

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South]

Chapter 401

“Did you hear that? My wife wants you to leave. Are all male homewreckers shameless like you?” Shaun hugged Catherine closer and said gently, “My dear, take a seat. I’ll continue deshelling pine nuts for you.”

Something flashed across Wesley’s eyes as he looked at the woman who was resting her head against the other man’s chest. A shadow veiled his tense features before he turned around to move along.

Catherine sighed internally as she lifted her gaze to look at the man’s receding silhouette.

She really wished Wesley could move on soon.

Since she had made the decision to return to Shaun’s side, she knew it was unlikely for them both to be together again.

It was even more impossible now that she was still married to Shaun.

“Eat your pine nuts and stop thinking about other men.” He turned her face around. “Wesley is more complicated than you think...”

“...”

“Not everyone can attend this engagement ceremony. He’s not a local in Canberra and doesn’t have many connections, yet he managed to show up here today. Not to mention he secured a seat at the front four tables. Do you think he’s that innocent?”

Catherine had no words to say.

Indeed, she felt like Wesley was behaving rather unusually today.

...

After the ceremony.

The Campos family invited their guests over to the garden for the ball that would follow this afternoon.

The group of people began walking toward the door. Catherine was just rising to her feet when she felt someone bumping into her forcefully.

Immediately, a fat man turned his head around to point a finger at her. “You touched my butt with your hand!” he yelled.

She recognized the man instantly. It was Director Irvine who had tried to harass her at Hill Corporation’s charity dinner.

“What? How dare you take advantage of my husband?! A horrendous-looking woman like you wants to seduce my husband? Believe it when I say I’ll hit you to death.” The chubby woman next to Director Irvine quickly stepped forward with the intention to slap Catherine.

“Mrs. Irvine, do you want to lose an arm?” Shaun’s eyes reeked of intimidation as he grabbed the woman’s wrist.

“Help! Eldest Young Master Hill wants to break my arm!” Mrs. Irvine screamed hysterically all of a sudden.

The guests who were on their way to the garden turned their heads to the source of the commotion.

“Director Irvine and Mrs. Irvine, what’s happening?” Charlie approached them, looking concerned.

“Thank goodness you’re here. I was just walking by when this woman took advantage of me. My wife is angry and wants to teach her a lesson yet Eldest Young Master Hill suddenly threatened to break my wife’s arm.”

“Hey, Catherine, are you dissatisfied that Shaun is no longer the president of Hill Corporation, hence you’re hoping to hook up with someone else?” Valerie suddenly covered her mouth with her hand. “She still doesn’t behave herself despite the facial disfigurement.”

“That’s so disgusting. What a shameless woman!”

“Hurry up and apologize to Director Irvine and Mrs. Irvine.”

The surrounding guests began reprimanding Catherine.

Right this instant, Mrs. Irvine suddenly covered her eyes and began sobbing. “It’s more than that. Eldest Young Master Hill also broke my husband’s arm not long ago.”

“See, my arm is still bandaged.” Director Irvine grimaced. “He sure bullies intolerably.”

Old Master Hill’s face was overcast. “You’re crossing the limit. Shaun, quickly apologize to Director Irvine.”

Liam sighed. “Brother, Director Irvine is an important business partner of Hill Corporation. You’ve really crossed the line this time.”

“Is that so?” Shaun loosened the necktie with an indifferent smile on his face. “Director Irvine, how should I apologize so you would forgive me?”

Director Irvine scanned across the room to ensure no one from the Hill family had the intention to lend Shaun a hand. “I’m not an unreasonable man. Since you broke my arm, then I shall return the favor today. Besides, my wife is infuriated that your wife tried to seduce me. But we can forget about this if you let her slap your wife across the face.”

Catherine laughed upon hearing that. “Do you have proof that I actually tried to seduce you? I’m sure there are security cameras everywhere. Let’s check the footage to see if I actually laid a finger on you.”

Director Irvine flew off the handle. “What do you mean? Why would I accuse an ugly woman like you?”

“The distinguished Director Irvine wouldn’t have to accuse you. Things have taken such a bad turn yet you still refuse to admit your wrongdoing. I think one slap across the face is not even enough.” President Thompson seemed to be trying to make matters worse.

Melanie suggested helplessly, “Cathy, quickly apologize to the man and promise you’ll not do it

again.”

The corners of Catherine’s lips twitched into a sarcastic smile. “I can tell that you’re trying to get back at the two of us today. The truth doesn’t even matter, it seems.”

“There’s nothing we can do if that’s what you think, Ms. Jones,” Charlie said in a low voice. “However, a person should reap the consequences of their actions. What do you say, Eldest Young Master Hill?”

Everyone shifted their gaze to Shaun’s impeccable face.

Not so long ago, this man used to be at the top of the hierarchy. His presence in Australia was not unlike a god.

Now that he had fallen from the top, everyone could not resist wanting to see him suffer.

Under the public’s gaze, Shaun’s deep eyes turned to look at the members of the Hill family. “Grandpa, Grandma, Mom, do you agree with their suggestion?”

In the family members’ opinion, he was seeking help.

Old Madam Hill twitched her lips. “I think—”

“I think it’s time he gets some punishment,” Old Master Hill held his wife down by the shoulder as he

interrupted. "We failed to educate you but accidentally turned you into an arrogant and despotic man instead."

Valerie was smiling from ear to ear. "Shaun, I bet you didn't see this coming. Have you forgotten how you treated us last time? Yet now you're asking for our help? Dream on."

"Mom, what do you think?" Shaun stared right into Lea's eyes.

The woman averted her gaze.

Shaun's thick eyelashes lowered, casting a dark shadow beneath his eyelids.

Catherine could not help feeling sorry for the man. She instinctively held his hand tighter.

She understood the pain of being given up on by your own family.

He looked over his shoulder to meet her gaze.

Director Irvine could not be happier at the sight. "Did you hear that? Extend your arm right now. Hmm, I think we should go with your right arm."

When Shaun raised his head again to scan across the room, his delicate lips curled into a faint smile. "Actually, I suddenly remembered something. Seeing as all the affluent families of Canberra are here today, allow me to reintroduce myself."

He retrieved a gold-rimmed name card from his pocket. "I'm the founder, director, and president of Shaunarah Corporation."

Shaunarah Corporation...

Although it was established less than five years ago, the corporation had grown tremendously. In Australia, it was now the electronics corporation that was second only to Hill Corporation.

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Both Director Irvine and President Thompson felt their knees buckle upon remembering that both of them had humiliated Shaun earlier. There was no point for them to cry over spilled milk now.

“Eldest... Eldest Young Master Hill, I was wrong for not seeing straight. Why don’t you break my arm?” Director Irvine was on the verge of crying now. “Or perhaps you’d like to slap me across the face?”

Shaun reached out to pinch the man’s greasy cheek. “You sounded quite arrogant earlier, huh? Did you say my wife touched you?”

“Eldest Young Master Hill, I’m so sorry.” The man knelt down on the ground.

“Go beg Liam instead. See if he can develop a new microchip within a week to help you out.”

He twitched his lips into a smile before walking hand-in-hand toward the door with Catherine.

At this moment, no one dared to stop them. Even Charlie and Melanie were restless and worried.

Just as he was about to reach the door, he suddenly turned around to look at the crowd coldly before finally landing his gaze on Charlie. “Young Master Campos, I’ll always remember this incident you planned for me.”

Charlie’s lips trembled instinctively. The outcome was completely out of his expectation.

“Besides, no one is allowed to humiliate my wife, Catherine Jones. Anyone who dares to say she’s not good-looking is openly provoking me.”

Then, he placed his arm around his wife’s waist and left the scene.

Melanie almost lost her mind as she looked at the man’s receding silhouette.

She had only chosen Charlie because she thought Shaun would never climb to the top of the ladder again. Unexpectedly, the latter was still shining brightly. Besides, without being restrained by Hill Corporation, he would definitely expand his empire further.

“Grandpa... Grandpa, what’s the matter...”

Someone suddenly shouted in the background. The engagement ceremony was complete chaos.

Old Master Hill felt his heart tightening because of extreme rage.

The members of the Hill family immediately brought the old man into the resting room.

“Liam, come over here.” He gestured at his younger grandson.

“Grandpa...” Liam stepped forward, feeling uneasy.

Old Master Hill grabbed his walking stick and threw it across the room at the young man’s shoulders. “Why didn’t you tell us about Team Clifton leaving the company?”

“Dad, calm down. Shaun’s too despicable.” Lea immediately stepped forward to shield her son.

“Did you know about this before today?” Old Master Hill coughed. **“Evidently, Shaun has planned this out as a backup plan. I wouldn’t have fallen out with him if I had known earlier.”**

“Dad, can’t you see? Shaun’s too ambitious and plans to take complete control over Hill Corporation,” Valerie said anxiously, **“He wants the power you’re holding within your hands. What should happen to us if the family is under his control?”**

Old Madam Hill sighed. **“What should Hill Corporation do once Shaunarah holds the conference next week? Liam, can you find another team to work on the microchip? Even so, Shaunarah would probably release their second version of the microchip by the time we succeed.”**

Liam clenched his hands into fists. A look of embarrassment washed over his face yet no words came out from his mouth.

Old Master Hill shook his head in disappointment at the sight of him. Shaun was despicable, but he could tell which one of his grandsons was truly capable.

Valerie’s eyes twinkled with brilliance. **“Dad, we can demand Shaun to hand over the microchip data or we’ll publicize his mental illness and the time when he almost killed someone. No one would dare collaborate with a president with mental illness.”**

“How could you say that?” Old Madam Hill shouted, **“He’s still your nephew!”**

“Mom, he almost disfigured me. Not once has he treated me as his aunty.” She snorted before turning to her sister. **“Lea, what do you think about my idea? Since he cares about Catherine so much, we’ll let her know about his illness and I’m sure she wouldn’t dare to be with him again after that.”**

A complicated feeling materialized in Lea's heart. Although she had threatened Shaun about this before, yet...

She turned to face the other way. "Shaun's a bloodline of the Hill family, after all. We can't cross the line. Besides, we're all responsible for his illness."

"Seriously? I don't understand. He's such a despicable man but you're still taking his side—"

"Shut up!" Old Master Hill finally flew off the handle. "Such a stupid idea! Get back to the office straight away to brainstorm for a solution."

Valerie pouted, looking evidently displeased.

Hotel parking lot.

Upon entering the car, Catherine could not help stealing glances at the man sitting next to her as she fastened the seat belt.

He drove the limited edition sports car today. The cool, high-tech driver's seat enveloped his sturdy figure. She had to admit that this man was too attractive, especially the way he spoke at the engagement ceremony earlier... How charming!

She saw this face every single day yet his impeccable beauty still made her heart race.

How frustrating.

What happened to playing cool?

“Look at me all you want. There’s nothing wrong with appreciating your husband’s good looks. I won’t comment on anything.”

Shaun turned sideways to catch her stealing glances at him once again. The corners of his lips curled into a mischievous smile.

“I wasn’t looking at you. I was just stretching my neck. It feels rather stiff.” She looked out of the window casually after saying that.

He pinched her palm playfully as a burst of joyous laughter escaped his mouth. “Were you enchanted by your husband’s charm just now?”

“You’re making things up...” Before her voice trailed off, he grabbed her by the chin and locked his lips with hers.

This man... Would he ever stop?

Her eyelashes fluttered. She wanted to push him away but the man had not stopped exuding this manly charm since the ceremony.

Catherine could not help but indulge herself in it.

She knew full well that she should not surrender, but he managed to conquer her again and again.

She had to admit that a man could easily conquer a woman when he was powerful.

“Catherine, don’t cross the line. This is between me and Freya.” Patrick was angry now. “Don’t think that you can act arrogantly because you’re now Eldest Young Master Hill’s wife.”

“So this is how you see Freya’s friends... You’ve never respected her and you certainly don’t deserve her.”

Catherine picked up the coffee and left after saying that.

“I’ll be staying in Canberra for some time and I’ll not leave until I see Freya.”

His furious voice rang behind her but she turned a deaf ear to his words.

...

Back in the office.

Shaun suddenly called Catherine. She answered while drinking the coffee.

“I heard you went on a coffee date with another man behind my back...”

“What?” She spat out the coffee in her mouth, annoyed. “Did you hear this from Elle again?”

“Not this time. You’re my wife, and that title makes you almost like a celebrity. Paparazzi are watching you everywhere but I managed to step in before the photos were leaked.” He seemed to be rapping his fingers against the table on the other side of the phone. “How do you know him? Even my legs look better than his ugly face.”

She was enraged about her loss of freedom. “He’s Freya’s ex-boyfriend. He wants to know her whereabouts but I didn’t tell him anything.”

“Mhm, don’t go out with unknown men again in the future.”

“Aren’t you busy with the approaching launch of the microchip? You sure sound like you’ve got a lot of free time on hand.”

She got frustrated upon hearing his domineering tone.

“I’m occupied with work but I need to keep a closer eye on my wife,” he replied flatly, “Many men out there are interested in married women nowadays.”

“You’re overthinking things. No one’s going to be interested in my horrendous looks.”

“I don’t know what you mean. You’re perfectly beautiful in my eyes.”

“...”

Catherine could not handle these unexpected compliments, and her heart pounded erratically. "Why have you been saying so many honeyed words lately?"

"I'll let you hear even sweeter words if I get to eat the roast pork you make." Shaun's gentle laughter sounded more melodious than the music from a cello.

Her cheeks blushed. "Sure, but do you know any good man you could recommend to Freya? She needs a new relationship to forget about her b*stard ex-boyfriend."

"No..." he replied after a brief consideration. "Rodney's not bright, Chester's not loyal, and Chase's character is questionable."

'Aren't you a good friend,' she thought to herself. However, she had to agree with his comments on Rodney and Chester.

"I think Young Master Harrison is not bad," she said, "He's righteous, optimistic, humorous, good looking..."

"I had no idea you thought so highly of him." He smiled indifferently. "What about me?"

She covered her palm on her forehead. "We're talking about..."

"Tell me." The man's voice reeked of determination.

She thought about this seriously for a few moments. "Um, you're handsome... good-looking... rich... fit..."

Catherine could not think of anything else. On the other hand, she could write out a long list if Shaun had asked her about his poor qualities.

“Even strangers would be able to say those things. Can you say something else?” He scoffed out of anger. “Catherine, I finally know how many lies you told when you were trying to woo me in Melbourne. I’m really disappointed in you. You never cared for me the way I cared for you.”

He hung up abruptly after that.

...He’s crazy.”

Catherine was at a loss for words.

Did he think he was still a three-year-old kid?!

Forget it, she would go home and cook roast pork for him.

...

After getting off work, Catherine went to the supermarket and bought some pork.

She turned on the radio while she was driving.

A piece of breaking news that just came in was heard on the radio. “We bring you the latest update. The director of Yule Corporation, Joel Yule, was involved in a car accident with a lorry half an hour ago.

The driver died at the scene while Joel Yule was sent to the hospital for emergency treatment, but his current condition is unknown. According to some news from the scene, the situation was tragic. It's likely that tomorrow's stock market will be heavily affected..."

The words that came afterward shot through Catherine's ears in a blur. She was in shock.

Although the time she spent with Joel was short, he was still her only family left.

He had gotten into an accident?

She turned the car around hastily and rushed to the hospital.

The corridor of the emergency room was crowded with members of the Yule family.

When Nicola, who was bawling, saw Catherine, she charged at her angrily and hit her. "You're such a jinx! Joel got into an accident as soon as you returned. It's all your fault."

Catherine slapped her hand away annoyedly. She scolded her with bloodshot eyes, "My dad is inside, and it's still uncertain whether he'll live or die. Rather than being worried about your husband, you, as his wife, are deliberately taking your anger out on me. Are you mad?"

"Who said I'm taking out my anger on you? It's obviously your fault." Nicola faltered for a second under Catherine's sharp gaze. "Of course, I'm worried about Joel. I'm worried about him more than anyone else."

"Then hold in your anger. Everyone's having a hard time, so stop quarreling. I finally found my dad and we were only reunited for a short while. I don't want to lose him."

Catherine's tone was filled with plea and anguish. The way she looked at Nicola was as if she was an unreasonable person, and this made Nicola furious.

"What do you mean by that? It was you—"

"Enough, shut your mouth." Old Madam Yule was overwhelmed with grief, but after hearing Catherine's bitter words, she also thought that Nicola's behavior was unacceptable. "Catherine's right. Joel is still being rescued inside. Will you give it a rest?"

Nicola was embarrassed for being told off. She just covered her face with her hands and started bawling in the corridor.

One hour later.

The doctor came out and said regretfully, "I'm sorry. Mr. Yule's life is saved for now, but he'll most likely be unable to wake up."

Nicola was anxious. "You mean that he'll be in a vegetative state?"

The doctor nodded. "But there's still hope. Some patients wake up even after being bedridden for a few years or more than ten years."

"Oh, my poor Joel!" Old Madam Yule wailed in sadness. "How did this happen? He was just fine. How did he get into an accident?"

"Granny, don't be sad. I believe Dad will definitely wake up." Melanie cried too. Although Joel had been biased toward her nowadays, at least in the past he had treated her well.

“I’ll wait for your dad to wake up even if I die in this lifetime,” Nicola sobbed while covering her eyes. “Mom, Dad, don’t worry. I’ll take good care of Joel.”

Old Master Yule nodded sadly. Just as he was about to talk, Catherine spoke hoarsely, “Grandpa, I would like to take care of Dad personally. Firstly, the time I spent with Dad was too short. I want to fulfill my filial duty. It doesn’t matter even if he’s in a vegetative state. At least I can look at his face more.”

“Child...” Old Madam Yule was touched.

“Secondly, Shaun has a close relationship with Young Master Jewell. Young Master Jewell’s medical skills are exceptional. The top private hospitals in Australia are mostly owned by Young Master Jewell as well. Even if Young Master Jewell can’t be of any help, Shaun has wide connections, so maybe he can get renowned doctors overseas to treat....”

“No way,” Nicola said, “Joel is my husband. How can I let you take care of him? Speaking of renowned doctors, I know a lot of them too.”

“That’s right,” Melanie nodded and said hatefully, “Even if someone else has to take care of Dad, it’d be me. You’ll never have the chance. Don’t forget that you’re not even listed in the Yules’ family register.”

“Compared to the Jewell family, do you think that you know more doctors than they do?” Catherine retorted.

Nicola was speechless for a moment but insisted and said, “Anyways, I’ll never give you the rights to take care of Joel. I couldn’t compete against your mom before. Now that Joel is unconscious, don’t tell me that I can’t even compete against Sheryl’s daughter.”

Looking aggrieved, she started crying again.

Catherine's words had initially swayed both Old Master Yule and Old Madam Yule, but now they felt that it was unfair to Nicola.

Catherine ignored Nicola and focused only on Old Master Yule. "Grandpa, you know better than anyone else that Dad has been adamant about getting a divorce with Nicola lately. However, now that Dad has gotten into an accident, they remain married. Therefore, my dad's property distribution will rightfully go to his spouse, children, and parents."

Old Master Yule was taken aback. Nicola threw herself at Catherine and pushed her. "What are you trying to imply? Do you think that I tried to kill Joel? Catherine, you're a vicious woman, but don't think so lowly of others. I love Joel. I love him more than anybody else."

"I didn't say it was you. I'm just reminding Grandpa and Granny that it wouldn't benefit you at all if Dad wakes up." Her tone was sharp. "Of course, I'm not doubting that you have ulterior motives. I just think that it's better to keep an eye out since wealthy families are not like common families."

Old Madam Yule was convinced. "Okay, I agree to let you take care of Joel."

"Mom, do you believe her words? That I'll hurt Joel?" Nicola cried out agitatedly, "If outsiders heard this, what would they think of me?"

"Aunty, I'm doing this for your own good." Catherine had a sincere expression on her face. "Since my dad has gotten into an accident, Yule Corporation must be in a mess now. Don't you and Melanie need to run the company? Normally, Melanie only knows how to enjoy herself and go shopping. It's time she starts taking on responsibilities now. You should assist her as you're her mom."

Melanie was taken aback by her words.

Nicola opened her mouth to retort, but Damien, who was sitting silently in the wheelchair all along, suddenly said, "Sister-in-law, what she said is reasonable. As a wife, you should investigate the cause of the car accident as well."

"...Okay." Nicola glared at Catherine. "You must take care of Joel properly. If anything happens to him, I won't let you off the hook."

Catherine smiled bitterly. "Of course, I will. There are no advantages for me if Dad passes away. If I was aiming for him, I can't see him if he dies. If I was aiming for his wealth, I won't even get a single penny. Compared to me, Melanie is so much more fortunate..."

She sounded nonchalant, but Old Master Yule and Old Madam Yule were quick-witted. They immediately understood who would reap the most benefits if something happened to Joel.

Naturally, it would be Nicola and her daughter.

Everything was fine all along, but the car accident suddenly occurred. That made them feel suspicious.

"Dad, the company's executive called and said that many reporters are gathering in front of the company building. The situation is very unstable now," Damien said.

"Your brother will be unconscious for quite a while. You're temporarily in charge of the company now. As for Melanie, she needs to go to the company immediately too. You should assist her well."

Damien smiled wryly. "But I'm not good at handling the company matters..."

"You must do it even if you can't." Old Master Yule had a stern look. "The Yule family can't collapse."

"Okay, I'll do my best." Damien nodded.

After settling Joel down, Old Master Yule and the others exited the ward. They met Shaun who rushed over.

"Eldest Young Master Hill..." Thinking about Shaun's future development, Old Master Yule went up hurriedly and shook hands with him.

"Hello, Grandpa Yule. I heard about Dad's condition from Chester. I'll definitely get the best doctor for his treatment." Shaun's tone carried the respect that a junior should have for his senior. His attitude was completely different from when he accompanied Melanie to Old Master Yule's birthday banquet.

"Thank you." Old Master Yule stared at Catherine. It was apparent that Shaun cared a lot for this granddaughter of his.

It seemed that he had to treat Catherine better in the future.

After all, the Yule family had lost its backing after Joel got into the accident. They still had to rely on the husbands of their granddaughters.

He thought for a moment and then turned to Catherine, saying, "Don't be overly depressed. You're still young and should continue walking on your path. You can drop by the house frequently to visit us. If you wish to enter Yule Corporation, just tell us anytime."

Catherine was surprised, but she quickly understood. The people from the Yule family were really... snobbish.

"Grandpa, how can you agree to let her enter Yule Corporation?!" Melanie screamed. She could not accept it at all.

"Enough. Catherine's still your sister, and she can assist you in the future too." Old Master Yule left with Old Madam Yule after he finished talking.

Melanie stomped her feet in dissatisfaction. She turned around to glare at Catherine, but Shaun's handsome and blinding face met her eyes instead. Her heart throbbed. "Eldest Young Master..."

Shaun did not look at her at all. He walked over and circled his arms around Catherine's waist, consoling her softly. "Don't be sad. You have me from now on."

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After all, the Yule family had lost its backing after Joel got into the accident. They still had to rely on

the husbands of their granddaughters.

He thought for a moment and then turned to Catherine, saying, "Don't be overly depressed. You're still young and should continue walking on your path. You can drop by the house frequently to visit us. If you wish to enter Yule Corporation, just tell us anytime."

Catherine was surprised, but she quickly understood. The people from the Yule family were really... snobbish.

"Grandpa, how can you agree to let her enter Yule Corporation?!" Melanie screamed. She could not accept it at all.

"Enough. Catherine's still your sister, and she can assist you in the future too." Old Master Yule left with Old Madam Yule after he finished talking.

Melanie stomped her feet in dissatisfaction. She turned around to glare at Catherine, but Shaun's handsome and blinding face met her eyes instead. Her heart throbbed. "Eldest Young Master..."

Shaun did not look at her at all. He walked over and circled his arms around Catherine's waist, consoling her softly. "Don't be sad. You have me from now on."

Catherine rushed upstairs and discovered a few bottles of medications from the drawer in the study.

She searched the names up on the phone, and two of the medications were mood stabilizers and antipsychotics.

That news... It was true?

He previously wanted to kill the nanny who took care of him, and now, he had even hurt her. Later on, would he be thinking of...

She felt chills going down her spine and did not dare to go downstairs.

“Young Madam, Eldest Young Master Hill hasn’t returned. Do you want to call him?” Aunty Yasmine appeared at the door. She saw the medications Catherine was holding, and her expression froze. “These medications...”

“Aunty Yasmine, you said you watched Shaun grow up. Then you should know... that he’s mentally ill, right?” Catherine’s face was pale, and her lips were trembling.

Aunty Yasmine was at a loss. She wiped her hands on her apron. “Where did you hear it? This is impossible...”

“It’s all over the internet.” Catherine showed her the pictures. “Aunty Yasmine, is all of this real?”

Aunty Yasmine was in shock upon seeing the pictures. “Who published those things? This is too much... Young Madam, you must trust Eldest Young Master Hill. He’s a good person.”

“But his usual personality is indeed aggressive, irritable, and extreme. These medications are proof of that too.” Catherine held the bottles of medications tightly and murmured, “Aunty Yasmine, I’m usually scared of him too. I was hurt by him before, and it was a scary experience. I just want to know the truth.”

“Okay, I’ll tell you. I just hope you won’t misunderstand him like the outsiders.”

Aunty Yasmine let out a long sigh. “Eldest Young Master Hill had this illness when he was eight. At that time, his parents were already divorced and Lea did not care about him at all. In the Hill family, Old Master Hill was a cold person who only concentrated on his career. Old Madam Hill loved Eldest Young Master, but she had many children and grandchildren. She needed to socialize as well, so she simply did not have the time to care for him. No one noticed that the nanny was abusing Eldest Young Master because they were indifferent toward him.”

“Abused?” Catherine was shocked.

“Yes. When Eldest Young Master Hill was young, he felt insecure and cried very often. Of course, that was just a child’s tactic to get their parents’ attention. But the nanny thought that he was annoying, so she often secretly locked him inside the closet and starved him. During winter, she would even remove his clothes and leave him cold and hungry.”

Catherine felt her chest ache with bitterness. She had experienced that feeling of cold and hunger before, but Shaun was just a kid at that time.

How could someone be so cruel to a child?

“Eldest Young Master Hill complained about it before, but he had no wounds on his body. Therefore, everybody thought he was just wrongfully accusing the nanny.”

Aunty Yasmine said, “Eldest Young Master’s father did not care about him either. He was drunk every day. Then, when Eldest Young Master was eight, Brennan went overseas with a woman. When he left, he cut all ties with Eldest Young Master and told him not to look for him anymore because looking at him reminded Brennan of his unhappy past. His leaving was the final straw that crushed Eldest Young

Master..."

Catherine found it difficult to speak. "So..."

"Yes, Eldest Young Master went into depression. He neither talked nor ate. He even stabbed the nanny when he couldn't stand her abusing him anymore. When Old Madam Hill checked the security cameras, we found out that the nanny had indeed abused Eldest Young Master, but it was too late. Eldest Young Master was already sent to the mental hospital where he received treatment for three years. After he returned, he regained the Hill family's attention through his hard work and became what he is today."

Aunty Yasmine's eyes reddened. "Young Madam, it's normal to be afraid of Eldest Young Master Hill. But I hope you won't despise him or leave him. He's really pitiful. If he loses you, he'll lose everything and won't be able to take it."

"...Okay, I won't." Catherine nodded. Her heart still felt traces of pain.

Who could imagine that a prideful and distinguished man such as him was hiding a sad, painful childhood?

She suddenly felt like hugging him tightly. She wanted to tell him that she would give him the happiness of a family that he had lost for the rest of her life.

Even if other people feared him, she would no longer be frightened.

She remembered something in a flash. Would Shaun's condition be aggravated if he saw those pictures?

She called Shaun, but no one answered.

She could only call Hadley. "Hadley, where's Shaun? I saw the news. Where is he now?"

"Young Madam, Eldest Young Master..." Hadley sounded anxious, but he did not know where to start.

"I've heard everything from Aunty Yasmine. I don't mind his illness." Catherine knew what he was thinking.

"After Eldest Young Master Hill saw the news, he drove away alone. We don't know where he went and are searching everywhere for him. I think that something's not right with his emotions. His illness might've recurred, and I suspect that he'll go look for Vice Director Hill."

"Lea?"

"Yes. When he saw the news just now, I heard him mutter something like 'This must be Lea's doing' with a scary expression. As long as Lea is involved, he will lose control of his emotions," Hadley said impatiently, "I'm on my way to find Vice Director Hill now."

"Send me the address too. I'll go over now."

Catherine took the car keys and went out hurriedly.

...

In the private manor.

When Lea saw the news regarding Shaun's mental illness all over the internet, she called Valerie immediately. "Were you the one who leaked the pictures?"

"Big Sis, are you suspecting me right now?"

"Only members of the Hill family have these pictures. Besides you, who in the Hill family..."

Lea had not finished speaking when fighting sounds came from the outside. She opened the door and all the bodyguards were lying on the floor. Shaun stood at the door with a grim expression.

"You..."

"Follow me." Shaun yanked her roughly and walked toward the rooftop.

Her phone dropped to the ground. Valerie's worried voice came from the phone, but no one cared about it.

On the rooftop, Lea looked disheveled as she was being dragged around. "Shaun, what are you trying to do.... Ah!"

Half of her body was pushed off the edge of the rooftop.

“I warned you before not to force me using my past illness but what did you do? Why do I have a mother like you?”

Shaun gripped her neck tightly while he yelled. He had completely broken down.

Lea widened her eyes in shock as her face paled. “It wasn’t me...”

“You blackmailed me using this matter last time. Who else could it be besides you?”

Shaun’s eyes were bloodshot. “You’ve only cared about Liam since before. What will you not do for him?”

“This whole time, you’ve been helping Liam because you wanted to kick me out of my position in Hill Corporation. You despised giving birth to me the most. Never mind these, but you should never have spread the pictures.

“I told you that I’d make you pay for this.”

Ever since young, he was the eldest young master of Australia’s Hill Corporation.

However, he never once felt familial love and warmth from the Hill family.

Now, he finally once again found a woman who he cared for.

He just wanted to have a simple, normal life with her.

Nevertheless, his closest family members had used the cruelest way to rip his shameful past open.

The internet was full of harsh, vicious comments about him.

Everyone was scared of him and wanted to lock him up.

Catherine might have been frightened too.

She was already initially scared of him.

His remaining warmth and happiness had all disappeared like bubbles.

“Shaun, calm down. I’m your mother,” Lea said hoarsely with a shaking voice, “What you’re doing now is outrageous. You’ll be cast aside by the whole world.”

“Ha, am I not being cast aside by everyone right now? Why did you give birth to me? You’re the vilest woman in the whole world. You disgust me!” Shaun shouted with all his might. Half of Lea’s body hung in the air, and she was about to fall.

“Are you really going to kill me? You madman!”

“I’m a madman, and you were the one who drove me to the point of insanity.” Shaun was triggered by her again. When he was about to lose control of his mind, he heard Catherine’s scream behind him.

“Shaun, no!”

Shaun's body shook, and his handsome face became pale instantly.

He did not dare to turn around and look at her.

He was afraid that he would see a face filled with contempt and fear.

Tired. He was truly tired.

He felt that his illness was more aggravating each time ever since it recurred. His chest was filled with hostility.

Previously, he could control himself not to hurt Lea. Today, he just could not control himself anymore.

He did not want to be locked up in the eerily white mental hospital again.

There were forever only four sides of the walls there.

No one would care or worry about him.

"Shaunny, come here." Catherine held her breath and walked toward him step by step.

“Enough, don’t come over anymore!” Shaun yelled at her angrily. His handsome face was filled with agony. “I’m sick. I’ll hurt you. Do you know that?”

Catherine saw this unfamiliar side of him. Her heart ached as tears spilled out of her eyes. “I’m not afraid. No one was born to be like this. You’re innocent. Those who hurt you are the ones who are in the wrong.”

“Stop talking. I don’t believe you.” Shaun shook his head absently. “My mom lied to me the same way in the past, and she sent me to the mental hospital the moment she turned around.”

Lea’s expression stiffened. “With your condition at that time, if I hadn’t sent you for treatment—”

“Shut up!” Shaun suddenly became agitated. “You were the one who single-handedly caused my illness. Where were you when I was locked up in the closet for three days and three nights? Where were you when I was even stripped of my clothing in the winter and almost died from the cold?”

He became more agitated as he continued speaking, and he was on the verge of losing control again.

Catherine was utterly at a loss. At that moment, Chester came to her side with a needle in his hand. “I’m afraid that you’re the only person who can approach him now. Inject this needle in his arm and he’ll faint.”

“But I’ve never injected a needle before...”

“You can do this.” Chester stared at her without budging. “Don’t let Shaun pass the point of no return.”

“...Okay.”

Catherine took a deep breath and hid the needle secretly. She moved toward Shaun slowly.

“I told you not to come over. Don’t you understand me?” Shaun noticed that she was nearing him and shouted at her.

“I can’t just stand by and watch you get into trouble!” Catherine yelled even louder at Shaun with reddened eyes. “Shaun, you can’t be so selfish. My face was disfigured because of you. Wherever I go, people mock me for being hideous. You said that you wouldn’t be ashamed of me. You promised to give me happiness and that you would even use a lifetime to prove it to me. Is this the way you’re proving it?”

“...”

Shaun looked at her small, tear-streaked face. Suddenly, he was at a loss just like a kid. “I...”

“Do you still not understand? I’ve always loved you. I’ll still like you no matter what you become. I won’t be scared of you because of your past. It’s the exact opposite. I’ll only feel pain for you, and I want to give you warmth for the rest of your life. You’re ill, and that’s fine. I can be by your side. If you can’t recover in a year, I’ll still be with you for a lifetime.”

Catherine neared him step by step, and her throat choked. “Similarly, if I’m the one who’s sick, you won’t abandon me, right?”

Shaun was taken aback, and his wild gaze gradually became stagnant.

Catherine took the opportunity and jabbed his arm. He turned his head around and looked at her. He did not put up any resistance, and his gaze gradually lost focus.

His hand that held Lea loosened, and he collapsed to the ground.

Catherine immediately embraced him and whispered into his ear, "I promise you that I won't leave. When you wake up, I'll make roast pork for you."

Shaun's eyebrows that were tightly knitted in a frown slowly relaxed. He fell unconscious and looked just like a child who was sleeping soundly. No one could have imagined that he was a sick patient who went insane a moment ago.

Lea sat on the ground after getting rescued. Even after a long time had passed, color did not return to her face.

Liam ran over and helped her up. "Mom, I've already contacted the mental hospital. They'll dispatch a car to pick Shaun up."

Lea was stunned.

Catherine glared at him. "Who told you to make that call?"

Liam said bluntly, "If we don't send him for treatment, with his current condition, do you want a life to be lost?"

"He's right. It was so terrifying just now." Mason held Lea's hands and said in fear, "I was scared out of my wits. Just a little bit more and he would've pushed you over. It's you this time, but when his illness recurs again, who will be the next...?"

He spoke hesitantly, but Lea was swayed. "It's better to send him to the hospital for treatment. It's not like he hasn't been treated before..."

Catherine could hear no more. "Didn't you hear what Shaun said just now? The fact that you lied to him and sent him to the mental hospital in the past has already left a scar on him. As a mother, you only know how to pass him over to a cold hospital. You don't deserve to be a mother at all."

Shame and embarrassment flashed through Lea's expression.

Liam frowned. "What do you know? If we don't lock him up, he'll hurt someone else again. He could even hurt you."

"That's my business."

Catherine felt pure anger for Shaun. "Liam, it's easy for you to say this because it wasn't you who was locked in the hospital. Since young, you've had your parents' love. Even after growing up, your mother still thinks of countless ways to hand the Hill family over to you. But what about Shaun? Why did he become mentally ill? It's because he was locked in the cabinet alone when you three were a happy family. When your parents brought you to travel all around the world, he was deprived of food and warmth because of his nanny's abuse. It's fine if you're all cold-blooded and feel no guilt at all, but can you take pity on him for just a single bit?"

Liam's expression became ugly from being scolded, and all color drained entirely from Lea's face.

Catherine sneered, "You even told me before this that you felt we shared the same fate. It's hilarious now that I think about it. You're just boundlessly greedy. You have everything, yet you wanted to snatch Hill Corporation which was the only thing that Shaun possessed. He only regained affection from the Hill family through the help of Hill Corporation. He cares about you guys, but you bunch of

people hurt him every single time.”

“Are you done scolding us?” Liam gritted his teeth and clenched his fists.

Catherine threw a hateful glance at them. “About Shaun’s mental illness being exposed, no one else could be behind this except for you, the Hill family. We’ll make you pay back this debt.”

She looked at Chester after she finished speaking. “Let’s take Shaun and leave.”

Chester glanced at her in admiration and nodded. He carried Shaun and went downstairs.

“You guys...”

Liam wanted to go after them, but Lea pulled him back. She shook her head sullenly. “Forget it...”

Mason had a worried expression. “But...”

“I should be held responsible for Shaun’s illness.” Lea had mixed feelings.

She had disliked Shaun’s existence all along. It was because of him that she had to marry a person she did not love.

The last time she felt guilt for Shaun was when his illness relapsed when he was eight.

However, later on, she had her career, family, and Liam to take care of. When she finally came around, Shaun had stayed at the mental hospital for a few years and recovered already. He turned cold and ruthless after his recovery, making her despise him even more.

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“Shaunny, I had a grandma too. It was only when she passed that I regretted not spending more time with her. Family is literally blood and it’s extremely difficult to cut them off. Because of you, I can try to tolerate and forgive them. As long as it makes you happy.” With an intense gaze, Catherine looked Shaun in the eye.

He was moved.

The emotions that had been suppressed at the bottom of his heart erupted like a volcano.

He lowered his head to kiss her passionately on the lips. “I’m sorry, baby.”

‘For making you go through this.’ Her face was disfigured by the Hill family yet she still tolerated them for him.

That was not necessary. He promised to make them pay for what they did to her.

Valerie included.

“One day, I’ll find someone to treat your face. I’ll love you for the rest of my life.”

Catherine shut her eyes close. At this very moment, she felt strong and calm.

It did not matter that her face was disfigured. All that mattered was that he did not mind.

...

The following day.

Catherine went to work at the company.

Just then, Hadley showed up with a few nurses. There was a strange expression on his face as he said, “Eldest Young Master Hill, these are the nurses handpicked by the hospital director.”

Shaun, who was reading, lifted his head.

His mental illness was not something that could be cured in a couple of days. Catherine had her own career to work on, thus she could not possibly look after him all the time. In order to prevent him from having another relapse, it was good to have a properly-trained nurse at home to keep an eye on him.

However, he looked distracted when his gaze landed on a particularly beautiful face.

Soon, a shadow veiled across his features. "What's your name?"

The woman appeared startled under his gaze before replying in a soft voice, "My name's Shelly Langley."

"Langley?" He frowned. "What's your relationship with Sarah Langley Neeson?"

"She's my cousin." Shelley blinked blankly at the man. "You know my cousin?"

"..."

He more than knew her.

Shaun sighed internally. "You're still a Langley, at the very least. Why did you end up a nurse? This is not an easy job."

"The Langleys are no longer what we used to be before. But it's fine. We still have food in our bellies and a roof over our heads."

She lifted her eyes and smiled gratefully. "Perhaps my taking up this profession has something to do with my cousin. The two of us used to be really close when we were younger but she was sent to the mental hospital. I felt really bad for her. My initial plan was to become a certified psychologist but I didn't make it. I'm actually in the middle of preparing to take the exam again."

He was distracted again upon hearing this. Hadley's reminder brought him back to reality. "Eldest Young Master Hill, who would you like to hire?"

"Shelley Langley it is." The man picked up his book again.

A huge smile spread across her face. "Thanks, Eldest Young Master Hill. I'll do my best to help you recover."

Hadley seemed taken aback.

Once Shelley left for home to pack up her belongings, Shaun looked over his shoulder and instructed, "Look into this woman."

"Eldest Young Master Hill, are you suspecting that—"

"Just in case."

In less than half a day, Hadley returned with some results. "Shelley Langley is indeed Miss Neeson's cousin. She had been studying abroad and only recently came home. Ever since Miss Neeson's mother's passing, the Langley family has not been doing well under the Neeson family's oppression. Shelly is discriminated against in the hospital as well and is always given the task to look after violent and aggressive patients. However, her performance in the hospital has been pretty good. Not only is she patient but she also has a strong mindset to endure hardships."

The light went out from Shaun's eyes at the sound of that. "Is it a coincidence that she's here today?"

"Looks like it. The candidates handpicked by the hospital's management are the best-performing nurses as of current."

He nodded upon hearing that, the defenses in his heart vanishing. "Who's the head of the Neeson

family now?"

"Charity Neeson."

The corners of his lips twitched into a sarcastic smile. "She's not grateful after stealing someone else's house. Get the word out not to provide our microchips to the Neeson family."

"Um... Okay." Hadley parted his lips but did not say anything else.

...

5:00 p.m.

Catherine left work earlier today. She heard noises coming from the basketball court the second she stepped out of the car.

She walked over just in time to see Shaun raising his arms to make a beautiful three-point field goal. She had no idea how long he had been playing basketball. The back of his white T-shirt was slightly damp yet his face revealed a sunny disposition.

The sight of him like this took her breath away.

When she was still in school, Ethan was the only basketball player she adored. However, looking at Shaun right at this moment, she finally knew what was the real charm of an athlete.

“Yay!”

A series of applause came from the other side of the basketball court. It was only then that she noticed the woman who looked almost the same age as her dressed in a pair of basic jeans and a white top. Her glossy dark hair was up in a ponytail.

“Impressive, Eldest Young Master Hill.” The woman walked over with a bottle of water and a towel. “You’ve been playing for 40 minutes. It’s time to rest.”

“Okay.” He received the bottle and started gulping down its contents.

The rays of the setting sun shone down on both of them. That particular scene sort of stung Catherine’s eyes.

“Shaunny...” she called out to the man before quickly walking over.

Shaun looked over his shoulder and a smile spread across his charming face. “Babe, you’re home early today.”

“I came home early for fear that you were getting bored at home alone.” She looked closely at the other woman. The latter was good-looking but nothing compared to her previous self. Even Melanie was prettier in comparison.

Catherine felt relieved.

After falling in love with someone, a person would become petty and overly worried almost by instinct. It seemed like she was no different too.

“Hello, Young Madam. I’m the nurse sent over by the hospital to look after Eldest Young Master Hill,” Shelly introduced herself with a smile.

“Oh, hello.” Catherine was taken aback. For some reason, she felt as if she had seen those eyes before but could not specify where or when.

“It’s my honor to look after Eldest Young Master Hill. I hope he can recover as soon as possible.” Shelly behaved professionally.

“Let’s go, I’m heading upstairs for a shower.” Shaun draped an arm over Catherine’s shoulder.

“Eldest Young Master Hill, you should rest for half an hour after exercising before taking a shower,” Shelley reminded him.

“Alright...” He hesitated before agreeing.

Catherine was rather surprised.

He removed his T-shirt after getting upstairs. She grabbed a towel and patted his back dry. “How come you’re playing basketball out of the blue?”

“Shelley Langley said an appropriate amount of exercise can help the recovery and also improve sleep quality at night.”

“Shelley Langley?” A shudder passed through her spine.

What a coincidence! He used to have an ex-girlfriend with the middle name Langley too.

“Yup, what’s the matter?” He turned around to look at her.

Catherine was extremely frustrated. She could not possibly say that she was unhappy because the nurse’s last name was Langley.

However, she was not okay with pretending to be generous. “I didn’t expect you to listen obediently to that young girl,” she said with a pout.

Shaun raised his brows before bending over to sniff her lips. “Hmm, I thought I smelled jealousy.”

“I’m serious.” She slapped him playfully on the back.

The light pressure felt more like a tickle than a slap.

He grabbed her hand instantly and gave it a tiny peck. “I wouldn’t have been so obedient in the past and might even be repelled by the idea of having a nurse from the mental hospital close by. However, I’d like to get well sooner for you, so I need to work with the treatment plan. I don’t want to do anything that would hurt you again. Do you understand?”

She bit her lips, suddenly feeling bad for being so petty. “I understand that, but why don’t you find someone who’s a little bit older or perhaps a male nurse? I’ll be working in the office and leaving you home alone with a young woman...”

The man smiled before lifting her chin so that their eyes met. "You really are jealous?"

"Shaun Hill!" She glared at him with red cheeks. "Stop it."

"Any secretary or staff in my company is prettier than her. You wouldn't have the chance to become Mrs. Hill if I hadn't been so picky," he replied with a smile. "I didn't see you being so jealous when I was with Melanie. Unless you've been keeping quiet about that."

"..."

Embarrassment washed over her face as he exposed the truth.

"I can't be bothered with this. I'm heading downstairs to make dinner." She threw the towel at him and headed for the stairs.

The second she stepped into the kitchen, Shelley approached her with a diet plan. "Young Madam, this is the diet plan designed specially for Eldest Young Master. Keeping his illness in mind, I recommend his main meals be nutritious and easily digestible. It's best to avoid eating and drinking at an unreasonable amount."

"Alright, thank you." Catherine received the diet plan before she asked, "Have we met before?"

Shelley appeared startled but quickly replaced the surprise with a smile. "Probably not. It's my first time meeting you anyway, Young Madam. But many people have said that I look familiar."

"Perhaps." Catherine nodded.

Catherine reappeared from the kitchen after cooking dinner, where she saw Shaun sitting on the couch while Shelley was bent over from the waist, discussing something with him softly.

“Dinner time,” Catherine reminded him.

Shaun walked over. Then, on second thought, she announced, “Shelley and Aunty Yasmine, why don’t you both join us for dinner tonight?”

This took Shelley by surprise. “It’s not appropriate...”

“It’s fine. I’m not close-minded. Everyone is equal in today’s age, and besides, it’s been a long day for you too,” Catherine said before turning to look at Shaun. He did not seem to mind.

The dinner was indeed livelier with the four of them at the table.

However, Catherine felt uneasy when Shelley kept reminding Shaun to eat less meat but more vegetables and seafood. After all, she was the one who usually said these words. Hence, it felt strange now that someone else had taken over her place.

She really felt like she was becoming more narrow-minded.

After dinner, she and Shaun had a walk by the beach to improve digestion.

Upon returning home, the two of them worked in the study respectively. Since she completed her workload first, she went ahead to have a shower.

When she came out of the bathroom, she noticed Shaun was drinking something from a glass. Shelley

was watching him intently on the side.

The warm yellow light cast on them from the ceiling above.

The sight of that hurt her eyes.

“What are you drinking?” She walked over to peek into his glass. The white liquid was probably milk.

Shelley explained softly, “Drinking a glass of milk before bed improves the quality of sleep.”

“Thanks, but this is my responsibility,” Catherine replied with a faint smile.

Shelley was so taken aback that her face suddenly went pale. Flustered, she nodded awkwardly. “Yes, I’ll leave you two now.”

Shelley looked at Catherine cautiously before closing the door behind her.

Shaun said with a chuckle, “You scared the young lady.”

“...”

Catherine was at a loss for words. “What did I do that scared her? I said those words with a friendly face.”

“Hmm, but also in a very jealous tone.” Shaun nodded with a helpless expression on his face. “It’s just a glass of milk. You don’t have to be jealous over it.”

“...”

He made it sound like she was a narrow-minded woman.

Catherine took a deep breath as she felt a surge of frustration washed over her.

Was she overreacting earlier? She did not think so.

“Stop overthinking. Let me dry your hair for you.”

He picked up the hairdryer.

Once her hair was dry, she got under the blanket with blushing cheeks. Since they reconciled, he had been really enthusiastic between the sheets, yet she still felt embarrassed just thinking about it.

However, he simply laid down quietly in bed after turning off the lights tonight. His reserved behavior was unusual.

She turned over awkwardly to snuggle up against him.

“Be good and go to sleep.” He patted her on the back, his voice gentle.

She could not believe her ears. Biting her lips, she wrapped her arms around his neck. “Shaunny...”

Her entire face was red as a lobster. Fortunately, he could not see it because the lights had been turned off.

This surprised him. A glint flashed across his eyes, but he suppressed the passion immediately. “Shelley reminded me that my illness isn’t stable because of the medications. It’s better if we put a pause on this for the time being.” The helplessness was evident in his voice.

“...”

She appeared startled. “But before... We were all good. It’s not necessary, is it?”

“Do you really want me that much?” he suddenly said flirtatiously.

“You wish.” She turned around to face her back against him. Come on, she needed to maintain her pride too.

“I can tell that’s not the truth.” He embraced her from behind. “Be good. I can’t do anything that could over-excite me. I’m afraid I might do something out of control that could hurt you. Like last time.”

She bit her lips, annoyed, and finally grumbled “okay” after a long time.

That same night, she could not fall asleep, whereas Shaun quickly fell into a deep sleep. It was

convincing her that perhaps Shelley's theory was right.

After all, he had been suffering from insomnia since the relapse. It had been a while since she saw him sleeping so well.

.....

The following day.

Catherine received a phone call from the hospital. Apparently, the expert neurologist Doctor Angelo from abroad had arrived to treat Joel.

Without wasting any time, she drove to the hospital right away. Old Master and Old Madam Yule were already there when she arrived.

Angelo had just finished the diagnostic on Joel. "I need to treat him by regulating his nerves over a long period of time. There's still hope that Mr. Yule will come out of the coma, but it might be a long journey. The soonest would probably be half a year to a year's time."

She was over the moon by the news. "Thank you so much."

"Don't worry. You're Chester's friend, so I'll do my best to help."

After a brief consideration, she requested, "Doctor Angelo, if someone comes to enquire about his condition, please tell them that Mr. Yule will regain consciousness within a month."

The doctor hesitated for a couple of seconds before nodding. "Sure."

After the doctor left, Old Master Yule could not resist asking, "Are you trying to see if the person behind this will be driven to desperate action?"

"Grandpa, who do you think is the most likely culprit?" she asked.

The old man remained silent for a while. The autopsy of the truck driver showed that he hallucinated because of drug consumption. However, the man was not an addict and had only consumed the drug by mistake. Evidently, this was a deliberate act.

"I bet it's Nicola." Old Madam Yule growled in anger. "She has brought Melanie along to work in the Yule Corporation."

Catherine nodded in agreement. "If so, she's going to make sure my dad will never wake up. Because that's the only way she could inherit everything he leaves behind. Besides, if someone else is behind this, the person would definitely try to take over control of Yule Corporation within this month. I'm sure the villain is going to reveal its nature soon."

Old Master and Old Madam Yule were astonished to hear that. For the first time, they looked at this impressive granddaughter seriously.

"One more thing. Don't tell anyone what I told you today, Uncle Damien included."

The old man was shocked. "What do you mean? That we should be suspecting Damien too?"

"There's no way it could be Damien." Old Madam shook her head immediately. "The condition of his legs has made him weak and sickly since young. He's also autistic. It wasn't his choice to be pushed forward to manage Yule Corporation."

"You misunderstood me. I'm just afraid Uncle Damien could be easily tricked because of his innocent nature. The fewer people know about this, the better," Catherine said with a smile.

The worried expression on the old couple's face finally eased. They nodded in agreement before leaving the hospital.

Elle, who had been protecting Catherine on the side, could not help but ask, "Why didn't you tell them that Damien Yule is especially suspicious?"

"They won't believe me. Besides, I'm only their granddaughter, and Damien is their son. I need to show them the truth instead of hoping they'll just take my word for it."

Then, she got into the car.

Elle was startled as she looked at the woman's receding silhouette. It suddenly occurred to her that the Young Madam was becoming more and more like the Eldest Young Master.

...

Nicola soon heard about the news that Joel was being treated by Doctor Angelo.

She almost lost her mind upon learning that. Immediately, she called the number saved on her phone. "Joel is going to regain consciousness in one month."

"Calm down. This might be Catherine's trap."

"But Doctor Angelo is really capable. He has helped several patients come out of coma," she said, flustered. "Joel is definitely going to suspect me once he wakes up, and he'll divorce me. I might not get a single cent if that happens."

“Don’t worry. I’ll try my best to take over the Yule Corporation within this month.”

**“So what if you do? I wouldn’t be given a single share of the company.” Nicola clenched her teeth.
“Why didn’t you kill him?”**

“Don’t worry... He’ll die.”

“I can only put my faith in you. All this is for our darling girl, Mel.”

Nicola suddenly choked between words.

As soon as she ended the call, the door was barged open. Melanie was standing by the door, her face as pale as a ghost. “Mom, who was on the phone? Who are you trying to kill? Dad?”

Nicola’s expression shifted. “Don’t stick your nose into this. What time is it now? Why aren’t you at the office yet?”

“Mom, stop trying to change the topic. I heard it all.” Melanie stared at her mother in terror. “It’s really you who hired someone to cause dad’s accident. Mom, how could you do that? He’s your husband. Also, what do you mean by ‘our darling girl Mel’? Am I not dad’s daughter...”

**“Shut up. He’s not my husband.” Nicola knew there was no point keeping this a secret any longer.
“That’s right. He’s not your father.”**

Melanie was shaken to her core. “That’s impossible. No way. Joel Yule is my dad!”

“Melanie, listen. Your dad wanted to divorce me not long ago. He was only going to give you 5% of Yule Corporation’s shares, but 35% to Catherine. I did all these for you,” Nicola shouted with teary eyes and grabbed her daughter by the shoulders.

Melanie’s eyes were filled with hatred. “My dad... Why? Why would he do that to me?”

“Exactly,” Nicola said grudgingly. “The both of us wouldn’t have a place in Canberra’s elite community with just 5% of the shares. Even Charlie would change his mind about being with you.”

Melanie bit her lips. She did not want to experience the pain of being abandoned again. “Mom, why is everyone biased toward Catherine? Am I really not dad’s daughter? Then who is my father?”

“Stop crying. Your dad will give you the Yule Corporation.” Nicola hugged her daughter close. “You’ll know the truth soon.”

...

Hadley handed over the information he had gathered on Yule Corporation to Catherine.

Lately, Damien had been spending time winning over the shareholders’ votes. He even dismissed Joel’s trusted aide with a random excuse.

In less than half a month, he had pretty much taken full control over the Yule Corporation.

“Young Madam, this is just as you predicted. The entire business industry is shocked that they were

tricked by Damien, the crippled man.” Hadley was genuinely impressed by Catherine. A woman’s instinct could be really terrifying sometimes.

“What about Melanie?” she suddenly asked.

“She’s currently the Vice Director. She didn’t take the position seriously until about half a month ago. Apparently, during the last few shareholders meetings, she always sided with Damien.”

Catherine fell into deep thought. “How does Damien treat her?”

“Quite well. He even assigned her to take over a huge project a few days ago. Besides, the Yule family and Campos family are planning a collaboration...”

She lifted her head. “Hadley, do me a favor. Can you get your hands on Damien and Melanie’s hairs for a DNA test?”

This took him by surprise. “Are you suspecting that... It can’t be.”

“Don’t you find it strange? If Damien worked with Nicola simply to acquire the Yule Corporation, then shouldn’t he be trying his hardest to get rid of the mother and daughter duo now? But he’s helping Melanie to grow instead. He can hurt his own brother, but why care so much about his niece?”

Her words had convinced Hadley. “Sure, I’ll sort this out right away.”

...

It was already noon when Catherine completed the task at hand.

She spoke sweetly to Shaun over the phone. "Hubby, have you had lunch?"

"Not yet. I was just about to call you. Rodney invited me to hang out at his new manor," he said softly. "I might spend the night there too."

"I'm worried about you spending the night away from home alone." She was genuinely concerned.

"I'm not going to be alone. Rodney, Chester, and Shelley will be there to look after me." He chuckled. "Have Elle drop you off here in the afternoon if you miss me."

"Sure," she agreed without hesitation.

He appeared startled but quickly replaced the surprise with a flirtatious comment. "You really can't bear being apart from me for even a second."

"That's right. I miss you so much, but it seems like the feeling is not mutual. Have your feelings for me lessened, huh?" Her words rendered him speechless.

"Okay, I can't bear being away from you too. Come over after work, alright?"

Catherine felt extremely frustrated after he hung up. In fact, it was not that she could not bear being away from him, but rather, she was jealous. Every day after she left for work, Shelley would accompany him all day. Now, he was even bringing the woman along to hang out with his friends. Although it was reasonable, Catherine could not help but feel uneasy about that.

At 12:30 p.m., a luxury car drove past the gate into the manor.

Rodney and Chester had been waiting by the door for a long time. However, when Shelley stepped out of the backseat of the vehicle, both of them were astonished. Rodney, especially, narrowed his eyes to look at the woman.

“Sarah... No, Sarah’s way prettier.” He regained his composure after the initial excitement.

“Do you know my cousin too? I’m a relative of Sarah.” Shelley smiled and revealed the dimples on her cheeks.

Tears welled up in Rodney’s eyes, but he quickly averted his gaze. “Sarah’s cousin is my cousin too.”

“What’s going on?” Chester turned to Shaun.

“She’s the nurse that the mental hospital assigned to look after me,” the man explained flatly.

“I see.” Chester nodded. “Is she good? Have you been feeling better?”

At that, Shelley darted her eyes to look at Shaun nervously.

“Don’t worry,” Rodney said as he patted her on the head. “I won’t let him replace you.”

She lifted her head to smile helplessly at the man. "Someone has to be replaced if I'm not good at my job. There's no excuse to disrupt the treatment."

"Not bad." Shaun glanced at her quickly before taking the lead to go inside.

Chester questioned him in a low voice, "Hey, did you keep her around because you haven't forgotten about Sarah?"

"You're overthinking. Do you remember how I recovered from my illness last time?" A helpless look washed over Shaun's face. "The doctor said my illness came from childhood trauma, and Sarah was my only source of happiness during that period of time. Perhaps looking at this familiar face would help me recover sooner. In fact, I've been feeling pretty good lately."

"But aren't you worried that Catherine would find out..."

"She won't if the two of you don't tell." He glared at his friend as a warning. "Remind Rodney to keep quiet about this."

Chester frowned but did not comment further since Sarah had already passed away. "Oh, I heard that you've been targeting the Neeson family lately?"

"Not really. I just want to teach them a lesson. What's the matter? Are you feeling bad for Charity?" Shaun threw him a playful glance.

"Why would I feel bad for her?" Chester scoffed as if he had been told a joke. "Come on, being with a treacherous woman like her is my biggest regret in life."

“Good.”

.....

4:30 p.m.

Catherine was on the way to the manor.

Halfway through the journey, she noticed that a white Lamborghini had half of its wheel stuck in the mud. A young woman was standing by the roadside. She was wearing a long red dress beneath a black jacket., which complimented her tall and curvy figure.

“Pull aside,” she said.

Elle frowned after throwing a glance at that woman. “Miss Jones, we shouldn’t meddle in others’ affairs.”

“The sun is setting soon. It’s not safe to leave a beautiful woman by the road alone.” Catherine then pushed the door open and stepped out of the vehicle. “Do you need help?”

The young woman turned around, and she was surprised when their eyes met.

Catherine was startled too. The woman in front of her had her long hair tied up into a bun, revealing her slim neck and fair skin. Not only did she have a beautiful figure, but her delicate features were also impeccable. She looked domineering yet elegant.

Enough, Charity. Stop tearing Shaun and his wife apart.”

Chester, who stood beside the barbecue grill, finally spoke. He was dressed in casual clothes, and his tall nose exuded a sense of nobility and elegance. However, his eyes reflected a hint of intense hatred. “You’re still as sharp-tongued as ever. How annoying!”

His words stabbed Charity in the heart.

This man was now much more good-looking, but his hatred toward her was still the same.

An icy smile tugged at the corners of her mouth. “I’ve been trying to shun you guys for all these years. As far as I recall, I don’t think I’ve done anything to you guys either. But why are you guys suddenly finding fault with Neeson Corporation? Eldest Young Master Hill, microchips are really important for us. I beg you...”

“What does it have to do with me?” Shaun’s figure conveyed indifference.

A pale look washed over Charity’s pretty face.

Seeing how helpless Charity was reminded Catherine of her old self.

“Eldest Young Master Hill, will you consider my request if I beg you on my knees?” Charity stared at Shaun’s back in frustration.

Rodney said cruelly, “Begging is no use, Charity. This is on you. Go back and reflect on yourself. Be a

decent human being. Who knows, we might consider offering the Neeson family a chance to survive then.”

“You guys haven’t changed at all. I will never know what I’ve done to offend you guys,” Charity scoffed in a self-deprecating manner. Just as she turned around and was ready to leave, she was stunned at the sight of Shelley’s face. “Who’s she?”

Shelley got into a panic and subconsciously hid behind Shaun.

Shaun frowned deeply. “Get lost right away.”

Charity snorted once again. Her eyes swept over the three men before she looked at Catherine sympathetically. “Three men tricking and cheating an innocent, kind woman. Is that fun?”

Catherine’s head buzzed. She was perplexed and in pain. She could not understand what Charity was saying, nor could she understand why the three men’s expressions changed drastically after they heard her words.

“Get out.” Chester strode toward Charity. He clutched her arms and dragged her out.

He dragged her all the way to the manor’s gate and swung her on the ground.

Charity, who was wearing high heels, scraped her knees. Her hair became messy too. However, she gnashed her teeth and soon stood up in neither an overbearing nor humble manner. Her eyes were cold and resolute.

“Charity, if you still hope for the Neeson family to have a place in Canberra, you better shut your

mouth,” Chester warned her with a fierce stare.

“Since you had the audacity to do it, why are you afraid of letting others know?” Charity’s cool face was overwhelmed with obstinacy. “You guys can’t even get over a woman who has been dead for years. What’s so great about Sarah? She...”

Slap.

Chester’s cold slap landed on Charity’s face. “Shut up.”

Charity tried to blink away her tears. “Don’t worry. I won’t tell Catherine about it. She’s a good woman who doesn’t deserve to be hurt. A problematic person like Shaun just doesn’t match her.”

“It looks like you haven’t learned your lesson.” Chester gripped her throat. Even after years, the woman never failed to make his blood boil.

“Am I wrong in saying that?” Charity replied while suffocating, “Despite having a wife, he chose to keep a woman who resembles his ex-girlfriend by his side. He’s trying to bully Catherine who has never seen Sarah because she’s not from here, huh? He feels nostalgic, right? Since he can’t get over Sarah, why did he decide to marry Catherine? To trick her? You guys are all scumbags.”

“Shut your mouth. You know nothing.”

Chester directly pulled her up and threw her into the fountain beside him.

When the freezing water touched her skin, she almost suffocated from the cold.

“You should be fortunate that I’m the one sending you off. If it were Rodney or Shaun, the consequences you’d be facing now would be much worse.” Chester cast a grim glance at Charity, who

was in a mess. Then, he turned around and left without looking back.

Charity sneered while she watched Chester leave.

Was she supposed to thank him?

...

On the field by the pond.

Only the sound of the burning charcoal could be heard amid the silence.

A while later, Shaun took his coat and then put his hand around Catherine's waist. "I don't feel like eating anymore. It's boring. Let's go to my room."

"I feel like going home," Catherine said all of a sudden.

Rodney was very glum. "Shaun, didn't you promise to go fishing in the sea tomorrow morning? You can ask Hadley to send her home. It's rare that all of us are free to get together and have fun."

"Suit yourselves." Catherine broke free from Shaun's grasp and walked forward.

"I'm not joining tomorrow." Shaun went after Catherine with big strides.

Shelley hurriedly took some stuff and went after them as well.

Rodney was so annoyed that he kicked the barbecue grill down.

...

On their way home.

Hadley drove Catherine and Shaun, who were seated in the backseats, as well as Shelley, who was seated in the passenger seat.

After some time, Shelley cautiously handed a slice of cake to Catherine and Shaun. "Eldest Young Master Hill, Young Madam, have this slice of cake to fill your tummies since you guys didn't eat anything for dinner."

Catherine remained still and stared Shelley down until her face became increasingly pale.

With a frown, Shaun stretched out his hand to take the cake. Then, he put it in front of Catherine. "It'll take at least another hour for us to get home. Just eat it."

"No need. I don't feel like eating." Catherine lowered her head and played with her phone.

The atmosphere on their way back to the seaside villa was tense.

When Shelley got out of the car, her eyes were all red.

Catherine turned her head around and glanced at her. "What's wrong? I don't think I did anything to you during the journey."

"Young Madam..." Shelley was at her wits' end. It seemed as if the tears in her eyes were going to trickle down her cheeks at any time. "Sorry."

"Sorry for what?" Catherine kept an impassive face. "Stop acting like you're aggrieved and intimidated. It might make other people think that I bullied you."

Shaun furrowed his brows. "Cathy..."

"I'm just saying what's on my mind." After throwing him a glance, Catherine walked into the villa right away.

Shelley bit her lip. "Eldest Young Master Hill, Young Madam doesn't seem too fond of me. I really have no idea what to do."

"Just go and rest for now."

Shaun sighed. He turned around and followed Catherine into the bedroom. "Now that you've vented your anger, do you feel better?"

"No. If I insist on being friends with Charity, are you going to divorce me?" Catherine lifted her head and watched the man's handsome face darken.

“Stop it. You really took Charity’s words seriously.”

“Can you answer my question?” Catherine looked at him firmly.

A trace of impatience flashed across Shaun’s brow. “I won’t divorce you, but I won’t allow you to be friends with her either. You don’t know Charity. She’s a wicked woman.”

“What are the unforgivably wicked things she has done? Can you give me an example?” Catherine asked out of curiosity.

“...”

Shaun’s eyes darkened, then he looked away. “She has done too many wicked things in the past. Anyhow, I’m doing this for your own good.”

More New chapters

