination, while “Rhys” was the pinnacle of power. Many people shared the same surname, but there was only one family that held the Emblem of Drakon.

That family incurred fear from countless others, and no one dared to challenge them.

“The Rhys Drakon Emblem! Who are you?” Phineas gripped the badge with both hands, his body began to shake, and beads of sweat ran down his forehead.

“You must be blind! This is Sir Albert Horst!” The large man hollered.

“Albert Horst?” At the sound of the name, Phineas immediately paled in fear.

Not many knew of that name, but that man had a popular nickname—the Executioner!

He had an infamous reputation for being the human butcher who sliced people like butter.

There were three great generals in the Rhys family—the Executioner, the Sword Whisperer, and the Drunken Maniac. Each one of them was enough to shake the country.

The Executioner, Alfred Horst, was the strongest of them all. He was so terrifying that kids would cry at the mention of his name. Rumor had it that he had his first battle when he was 18 years old and ended up slaughtering tens of thousands of foes.

His cruelty and violence earned him the title of the Great Executioner. After he started working for the Rhys family, not many got to see him, but his reputation did not diminish in the slightest. This was because he was the one who got rid of anyone who offended or threatened the Rhys family.

Not many knew what he looked like because the majority of those who saw his face were already dead.

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His ruthlessness made him the leader of the three great generals. And he terrified the officials in Dragonmash. Everyone knew that once the Executioner visited someone's home, that family would never see daylight again.

Still, Phineas couldn't understand what he'd done that led the Executioner to his home.

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It was at that moment that Phineas felt pure terror.

Who would have thought that the plain old **man** in front of him was the Executioner?

Why had the Executioner visited them personally?

"How dare you hit me!" His head spinning, Matt pulled himself up and **roared**. "You're dead! It's over for all of you! Men, finish them off!"

"Stop!" Phineas yelled before falling to his knees before the old man. He frantically begged. "Sir Albert, we don't know what we've done to incur your wrath, but please forgive us."

"Have you gone crazy, Dad? Why are you groveling?" Matt was in disbelief. He didn't understand why his dad was begging the old man for forgiveness when they were on the winning side.

"What do you know, you moron! We can't afford to mess with them, so hurry up and kneel!" Phineas frantically

signaled Matt.

"I'm not kneeling!" Matt looked around maniacally. "What do you mean we can't afford to mess **with** them? There are only three of them. We'll be able to down them with just the piss of our men alone!"

“Y–y–you dumbass! Do you have any idea what you’re saying? This is the Executioner we’re talking about!” Phineas’ face was ashen. In front of the Executioner, they were merely ants waiting to be squashed.

“What executioner? I’ve never even heard of him! He’ll still die today even if he’s God!” Matt shouted arrogantly.

Alfred chuckled when he heard that. “Interesting. I almost don’t wish to kill you now.”

“You think losers like you can kill me? Arrogant bastards!” Matt sniggered. Last night’s events had twisted him inside, and he yearned to let that hatred **out**.

“It’s over. Everything’s over.” Phineas collapsed onto the floor, his face pale. Why did he have to have such a stupid **son**? How could Matt hurl insults at the Executioner?

“You’re trying to compete in numbers? Alright, then. Let’s see who has more men!” The large **man** waved his arm, and synchronized footsteps were heard immediately.

Soon, armed men charged into the place from all directions, surrounding everyone instantly.

The guards were fully geared up and donned black masks. Their gazes were sharp, and they gave off a murderous aura that made **people** turn their heads away instinctively from fear.

The Laney family guards were nothing compared to these men.

No words or threats were exchanged, but clangs rang out as the Laney family’s guards, who were terrified by

the new arrivals, threw their weapons down and **stood** aside.

Matt froze at the **sight** of the **geared men**, his haughtiness **vanishing** rapidly, **and** terror took its **place**.

What happened? Where did all **those** men come from?

“Aren’t we competing by numbers? Who **has** more men now?” The bulky man **waved** again, and the men drew

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their swords in unison, overwhelming everyone with their presence.

Matt felt the strength leave his legs, and he collapsed to the ground.

“Sir Alfred, please go easy on us!” Phineas crawled toward Alfred and begged . “My son has lost his mind and

doesn’t know **what** he’s doing. Please spare his life!”

“Then, you’ll have to die in his stead.” Alfred drew a sword from the burly man’s back and threw it to the floor.

Calmly, he said. “Only one of you can live. Make your decision.”

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In the morning, at the airport. Edwin and Tina waited in front of a Rolls–Royce Phantom. “Dad, we’ve already been waiting for two hours. Why isn’t Joshua here yet?” Tina glanced around, looking anxious.

“It’s normal for flights to be delayed. Let’s wait it out a little longer. Edwin looked calm. Last night, he’d suddenly received a call from Joshua, saying he’d completed his refinement, which meant he was now the Hummer family’s trump card.

As they spoke, a young couple exited the airport. The man was handsome and dignified, giving off an air reminiscent of a sharp blade, making one unable to look him in the eye. The woman beside him was dressed in red and equally outstanding. She was beautiful, elegant, and looked powerful.

“Dad, he’s here!” Tina’s eyes lit up with excitement. She’d been eagerly anticipating his return.

“Josh, you’re finally back!” Edwin approached him with a bright smile.

“Sorry to keep you waiting, Dad.” Joshua smiled and gestured to the woman beside him. “Allow me to introduce you to Jade Grant, my fiancée.”

“Jade Grant?” Edwin looked taken aback before asking tentatively. “Is she the third daughter of the Grant family?”

“Yes, that’s right.” Joshua smiled.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Hummer.” Jade nodded.

“Yes, yes, nice to meet you, too. As expected of a daughter of the Grant family—
you’re the very embodiment of beauty and grace!” Edwin looked delighted. He never would’ve expected his son to be able to win the Grant family’s favor. The five wealthiest families in Millsburg were known as the Fabulous Five, but there were three other families even more powerful than them—the Tremendous Three. The Grant family was one of them. If the Hummer family could form an alliance with the Grant family through Joshua’s marriage with Jade, they’d have a bright future ahead!

“Dad, why did you summon me home so urgently? Joshua asked when they were all in the car. He’d just completed his refinement the night before when he’d been told to return immediately.

“I hate to say this, but Swinton has a new kid on the block. He’s powerful beyond our expectations and has defeated all my men. Our family’s been having a tough time recently because of him. I had no choice but to summon you home.” Edwin sighed, looking helpless.

“Exactly! You have no idea how obnoxious he is, Joshua. He even beat me up on my birthday over the smallest

things!” Tina started to complain. “Look at what he did to my arm—I’ve yet to fully recover! I’ve never been

treated like this in my life. You have to get back at him for me!”

“Who is this guy? How dare he bully a member of the Hummer family!” Joshua’s face darkened, and a

menacing aura surrounded him.

“His name is Dustin Rhys, and he’s not someone to be taken lightly,” Edwin said. “He also has the Harmon family backing him up.” Edwin said.

“The Harmon family?” Jade chuckled lightly. “They’re only one of the Fabulous Five—they don’t hold much

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“Y—
you’re not keeping your f*cking word! You said you’d let me live, Horst! Why? Why?!” Matt wailed bitterly. However, the only reply he got was the strike of a cold blade.

As
they stepped out of the villa, Alfred asked abruptly, “How many members are there in the Laney family’s main lineage?”

“The report says 35 of them,” the burly young man replied.

“I see. Well, get rid of all of them.”