

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 711 -

Chapter 711

“Dahlia, are we really leaving?” Julie seemed reluctant to part with the huge and luxurious office. Due to her position as the chairman’s secretary, she got to enjoy lots of benefits. No matter where she went, people were ready to shower her with attention and flattery. As a result, she even slept with several young and attractive men. But now that Dahlia has been dismissed from her position as chairman, Julia was no longer her secretary.

“We’ve got no choice. They have the final say. Before the head of the family comes around, we have no choice but to obey their instructions for now.” After she cleared up the office, Dahlia sighed softly. It had not been easy for her to get to where she was. Of course, she wasn’t ready to give up yet. But Alma was now in charge, and Dahlia had no means of going up against her.

“This is all your fault! If you hadn’t crossed the matriarch of the Nicholson family, Dahlia would not have been dismissed from her position!” Julie turned to glare at Dustin, who was leisurely sipping on a cup of coffee. They were almost about to be kicked out of the company, and there he was, still eating and drinking like he had no care in the world! How heartless!

“Why are you so flustered? Didn’t I tell you that it wouldn’t be long before the old lady comes and apologize? She’ll even grovel at Dahlia’s feet to ask her to resume her position as chairman’ Dustin said confidently

“Hmph! She’ll do that? Do you think I’m naive even to believe you?” Julie rolled her eyes at him. Alma was the matriarch of the Nicholson family and had noble status. Dustin might be well-off financially, but he was no match for the prominent Nicholson family.

“Rhys! Don’t forget what you promised. If Alma doesn’t do as you predicted, you’ll have to return us the plot of land free of charge!” Florence suddenly quipped. Though her daughter had lost her position as chairman, it would make up for their loss if they could get their hands on that plot of

land

“Don’t worry. I never go back on my word,” Dustin assured.

“Alright, the car’s here. Let’s go.” With one final lingering glance around the office, Dahlia turned and left.

Just as they made their way out of the building, a white Toyota Alphard pulled up in front of them. The car door opened, and Julian and several bodyguards came out. They stormed up to them angrily.

“Dahlia, isn’t that Julian? Why is he back?” Julia wondered aloud.

“Are they back to give us trouble?” Florence cowered, an unknown panic creeping up on her.

“They’re not here to give us trouble; they’re here to beg us for a favor.” Dustin smirked.

“Hey! Are you delusional? Don’t you see the vicious look on their faces? What makes you think they’re here to beg for anything? You should thank your lucky stars if they don’t just come up to you and start chopping you up!” Julia huffed angrily.

“Dahlia Nicholson!” Julian roared the moment he got near. “Give me back my grandmother’s medicine right now!”

“Medicine? What medicine?” Dahlia was caught off guard and stared at him quizzically.

“Hah! You’re playing the fool now? You think we don’t know that you’ve sent someone to intercept my grandmother’s medicine?” Julian glared threateningly at Dahlia

“This has nothing to do with her. I was the one who did it.” Dustin took two steps forward and said with full confidence, “The medicine you’re referring to, I assume, is this? The Zirtanium?” He took out a purple bottle from his pocket.

“That’s right! Give it back!” Julian’s eyes lit up, and he immediately reached out, ready to snatch it out of Dustin’s hand. But Dustin easily dodged him

“What’s the meaning of this?” Julian asked with a dark expression.

“I can give you the medicine. But I have three conditions,” Dustin said calmly.

“You have no right to talk about conditions! Give me the medicine now, or I’ll see to it that today is the day you die!” Julian threatened.

Without another word, Dustin lifted his hand and delivered a hard slap across Julian’s face.”

Where are your manners? Can’t you speak properly?”

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Chapter 712

Thrown off by the sudden slap, Julian held his burning cheek with his hand in disbelief. No one had ever dared to hit him all his life, so it took some time for the fact to settle in with him.

Florence and the rest of them exchanged looks between themselves and stared with bewilderment. Dustin was too bold to slap the eldest legitimate grandson of the Nicholson family! “You... How dare you slap me?” When Julian finally came to his senses, his expression was dark, and his gaze looked like he could murder them at any moment.

“Yes, I’ve slapped you. So what? You speak so arrogantly. Did you think you didn’t deserve that?” Dustin countered calmly.

“You impudent bastard! Get him!” Julian bellowed.

“Yes, sir!” The bodyguards pulled out their weapons and charged toward Dustin.

But before they even managed to lay a finger on him, Dustin kicked each of them and sent them all sprawling to the ground. Just like that, the fight was over.

Julian’s face fell as he stumbled backward. They were the most well-trained bodyguards the Nicholson family had’ And Dustin managed to wipe them all out single-handedly? It was clear that he was a skilled martial artist.

“Now, can we speak like civilized adults?” Dustin asked.

“How dare you, Rhys? Do you know what you’ve done? You’re blatantly challenging the Nicholson family!” Julian roared as he glared at him.

“Cut the crap. If you wish to strike a deal, talk properly. If you do not wish to do so, I’ll just dispose of the medicine as I see fit.” Dustin had had enough of Julian’s big talk.

“You-” Julian gritted his teeth. But in the end, he swallowed his anger and asked, “What on earth do you want?”

“I told you, I have three conditions. If you agree to my conditions, I’ll give you the medicine,” Dustin stated calmly.

“What are your conditions?” Julian asked with annoyance.

“First, I want you to apologize to Dahlia sincerely, and I want you to mean every word. Dustin held up one finger.

“Apologize? Why should I?” Julian’s pride would not allow him to do so. He was the first legitimate grandson of the Nicholson family, the one who should have been the rightful heir. It was embarrassing for him to apologize to some illegitimately born brat of the family.

“Because I have this.” Dustin raised the purple bottle in his hand. “Now, will you do it?”

Julian faltered for a moment, but his eyes still burned with rage. But for his grandmother’s sake, he complied and went up to Dahlia with his head hung low. “I’m sorry. I apologize for my previous

actions.”

Dahlia, Julie, and Florence were all astonished by Julian’s actions. They had never imagined that Dustin would be able to deliver what he had said earlier on. He had indeed succeeded in getting

Julian to apologize without a fuss.

“Are you happy now?” Julian straightened up and asked frostily, “What’s the second condition?”

“It’s simple. Let Dahlia return to her original position.” Dustin raised a second finger.

“Okay. I can promise you that.” After a few seconds of contemplation, Julian nodded.

“This is great!” Julia cheered happily. “Dahlia, we don’t need to leave anymore! You’re still the chairman of the company!”

“This kid is pretty impressive! But there goes my plot of land worth two billion.” Florence shook her head disappointedly.

However, Dahlia wasn’t too surprised. Instead, she fell deep into thought.

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Chapter 713

It would not change a thing if Dahlia was reinstated. If the Nicholsons weren’t happy with her performance, they could still dismiss her at any moment they wished.

“And the third condition?” Julian pressed.

“My third condition is for you to transfer all the shares of Nicholson Corp. to Dahlia with absolutely no charges.” Dustin raised three fingers.

“What? All the shares? You might as well rob a bank or something!” Julian’s frown deepened. Nicholson Corp. was worth over 100 billion dollars, and the company had a promising future ahead. With the shares that they currently had, they would be worth at least 60 to 70 billion if they converted them into cash. Even for a family as wealthy as the Nicholsons, it was considered a huge amount.

“It’s quicker to extort you than to rob,” Dustin said reasonably. “Anyway, I’ve listed my conditions. It’s up to you whether you agree to them.”

“No way! That’s impossible!” Julian turned him down without much thought. Once he becomes the family head, these assets would all be his. How could he just give them away like that?

“Well, if you do not agree, then forget it.” Dustin gave a nonchalant shrug.

“Dustin Rhys! I have already fulfilled your ridiculous conditions! Not only have I apologized, but I even reinstated Dahlia to her position as chairman. You better not push your luck!” Julian did not look like he would bend to Dustin’s will anymore.

“Let’s be real. Zirtanium costs a bomb. Of course, if you want it, you have to pay a price.” Dustin shook the bottle, and the pills rattled inside.

“Dustin Rhys! Don’t bite off more than you can chew! You can’t have the shares of Nicholson Corp. If you insist on having it, you’re just asking for trouble. And if it comes to that, don’t think that Dahlia will be reinstated to her position of chairman anymore!” Julian threatened.

Florence and Julie’s expressions immediately darkened when they heard that. All they wanted was for Dahlia to maintain her position as chairman. They dare not even dream about the company’s shares. They knew that if they were too greedy, they might end up with nothing at all,

and that would be terrible for them.

“Dustin, take what you can get and stop while you’re ahead. Pushing too hard will get you nowhere!” Florence went up and persuaded him.

“That’s right... We can’t afford to offend the Nicholsons. It’s good enough that we can benefit a little from this,” Julie echoed.

“I need to make the most of this opportunity. We won’t be getting another opportunity like this anymore.” Dustin shook his head stubbornly.

“What do you mean you need to make the most of this? Who do you think you are? Do you believe that you can get the better of the Nicholsons?” Florence was on edge. She considered themselves lucky enough that Dahlia was reinstated. It would be greedy of them to ask for more.

“Dustin, you have only two options. Give me the medicine, and Dahlia gets reinstated, or I’ll give

you hell, and you end up with nothing. The choice is yours to make.” Seeing Florence back down, gave Julian the confidence he needed to throw his weight around.

“I stand by what I said. If you’re unwilling to give up the shares, then we don’t have a deal,” Dustin insisted.

“Are you really so adamant about burning bridges?” Julian snarled.

“Don’t scare me. I’m easily frightened. Who knows? I might just tremble and drop this bottle of medicine into the sewers. We’d be in trouble then, wouldn’t we?” Dustin gave the bottle another

shake.

“You!” Julian was so furious. But he had said and done all that he could, and nothing seemed to

work!

“If you can’t call the shots, call your grandmother. Ask her if she agrees to my condition.” Dustin suggested to Julian

Julian took a deep breath and fished out his phone, giving his grandmother a call. It was true that he wasn’t in a position to call the shots on such a huge matter that concerned the entire family.

“Hello, Grandmother. The medicine is indeed with Dustin. But, he has a condition that I can’t agree with...” Julian started discussing the issue with Alma once she picked up the call. His expression was quite a sight to behold, it changed with every second that passed. No one could tell what Alma was saying on the other end of the line.

“Dustin! Are you out of your mind? If the matriarch of the Nicholson family loses her temper, not only will we not be getting anything out of this, but we’ll also be implicated and get into trouble because of you!” Julie grumbled.

“Rhys! If my daughter loses her position as chairman because of you again, you’re never going to hear the end of this!” Florence was agitated.

Wouldn’t things have turned out just fine if he’d just agreed to give them the medicine? Why did he have to insist on making them pay such a ridiculously high price for it? Things would get out of hand if they burned bridges!

Just as Florence and Julie were about to lose their cool, Julian ended the call with a frown on his face. “Grandmother has agreed to your condition

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Chapter 714

“Madam Alma agreed?” Both Florence and Julie were dumbstruck when they heard that. All their grumbles and doubts transformed into pure shock. They hadn’t expected the Nicholsons to agree to the unreasonable request from Dustin. Those were shares worth billions! Could they bear to let it go like that? Wasn’t that too much of a price to pay?

At that moment, even Dahlia looked surprised. She could not comprehend why the Nicholsons were willing to pay such a ridiculous price for just a bottle of medicine.

“Since she’s agreed, then get your grandmother to make a trip here to sign the papers. We’ll make a fair transaction.” Dustin smiled. He wasn’t the least bit surprised by Alma’s choice. He knew very well what people heavily reliant on Zirtanium were like. They would never be able to resist the temptation. After all, the Nicholsons had trillions in assets! Sacrificing one company wouldn’t hurt them too much.

When Julian finally drove off, Dahlia could no longer hold back her curiosity. “Dustin, what was that medicine you had with you? How did you manage to make Madam Alma buy it at such a ridiculous price?”

“That was Zirtanium. It’s a type of chronic poison. But for Madam Alma, this is what she needs to stay alive.” Dustin explained,

“So that’s what it was.” Dahlia nodded in understanding. No wonder the Nicholsons yielded to his absurd request. So it turns out that Dustin held Alma’s lifeline in his hands.

She had initially been worried that the Nicholsons would go back on their word and dismiss her from her position as chairman after reinstating her. But now that Dustin had gotten the shares of the company from them, there was no way they could do that anymore.

“The older a person gets, the more they value their life. To Madam Alma, paying several tens of billions to live another year amounts to nothing.” Dustin smiled.

“This Zirtanium, where did you get it from?” Dahlia wondered

“I intercepted it from Hank Hoffman, of course.” Dustin wasn’t one to hide his actions.

“Hank Hoffman?” Astounded, Dahlia quickly understood what he meant. “So you mean to say that you used what had originally belonged to Madam Alma to threaten her?”

“You could say that.” Dustin nodded.

“Um...” Dahlia and the rest of them were all rendered speechless

It was one thing to be greedy but to threaten someone with what had originally been theirs without even having to give anything up for it was something else. Dustin was basically a con man! Despite being shocked, they had to admit that his ways were indeed effective.

What followed next was a smooth transaction between both parties. When Alma arrived, she signed the papers that approved the transfer of shares to Dahlia without any hesitation.

Once Dustin made sure that there was nothing wrong with the signed papers, he returned the Zirtanium to her.

Dahlia finally heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that the company’s shares were now hers

From that moment on, she would have full control over Nicholson Corp.

As for Florence and Julie, it would be an understatement to say that they were over the moon because they would also benefit from Dahlia’s ownership of the company.

“Grandmother, do we give them the shares?” Back in their car, Julian was very upset when he saw how pleased the group of them looked.

“Hmph! I’ll give it to them now. But we’ll just wait and see if they’re able to handle it!” Alma didn’t look any happier about the situation than Julian did. “Go back to Glenstead and get our men here immediately! I want them to give back everything that they’ve taken from us and more!”

“Yes, Grandmother!” A cruel smile broke out on Julian’s face. As expected from his grandmother. She wasn’t one to let anyone get the better of her! Dahlia and the rest of them were up for a tough

time ahead!

“Dustin, you’ve helped me out once again! Thank you.” It was rare to see such a radiant smile on Dahlia’s face.

“Why are you thanking him? He was the one who brought all this trouble on us! He was only doing what he needed to do to rectify the problem!” Florence huffed.

“Exactly!” Julie nodded. “Dahlia, never praise your men too much. It gets to their heads.”

“Hey, isn’t it time both of you upheld your end of the deal?” Dustin wasn’t pleased by what he heard.

“Deal? What deal?” They looked at each other quizzically.

“Don’t go back on your word. We promised this. If you lose the bet, you’ll have to bark like a dog,”

Dustin reminded.

“Who agreed to that? Why don’t I remember ever agreeing on something like that? Do you recall this, Aunt Florence?” Julie resorted to playing dumb.

“Of course not!” After a slight pause, Florence promptly shook her head. “Rhys! Don’t go around spreading lies! We never said anything like that!”

“You’re playing dumb, are you?”

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Chapter 715

Dustin simply smiled and pulled out his phone before playing the voice recording of their conversation. Their agreement on the bet was loud and clear. After listening to the recording, both Florence and Julie blushed a crimson red. They hadn’t expected Dustin to record it.

“Dahlia, there are things to handle in the company, so I’ll be off now!” Julie quickly wormed her way out.

“Oh! Right! I’ll go help her out.” Florence nodded furiously. Then, the two of them escaped in a flash, without a moment to lose.

“That’s just how they are. Please don’t take it to heart.” Dahlia was exasperated too.

“Forget it. I’ll let it slip this time. But only for your sake.” Dustin appeared benevolent.

“Thank you. You’re the best!” Dahlia smiled. Then, as though having a sudden thought, she bit her lip and said shyly, “Dustin, I appreciate you always being by my side. Why don’t we get married again?”

“What?” Dustin was stupefied the moment he heard what she said. For a moment, he simply didn’t know how to react!

“To be honest, I’ve been giving it some serious thought for the past few days. I had acted too rashly in the past. I’d like to make up for my mistakes, and I hope that things can return to how they were before.” Dahlia had a serious look on her face. Because of how shy she felt, both her ears were flushed red, but still, she plucked up the courage to say the words that had been on her mind for quite some time. She just never found the right opportunity to say them. She knew that if she didn’t say them now, someday he’d be taken by someone else.

Dustin began to sweat profusely. Had it been in the past, he would have nodded straight away without a moment’s hesitation, but now, things were different. He realized that his feelings were more complicated now that Natasha was present.

On the one hand, it was his ex-wife, with whom he had three years’ worth of memories together, and he still had lingering affection. On the other hand, it was a gentle and caring friend who had romantic feelings for him. He really could not choose between the two.

He considered himself both courageous and witty and was always decisive in various situations. However, when it came to love, he had to admit that he was a mess. Sometimes he resented himself for his indecisiveness when it came to things like this.

“What, are you not willing? Or do you despise me?” Dahlia’s brows knitted together slightly when she saw Dustin staying silent.

“Of course not! It’s just…” Dustin broke off mid-sentence.

“So, it’s because you can’t bear to part with Natasha?” Dahlia had a wistful expression. “Then answer this: between Natasha and me, who do you like better?”

Dustin’s thoughts became even more of a mess when he heard that. Who did he like more? Honestly speaking, he didn’t know either!

Dustin was anxious as beads of sweat formed on his forehead. Then his phone began to ring. That

seemed to be a lifeline for Dustin, and he quickly fished his phone out to answer the call. “Hello? Who’s this?”

“Hey, Rhys! It’s me, Adam.” A familiar voice came from the other end of the line.

“Oh, hey buddy! Is anything the matter?” Dustin was pleased to receive the call from Adam. At least he proved himself useful in Dustin’s time of need.

“To be honest, I’ve got some good news for you.” Adam beamed and chuckled. “My sister has taken a leave from work, and she’s making her way to Millsburg as we speak.”

“Scarlet?” Dustin’s eyes widened. “What’s she coming here for?”

“To meet you, of course!” Adam feigned helplessness as he let out a sigh. “You have no idea how much she’s tortured me just to get out of me some information about you. I had no choice but to give in and tell her your whereabouts. Please don’t blame me for betraying you, brother. You have no idea what she is capable of. I really couldn’t take it any longer. I believe you have the means to handle her. Of course, you don’t need to worry too much. She doesn’t listen to anyone else but you. Everything will end up just fine if you can deal with her.”

“You fuc-”

“Oh right, I have some matters to attend to. I’ll hang up now. Good luck!”

Dustin was so frustrated that he was a hair’s breadth away from cursing, but before he could curse at him, Adam had already ended the call. Dustin could

only clench his teeth to suppress his rising anger. That bastard really knew how to make things difficult for him. He was already having such a hard time handling both Dahlia and Natasha at the same time. If another person were to be added to the equation, a catfight might just break out!