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At first, I did not understand what he wanted, but as soon as he pointed at his cheek, I knew he was asking for a kiss.

"We're in public, for goodness sake!" It was extremely inappropriate to display affection in front of so many people!

A corner of his mouth quirked up. "We're married, so it's normal for a wife to give her husband a goodbye kiss."

Now was not the right time or place to argue with him on this topic.

Instead of starting a fight with him, I leaned forward and gave him a kiss on his cheek. All of sudden, he wined down the window and kissed me on my lips. "Oh yes. Sweet!"

I got out of the car and tried to control my anger.

As I was walking toward the entrance, I bumped into Marcus.

He had been standing outside the entrance. I bet he must have seen what Ashton did to me in the car, especially after Ashton wined down the window for the whole world to see.

His expression changed, and I could tell he was shooting daggers at Ashton. In spite of that, I went up and greeted him as if nothing ever happened, "Good morning!"

He bit lips and gradually turned his attention to me. "Hey."

Once we got into the elevator, he gave me a document. "Take a look at some information about OrbitTech. Our chances are slim as both John and Ashton have their eyes on this company too."

I nodded and took over the document. "What are our chances if they decide to give up on OrbitTech?"

He paused for a moment and frowned, "Have you talked to them?"

I responded with a nod. Once we stepped out of the elevator, I said, "One of them is my brother, and the other person is my husband. I guess luck is on my side."

"If only things are as simple as you thought." Marcus let out a cold snort.

We did not dwell on this topic after that. I went to my office and studied the document he gave me.

At noon, Sally came to my office. "We need to talk."

"About?" I gave her a puzzled look.

Clad in a black dress suit, she looked exceptionally elegant. She pressed her lips for a bit and said, "You'll know."

I nodded, put aside the document, and left the office with her.

We arrived at one of the cafés in the city center, and I ordered a cup of coffee. Sally looked at me and asked, "What's going on between you and Marcus?"

The way she spoke to me was as if she was questioning a teenager.

"We're friends. Business partners." I gave her the standard answer.

She nodded and took a sip of her coffee. "How about Ashton? Are you planning to divorce him?"

Oops. I don't think many people know that I've moved back to the villa.

I looked at Sally and squinted. "Is this what you want to talk to me about?"

She said, "I heard you were going to divorce Ashton after Dad passed away. The only reason that's holding you back was your pregnancy. Ashton is a responsible man, and he was willing to take care of you and the baby. Does this mean there's no love in this marriage?"

Who told you this?

I grinned. "Thank you for paying attention to the problems of my marriage. I appreciate it."

She also responded with a calm smile. "Do you still love him? Just tell me."

"It seems you really like to make swift decisions just after weighing the pros and cons, Ms. Fuller."

Upon hearing that remark, she let out a mirthless laugh. "You two decided to stay together because of the baby. Now that the baby is out of the way and you don't love each other, then it's time for you to move on! I noticed you seem to be very close with Marcus. Why not give him a chance?"

That's how you convince someone to get a divorce? What a joke.

"Did Ashton agree to your suggestion?" She might have advised Ashton too since he visited the White family last night.

Sally frowned. "Stop wasting each other's time and move on."

I nodded. I could not really blame her for giving me this suggestion. After all, I had indeed been quite close with Marcus recently. Let's not forget the fact Ashton and I were also on bad terms with each other and had been separated for quite some time.

Perhaps, to Sally, the best option for me was to file for a divorce.

Hence, I believe Sally must have evaluated the situation before throwing out her suggestion.

Unless she had an ulterior motive that I was not aware of.

I had to say something in response to her suggestion. "I don't think it's fair for you to advise us to get a divorce just because my marriage is on the rocks. If there's something else on your mind, please share it with me, so I can evaluate the pros and cons like how you'd do."

She took another sip of her coffee and paused for a bit. "You should know who's the father of Rebecca's baby, right? I'm sure you know it better than I do. She's also the main cause of the problems in your marriage. Now that she's carrying Ashton's child, we have to step in and acknowledge the child as a part of the Fuller family."

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I see.

How stupid of me! Of course it's all because of Rebecca's baby.

I looked at her and grinned. "You must have known about her pregnancy for quite some time, right? You didn't mention this, because legally speaking, I am still Ashton's wife, and you didn't have a reason to break us apart. Now that my child is gone, you want to get rid of me, so you can bring Rebecca into the family because of the baby she's carrying. I wonder if Ashton knows about your intention?"

Sally's expression instantly changed. She did not like how straightforward I was, even though the things I said were exactly what's on her mind.

"You're right. Don't we all make decisions after weighing all the pros and cons? Since your marriage with Ashton is doomed to fail anyway, why don't you take this opportunity to free yourself?"

I nodded in agreement. What she said made sense, but somehow, I was not pleased to hear that.

After that, I turned my attention to my phone, which I had placed on the table, and said, "You heard it? If you agree, we shall make a trip to Civil Affairs Bureau and sign the divorce papers."

Sally was taken aback when she realized Ashton was on the phone and heard what she said.

The color drained out of her pale, and she gave me a disdainful look.

Ashton, on the other hand, expressed his dismay in a deep voice. "Don't ever allow others to tell us what to do. It's our marriage, and we make decisions for ourselves. And above all, you should know my feelings for you."

He then raised his voice, "I'm afraid your understanding of love is quite different from us, Aunt Sally. How much do you, as an outsider, know about our marriage, anyway?"

She froze instantly as she was dumbstruck upon hearing the word "outsider."

Before she could defend herself, Ashton continued, "Next time, please mind your own business, Aunt Sally. You're the daughter-in-law of the White family now, so it's time for you to leave the Fullers alone. If possible, we don't even have to keep in touch anymore."

Ashton sounded harsh over the phone as if he wanted to sever ties with her.

After ending the call, Sally looked at me with her pallid face. "How dare you pull this trick on me?"

I smiled and shrugged my shoulders. "I just wanted to confirm if he wants to apply for a divorce too."

A corner of my mouth quirked up, "Well, it looks like you're doing this behind Ashton's back when he's not aware of anything. I'm glad he heard the conversation. Otherwise, we might start arguing over this unnecessary misunderstanding."

I believe Sally was smart enough to know that we had identified her as a troublemaker who tried to wreck our marriage.

All of a sudden, she raised her voice. "Fine! I'll leave your marriage alone, but Rebecca's child belongs to the Fullers, and I'll make sure the child gets the recognition he or she deserves!"

Once again, I nodded. "You're right. I agree with you totally. But how certain are you that Ashton is the father to Rebecca's child? You better investigate properly before acknowledging the child as a Fuller."

Time was running out, and I still needed to grab a quick lunch. With that, I picked up my handbag and smiled. "Oh yes, there's something else you might not know. Do you know who caused the death of my child? Perhaps you can have a chat with Cameron or even Rebecca and see what they'll tell you. It's time for you to analyze the situation and not be fooled by what you see."

Following that, I grabbed my bag and left the café.

Why on earth did she choose a café? I don't need coffee for lunch. I need a proper meal, damn it!

I went down to the second floor and passed by a new restaurant. I could not help but giggle at its name – The Unpalatable.

To come up with such an unpleasant name, the proprietor must be a young and wealthy risk-taker.

Out of curiosity, I decided to order takeout from them. Surprisingly, both the food and the lunchbox they used looked pretty good.

I supposed Marcus had not had his lunch too, so I returned to order another takeout. Lo and behold, I bumped into Cameron and Rebecca outside the restaurant.

The mother-daughter duo, who was probably shopping in this mall, was so well-dressed that I could hardly tell one of them was pregnant.

What a blessing it was to be rich.

I was just a stone's throw away from them, so if I could see them, I was sure they could see me too.

Under normal circumstances, we should avoid each other. After all, none of us wished to make a din in this public area.

But since there were not many people in the mall, the two of them noticed me right away.

Rebecca walked up to me with a look of haughty disdain. "I wonder if there are any places in this world that I can go without seeing your irritating face."

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I raised my brows and shrugged my shoulders, "How funny! That's exactly what I was thinking too!"

Unlike me, Rebecca did have a way with men. But I, too, had a knack for irritating the hell out of her.

Upon seeing how I treated her daughter, Cameron shot daggers at me. "It looks like Ms. Stovall has learned to carry an air of confidence like a true Stovall now."

I responded with a giggle. "I'm sure Ms. Larson is as confident as I am."

"Stop blowing your own horn. You're just a hillbilly who was lucky enough to be adopted by a prominent family. Do you really think you're qualified to take on the family name?"

Wow. That b*tch's mouth is really one of a kind.

I grinned and said nonchalantly. "You're right. I was born a hillbilly and will forever be one. Likewise, an undignified woman will also always be the same no matter how rich she becomes. Am I right, Ms. Anderson?"

Cameron's expression turned grim, and she could not take it anymore. "You better watch your mouth, Ms. Stovall."

I played along and nodded in agreement. At this moment, Sally, who had just left the café, appeared.

Seeing that Sally was here, I intentionally turned my attention to Rebecca's belly and raised my voice, "I heard that my husband, Ashton, is the father to your baby. Is that true, Ms. Larson?"

"It's none of your business." The awkwardness was written all over her face. "Of course, it's Ashton's child. Don't you dare do anything to my baby!"

"What else can I do?" What she said was so ridiculous that I could not stop smiling. Now that Sally had walked toward us, I continued, "Ashton told me he had never had physical intimacy with you in the past. How did you exactly get pregnant? Did he shoot his baby gravy into your womb from afar?" I winked.

Rebecca's expression turned murderous. "What do you mean? Are you trying to say I don't even know who my baby's father is?"

"I'm sure you know who he is!" Seeing her panic reaction made me believe what John told me earlier. I smiled and continued, "This is why I hope you can leave Ashton alone and don't make him the scapegoat anymore. Shall we take the paternity test to find out who the father is?"

"I'm actually don't mind him having a child with someone else, but since the Fuller's and Stovall's reputation are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry."

As Sally approached us, I turned around and gave her a smile. "What do you think, Aunt Sally?"

Sally was dumbfounded, and her eyes instantly fell on Rebecca's tummy. To defuse the tension, she looked at Rebecca and said in a gentle voice, "Shall we make an appointment to do the test? We just need to find out if the baby belongs to the Fuller family. We have to protect our family reputation, after all."

Rebecca was taken aback as she did not expect I would make this move.

At that point, she was at a loss for words. "You have to trust me, Aunt Sally. Besides, doing the test during pregnancy may cause a miscarriage. Are you willing to risk the life of a member of the Fuller family? Moreover, it's obvious that Scarlett is trying to sow discord between us because she wants to take revenge against me."

I laughed. "Take revenge against you? For?"

"For killing your baby..." Rebecca accidentally blurted out.

Cameron instantly raised her voice and stopped her, "Rebecca!"

Sally must have heard what Rebecca said as she was obviously startled at her sudden confession. However, she decided to just keep mum.

To divert everyone's attention, Cameron looked at me and asked, "What made you think Rebecca's baby is not Ashton's? And why can't we do the paternity test after the child is born?"

She then turned to Sally and said, "If you insist on doing it, fine, we'll cooperate. But from then on, we'll cut ties with the Fullers and raise the baby on our own, even if the results prove that the baby is Ashton's child."

A line formed between Sally's brows, but she did not know how to react to that threat.

She plastered a smile on her face and said, "I think we should talk to Ashton first. Besides, Ashton is already married, so I'm not the best person to make any decision on his behalf."

Well played, Aunt Sally. By shoving the responsibility to Ashton, you don't have to worry about offending anyone anymore.

Cameron's expression changed. She grabbed Rebecca's wrist and left in frustration. On the other hand, Sally gave me a sullen glare that I had no clue what it was for.

Well, I was not bothered by it, anyway. Let's see what would happen in the future.

At about 6 p.m., I received a call from Ashton. "Yes?"

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"You haven't gotten off work yet?" His voice sounded calm and emotionless.

Not deliberating over the question, I merely grunted a response. I glanced at the clock casually and saw that it was already 6 p.m., which marked the end of the workday.

"I have to work overtime today. What's up?" As I had to go to J City tomorrow, I needed to confirm that everything was in order.

After tidying the files on my desk, I noted down some things that I needed to bring tomorrow. Since the phone was completely silent, I thought that he had already hung up.

When I tapped the screen, it showed that the call was still continuing. Hence, I could not help but say, "I might be quite late..."

Before I could finish my sentence, I saw a tall man standing at the entrance. Stunned, I asked, "Didn't the employees of White Corporation stop you?"

He raised his eyebrows and hung up the call. Walking towards my desk, he said, "Work has already ended, so I'm allowed to pick you up."

He's allowed to? I'm not so sure about that.

He glanced at the work I was handling at that moment. "You should eat first before continuing with it."

As I did not have much work left, I initially planned to finish them first before returning home. However, it seemed unnecessary now.

I kept my belongings and stood up. "I'll continue working at home. Let's go!"

There were a lot of people in the office, so it was inevitable for some to recognize Ashton. It was obvious what they were thinking about.

As expected, when Ashton and I left the office, there were a lot of people in the stairway glancing at him and muttering softly under their breaths.

“Isn’t he the president of Fuller Corporation? I’ve seen him on the headlines a few months ago. It was when he announced that the headquarters of Fuller Corporation would be moving to K City for future development.”

“Yeah, I saw it too. He’s much hotter in person than on television!”

“He’s such a mysterious and charming man. But why is he with Ms. Stovall?”

“I heard that he’s here to pick her up!”

“Wasn’t Ashton engaged with Rebecca two months ago? Why is he together with Ms. Stovall now?”

“Who knows? We can never know what kind of lifestyles the wealthy have. Furthermore, only the Moore family is still harping on Ashton’s engagement with Ms. Larson. He has never responded to it at all. I think that the woman from the Moore family likes Mr. Fuller, but he doesn’t reciprocate her feelings.”

As we exited the White Corporation, Ashton and I overheard a lot of gossips.

It was finally silent again when we got into the car.

Ashton started the engine. Then, he glanced at me and instructed, “Buckle your seatbelt!”

As he drove, I took out my phone and sent a message to Marcus, asking him when the flight tomorrow was.

“Do the employees in the office bully you?” I was stunned by Ashton’s sudden question.

I shook my head. “No. What’s wrong?”

He pursed his lips and continued, “Do you often hear such gossips?”

"Yeah," I replied softly. Marcus had replied to my message and sent me the timing of the flight. He also reminded me to bring all the items necessary.

When I placed my phone down, I caught him staring at me with a frown. I had no choice but to explain, "Marcus appointed me as the Project Director of White Corporation right off the bat. It's not an extremely high-ranking position, but I have only worked in Fuller Corporation for a few years and even got fired. It's expected that people in the company would gossip about me."

When I first joined the company, I could often hear people saying that I was Marcus's mistress.

To be honest, it was true that I joined the company through Marcus. All I needed to do now was to fulfill my duties well and do a good job. Otherwise, others would deem me as someone who was only hired through connections.

Without another word from Ashton, he directly drove back to the villa. Although he made no further comments, a grim look crept into his eyes.

Instead, he mentioned Sally. "Did Aunt Sally talk to you about other things?"

I shook my head. "She only talked to me about Rebecca. She probably doesn't want a child of the Fullers to be left abandoned."

He scoffed coldly, "Do you believe that the child is mine?"

"Is the child not?" I raised my eyebrows and questioned back.

He paused for a while before staring at me seriously. "Will you believe me if I say no?"

I nodded. "There's no reason for me to doubt you."

Stunned momentarily, he laughed and said in relief, "The child's not mine, and I will never marry her. As for the engagement, I was never part of the discussion right from the start. The reason why I didn't deny it publicly and embarrass Rebecca is solely because of Parker."

I smiled. Pursing my lips, I peered out of the car window and remained silent.

When he saw me smiling without saying anything, he thought that I still did not believe him. He insisted, "Scarlett, I have never touched her at all."

Noticing his serious expression, I nodded and reassured him, "I know. You don't have to keep explaining."

The car screeched to a stop at the villa. He grabbed my arm solemnly and asked, "Did you join the White Corporation and take over the AI project because you wanted to oppose the Moore family using the White family?"

I nodded, not wanting to deny it. "What's wrong with that?"

He pursed his lips in frustration. "Why in the world would you rather seek help from Marcus over me?"

Glancing at him, I took a deep breath and asked, "Is the child mine alone?"

Stunned, he fell into a brief silence. He gazed at me and said, "With regards to the child, I'll make Cameron pay the price. Don't you dare take any risks."

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Knowing that he would say that, I nodded. "Okay, I understand."

Although I did not know what he planned to do, it had nothing to do with me. After all, I did not plan to rely on someone else to avenge me for all of my past sufferings. Except for myself, everyone else merely served as support.

As I had to go to J City tomorrow, I went to bed early that night. Yet, as expected, I was still plagued by insomnia.

When Ashton noticed that I could not fall asleep, he embraced me with his arms. "Why don't we do it for the night?"

I was speechless.

There's a huge difference between "do it for the night" and "do it once."

"Ashton, I need to go to J City tomorrow. I don't have the energy for that!" I chided before turning around. With my back facing him, I closed my eyes and prepared to sleep.

He hugged me from behind. Although he did not do anything, I...

After a while, I frowned and said, "Ashton, I can't sleep like this."

"We're a couple. Why can't we do this?" He sounded so righteous.

I pursed my lips and inched towards the edge of the bed, trying to distance myself from him.

However, he quickly pressed his body against my back again. Left with no choice, I closed my eyes again and tried to fall asleep.

However, the more I wanted to sleep, the more I failed to do so. Just like that, I was kept awake for the entire night.

The next morning at 6 a.m., I woke up and got out of bed. As I had not slept at all, my body was weak, and I could hear ringing in my ears. It felt extremely uncomfortable.

Ashton got up too. He probably had not gotten a restful sleep either. "I'll send you to the airport later."

"It's alright. It's still early, so you should sleep for a while longer!" I replied while heading into the bathroom to wash up.

He changed out of his pajamas and pinched his nose bridge. "I'm fine. I can rest in the afternoon."

Frowning, I suppressed my urge to refuse him and entered the bathroom. By the time I came out, he had already changed his clothes.

Soon, we arrived at the airport.

Ashton parked the car outside the airport terminal and asked, "When will you be returning?"

Quickly rushing out of the car, I replied hastily, "I'll return after the matter's settled."

When he saw how eager I was to get out of the car, he pulled me back and narrowed his eyes. "Why don't I accompany you there?"

I frowned. As it was almost time for boarding, I could not help but feel anxious. "It's fine. It's not like I'll never come back, right?"

He moved closer to me and smirked. Narrowing his eyes, he said, "I'm afraid that you'll be reluctant to return after you go there and meet someone."

His words made me so uneasy.

When I saw that he was staring out of the car windows, I could not help but follow his gaze. Stunned, I saw that Marcus had already arrived and was waiting at the entrance of the terminal.

No wonder Ashton's suddenly acting so weird. Sighing, I looked at him and asserted, "Ashton, I'm there to work!"

He pursed his lips and nodded. "I know. I'll give you three days. If you don't return after three days, I won't let you go on business trips alone anymore."

Although he said it casually, his tone was very firm.

I nodded and got out of the car, lamenting silently in my mind. He's nosing into my business.

Marcus passed the boarding ticket to me. Glancing in Ashton's direction, he narrowed his eyes and remarked, "He seems to be really worried that you'll elope with me."

I shrugged and did not comment on that. Instead, I reminded calmly, "It's getting late, so let's board the plane now!"

The plane ride from K City to J City took four hours. When we reached J City, it was just in time for lunch.

Marcus then brought me to a restaurant in which he had already reserved seats. Initially, I planned to return to Peakville Estate first. As the meeting with the president of OrbitTech was in the afternoon, I could still return to the villa for a short rest.

However, as I could not argue against Marcus, I went to the restaurant with him.

Right then, Ashton's call arrived just in time. The moment I sat in the car headed to the restaurant, he called.

I picked it up. As I was a little tired, I did not really want to speak. Hence, I waited for him to say the first word.

His voice was deep and emotionless. "Have you reached yet?"

"Yeah," I mumbled softly. When I noticed Marcus staring at me, I continued, "I just reached the airport and will be eating at a restaurant later."

"Okay. I hired a maid to take care of the house. After finishing the business meeting at night, go home earlier. Don't stay outside for too long." For some reason, he seemed a little naggy.

I nodded and muttered an acknowledgment. As he had something else to attend to, he hung up afterward.

Marcus looked at me with his lips pursed. "He seems worried about me."

I shrugged. Isn't it obvious?

When he saw my reaction, he smiled and stopped mulling over it. "After the meeting, you can rest at J City for a few days before going back. Since you're used to this place, it's probably going to be a comfortable stay for you."

I nodded. When the car arrived at the restaurant, I got out of the car and entered with him.

As I did not have a good night's sleep, I felt quite drowsy. After taking a few bites, I did not have much of an appetite anymore.

Hence, I propped my chin up with my hand while waiting for Marcus to finish his meal.

"You b*tch! Who are you to control what I do?" The voice was extremely loud, especially in the quiet restaurant, thus causing the rest to glance over.

Marcus and I peered in the direction of the voice too. A man had just thrown a plate of roasted vegetables at a woman.

As there were waiters surrounding them, we could not see their faces clearly. However, it could vaguely be seen that the woman had been badly beaten up by the man.

When I saw that, I could not help but frown. Isn't this domestic abuse? He's beating her up in public. Is no one going to stop him?