

Let me go, Mr. Hill by Shallow South

CHAPTER 601

In a matter of minutes, the Yule Corporation's scandals had gone viral.

[Breaking news! The President of Yule Corporation had an affair with his sister-in-law. The illegitimate child is a tool for stealing the elder brother's wealth.]

[Unbelievable. I watched the live stream earlier. A pr*ck like Damien Yule even received support from the company's executives. He must've bribed them a lot. I think this should be looked into.]

[Haha, birds of the same feather flock together. Perhaps they don't think the affair is problematic.]

[People always say that the super-rich people are sick in the mind. I believe it now.]

[What's wrong with those who stayed behind in the celebration? To show their support to Damien?]

[No way. It makes me sick just looking at products of the Yule Corporation. Join me in boycotting them starting from today]

“...”

Numerous guests could not bring themselves to stay after reading the comments. “Um... I think it's better that we leave.”

“Ah, I suddenly remembered I have a meeting to attend tonight. I'll have to leave first.”

The guests left one after another. The executives of Yule Corporation felt so embarrassed that they wished they could bury themselves in a hole right this second.

“Damien, you and your daughter are a real disgrace.” All the shareholders now regretted their choices. They shouted at the executives at the back, “Why are all of you all still here? Head back to the company for meetings with the PR department now.”

The banquet hall was empty in a matter of minutes.

Old Master Yule threw his walking stick at Damien. “You're a shame to the

family!"

Then, he left the scene with Old Madam Yule.

Infuriated, Damien smashed all the glasses on the table to the ground. Nicola was so shocked that she quickly ran over to hug her daughter. "Why didn't that stupid Catherine die along with her mother all those years ago?"

"Dad... What should we do now?" Melanie's lips quivered as she questioned. Her teary eyes were filled with rage.

A glint flashed across Charlie's eyes as he smiled slyly and said, "There's something we can do. Didn't Catherine openly admit that she's Joel's illegitimate daughter earlier? Aunty Nicola, you could turn this around and say it was Uncle Joel who cheated on you first. You only sought help from his brother as revenge."

"Yes, you're right." Melanie's eyes twinkled. "Not only will the people stop insulting us, but the feminists will also show us their support."

Damien nodded along. "Charlie, that's a good idea."

"Alright, I'll gather the reporters immediately for a press conference."

However, as soon as Nicola's voice trailed off, Damien's secretary suddenly approached them. "President Campos, I'm afraid that'll not work. Catherine

posted this on her Facebook about three minutes ago. Look.”

She handed them her phone.

Catherine's Facebook account that had been inactive for three years was updated. [Hi everyone, my name is Catherine Jones, the daughter of Sheryl Jones and Joel Yule. Unfortunately, I'm an illegitimate child. Twenty-eight years ago, my parents fell in love with one another. But because of different family backgrounds, my paternal grandparents didn't allow them to be together and forced him to marry Nicola Wicks instead. That same year, Mr. Yule and Miss Wicks got drunk and had a one-night stand. She claimed that she was pregnant with his child and forced him to take on the responsibility. My mother didn't tell Mr. Yule about my presence, hence Mr. Yule, as the responsible man he was, married Miss Wicks. I was raised by my maternal grandmother. All I wanted to say is Mr. Yule wouldn't have married Miss Wicks if she hadn't blackmailed him with the child. Funnily enough, the child doesn't even belong to Mr. Yule, and my mother passed away not long after she gave birth to me...]

The post garnered numerous comments within minutes.

[I was just about to say that Joel Yule is no different from Nicola Wicks. One of them had an illegitimate daughter, whereas the other one cheated on her husband. As it turns out, she was the third party.]

[She forced her way into the wealthy family with the child that doesn't even belong with him. Unbelievable.]

[What's more crazy is that apparently, Joel Yule gave Nicola Wicks over 30 billion dollars when they divorced a few years ago.]

[I would've died out of rage if I were Joel Yule.]

[I don't understand. Nicola slept with Damien first so why did she insist on marrying Joel later? To ruin his life?]

[I'm not sure. Damien is crippled and he doesn't have much inheritance in the family. Joel has always been the president of Yule Corporation. The Wicks family was unknown in Canberra before Nicola married Joel. Today, they're one of the city's most wealthy families.]

[I heard that Joel fell into a deep coma after an accident three years ago and he almost lost his life. I bet Nicola and Damien were behind that too.]

[I mentioned three years ago that Nicola could be the mastermind behind it but no one believed me.]

"..."

"Ahh, Catherine you b*tch!" Nicola yelled hysterically without caring for her manners.

Charlie had his jaw clenched as well. It appeared that Catherine had already anticipated this to happen.

Honestly, he would not have married Melanie if he knew she was Damien's daughter. He had thought of slowly taking over Yule Corporation after her promotion.

Catherine's unexpected return messed up his plan.

...

The sound of footsteps echoed in the vast parking lot.

Catherine retrieved her car key to unlock the white sports car in front of her.

"Catherine Jones."

Shaun's deep, indifferent voice rang behind her.

Joel turned around immediately and positioned himself in front Catherine. "Shaun, please stay away from my daughter."

Shaun continued walking toward her as if he did not hear the man.

He had been rather surprised by her calm composure in the banquet hall earlier when she was dealing with the country's most wealthy and powerful people.

It was evident that she had planned this thoroughly with caution.

She had successfully exposed Damien, Nicola, and Melanie's true colors in front of Australia's most influential people.

Perhaps those slow-witted people had yet to realize that the news reporters present tonight would be streaming the whole ceremony in real-time.

Anyone who cared about their reputation would undoubtedly steer clear of the trio once they came to that realization.

Having good connections was more important than anything to a businessperson.

However, Catherine had destroyed all of that for the trio effortlessly. That was

certainly impressive.

Shaun only remembered her as the annoying and aggressive woman from three years ago.

Today, she had returned more beautiful and powerful than ever, as though she was a completely different person.

It seemed that she had been living well in recent years.

On the other hand, he had been deceived by her all these years like a fool. He had even felt guilty for what had happened to her.

He had not been sleeping well in the past thousand or so nights because of her.

"You lied to me. You're not dead."

Shaun's dark eyes overflowed with rage within seconds.

As if having lost control of himself, he reached out an arm to grab her but was stopped by Joel immediately.

"Uncle Joel, move."

He warned coldly.

Enraged, Joel was about to yell back when Catherine pushed him away softly. She glanced at Shaun's handsome face nonchalantly. "You're right. I lied to you."

"Very well. Who was in it as well? Freya? Or the people from the hospital?" Shaun felt like a fool the more he thought of how she had deceived him for the past three years.

She cocked her head before twitching her lips into a smile. "President Hill, if I hadn't pretended to be dead then, I'm afraid I would've really been burned into ashes."

"What do you mean?"

Despite the dazzling smile hanging on her face, the sarcasm hidden beneath filled his narrowed eyes with indifference.

"I'm sure you know what I mean."

Catherine smiled before retrieving a pair of sunglasses from her purse and putting it on. She instantly looked fashionable and confident. "I was just a normal person yet you threw me into the mental hospital. Every day, I was forcefully injected and fed with medicine. I was trapped indoors, living a life more restricted than a prisoner in jail. You all would have driven me crazy for real in no time."

A lump formed in Shaun's throat as he spoke in a hoarse voice, "You weren't mentally stable back then..."

"Do you know the difference between mental disorder and extreme anger?" She scoffed. "I lost my children and was being confined indoors yet you were being intimate with Sarah before my eyes every single day. How could I not have gone mad? Did you think I should've been calm and polite with you then?"

"Shaun, how could you have treated my daughter like that?" Joel was heartbroken to learn this. When he first came out of the coma, he had also thought Catherine was suffering from a mental disorder. Little did he know it was all because of Shaun.

"You b*stard!" Joel could not hold it in anymore and tried to punch him in the face.

Shaun blocked the man's fist effortlessly and even held it back by force.

"Let go of him." Catherine's beautiful eyes turned cold instantly. "You threatened me with my dad so many times three years ago and now you're trying the same old trick?"

Shaun's arm froze immediately. He pursed his thin lips before slowly loosening his grip on Joel.

A look of surprise washed over the latter's face. "How did he use me to threaten you?"

"..."

Shaun remained quiet. Catherine lifted her head to look at him, smiling. "Eldest Young Master Hill, why don't you explain? Weren't you quite confident in threatening me back then?"

The sight of her dazzling smile frustrated him. He remembered she used to hate him for doing this. However, she could now talk about the past indifferently with a mocking smile.

"Everyone made mistakes then. Your friends weren't innocent either." Finally, he replied in a deep voice.

"Yes, your girlfriend's elder brother is the only innocent person." She turned around to smile at Joel. "Dad, the reporters caught him cheating with Sarah behind my back. He felt bad for that woman when everyone was insulting her so he forced me to tell the public that we were already divorced. Otherwise, he would prohibit Dr. Angelo from treating you. In the end, Sarah's elder brother barged into my friend's house and fought with her violently. One of my friends was stabbed and the other one was almost raped. After that, he used you to threaten me again so that I would give up on bringing his girlfriend's brother to justice."

Joel was frightened to hear that. How much had his daughter suffered because of him?"

He felt like a complete failure the more he thought about this. His eyes were overflowing with rage.

He hated himself for being old and too weak to fight with that man.

"Shaun, you animal! No, you're worse than an animal!"

Shaun frowned. When had he promised to take good care of Catherine, anyway?

However, he felt embarrassed about the past.

This was why he could not forget Catherine all these years. It was out of guilt.

"Dad, forget it. It's all in the past."

She slightly pushed Joel toward the car, smiling faintly. "Let's go. There's no point wasting our breaths with someone like him."

"Cathy, don't worry. I'll get revenge for you," Joel said angrily.

Shaun twitched his brows into a frown while Catherine laughed before saying to her father, "What revenge? I don't want him to think I'm mad and trap me in the mental hospital again. It's probably for the best that we stay away from him in the future."

Then, she walked around to get into the driver's seat.

Shaun was still standing in front of the car.

Catherine poked her head out the window. "President Hill, do you mind?"

He looked at her strangely. The woman's sunglasses sat elegantly on her beautiful nose. He shifted his gaze downward to look at her arrogant yet delicate lips.

It was as if this woman had changed completely.

She felt unfamiliar to him yet he could not bring himself to take his eyes off her.

Shaun had no idea what was happening, as he was not a man easily seduced by women's beauty.

A few seconds later, he finally stepped aside.

The white sports car sped past him.

Hadley returned to him. "Eldest Young Master Hill, it's time to go."

"Look into how she faked her death and left the country. I want to know who helped her." Shaun turned around to glare at his assistant all of a sudden.

The latter shuddered instinctively and quickly nodded.

Shaun read Catherine's Facebook post after getting into the car.

This woman... was impressive to have struck first and gained the upper hand.

The corners of his lips twitched into a smile. He froze by the time he realized what was happening.

Damn it! He should be infuriated for getting tricked by her the past three years yet he was smiling? "Hadley, do you think she wasn't actually sick back then?"

"Um... I'm not sure," Hadley replied hesitantly, "But Miss Neeson is a professional. She probably... wouldn't have lied to us?"

He paused briefly in the end and appeared nervous.

Shaun was taken aback.

Yes, he had believed Sarah when she said Catherine was depressed three years ago.

However, what if she had been lying?

He rubbed his temples gently. No, Sarah would not lie to him.

Sarah called him on the phone just as he was thinking about this. "Shaunic, are you coming home yet?"

"Yeah, I'm on my way."

She briefly fell silent before speaking again. "I saw the news that Catherine is back. It seems like..."

"Yeah." He looked out the window and the images of Catherine's gorgeous appearance flashed through his mind.

"Shaunic, I..." Sarah laughed awkwardly. "I see that she has become more beautiful than me and it's making me anxious. I'm afraid you'll go back to her side."

"Don't overthink it. I wasn't even really with her before. I'm home."

He hung up the phone and told himself to stop thinking about Catherine.

Upon returning to the seaside villa, Sarah came out to greet him wearing a sexy red sleeping gown.

All of a sudden, Shaun was reminded of how elegant Catherine had looked in her red dress today.

"What's the matter? Don't I look good?" Sarah noticed him being distracted and shook him by the shoulder, pouting.

"I'll go take a shower." He headed for the stairs.

She bit her lip. When Shaun came out of the shower later, she went forward to hug him from behind and said in a seductive voice, "Shaunic, let's... try again tonight."

He stood there, motionless.

"I didn't expect that either. She usually looks so dignified, generous, and gentle that I treated her as a goddess."

"Hey, keep it down. She's our president. She's going to fire us if she hears this."

"..."

Sarah's face turned ghastly.

Ever since she was publicly known to be Shaun's girlfriend, everyone had flattered her and treated her as a goddess. She had not experienced this kind

of humiliation.

"Catherine, I'm going to sue you for accusing me if you comment further."

"Suit yourself. I came here today to take a look at my company. I'll organize a general meeting tomorrow. I'll gather all the company's shareholders here and inform each of them about it."

Catherine pointed at Sarah using her index finger, her nail painted with red nail polish. "As for you, you'll be the first person I fire."

Sarah reacted as if she had heard a joke. She bent over and burst out laughing with tears almost coming out of her eyes. "Catherine, are you under the impression that you hold an important position here? Hudson is now different from how it was three years ago. It's okay. You can go ahead and inform them. Let's see who will attend the general meeting. If you're thinking about firing me, dream on."

"Let's wait and see."

When Catherine turned around, she tugged at Harvey's employee tag. "Don't be a warehouse management executive anymore. Come with me."

"Alright." Harvey followed her with delight.

Nevertheless, Harvey began to panic right after he walked out of the company's door. "Chairwoman Jones, I'm not sure whether to tell you this... Don't be mad after you hear it..."

"Are you planning to tell me that the odds are against me, considering that Shaun dotes on Sarah?" Catherine glanced at him with a smile.

Harvey fawned over her embarrassedly, saying, "Chairwoman Jones, you're amazing. You guessed it right."

"It's fine. I have no feelings for Shaun anymore. Even if he dotes on her, so what? I'm the largest shareholder in Hudson as long as I'm alive. He's not above the law."

Catherine gave a faint smile. All of a sudden, Harvey felt that he could not fathom her at all.

...

In the office, Sarah shot Yael a look, wanting her to call Shaun at once. "President Hill, Miss Jones came to Hudson just now. The moment she arrived..."

she grabbed hold of Miss Neeson's hair and pulled out some of it, causing scalp damage."

"This damned woman! Didn't I ask you to protect Sarah?" Shaun soon flew into a temper.

"I did, but before I came to my senses, Miss Jones had already attacked Miss Neeson. When she bullied Miss Neeson again later, I started to deal with her, but... I'm not her opponent. Miss Jones has become very powerful," Yael said guiltily.

Shaun was astounded to hear that. Although Yael was not a top member of Liona, she was still an outstanding fighter in Australia. Little did he expect that Catherine could defeat Yael. What had she gone through the last few years?

Yael then added, "Miss Jones thinks... She thinks that you're trying to occupy her company."

"I'm trying to occupy her company?" Shaun scoffed. "What a despicable woman. I'm not even interested in a small company like Hudson."

"Miss Neeson said so too, but Miss Jones doesn't seem to believe it. She even wants to organize a general meeting and kick you and Miss Neeson out."

"She's biting off more than she can chew." Clearly, Shaun was fuming with rage. "Bring Sarah to the hospital to check her scalp."

"Okay, I will. Anyway, I'm calling you without Miss Neeson's knowledge. She asked me not to tell you," Yael whispered, "She's been feeling sorry about the incident three years ago. She understands that Miss Jones went through a hard time."

"She's just too kind," Shaun said pitifully. The instant he recalled suspecting that Sarah had lied to him about Catherine's depression, he felt a twinge of guilt.

"Having said that, Miss Neeson has been absent-minded since she met Miss Jones. I'm guessing it's because Miss Jones claimed that you're her husband as she's back now. She even called Miss Neeson a mistress."

"I'll talk to Sarah later."

Shaun was enraged by Catherine's shameless behavior.

Only after Yael hung up the call did she shift her gaze back to Sarah.

"Well done," Sarah held Yale's hands and said pitifully, "Thank you for helping me all throughout, Yael."

"Not at all, Miss Neeson. When I made a mistake back then, you helped me cover it up. If it hadn't been for you, Eldest Young Master Hill would've kicked me out of Liona and I wouldn't be who I am today," Yael said gratefully, "I'm not a fool like Elle who began taking pity on Catherine after protecting her for some time. Catherine is just a mistress who meddled in your relationship with Eldest Young Master Hill. She swooped in on him when you weren't around. I just think that it's unfair to you."

"No, it was my fault... I got into trouble earlier..." A miserable look washed over Sarah's face. "If Catherine continues to cling to Shaunic, I don't think I can ever marry him."

"Don't say that. I'm sure you can, and I'll help you," Yael gritted her teeth and responded.

Sarah nodded. Her phone rang, and it was Shaun making the call.

She quickly rubbed her nose and produced a gentle nasal voice before she pressed on the answer button. "Shaunic..."

"What's wrong with your voice?" Shaun immediately noticed something strange.

"It's fine. Maybe... Maybe my throat isn't well," Sarah replied while forcing a smile.

"Okay, I know everything. Catherine went looking for you and caused you trouble, right?" When Sarah attempted to hide the matter, Shaun could not help but view Catherine as a b*tchy, ill-mannered woman. He must have been blind when he was impressed by such a woman in the hospital today.

"No, I can understand that. She has hated me from the very beginning. Naturally, she lost her cool when she found out that I became the president of Hudson."

"You put your heart and soul into Hudson throughout these two years and I'm aware of it. I'll teach her a lesson later."

"Shaunic, she claimed that... you're still her husband. Is it true?" Sarah suddenly had a lump in her throat. "Will you still marry me?"

"I will. I've promised to marry you and I'll do it for sure."

After Shaun ended the call, he rubbed his brows in annoyance.

In fact, he had not thought about this issue previously. He was not the one who

had packed Catherine's dead body nor checked her proof of death before this. He thought that Freya had long since requested a cancellation.

In this case, Shaun and Catherine were still considered as each other's spouses.

"Go and find out where Catherine is," Shaun turned his head around and said to Hadley.

...

Hackett Institute.

After Harvey made a call and returned, he was exasperated. "Chairwoman Jones, the directors of Hudson didn't even pick up my calls. There were some who answered but they hung up before I finished speaking. I'm afraid Director Jefferson will be the only one attending the meeting."

"Uncle Chris is still the same, isn't he?" Catherine laughed while watering the flowers on the balcony.

"Aren't you pissed about it, Chairwoman Jones?"

"Don't worry. The general meeting will carry on as usual. You can go home now. Someone's going to visit my place in a while." Catherine winked at him in a light-hearted manner.

At the sight of Catherine's confident look, Harvey left doubtfully.

Shortly after Harvey left, Catherine made a video call to chat with her two children in the US.

"I miss you, Mommy." Suzie showed a tearful look on her cute round face. Nevertheless, Catherine flew into a rage as soon as she noticed some chocolate on Suzie's mouth.

"Susan Jones, you coaxed your godmother into buying you chocolate again, didn't you?"

Suzie blinked her innocent eyes. "No, Mommy. You're accusing me. This is unreasonable!"

Lucas glanced at the little drama queen speechlessly. "Please. You didn't clean the chocolate on the edge of your mouth."

Shocked, Suzie quickly licked the chocolate on the edge of her mouth. She soon licked it clean and said innocently, "I didn't eat it. Godmother ate some chocolate and kissed me afterward."

"..."

Catherine rubbed her forehead, wondering why she had given birth to such a foodie who was good at lying.

Lucas said, "Do you think Mommy will believe your stupid explanation?"

"Who's stupid now? I'm not playing with you anymore." Suzie snorted. She turned around and ignored Lucas.

Lucas let out a sigh and asked, "Mommy, how are you doing over there? Did the b*stard cause you trouble? Are you able to deal with everything? Do you need me to go back and help you?"

"..."

Catherine was at a loss for words. Her son sounded like an old man, and she wondered who he resembled.

At this moment, someone was kicking the door.

"Darling, I have something to do now. We'll continue tonight. Muah!"

Catherine hung up the call. Just when she walked toward the door, it was kicked open violently. Shaun strode in with a grim expression on his handsome face, his eyes conveying fierceness.

"Catherine, how dare you cause Sarah trouble?! You're asking for death, huh?"

Shaun stretched out his big hand to squeeze her neck without hesitation.

However, Catherine was different from before. She dodged his touch nimbly before he could do anything to her.

Upon noticing her nimbleness, Shaun teased, "It looks like Yael is right. You've acquired some skills over the years, but your ability to deal with Yael is nothing great to me."

"I've always known these skills and there's nothing wrong about putting them into practice for self-defense." Catherine lifted her exquisite oval-shaped face. She blinked her pretty eyes and smiled discreetly. "Hubby, you've become so unscrupulous after parting with me for a few years. You actually have the thought of killing your wife in broad daylight, huh?"

"What did you call me?" Shaun's handsome face nearly contorted. "Who gives you the right to call me that? I'm disgusted."

"I'm just telling the truth. Look, this is our marriage certificate." Catherine took it out and swung it.

"Are you crazy, Catherine? Why would you bring this kind of stuff along?" Shaun criticized her abrasively.

A complicated smile spread across Catherine's face.

This remark rang a bell with her. She had also used to criticize him for bringing their marriage certificate along with him.

Unfortunately, everything had changed since then.

"I initially didn't want to take it out but my temper has its limits too."

Catherine suddenly scoffed. "Shaun, although our marriage was merely an agreement, have I ever asked you for a penny? Hudson is the only thing my mom left for me and it's the most important thing to me, yet you gave it to Sarah. You're adding fuel to the fire. If you wanted to give her something, you should've given her something that belonged to you then. Why must I give what's mine to her?"

"It's fine, Mom, don't worry about it. He's not going to cause trouble for me again." Liam forced a smile. "You should go."

After Lea left, he lowered his gaze to the ground, almost breaking the pen in his hand.

In fact, he was really annoyed that Shaun could gain the upper hand over him every single time. He thought about the smug and arrogant expression on Shaun's face when he barged in to punch him today.

It was time to get off work.

Charlie suddenly called him. "Liam, I heard you got punched."

"Who did you hear it from?" Liam narrowed his eyes.

The other person sighed. "It's not just me. Many people from Canberra's elite society have heard how Shaun barged into your office and punched you. There's no such thing as secrets in this place."

Liam clenched his fingers around the phone. In Canberra, everyone took Second Young Master Hill as a joke.

"Hey, at the very least, you're the second young master of Hill Corporation. He crossed the line when he punched you. Why couldn't he have just talked things out with you calmly? He's not showing any respect to you at all."

"..."

"Liam, are you willing to stay beneath him for the rest of your life? Actually... you'll be the next in line in the Hill family if Shaun fails."

"What're you really trying to say?" Liam asked coldly.

"We're brothers! And we can work together," Charlie replied, "Look, I've got so much help from you in the past and the Campos family has risen to become the second wealthiest family in Australia in just a few years. My position in this society has changed. Don't you want to be like me?"

"You're right. I certainly underestimated you in the past," Liam said sarcastically, "Tell me the truth. What do you want from me?"

"You're a smart person, Liam, so I'll not be subtle with you. Can you get me the data for the new microchip that Hill Corporation Laboratory is currently creating? Trust me, this is the perfect chance to destroy Shaun. Unless you want to be oppressed by him for the rest of your life?"

"You think too highly of me. Shaun has never given me the chance to meddle in the inventions these recent years. He's been guarding against me." Liam leaned back into the leather seat.

"You can think of a way, Liam. We can create chances for ourselves," Charlie continued convincingly.

Liam touched the wound near his lips, darkness flashing in his eyes.

...

6:00 p.m.

Shaun returned to the seaside villa.

He could smell steak being cooked in the kitchen. Sarah stepped out of the kitchen wearing a light pink apron that had a cartoon cat. The white dress she was wearing beneath it looked clean and untouched.

However, the man subconsciously thought about Catherine who had been cooking in the kitchen earlier today. Her neat ponytail, the beige loungewear she wore, and how she had looked like a housewife who was busy cooking...

"What's on your mind? You look distracted." Sarah walked toward him and punched his chest playfully.

"I was wondering why you were cooking tonight." He was surprised as he had not realized he was zoning out.

"Why not? It's been too long since we had a candlelit dinner. I made steak tonight. Let's have some red wine to go with it later?" she said, smiling.

"Sure."

Liam's words came flooding into his mind as he looked at this innocent face. Catherine was not depressed three years ago. She was only mentally unstable because of all the psychiatric drugs she had been forced to take.

If this was the truth...

Then Sarah would have lied to Shaun about Catherine's depression when she convinced him to send the woman to a mental hospital.

If Catherine had not 'died' three years ago, he might really have sent her back to a mental hospital and that would certainly drive her to actually become mad.

Thinking about this was enough to make him shudder.

"What's the matter? Why are you looking at me like that?" Sarah felt uneasy under his stare.

"Sarah, did Catherine really have depression three years ago?" He suddenly looked at her seriously.

The woman was flustered but she maintained her composure. "Don't you believe me?"

He lowered his gaze to the ground. "It's not that, I just... I just think she's really normal now, unlike someone who's been sick before. In fact, I don't remember

checking in on her after sending her to the mental hospital.”

She twitched her lips. “Actually, when she went to the hospital three years ago, I thought of giving her a proper diagnosis but I didn't dare to approach her after she splashed me with hot water. I can't tell you with certainty that she was definitely depressed but she did show the right symptoms. I'm sure the staff at the mental hospital wouldn't have taken her in unless they were sure of her condition. It wasn't just up to me.”

Shaun became silent after that.

Sarah finally felt relieved now that he looked convinced.

However, she had to be more alert after being asked this question unexpectedly. “Besides, no one with mental illness would want to admit it. You were like that...”

“Alright, let's eat,” he interrupted.

“Sure, I'll get the steaks.”

Soon, she reappeared from the kitchen. She had put a lot of effort into the meal, even decorating the plates with carrots.

However, Shaun found himself unwilling to take a second bite after the first try.

It was not that the food was horrible but somehow, the simple home-cooked lunch made by Catherine this afternoon was more appetizing in comparison.

In fact, he used to like having steak but his preference had changed along the way.

"Is it nice?" Sarah looked at him with expectant eyes.

"Does your scalp still hurt?" Shaun changed the topic of conversation.

An embarrassed smile spread across her face as she touched her hair subconsciously. "I feel fine..."

"Sorry to put you through that," he said guiltily, "I've already informed Hudson Corporation's shareholders that Catherine will be taking over. She might want you to leave after she regains control tomorrow and you shouldn't argue with her. If you like being in the real estate business, then I can establish another company for you tomorrow."

"..."

The smile froze on her face. "Why... so sudden? I didn't hear you mention this in the afternoon."

"That corporation belongs to her anyway. I only took over thinking that she was dead. I don't want handovers from women. I hope you won't mind." He looked at her.

"Of course not." Sarah appeared not bothered but in fact, she was infuriated. She did not expect Shaun to give up the corporation so soon. Was it the real estate business that she wanted? Not at all. All she wanted was everything that belonged to Catherine. She simply enjoyed the feeling of stealing everything that woman owned.

She subtly threw a glance at Yael who was standing nearby.

"President Hill, I bet Miss Jones would be overjoyed. She bullied Miss Neeson in front of everyone today," Yael said immediately.

"It's fine, Yael. It doesn't matter," Sarah replied with a sigh.

Shaun felt bad and quickly explained, "I'm left with no choice. She's threatening me with the marriage certificate. If I don't hand over the corporation to her, she'll publicize the fact that I forced her to tell everyone we were divorced back then. Your reputation will be affected when that happens."

"I had no idea that you were doing this for me. Sorry."

Sarah appeared touched yet frustrated.

In actuality, she was enraged.

Never did she expect her decision three years ago to force Catherine to tell the public that she had divorced Shaun would come back to bite her in the end.

"Well... will she continue threatening you with this? Will she actually divorce you, then?" Tears suddenly rolled down her cheeks. "We've known each other for more than 20 years and we've been together for more than a decade. When will I finally... marry you?"

"I'll try my best to divorce her." Shaun handed her the tissue, feeling extremely guilty. "I already have plans, so you shouldn't overthink it."

"Okay. Oh right, how did it go today... at the hospital?" she questioned quietly.

Yael consciously left them be.

His handsome face fell within seconds as he kept his head low. "I'm taking some

medications for it.”

“That’s great.” Joy was written all over Sarah’s face.

He took a few quick bites of the food before heading upstairs.

She clenched her teeth, looking at the big piece of leftover steak.

...

The following day.

Hudson Corporation.

Catherine walked through the main entrance dressed in a neat business suit. She knocked at the front desk while walking past. The receptionist from yesterday trembled as she lifted her head. “Chairwoman Jones.”

“Have you remembered my face? I hope I don’t need to book an appointment before coming in the next time.”

She smiled before heading to the elevator.

The receptionist felt her legs going weak. She had been terrified of being dismissed when she got the news this morning that Catherine would be the new chairperson. Fortunately, it did not happen.

Upon entering the meeting room, Catherine found out that all the shareholders had arrived. Sarah was sitting on the first seat on the right-hand side. Numerous shareholders had gathered around to please her.

"President Neeson, when I went on a business trip abroad last time, I saw this purse that I thought would really suit you."

"President Neeson, this is an authentic painting from the famous painter Hilton Yohan. Apparently, his artworks cost a few billion dollars at the very least and are really hard to get. I know him personally, so here's a little gift for you."

"President Neeson, I bought this bottle of red wine from abroad. It's almost 40 years old."

"..."

Catherine positioned herself on the leather seat. She took a sip of the iced tea and placed the glass back on the table loudly. Clang!

Everyone in the meeting room turned to her direction. "Come on, you guys. Stop gathering around me. We're having a board meeting today. Let's welcome the return of Chairwoman Jones."

Catherine looked at the woman. "We're having a board meeting today. Are you even on the board? Who gave you the permission to be here?"

"I... I was worried that you wouldn't be familiar with what's going on in the corporation after being away for a few years, thus I came to bring you up to speed." Sarah appeared flustered and aggrieved.

Director Irvine spoke up for her, "Jones, I understand that there's some personal dispute between the two of you but there's no point speaking about that at the company. We're really grateful to President Neeson and President Hill for doubling the corporation's profits in recent years. Our share price is worth 20 dollars as we speak."

"That's right. We were told out of the blue that you were dead. But it turns out you aren't yet you've abandoned the corporation for three years. No other chairperson would behave like you."

Sarah spoke up amid the insults, "Chairwoman Jones must have had her reasons."

"President Neeson, you're too kind for standing up for her despite how she treats you," a shareholder said. After all, everyone knew that Sarah was going to be Mrs. Hill one day.

As for Catherine, well, it was her fault for letting Shaun go.

"That's right. No wonder President Hill chose you in the end. Men love a woman who's understanding."

Some of them began to whisper.

"Shaun, have you heard of something called surveillance cameras? Can you check who's at fault first before making accusations?" Catherine said calmly.

Sarah appeared flustered but Shaun did not notice that at all. He had been glaring at Catherine angrily the whole time. "Do you mean that I shouldn't believe my own eyes but the surveillance cameras that show a different perspective from different angles?"

"..."

Catherine rubbed her temples.

She really wished to yell at him and tell him that one could see things differently

with one's eyes from different angles as well.

She wondered if Sarah might have hypnotized him to become less intelligent back then too.

"Forget it, Shaunic. Leave it be. Let's go," Sarah begged while tugging at the man's arm.

Manager Howard quickly said, "President Hill, you really have to stand up for Miss Neeson this time. She was only here to hand me some documents. She was reminding me of the extra details when Chairwoman Jones came over to say that Miss Neeson was putting on a show and being gross. Not to mention she was implying that we're wasting time by chatting. She even... She even..."

"Speak." Shaun's narrowed eyes were filled with danger.

Manager Howard said through gritted teeth, "She even boasted that the undergarments she's wearing today were... bought by you."

Sarah lowered her head as tears streamed down her cheeks.

"I can explain that. Sarah, don't you know how I feel about you by now? I feel sick even taking another glance at this woman now."

He was flustered, not expecting that his impulse decision last night would hurt Sarah.

All of a sudden, he gave Catherine a piercing glare.

The employees who had gathered around to check out the commotion appeared surprised.

As it turned out, President Hill had no feelings for Chairwoman Jones anymore. He was even disgusted by her.

Oh no, they should have tried harder to please Sarah instead of supporting Catherine.

Some of them really regretted their choices.

“...”

Catherine had no words to reply.

Not only was she speechless, but she also felt like laughing at the ridiculous situation.

She felt stupid for not recording their conversation earlier.

Look, the executives of her own corporation were siding with Sarah to accuse her.

"Catherine, I even thought of helping you out on the construction company incident since we used to be husband and wife. But I'll not do that anymore." The man's tone was as cold as ice. "From today onward, I'll make sure the public knows that I'm no longer related to Hudson Corporation. Besides, anyone who dares to help you will be openly challenging myself."

Then, he stomped out of the company without looking back while still holding Sarah close.

"President Hill, please wait." Director Irvine and the rest quickly chased after him.

However, Shaun ignored them completely and sped off in his car.

The board members were infuriated and ran back to scold Catherine, "I don't care what you want to do but why bring the company down with you? Look at what you've done! A quick word from President Hill and no one will dare to do business with us again."

"A person like you doesn't deserve to be the chairperson. Get out of here!"
Director Wolfe shouted.

The other employees also began talking behind her back.

"What is she doing here? The corporation was going uphill under President Neeson's leadership. I even got hundreds of thousands of dollars in year-end bonuses in recent years."

"How unlucky that we're stuck with this kind of chairperson."

"Well, we should quit soon and find a job somewhere else before it's too late."

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 631

"Now that you've said it, then I have to get ready as well."

"..."

Catherine dug her ears and sighed. "I feel quite sorry to everyone too. I didn't know that my return would harm so many people. I'll go back and think of other ways."

"Get lost. Don't come back anymore." Director Irvine was so angry to the point that he did not want to show her any courtesy. "Of course, we might give you a chance if you kneel down and beg for President Hill and Ms. Neeson's forgiveness."

"That's impossible. I'd rather the company fall apart than lower my head to that b*tchy couple."

Catherine stubbornly said that and left amid everyone's criticisms.

When she arrived home, she slowly started making a cup of coffee. Harvey was on the verge of kneeling and crying to beg her.

"President Jones, the companies that are working together with our corporation are calling to break off our partnerships. Please think of a plan."

"Don't be hasty." Catherine stirred her coffee. "Harvey, I'm giving you a chance to skyrocket to the top now."

"What chance? Are you sure it won't make me plummet instead?" Harvey was close to tears.

Catherine shot him an icy glare. She took a black card out from her wallet and threw it at him. "There are ten billion dollars in it. In two days, get back all the shares from the shareholders of Hudson Corporation."

Harvey almost went weak in the knees. "Director Jones, why do you have so much cash?"

It was incredible. What had really happened to her in those three years?

"Do you want to grab this chance?" Catherine asked.

"Yes, yes, yes." Harvey was utterly impressed. "At this moment, the shareholders must be in a panic. If there's someone willing to buy the shares, they'll definitely sell them off at a low price. Ten billion dollars is more than enough. But Director Jones, if we buy the shares, you'll become the sole shareholder of the company. You'll have absolute control, but with President Hill oppressing the company, Hudson Corporation will have no future. Why do you want to waste this money..."

"Who said there's no future?" Catherine gave him a sideways glance. "I've already contacted a construction company. I'm just taking this opportunity to

transform the company. From now onward, I don't want to listen to anybody who wants to go against me in the corporation."

Harvey was astonished.

This was the first time he deeply felt that Catherine was different from before.

...

At night, a few men gathered to play poker at the presidential suite of a hotel.

Rodney played a King card. "I heard that Hudson Corporation's shareholders are selling off their shares at low prices."

Shaun was knocking on the table indifferently. "Selling them off is their only way of surviving. Nobody can save Catherine this time."

Chester lit a cigarette. "Come to think of it, haven't you been feeling guilty toward her during these three years? What did she do to piss you off?"

Shaun's fingers stiffened. After a while, he said, "She threatened me with the marriage certificate. She has a death wish."

"Aren't you afraid that if she threatens you again, Sarah will..."

"It's useless. I'm definitely giving her a lesson this time," Shaun said. He was expressionless.

"I reckon she's past saving then. I heard that the construction sites under Hudson Corporation have stopped working for five days. They've lost over a billion dollars. Many people who bought the properties are demanding a refund." Rodney tsked and played his last card. "I win. Pay up."

As Shaun threw his cash out, he looked at his phone beside him unconsciously. Was that woman not calling to beg for forgiveness and admit to her mistakes yet?

However, begging for forgiveness would be useless now. Catherine should never have hurt Sarah.

The next morning.

At the seaside villa.

The maids served breakfast on the table. Sarah poured a glass of hot milk for Shaun gracefully. She then said hesitantly, "It's already the sixth day. I guess Hudson Corporation is having a hard time holding on."

Shaun's dark eyes glanced at her. "You're just too soft-hearted."

Sarah laughed bitterly. "I've worked there for two years, after all."

"Let's have breakfast." Shaun peeled a boiled egg for her.

"Shaunic," Sarah said with mixed feelings, "Do you really have no feelings for Catherine? You've never accompanied me to shop for underwear before. I've been trying to persuade myself these days but it's still hard for me to accept it. Every time I think about it, my heart hurts so much that I can't breathe."

"Nope." Shaun denied it bluntly. "I'm sorry. I'll never do anything that's misleading anymore."

"Okay," Sarah replied with a forced smile.

Shaun had an uncomfortable feeling in his heart. He swore to punish Catherine more severely and treat Sarah better.

"Eldest Young Master Hill, Hudson Corporation's shares reached the limit as soon as the stock market opened this morning," Hadley suddenly entered and spoke in

a low voice.

"What's going on?" Shaun threw a sharp glance at him.

Hadley blinked. "At 7:00 a.m. this morning, Hazle Group announced a collaboration with Hudson Corporation on its global website."

Sarah had a bad feeling. "Is Hazle Group very famous?"

Hadley explained, "Hazle Group isn't just famous, their history goes a long way back. Over a thousand top architects from all over the world are gathered there. This company is the highest-earning construction company globally and they have a great reputation. Hazle Group has participated in almost every iconic project that has been praised by people around the world. At the same time, the architects of Hazle Group have received all the international awards for ten years straight."

Sarah's hand that was gripping the fork tightened, and she did not even realize it herself. "Why would a company like that work with Catherine? Are they not afraid of Hill Corporation?"

Hadley shook his head. "Hazle Group frequently works with governments all around the world. They don't fear Hill Corporation."

He hesitated and said again, "Furthermore, Talton Design has also announced that they have signed a ten-year collaboration with Hudson Corporation. Talton Design's construction team was stationed at Hudson Corporation's construction site last night."

"Talton Design?" Sarah held in the urge to scream. "What rundown company is that? I've never heard of it before."

Hadley gave her a profound look. "Although the president of Talton Design, Joseph Talton, is young, he used to be one of the top three architects in Perth. He personally designed the one and only seven-star hotel in Perth. After that, he established an architecture company. His branch companies can be found around major cities in Australia, and they're developing rapidly these years. You must've heard of the Paramount Housing Project in Perth two years ago. It was done in collaboration with Talton Design, and it became the most expensive real estate in Australia. It's priced at 140,000 dollars per square feet, and people even went crazy to buy it."

"Joseph Talton... He seems to think nothing of me." Shaun chuckled, but his voice was so cold as if ice was seeping through it.

Those who were familiar with him knew it was a sign that he was furious.

Hadley reminded him in confusion, "Eldest Young Master Hill, don't you remember?"

"Remember what?" Shaun asked coldly.

Hadley sighed. "Ms. Catherine was an employee at Talton Design before. Joseph was her senior."

Shaun was stunned. He had no memory of it at all.

However, due to his illness last time, he had forgotten a lot of things. It was normal that he could not remember.

"I never knew... Catherine had a senior like that."

Sarah was infuriated to the point that she wanted to spit out blood. She initially thought that she could completely destroy Catherine this time. She never expected Catherine to be associated with such a large-scale construction company.

A gleam flashed across her eyes. She acted like she was worried and said, "But if Joseph is just Catherine's senior... he has no reason to go against Shaunic. Look at Shaunic's status."

Shaun's expression changed drastically.

That was right. Why would a mere senior go against him for Catherine's sake?

Catherine could not possibly have sold her body, right?

When Shaun thought of her being intimate with another man, he felt a wave of indescribable anger.

Hadley was speechless. Sarah had completely mastered the skill of driving a wedge between people. He should not have said anything.

"Investigate exactly who bought Hudson Corporations' shares at a low price for me." Shaun suddenly remembered something and ordered Hadley.

"Okay."

Hadley nodded.

It was a simple task. He just had to call the relevant department to obtain the information. A moment later, he returned to the dining room. "The people behind the scenes who were buying the shares were Catherine and Chris."

"Ah!" Sarah widened her eyes. She quickly caught on. "Catherine had planned it from the start. She deliberately made the shareholders of Hudson Corporation panic and then she bought the shares back at a low price. Now, Hudson Corporation belongs to Chris and her. Chris is working under her."

Bang!

A spoon was thrown on the plate and it made a clear, ear-piercing sound.

Shaun stood up immediately and kicked the chair in front of him over.

Hah! He had completely underestimated that woman.

He originally intended to bring her down ruthlessly.

Shaun never thought that he would be used the other way round in the end. Before this, she had lost a billion dollars and seemed to be pushed to a corner because of him. However, it turned out she had been buying the shares that those disobedient shareholders had in silence. She impressively disposed of the people in the company who did not follow orders and successfully became the sole person in power. The market value of the company easily exceeded tens of billions.

Catherine, oh Catherine. She really amazed him.

Sarah was secretly furious to the point that she almost gritted her teeth until they broke.

Previously, she thought she could simply make Catherine die, just like three years ago.

However, she did not dare to look down on Catherine anymore.

...

10:00 a.m.

The chairperson's office of Hudson Corporation was in chaos.

Director Irvine broke a vase out of anger. "Catherine Jones, are you toying with us? Why didn't you tell us that you were already in talks with Hazle Group and Talton Design from the start? You made us panic for no reason and we even sold our shares at a low price. As a result, you bought the shares for a cheap price. You're too vicious! How did Sheryl give birth to such an *sshole daughter like you?"

"You must return the shares to us. If not, there'll be no end to this." Director Williams pounded the table hard.

"I've seen my share of evil people, but I've never met a person as evil as you. Hudson Corporation was founded by all of us. Instead, you're doing whatever it takes to trick us away. As a person, you should have some moral limitations."

"Young lady, you're still young. Don't be too cruel and don't burn your bridges. Otherwise, you'd be dead before you know it."

"..."

Faced with the shareholders' reprimands and criticisms, Catherine slowly took a sip of coffee before placing the cup on the table with a loud bang.

The office went silent. Catherine raised her head. "Everyone, I didn't want to be so merciless but during the first meeting upon my return, I told you all that the company wasn't named after the Hill family. However, you guys still worshipped Shaun and Sarah as if they were your ancestors.

"A few days ago, Shaun and Sarah were insulting me at the company's lobby. You all, the shareholders, were like dogs licking at their feet to please them. You even told me to get lost. Since you all like sucking up to those two, go and find them then."

"We only did that because we didn't want to offend them. It was for the sake of the company," Director Irvine said sheepishly, "If I knew that you had already found a construction company, would I even have to be so shameless? I did that for the company."

"That's right. We've done so much for the company these three years. Where were you back then?"

"If you don't return the shares to us today, don't even think of walking out of this door."

"Really? I really want to see how you will stop me from leaving." Catherine laughed. Suddenly, more than 20 security guards entered and surrounded the shareholders.

Even the youngest shareholders were already 40 to 50 years old. When they saw this situation, more than half of their arrogance diminished.

Director Woofe thought of something and kneeled immediately. "Catherine, give us, the shareholders, some mercy. We're old, we just want to get some bonuses to earn a living."

"Yes, we'll listen to you in the future."

"We should each take a step back and prioritize making peace."

Catherine rubbed her brows. It seemed like they were doing it the soft way because the hard way had not worked.

"Enough. Director Woofe, you even went to give Sarah a present yesterday. And Director Williams, you're already so old. Isn't it tiring for you to go to Sarah's place every day? I've never even heard you plead for the company. You were just scolding me in front of Sarah most of the time.

"Not only that. Director Irvine, I've already assumed this position but why are you still reporting the company's matters to Shaun every single day without leaving anything out? Director Carter, don't you feel uncomfortable seeing your money spent on booking private rooms for Sarah and paying for her and her friends' expenses?"

Catherine exposed every one of them. Their faces were flushed red with embarrassment.

No one expected Catherine to know about their movements so clearly.

"I expelled you guys from the board of directors because your hearts aren't here anymore. You just want to catch the big fishes like Shaun and Sarah. You think

that everything will go well for you as long as you rely on them, right?"

Catherine said grimly, "To you, I'm a person without any credibility. You're doing one thing in front of me and another behind my back. I don't wish to have too many voices in a company. I just want my own voice to be heard. From today onward, you guys will have nothing to do with Hudson Corporation. Security, chase all of them out and don't let them in anymore in the future."

The security guards took action swiftly and chased all the shareholders out.

The office became empty in an instant. Chris said emotionally, "Catherine, you're becoming more like a chairperson now. You're even stronger than your mom was back then. I feel inferior compared to you now."

"Uncle Chris, the company will be counting on you and me from now on." Catherine smiled.

...

During an inspection in the evening when Catherine just arrived at the Marketing Department, she saw a woman turning around and walking away upon spotting her.

"Manager Howard, it's not good to avoid the corporation's chairperson when you see her right?" Catherine called out to her with a fake smile.

"President... President Jones, I'm sorry. I really didn't see you." Manager Howard braced herself and turned back to apologize. "My eyes are not too well."

"I think it's not just your eyes that aren't too well but your ears as well." Catherine smiled playfully and said, "For example... you're quite fluent in saying things that were made up."

Manager Howard's legs were trembling slightly. She had really thought that either Hudson Corporation would fall apart or Catherine would be chased out of the corporation.

"Manager Howard, you're fired. Leave immediately. I believe you won't question my decision as you've already found someone to back you. The next company will surely take you in." After Catherine whispered in her ear, she took elegant strides and continued walking toward the Marketing Department.

Manager Howard gritted her teeth. She turned back and said in a loud voice, "What's the big deal about leaving? Ms. Neeson is about to be the wife of the wealthiest man in Australia. After I leave this place, she'll arrange for me to enter Hill Corporation."

When Harvey's expression turned cold and he was about to reprimand her, Catherine tapped his shoulder. She smiled at Manager Howard nonchalantly. "Congratulations, then."

After they left, Harvey said furiously, "President Jones, should we teach her a lesson?"

"No need, I've already done that," Catherine said calmly.

...

Half an hour later.

Manager Howard was about to leave after packing up. However, when she reached the doors, there were police there to apprehend her. "Your company has lodged a police report. You're suspected of committing embezzlement. Follow us to the police station."

"I didn't! I don't want to!" Manager Howard yelled. Those who had the same position as her would embezzle some money, but everyone just turned a blind eye. However, it was different if it was reported as a case for investigation. She would have to go to jail.

During this period when she took Sarah's side, she had even embezzled quite a large sum.

"Stop rambling. We already have solid evidence. Let's go."

Manager Howard was taken away very soon. The news went viral in the company.

When Harvey knew about it, he looked at the busy silhouette in the office. He was utterly in awe and in fear.

...

In the evening.

A flashy sports car stopped in front of the corporation's building.

Catherine got in the car. When she saw Joseph's face, which she had not seen in a long time, she gave a friendly smile. "Joseph, it's been a while."

She would never forget that it had been Joseph who gave her a job when she was blacklisted by the architecture design industry in Melbourne back then due to Jeffery and Sally.

She never expected that they would be working together again after three years.

"Catherine, you've become prettier. I'm seeing you in a new light." Joseph laughed. "Let's go. To celebrate our collaboration, I'll treat you to a meal."

"Joseph, I'm the one who should be treating you. Your company was the only one in Australia that would stand out to support me," Catherine said sincerely, "You're my benefactor."

"The outsiders don't know your identity as the design director of Hazle Group." Joseph joked.

"Just keeping a low profile."

Catherine pressed her finger to her lips and made a mysterious look. Laughter rang in the car.

An hour later, the car drove into a courtyard. There was a small creek and bridges.

A few luxury cars were parked in the courtyard.

Catherine was familiar with private kitchens such as this one. It might be in a secluded area but the food tasted great.

As they crossed a bridge, Chase drew open a curtain and walked out. "Rin, I missed you so much. Come, let me hug you."

"Young Master Harrison..." Catherine was surprised, but then she quickly frowned.

"Don't overthink it. I didn't tell Shaun and the rest," Chase quickly explained, "I came with Joseph."

"You guys..."

Chase quickly went between the two men. "Shaun, calm down. Joseph is just joking."

"I wasn't joking, though." Joseph smirked.

Shaun, who was being provoked again, narrowed his gaze. He sneered, "It's too bad she's unwilling. It's her who refuses to get divorced now."

After he spoke, he pulled Catherine to him and stared at her sharply. "Say your

thoughts. Do you want to divorce me?"

Catherine grinned. "I do."

Shaun's face stiffened. His blazing eyes looked as though he wanted to eat her alive.

She had adamantly refused to get proof of divorce just a few days ago. However, now that she had another man, she wanted to leave him immediately.

"But not now," Catherine continued saying, "You and Sarah tortured me and made my life a living hell. I came back after three years, yet Sarah still did countless stupid acts. Tell her to dream on if she thinks I would surrender the position of Young Madam Hill so easily."

Joseph immediately poured a glass of wine for her and put on an affectionate expression. "I'll support you no matter what you do. I'll be waiting for you."

"Thank you." Catherine was about to hold the wine glass.

However, she was yanked down from the chair by Shaun before she even touched the glass.

"Leave with me."

"That won't do. The nightlife is just starting." Joseph grabbed Catherine's other hand.

"Let go. If you mess with me, I can still cause harm to Talton Design even if I can't ruin it. It doesn't matter that you're in a different industry," Shaun warned.

The gazes of the two men clashed with each other. Catherine turned toward Joseph helplessly and said in a soft voice, "Joseph, I'm sorry. I'll treat you to another meal next time."

"You're not allowed to eat with him again," Shaun uttered another warning.

"..."

Joseph laughed and ignored Shaun's words. "Okay, next time. Be careful and call me if anything happens. I'll always be by your side."

"Thank—" Catherine had not finished talking yet when she was lifted onto Shaun's

shoulders and carried out.

Chase gave Joseph a thumbs up. "You're amazing. You dare to go against Shaun so openly. You're really not scared of him."

"I'm in architecture and he's in technology. Even if he wants to destroy me, who's in another industry, that'll take some planning. It won't be that easy." Joseph shrugged his shoulders calmly.

"Too bad you're not an actor."

"Why do you say I'm acting? Can't I be serious about it?" Joseph raised his eyebrows in a teasing manner.

Chase was taken aback. "No way... You're serious?"

"Men always desire beautiful women," Joseph said while grinning, "Although I know that I can't have her, it doesn't change the fact that she's my sweetheart."

...

Catherine was thrown into the car by Shaun.

When she fell, it was as if her organs had almost fallen out of her as well.

The canvas shoe on her foot dropped under the car when she fell.

"My..." She clambered to pick them up but she only heard Shaun close the door hard.

The door was quickly locked, and she could not open it no matter how much she tried.

Shaun sat on the driver's seat. He stepped on the accelerator and sped off.

"Shaun, stop the car. My shoe fell off." Catherine went over and pulled on him.

"Don't try to trick me. I know you just want to go back and look for Joseph, don't you?" Shaun had a raging fire inside of him. "Catherine Jones, why are you such a b*tch? I was wondering how you managed to sign a collaboration with Hazle Group and Talton Design, and it turns out that you relied on your looks and body. You're shameless, but I'm not."

"What did you say?" Catherine widened her eyes.

Shaun sneered, "Do you need a clearer explanation from me? With your ability, would Hazle Group even consider Hudson Corporation if you hadn't had some shady exchange? You really have some tricks up your sleeve. You made Joseph fall for you and he doesn't even think you're dirty."

Catherine took a deep breath. Although she knew that no good words could come out of his nasty mouth, she wanted to hit him to death with her shoe when he accused her in such a filthy way.

In fact, she really did it.

She quickly took off the remaining shoe on her foot and smacked it across his face without hesitation.

Shaun, who never thought she would be so daring, got hit right in the face by the sole of her shoe.

The car even rocked along with his fiery temper.

"Catherine, I think you must be tired of living." He snatched the shoe and threw it out of the window in a fury. If he were not driving at that moment, he would definitely teach her a lesson.

"Who asked you to say filthy words?" Catherine felt strangely satisfied when she saw the shoe print on his handsome face. "Shaun, you lost my shoes. You have to compensate me with another pair."

Shaun sneered, "Why? You want me to compensate you with a pair of shoes for you to wear in front of Sarah and say that I bought them for you to hurt her? Catherine, what a good plan you have."

"If you don't want to hurt her, you should let me go and not get tangled up with me over here in the middle of the night." Catherine looked forward, and it did not seem like it was the way back to her home. "Shaun, where are you taking me?"

"Inappropriate women like you are better off locked up so that you can't embarrass me and cheat on me."

Catherine felt the cold reaching her bones. "You're confining me again?"

"You brought this upon yourself," Shaun retorted.

She recalled the days she had been locked up three years ago.

Catherine rushed forward and grabbed the steering wheel as if she was insane.

"Catherine, you're crazy! Let go right now!" Shaun freed a hand to push her.

However, the current Catherine could not be restrained so easily compared to three years ago.

The steering wheel was jerked left and right by both of them.

Finally, Catherine bit his ear. She turned the steering wheel so that they were about to crash into the flowerbed at the side of the road. Her leg squeezed over to step on the accelerator hard.

"Catherine, quickly let go!"

Shaun grimaced when he saw the car going over the flowerbed, heading toward a wall. He, who had always been calm and collected, was shocked. He hastily stepped on the brakes.

However, Catherine sneakily grabbed his sensitive parts. That made him cry out in pain.

"Shaun, I don't want to be imprisoned by you another time. This time, we'll die together."

Catherine looked at him with a crazy and reckless gaze.

Shaun was taken aback.

Bang!

There was a loud sound as the car crashed into the wall.

The windows were shattered.

The safety airbags were deployed and squeezed both of them into the driver's seat.

Shaun felt his brain being hit, causing him a concussion. He was feeling dizzy. At that moment, he saw Catherine's bright but dark eyes filled with joy, like colorful fireworks blooming in the starry night sky.

As she smiled, a trail of blood trickled down her forehead.

Shaun's eyes widened.

Somehow, he felt like something in his chest was about to burst out in pain.

It was so painful to the point that he could not breathe normally.

The pain was excruciating.

He even felt his eyes tingling as if there was liquid about to come out of it.

It looked like... she really wanted him dead.

She was so determined to make him die.

He heard people shouting from outside the car in a blur.

"There's been an accident!"

"Call the ambulance!"

Beep beep.

"..."

The sound of the heart monitor could be heard continuously.

Shaun could only hear a crying voice beside his ears.

He struggled to open his eyes and saw Sarah's tear-streaked face.

"Shaunic, you're awake." Sarah stood up immediately.

Rodney and Chester walked over at the same time.

While looking at them, the last scene before he went unconscious flashed across his mind. He blurted out instinctively, "Where's Catherine?"

Sarah's tear-streaked face stiffened. Rodney said furiously, "You still have the nerve to ask about her? Shaun, you lied to Sarah saying you had a meeting but you went to look for Catherine instead. What were you trying to do? The police checked the surveillance cameras. They said you two had an argument in the car and that's why you went over the flowerbed, crashing into the wall. The fact that she tried to take control of the steering wheel while you were driving meant that she wanted you to die. The police will investigate her. She'll be sentenced when she gets better."

Shaun was tight-lipped.

Somehow, the scene before he went unconscious kept replaying in his head.

Catherine's gaze was deeply engraved in his mind.

"Shaunic," Sarah softly called out to him with a hoarse throat.

He came back to his senses quickly. "Sarah, I'm sorry..."

"Shaunic, why did you lie to me?" Tears came streaming down Sarah's cheeks.

"Shaunic, we've been together for more than ten years. If you can't let her go, you should... You should just go back to her side."

"Sarah, how could you say that?" Rodney snarled. "If you ask me, you're being too much, Shaun. Do you know that Sarah nearly fainted when she knew that you got into an accident? She's been taking care of you without eating or drinking. She has waited for you for so long. If you betray her, I'll be the first person who won't let you off the hook."

"Shaun, why exactly did you go to look for Catherine?" Chester was staring at Shaun as well.

"Don't ask him any more questions. Let him rest properly," Sarah said while she held Shaun's hand. Her eyes were filled with distress.

The guilt in Shaun's heart grew heavier. "I'm sorry, Sarah. I'll think of a way to get divorced as soon as possible. I'll surely marry you this year."

"Okay, I'll wait for you."

Sarah lowered her gaze.

She was about to go crazy from jealousy.

Why did Catherine keep haunting her? Did Catherine have to force her to commit something horrible again?

...

For the next three days, Sarah took care of Shaun without leaving his side.

On the day he was discharged, he saw Catherine being brought down by two policemen when he was going downstairs.

Their eyes met.

Catherine stared into his eyes. "Shaun, do you wish for me to go to jail that badly?"

Shaun was taken aback. Sarah, who returned from collecting medicine, came over and said while frowning, "It's not that we want you to go to jail, but you went overboard this time. Shaunic nearly died. Besides, the police are just doing their jobs according to protocol. You violated the law by obstructing the driver while he was driving."

"Don't you have a f*cking clue as to why I obstructed you?" Catherine laughed. Her pretty eyes were calm and cold.

Shaun frowned, while Sarah circled his arm. "Shaunic, let's go. Ignore her."

From the corner of his eyes, Shaun saw Catherine going into the police car. He felt annoyed.

"I'm sorry. You must think that I'm very bad," Sarah said self-deprecatingly, "I'm just too afraid. If we don't give her a lesson, I'm scared that she'll really take you away next time."

"Don't talk nonsense." Shaun patted her head.

"Shaunic, stay away from her. I can't bear the pain of losing you," Sarah said miserably.

Sarah had a kind and thoughtful image in Shaun's heart all along.

As she cried in front of him, he could not describe the feeling he had inside his heart.

There was surely anger, though. Other people might not have known about it, but Sarah should know that the incident was considered taboo to him.

However, she still did it anyway.

The main reason being he did not make her feel secure enough.

As he thought about it, it was true that after Catherine returned, he had been paying Sarah less attention.

Besides, Sarah had always silently stayed by his side yet he could not even satisfy her most basic need.

As a man, Shaun felt sorry.

At that moment, he could not bring himself to refuse Sarah's humble plea.

Seeing that he was remaining silent, Sarah took the initiative more than ever before.

Although Shaun's body was burning up, he still felt repulsed at Sarah's touch.

He could not take it anymore and pushed her away strongly.

Sarah fell on the carpet in a mess.

"Sarah, I'm sorry..."

When Shaun saw her pale face, he shook his head at a loss. He turned around and rushed out of the study.

"Shaunic, wait." Sarah struggled to go after him in disheveled clothing, but she only saw the silhouette of his car leaving.

"Ah, Shaun, you're useless!"

Sarah stomped her feet hysterically. She could not believe it. He was already in such an uncomfortable state, yet his body still could not accept her.

Why?

Did she make him feel that disgusted?

Where exactly did her hypnosis go wrong?

However, with his body in that state, he could not have gone out to look for other women, right?

No, it could not be. He was incapable of sex. Finding other women would be useless to him as well.

A wave of unease enveloped her.

However... What if Shaun went to look for Catherine?

Sarah called Rodney in a hurry. She explained everything to him while crying.

Rodney was shocked. "What? Shaun can't have sex?"

"Rodney, let's put that aside. Quickly think of a way to find him. I'm afraid that something will happen to him," Sarah said anxiously.

"The thing is, I'm away on a business trip today. I'll ask Chester to look for him as soon as possible."

"You're not around?" Sarah almost wanted to spit out blood. That stupid Rodney was of no use when it came to a critical moment.

...

Deep into the night.

A car sped along the streets.

Shaun lowered all the windows. The cold night wind blew in, but it did not disperse the heat in his body. Instead, he was on the verge of collapsing.

No. This was not good.

Catherine's face flashed across his hazy mind.

He stepped on the accelerator harder.

The car sped toward Hackett Institute.

At Hackett Institute, Catherine had no clue that someone was thinking about her.

She was on a video call with Suzie and Lucas. Due to the time difference, it was still daytime in Country M.

"Mom, how was my performance today?" Suzie said excitedly, "I heard you calling Shaun's name, so I knew that was my scummy dad. Of course, I wouldn't expose my identity. I don't want him to take me back and let a bad woman be my stepmother."

"Cough..." Catherine almost got choked by the water she was drinking. The way her daughter spoke was too heartless. If it were other children, they would have been sad for half a day.

She could not help but set her gaze on Lucas' face. "My darling son, what do you think?"

"I don't like him. It's obvious that he doesn't want to be responsible for you, yet

he wants you to be modest. What a jerk." Lucas got straight to the point.

"... Err, you have a point there." Catherine was secretly astonished by the twins' wide range of vocabulary.

"Mom, I don't like him either. He won't let me eat chocolate," Suzie said, "It's already enough having one person in the family who doesn't let me eat chocolate. If there's another one, then I won't be able to eat chocolate at all."

"... Ha, you're such a clever little kid." Catherine praised her while having a headache.

"Of course, don't you know whose darling daughter I am?"

At that moment, the sound of someone banging on the door came from outside.

"Catherine, quickly open the door."

It was Shaun again.

Catherine rubbed her forehead. Was he intending to keep this going even at night?

"Mom, did my scummy dad come looking for you again?" Lucas quickly said, "It

should be 11:00 p.m. in Australia now. Is he planning to stay the night seeing that he's here so late?"

"You think too much. I think he has an urgent matter to see me about. Let's talk tomorrow."

Catherine hung up the video call. She walked to the door but was not in a hurry to open it. "Shaun, what do you want to do?"

"Stop nagging. If you don't open the door, I'll kick it until it breaks." Shaun started kicking the door non-stop.

Catherine was afraid that he would disturb the neighbors at such a late hour, so she opened the door.

Once the door opened, Shaun came charging at her. His thin lips landed on hers hard.

As she had just bathed not long ago, the faint fragrance on her body wafted into his nose.

The remaining rationality that Shaun had was destroyed.

At that moment, Catherine looked like a piece of delicious cake to him. She was very tempting.

"Shaun, what are you doing?! Let me go!" Catherine was utterly shocked. She could only push him away slightly despite using all her strength.

His handsome face was flushed red. She had seen such a sight before and was very familiar with this appearance of his.

"I want you." Shaun stared at her with bloodshot eyes.

"You came to the wrong place. Go find Sarah. I—ah!"

Catherine had not finished speaking when the man kissed her again, not giving her any chance to talk.

...

The night passed.

The morning sun shone through the windows.

Catherine opened her eyes due to the glaring sunlight. She turned her head and saw Shaun who was fast asleep. She kicked him out of anger.

F*ck him!

Shaun, who was sleeping soundly, frowned. However, he did not open his eyes.

Catherine struggled to get up. She walked into the bathroom.

She bathed herself with hot water and only came out after half an hour.

When she opened the bathroom door, she saw the guy sitting on the bed after waking up.

Their eyes met. Shaun immediately saw the hickeys on her neck and collarbone. He lowered his gaze and saw the messy bed. His expression went dark.

He could still vaguely remember what had happened last night.

He had been set up by Sarah. She was his girlfriend and fiancée. Although she had made a mistake, he still loved her and was willing to forgive her. It was just that he would feel nauseous whenever he touched Sarah.

In the end, he drove out and came to look for Catherine without being able to control himself.

Damn it, why did it turn out this way?

Not only had he done Sarah wrong, but he even got involved with Catherine.

Catherine observed his face that appeared to be in pain for a moment and saw him gritting his teeth the next moment. She sneered and threw the towel she was holding in her hands at him.

“Shaun, so this is the love you have for Sarah? I can really feel it.”

CategoriesLet me go, Mr. Hill

Catherine's sarcasm infuriated Shaun. “Do you think I wanted to do it? I was set up.”

“Ha.”

Catherine scoffed. He was once again being a jerk.

The hidden meaning in his words was, 'Do you think I wanted to touch you? I

wouldn't have touched you if I hadn't been set up. That's why I don't have to take any responsibility, and you shouldn't blame me either.'

"Why are you laughing? You must be delighted." Shaun recalled how much he had yearned for her last night. He was embarrassed.

"Delighted?" Catherine rolled up her sleeves speechlessly. She revealed the rings of bruises on her arms caused by someone gripping her with too much strength. "Please, look at this. I have bruises all over my body. Brother, do you not know that you didn't even treat me like a human last night? I can sue you for this!"

Looking at those bruises, Shaun went tight-lipped. Traces of apology welled up in him.

"What grudge did I have with you in my past life? Why didn't you go look for Sarah?" Catherine held back from showing the hatred in her eyes. Did he not know that she would feel disgusted because she was a clean freak?

"..."

Shaun kept silent. His short black hair rested messily on his forehead, but that did not affect his refined looks. Rather, it accentuated his thin lips and long lashes.

"You can't possibly... have no interest toward Sarah now?"

Catherine walked toward him step by step. The corners of her mouth were lifted into a grin. After last night, she had an additional seductive charm to her.

The unforgettable sweetness from last night flashed across Shaun's mind. He could not forget that feeling even at this moment.

"Did I get it right?" Seeing that he was keeping silent, Catherine's smile widened.

"You think too much." Shaun shot her an icy glare. His words were mean, as if they were laced with poison. "I was just afraid that I would lose my mind last night and do something to hurt Sarah. She should be treated well and cared for. As for you, it serves you right no matter how much you get hurt."

"Why does it serve me right?"

Catherine's smile gradually froze.

This was indeed the Shaun she knew. He always had a way to deepen her hatred for him.

Just look at that. Were those words a human would say? Was she not afraid of pain while Sarah was? Did she not deserve to be seen as a human by him?

"You're my nominal wife. Since you refuse to let go of your position, then it's only appropriate that you fulfill your duties as a wife."

After Shaun said that as if it was a matter of course, he felt relieved. He had nothing to feel guilty about toward her.

"Do you dare to say these words to Sarah?" Catherine asked sarcastically.

Shaun's expression changed. He glared at her. "Catherine, if you dare expose anything that happened last night, I'll make you pay for it."

"Shaun, in the story of 'The Farmer and the Snake', you're that poisonous snake."

Catherine lamented that she had been too kind last night. She should have chased him out and let him suffer and die.

Shaun also felt that he was despicable, but he had no choice. "As long as you don't say anything, Sarah won't know."

"I don't believe you. Nothing can stay a secret forever. When Sarah hears about this, I'll be the one who's at fault again. It'll just be like last time when you

bought me underwear. I never said a word, but didn't you believe her in the end?"

Catherine sneered and walked toward the door.

Shaun was taken aback. He frowned and said, "Are you still trying to deny that incident? If you hadn't said anything, how did Sarah find out? Besides, you're saying that Sarah worked together with that manager to lie to me?"

"If I say yes, will you believe me? Between Sarah and me, you'll never take my side."

She said that without turning back.

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