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"I see."

The receptionist nodded and said something to the other female employee.

The female employee no longer doubted Linda, so she approached her to take over.

"You just started working. All the teas that you see here are reserved especially for the administration department. Ms. Vanderbilt

likes to drink Earl Grey, and the temperature mustn't be too hot."

Linda nodded, staring at the teapot she had poured the powder into.

After the female employee poured water into the teapot, she boiled the pot on the induction cooker.

A few minutes passed while they were waiting for the water to boil, and Linda did not dare to speak too much for fear of being discovered.

When the water started boiling, the female employee placed a tea bag she took out of a box reserved exclusively for Maisie into

the thermos and poured the water into it.

Linda took a deep breath as she started to perspire profusely on her temples.

But she calmed down as soon as She thought about what the woman had told her, saying that this drink would not kill anyone

and that it would only make others sick.

The female employee turned to look at Linda.

"You can leave this to me and get back to work first."

"Ah, oh...Okay, thanks."

Linda left the scene but bumped into Saydie, the woman who followed Maisie around all the time, in the corridor.

Linda quickly pulled down the brim of her hat and passed by her in a hurry.

Saydie stopped and turned to look at the figure that seemed to be escaping from something.

The female employee came out with a thermos and said with a grin when she saw Saydie, "Are you here for the tea? It's just

been brewed."

Saydie took the thermos in her hand and nodded.

"Thank you."

In the office...

Maisie was flipping through some documents when Saydie knocked on the door.

She pushed open the door, entered, and placed the thermos on the desk.

Maisie raised her head and said with a smile, "Thank you for the hard work."

She was about to pick up the thermos when Saydie reported out of the blue, "I ran into Linda just now."

Maisie unscrewed the lid and frowned.

"Linda?" Saydie nodded.

"She appeared around the pantry region sneakily and ran away immediately when she saw me."

Maisie put the thermos back on the desk.

"Go and check the surveillance footage of that area."

Linda came to a small back alley after she escaped from Soul.

Shen then leaned against the wall and panted heavily as she took out her cell phone and called Cecile.

However, before the call got through, her cell phone was abruptly snatched away from her grasp.

She turned her head around and saw several men standing beside her, and her expression changed instantly.

Saydie handed the surveillance footage she had downloaded from the system over to Maisie and then summoned the two

employees who had been at the pantry into the office.

The two staff employees did not know what had happened.

They did not understand until Saydie asked, "That woman...Did she claim that she's new here, and Ms.Vanderbilt is the person

who hired her?"

Maisie fiddled with the pen in her hand.

"Did she say that?"

"Yes, I saw her brewing tea in the pantry when I went i n, so I asked, and didn't she come to you yesterday? That's why I thought

she was our new colleague."

The female employee bowed her head in remorse after explaining her actions.

'I actually got deceived into making such a mistake. Will I be fired?'

"Okay, I get it." Maisie put the cap of the pen on and stood up.

"You two can go back to your workstations and continue working first. I'll handle this matter."

"Thank you, Ms. Vanderbilt."

The two female employees bowed to Maisie and then exited the office.

Maisie handed the thermos on the desk to Saydie.

"Bring this to a lab and test it to see if there's any problem with the tea."

At noon, Saydie rushed back to the company from the hospital and just happened to encounter Quincy downstairs.

Quincy stopped her while he was getting out of the car.

"Is Mrs.Goldmann in now?"

"Yes, is there anything that requires her attention?"

Saydie looked at him.

Quincy came over with some snacks and shoved them into her arms.

"Mr.Goldmann asked me to bring these here.Can you bring them to Mrs.Goldmann while you're on your way up?"

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After saying that, Quincy stood with his arms akimbo and complained, "It's not easy to be someone's personal assistant

nowadays. Delivering food for my boss is one of the errands I have to run while I'm not managing the company for him. And my

salary gets deducted instead of increasing..."

Saydie glanced at him expressionlessly.

"I'll pass this message on to Mr.Goldmann without leaving out a single word."

"Don't!"

Quincy shut up immediately and then looked around with an aggrieved face.

"I was just joking around, Ma'am.I'm begging you.We've been working together for three years now.Can we please just live

together peacefully?"

His gaze then landed on the report and thermos that were in Saydie's hand.

"What are these?"

Saydie handed the report to him.

"See it for yourself."

Quincy's expression changed slightly when he skimmed through the report.

Saydie returned to the office and passed the report results to Maisie. She also reported to her that she had run into Quincy

downstairs.

Maisie took the report from her and paused for a split second.

"Did you allow Quincy to go through the content?"

She nodded and placed the snacks Quincy had handed her on the desk.

Maisie looked at the box of snacks and gave off a wry smile.

"Nolan will definitely be exasperated again this time around." Saydie stared at her.

"I think it's you who should be livid."

Maisie's face dimmed instantly when she saw the sentence

"Overdose can lead to shock and even death", which was written on the test report.

Linda was taken to an abandoned unfinished building.

The man kicked her to the ground as she cried and shuddered.

"Mr.Donovan, I swear I'll return the \$ 150,000 to you tomorrow!"

Mr.Donovan took a cigarette handed to him by his subordinate, and his subordinate ignited the lighter and lit the cigarette for him.

He then took a sharp puff and exhaled the smoke.

"Are you sure you can get the money by tomorrow?" She nodded.

"Sure, I'm sure!"

Mr.Donovan leaned over and puffed a mouthful of smoke at her.

"But I can't wait any longer."

The smoke covered her face, and her body curled into a fetal position as she backed off tremblingly.

The blood was drained from her cheeks, and she started to shudder even more vigorously.

"W-What do you mean by that?" He stretched out two fingers.

"In order to compensate for the losses that I've been incurring these few days, the penalty will at least cost you another

\$150,000, making the whole payment worth \$ 300,000."

Linda's tears gushed down like two streams.

"But...But \$150,000 is the number that we agreed on."

As soon as she said that, Mr.Donovan slapped her.

"If you can't pay me back, you're coming back with me to serve my customers!" Linda got dizzy from all the slapping while she cried and nodded.

"I'll make it work I'll definitely make it work!"

"Remember, it's \$300,000.I'll give you hell if I don't get the money by tomorrow." Mr.Donovan left with his men after giving her a warning.

Linda dragged her beaten self out of the abandoned building, sobbed softly as she picked up her cell phone, and called Cecile.

"Ms.Wolfsbane, I...I've done everything according to your instructions, can you...Can you please lend me \$300,000 first?

Mr.Donovan just doubled the amount of money that I owe him all of a sudden.I have no other choice..."

She could only place all her hope on Cecile.

Cecile remained silent for a moment before speaking slowly.

"Ms. Vanderbilt, Maisie is still alive and kicking, so how can you ask me to lend you the money with confidence?"

Linda held her breath as she felt chills shooting down her spine and all over her body.

"Ms.Wolfsbane...What are you talking about? Didn't you say that drug wouldn't kill?" Cecile chuckled.

"An overdose could definitely kill someone, but you can't blame me. You're the one who spiked the drink with one whole packet of

the drug." Linda froze in place.

"I didn't want to kill anyone! I've never thought about killing anyone!"

"It seems you've failed in your mission, you useless piece of sh*t."

Cecile chuckled, but her voice still sounded cold.

"But it's alright. I won't get into the details with you. I'm waiting for you across the road. Come over."

Linda looked at the opposite side of the road, and a car was indeed parked at the roadside.

However, what puzzled Linda was how Cecile knew she was there.

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Linda did not overthink it as she urgently needed money now.

Thus, she hung up the phone and hurried across the road, but a car appeared out of nowhere and rammed into her.

A loud shriek pierced through the stagnant air, and Linda was knocked into the air, flew in the air, and landed a few feet away

from the car.

One of her shoes fell off, and the screen of the cell phone beside her shattered.

Her face landed on the ground, and she seemed to be staring straight ahead with an unwilling gaze.

Her fingertips trembled as her pupils gradually dilated, and a pool of scarlet blood oozed out from behind her head.

A man walked up to her, picked up her phone with a gloved hand, pulled out the SIM and SD card, broke them forcibly, and threw

them into the flowerbed in the middle of the road. He then walked back to the parked car and got into the car.

Cecile, who was sitting in the rear seat, retracted her gaze as the corners of her cherry lips twitched.

"Let's go." Maisie called Hector, obtained Linda's number from him, and tried to call her, but her phone was turned off.

Hence, she asked Saydie to track Linda down.

However, the result of the investigation led them to the hospital's mortuary.

She hurried to the hospital with Saydie.

The police officers were communicating with the doctor when she stepped forward and asked, "Excuse me, may I know if the

deceased who was brought in is called Linda Vanderbilt?"

One of the officers picked up the ID card and took a glance at it.

"Who are you, and what's your relationship with the deceased?" Maisie pursed her lower lip.

"I'm her cousin." The police officer nodded.

"We're just trying to contact her family members, but because her phone has broken, and the SIM card isn't in the phone..."

Maisie frowned.

"What's the cause of death?"

He replied, "A car accident. And apparently, the street where she was knocked over doesn't have any surveillance cameras set

up, so the perpetrator fled. When she was found, and we rushed to the scene, it was already too late."

The officers left after asking Maisie some more questions.

Maisie was left standing in the empty corridor, wondering about something.

Nolan and Quincy arrived later.He saw Maisie sitting on the bench and hurried forward. "Zee."

Maisie lifted her head but could not even force a faint smile.

"I didn't expect things to end like this." Nolan frowned.

After a long time, he crouched down in front of her and covered the back of her hand with his palm.

"Quincy has already told me about the incident.Zee, the important thing here is that you're fine."

Maisie lowered her head and leaned on his shoulder.

"Even if Linda hated me to the bones, she wouldn't want to kill me and would at most only want to retaliate against me.So, I

think...She's been taken advantage of."

"If Linda wanted to kill me, she would've done it long ago. She needed the money desperately, which makes it even more unlikely

for her to kill me because she would come to me when she's desperate"

Maisie had seen through Linda's mindset long ago, but she did not expect that Linda would run into an accident.

Nolan hugged her and stroked her hair.

"Don't worry.I'll get to the bottom of this matter."

Yorick and Madam Vanderbilt were informed that their daughter and granddaughter had encountered an accident and traveled to

Bassburgh overnight.

When it came to the moment to claim his daughter's body from the morgue, Yorick turned his head away as he did not dare to

look straight at her.

Madam Vanderbilt stood frozen in place for a while, but she did not cry hysterically.

"This is just unfortunate. The daughter that's been with us for more than 20 years died just like that. I told her not to come to

Bassburgh and find herself a family to get married to as soon as possible. Now, look at what happened!"

Yorick did not utter a single word. He took out a packet of cigarettes, walked silently to the corridor, took one out, and lit it.

Maisie and Saydie walked out of the elevator. She asked Saydie to wait for her there and walked toward Yorick alone.

"Uncle." Yorick took two puffs of smoke.

His hands were shaking while his voice sounded hoarse.

"Both the mother and the daughter, both of them had had a rough life."

"I'm already investigating the accident. As long as the perpetrator is caught, maybe—" Before she could finish the sentence, Madam Vanderbilt walked out of the morgue and saw Maisie.

Her expression dimmed immediately.

"Ever since a few years ago, after Leila's incident, the Vanderbilts have always been overcast by a series of misfortunes. All the

damned ones are dead now, so let's just all end this right here, right now."

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"Mother, please just stop.Linda is already lying in the morgue, so what else do you want?" Yorick felt very upset too.

Madam Vanderbilt shut up wisely.

Maisie did not take Madam Vanderbilt's words to heart and looked at Yorick.

"I'll pay for the funeral's expenses.We'll get to the bottom of the incident when we find out about the cause of the accident."

At Blackgold...

Quincy walked next to Nolan.

"Mr.Goldmann, I've located the nightclub for which Linda worked before this. The owner is known locally as Mr.Donovan, and he

runs an illegal loan shark organization. His nightclub business isn't clean either, as he provides special services for his guests.

"I also found out that he often exploits his female employees, deceiving them into taking nude loans from him. When they cannot

pay him back, he'll get them to serve guests according to his requirements."

Nolan's gaze looked keen.

"Who does he have supporting him from behind the scenes?"

Quincy skimmed through the information.

"Among his clientele is Mr.Saldana from the Fortune Building Inc.By the way,

Mr.Saldana once had business dealings with the

Hannigans three years ago, but there doesn't seem to be any obvious interaction between the two companies over the past

three years. So, maybe you can turn to Mr. Hannigan for more information. He should know something about this."

Nolan did not say anything.

When the two of them passed by the elevator, a woman stepped out of the elevator abruptly and bumped into him.

Quincy was about to teach the woman a lesson, but he was momentarily stunned when the woman lifted her head.

Cecile had already seen Nolan pass by from within the elevator, and she had chosen to bump into him on purpose. She could not

contain her excitement and pretended to be caught off guard.

"I'm sorry, I'm really sorry, I didn't see you."

Nolan glanced at the woman indifferently and gave off a faint frown.

'She's the woman that appeared on one of the interview documents.But this woman gives mea strange feeling, just like what

Quincy told me before, and I don't like this sensation"

Nolan unbuttoned his jacket and walked away without saying a word.

Quincy took a glimpse at the woman, smiled at her out of courtesy, and immediately caught up to Nolan's footsteps.

Nolan took off his jacket because another woman's perfume had stained it.He then threw the jacket into the cleaning cart parked

in the corridor by the cleaner.

Quincy felt extremely helpless.

'This jacket costs thousands of dollars, yet he throws it away just because he feels like doing so.If Mrs.Goldmann were to learn

about his action, she'd definitely reprimand Mr.Goldmann for being such a prodigal man"

Cecile naturally saw this scene, and the corner of her lips twitched slightly.

'Now that I got a closer look at him, he looks even more attractive than he was a few years back"

She rubbed her fingertips across the corners of her lips, and her eyes looked cold.

'As expected of a man that you can't even keep by your side"

Linda's body was cremated at the funeral home, but Madam Vanderbilt did not attend the funeral.

Yorick and his wife were the only ones who were there by Linda's coffin when it was time to send her off.

When the cremation process was over, the staff handed an urn to Yorick.

Yorick held the urn in his hands, feeling deeply aggrieved and sorrowful.

Maisie walked out of the funeral home with them.

Yorick turned to look at her before she sent them into the car.

"Zee, thank you." Maisie nodded.

"Bring this back and organize a proper burial for her.I'll get back to you when we get our hands on the investigation results."

Yorick and his wife got into the car and left.

After the car disappeared from her sight, Maisie followed Saydie back to the car.

Saydie asked if Maisie wanted to return to the company, and Maisie replied, "We're heading to Blackgold."

Maisie and Saydie appeared at the Blackgold Group.

All the staff members who worked at Blackgold's front desk knew about Maisie and greeted her with a smile.

"It's nice to see you, Mrs.Goldmann."

Maisie walked up to the elevator dedicated to the CEO, and Saydie pressed the button on the wall.

When the doors opened, and they were about to step into the elevator, someone stopped her.

"Are you Mrs.Goldmann?"

Maisie stopped, turned around, and looked at the woman who was approaching her. She squinted slightly as if she had seen the woman standing in front of her somewhere else.

She looked almost perfect as she approached them— her stern and gorgeous face subconsciously made Maisie think of someone.

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The wording on her nametag showed that she was Cecile Wolfsbane from the strategy department.

Cecile had a jacket in her hands, and Maisie was very familiar with the custom-made jacket that Nolan wore to the office earlier this morning.

Maisie raised his eyebrows slightly and chuckled.

"Miss, is there anything that I can help you with?"

Cecile lowered her gaze and handed her the jacket.

"Mr.Goldmann has dropped this jacket.Since you're his wife, please return it to him for me.Thank you."

Maisie took a glimpse at the jacket in Cecile's hand, and her gaze shifted onto Cecile's face.

She did not grab the jacket directly from Cecile but asked Saydie to grab it for her instead.

Saydie took the jacket into her hands, and Maisie walked into the elevator with her without uttering another word.

The moment the elevator's doors slowly closed, isolating the people on both sides of the doors, Cecile smirked out of the

blue. She glanced at her reflection in the mirror, and her face was filled with smugness. Maisie walked into Nolan's office.

Nolan was indeed not wearing a jacket, and Quincy was talking with him when he saw Maisie first.

"Mrs.Goldmann?"

When his gaze landed on the jacket in Saydie's hands, he was stunned.

"That jacket wasn't it..."

Saydie threw the jacket to Quincy, and he caught it with a bewildered look on his face. Nolan leaned against the edge of the desk with a smirk on his face.

"Why did you pick this jacket up from the cleaning cart?"

"I didn't pick it up."

Maisie shrugged, walked to the couch, sat down, and grabbed a teacup from the desk.

"It was given to me by a woman named Cecile. She asked me to bring it to you."

Nolan's eyes narrowed slightly.

Quincy was surprised and explained to Maisie, "The woman named Cecile bumped into Mr.Goldmann this morning, so

Mr.Goldmann threw away his jacket, saying that it smelled of her perfume. He's afraid that you'd misunderstand..."

"So did the woman pick the jacket up and give it back to Mrs.Goldmann?" Maisie blinked and said nothing.

Nolan asked Saydie and Quincy to exit the office.

After the two left, he walked to the couch, leaned over, propped his hands against the back of the couch, and approached her.

"You're worried about me."

Maisie leaned back, looked at him, and could not help but sneer.

"Why would I worry about you?"

Nolan pinched her chin and gently rubbed her lips with his fingertips.

"You're worried that I would cheat on you with another woman."

She raised her hand to flatten his tie and smiled.

"Wouldn't I have to live the rest of my life carefully and fearfully if I didn't even have any trust for you? There's no way I'm going to do that."

He sneered, turned over, and took her into his arms.

"That woman thinks she's smart.I'll get Quincy to notify the human resource department to fire her immediately."

Maisie was astonished, but she thought of something all of a sudden.

"Don't fire her first. I have a feeling that this woman came prepared."

Nolan narrowed his eyes and said nothing.

Maisie was silent for a moment, and her lips slowly moved.

"A newcomer who's just joined the company, who's never seen me, but knows who I am, and handed me the jacket deliberately

without any explanation. If this were to happen to a woman who doesn't trust her husband at all, she would've lost her cool on the spot."

Nolan tucked the hair hanging over her forehead behind her ears with a pregnant expression.

"You think she's strange too, huh?"

"If I hadn't seen Rowena die at the bottom of the sea with my very own eyes, I would've suspected that she's Rowena.But if you

go deeper into the details of the incident, if Rowena were to be alive right now, she would've wanted to cover all her trails out of

fear of being discovered."

Maisie looked at Nolan.

"But that woman resembles Rowena in a lot of ways. Even her facial features and gaze remind me of Rowena."

"I'll get Quincy to keep an eye on her."

Nolan rubbed the top of her head, and his gaze became sterner and clearer instantly.

"I would also like to know who the heck she is."

The Novel will be updated daily. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!

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