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While shivering in fear, Tyler quickly hung up the phone and he carried his bag on his shoulder before rushing toward the door. He didn't wait for Sonia to make the request.

However, before leaving, he turned around and warned, "You have received my gifts, which means that you must come to school and help me this Saturday! If you dare to tell Toby about this, I'll tell him that you are already sleeping with another man right after your divorce!"

Upon listening to him, Sonia was rendered speechless.

Tyler ran to the south gate as fast as he could—which was exactly in two minutes.

The moment he arrived at the side of the road, he could already see Toby casually sitting on the driver's seat of his sports car as the smoke from Toby's cigarette lingered around his fingers.

Tyler immediately sat on the passenger seat as he panted before he fastened his seatbelt.

However, due to Toby's cold stare and gloomy aura, Tyler didn't dare to utter a word while he kept his head lowered.

While waiting for the car to move on the road, Toby finally opened his mouth. "Didn't I tell you not to look for her? Are my words a joke to you?"

"I didn't have any money on me..."

"There are several hotels under the Fuller Group. Did you really think that no one would know that you are the Young Master of the Fuller Family?" he sneered.

"My stomach has been acting funny lately, so I came to her for help. Don't you know how good your wife's cooking is?" Tyler refused to cave under Toby's line of questioning. However, the moment Tyler's words came out of his mouth, he seemed to realize that he had said something wrong and quickly corrected himself. "I-I mean your 'ex-wife'. Toby, I know that you two are divorced, but can't I come to her place for a meal? Besides, she is the one who invited me in for a meal. It's not like I forced her to do so."

Again, the man let out a sarcastic chuckle as he clearly didn't believe a word Tyler said, so Tyler carefully continued with his words. "Toby, I can see that Sonia is actually a nice person."

As he hoped that Sonia could come to school and help him out, he tried to put in a few good words for her in front of Toby, but he also believed that she was a good person in his heart. Sometimes, it takes our own eyes to judge whether a person is good or not instead of blindly listening to others.

Upon witnessing Toby's silence, Tyler summoned the courage to continue speaking, "I heard that her company isn't doing well lately. Can you please help her? Maybe you could teach her on managing a business whenever you are free. After all, she didn't ask anything from you as alimony when she divorced you, so her life isn't going well—" I don't think I should tell him that Sonia has dated someone online before. After all, who doesn't have a past?

However, Toby immediately interrupted Tyler. "Does your face still hurt?"

Tyler grazed the inside of his mouth with his tongue and answered, "It was, but once she applied medicine on the wound, the pain subsided."

"When we return home, I want you to apologize to Mom. Also, you should stop playing basketball and focus on your studies instead." Toby placed his hand on the car window sill as he wore a grim expression. "When I was sixteen, Dad had already started assigning me to a handful of businesses to deal with. He even asked me to join the company's management team."

Upon listening to him, Tyler's eyes darkened as he wanted to say something. However, Toby didn't give him a chance to speak and asked, "Do you prefer to study abroad starting from tomorrow?"

Since Tyler lacked the courage to go against his brother, he lowered his head and remained quiet.

.....

At the same time, Sonia didn't think much about Tyler's words as she was busy with meetings and paperwork.

She asked her team to arrange a meeting with him to discuss the acquisition of the Continental Co. when Charles had the time to come over to Paradigm Co. After analyzing the means and methods of the takeover, they finally came to an agreement.

If they were able to consolidate the company, Continental Co. would be a compatible asset alongside Paradigm Co. Not to mention, Sonia also had the funds to make her purchase.

However, there were far too many people who wanted to acquire the Continental Co, so the owner was so frustrated that he went abroad for a

holiday in December and never returned since. On top of that, he never answered his phone, which made it difficult to get in touch with him.

Sonia tried to get in touch with the owner of the Continental Co. for the past few days through her connections, but to no avail.

She was close to being frustrated with the situation when she received numerous calls from Tyler in the morning, asking her when she would come to his school.

Therefore, she immediately blocked his number.

However, Tyler was able to reach Sonia in the end after using his school's landline to call, but he didn't have an arrogant tone. There was instead a hint of plea in his words. "I've put in a good word for you when Toby picked me up that night. Can you please help me just this once? I beg you. If you don't come, my life is completely over."

While she listened to him, Sonia didn't know whether to be angry or laugh. As a sixteen-year-old brat, he has his whole life in front of him, but he has now given up just because he can't play basketball anymore?

She ruthlessly hung up the phone and ignored Tyler. However, once she was done with her work, she suddenly felt sorry for him when she remembered his pleas on the phone. After knowing him for so long, this is the first time I've seen him pleading to someone other than his brother.

"President Reed, are you busy?" Rebecca knocked on the open door before she entered. "My granny hasn't been in good health lately, so I'd like to take a three day leave to visit her."

Upon listening to Rebecca mentioning her family, Sonia suddenly thought of Rose, whom she had stopped contacting after the divorce from Toby. I wonder whether she is in good health.

"Alright. If the situation is critical, I can also allow you to leave earlier today," Sonia answered. "You can also stay at home for a few more days if you want to. You can hand me the slip afterward."

Rebecca's eyes immediately brightened. "Wow, you really are nice, Sonia. Not only are you beautiful, your heart is also lovely!"

However, she was not in a hurry to leave after she received the slip. Instead, she asked Sonia, "President Reed, I have a poor friend who works three jobs a day. I really want to help him, but I'm afraid of hurting his self-esteem. Can you please help me?"

"How old is he? What is he good at?" Sonia asked. "If he doesn't know anything, he can also be a security guard here at Paradigm Co. I'll give him a higher salary."

Since Rebecca and Charles were alumni of the same university, she was willing to help Rebecca to take care of her friend.

"I've already arranged everything. I just need your approval." Rebecca smiled. "I can ask him to be your driver. You can call him whenever you need to head somewhere and I'll help to pay for his salary."

It was true that Sonia needed a driver to transport her around from time to time. "It's fine. I can pay for his salary. After all, your income isn't that high."

"I'm fine with it. I own a house in the city and it can be sold for quite a lot of money. The selling price would be enough to pay him a year's worth of salary." Rebecca waved her hands, showing that she was alright with paying him.

Sonia was startled for a moment before she asked, "Is that your only house?"

"I have a few houses as well as a couple of villas." Rebecca tried to remember. "My mom bought all of it, but I've lost count of how many she purchased. Are you looking for a house at the moment? I can sell you a villa for below market value."

Meanwhile, Sonia was rendered speechless as she rubbed her head.

Moments ago, she was worried that Rebecca's salary wasn't high enough, but it so happened that Rebecca was merely gaining experience through her current work. In the end, it was Sonia who was actually the poor one.

Sonia had planned on visiting Tyler's school later, so she handed over her car keys to Rebecca. Then, Sonia had asked Rebecca's friend to come to drive her there.

Fifteen minutes later, Rebecca called. "President Reed, he is now waiting for you downstairs. Try to be careful when you're speaking with him to avoid him knowing that I planned this."

"I understand."

After packing her stuff, Sonia left the company and walked straight to her car before opening the door.

"Are you Rebecca's friend?" While asking him, she turned her head and prepared to tell the driver her destination. However, at the same time, the driver had also turned to look at her with a hint of joy in his narrow eyes.

As the two of them stared at each other, Zane lifted his hand and waved at her. "Hello, President Reed."

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"Did you tell Rebecca that you needed to work three jobs a day because you are from a poor family?" Sonia chuckled while she looked at Zane with disdain. "It's such a shame that you are not an actor; otherwise, you will always win the Best Actor Award."

As he shrugged his shoulders, he explained, "I went to 4S Automation to have my car repaired, but she thought I was an employee there. I tried to tease her, but I never expected her to believe me. Then, she rang me to give you a lift. I really didn't know that she works for you."

Sonia rolled her eyes at him. "Are you now setting your sights on her because she is so gullible?"

"Please don't blame me for this. She's always the first one to approach me," he defended himself as if it was a curse to be popular with women. "She's actually the one hitting on me."

As she listened to him, Sonia was speechless. However, when she thought about it, it really seemed that Rebecca was actually the one flirting with him.

"President Reed, where do you want to go?" Zane turned around to fasten his seatbelt. "This is my first time driving someone, but I never expected to be driving in such a beat-up car. You really are lucky." When the car started, he couldn't help but ridicule Toby again. "The wheel feels so bad. This really is a sh*t car. What a d*ck move from Toby! How can he himself drive a Maybach without leaving you a sports car after the divorce?"

"Why didn't you call me back after I asked for your help?" Sonia calmly changed the topic of conversation.

Zane gave her a strange look. "I couldn't find anything wrong with the waiters and water, so there was no point in me returning your call. I've seen the surveillance video that night when you stumbled out of the washroom. It's obvious that you are drunk. You're thinking too much." Then, he let out a chuckle and teased, "Miss Reed, you were quite brave last night. Is that the first time Toby has seen you like that?"

There was a moment of silence since she was embarrassed by his words. She was afraid that he would talk nonsense, but in the end, he had used his position as the co-owner of the club to watch the surveillance video!

"Since there's nothing wrong with the water, we'll leave it as such. I want to head to Seafield High School. I'm a bit tired, so I'll take a nap first. Wake me up when we arrive there." After that, Sonia pretended to sleep and ignored Zane.

Concurrently, over at the Gray Group, Titus had just received the news that Sonia's Paradigm Co. was interested in acquiring Continental Co. On top of that, she was now trying to get in touch with the owner through her connections. I didn't expect her to be so capable in such a short period of time.

"However, no matter how capable she is, Paradigm Co. will still fall with just a push!" He gave a cold smile while spreading the news to others. This time, I must destroy Paradigm Co. once and for all!

Titus couldn't wait to end Paradigm Co. once and for all in memory of his late eldest daughter.

As soon as he gave out his orders, the computer on his desk suddenly flickered as a disk was stuck inside. Just as he was about to press on the keyboard, the desktop screen returned to normal, but there was a video being screened instead.

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Sonia pretended to be asleep to avoid talking to Zane.

When they were about to arrive at Seafield High School, she took out her phone to ask Tyler where he was, but she saw the business-related news from her news app instead.

As it turned out, two executives from the Gray Group's Norfolk and Fredburg branches had siphoned off 500 million of the company's money, causing Titus to pass out in anger.

There was also a photo included below the article of him being sent to the hospital. Someone has stolen Titus' money? Great!

As she read the news, Sonia couldn't help but clap her hands and she even wanted to thank the two executives who fled with Titus' money.

Ever since she discovered that her family's bankruptcy had something to do with Titus, she had been trying to gather evidence to help clear her father's name, but she couldn't locate anything in the end.

Therefore, she was delighted to see Titus being admitted to the hospital.

When the car arrived at the school gates, Zane parked the car and unfastened his seatbelt while asking Sonia, "What are you here for? If I remember correctly, you stopped contacting your relatives when your family went bankrupt."

She glanced at him before she answered, "I can't believe that you care about me so much that you even investigated my background."

"The two of us are business partners, so it's normal for me to look into you to protect my own interest. What's the problem, President Reed? Do you really think I fancy you that much?" He chuckled and smirked, but she ignored him. "It's fine if that's what you're thinking. I quite like the idea of dating my best friend's ex-wife just to see how different it feels from dating other women."

While listening to Zane, Sonia found herself speechless. Compared to him, I would much rather be with Charles.

She ignored his words and went to report Tyler's name to the school's security guard before writing 'family member' in the visitor column on the logbook.

Then, her phone vibrated and she received a new message informing that a sum of money had been credited into her bank account.

The moment Sonia saw the amount of money transferred to her, she was instantly dumbfounded. 100 million? Could it be that some company has accidentally transferred their project fund to me?

While she was in a state of shock, she received another message from Carl on Messenger.

Carl: 'Sonia, I've recently taken a few jobs and made a lot of money. I can't find anywhere else to spend it, so you can take it in case your company needs the fund.'

Sonia: 'You have just arrived at Palmont. What kind of job did you get that pays you this much?'

Then, scenes of him subduing the difficult shareholders with his gentle tone when he accompanied her to Paradigm Co. and the store manager's respectful attitude toward him when they went to the mall started to flash through her mind.

As she reflected on what Charles had previously said to her, she began to suspect Carl. Is he really just a model?

Before Carl even had the chance to reply to Sonia, she sent him another message: 'Two executives from the Norfolk and Fredburg branches of Gray Group have stolen 500 million. Carl, does this have anything to do with you?'

After a few seconds, he replied: 'You mean to say that someone has stolen Titus' money? Well, that's too bad for him. Sonia, I'm just a model and I don't even understand how the corporate world works. Besides, I don't know any executives from Gray Group, so how could I possibly be able to ask them to steal Titus' money?'

He quickly followed up on his text with a picture of his contract.

Carl: 'Sonia, this is my contract with the company. Can you see that the money stated there is of the same amount that I have transferred to you?"

Sonia read his contract in detail before she let out a sigh of relief. However, at the same time, she felt that she had gone overboard. Then, she texted, 'I'm sorry, Carl. I shouldn't have suspected you of doing something illegal. After all, you're only worried about me and the company.'

Carl: 'It's fine. Sonia, I can't return to Seafield for the New Year, so you must remember to take care of yourself.'

Sonia: 'Okay, you should also look after yourself while you are abroad.'

"That's quite a lot of money for a model. Looks like he cares a lot about you." Zane's voice suddenly came to her ear. "Not only is he young, he also treats you well. He'd be the best candidate to be your second husband."

"He is more like my brother." Sonia exited the chat box before she glared at him for peeking at her chat. "He plans to buy Paradigm Co.'s shares with this amount of money."

She felt that she couldn't take Carl's money for nothing, so she decided to give him half of Paradigm Co.'s shares.

"That's a smart move. He knows that if you want to get a girl, you need to get closer to her first," Zane sneered. "President Reed, how much does your shares cost? Why don't I toss my hat in the ring too?"

However, she ignored him and asked the guard where the basketball court was before she left.

Over at the basketball court, the basketball coach from the national team had already scouted a few students and talked to their parents since 10:00AM.

Only Tyler's family members hadn't arrived.

Looking at the time, the coach went over to him and asked, "Tyler, why isn't your family here yet? I've already waited another half an hour for you."

Tyler only looked outside the basketball court without saying a word. He had been trying to call Sonia since this morning, but she kept rejecting his call. She still isn't here. Looks like she won't come to help me.

"You are a talented boy with loads of potential. I really like you, but I still need to talk with your family." The couch patted Tyler's shoulder pitifully. "If your family disagrees with you playing basketball, there's nothing I can do."

After clenching his fists for a while, Tyler murmured, "Can you please wait for a moment? I'll make another call—"

"Tyler, the couch has already given you another hour. If your family isn't here yet, it's obvious that they don't agree with you playing basketball. I think you should stop wasting the coach's time and let him head home to rest!" a boy taunted.

Beside him were a few other boys who smiled with satisfaction since all of them had signed up for the trials.

Without saying a word, Tyler stared at the boy who taunted him.

"Why are you staring at me? Did I just reveal your little secret?" The boy smiled as he continued to tease Tyler. "Sigh! What's the point of being the Young Master of the Fuller Family if you must obey your family's orders and can't even play basketball? Such a pity." With that, he shook his head and the boys next to him started to laugh.

"I dare you to say that one more time!" Tyler shouted as he angrily rushed to fight with the boys.

"Hey, what do you think you are doing? How dare you try to fight with my son." The boy's mother stood between them and stared at Tyler with arms akimbo. "You little brat. Don't think that I'm afraid of you just because you are from the Fuller Family. I dare you to hit him right now!"

The coach quickly went up to stop Tyler from reacting as well as resolve the confrontation. "Alright. Since you have all signed the contract, you should tell your parents—"

The cold voice of a woman was suddenly heard. "It seems like that little boy is the pitiful one."

Everyone in the basketball court looked toward the entrance and saw a slender woman in a black coat enter. She had a gentle and refined aura while the young man following her from behind was handsome and stylish.

She finally came. Tyler's eyes immediately brightened, but when he saw Zane behind the woman, he instantly felt nervous. Sh*t! Did she tell Toby everything, which is why he sent Zane here to bring me home?

When the boy's mother heard Sonia's words, she furrowed her brows and glared at Sonia. "Who did you say is pitiful?"

"Of course I'm referring to you and your son." Sonia stood firm in front of the woman while her red lips slightly quirked up. "My brother is the Young Master of the Fuller Family, so he definitely isn't pitiful. He has millions of fortune at his disposal and he doesn't even need to do everything by himself." Then, she lifted her chin and asked the boy, "Little boy, have you ever been in a helicopter?"

The boy consciously shook his head. "No..."

"It's such a pity that you have never been in a helicopter before." Sonia shook her head. "It's not a surprise, though. After all, your parents are just employees and they don't have a lot of money, so it's impossible for you to understand what pleasure is. You will also continue to work for someone else in the future."

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"Basketball is just his hobby. If he decides to give up, he can still return home and live a luxurious life. As for you, the reason why you are playing basketball is to earn a living. Besides, this is just a trial. There's no guarantee that you'll get picked for the team." While looking at the boy's sad eyes, Sonia sarcastically added, "Such a pity."

However, his mother's face had already darkened in anger. "Y-You!"

After seeing how the usually calm Sonia managed to anger those people without breaking a sweat, Tyler felt especially delighted in his heart.

When she came toward him, his body trembled as he rushed toward her and yanked the sleeves of her coat. He then quietly begged, "I really want to keep on playing basketball. Please don't let Zane bring me home. Let me participate in the trial."

"When did I say that Zane's here to bring you home?" Sonia tilted her head and glanced at him. "Or, did you really want to head back with him?"

For a moment, Tyler was dumbfounded. "Then, why is he here..."

"I asked him to send me over."

"I see." Tyler patted his chest. "I thought that he came to bring me home, which made me scared for a moment."

However, Sonia ignored him and she went to shake hands with the coach. "Hi, I'm Tyler's sister and I apologize for being late. I had something to deal with at my company, which is why I only managed to rush over now."

"It's fine. What's important is that you are here." After he shook her hand, the coach handed the contract to her. "Tyler really is a talented boy. He'll definitely pass the trials! Don't worry about handing him over to me. I'll take good care of him."

With a smile, she replied, "That's all the assurance I need."

Just as Sonia was about to sign the contract, the guardians behind her suddenly rose to their full height one by one and raised their voices. "He looks so average when I saw him play either. He's not even better than my son, so why does he deserve to join the trials?"

"She's right. His skills aren't special at all!"

Now that he observed the situation, the coach had no choice but to calmly explain to the other parents, "I'm the coach here, so I'm sure how skillful the students are at the game. Tyler is indeed talented—"

"Coach, did his brother ask to see you before?" a parent asked tentatively, but her intention couldn't be much clearer.

The coach was rendered speechless for a moment after he heard the question.

"W-What the hell are you talking about?!" Tyler almost swore in front of everyone as he gritted his teeth in anger. "The truth is that I'm good at playing basketball. What does that have to do with my brother? Stop slandering others!"

"Tyler, we also feel that you are actually not that good at basketball." A few of the boys who had just signed the contract also made their voices heard.

"Hey, you guys..." The coach was afraid that if he said the wrong word, the situation would escalate.

Upon seeing the helplessness on his face, Sonia's eyes narrowed as she put down her pen and shouted at Tyler, "Tyler, since your schoolmates feel that you are not that good at basketball, why don't you play a game with them?" Then, she turned toward those boys and asked, "How about we play a game? The best out of three wins."

"Bring it on!" Since all the students were chosen by the coach of the national team, they weren't far behind in terms of ability to play basketball, so they were definitely not afraid to play against Tyler.

"That settles it." Sonia turned toward the coach and apologized, "Coach, I'm sorry, but I'll have to take up a bit of your time."

However, the coach could see that she was trying to resolve the situation, so he sighed in relief. "It's alright. Besides, I want to observe the students a little bit more to see what position suits them the most."

Soon after, the coach arranged the players for each team and their respective position.

In the meantime, Sonia gave Tyler a towel to wipe his hands. "I want you to seriously play this match. If you win, I'll help you to sign the contract for the trials, but if you lose, all of us will be embarrassed and you might even earn a slap when you return home."

"I won't disappoint my brother." His eyes were firm and filled with passion. "I will win this!"

Even though it was just a friendly competition between schoolmates, she was able to see the passion burning inside the young man's eyes.

The Toby whom she met was always calm and restrained when he dealt with every situation, but the young man in front of her now was filled with passion. He looks like a completely different Toby.

As Sonia suppressed the emotions inside her heart, she murmured, "Go on. I hope that I didn't come here for nothing."

Tyler nodded his head and quickly entered the court.

Meanwhile, Zane was quietly listening to their conversation on the sidelines as he had entered after her. However, he didn't expect her to be so bold as to sign Tyler's basketball contract as a family member without Toby's approval.

While Sonia and Tyler spoke to each other earlier, Zane had even secretly recorded its contents.

It took a while before the match began and right after Tyler scored, Sonia cheered loudly without paying attention to her reputation. As she gave her support to him, Zane suddenly asked, "The plan is for Tyler to join the Fuller Group in the future to help the family business. Aren't you afraid that Toby may blame you for signing the contract and allowing Tyler to play basketball?"

"If he wants to blame me, let him come to me." Her eyes were still following Tyler's movements as she took a deep breath. "Besides, I'm already the villain inside his heart and it's also time for him to reflect on himself."

"Oh?" Zane raised his brows. "What does he have to reflect on?"

After Tyler missed a shot, Sophia calmed down before she answered, "He should reflect on how to be a brother and see what kind of life that Tyler wants. Otherwise, it'll be something he'll regret in the future."

"You're absolutely right, President Reed," Zane concurred.

The moment he was done with his recording, he opened his Messenger and sent the two videos to Toby.

As he sat in his office, Toby's eyes slightly darkened the moment he saw Zane's message.

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Toby then clicked on the first video.

He could see Sonia calmly calling out the other parents and when they questioned Tyler's ability to play basketball, she immediately asked the other boys to compete in a best of three match. Looks like Tyler went to her that day because he wanted to join the trials. He didn't dare to come to me about it, so he went to ask for her help.

Toby furrowed his brows slightly as he was dissatisfied with her secretly helping Tyler at school, but he was patient enough to finish watching the video first.

"I want you to seriously play the match. You are disappointing your brother if you lose the game."

In the video, Sonia handed a towel to the young man and talked to him for a moment. When she lifted her head to look at him, her eyes were locked on his face for a few seconds. However, since Zane had recorded them from an angle, Toby couldn't see her facial expression.

When he finished watching the video, he clicked on the second one.

In this second video, she continued to lend her support to Tyler while she spoke in a calming tone, "If he wants to blame me, let him come to me. It's time for him to reflect on himself. He should reflect on how to be a brother and see what kind of life that Tyler wants. Otherwise, it'll be something he'll regret in the future."

This woman... Not only is she secretly helping Tyler, she is now asking me to reflect on myself? As Toby thought about it, he didn't know whether to laugh or to be angry.

Inside the huge office, there was another man in a baseball cap along with Tom other than Toby.

At this moment, the third man was standing with his head down in fear in front of the mahogany desk.

When he felt that Toby's aura had grown colder, his body couldn't help but tremble as he murmured, "P-President Fuller, it was Miss Gray who came to

me on her own accord that night and asked me to install the recorder in that room... I only took a total of 200,000 and it's all in this card. I haven't even touched a cent." With that, the man placed a bank card on the desk.

Toby still remained silent and the man was starting to feel an invisible pressure weighing down on him even after he had explained the entire situation.

"P-President Fuller, I'm sorry. Please have mercy and forgive me." The man's trembling knees were on the brink of touching the floor. "From now on, no matter what Miss Gray tells me to do, I'll immediately report to you."

Then, Toby diverted his eyes from the phone and he lifted his head to look at the man. "How long was the recording?"