

Let me go, Mr. Hill by Shallow South

Chapter 151

“Can you please not fight about your personal affairs at Granny’s funeral?!”

Catherine interrupted them coldly and silently walked over to the coffin.

It seemed like she could not do anything for her grandmother now except kneel.

She felt horrible. Grandma and Grandpa were both powerful people in Melbourne when they were young. Without them, there would be no Jones family today.

However, when they died, they had left quickly and quietly. There were not even guests here to mourn for them.

...

It became dark.

Shaun drove back to the villa and found that only Aunty Linda was cooking at home.

“Where’s Catherine?”

“She isn’t back yet.” Aunty Linda had just finished speaking when she saw the handsome face suddenly turn frosty.

She secretly sighed in her heart. She had never seen Shaun so clingy before. He asked for his wife first thing after coming home.

Shaun looked at his watch that showed 6:30 p.m..

Was she stuck in traffic? He quickly called her, but no one answered.

Damn it, he was just treating her a little better but she was already pushing his limits.

Although the contract stipulated that she could come home at 9:00 p.m. at the latest, she was going overboard by not answering his calls.

“Young Master Hill, you should eat some dinner first.” Aunty Linda brought the food over.

Shaun glanced at it and paused. “Did you make this?”

“Yes, the madam asked me to learn from her.” Aunty Linda laughed. “She said that if she isn’t here one day, at least I’ll be able to cook for you. I tried tasting it and it’s the same as—”

Aunty Linda had not finished speaking yet when Shaun swept the dishes to the ground. It could be seen from his eyes that he was fuming. “It turns out that woman is still thinking about leaving me.”

That damned woman. Was she playing with him? Did she deliberately approach him just so he could take on her case for free?

Aunty Linda jumped in fright. Ever since Catherine came back, Aunty Linda felt that Shaun had become more and more temperamental. “The madam meant that she might work overtime. She didn’t say that she was leaving.”

Shaun paused, and the anger in his eyes gradually subsided.

Forget it. He would wait for now. It was not 9:00 p.m. yet.

He turned and walked upstairs. Aunty Linda called after him, “Young Master Hill, your dinner...”

“I’m not eating.”

The door to the study slammed shut with a bang.

After going upstairs, although he was looking at documents, his stomach only grew hungrier. He would look at the time every two minutes.

Even when it was 8:00 p.m., Catherine still had not called back. Thinking about how prone to accidents she was, he gave a call to Hadley. “Find out where Catherine is.”

Hadley was speechless. He should just suggest that Young Master Hill put a tracking bug on Catherine next time.

Ten minutes later, he saw the CCTV footage of the parking lot in Talton Design and fell silent.

The screen clearly showed Catherine getting into Ethan’s car.

Hadley wanted to investigate some more, but Shaun kept rushing him over the

phone, so he could only give the footage to Shaun.

After sending it, he tried calling Shaun again but could not reach him.

That was when he knew.

The phone might have been smashed.

Hadley sighed and took a new phone he had prepared to go look for Shaun.

When he went into the study after knocking on the door, he saw a mobile phone broken into two halves on the ground. Shaun was half-hidden in the shadow of the floor lamp with a terrifyingly cold expression on his face.

Hearing Hadley's footsteps coming in, Shaun asked in a cold voice, "Am I too good to her?"

"Young Master Hill, maybe there's more to this than it seems. I'll continue investigating. Maybe I can find out where they went..."

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"Young Master Hill, maybe there's more to this than it seems. I'll continue investigating. Maybe I can find out where they went..."

Catherine was also stunned. Only then did she realize Ethan's clothes were over her shoulders.

Well, Shaun must have misunderstood again, but she was really tired now and not in the mood for a fight.

"Mr. Hill, what are you doing?" Ethan's eyes widened. Slow as he was, he could

sense the man's possessiveness toward Catherine.

However, he did not understand. Shaun Hill had only helped Catherine with a lawsuit, right?

"What do you think I'm doing?" Shaun pinched Catherine's chin expressionlessly and kissed her lips without restraint. "She's my woman, so stay away from her. Otherwise, you'll stir things up between the Lowe family and me."

Ethan was completely shocked. "That's impossible! She doesn't love you at all. Cathy, what's going on?"

Catherine was expressionless from the excessive embarrassment.

She had fantasized about this moment countless times. She would hold Shaun's hand with her head held high and appear in front of Ethan, declaring that she was his aunt.

She never expected that before she could retaliate, her dignity was instead smashed in one of the most unbearable ways.

Yes, in Shaun's Hill's eyes, she was just an item.

She was no different from the women he paid for outside.

“You still don’t understand?” When Shaun saw the apathetic look on her face, his anger surged as he sneered even more. “There’s no such thing as a free lunch in the world. Since she wanted me to take on her case, she needs to pay up if she doesn’t want to go to jail.”

Ethan was struck by his words and took two steps back. He shook his head, his face turning pale as if he could not accept that fact. “I don’t believe you. I don’t believe you.”

The little princess he had cared for from childhood could not have become so miserable.

“It’s useless even if you don’t believe it.”

Shaun touched Catherine’s face that was paler than a sheet of paper. The cruelty hidden in his heart seemed to be activated. The more in despair she was, the happier he was.

She asked for this!

“You b*stard!”

Ethan could no longer bear to listen and lunged at Shaun.

Shaun quickly pulled Catherine behind him and dodged the attack before swiftly retaliating, punching Ethan to the ground.

However, the anger in his heart was not appeased. He was just about to lift his foot when Catherine ran over and hugged him in fright. “Stop fighting.”

Shaun subconsciously paused because of her, but Ethan took the opportunity to climb up and quickly punch Shaun in the face.

The corner of his delicate lips was instantly split, startling Catherine.

Before she could react, Shaun threw Ethan to the ground and mercilessly beat him up until he could no longer stand.

Catherine was stunned. She never knew Shaun was so skilled.

Ethan’s tall figure was reduced to a sandbag in Shaun’s hands. It was quite terrifying.

After the beating, Shaun threw Catherine over his shoulder and tossed her into the car. He then drove away like a gust of wind.

The car sped on the road as fast as lightning, scaring Catherine so much she broke out in a cold sweat. She clutched the overhead handle tightly, afraid that she would be thrown out the next moment.

However, she did not dare to say anything. Shaun was more dangerous today than he was any other time in the past.

After arriving at the villa, Shaun dragged her from the car straight to the bedroom and said with gloomy eyes, "How dare you team up with another man to beat me?"

"I... I didn't." Catherine tried to get up, but her knees were unable to exert any strength after having knelt for too long last night. "It's because..."

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“You were the one who reported to me after only checking halfway.” Shaun firmly refused to shoulder the blame. When he remembered what he did to Catherine earlier today, he could not believe that he would do such an irrational thing.

She must have felt deeply humiliated, especially when her grandmother just died and it was when her heart was most upset. No wonder Aunty Linda said her mood was off.

Wait, she had suffered so many setbacks recently. Could she end up taking things too hard?

He quickly rushed upstairs and opened the door, striding over to the bed. There, he saw her lying under the covers with her eyes shut. Her face was as pale as paper and she did not seem to be breathing.

His heart was inexplicably seized by a wave of fear as he reached out to place his finger under her nose.

Catherine opened her eyes feebly. When she saw him, she sat up weakly. Her voice was full of fatigue and weariness. “Is it not enough for you to confine me? What other punishments do you want to give me? Just say it.”

Shaun's heart that was seized tightly suddenly loosened. It was as if he could finally breathe freely.

However, looking at her like this, he felt slightly embarrassed. He wanted to apologize, but his pride did not allow him to. "Your grandmother passed away last night?"

Catherine's eyelashes trembled.

Shaun said unnaturally, "Why didn't you tell me? I called you the entire night last night but you didn't answer. I thought something happened to you..."

"You weren't scared that something happened to me. You were scared that I would make you a cuckold, right?" Catherine sneered. "Have you ever lost your dearest family member before? When you're drowning in grief, would you have the mood to answer the phone?!"

Shaun's heart choked. He understood that feeling.

"Besides, you never asked me and you never believed me. From the beginning, you decided that Ethan Lowe and I had gone to a hotel to spend the night together."

Catherine's words became more and more sarcastic. "Even when I stayed up all night keeping vigil, you said that my exhausted appearance was because I was doing something else. You even degraded me in front of Ethan Lowe, as if... As if I'm a woman who sells her body."

Her tears finally flowed down uncontrollably.

Shaun was at a loss for words, but he could not control his thoughts. "Why do you care so much about Ethan Lowe's feelings? Do you still care about him in your heart?"

"Care my *ss!" Catherine swore, "I was betrayed and dumped by him before. I've already lost my dignity, but who would want others to witness such a thing? I have to at least let that scumbag see that I can live better without him! But what happened instead? You made me look like a commodity. As long as one had money and power, anyone can get me and sleep with me. Do I have any self-respect left?"

Shaun stared at her for a long time before squeezing the words out of his throat. "Are you scolding me?"

"No, I can't scold you!" Catherine smiled self-deprecatingly. She patted her chest. "You saved me, so I owe you. Even if you slap me, I should be happy and kneel like a dog. I shouldn't resist you. I was wrong, happy?!"

“...”

Shaun was completely dumbstruck and unable to reply. Even though he was an eloquent lawyer, he did not know what to say now.

“Do you want me to cook now? I’ll go.” Catherine strained herself to get up.

“Stop!” Shaun forced her down again. “Lay down. Don’t move.”

“Right, I forgot. You still have me locked up,” Catherine said mockingly.

“Catherine Jones, are you done? I admit I was wrong. I misjudged you. It was my fault, okay?” Shaun bowed his head.

Catherine was expressionless, and her gaze was hollow. “You don’t have to apologize at all. You’re my master, so whatever you do is right.”

Shaun was having a headache now. He really did not like her self-deprecating actions.

“In any case, you should just rest well for now. You’re not allowed to go anywhere.”

Shaun went downstairs and personally brought food up. "Eat something."

Shaun thought that he would have to waste his breath, but Catherine simply sat up and ate without hesitation. She finished every bite, just like a robot obeying its master's words.

Shaun really did not know what to do.

He had too little experience in coaxing women.

He had already apologized. Now, he wanted her to return to her strange and bizarre self from before.

In the study at night, he started a video call with several of his friends.

Chester Jewell was wearing a bathrobe and held a glass of wine. He smiled elegantly and said, "What a surprise. You're free enough to think of us today."

Rodney Snow also chuckled. "Yeah, you never bother to contact us if we don't contact you first."

Chase Harrison laughed as well. "I'm guessing that you must have offended a woman and don't know what to do."

Shaun glared unhappily at Chase. That motormouth Hadley must have told him.

"If you ask me, this time, it's really your fault," Chase said, "I heard that Granny Jones has always been good to Catherine. The Jones family now is completely indifferent to Catherine, so you can say that Granny Jones is her only family."

Shaun was silently frustrated and lit a cigarette.

Everyone looked at him with complicated gazes. Only good friends like themselves knew that Shaun never smoked unless he was particularly annoyed.

Early morning the next day.

Catherine woke up on time as usual. Shaun had woken up long ago and frowned when he saw her getting up. "What are you doing?"

“Making breakfast.”

Shaun frowned. Her grandmother had just passed away, but she was still in the mood to make breakfast?

“Don’t go, just let Aunty Linda do it this morning.” He grabbed her arm.

“No, it’s my duty to make breakfast for you.” Catherine obediently acted like a servant.

Shaun sat up, growing frustrated. “We’re not eating. Get changed. I’m bringing you out.”

Catherine frowned. If he was not locking her up, then she wanted to go to work. However, he had the final say. “Fine.”

After washing up, Shaun drove her out of the city.

Catherine did not know where he was going and did not ask either. She did not want to communicate with him at all.

It was only until they reached the cemetery did she recognize this as the place her grandmother was buried.

“Why did you bring me here?”

“To pay respect.” Shaun opened the door and got down, but Catherine sat motionless inside.

“I’ve already finished paying my respect and you don’t have to go since it doesn’t concern you.” Catherine did not want her feelings to get mixed up again.

Shaun was displeased and said coldly, “Ethan Lowe can pay his respect, but I can’t? What do you mean by that? Do you need me to remind you that I’m still your nominal husband?”

“You don’t treat me like a wife,” Catherine murmured in a small voice and pouted. “You were the one who said you wouldn’t meet my family.”

“I didn’t say I won’t pay respect to a family member who has passed away.” Shaun carried her out of the car.

Immediately after, a big truck drove over and Hadley jumped out of it. “Young Master Hill, I’ve prepared lots of funeral offerings here. There are also ten big villas and more than ten pairs of various servants.”

Catherine glanced at the truck to find that it was filled with offerings.

She was stunned. “What is this...”

Hadley was worried that Shaun would say something wrong and immediately explained, “Young Master Hill told me to prepare this for Granny Jones. Although she isn’t here anymore and there’s nothing he can do about it, he hopes that she can live a comfortable life in the afterworld.”

Shaun. “...”

When did he say something like that? Wow, that little brat Hadley sure knew how to embellish his words.

Catherine looked at Shaun with wide eyes and an expression of surprise. The corners of his lips were slightly raised. Forget it. It would be better if he did not explain anything. It was better this way.

“Yeah.” Shaun nodded coldly. “This my appreciation for your grandmother.”

Catherine's gaze was strange. She did not expect Shaun to do such a thing.

"But... are you sure you can get it up here?"

Please, it was such a big truck. Would the grave keeper agree to burn all this? The amount was more than ridiculous, okay?

"Why not? Money can fix everything." Shaun shot Hadley a look.

Sure enough, everything was handled in a short time. He hired several people to carry the things

After burning the offerings, Shaun suddenly stood in front of Granny Jones' tombstone and kneeled down somberly. His thin lips moved slightly as if he was saying something.

Catherine was slightly surprised. Although her grandmother was an elder, she really did not expect him to do something like this with his high and mighty attitude.

An unknown feeling flashed in her heart. "What did you tell my grandmother?"

Shaun glanced at her. "I said, as long as you stay by my side obediently, I'll protect you so that she can rest easy."

Catherine could not help but pout. "Forget it. It's enough if you can have more trust in me."

When they came down from the mountain and passed a tombstone, Shaun saw the picture on it and suddenly paused. "This woman..."

"Oh, she's my aunt." Catherine stopped to pay her respect.

"She looks quite similar to you," Shaun said.

"Yeah, my grandmother also said that my aunt and I look very alike." Catherine shrugged.

Shaun pondered before saying, "Actually, I don't think you look like your mother. Jeffery and his wife don't seem to treat you well either. Are you actually your aunt's daughter?"

Catherine was stunned but immediately shook her head. "That's impossible. My

aunt never got married and passed away at a young age. How could she have had a daughter? Forget it. There are vicious parents out there everywhere.”

Shaun fell silent.

After the two went down the hill, Catherine looked up apprehensively and said, “I want to go to work today, can I?”

Shaun frowned. “You don’t have to be so careful in front of me in the future. You just need to stay away from Ethan Lowe and Wesley Lyons and all those from the opposite sex. Also, you have to answer my calls no matter what.”

“...Okay.”

Catherine nodded obediently. She would just let it be. Only by quickly earning more money could she have the courage to leave him once and for all.

...

After returning to the company, she contacted the manager of Hudson Corporation.

Upon making an appointment with the manager, she went to Hudson's sales center in the afternoon.

The first floor of the sales center was filled with people coming and going. She stood in front of the floor plan to study the houses' floor plans, not noticing that someone was standing on the second floor watching her from a height above.

That person was none other than Rebecca Jones, who had just appeared out of nowhere and became the general manager of Hudson's new property development project.

"Who is she and why is she here?" Rebecca turned to look at the deputy director, Bruno Keeling, who was busy flattering her.

"Her? She's a designer from Talton Design. She came to see the manager of the planning department, probably for the interior design of the new property."

Rebecca had thought that she would be the heir to Summit. Now that Summit was sold off, she hated Catherine to her bones. "Are there no other companies in Melbourne? Why does it have to be Talton Design?"

"The momentum of Talton's workmanship is currently rising very fiercely, but it's not set in stone yet. She's only here to talk about it."

Rebecca's eyes flickered, and she suddenly smiled. Since she was the general

manager now, she could deal with Catherine however she wanted to.

She hooked a finger toward Bruno. “Didn’t you say that you wanted to take on the contract for the project’s windows and doors? You can. As long as you teach this person a lesson, I’ll give it to you.”

Bruno’s eyes lit up. “What kind of lesson do you mean?”

“That’s up to you. It doesn’t matter if she lives or dies.” Rebecca’s eyes were malicious. “Accidents often happen on construction sites, so you can’t be blamed for little issues. Just pick up after yourself well and don’t get involved.”

Bruno secretly sighed. This woman was really cruel.

However, she was the daughter of a major shareholder, Jeffery Jones. No one expected Jeffery to have such hidden depths. After Summit fell, he immediately turned around and transformed into Hudson’s most mysterious shareholder.

Now, it was very likely that Jeffery would occupy the position of chairman of Hudson Corporation, so he had to quickly curry favors with Rebecca.

“Don’t worry, I’ll go down and arrange for it immediately.”

...

Catherine waited downstairs for half an hour before someone took her to the manager—Mr. Frank’s office.

Frank poured her a cup of tea. When they sat down, his phone suddenly rang.

He apologized and said, “Ms. Jones, something urgent came up in the Engineering Department. Please wait a little longer.”

Catherine could do nothing but nod.

After waiting for more than 20 minutes, it was almost 5:30 p.m.. She secretly became worried. It seemed she would be going back late again today.

Lest Shaun doubted her again, she took the initiative to call him. “I might be back late today. I’m still waiting for a client.”

Shaun was quite satisfied that she would take the initiative to report her schedule,

but he became inexplicably displeased that his woman had to wait for someone else. "Where are you?"

"At Hudson Corporation."

Shaun looked outside. It seemed he was not far from Hudson. "Oh."

Catherine realized that he did not intend to ask anything further and ended the call after a few words.

Before long, a man in a black suit came in. "Hello, are you Ms. Jones? Mr. Frank isn't available now, so let me take you to the field to have a look at the houses. This is my name card."

Catherine looked at the business card. His name was Hector Whitaker.

"Can we go into the houses already?" Catherine found it strange.

"One of them has already been roofed and just lacks an external wall, so we can go in and have a look." Hector laughed. "The company attaches great importance to these houses. The designing companies that come usually do their measurements on-site."

Catherine's heart was slightly moved. "Are there other designing companies coming?"

"Yes, there's another company our manager knows of."

The two chatted while walking out. Catherine tried getting more information about the rival company from Hector and had unknowingly walked to the back of the site.

"Ms. Jones, you can go in from there." Hector squeezed under a scaffold

Catherine was just about to go in as well when a man's stern voice suddenly sounded from behind.

"Get out of the way!"

Before she could react, she saw a figure dash toward her and tackle her to the ground.

Then...

With a crash, seven or eight ceramic tiles fell on the spot she was standing, shattering and spraying debris all over the ground.

Catherine was tightly protected under a man's chest. When the surroundings quietened down, she emerged from his arms with a pale face. "Are... Are you okay?"

It was Shaun!

"You idiot! Who told you to go to the construction site?" Shaun quickly picked her up with one hand and carried her to a safe place.

"I... I'm here to measure the rooms." Catherine's legs were shaking. She seriously wondered if this was a bad year for her. Why did she encounter danger wherever she went?

"Then why didn't you wear a helmet?" Shaun yelled at her. "If I weren't nearby just now, your head would've been smashed in by now!"

"I'm sorry, I forgot."

Catherine suddenly noticed the debris on his right arm. She remembered that he had not used his right arm when he was shielding her from the tiles earlier. "You... Was your hand hit?"

She wanted to take a look, but he flinched violently when she touched his shoulder. "Don't touch it."

Catherine immediately knew that it was not a light injury. "I'll call an ambulance right away."

She had just ended the call when Hector anxiously ran out from inside the building. "Ms. Jones, are you alright? I'm sorry, I didn't know this would happen."

"So you're the one who brought her here, huh? I'll get to the bottom of this." Shaun grabbed Catherine's hand and walked out of the construction site.

However, the faster he walked, the paler his face got and the more anxious Catherine became. "Stop walking. Let's wait for the ambulance to arrive."

"Don't worry, it's just a minor injury." Shaun's face was as calm as a pool of stagnant water.

Catherine was at a loss. "Then show me."

“Are you a doctor? Would you know how to inspect wounds?”

Catherine was silenced by his words, only to completely panic when she saw blood stains seeping out from his back. “Your back is bleeding.”

“Shut up.”

Catherine really did shut up. She anxiously called for the ambulance again.

Fortunately, the ambulance arrived after three minutes.

After getting in, the paramedic immediately cut open Shaun’s clothes. When a large area of bloody bruises and wounds were revealed on his back, Catherine was stunned.

She did not dare to imagine if she were to suffer those wounds. She would definitely have fainted from the pain, but he had not said a word since he was injured. He even held her and walked around.

She suddenly did not know how to describe this man.

Sometimes, she hated that he always humiliated her, but he repeatedly saved her from despair time and again.

This time, he even got injured.

She was sure that if he had not come today, she would have been dead by now.

“Young lady, don’t cry. The wounds on his back are just superficial injuries,” the paramedic told her.

Catherine, “...”

Was she crying? She had not noticed at all.

When she wiped her face with her hand, there really were tears.

Shaun glanced at her. A faint sense of helplessness welled up in his heart, along with a hint of sweetness.

She really did love him too much. She only knew how to cry when she saw him getting hurt. What a little fool.

“But he might have a torn ligament in his shoulder, so he must have surgery immediately,” the paramedic continued.

Catherine was speechless. The paramedic should have finished speaking in one go. In the end, Shaun was badly injured. When she twisted her foot as a child, the pain had made her feel as if she was about to die. The pain of having torn a ligament was beyond her imagination.

The paramedic asked, “What’s your relationship with him? We’ll need a family member to sign the paperwork for the surgery later.”

Catherine was stunned. She also did not know what her relationship with Shaun was right now, but Shaun said, “She’s my wife.”

“That’s good. In that case, she can sign the papers later.”

In the ambulance.

Catherine looked down at Shaun on the stretcher. He looked straight at her, his eyes deep and dark.

Her face inexplicably turned red and her heart also raced.

His wife...

It was the first time he called her that way outside. It was both unfamiliar and strange.

However... Their marriage license was indeed legal.

After arriving at the hospital, the doctor pushed Shaun to have an MRI scan. He also let Catherine sign the papers after the diagnosis was confirmed.

She held onto his belongings and waited outside. Chase and Hadley arrived soon after.

After Shaun's surgery was finished, the two helped arrange for him to stay in the VIP ward.

Chase complained bitterly, "Shaun, now that you're hospitalized, our law firm has to delay several big cases. Our losses will probably add up to more than one billion."

"Hm, let her pay." Shaun glanced faintly at Catherine. "It's because I was trying to save her."

Catherine, "..."

She wanted to cry. One billion. She would not be able to afford to pay him back even until she died.

Chase also realized that and gave her a sympathetic look. "It's over, Rin. You'll never be able to escape Shaun's clutches for the rest of your life."

"Do I have the clutch of a devil?" Shaun's handsome face darkened.

"Cough. I was wrong." Chase slapped his mouth meekly. "Anyway, how dare Hudson hurt you without giving an explanation?! I'm definitely going to mess up their property development project."

"I heard that Hudson has turned from a small business into one of the top 500 global enterprises within a decade. It has been doing well over these years all because there's a mysterious powerhouse supporting it," Hadley suddenly said, "The powerhouse is from Canberra."

The statement gave Chase a shock. Shaun bit his thin lip. "Yeah. He's right. Go and find out whether what happened today was an accident or human error, Hadley."

Catherine was momentarily stunned. “It was probably an accident since I didn’t offend anyone in Hudson. Apart from the Jones family, Janet, and Cindy, I don’t think I’ve offended anyone in Melbourne.”

“ ... ”

The corners of Chase’s mouth were raised. “Sister-in-law, you’ve offended quite a handful of people, huh?”

The number of people she had offended was slightly less than that of Chase who was domineering.

Catherine felt awkward.

Shaun glanced at her and said arrogantly, “It doesn’t matter. As long as you’re under my wing, I’ll protect you even if you’ve offended everyone in Melbourne.”

Although Catherine found that it was too presumptuous of him to make this remark, she was slightly touched deep down.

She gazed at him with a flushed face, not knowing what to say.

Hadley and Chase were speechless too.

As bachelors, they felt that their presence was unnecessary.

“Cough, cough. Hadley, we’d better leave.” Chase coughed while clenching his fist. “Since Shaun got injured while saving Cathy, Cathy will have to take care of Shaun. Am I right, Cathy?”

“Yeah, yeah. I will.” Catherine quickly nodded.

Only when Hadley and Chase left did it strike her that it was inconvenient for a woman like her to look after Shaun.

However, considering that she had stated it, she could not break her promise.

Fortunately, it was a fully-equipped ward where she could even cook. It was just like a large apartment.

“Are you hungry? I’m going to buy you...”

“I am. I want roasted pork.” Lying on the bed weakly, Shaun cast a glance at her.

Catherine was at a loss for words. “Have you forgotten the doctor’s advice that you can’t eat oily food? Otherwise, you won’t recover well.”

“It doesn’t matter. Nothing is wrong with my body. I’m fine.”

“No way. I won’t cook it for you. I’ll be in charge of your menu during the time you’re in the hospital.” Catherine showed a determined look that can be read as ‘you have to listen to me’.

Shaun raised his brows but did not lose his temper. Instead, he found it interesting to see how overbearing this girl could be. She resembled his grandmother in this aspect when she micromanaged things. After all, they acted this way for the sake of Shaun.

“Just lie down and rest here. I’m going out to get some vegetables.”

Upon reminding Shaun, Catherine hurriedly went downstairs as she was afraid to leave him alone for too long. She got back after quickly buying some meat and vegetables.

Shaun gazed at the vegetables in her hands with an indescribable expression. “Are you planning to cook me a plain meal with these ingredients?”

“I’m left with no choice. These were the only kinds of ingredients sold outside the

hospital, and you're the one who wanted me to cook for you." Catherine then said in an aggrieved manner, "Don't worry, I'll certainly prepare a delicious meal."

At the thought of her cooking, Shaun did not utter a word. Fine. He was just going to see how she would turn the ingredients into something tasty.

When she headed to the kitchen to start cooking, Hadley came again.

"You came at the right time. Bring some good ingredients here," Shaun said, "Stuff the fridge with ingredients."

"Alright." Deep inside, Hadley kept grumbling internally, 'You're only going to be staying here for a few days. You won't be staying here permanently either.' "By the way, I just got back after investigating Hudson. The brick fell because the worker failed to hold it properly when he tried to lay it on the outer wall."

Shaun frowned. "There's nothing skeptical about it. What about the man who led Catherine there? He seemed quite safe at that time."

"He claimed that he was only in charge of leading Miss Jones to take the

measurements. On their way, the two of them were so engrossed in the conversation that he forgot to give Miss Jones a helmet.”

“Engrossed?” Shaun pointed to the blanket that he was staring at, then scoffed all of a sudden.

Hadley felt awkward. Was Shaun jealous because of this petty issue? “This is how salespeople usually act. They’re glibber than anyone else.”

“Anyway, he needs to bear most of the responsibility this time,” Shaun said coldly, “Send an attorney’s letter to Hudson. If the compensation Hudson is going to offer isn’t satisfactory, I won’t let them off the hook.”

“Okay.”

At that moment, Catherine brought the dishes to the table. Upon realizing Hadley’s presence, she was stunned. “I’m sorry, I only prepared a meal for two.”

“It’s fine. I’ve already eaten. Anyway, I’m going to leave in a while.” Hadley’s eyes swept over the dishes on the table, which gave him a shock. It was his first time seeing Young Master Hill having such a plain meal in the hospital. In fact, Shaun’s meals used to consist of over ten varieties of dishes.

What shocked Hadley the most was that Young Master Hill did not make any comment about it.

After Catherine placed all the dishes, she glanced at Shaun's left hand which he could still use. "Do you want me to feed you? Or are you still able to eat on your own?"

"Nonsense. How am I going to eat with only my left hand?" Shaun's brows furrowed.

Hadley's mouth twitched. "Please, Young Master Hill. Your left hand is actually more flexible than your right hand."

"Get out right now." Shaun gave Hadley an icy stare.

"Yes, yes. I'm going out now." Hadley ran away.

"Why are you so fierce to Hadley? I think he's quite nice." Catherine could not help but feel sympathetic toward Hadley.

"He's nice?" Shaun's eyes flashed with grimness. "Is he nicer than me?"

Catherine was momentarily dazed. Suddenly, her gaze became strange. “It seems that... you’re jealous.”

“...”

Jealous?

Shaun’s attractive face fell for a second. The sentence seemed like a joke to him. “Would I even get jealous because of you? Are you having an illusion? I’m just trying to remind you, you ungrateful thing. Don’t forget who’s the one who has saved you countless times.”

“It’s you. I do remember it’s you. Hurry up and start eating. Don’t starve, or I’ll be upset.” As Catherine did not want to listen to his lectures anymore, she quickly coaxed him into eating while feeding him.

These were the kinds of plain dishes Shaun disliked eating back then. However, once she fed him the food, he found it so delicious that he even asked for more.

After eating, Shaun opened his eyes lazily. “Lift me up. I want to go to the bathroom.”

Catherine tried to lift him. At the thought of his injured back, she hesitated before she put her hand around his waist. His waist was extremely thin. She could even feel his muscles through the thin hospital gown.

Shaun sat up. The wounds and stitches on his shoulder hurt so badly that he broke into a cold sweat right away. His face was extremely pale.

Shocked, Catherine immediately said, "Don't go down. I'll get you a bedpan."

She promptly found a brand new bedpan from the cupboard beside her.

The corners of Shaun's mouth tugged awkwardly. A moment later, he whispered, "I need your help."

Catherine was speechless.

No, no, no.

She would not be able to do it.

"Don't... Don't you have another hand?" she asked helplessly.

"Can't you see how painful it is when I move?" Shaun attempted to move his hand, and he gnashed his teeth in a flash. "Hurry up. Otherwise, I'm going to pee on you."

Flushed with embarrassment, Catherine walked forward and slipped her hand beneath the blanket. Shaun eventually failed to urinate as he could not see it.

“How much longer are you going to take?” Shaun stared at her with a blush.

Inwardly determined, Catherine went underneath the blanket.

At that instant, the doctor entered. “Mr. Hill, let me check...”

At the sight of the situation, the doctor blushed while standing frozen to the spot.

“Sorry. I’m sorry. Did I come at the wrong time? I’m leaving right now... Right now...”

Catherine swiftly came out of the blanket. She was in a daze. Goodness, did the doctor misunderstand them?

“No, Doctor. I was just—”

“I got it, and I saw nothing. I’ll come again in a while. You guys may carry on.”

With a red face, the doctor averted his eyes. He then immediately walked to the door.

Once he reached the door, he could not help but turn around. “I know the two of you are still young, but you’d better be cautious. After all, he has just undergone surgery.”

“I didn’t...”

Before Catherine could finish her sentence, the doctor left in a hurry.

Catherine was left helpless. How she wished to jump off the building and end her life just like that.

In a fit of fury, she glared at the instigator on the bed. “It’s all your doing.”

“My doing?” Shaun’s brows expressed a trace of misery. “Probably. I shouldn’t have saved you back then. You probably would be lying in the icy morgue by now. Then I wouldn’t need to ask for help when using the toilet either...”

“Enough. Drop the subject.” Catherine gave a shudder. “I won’t blame you since you’re my savior.”

“Good.” Shaun opened his eyes. “You may take it away now.”

Catherine let out a sigh of relief. Just as she was about to pour herself a glass of water to calm down, he spoke again, “You can wipe my body now.”

“...”

The glass of water almost spilled. She turned around with a conflicted expression on her pretty little face. “Should I ask Hadley to come over? I can’t do it. Ever since I caught sight of your perfect body earlier, I can’t stop thinking about it. I’m afraid I’ll...”

Shaun’s thin lips curved into a discreet smile. “Anyway, it’s only the upper half of my body that’s injured.”

Catherine nearly bit her tongue.

This time, she kept the door closed and stayed on guard.

Although she had seen his body once back then, it was only a quick glance. She

had never eyed it like what she was doing at the moment.

He had such a perfect physique, which resembled the well-built David.

Hah. When he was not at all interested in her earlier, it seemed that she was trying to molest him whenever she glanced at his body. Now was the chance for her to eye it. Hmmph.

Shaun observed her expression. Tsk. He knew that she had long since been drooling over his body. Look at that face. Ignoring her flushed cheeks, she continued to stare at him.

As she was wiping, he began to find it weird. With a somber look, he glared at her. "Hurry up. How much longer are you going to wipe?"

Embarrassed, Catherine was aware of what was happening. She quickly finished wiping his body, then poured the water.

After she took a bath, she accompanied him by lying on the side of the bed when the lights were turned off.

Shaun did not allow her to sleep with him. The woman had a terrible sleeping position and would roll over him every night. Now that he was injured, he could not afford to have her sleep with him.

Catherine did not dare to sleep soundly. In the middle of the night, she heard the man tossing and turning.

She got up and asked anxiously, "Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

Shaun opened his eyes.

A ray of moonlight shone on the woman's shoulders through the window. That night, she did not manage to return home to get her clothes, so she was only dressed in a thin undershirt. With her long, soft hair falling over her shoulders, she looked elegant and beautiful like a seductive vixen.

The pain was still bearable to him.

However, something else came out of his mouth. "Yeah, it hurts."

"Well... What should I do?" Catherine was seized by guilt. "Let me call the doctor then."

What's the point of calling the doctor? He can't help reduce my pain either."
Shaun closed his eyes, and his eyelashes looked tangled. He let out a moan weakly.

He acted as if he was trying hard to endure the pain. That expression, coupled with his pale handsome face, made Catherine subconsciously clutch his hand. "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Are you going to help me?" He opened his dark eyes.

"Yeah." Catherine nodded seriously.

"Uh..." Shaun frowned as if he was thinking it over. Then, he casually said, "Why don't you give me a kiss so that I'll be distracted?"

"..."

Catherine widened her eyes, wondering what kind of solution that was.

If it had not been for his weak condition, she would seriously doubt whether that was his intention.

"If you're not willing to do it, it's fine then." Shaun turned his face away and continued to moan.

“No, no. I’m willing to do it.”

He was her savior, after all.

Catherine summoned up the courage to approach him. She lowered her head and kissed his thin lips.

It was probably because he had spent too much time getting an IV infusion that a faint taste of medicine lingered on his lips. However, the taste faded after she gave him another kiss.

It was her first time kissing him on her own accord, and her whole face flushed. Luckily, the lights were not on.

Shaun’s body turned stiff, and his heart started racing.

Before he could come to his senses, she drew back. She asked in a soft voice that resembled a mosquito’s buzzing, “Done?”

“It kinda worked, but it hurt again the moment you left me,” Shaun replied with a weak voice.

“But I’m afraid you’ll be in pain if I kiss you for a long time,” Catherine said faintly.

“Come over here.” Shaun nodded to hint at the empty space on his left side.

Catherine hesitated for a moment before she lay there. Then, she kissed his lips again.

Initially, she appeared to be kissing him in embarrassment. Later, Shaun was the one who felt that way without him realizing it. Amid the daze, she wrapped her hands around his waist.

He had no idea how long they had been kissing. It was only when Catherine’s heart thumped that she gradually began to feel tired. She slowly leaned on him and fell asleep afterward.

Shaun drew back, then glanced at her with a dark gaze. After that, he gently kissed her on the forehead before he closed his eyes.

The pain he was feeling became less severe after the fuss.

...

The next morning, Catherine woke up before Shaun. He was still asleep at that

time.

Gazing at the exquisite features on his handsome face beside the pillow, she recalled everything that happened in the wee hours last night. The thought made her blush with embarrassment.

Nevertheless, she did not seem to hate it...

She was shocked by that very thought of hers.

At that moment, there was a knock on the door. "The doctor is coming for the rounds."

She swiftly put on her windbreaker and ran toward the doctor. It was the same Dr. Kane who came last night, and there were a few interns following behind him this time.

They were all stunned when they saw her. Their eyes were fixed on her in a strange manner.

Catherine's face flushed. She assumed that the interns had found out from Dr. Kane about what he had seen last night.

Fortunately, Shaun was already up at that moment. Dr. Kane immediately gave

him a check-up. Ten minutes after the check-up, Dr. Kane was ready to leave. He clenched his fist and coughed lightly. "Although you're making quite a fast recovery, you still have to take care."

Catherine was speechless.

She was so devastated that she did not feel like saying anything else.

Only after washing up did she notice her swollen lips in the mirror. She was so shocked that she almost fell into the toilet bowl.

Shaun's handsome face froze imperceptibly for a moment.

"By the way, what were you going to say?" Catherine asked when she remembered.

Shaun snorted in a teasing manner. "I wanted to ask why you weren't choked to death."

Catherine was at a loss for words, wondering why the man was speaking so cruelly. What piqued her curiosity more was what happened last night. Since the

villa belonged to him, he was sure to know. “Last night... Do you know who entered the study and used my laptop? Someone finished my sketches for me.”

“Oh. I found a friend to complete them for you last night so that you wouldn’t die of cardiac arrest. Otherwise, I’d need to get a new chef.” Shaun sipped on the glass of milk he was holding. He replied so calmly that he appeared to be talking about the weather. “Well, this is an exception. No more next time.”

Catherine was absolutely stunned. She remembered that it was almost 12:00 a.m. when she went to bed last night.

He actually managed to call someone to help her at such a late hour?

Although he always said that it was because he wanted her to keep cooking for him, would a boss actually treat a sitter so well?

What was more, he even got injured when he saved her at the construction site last time. His head was nearly hit by a brick, and he almost lost his life.

Her heart began thumping. Just now, she was furious at his harsh words, but the feeling had already dissolved at the moment.

Perhaps he was the kind of man who was hard on the outside yet soft on the inside.

After some time, she said, "Thank you. Your friend is really awesome. Where is he working? When I receive the commission, I'll share half of it with him."

His masculine voice that conveyed a hint of sarcasm sounded, "Forget about it. He doesn't care about the miserable amount."

Catherine did not mind. "Well, let me treat him to a meal as a token of my appreciation then..."

"You're not qualified," Shaun interrupted her sentence with a frown. "You can just treat me to a meal if you want to."

"Okay. I'll treat you when you return from your business trip," Catherine answered without hesitation. Assuming that it was all because of Shaun that his friend helped her, she felt that she should treat him to a meal. "Thanks."

Shaun dropped his eyes and curled his thin lips calmly. "Let me show you something."

He clicked open the photo in the phone beside him and showed it to her.

Catherine glanced at it. In an instant, her face flushed as if it had been boiled.

He actually kept a photo of her drooling in her sleep.

What an eyesore.

Unable to bring herself to look at the photo, she stretched out her hand in an attempt to snatch the phone.

Shaun promptly kept his phone before she could snatch it. She failed to keep her balance and subsequently fell into his arms. Unfortunately, her left hand happened to land on an awkward part of his leg.

Catherine heard the man gasping in shock. Thoroughly ashamed, she turned around and wanted to run away.

The man's right hand was swiftly wrapped around her waist. The sound of his breathing lingered in her ears romantically. His masculine voice was as charming as the sound produced by a cello. "You're trying to seduce me so early in the morning, huh?"

"It's a misunderstanding..."

Blushing, Catherine had trouble lifting her head. When their eyes met, his starry eyes were as dark as magnets. She could hardly look away.

Shaun looked at the woman in his arms whose embarrassed face was just like a budding flower. He felt the urge to kiss her.

He actually did it.

Catherine had been helping Shaun to reduce his pain these days. She often kissed him at night as a way of distracting him from the pain.

The initially strange act of kissing had now become familiar to Catherine.

Even her body seemed to have adapted to the kiss.

However, she felt her heart race even more madly than before. The kiss came with a hint of sweetness as well.

Back then, she was often annoyed at how harshly Shaun spoke. Even so, he had

actually helped her a lot.

The kiss ended with the growling of her stomach.

After running out of his arms, Catherine embarrassedly headed to the kitchen to get some food.

Looking at her back, Shaun gave a smile.

...

After breakfast, Catherine contacted Mr. Frank to inform him that she was done with the sketches.

Mr. Frank replied that he had gone out for work during the day and asked her to come to Linden Clubhouse. His leader happened to be there, so they could discuss the designs together.

Catherine used to attend these kinds of social activities quite often when she met her clients.

Although she did not feel like going, she eventually agreed to do it.

At 8:00 p.m., she knocked on the door of the private room before she pushed it open. The room was luxurious and spacious, featuring Western decor.

What astonished Catherine was Rebecca. She was dressed in a sable coat and seated in the middle of the couch. Mr. Frank stood beside Rebecca and carefully poured some wine for her.

At that instant, Catherine felt that something was not right. She turned around, trying to leave. Nevertheless, two burly men dashed in and clutched her straight away. The sketches she was holding subsequently fell onto the ground.

“Mr. Frank, you’ve actually been lying to me all this while.”

Catherine seemed to have figured out everything at that moment. She glared at them in fury. “I understand now. The incident at the construction site was both of your doings, right?”

Mr. Frank glanced at Rebecca in fear. He only found out about the incident later on. He was merely an employee, and securing his current position in Hudson had been an uphill struggle. As such, he would not want to offend Rebecca for the sake of Talton Design, which could possibly threaten his future.

“You have quick reactions, but unfortunately...” Rebecca walked toward her gracefully while holding a coffee cup. She was no longer delicate and pretentious as she used to be. Instead, she had become high-profile and evil.

Catherine knew that this was Rebecca’s true nature. However, Summit had been sold, and the Jones family’s reputation had been tarnished. The Jones family was not even considered to be a wealthy family in Melbourne anymore. Why would Rebecca still be complacent?

“Are you wondering why Mr. Frank would listen to me?” Rebecca pinched Catherine’s chin with a smile. “Were you under the impression that the lawsuit would destroy the Jones family’s status in Melbourne? Well, you’re wrong. I can achieve much better things without Summit.”

“What on earth do you mean?” Catherine was totally perplexed.

Mr. Frank said courteously, “Miss Rebecca is now the new property general manager in Hudson. President Jones is the largest shareholder in Hudson, and he’ll probably become the new chairman at the end of the year. Hudson might belong to Miss Rebecca in the future.”

“This is impossible.”

Catherine was shocked to the core. “I’ve never heard from Dad and Mom that we own so many shares in Hudson.”

“Why would Dad and Mom tell you this? They don’t even like you. You’re just a stranger.”

With a deep voice, Catherine added sarcastically, “Have you never suspected the reason why Dad and Mom dislike you? They even hope for you to die.”

Catherine’s eyes narrowed. She lifted her head and fixed her eyes on Rebecca.

With a sympathetic expression, Rebecca clicked her tongue. “It’s because you’re not Dad and Mom’s biological daughter. When I was accidentally taken away back then, Dad realized that Mom was in low spirits, so he adopted you from an orphanage. Basically, you’re someone who your biological parents dumped at birth!

“You wouldn’t have achieved what you have today without the Jones family. However, it’s very ungrateful of you to have the intention to take revenge on us. You even caused James to end up in jail. Dad and Mom always say that if they had known this earlier, they wouldn’t have adopted a b*stard like you back then!”

Those words seemed like a bomb that sounded beside Catherine’s ears.

Even so, Catherine found herself unexpectedly calm.

The truth finally hit her. It was no wonder Sally treated her more icily and strictly since she was young. Catherine had always assumed that Sally was an inherently unfriendly mother, but when Rebecca returned, she saw the other side of Sally.

She had long since suspected that she was an orphan without parents, yet she refused to believe it.

The truth turned out to be nastier than she had imagined.

Her family actually hated her and had the thought of abandoning her.

Hah.

“Do you know that you’ve always disgusted me?”

Rebecca tapped her pretty little face. “I suffered so much during the abduction, but what about you? You took my place and lived in luxury. Even handsome men like Ethan chased after you...”

“But now, I’m left with nothing, and I won’t snatch things that belong to you.”

It dawned on Catherine that Rebecca was not just a hypocrite and an angelic b*tch. In fact, she had distorted thinking.

“But you humiliated me again and again. I lost my fiancé, and what’s more, Summit has been sold off. Do you think I’ll let you off the hook?”

Rebecca scoffed. She took out a bottle of medicine. “Do you think Shaun will still help you even after watching you get ruined by another man? Do you think Wesley and Ethan will still go after you?”

“You’re nuts, Rebecca. You’ll get karma for this.”

Catherine began to scream harsh words at Rebecca and struggled violently. Nevertheless, the two men behind her seized her so tightly that she could not move at all.

“Karma?” Rebecca said indifferently, “I’m Hudson’s First Young Lady. Who has the audacity to provoke me? Even if it’s Shaun, I’m going to make him pay bit by bit.”

As soon as she finished speaking, she winked at the men behind her. At that

moment, Catherine felt her mouth being forced open. Some liquid was subsequently poured into her mouth.

She choked so badly that her face reddened. She felt like vomiting, but she failed to do so.

Rebecca picked up the sketches one by one from the ground. After looking at them, she giggled. "These designs are great. Thank you. I'm going to accept them."

"You're such a despicable person. What else can you do apart from snatching someone else's things?"

Dissatisfied, Catherine began to criticize her.

"Yeah. I enjoy snatching things. What can you do about it?" Rebecca gave the two men a wink. "Have a good time with her. You guys must satisfy her, alright?"

With that, Rebecca left with Mr. Frank.

After watching the door close, Catherine felt that her body was burning all of a sudden.

Previously, she had let Shaun consume such a drug. However, she could not fully

understand his pain at that time. Now, she completely understood it.

The men walked toward her while rubbing their hands.

The men used to serve as bodyguards to some rich people. They had heard of Catherine's name and even met her before. Since they were just bodyguards though, they could not covet Catherine, the most beautiful lady from a wealthy family in Melbourne. Little did they expect that they would be offered the chance today. How wonderful!

Rebecca was such an evil person. She would probably target Catherine, especially after Summit fell from power.

Without much hesitation, Wesley headed to the private room that Rebecca left from. He turned the doorknob, only to realize that the room had been locked.

Standing close to the door, he heard a woman's screams.

It was Catherine.

Damn it!

He lifted a chair in the corridor and slammed the door open.

The minute he barged in, he saw two men pressing Catherine against the floor on each side. Her shirt was ripped into shreds. With a flushed face, she continued to struggle violently.

“Who are you?”

The two security guards’ expressions changed. Wesley ran toward them and beat them to the ground.

Upon realizing that things were not right, the men grabbed the opportunity to flee.

Wesley did not have the time to seize them. He immediately raced to Catherine and carried her.

With a manly scent emanating from him, Catherine threw herself into his arms uncontrollably.

Wesley's assistant entered the room and caught sight of the scene. With a blush, he immediately closed the door and left.

Wesley was nervous. Although he knew that Catherine had consumed something unpleasant, he did not want to take advantage of her at that point.

He pushed her away forcefully. "Wake up, Cathy. Let me send you to the hospital, okay?"

"No."

Catherine's teeth chattered. "I feel terrible."

Her body emanated a unique, charming scent.

At that instant, many scenes from when they first met flashed across Wesley's mind. He had long since fallen in love with Catherine. However, she had always kept a distance from him, which made him unable to approach her.

He was ready to be with her forever if possible.

This was the chance.

He admitted that his selfish motive had defeated his gentlemanly behavior at that moment.

“Marry me, Cathy. I’ll assume responsibility for my actions.”

As soon as Wesley finished speaking, he carried her to the couch and kissed her lips.

Catherine naturally hugged him tightly. At that point, the phone on the floor suddenly rang.

Shaun’s voice flashed across Catherine’s head. Struck by the thought, she tried to come to her senses and pushed Wesley away. She then gave herself a hard bite on the wrist, drawing blood.

“Cathy...” Wesley was heartbroken.

“No way. We can’t do this.” Catherine shook her head miserably. “Please carry me to the bathroom.”

“Sorry.”

Little did Wesley expect that she would regain her senses. He was distressed, but he ultimately respected her decision and carried her to the bathroom.

After being placed in the bathtub, Catherine immediately turned on the tap.

Drenching herself in cold water, she felt slightly better.

The phone that was left outside rang again. She reckoned that it was Shaun who was calling her.

If she did not pick up the call, he would definitely suspect that she had betrayed him again.

“Mr. Lyons, please pass me my phone,” Catherine said with trembling lips.

“Okay.”

The following day.

After breakfast, Shaun was getting himself ready for work.

All of a sudden, Catherin grabbed him by the arm. "I don't feel like driving today. Can you give me a ride?"

He frowned. The place he was heading today was in the exact opposite direction of her workplace. Besides, he had a meeting waiting at work this morning.

This woman was so troublesome. It took her no time to take advantage of him.

"But you have a car."

"I want to spend more time with you in the car." She winked at him flirtatiously.

"..."

He threw her a glance as if to say she was annoying. "Let's go."

Joy filled her heart.

In actuality, she simply wanted to feel how it was like to not get thrown out of the car at the subway station. After all, she had spent a tremendous amount of effort to take down this man.

Shaun's hand was injured, hence Hadley had been driving him around lately.

The morning traffic was terrible.

It did not bother Hadley too much, though. He appeared calm in comparison to Shaun who was wearing a sullen expression.

He massaged the middle of his brows, feeling slightly regretful about going out of the way to give her a ride. He would have hired a taxi for her if he had known.

"Don't get impatient." Catherine placed her left palm on the back of his hand. "The bad traffic means we can spend more time together."

She blinked playfully at him. He could see his own reflection in her eyes.

All of a sudden, the frustration in his heart vanished.

The frown on his charming face finally relaxed. He snorted and looked away, but the corners of his lips curled upward faintly. "I really don't know what to do with you."

The arrogance was evident in his tone.

Hadley's fingers quivered against the steering wheel. He had no idea that the serious and indifferent Young Master Hill would behave like a real person when in a relationship.

It also seemed that the relationship between these two had improved tremendously.

He felt like an unwanted third party in this scenario.

8:40 a.m. The car pulled into the company.

Catherine was about to open the door when Shaun suddenly questioned, "Didn't you say you went shopping last night? Why aren't you wearing the new clothes you bought?"

"..."

Well, the new clothes were in the mall, of course.

She made up an excuse on the spot. "Nothing really caught my eyes. The ones that I like were too pricey. Freya spent a lot, on the other hand."

“Hmm, are you dropping hints that I should buy you more clothes?” He raised his eyebrows, teasing her.

The woman screamed internally, ‘Brother, you’re overthinking again!’

“I wasn’t...”

“Alright, I’ll bring you shopping after work,” he interrupted.

She had no idea what to say.

The car sped into the distance after she alighted. The helpless woman headed toward the company.

Just when she was approaching the entrance, Ethan appeared in front of her, looking tired and weary. The pressure from the Lowe family and his complicated personal romance had taken a huge toll on him. Coupled with the stubble that had grown around his lips, he also looked dispirited and depressed.

The sight of him took Catherine by surprise. She almost did not recognize the man. “Why are you here again?”

She did not expect to see Ethan again after Shaun had exposed her mercilessly

the other day. She assumed he would look down on her after that.

With his head lowered, Ethan pressed a card into her hand. "There's 500 million dollars in here. Give it to Shaun Hill. Think of it as the legal fees you owe him and stop getting in touch with him after this."

She was genuinely startled.

Ethan continued, "I've asked around and I'm sure 500 million dollars is more than needed. Cathy, I don't want to see you lowering yourself to that level. I disappointed you in the past for failing to protect you but I'll do better starting from today."

He had been struggling lately. Although there might be a chance that Catherine was no longer pure, he realized it was not her fault. After all, he only had himself to blame.

A complicated look flashed across her face as she returned the card. "I'm not going to accept you."

"Cathy..." he replied impatiently, "Do you want to stay by Shaun's side forever? You don't even like him. Besides, think of how he looked at you the other day. He

doesn't even respect you. The man only thinks of you as a toy."

"It's not true that I don't like him."

She frowned. "He was just furious the other day."

"Why are you taking his side?"

The shock was evident in Ethan's voice, but he also sounded sorrowful at the same time. "Are you still upset at me? This is not the way to seek revenge. Be a good girl and stop this right now. Cut off ties with him and let's go back to where we were before. I can start planning for our wedding right away."

"Ethan, what nonsense is that? Have you lost your mind?!" Sonya dashed forward out of the blue and snatched the card from Catherine's hand. Then, she slapped the man coldly across the face hard.

"The two of us have fallen to this state yet you're giving her 500 million dollars? Are you crazy? This money is a chance for you to make a comeback!"

"Mom..." His face was as pale as a sheet of paper. "I don't want to live with regrets anymore. Cathy is the only person I should treasure."

“But she can’t be of help now that she’s powerless and poor,” Sonya said between sobs, “Your dad hasn’t been home lately. He only wants to spend time at that cheap woman’s place nowadays. Not to mention that you’re no longer in the picture to take over the company. How can I be satisfied? If you really marry this woman, that marks the end of your future!”

Ethan clenched his fists as his features grimaced in pain. “I don’t want to be with someone I don’t like just to fight for the Lowe Corporation.”

“Enough of that. You didn’t like Rebecca before but you still wanted to marry her in the end, didn’t you?”

Sonya retaliated without holding back. “If you dare to be with Catherine again, I’ll kill myself today by running into this door!”

“Please don’t force me...”

The mother and son duo that were arguing by the company’s entrance caught passersby’s attention.

Frustrated, Catherine said, “Ethan, listen to your mother. Given your personality, you’ll surely regret it in the future if you get back with me.”

A flustered look washed over his face. “Cathy, don’t listen to my mom—”

“I don’t like you anymore,” she interrupted in a serious tone.

“Think about it. Why would I still be interested after being hurt by you so many times? Shaun is amazing and even saved my life on several occasions. Don’t get fooled by his indifferent appearance. He’s actually way gentler and thoughtful than you although he doesn’t show it explicitly. I really like him now.”

She felt a heavy weight lifted off her chest upon saying that. Little did she expect how much Shaun had impacted her life.

Ethan stared at her blankly.

This woman had been pestering him to marry her since they were young. He never thought of hearing such words from her one day.

He could not accept this!

“No, you’re just lying!”

He stepped forward to grab her wrist but she avoided it with a quick reflex.
“Please stop disturbing me again. I’m living with Shaun at the moment. Your

actions might cause a misunderstanding.”

Then, she left without looking back.

Ethan screamed hysterically and kicked at the wall as her receding silhouette disappeared into the distance.

“Come home with me. Your grandpa has arranged for you to marry the young lady of the Miller family!” Sonya said.

...

9:20 a.m. Shaun finally stepped into the meeting room at Jennings Solicitors.

The morning meeting was going on in an orderly manner.

Darling, just sit back and relax. Let me do it.”

Catherine was crying internally.

She was so jealous.

Shaun looked in the direction she was staring and twitched his lips nonchalantly.
“You’re jealous over that ugly man?”

“...”

She did not know what to say.

Her gaze shifted back to the exceptionally good-looking man sitting next to her.
Alright, time to get cooking. She only had herself to blame for being a shallow woman.

Thanks to her personal service, he had a nice time at dinner. All he needed to do was eat.

It occurred to him that hotpot was quite enjoyable. Perhaps they could come again soon.

After they finished eating, Catherine left the table to use the washroom.

When she was about to leave the cubicle, she suddenly heard two women speaking by the sink.

“Did you notice earlier... The man sitting at table 26 is incredibly handsome.”

“Come on, he’s even more attractive than all the male artists out there. I even secretly took a few photos.”

“But his girlfriend is not that impressive.”

“Agreed. Her love felt so one-sided. She kept cooking for the man but he didn’t seem to acknowledge her as much.”

“Sigh, surely anyone would do anything to please that charming man.”

Catherine almost exploded with rage.

Her?

Not that impressive?

One-sided love?

Would do anything to please?

Seriously? She had heard enough.

She kicked the cubicle door open. The two women were shocked into silence.

Catherine wedged herself in between them and retrieved her lipstick.

“Did you say I don’t look that impressive?”

Carefully, she drew the lipstick over her beautiful lips. She then pressed her lips together. In an instant, she took over the washroom with her unmistakable charm.

Embarrassed, the two women turned around and intended to leave.

She grabbed their wrists at once and turned their faces toward the mirror. “Take a good look at yourself. One has obviously injected too much botox that your face muscles look overly tense. At one glance, you can see that this one here has fillers inserted in her nose. I don’t have anything against plastic surgery but even after going through that you still don’t look as pretty as me. Yet you have the cheek to criticize my appearance.”

“That’s enough. It was just mindless gossip. Everyone has different beauty standards. There’s no need for you to come at us with personal attacks. We can practice freedom of speech.” One of the women was flushed because of the insults.

“So do I. You two are obviously jealous because you don’t have a boyfriend as charming as mine. Our relationship couldn’t be better. So what if I take care of my handsome man more?”

She washed her hands and dried them with tissue. Then, she gave a snort of contempt before leaving the washroom.

Although she had stood up for herself, her good mood from before seemed to have vanished.

Women also cared about their reputation. Little did she expect that was how others regarded her.

It was all Shaun’s fault for always wanting to be served. He definitely was not a gentleman.

After sorting the bills, he waited by the door for a while before she finally reappeared.

However, she did not look too pleased. It was as if someone had offended her.

She even glared at him before leaving the restaurant.

“...”

Chase: [She’s definitely on her period.]

Rodney: [Women are annoying. They have countless trigger points and reasons to get upset.]

Chester: [No worries, just bring her shopping and pay for everything.]

Shaun fell into deep thought.

Catherine was not bothered about shopping upon arriving at the mall. She picked out a few clothes at random to have a quick look before putting them back on the racks.

He turned around to the salesperson. "I'll buy any outfit that she touches."

This took her by surprise. "What's that about? I'm just browsing—"

"We'll buy anything that interests you." He gave her no room for discussion. "My woman can buy anything she wants. I have more than enough money."

The salesperson exclaimed with envy, "Wow, your boyfriend treats you so well! I've never seen any man this generous with their girlfriend."

Startled, Catherine studied the man standing tall in front of her. Suddenly, she could hear her heart beating loudly.

She even felt guilty about getting upset with him not long ago.

Shaun was not the most considerate. To an outsider, it might appear that her love was forced and one-sided.

However, only they themselves knew the truth about the relationship. She did not need anyone else to validate the way he treated her.

“It’s fine. I’ll just pick out a few.”

She shook her head. Finally, she went on to try out several outfits. Every outfit looked good on her beautiful figure and nice skin.

In the end, he paid for everything that she tried on. She only found out after the payment had gone through.

She grabbed his arm, feeling bad because the clothes here were expensive. “I don’t need so many clothes.”

“It’s fine. As long as you like them.”

He replied casually.

“Thank you.” Feeling touched, she stood on her tiptoes to give him a peck on the cheek. A look of embarrassment flashed across her own face.

The man’s eyes darkened upon seeing her rose-tinted cheeks. Indeed, Chester was right. Bringing an unhappy woman out shopping solved everything.

...

The following day.

Catherine put on her new clothes before going to check the renovation progress at Green Mountain.

The builders were occupied with masonry work. She toured around the site and discussed the progress with the head builder. Wesley walked in from outside and shifted his gaze to her new clothes. "Nice outfit. Is it a recent purchase?" he complimented.

"Yup." She smiled joyfully upon thinking that it was a present from Shaun.

The overflowing happiness from her eyes surprised Wesley. An inexplicable sense of discomfort materialized in his heart.

At the same time, she received a call from an unknown number.

Catherine parted her lips to speak but was interrupted by Wesley, "There's all sort of paperwork needed to be done in the hospital and having a helping hand is better than none. As an elder brother, I can't stand aside and not help you out.

Besides, this is not the time to keep a distance from me.”

Overwhelmed by anxiety, she did not insist further.

Upon arriving at the hospital, someone was shouting by the door of the emergency room. “Family members of Miss Wendy? Identify yourself and head over to the reception to sort out the bills as soon as possible.”

“I’m here.” Catherine ran over. “Doctor, how is she doing?”

“Acute cerebral insufficiency. Stent surgery must be performed immediately. Go sort out the payment now.” The doctor pushed an invoice into her hands.

She rushed downstairs to handle the payment. The surgery had already commenced by the time she went back upstairs.

“I know the hospital director, so I called him earlier to bring forward the surgery,” Wesley explained.

“Thanks.” She was touched.

The surgery finally came to an end three hours later. Aunty Wendy was pushed out of the emergency room. Catherine almost could not recognize the frail woman.

Aunty Wendy used to look healthy and energetic when she was still her grandmother's carer, but she looked like a completely different person now. Apart from her head that was full of gray hair, her sunken cheeks also made her look older.

What had happened during these times?

5:00 p.m. Tears flowed down Aunty Wendy's cheeks the moment she opened her eyes and saw Catherine. "First Young Lady, I didn't think I'd see you again."

"You don't have to call me that anymore." She forced a bitter smile.

"No, you'll always be the—"

"Aunty Wendy, it's alright, I already know the truth that I was adopted by the Jones family. I'm sure you know that too after being a carer for my grandmother for the past few decades."

“Who said that?” Aunty Wendy replied, agitated. “You’re unmistakably a part of the Jones family!”

This took Catherine by surprise. “I heard it from Rebecca. Besides, I don’t think the Jones couple would do those things to their own daughter.”

“This all must’ve been tough on you. Those three are a disgrace to the Jones family.” Aunty Wendy coughed a few times out of rage. “Not only did they chase me out of the house, but they even said that to you. Have they forgotten the promises they made to Old Madam and Old Master in the past?”

“Aunty Wendy, you were chased out of the house?” Catherine was taken aback by this information. “But what I heard from them is that you left because you weren’t willing to take care of Grandma after she became paralyzed.”

“Old Madam has helped me significantly and she took care of me all my life. I wouldn’t leave her when she needed me the most.”

Aunty Wendy’s eyes glistened with tears. “Young Lady, you’re in fact not Jeffery Jones’ daughter. Your birth mother is Sheryl Jones, the woman you believe to be your aunt. She was pregnant with you before marriage. Your grandparents were afraid of losing their dignity, not to mention that this might make it harder for your mother to remarry. That’s why they handed you over to Jeffrey, who’s actually your uncle.”

Catherine felt her world crashing down.

Never would she have expected that Sheryl was her mother. It made sense now that her grandparents always brought her to visit the woman's grave on her death anniversary. It was no wonder she resembled her so much.

"After giving birth to you, your mother went on a business trip to Country T and went missing in the typhoon," Aunty Wendy said in between sobs. "It was a horrible typhoon and more than ten people were dead. By the time they found her body, it was too disfigured... that they couldn't even recognize her."

Catherine felt suffocated as if all the air were being sucked out from her lungs. Wesley, who had been listening by the side, patted her on the shoulder gently.

Aunty Wendy continued, "Your mom was a successful woman although she was young. Hudson Corporation, which is among the top 500 most successful businesses in the whole world, was founded by her alone."

"My mom is the founder of Hudson Corporation?" A look of astonishment washed over her face.

Something clicked inside her mind. "It's no wonder Jeffery can become the major stockholder of Hudson Corporation."

"What? Jeffery is the major stockholder?" Aunty Wendy huffed. "Is it possible that your grandmother has..."

“She passed away a few days ago.”

Aunty Wendy widened her eyes in shock. A few minutes later, tears finally flowed out from the corners of her eyes.

She said despitefully, “Your grandmother wouldn’t have died out of the blue. There’s surely more behind her death! Cathy, there’s something you need to know. After your mother passed away, your grandparents have been secretly managing Hudson Corporation. In order to ensure Jeffery would look after you, she set up a will. Both you and Jeffery will each be given 30% of the corporation’s stocks once you’ve come of age and after she dies.”

Catherine fell into a chair upon receiving the bombshell news.

After Summit went down, it was likely that Jeffery plotted to murder her grandmother in order to inherit the stocks to Hudson Corporation?

“No, that’s impossible. She’s his mother, after all.”

Wesley heaved a sigh. “Jeffery is accustomed to being in a position of power his

whole life. You might not know this but people can do anything in order to maintain a life full of wealth and influence. Since the beginning of time, there have been records of blood brothers attacking each other, fighting to become the successor to an affluent family. Besides, your grandma was paralyzed before this. He probably regarded her as a burden.”

Aunty Wendy nodded along. “Also, I never once believed your grandma becoming paralyzed was an accident. Rebecca came to Plum Garden that day and your grandma fell from the second floor not long after she went up. She claimed that Old Madam lost her footing but the latter has always been fit and healthy, so I don’t believe that.”

Catherine raised her gaze from the ground as a shudder passed through her.

How could a person be that savage to harm her own grandmother?

“I bet she must’ve found out about your relationship with Hudson and that you’re not Jeffery’s birth daughter,” Aunty Wendy guessed.

“Aunty Wendy, you should’ve told me about this earlier.” Catherine felt extremely guilty.

“I really wanted to but the Jones family put out a search warrant for me. I’m

guessing Jeffery wasn't satisfied not knowing where the other 30% of stocks have gone, or maybe he wants to kill me so I can take this secret to the grave. That's why I've been living in seclusion, not daring to show my face in public."

Aunty Wendy gripped Catherine's hands. "Look for one of the stockholders in Hudson named Chris Jefferson. Your mom saved his life before. He has the necessary documents."

Finally, Catherine asked tentatively, "Aunty Wendy, do you know who my real father is?"

The older woman shook her head, sighing. "I'm not sure, but I think he's from a powerful family in Canberra."

A glimmer of hope shone in Catherine's eyes. It appeared that she might have the chance to meet her birth father.

However, why did he abandon her and her mother?

Perhaps he had long established another family.

Both the women in the hospital ward fell into silence. Out of the blue, Wesley

suggested, “For the sake of Aunty Wendy’s safety, it’s best if we transfer her to another hospital so the Jones won’t find her. I know the head director of a private hospital who can help.”

“You’re right. Aunty Wendy can’t stay here,” Catherine agreed.

After that, they spent the next hour submitting the paperwork required for the transfer.

However, when she was sorting out the process at the reception, she failed to notice Angela who was coincidentally there for her mother’s routine check-up. She took a photo of Catherine getting into the escalator with Wesley.

Angela sent the photo to Shaun without hesitation. [Brother Shaun, isn’t this your girlfriend? Have you two broken up? I saw her being with another man.]

She was delighted after sending that message.

She had long been annoyed by this woman. Now, she finally had a chance.

...

Shaun, who was about to leave work, suddenly felt his phone vibrate.

His face fell the second he clicked into the message.

The photo clearly revealed Catherine and Wesley together at the hospital.

This woman kept professing her love for him but when would she finally settle down?

He called her right away. "Where are you?"

"Um... In the hospital," she confessed after a brief hesitation.

His frown relaxed a little bit. At least she was not lying about this. "Who's with you?"

She threw a quick glance at Wesley who was chatting with the doctor in charge before walking to the side. "With the doctor. The carer who used to look after my grandma has just come out of surgery. She has no family members or next of kin. I'll probably be home a bit later today."

"..."

She was lying. He knew she was with Wesley.

A dangerous intent flashed across his eyes.

Shaun reminded himself not to be too upset.

Perhaps he had been spoiling Catherine, hence that was why she was taking advantage of him.

Did she think she was the only woman he could be with?

The call ended abruptly.

Catherine stared at the phone blankly for a few seconds until Wesley walked over. "Was it Mr. Hill? Is he coming to see Aunty Wendy? Then I should probably go to prevent unnecessary misunderstandings."

"No, he didn't say he's coming."

All of a sudden, a strange feeling materialized in her heart. That was it. Shaun had

not said anything about coming to see Aunty Wendy.

Wesley appeared startled but soon revealed a smile. “Well, it’s normal. They’re not family, after all. I spoke with the doctor earlier so you don’t have to worry too much.”

“Thanks.”

She was genuinely grateful for Wesley. She would not have achieved so much today without his help.

In actuality, she had thought of asking Shaun for help before but upon remembering his indifferent attitude, she was certain the thought did not even occur to him at all.

“It’s alright. Well, I should leave then. I have a dinner appointment for work this evening.”

Wesley understood the importance of not crossing the line. Otherwise, she might leave her guards up with him again.

“Okay.” She walked him to the door.

Shaun did not call her the entire night.

She finally drove back to the villa after the nurse showed up.

Apart from Fudge and the three kittens playing around, there was just Aunty Linda who was watching TV in the living room.

“Where’s Mr. Hill?”

The question took Aunty Linda by surprise. “Didn’t he tell you? Mr. Hill called me earlier this evening saying he’s going on a business trip to Canberra. He won’t be coming back for a few days.”

Catherine was stunned into silence. She really had no clue about that.

Suddenly, frustration rocked through her. As her boyfriend, he did not enquire about Aunty Wendy’s condition nor did he inform her about going away for business. What was going on with him?

After heading upstairs, she made a phone call to him.

The background noise was loud over the phone. She could tell right away that he was somewhere like a pub or a bar.

“Where are you? Aren’t you going away on a business trip?”

“Yup.” His tone reeked of indifference.

She was not pleased with that answer. “Why didn’t you tell me?”

“Do I have to report my whereabouts to you?”

His cold, distant voice filled her with disappointment.

She regarded him as her boyfriend simply because he went to eat hotpot with her, bought her clothes, and helped her out with the sketches.

However, he might have thought otherwise.

“Okay, I’ll not ask again in the future.”

She hung up, plopped herself onto the bed, and started sobbing.

She was overwhelmed by the information learned from Aunty Wendy today, about her grandma’s death and that her aunt was actually her mother.

She wanted to rant and complain and cry it all out to Shaun but he did not even give her the chance.

...

Inside the noisy private room, Shaun, who was already in a frustrated mood, became more agitated by the loud women.

He threw his phone across the room and yelled, "Get out of here right now!"

The group of women immediately headed for the door. A heavy silence fell upon the room that was now occupied by only three men.

"Shaun, what the hell? You demanded for them to be here but now you're asking them to leave." Rodney shrugged.

"Shut up. Don't talk to me." Shaun lit up a cigarette.

"Tsk, seriously? It was you who called us here." Rodney was frustrated. "You've

gotten weirder ever since you got together with that Catherine woman. If you're that unhappy, then just split—"

"Say that again." Shaun threw his friend a dangerous glare.

Rodney kept quiet right away.

Chester's eyes darkened as he tapped the end of the cigarette. "Is it serious this time?"

"No way." Rodney frowned instantly. "I thought you only used to care for Sarah Langley..."

Shaun's fingers that were holding the cigarette tensed up. Chester heaved a sigh. "Rodney, Sarah is no longer with us. Shaun can't possibly live in the past forever."

Rodney looked at the ground and continued drinking.

Shaun took another drag from the cigarette with his head lowered.

...

During the following two days.

Catherine spent a lot of effort getting her hands on Chris' home address. However, the man resided in Brisbane most of the time.

She had no choice but to take an early flight there.

Upon arriving at the villa, the guard opened the door and enquired, "Have you got an appointment?"

"No, but please tell Mr. Jefferson that I'm the daughter of his old friend, Sheryl Jones."

The guard sized her up and down suspiciously before making the phone call. Upon receiving a reply, the guard invited her in politely, "Mr. Jefferson is waiting for you inside."

She walked in immediately.

She expected Chris Jefferson to be an old man in his early 70s, so she was surprised to see the middle-aged man sitting on the couch. This man looked

younger than 40 years old. Although there were some wrinkles on the corners of his eyes, he looked cultured and refined. He must have been quite handsome when he was younger.

“Are you... Uncle Chris?”

A hint of affection flashed across his eyes as he studied the woman. “20 years flew by in the twinkling of an eye. The little baby girl from back then has grown up so much. You really look like your mother.”

She was curious. “I heard my mom saved your life before?”

“That’s right. Don’t be fooled by what you see now. I was once a broke young lad with huge debts. Fortunately, I met your mother and started working for her. That’s how I got to where I am today.”

The corners of his lips curled up into a faint smile as he reminisced about the past.

Catherine nodded weakly.

“These are the documents your grandpa handed to me for safekeeping.” Chris sighed as he retrieved the file. “Fortunately, your grandpa had a backup plan

against Jeffery although I'm sure he didn't wish for this day to happen. Ha, Jeffery had nothing to do with Hudson's success today. He was only allocated 30% of the stocks for raising you yet he's not grateful."

"That's right. He could have gotten his hands on it after Grandma died but he didn't want to wait. Instead, he murdered her mercilessly." She clasped her fingers around the file. "With these documents, he can forget about becoming the president of Hudson next month."

"Don't worry, I'll help you acquire that position." Chris smiled.

"Thanks, Uncle Chris." She felt touched. "You've been working for my mom for a long time. Have you seen my dad before?" she asked hesitantly.

The man's face fell before he finally replied after a long time, "I have. But don't get too upset. He doesn't know about your presence."

Suddenly, she felt relieved. "That's alright. So long as I'm not someone who's been abandoned by their parents."

"In fact, his contribution was what made Hudson successful today. But... he already has a family." Chris looked at her pitifully.

She understood. “It’s only to be expected. After all, it’s been 20 years. No one would wait forever.”

Chris grimaced. “Jeffery has been trying to curry favor with the stockholders and executive-level employees of the company. You have to act cautiously.”

“Yup. I’ll definitely take back what belongs to me.”

That afternoon, she rejected Chris’ invitation to stay longer and took the return flight to Melbourne.

She turned on her phone after alighting the plane but there was still no news from Shaun.

A bitter feeling materialized in her heart. She wondered what had gone wrong between them.

On second thought, she sent him a text. [Where are you?]

She still did not hear back from him after a long time, hence she invited Freya to hang out.

“Congratulations, the future boss of Hudson! Ah, you’re going to be worth hundreds of billions of dollars soon. I should stick by you and never let go.” Freya laughed mischievously. “How do you think Cindy will feel once she finds out?”

“No point thinking about people who sway with the wind.” Catherine shook her head.

“But I heard that... she has become someone’s mistress,” Freya whispered, “He’s from a rather powerful background in Canberra. His influence has been growing lately.”

Catherine frowned. “We’re not really going to cross paths much since she’s in the entertainment industry.”

Her current target was the Jones family.

At the same time, Chase sent her a text on WhatsApp. [Rin, have you

8:00 p.m. Catherine and Freya had just arrived at the karaoke bar when they suddenly noticed a couple walking toward them from the other direction. The immaculately dressed man looked handsome and refined. The woman next to him was wearing an almond-color Chanel coat. She looked adorable with her long, wavy curls.

Right that instant, Freya felt utterly humiliated.

The man who had just told her not long ago that he was too occupied at work was standing in front of her with another woman.

Catherine frowned. She pulled her friend to the couple and said with a plastered smile, "President Jackson, what a coincidence! I thought you told Freya you're working overtime at the office? You said you were too occupied to pick her up later."

Her straightforward remark made the man blush. "I did have to work overtime but Linda called to say Young Master Cook was harassing her, hence why I'm here."

Linda quickly added, "That's right. Freya, I'm sure you've heard of Young Master Cook. He's such a pest."

Freya twitched her lips.

Catherine said, smiling. "Young girl, I'm so envious of you for having an elder brother. Not only does he attend banquets with you as your male companion but he also rushes over to save you when you're in trouble. But you might not be able

to get a boyfriend if this goes on. Other men might misunderstand that you two are a couple.”

Unexpectedly, a flustered look washed over Linda’s face. “Catherine, what are you trying to say? Why don’t you believe that we’re innocent? Have you thought of how your words might affect Freya?”

Patrick frowned at the sound of that.

Linda turned to look at him guiltily. “Patrick, I’m sorry. You should go to Freya. I’ll quickly run out of the place later if I sense any danger.”

“Alright, stop it.”

Annoyed, he threw a glance at Catherine. “Miss Jones, there are some things that you don’t understand, so keep your thoughts to yourself.”

She was speechless. “I was just giving her a friendly reminder...”

“We know what we’re doing without needing your advice,” he interrupted with a straight face.

“Really? I don’t think you know what you’re doing.”

Freya felt fury surge through her when her friend was insulted. “You rush over immediately every single time she needs you. But what about me? I went to the hospital alone when I fell sick and I took the taxi home after returning from a late-night flight. Lately, you don’t even go shopping or dine out with me anymore.”

“Please don’t listen to your friend. Patrick only has eyes for you,” Linda said quickly.

“Shut your mouth.”

Freya shouted at the woman, “If you love pestering someone else’s boyfriend so much, then why don’t you two just get together?”

“Freya, I wasn’t...” Tears rolled down Linda’s cheeks.

Patrick could not take it much longer and immediately stepped in front of Linda. “Freya Lynch, what’s wrong with you? She hasn’t done anything to offend you. Can’t you not get easily influenced by your friend? Learn to think independently,” he shouted.

“You’re right, I’m stupid, and that’s why I fell for you.”

Then, she grabbed Catherine by the wrist and stomped away to the second floor.

Behind her, Linda urged the man. "Patrick, quickly go after her. She's upset."

"Why are you siding with her? Didn't you hear what she said just now?"

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Angry tears began rolling down Freya's cheeks as she climbed up the stairs. Fortunately, Catherine was there to hold her up.

"Sorry, I shouldn't have said that."

"I've always wanted to say it anyway." Freya wiped the tears with the back of her hands. "You noticed something was wrong after seeing their interaction twice. But the number of times I've seen Linda are almost similar to the times I went out on dates with Patrick."

This came as a shock to Catherine. She had been studying abroad for the past few years, hence she was not too clear about her friend's love life.

A bitter smile spread across Freya's face. "Seven out of ten times we went out on dates, he would bring Linda along, even to the cinema. The three other times

when we got to be alone, he would leave soon after because he got a call from that woman.”

“Why didn’t you tell me?” Catherine felt bad but also furious at the same time. “I shouldn’t have been so polite, then. I would’ve yelled at them right away.”

“I didn’t want to see you and Patrick fight,” she said sadly, “I really like him and tried so long to get him to be with me. I also told my family that I’ll bring him home this Christmas. He’s the person I want to marry.”

Catherine said angrily, “If he always takes Linda’s side, it’s possible that you’ll get divorced even if you get married.”

This took Freya by surprise. She appeared distracted before finally nodding slowly.

“Don’t think about it for now. Drown your feelings with alcohol. I’ll drive you home later.” Catherine linked arms with her and they walked toward the private room together.

The door was pushed open, revealing the ten or more so people sitting inside the lively room.

Out of the big crowd, she only knew Chase, Miles, and the man sitting at the far corner... Shaun.

The heater was turned on. He was wearing a white shirt and holding a wine glass in his left hand. It was hard not to notice the mature and elegant man.

He was also the center of attention, the brightest presence even in a room full of people.

However, he did not look at her from the moment she showed up. There was indifference in his eyes.

This embarrassed Catherine. All of a sudden, she regretted her decision to come here.

“Hey, the beautiful Rin and Freya!” Chase greeted them enthusiastically. “Go on, sit next to Shaun.”

After a brief hesitation, he whispered into Catherine’s ear, “Shaun hasn’t been himself lately. Go on and talk to him.”

“...”

Ha, she was not in a good mood either, so why should she be the one to make a move?

She really could not bring herself to walk over so shamelessly when the man was pretending not to know her at all.

Therefore, she remained rooted to the ground. Coincidentally, Miles gestured to her and shouted, "Catherine, come and sit over here."

Many people turned to her upon hearing that. Despite that, Shaun was still talking to the person sitting next to him. His face was turned to the side as if this had nothing to do with him.

Annoyed, she dragged Freya along toward Miles. "Young Master Clark..."

"Catherine, come on, I owe you one. I've been meaning to apologize to you," Miles said sincerely. "I misunderstood the last time and almost got you thrown into prison. Although I lost the court case, at the very least, I found out who was really trying to set me up."

"Young Master Clark, like I said before, I was responsible for what happened last time too." She knew the man could get quite jealous but was not a horrible person on the inside.

“Okay, let bygones be bygones then.”

The two of them gave a toast to each other before starting to discuss the hotel.

At the far corner, Shaun, who noticed them chatting and laughing happily, felt a rage rising inside him. The temperature of the air around him seemed to have dropped drastically.

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The attorney who was speaking with Shaun felt a shudder pass through him out of the blue and quickly shut up. He took his wine glass and went to join the dice game on the side.

Chase sat down next to his friend, speechless. “Brother, I’ve already invited Catherine here out of kindness. When will you stop the cold treatment?”

“Are you sure you didn’t invite her here for Miles Clark?” Shaun mocked coldly.

“Come on.” Chase was not sure what to say. “Well, you’re the one who didn’t show interest when she showed up.”

An indifferent smile flashed across Shaun's face. "Ha, forget it. A loose woman like her? No, thanks."

At the same time, a few people came in through the door. It was Stephen Campbell alongside Janet and Rebecca.

"..."

Chase was at a loss for words.

What a sh*tty day this was that put archenemies in the same room. He had the premonition that something bad would happen.

Stephen scanned around the room before walking toward Chase.

"Young Master Harrison, I was just hanging out with my friends in the other room. Young Master Cook told me that you're here too, so I came over to say hi. This must be the reputable attorney, Mr. Hill. I've heard a lot about you and it's great to finally see you in person."

Shaun did not budge, still keeping the indifferent expression on his face. However,

Chase could not do the same. He did not have to care about Janet but Stephen was the newest successor to the Campbell family, hence he had to show some respect. Besides, the Campbell family was gaining much influence these days.

“Congratulations, President Campbell, for taking over the family business.” Chase threw a quick glance at Rebecca while keeping the smile on his face. “But why are you with the woman from the horrible Jones family? Tsk, are there no more fishes in the sea?”

Stephen laughed aloud before grabbing Rebecca closer into his embrace and shouted, “Listen up, everyone, let me introduce my girlfriend, also known as the daughter of Jeffery Jones—the major stockholder of Hudson Corporation.”

Everyone fell into a heated discussion. Both Chase and Shaun frowned at the sound of that.

“No way, since when did Jeffery Jones become the major stockholder of Hudson Corporation?”

“Is he lying?”

“...”

“Stephen, let’s keep it low-key,” Rebecca said shyly.

“Why should we? It’s not exaggerating to say you’re the richest young lady in the whole of Melbourne, given your new circumstance.” He kissed her on the cheek. “Say, how did I find such a treasure like you?”

“Stop it.” Rebecca lowered her gaze to the ground, looking embarrassed.

Janet threw a sideways glance at Catherine before saying loudly, “My brother isn’t lying. We were just hanging out in the private room with executives and stockholders of Hudson Corporation. Everyone was talking about this new project worth hundreds of billions of dollars.”

The room became chaotic.

“Wow, that’s a grand project!”

“One can easily get over a billion dollars profit out of it by participating.”

“Hey, Miss Jones, we’ve not met the executives of Hudson Corporation before. Is it cool if we hop over and say hi?”

Rebecca twitched her red lips into a smile. “Of course. If you don’t mind, you all are welcome to hang out with us in my private room.”

“Let’s go. Young Master Harrison, we’ll be back soon.”

In a matter of minutes, only Catherine, Freya, Shaun, Miles, and Chase were left in

“Young Master Harrison, do you want to come over as well? Look, there’s no one left in your room.” Stephen laughed smugly as he approached the door.

“F*ck you, Stephen Campbell. You’re doing this on purpose, right?” Chase slapped the table angrily and sprung to his feet.

“Well, they’re all smart people who follow where the money is.” Stephen raised his brows. “Perhaps soon you’ll also have to step down from being the most successful family in Melbourne.”

“You must still be dreaming if you think you can get to the top of the food chain by sleeping with a shameless woman.” Chase pointed at Rebecca and laughed sarcastically. “A second-hand woman like her? She was still someone else’s fiancée just last month. Watch your back.”

Indifference filled Rebecca’s face within seconds. “Young Master Clark, watch your back. Otherwise, once my dad becomes the president next month, I might tear down the Harrison family first and foremost.”

Catherine, who was listening on the side, chuckled. "Don't be so full of yourself. It'll be a great embarrassment if that doesn't happen."

"That's right." Freya laughed joyfully. "The Jones family has a terrible reputation. It's best not to stain Hudson's good name too."

"Agreed," Chase chipped in as well, laughing.

"Laugh all you want and I'll see all of you crying next month." With a straight face, Rebecca grabbed Stephen by the wrist and left the private room.

Janet was left behind. She positioned herself next to Shaun with a coquettish smile. "Mr. Hill, why aren't you coming with us?"

The man glared at her coldly.

She did not seem to mind. Ever since encountering Shaun for the first time, she had not seen another man more elegant than him. It was a shame that his position was not a good match for her. However, after learning that he was Australia's best attorney, she really thought they were a perfect match.

“Mr. Hill, perhaps you don’t know much about the Campbell family.”

Janet continued, smiling. “The Campbell family has over 50 billion dollars in assets and we’re currently investing in F&B, travel, finance, technology, and other industries. Soon, we’ll be cooperating with Hudson Corporation, which is one of the top 500 most successful companies globally. Our future is promising. Perhaps one day we can even surpass Australia’s richest family, the Hills.”

“Pfft.” A chuckle escaped Chase’s lips. He really wanted to yell at the uncultured woman who was sitting right next to the richest man in Australia.

The corners of Shaun’s lips twitched as he really wanted to push the woman away. The strong fragrance coming off her was attacking his nostrils. However, upon noticing Catherine staring at them from the side, he suppressed the desire and pursed his lips in silence.

Thinking she had a chance, Janet boldly laid her head down on his shoulder. “If you’re willing to be my man, you’ll have more money than what you’ll spend the rest of your life earning working as an attorney.”

His eyes narrowed. She misunderstood this as a sign and whispered into his ear, “Catherine is not only poor but also stupid. I’m so much better than her.”

Her hand slowly moved across the man's chest.

Catherine could not watch any longer. An intense feeling of rage surged inside her. She picked up a wine glass and rushed toward Janet before splashing it on her face. Several ice cubes even landed on the latter's head.

"Ah, Catherine Jones! You're out of your mind!" Janet screamed hysterically and sprung to her feet. Immediately, she grabbed several napkins to dry her face and body.

"I think you're the one who lost your mind. It's so obvious that you're in heat, hence I'm helping to cool you down."

She positioned herself in front of Shaun before saying coldly, "I'm warning you that this is my man. I'll chop off your hand if I ever see you touch him again."

"Your man?" Janet scoffed as if she had been told a joke. "You were sitting so far away from him earlier. Are you sure about this? One-sided love ends up in humiliation most of the time."

"..."

Catherine lacked confidence at the thought of Shaun's indifference.

However, Janet's teasing left her with no choice.

At the same time, the man's cold voice rang behind her. "Get out."

Janet smiled smugly. "Hear that? He wants you to get out."

All color drained off Catherine's face within seconds.

"I meant you."

Shaun rose to his feet slowly, extended his long leg, and kicked Rebecca off the couch.

Everyone was shocked. The woman screamed, "Shaun Hill, who do you think you are?! How dare you kick me! I'll not let this go."

“Oh, really? I shall wait and see, then.” With a disgusted expression on his face, he grabbed a napkin from the table and carefully wiped his shoulder where she rested her head on just now.

The fury inside Catherine vanished at the sight of that.

At least he did the right thing. Otherwise, she might just give him the cold shoulder forever.

“Shaun, you’ll regret this. Wait and see. One day, you’ll come begging me to sleep with you.” Janet clenched her teeth and stomped off after being humiliated.

“...”

Chase scolded the woman, “Stupid thing! Does she think she deserves to sleep with our Shaun? Trash! A pile of dog sh*t!”

Freya and Miles failed to suppress their laughter.

Only Catherine and Shaun kept a straight face.

“You have the cheek to say that. Look at the trashy crowd you invited over today.” The corners of Shaun’s lips twitched into a sarcastic smile.

A look of embarrassment washed over Chase’s face. “I don’t care about the Campbell family even if they collaborate with Hudson Corporation. Come on, drink up and continue the fun. Only the real ones stayed behind.”

He took the lead and picked out a song. Freya tagged along and picked one for herself.

The long couch suddenly felt empty. Coincidentally, Catherine was sitting between Miles and Shaun.

Her cheeks flushed with embarrassment. Well, she had just arrogantly claimed Shaun was her man just now. Oh no...

“Come closer.” Shaun patted the space next to him out of the blue.

She had no choice but to brace herself to scoot over. He draped one arm over her and grabbed her chin with another. “You declared earlier that... I’m your man?” he said, raising his brows.

“ ... ”

She could feel her cheeks burning. Looking straight into the depths of his darkened eyes, she could not figure out what was on the man's mind.

However, he simply stared at her without saying anything else. Enraged, she said, "That's right, you're my man. Correct me anytime if you think this isn't right. I promise not to pester you again."

A complicated emotion flashed across his eyes. He did not know whether to feel angry or delighted.

How had he not realized the woman's domineering side before this? Anyway, it sounded like her feelings for him were not solid. Could it still be true love if she could just switch off and stop pestering him whenever she wanted to?

"Very well, I'm glad you still remember your position. But why do you always forget what I said?"

The indifference was evident in his voice. "Having fun chatting with other men?"

Startled, she thought he was just talking about Miles. "Young Master Clark was just thanking me for last time. I was going to sit next to you but you... You haven't been home for the past few days and kept ignoring me... You even pretended not to know me earlier..."

Her voice lowered toward the end. It was evident she was embarrassed and felt

like she had been wronged.

Something materialized in his heart. At the sight of her puppy eyes that seemed about to overflow with tears at any second, he could not bring himself to vent out the rage that he had been suppressing deep inside him for the past days.

“You have the cheek to say that. I hate it when women lie to me,” he said with a snort, “I told you not to stay in touch with Wesley but you didn’t listen to me. Do you think I can tolerate and forgive you every single time?”

It finally became clear to her. “You mean the encounter at the hospital a few days ago... How did you know?”

He kept on a straight face though his eyes evidently revealed displeasure.

“I was at Green Mountain at that time when I received the phone call about Aunty Wendy. Wesley was coincidentally at the site to check the work progress. He heard me on the phone and told me that he knew someone from the hospital. That’s it,” she explained.

Shaun did not feel relieved upon hearing that but became more disappointed. “You didn’t come to me immediately when you needed help. Instead, you turned

to the man who's interested in you. Catherine Jones, have I been too nice to you lately?"

"No, I talked it out with Wesley and he understands too—"

"Don't you dare tell me that he only sees you as a friend now." He smiled sarcastically. "So you'll be alright with me being friends with the women who tried wooing me before?"

"..."

This took her by surprise. After placing herself in his shoes, she finally realized the mistake she had made.

"I'm sorry." A long time later, she lowered her head. "I'll call you immediately if I need help in the future and I'll not accept help from him again. I really only care about you."

He let go of her and lit a cigarette. As he inhaled and exhaled, the smoke puffed up in silence.

She studied his profile closely. It rendered her helpless when he remained

unperturbed like this.

Coincidentally, she noticed the love song Freya was singing was coming to an end.

An idea popped into her mind. She rushed forward to pick out a song and dragged it to the top of the upcoming songs list.

In a matter of seconds, a familiar classic melody filled the room.

Everyone knew which song this was and instantly turned to look at Catherine in surprise.

Her cheeks blushed as it was her first time trying something like this in public. However, at the sight of Shaun's handsome silhouette, she took a deep inhale before muttering softly. "I'd like to dedicate the song 'The Moon Represents My Heart' to the person I love."

She glanced at Shaun quickly after saying that.

The man raised his gaze to look at her. The bright downlight hanging from the ceiling flashed across her face. He caught a glimpse of those red cheeks and eyes that sparkled like twinkling stars in the night sky.

He felt something materialize in his heart.

Chase whistled and started clapping. "Oh, bravo Rin! Shaun, did you hear that? She's confessing her love for you."

Shaun twitched his lips without commenting. He crossed his legs and stared right at her.

She lifted the microphone to her lips gradually.

"You ask how deeply I love you,

"And just how great my love is,

"My affection is real,

"And my love is true,

"The moon represents my heart..."

He had not heard her sing before. Her sweet and soft voice was so soothing to the ears.

Listening to music was not a habit of his, not to mention classic oldies like this one.

However, he found this song especially lovely at this moment.

The lyrics were just perfect.

It was such a shame that it ended quickly.

Everyone else started applauding. Both Chase and Freya started clamoring. "Kiss, kiss, kiss..."

Mortified, Catherine glared at her best friend for joining in.

"Come here."

Shaun waved her over.

She walked toward him shyly. The man placed her on his lap, held her tiny face, and locked his lips with hers.

The woman, embarrassed to be doing this in public, wished that she could vanish

into thin

Catherine felt like crying out of embarrassment.

She quickly glanced around after the kiss finally ended, only to realize the others had already gone off to one side to play a game of dice.

Chase laughed cheekily. "Come on and join us now that you're done kissing. We've already completed a few games since."

She felt her cheeks flushing once more. "No," Shaun replied lazily and buried his face into her long hair. "We're heading home."

"Not yet. Freya's been drinking. I need to give her a ride home."

"Get a taxi."

She hesitated briefly before refusing. "No, she just had a fight with her boyfriend and I promised to send her home. I can't ignore her because I've got you."

A look of displeasure flashed across his face again. “What do you mean? Am I less important than your friend?”

“...”

‘Of course, friends are important too.’

Despite that, she kept the thought to herself and replied in a cutesy voice, “Hey, stop overthinking things. We don’t come out and have fun that often. There’s so much more I want to tell you.”

Without holding back, she told him everything she learned from Aunty Wendy in the past few days.

The corners of his lips twitched into a cold smile as he understood the big picture now. “It appears my getting injured at the construction site last time wasn’t an accident either but a set-up from the Jones family. Well, well, well, how dare they trick me?”

The last person who caused him harm was no longer in this world. The Jones father-and-daughter duo was too ambitious.

He pulled out his phone to search for Hadley's number.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Taking care of the Jones father-and-daughter duo."

The arrogance was evident in his voice. She quickly disconnected the call. "Don't act on impulse. The Jones family is too influential at the moment and you can't afford to offend them. Besides, they're planning to combine forces with the Campbell family through marriage. They're even disregarding Melbourne's most powerful Harrison family."

"..."

Shaun kept quiet.

He could not afford to offend them? The man felt like laughing.

"Sigh, don't worry, I'll avenge you."

Catherine comforted him sincerely. "I plan to join Hudson Corporation to fight for the vacant president position. I'll make sure the Jones family is destroyed in the end and personally throw my grandma's murderer into prison."

The man sized her up and down without putting any effort to mask his suspicions.

She coughed awkwardly. “Believe me that I’ll put in 100%. Hudson Corporation was founded by my mother and I must take it back. When that happens... I can support you financially too if you want to retire from the legal force.”

“Um, alright. I’ll wait for that day.”

An enigmatic smile flashed across his face. How interesting!

Sure, if that was what she wanted, then he would not interfere. He could not wait to see how much she had grown in the past few months.

After all, she had to face his devil family members one day now that they were married.

...

They hung out together until 11:00 p.m.

Freya could not stop checking her phone every five minutes. It was disappointing that Patrick had not called her since.

She had a few more drinks than usual because of her terrible mood.

Catherine had a few drinks too. Her cheeks were red as ripe tomatoes.

Shaun gave those two women a ride home. On the way, Freya suddenly cried out loud and started yelling about her scumbag boyfriend. Catherine joined in halfway through.

He was getting a headache from the women's shouting. Therefore, he stepped on the accelerator to speed up the journey to Freya's home.

"Thank you, ah, thanks, Uncle." Freya opened the door and clumsily got out of the car with her jelly-like legs. She did not forget to bow to the man. "Please take good care of my darling Cathy in the future."

At that moment, Catherine was so shocked that she sobered up. She quickly said, "That's... Can you even walk? I'll send you up."

“No, I’m not drunk. I’ll never get drunk.” Freya waved her hand unsteadily and staggered into the neighborhood.

“Uncle?” Shaun raised his eyebrows in confusion.

Catherine jumped in fright. “It’s because you look a little like her uncle, so she calls you ‘Uncle’ in private.”

“Tell her not to call me that. I’m not related to her.”

Shaun started the car, and Catherine sighed in relief. Thankfully, he did not suspect anything.

On the way back, the alcohol and sleepiness got to Catherine. She blearily fell asleep.

After an unknown amount of time, someone picked her up gently.

She opened her eyes in a daze and clearly saw a handsome face. Thinking she was dreaming, she pouted her plump lips and draped her hands around his neck. “Shaunny, don’t be angry, okay? I really miss you these days. I’m so tired. So

many things happened recently and I really want someone to talk to. I only have you now. You'll always stay by my side, right?"

Then, she suddenly cried as she hugged him. Her tears slipped down her cheek and flowed down his neck.

Shaun was stunned. She was probably confused after waking up and thought he had not come back yet.

His heart overflowed with a trace of pain.

She must have been very stressed these days. After all, she was still a woman. So many things happened, yet he was not by her side.

"Yeah, I'll always stay by your side," he murmured softly in her ear.

The man's gentle voice was like a tranquilizer, gradually calming Catherine down. She closed her eyes and fell asleep on his shoulder.

Shaun carried her upstairs and placed her on the bed gently. Looking at her soft cheeks, he sighed. He was completely whipped this time.

These days when she was not around, he had not slept well at all. Just as he was about to take a shower, someone knocked softly on the door outside.

He opened the door and saw Hadley standing outside. He said in a low voice, "Something's up."

Shaun walked out the door, and Hadley handed him a photo of a disheveled man with a star on his face. "I received news that Hugh Jewell has arrived in Melbourne to find you. I believe he's here to avenge his sister again."

"How did he know I'm in Melbourne?" A cold light flashed in Shaun's eyes.

"You came to Melbourne and handled several large cases, especially the Summit case which blew up. Although I've tried hiding your name, the internet now is too developed..."

Hadley frowned and contemplated before saying, "This person has been pestering you since five years ago. Should I..."

"No need." Shaun frowned and refused.

Hadley was anxious. "I know you may think in your heart that you owe him because of the lawsuit back then, but he's... He's too crazy and extreme. Ms. Jones will be in danger."

“Get someone over to protect her.”

Shaun ordered.

Shaun pinched her cheeks. “Be good, I’m still waiting for you to raise me after getting Hudson.”

The magnetic voice made Catherine completely powerless to say anything.

On the other side, Elle gave them a strange look.

Catherine noticed it. After Shaun went to work, she asked Elle with a smile, “Do you know Shaunny?”

Hearing the name ‘Shaunny’, Elle smiled and replied respectfully, “Yes.”

Catherine looked around and asked, “Then you must know if he has had an ex-girlfriend before. How many has he had?”

“Ms. Jones, you can ask Mr. Hill about this.” Elle brushed off the topic with a few words.

Catherine was very discouraged. This bodyguard was too tight-lipped.

Later that day, Catherine resigned from her position in Talton and made her preparations for Hudson.

....

In the Jones' residence.

Jeffery was in a good mood after receiving a phone call from a shareholder.

“Director Irvine finally agreed to support me. The chairman position will be mine tomorrow.”

“Honey, congratulations.” Sally smiled quite proudly. News of Jeffery's status as a major shareholder of Hudson had been spread these days, so those rich wives who used to look down on her were rushing to fawn over her again. “When you take up the position of chairman and Rebecca and Stephen get married, our Jones family will stand at the top of Melbourne.”

“That’s right. We used to look up to the Harrison and Clark families, but soon, we’ll surpass them and become the most powerful family in Melbourne.”

Jeffery became more triumphant the more he thought about it and could not help but burst out in laughter.

Rebecca also laughed. “Dad, have you found Aunty Wendy already? She’s a ticking time bomb if we keep her.”

“Yes, that old woman knows too many things,” Sally hurriedly said.

“So what if she knows things? I’m the one in power now. Catherine is just a measly little girl. What can she do to me?”

Jeffery sneered, not placing any importance on those people at all. “Even if she has Shaun Hill behind her, I suspect that Shaun won’t stay alive for long.”

“Dad, Hugh Jewell has arrived in Melbourne.” Rebecca smiled strangely. “Ever since his sister’s death, he hates Shaun Hill so much that he won’t stop until he kills him. His entire purpose of living is to kill Shaun Hill.”

“Well done.” Jeffery gave her a praising look. “As expected of my daughter.”

Rebecca could not hide her happiness. Tomorrow, she would be the number one socialite in Melbourne. She no longer had to endure others looking down on her ever again.

...

The next day at 9:00 am.

The annual grand shareholders meeting was held.

Jeffery took Rebecca and entered with large strides. He was greeted by all the people who shook hands with him.

“President Jones, congratulations! I believe the position of chairman will be yours once Director Irvine steps down.”

“What are you saying? I just joined Hudson and am still not very clear about the internal matters yet,” Jeffery said modestly while restraining his smugness.

“What do you have to be clear about? That’s what the executives we hire with high salaries are for,” another man said flatteringly, “The future development of the company depends on Chairman Jones now.”

“Yes, yes, Chairman Jones. The little ones in the Levy family will be relying on you

and Hudson,” President Levy also echoed.

“No problem.” Jeffery could no longer hold back the smug look on his face and laughed.

The meeting began, and Jeffery sat at Director Irvine’s immediate right.

Director Irvine took a sip of tea to moisten his throat and asked, “Is everyone here?”

“Everyone except Chris Jefferson has arrived,” President Cabel said, “But everyone knows that President Jefferson never attends the shareholders’ meeting. He never participates in the company affairs and only enjoys the dividends.”

“In that case, let the board meeting begin.”

Director Irvine said, “I’m now 70 years old and my health is not as good as it once was. I want to step down from my position and take care of my health, so the position of chairman must be filled by a capable person. It just so happens that this year, Old Madam Jones passed away and 60% of her shares were passed to

her son, Jeffery Jones. In the future, he'll be the largest shareholder of the company and has absolute authority."

The room of shareholders immediately cast envious glances at Jeffery.

Jeffery's lips curled upward. What was the point of being envious? Only he was destined for this.

President Levy smiled. "Chairman Jones is in his golden age and is mature and steady. I believe it's best for him to take over the position of chairman."

"Yes, we agree."

"Let it be President Jones. I have no problems with this."

"..."

The large conference room was filled with sounds of support.

Director Irvine nodded and said, "Since this is an election, we still have to follow the standard procedure. Raise of hands, everyone."

The shareholders of the board raised their hands, and Director Irvine counted. "Ten votes out of 15 shareholders. It looks like my position belongs to President Jones now. No, I should call you Chairman Jones now."

Jeffery rose with a spring in his step. "Thank you for your support, everyone. If I can take up the position of chairman, I'll definitely lead Hudson to the top 300 in the world, or even the top 100. I'll let everyone gain better dividends every year."

"We believe in you." Everyone raised their hands and applauded.

Jeffery could not stop smiling. His whole body seemed to be floating.

He had been chairman at Summit for half his life, but Summit was nothing compared to the status of Hudson.

In the future, all of Melbourne would be under his feet.

As for those who did not vote for him today...

He turned to Rebecca and said, "Remember those who did not vote. Get rid of the families of the shareholders who don't dare to support me."

“Don’t worry, Dad. I’ve written it all down.” Rebecca’s red lips were raised upwards. “Dad, can I have the position of the company’s general manager? I don’t care about being the general manager of the property development project.”

“Be good. I’ll talk about it in the meeting later.”

Rebecca trembled in excitement. In the future, she would be a young lady worth tens of billions. The entire celebrity circle in the country would be her foothold, much less Melbourne.

As for Catherine, she was just an ant.

“Chairman Jones, take my seat. This place belongs to you now.” Director Irvine got up. “The next shareholders’ meeting will be in your hands.”

“Director Irvine, you’re too polite.” That was what Jeffery said, but his legs immediately walked over to sit down.

Suddenly, the door of the conference room opened with a bang, and a middle-aged man in a black suit walked in with a powerful aura surrounding him. Behind him, a young woman followed him. Her royal blue suit set off her fair skin, and her long hair was draped over her shoulders. It emphasized her dazzling features. Her small face was expressionless, but it only brought attention to her aura.

At that moment, Jeffery and Rebecca's faces changed instantly.

Rebecca shouted loudly, "Catherine Jones, what are you doing here?! Get out! This is the property of Hudson. Who allowed you in here? Get out right now!"

Her tone was arrogant. Catherine's thin lips were raised in disdain while Chris Jefferson said, "What, have I lost my right to bring a person to the shareholders' meeting just because I haven't come to the company for a few years?"

Jeffery only felt that this person was a little familiar, but he did not recognize him. Director Irvine stood up and said, "President Jefferson, aren't you living in Brisbane now? Why did you come to the company today?"

Rebecca's expression froze. She immediately understood that he was the person who rarely showed up in the company, Chris Jefferson.

However, he only had 10% of the shares and it could not compare to her father's 60%. Furthermore, Jeffery was already the chairman.

She did not show Chris any respect at all and mocked unceremoniously, saying, "Of course, you can join as a shareholder, but you can't use your position to bring garbage in."

She glanced at Catherine after speaking.

Catherine raised her eyebrows and laughed. "Are you talking about yourself?"

"Catherine Jones, are you still dreaming?" Rebecca sneered, "My father is now the chairman of Hudson. I can come here whenever I want. Who do you think you are?"

"I haven't even voted. How did he become the new chairman?" Chris dully dragged a chair over and sat down.

Jeffery looked down on Chris. "It seems that President Jefferson isn't satisfied with me, but there are already ten people in the company who voted for me. Even if you don't vote, it's useless."

"Yes." Director Irvine felt awkward. "Jeffery is the new chairman. No one can change that."

“He’s also the largest shareholder who holds 60% of the shares. How can you compare to him?”

Some people began to mock.

Jeffery’s expression was arrogant. “President Jefferson, if you’re here to cause trouble, don’t blame me for asking someone to escort you out.”

“Who said you’re the largest shareholder?” Chris smiled. “You have 30% of the shares at most.”

Jeffery frowned. “When my mother died, 60% of the shares were given to me.”

“You think too much.” Chris threw the documents in his hand on the table. “The old madam made a will before she passed. After she dies, Catherine Jones and you will each have 30% of the 60% of shares. What, are you planning to take everything without saying anything?”

When this statement was made, the whole room was in an uproar.

Jeffery and Rebecca’s faces changed greatly. Director Irvine picked up the documents and his face turned grave. “It’s true. The seal and signature of the old

madam are on it.”

“That’s impossible...” Jeffery slapped the table and stood up.

“What’s impossible about it?” Catherine walked over to look at the crowd. “I believe that all shareholders know that Hudson was founded by Sheryl Jones more than 20 years ago. I’m Sheryl’s daughter, and this is my mother’s company. My grandparents only gave him 30% of the shares because Jeffery Jones raised me, but he’s insatiable and wants to hog it all.”

“You shut your mouth!” Jeffery tried to slap her, but someone was quicker than him.

Elle caught his hand and squeezed hard, making him scream in pain immediately.

“Who are you? Let go of me this instant, or else!”

“If you dare to hit my employer again, I’ll break your hand.”

Elle warned coldly before releasing his hand. Jeffery took a few steps back. His hand was numb with pain.

Rebecca supported Jeffery and said incredulously, “Catherine Jones, what are you talking about? For the sake of glory and wealth, you’d even disown your biological

father? Everyone knows that Sheryl Jones had never married. How could she have a daughter? Have you gone crazy?"

"That's not what you said before. You said yourself that I'm not Jeffery Jones' daughter."

Rebecca's eyes flashed with mockery. "I was just talking nonsense back then. Grandpa and Grandma's will clearly states it."

Director Irvine nodded helplessly again. "Yes, it's written that Catherine Jones is indeed Sheryl Jones' daughter."

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