

Chapter 11 I Saw Mommy

A group of individuals burst through the door from the outside as Paula and Richard were deliberating what to do!

“You’re one lucky CEO, Mr. Hatcher! When will you make good on the eighty million dollars debt you owe us?”

Those people turned out to be from a debt collection agency, and they had the Hatcher family surrounded.

“What... What are you all doing?!” Paula said, a little out of breath.

Richard yelled, “Stop! Do you have any idea who we are? The Crawford family in Clodston are our in-laws!”

He was met with the exhaust fumes of the Crawford family car driving away.

The two rows of black Maybachs were so intimidating that onlookers could not help but keep their distance.

The miserable Hatcher family stood in stark contrast...

The burly men from the debt collection agency laughed. “Oh, that’s such a fantastic reputation. You stated that you are the Crawfords’ in-laws, but do they give a damn about you?”

Richard’s face turned bright red!

The people from the debt collection agency were all hooligans. How was he going to get them to listen to reason, much less stop beating him up, just because he was weak and old?

Immediately, a resounding smack was heard as Richard and Paula were both slapped hard and fell to their knees!

Violence of every kind, including punching and kicking, was directed at them. After some time, Paula and Richard both developed swollen faces and bruised noses. They wailed in agony.

Everything was better now. Everything about the family was in order.

The Hatcher family, who had once been impressive, suffered a mental breakdown after being humiliated in front of everyone. In the end, the villa was cleared out, and all the luggage was thrown out.

Debbie, whose face was covered in blood, was also thrown out. The entire family was in a pathetic state!

The nearby residents who had been observing from the sidelines whispered to one another.

“You have no idea, do you? That little Hatcher girl is the granddaughter of the Crawford family in Clodston!”

“What?! That little skinny one? The one who lost her mother at the age of two?”

“Oh, my goodness! It must have made the Hatcher family utterly miserable. I would have lost my mind if it were me!”

“They deserve what happened to them! I once witnessed that child being punished by standing outside in the heat. I only said a few words and got chastised by Old Mrs. Hatcher.”

“Hahaha! Didn’t that old lady always say that her granddaughter is the family’s bane? They’re probably regretting their previous actions!”

Whether the Hatcher family’s regret was genuine or not, the onlookers were clearly enjoying their misery from a distance.

They deserved it very much indeed!

Stephen kept coughing. His ears were buzzing as he spat out bloody foam from his mouth.

“Stephen, how are you doing?” Debbie cried as she asked.

A group of individuals burst through the door from the outside as Peule and Richard were deliberating what to do!

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Paula took her rage out on her, saying, “What are you crying about? Where were you earlier? Why didn’t I see you just now?”

“I saw Lilly just now, so I begged her to forgive Grandpa and Granny for the sake of their age... but she refused...” Debbie sobbed.

Paula was so filled with hatred that she blamed Lilly for all of today's humiliation.

They had to raise that wretched girl for more than three years, didn't they? She had no idea how to be grateful at all!

She was an ungrateful plaything, just like her dead mother!

That wretched little girl cursed her own mother and killed her. She also caused her son's bankruptcy and even implicated them to the point of ruin. All of these were brought on by that scourge!

The more Paula thought about it, the angrier she became, and she yelled belligerently, "If you are unwilling, so be it! That little scourge..."

She wanted to say that they could not care less about it, but she could not. Now that they did, she wanted to cling to Lilly and not let her go!

Paula had nowhere to air her grievances, so she could only curse inwardly, cursing that bad luck would fall on everyone in the Crawford family!

...

Anthony tapped his fingers on the screen inside the car and sent out a message, saying, "Get rid of the Hatcher family."

"Kill them?" said the reply from the other end.

Anthony sneered. Kill them?

He could not possibly commit a murder to take out some trash.

Even if he desired vengeance, the Crawford family must remain entirely innocent.

"Let them experience a date worse than death."

Lilly sat quietly in the car, her stuffed rabbit in one hand and the parrot in the other.

Hugh softened his tone and tried to appear friendly, "Lilly, let's go home!"

Gilbert added, "Our home is in Clodston. We'll be taking a plane later."

Lilly nodded obediently and remained silent. The cuteness that she had when she was coaxing the parrot had vanished.

However, it was much better now than it had been in the beginning.

Hugh's heart was breaking. Lilly's obedience made him feel worse.

Only children who grew up in a traumatic environment would be so quiet. How much did Lilly go through to become this way?

"Let's... Let's go home," Hugh murmured.

Suddenly, Lilly asked, "Grandpa... Can we also bring Mommy's ashes home?"

Hugh nodded sadly. "Okay. Let's all go home together."

Lilly felt relieved.

The Crawford family had chartered a private plane. Lilly looked out the window at the sky, and the clouds appeared to fly alongside her.

She craned her neck, then set down the stuffed rabbit and crossed her arms, resting them on the plane window as she peered outside.

"Lilly, what are you looking at?" Bryson asked, smiling warmly.

"Uncle Bryson, are we in the sky now?" Lilly asked, turning her head.

Bryson nodded and said, "Yes."

She had never even taken a plane before...

However, Lilly suddenly asked, "Then, is Mommy up here?"

Bryson and Gilbert, who were sitting nearby, were stunned, and both exclaimed, "What?"

Lilly lowered her eyes, looked out the window silently, and said quietly, "They said Mommy died and went to heaven... So we can see Mommy later, right?"

Lilly was looking out the window with her back to the crowd, tears welling in her eyes.

She was aware that the story she had been told by others, that anyone who died would be in heaven, was a lie told to the kids.

Mommy wouldn't be up here in the sky...

However, she could not help but be excited about it. She was really hoping to see her mother here...

All of a sudden, Hugh's eyes welled up with tears.

The other brothers were also silent, with their heads turned to look outside and their fists clenched tightly.

Gilbert cradled Lilly in his arms and said quietly, "Lilly, go to sleep. You can see your mother in your dreams when you fall asleep..."

Lilly murmured assent. Her tears streamed silently down her cheeks as she nestled in Gilbert's arms.

Uncle Gilbert is also lying.

She had gone to sleep numerous times, but she had never once dreamed of her mother.

Lilly had unknowingly fallen asleep. A very faint light was coming from the red string around her wrist, which was unnoticeable unless one was paying close attention.

Lilly felt warmth all over her body in the dream, as if the sun was shining on her. Her body felt incredibly light, almost like she could fly...

She was surrounded by white clouds that looked like cotton candy. Lilly carefully reached out, picked a small piece, and placed it in her mouth. Her eyes lit up.

It was sweet too!

A gentle and familiar voice called out from behind her, "Lilly..."

Lilly's eyes widened, and she turned around to see her mother standing not far behind her. Her mother was looking at her with tears in her eyes.

"Mommy!"

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"Mommy!"

Lilly dashed over and was tightly hugged by her mother.

Jean gently touched her little head and said quietly, "From now on, Lilly, Grandpa, and all the uncles will be your family. You must live a happy life, okay?"

Lilly's tears were streaming down her cheeks as she obediently said, "Yes, Mommy. I will."

Jean continued, “Grandma is also in poor health. Can you help me take care of Grandma?”

Lilly sharply nodded while choking back tears.

I will. I will definitely look after Grandma.

Jean smiled. She was about to say more, but her body glowed a little and began to fade.

“I love you, Lilly. I will always love you!”

Lilly called out to her mother in her sleep. Her face was soaked with tears...

Chapter 12 She Will Be Lilly Crawford From Now On

Hugh and the Crawford brothers were standing around Lilly’s bed.

They could not help but feel sorrow when they saw the little girl crying for her mother in her sleep.

They couldn’t see that, in addition to Lilly, another “person” was present—Pablo.

Pablo touched Lilly’s forehead and the red string around her wrist.

In a split second, Lilly’s face broke into a small smile.

“Hey, I’ve paid off my debt to your mother now...”

...

The plane touched down at Clodston International Airport.

Hugh gave Gilbert a meaningful glance when he noticed Lilly was still asleep, and Gilbert picked her up and stood to leave.

He kept his bent posture because he was afraid of waking Lilly up.

The parrot swayed and cried out, “Kidnapper! Kidnapper

Lilly’s eyes opened at once.

The Crawfords were rendered speechless.

They stood silently, staring at the beautiful parrot with brilliant green feathers.

Finally, they realized why it was capable of learning the phrase ‘bird stew.’

Lilly opened her glazed eyes, her hair was still a little unkempt, and she held a small stuffed rabbit in her arms. She was looking rather cute.

The best relationship was that between Gilbert and Jean. Seeing Lilly in this state reminded him of Jean as a child.

His heartstrings were pulled. He hugged Lilly and rubbed her head, saying, “Darling, we’ve arrived in Clodston. We’re now heading home.”

Lilly, who was still dazed, nodded blankly.

The Crawfords’ car was already waiting outside the airport, and the four Rolls-Royce Extended were neatly parked by the side of the road, drawing the attention of passers-by.

“Oh, my God! Take a picture now, hurry!”

“Who is this car supposed to be picking up? What a pompous display!”

Eight imposingly tall men, the leader of whom was an elderly man, came out as everyone was talking.

One of the men was holding a small child in his arms. The young child was holding a small stuffed rabbit in her arms while wearing a white princess dress.

A green parrot was perched on the shoulder of the man next to her.

The parrot was singing wildly at the time, “Uh-oh. I couldn’t help myself; I’m almost at your house again, again!”

Everyone became speechless.

That was... The disposition was a little off-kilter!

The eight men’s faces darkened as they hurriedly climbed into that long, luxury car that was slowly pulling away from the airport with that adorable little girl.

“Whoa! Who is this precious princess?”

“I’m so envious! I, too, am a human like her. How did she get so lucky to be reincarnated into a wealthy family?”

While taking pictures with her phone, a woman who was most likely an Internet celebrity exclaimed, “Stans! Let us just say we learned a lot today! Four Rolls-Royces Extended! Do you have any idea how much one of these cars costs? It is at least eight million dollars! What kind of family is this...”

Lilly leaned against the window of a luxury car, her gaze drawn to the skyscrapers outside.

Her father had brought her there before when it was known as South Town. There were many tall buildings, but none as tall as the skyscrapers in front of her.

“Uncle Gilbert, is this Mommy’s princess castle?” Lilly asked, turning her head and leaning in closer to Gilbert.

Gilbert got all choked up as he nodded and said, “Yes, this is your Mommy’s princess castle.”

They used to want to buy an island and build a private castle for their dear sister.

However, these opportunities were lost.

However...

Gilbert gave Lilly a long, thoughtful look as the pain in his heart began to subside.

The car soon arrived at Crawford Mansion.

This mansion was situated in a picturesque lake area in the city center, surrounded by beautiful scenery and in a quiet neighborhood.

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The car soon arrived at Crawford Mansion.

This mansion was situated in a picturesque lake area in the city center, surrounded by beautiful scenery and in a quiet neighborhood.

Lilly was still a child of three and a half years old, no matter how intelligent she was. Shock appeared on her little face as she looked at the mansion in front of her.

Is this the place where Mommy grew up?

That expansive lawn had a lot of flowers on it. Would she be able to see her mother if she ran really fast on the lawn?

Two rows of servants stood on either side of the mansion, smiling. "Little Missy, welcome home!"

Hugh and Anthony walked in front, speaking quietly.

"From now on, Lilly will be the Crawford family's precious little girl, and she will bear our family name, Crawford."

"Okay," Anthony said, nodding.

Hugh was distraught as he asked, "What girl's name would go with Crawford?"

We need to think of a name for Sweet Pea right away.

**

The Hatcher family wasn't that bad off compared to how Lilly was treated!

The Hatcher family went bankrupt, as did their other listed companies. In any case, the boss still had some cash left over to put toward a house or something.

The Hatcher family's entire estate had been seized. Their bank accounts had all been frozen, and they were forced to sleep beneath the overpass.

The Hatchers were fine with living under the overpass, but they had no idea why they kept getting beaten up. Someone would either come to drive them out or beat them up.

They eventually made it to their hometown in the countryside after walking for three days and three nights like beggars...

While suffering from such severe wounds, Stephen dragged himself back. He was barely alive and thought he had only one breath left in him.

When he returned to his hometown in the countryside, he discovered the house was in disrepair. He used to look down on country life and didn't feel like repairing the old house. He only had himself to blame now.

Stephen was miserable as he lay there. The more he thought about it, the more he regretted it, and the more he regretted it, the more unreconciled he became, but there was nothing he could do!

Stephen struggled to accept how far he had fallen, especially now that he was disabled. The disparity had become far too great. He was tortured to the point of insanity.

"Stephen, get up and have some soup..." Debbie approached with a bowl of egg drop soup, her eyes flitting slightly.

She'd put a spoonful of rat poison in that bowl of soup...

Stephen cast a glance at that bowl of clear soup. When he noticed only a speck of egg floating in it, he threw the bowl angrily.

"What the hell is this? Just feeding me this, are you...?"

He pulled on his wound and grimaced in pain halfway through his words.

Debbie lowered her head and wiped her tears away, looking pitiful.

From the living room, Paula yelled, "Debbie, hurry up and start cooking! Are you planning to starve us all to death?!"

Debbie's face fell. She was not their servant, but they always treated her as if she were!

However, there was nothing she could do about it!

When she was living as a vagrant under the overpass, she tried several times to find a rich man to seduce, but for some reason, she was always caught by their wives. They would grab her by the hair and beat her up.

She only knew how to accompany men, sleep with men, and play with men. However, she would always get nothing in the end, which caused her great pain because Debbie only knew this one 'skill.'

She would never have come to this run-down place with the Hatchers if she hadn't had anywhere else to go...

Paula, who was browsing TikTok's trending topics at the time, happened to come across—

“Stans! Let us just say we learned a lot today! Four Rolls-Royce Extended! Do you know how much a car like this costs? At the very least, eight million dollars!”

“I have no idea which little princess was picked up in that car. Envy has me crying.”

The video showed Lilly being carried into the car!

Poulo suddenly suffered a heart attack and struggled to breathe.

“This is outrageous! She's having so much fun that she's forgotten about her grandparents! What an ingrate! We have been nothing but kind to her, but she is not grateful! She is the black sheep of the family...” Poulo couldn't help but admonish.

Debbie hid in the kitchen and secretly turned on her phone to see what was going on.

There were eight tall, handsome men, each with a mask over his face; his head bowed and a commanding air about him. There were also security guards on hand to clear the way.

The most noticeable aspect was Lilly, who was being carried. It appeared as though a vast number of stars surrounded the moon.

Debbie regarded the four luxurious cars, growing envious and more resentful as she did so.

After a two-year battle, she unexpectedly succeeded in becoming the Young Mrs. Hotcher, but she ended up in this situation.

The woman she mistook for a beggar turned out to be the Crawford family's daughter!

If she had known, she would have pretended to be Jeon's best friend...

Debbie regretted it more the more she thought about it, and the more she thought about it, the bigger the chip on her shoulder became. She couldn't figure out what was so appealing about Lilly!

She took out her phone and began typing furiously, nearly breaking the screen.

"The Crawford family's precious princess has a vicious mind, and out of jealousy, she pushed her stepmother downstairs and caused her miscarriage!"

"Despite suffering from two massive hemorrhages, the stepmother was able to hold on to her life. Nevertheless, the perpetrator made a high-profile return to Clodston in four luxury vehicles."

Debbie did not dare to break the news to the mainstream media, instead sending it to various gossip groups, which were always ready to spread the word like wildfire.

She had just looked the news when she heard someone outside say, 'the police are here.' She was so terrified that her hands shook and her phone fell to the floor!

Poulo rushed into the kitchen and said anxiously, "Quick, the police are here. Take Stephen away immediately!"

Debbie was pushed to Stephen's room. Stephen was in a state of complete panic. When he noticed Debbie moving too slowly, he slopped her across the face and yelled, "Quick! Help me up and take me away!"

Debbie endured the pain and helped Stephen to escape from the back of the kitchen. He stepped in mud, cow dung, and other filth and didn't care. He was in dire straits!

The two hid in the fields after learning that the Hotcher family was under lockdown and hiding in the mountains. Even though it was already dark, they dared not return.

The mountain was bitterly cold, and the two were shivering...

Stephen looked at Debbie, who was right next to him, and spoke emotionally, "You're still the best. You've always been by my side..."

Debbie smiled tenderly.

She wasn't doing it because she valued affection; rather, she was simply considering her own future.

She had already been married once. She would need to have some good qualities comparable to others if she were to marry into another wealthy family.

For instance, the quality of "being affectionate and loyal, and for never leaving her ex-husband even he had gone bankrupt." This was something worth putting in the effort for.

This was the real reason she didn't leave Stephen!

A woman who valued affection and loyalty but was abused by her husband could elicit pity and sympathy from other men...

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Chapter 13 Overbearing Cousins

The Crawford family’s mansion had an area of 8,000 square feet, making it one of the most extensive manors in terms of size.

The Crawford family’s eight sons each had their own careers, but they all lived together under one roof. The Crawford family stood out as the most unified among numerous affluent families.

The Crawford family used to be very happy, but the entire manor had fallen into a strange atmosphere since Jean’s disappearance.

Anthony worked long hours and rarely came home.

The Crawford brothers were all preoccupied with their own affairs. Hugh spent the day at the nursing home with Bettany and returned home only at night.

Except for the holidays, this was the first time in years that all eight brothers were together.

Hugh intervened when several of Lilly's uncles wanted to take her out.

"Lilly just got out of the hospital. How could she possibly be going out? She needs to rest."

The uncles had no choice but to abandon that idea. They planned on taking Lilly to her room.

Hugh glared at them and said, "What are you all still doing here? Go get your mother and inform her that Lilly has returned..."

Bettany was devastated when her daughter went missing. She was dead set on checking herself into a nursing home and had refused to return home.

She had been bedridden for the past two years. She was in no mood to do anything and was becoming haggard with time...

Finally, Hugh took Lilly's hand in his and said, "Let's go, Lilly. Grandpa will walk you through your room."

The Crawford brothers were rendered speechless.

Hugh led Lilly upstairs to her room. "This is your room, Lilly. Do you like it?"

The room was decorated in pink and white—the colors of every little girl's fantasy.

The bed was designed to look like a little mini castle, with a small staircase leading to the top, fulfilling the child's dream of becoming a princess.

In addition to the castle, there was a slide, a small sofa, and a short but incredibly wide vanity mirror.

The dressing table had several rows of jewelry racks with various bows, hair ties, and flower clips... Everything a girl could possibly need was there.

Lilly had never seen a princess room like this before. She raised her head and asked earnestly, "Grandpa, is this really my room?"

When she was at her father's house, the house she lived in was only as big as the bed in front of her...

Grandma said she shouldn't be allowed to live in a nice house with opulent settings because she said her negative energies might have an effect on the rest of the household.

Hugh's mood improved slightly with each instance of Lilly calling him grandpa. "Of course," he chuckled.

This princess room was not the largest, but also not the worst.

"Do you like it?" Gilbert inquired from the sidelines.

Lilly nodded furiously and said, "Thank you, Grandpa and Uncle Gilbert."

The Crewford family's mansion had an area of 8,000 square feet, making it one of the most extensive mansions in terms of size.

The Crewford family's eight sons each had their own careers, but they all lived together under one roof. The Crewford family stood out as the most unified among numerous affluent families.

The Crewford family used to be very happy, but the entire mansion had fallen into a strange atmosphere since Jeen's disappearance.

Anthony worked long hours and rarely came home.

The Crewford brothers were all preoccupied with their own affairs. Hugh spent the day at the nursing home with Betty and returned home only at night.

Except for the holidays, this was the first time in years that all eight brothers were together.

Hugh intervened when several of Lilly's uncles wanted to take her out.

"Lilly just got out of the hospital. How could she possibly be going out? She needs to rest."

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Hugh sighed inwardly as he looked at Lilly.

Sweet Pea is still a little on guard, like a small animal that has just ventured into a strange place and is trying to survive by being cautious.

When will she let down her guard and start behaving like the adorable child she is?

Gilbert patted her head and said, “You’re welcome, Lilly. Do you want to hang out with your cousins after they get home from school?”

“Cousins?” Lilly wondered aloud.

Gilbert responded, “You have three cousin brothers, and one cousin sister. They are the children of Uncle Anthony and Uncle Liam.”

Only the eldest son, Anthony, and the second eldest son, Liam, were married in the Crawford family.

Anthony had two sons, one in third grade and the other in first.

Liam had a son and a daughter. The boy was a second-grader at an elementary school, and the girl was in her final year of kindergarten.

Gilbert assumed that they would get along swimmingly because they were all children.

Lilly was far too lonely in the Hatcher household. Her only companions were a parrot and a stuffed rabbit. She desperately needed to be around kids her age.

Lilly nodded sensibly, and though she didn’t say much, her eyes shone with anticipation.

She had never had friends before. Her father and stepmother never let her play outside, and her grandparents on that side didn’t like taking her for walks.

She once saw children walking back from school with their schoolbags on their backs through the fence. They were running happily, holding hands. She was extremely envious...

Lilly abruptly raised her head and asked, “Uncle Gilbert, can you please give me some papers and brushes?”

She wanted to give her cousins gifts!

**

Afternoon had arrived in the blink of an eye.

A car pulled up outside Crawford Mansion, and an elegantly dressed woman wearing an Elizabethan hat led a little girl out.

The little girl was dressed in a fluffy Lolita dress and held two exquisite dolls in her arms. Her head was adorned with a bow the same color as her dress. She appeared delicate and beautiful.

“Hannah, when you see your little cousin sister later, remember to give her the doll,” the woman urged the little girl.

Hannah pouted and said nothing.

The woman frowned and said, “Didn’t we just talk about this? You get one doll, and your younger cousin sister gets one as well. Quit sulking!”

Hannah exploded when she heard that. “No, I don’t want to! I want them both!”

She dashed into the mansion without looking back after she finished speaking.

What cousin sister? She refused to give it to her!

All of the toys belonged to her!

The woman just watched helplessly. There was nothing she could do about it, so she turned around and said to the little boy dawdling behind her, “Zachary, hurry up. Your cousin sister is at home waiting for you.”

Who knew Zachary would also pout and declare, “I don’t want any little cousin sister.”

He already had one obnoxious younger sister who would steal his belongings, throw his toys at every opportunity, and cry when their parents tried to reason with her.

Zochory was opposed to having another younger sister!

He bolted after speaking.

Honnoh dashed into her room and slammed the door shut with a loud bang.

Her smartwatch rang at this point, and the word "Grandmo" was displayed on it.

"Hello? Grandmo." Honnoh's tone remained a little dissatisfied.

Her grandmother, who was on the other end of the line, inquired, "Who had upset our little princess? Why do you sound so unhappy?"

"Mommy asked me to give a doll to my little sister, but I don't want to!" Honnoh pouted.

An elderly woman with beautiful hair on the other end of the phone rolled her eyes and asked, "What new little sister?"

Hugh and several Crawford brothers rushed to South City after Lilly was abused by her own father... This information had also reached them.

"Yes!" Honnoh said, nodding.

She looked down at the two dolls she was holding. She couldn't bear putting them down.

Though she was aware that she had to give it to her cousin's sister, she grew fond of both dolls. She suddenly decided that she didn't want to give it to her.

However, her grandmother on the other end of the line stated, "Honnoh, now that you have a new cousin sister, you are no longer the only little princess. Your grandfather, Uncle Anthony, and the other uncles will never treat you well again."

Honnoh, who was still a child, immediately retorted, "Grandmo, you're talking nonsense!"

"Why would I talk nonsense? You were the only girl in the family before, but now there is another. Do you see what I mean? Didn't you have to give her a doll? They no longer love you because they all love your sister!"

Honnoh was sobbing. She was crying as she hung up the phone.

She snatched the doll and threw it to the ground. She was flinging it about.

She was never going to give her the doll. She wouldn't give the doll to her cousin sister even if it was broken!

Outside the door, Lilly mustered the courage to knock on Honnoh's door.

She had been waiting for a long time, and her wait was finally over when her cousin sister came home from school, but as soon as she got home, she went straight to her room.

Lilly wanted to give her present to her cousin sister. She drew it herself. It was a picture of a beautiful rainbow and children playing together while holding hands.

"Honnoh?" Lilly called out hesitantly.

Honnoh yanked open the door and hurled the broken doll at her. "Go away! I hate you!"

Lilly's tiny hands froze, and a sad look crossed her face.

Who knew Zachary would also pout and declare, "I don't want any little cousin sister."

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Her smartwatch rang at this point, and the word "Grandma" was displayed on it.

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Lilly’s tiny hands froze, and a sad look crossed her face.

Chapter 14 An Unsolvable Problem

Lilly quietly withdrew the hand holding the drawing.

Hugh suppressed his anger and said in an edifying manner, “Hannah, Lilly is giving you a present because she wanted to be friends with you. It was wrong of you to push her away.”

He couldn’t help but frown as he looked at the broken doll on the ground.

Liam’s daughter was extremely demanding. She would break down in tears whenever someone addressed her sharply.

Sure enough, Hannah started crying right away and shouted, “I don’t want!” while stamping her feet.

Lilly summoned her courage and offered Hannah the painting, saying, “Hannah, please don’t cry. I’m giving you this as a gift...”

After looking at the painting she was holding, Hannah pushed her away and exclaimed, “Nobody wants your garbage. Go away!”

After hearing the commotion, Liam’s wife, Winona, went upstairs. “Hannah, stop throwing tantrums!” she exclaimed quickly.

After that, she turned to Hugh and said, “Dad, Hannah is still young...”

Hugh scolded, “You must teach them while they are still young. I’ve already addressed this issue several times. How do you raise your kids? Even at such a young age, they are already so insolent. How will they fare in society when they reach adulthood?”

Winona bowed her head and stated, “Yes, Dad. I see what you’re saying.”

Hugh led Lilly away in a furious manner.

Hannah cried even harder when she saw her grandfather ignoring her and leaving. Then she dashed into her room, sweeping everything off the table and onto the floor.

Winona felt bitter in her heart because she thought the old man had spoken too harshly.

She would raise her child in any way she saw fit. Who had the right to tell her how to raise her children?

It would be a no even if that person were her children's grandfather!

Hugh and Bettany had treated her well and respected her. They rarely interfere with her family's affairs.

She was also constantly filial to them. She would look after their needs and even get them gifts during the holidays. She ought to be the best daughter-in-law there could be, right?

She only insisted on one thing—to bring up boys the hard way and girls to be princesses. What was the problem with her ideal?

Hannah was the Crawford family's favorite child, and she could live comfortably even if she didn't work in the future. Why should she follow society's rules at such a young age? Wouldn't it be better if she just lived as she pleased?

Winona entered the room and softly coaxed Hannah. "All right, Hannah. My sweet child. Baby, stop crying..."

Hannah cried even harder. "I don't want! I don't want to!"

Winona remarked, "Okay. Okay. Okay..."

**

Hugh led Lilly back to her room. The parrot flailed its wings and attempted to fly over when it saw Lilly returning, but the foot chain prevented it from doing so.

Lilly quietly withdrew the hand holding the drawing.

Hugh suppressed his anger and said in an edifying manner, "Hannah, Lilly is giving you a present because she wanted to be friends with you. It was wrong of you to push her away."

Lilly comforted the parrot, saying, "Polly, good Polly. I'll let you out once Uncle has prepared your room."

Lilly's uncles were unaware she had the parrot since her room was furnished when she was hospitalized.

A house that was not designed explicitly with parrots in mind would be extremely harmful to them. Polly, for example, was accustomed to being in the wild, and if kept in the house, it would fly into the glass.

Polly was temporarily confined to Lilly's room, and it would be released only after it had gotten used to living in the house.

Hugh's heart ached as he saw Lilly comforting the parrot in hushed tones.

It must be very upsetting for Sweet Pea.

"Lilly, Henneh is always like this. She has the best temper, so don't be sad..."

Lilly unexpectedly smiled and said, "It's all right, Grendpe."

Lilly turned to comfort Hugh when she noticed his confused expression. "It's all right, Grendpe. I, too, dislike giving away my possessions to others."

Lilly was perplexed as to why the adults insisted on their children being more tolerant and generous to others. The adults may have thought it was courteous, but the children did not.

Whatever one owns, one owns it. Why should you give your prized possessions to others just to appear cordial?

Hugh was taken aback.

Lilly was so young, but she appeared to have a lot of knowledge...

Hugh became even sadder. Then, with the tender look on his face, he touched her head and asked, "Lilly, are you the one who drew these drawings?"

At the mention of drawings, Lilly's expression instantly changed to one of focus. She said with a nod, "Yes, I enjoy drawing. When I was living with Daddy, I used to draw a lot."

However, her stepmother ripped the majority of them. She'd hidden some in books and forgotten to bring them with her when she left...

Hugh pointed to one of the drawings and asked, "What is this?"

Lilly transformed into the presenter, proudly introducing her drawing. "This is the drawing of two children playing in the strange forest."

"Look, Grendpe. There is the floral wreath here! Lady Spring made this necklace."

"A four-leaf clover sprouted from the crack where Uncle Stone split in two when he tumbled down the mountain, turning him into Uncle Lucky!"

"Take a look at this one. That is Miss Flore. She said snobbishly, 'Hmph! None of you are as lovely as I am!' Miss Flore is very proud of herself!"

Polly quieted down after Lilly introduced her drawing, but it would take time to time to look at Lilly's drawing.

Hugh was amazed. He had the impression that he was in Jey Loenzon's animation world.

Lilly's drawings were vibrantly colored. A flower and the stone each had their own life story to tell. Those who looked at it couldn't help but feel at ease. Warmth and healing energy permeated the drawing.

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Lilly's drawings were vibrantly colored. A flower and a stone each had their own life story to tell. Those who looked at it couldn't help but feel at ease. Warmth and healing energy permeated the drawing.

He couldn't stop himself from filming Lilly as she talked about her drawing. He decided to send the video to an old friend after some thought.

That old friend was a well-known name in the art world. Hugh wanted to see if Lilly's artwork could catch his old friend's eye, so his old friend would want to take Lilly as his mentee since Lilly loved to draw.

There was a commotion downstairs as the grandfather and grandchild were both enjoying the artwork, and the servant came up and said, "Old Mr. Crawford, Old Mrs. Crawford is back."

Hugh took Lilly by the hand and said, "Let's go. Grandma is back."

Downstairs, Liam was pushing a wheelchair, and Bettany, who was sitting in it, asked tremblingly, "Where is Lilly..."

She looked up after she finished speaking to see Hugh leading a fair-looking child down the stairs.

For a brief moment, Bettany appeared to be choked by someone. She couldn't make a sound, and her eyes welled up with tears. She couldn't hold back her tears and sobbed quietly.

That is Jean's child...

She looks exactly like Jean did when she was a child...

However, her Jean was gone, and she would never return...

"Lilly..." Bettany choked back tears.

"Grandma!" Lilly yelled as she escaped Hugh's grasp and ran to Bettany.

She hesitated for a second before reaching out and firmly holding Bettany's hand.

Lilly had vowed to her mother that she would be a devoted granddaughter and take good care of her grandmother.

Therefore, she would undoubtedly take care to succeed!

When Bettany heard Lilly calling her grandma, she burst into tears and drew Lilly into her embrace!

“Lilly, my dear little Lilly!”

Bettany was sobbing uncontrollably. Lilly didn't know how to comfort Bettany, so she reached out and gently patted her on the back.

“Grandma, please don't cry. Don't cry, please!”

Meanwhile, after much coaxing upstairs, Winona finally managed to coax Hannah to leave the room when she saw Bettany and Lilly huddled together downstairs.

Hugh said quietly, “Okay, that's enough. Stop crying.” Liam, who was busy in the background, remained silent as he took tissue paper and water.

Hannah was hugging the doll when she got angry again.

Why did her grandmother become that pesky pest's grandmother?

That pesky pest stole her toys and was now stealing her grandparents!

After losing her cool, Hannah turned around and sprinted upstairs. She heard some squawking sounds as she passed by Lilly's room.

“Uh-oh. I couldn't help myself, I'm almost at your house again, again!”

When Hannah opened Lilly's room door after being briefly drawn to it, she was surprised to see a green bird perched on a bird perch.

Her eyes lit up, and she dashed inside right away!

Chapter 15 She's Also A Child, Why Should She Give In?

Seeing Hannah run into Lilly's room, Winona immediately followed her. She gently coaxed Hannah, "Let's leave now, sweetie. This is your sister's room..."

Polly was flapping its wings in panic when it saw Hannah rushing in. Polly squawked, "Caw caw! The spoiled brat is here! Send help! Send help!"

Winona furrowed her brows when she heard that

Was this parrot not taught manners? How could it call Hannah a spoiled brat in front of her face like that?

How ill-mannered!

Winona grabbed Hannah's arm and said, "Let's go downstairs and see Granny!"

Hannah struggled to break free from Winona's grasp and shouted stubbornly, "No! I want the parrot!"

Not knowing how else to appease Hannah, Winona could only try to persuade her again by saying, "This is your sister's parrot. If you want one, I'll buy one for you later."

Hannah stomped her feet in anger and yelled, "No! I don't want a new parrot! I want this one!"

She clambered onto a stool and raised her hand to grab Polly.

The frightened parrot desperately tried to fly away but Hannah managed to grab its ankle. She pulled Polly down and grabbed it by its neck.

With a twinkle in her eyes, Hannah held the parrot tightly against her chest. She barked sternly, "Don't struggle, or else I will kill you!"

Polly had always been afraid of strangers, and it took the parrot 2 days to slowly get used to Lilly's uncles. At that moment, terror could be seen reflected in the parrot's little green eyes.

Polly squawked at the top of its voice, "Help! Send help! I'm roasted!"

Everyone downstairs heard the parrot's squawk and Lilly immediately got out from Bettany's arms.

She rushed upstairs without saying a word while Hugh turned to reprimand Liam. He said angrily, "It's Hannah again, isn't it? I've told you countless times to school her properly. What have you been doing all these while?"

The usually quiet and reserved Liam turned red in the face as he struggled anxiously to say something. Unable to get a word out, he ended up following everyone else as they hurried upstairs.

Despite her best efforts, Hannah could not tame the parrot as it kept trying to break free from her grasp. It even managed to scratch Hannah's arms with its claws.

In a fit of rage, Hannah threw the parrot on the table and yelled angrily, "You won't behave? I'll show you! Take this!"

The parrot kept squawking incessantly.

Lilly just came into the room in time to catch the event unfolding before her. Her face turned red with rage as she rushed forward like a beast going amok.

Lilly said angrily, "Why are you hitting Polly? Stop it!"

Having been spoiled and sheltered like a princess her whole life, Hannah never had anyone saying "no" to her. Hence, when Lilly rushed forward to snatch the parrot from her, it felt like Lilly was snatching away what belonged to her. She roughly pushed Lilly away and bellowed, "It's mine!"

She held Polly so tightly in her hands that it looked like the parrot's eyes almost popped out.

Seeing Hannah run into Lilly's room, Winona immediately followed her. She gently coaxed Hannah, "Let's leave now, sweetie. This is your sister's room..."

Lilly was fuming.

She grabbed Hannah forcefully and pinned her on the ground with a loud thud. She then raised her tiny fists and started sending them flying towards Hannah.

The flurry of fists rained down on Hannah, hitting every part of her face. She could only scream in pain.

By then, the perrot had broken free from Henneh's clutches and fluttered away in fear. Feathers were left floating about in the air in its wake.

For some reason, despite being bigger than Lilly, Henneh could not retaliate. She could only cry loudly.

Everyone was stunned, they never expected a well-mannered and obedient child like Lilly to lose her temper like that. They quickly tried to break up the fight.

"Stop. Stop fighting..."

Lilly was able to sneak in a kick just as everyone finally succeeded in pulling her away from Henneh.

Henneh's weeping was so loud that everyone thought that it could collapse the ceiling at any time..

苏梓晰以及刚回来的苏何闻、苏何问三个小男孩啥时候见过这样的场面，都惊呆了。

Zechery, Dreke, and Josh peeped in through the door to watch the commotion. Dreke and Josh just got back home. The three boys were stunned at what unfolded in front of them.

Winone was distressed and angry. She yelled at Lilly, "How could you hit someone like that? Instead of hitting her, you could use your mouth to speak if you don't want your sister to have the perrot!"

She quickly hugged Henneh and tried to soothe her.

With tears in her eyes, Lilly squeezed her tiny lips and clenched her fists tightly while saying defiantly, "She started it first! She hit me first!"

Winone replied angrily, "So you have to hit her back just because she hit you first? Don't you know children should be meek and obedient?..."

"That's enough!" roared Hugh as he interrupted Winone.

"How dare you try to school others on being meek? Look at Henneh, is she meek and obedient? In this case, she was the one who snatched Lilly's perrot and raised her hand against Lilly first. You dare to be the first to criticize Lilly?"

Winone peused. Despite not saying another word, she was shaken deep down.

Yes, she was too rash with her words, but her precious child was never hit by anyone since birth. Winone never even raised her voice towards Henneh. To see Henneh in pain at that moment, how could she, as a mother, keep quiet?

What's more, it was wrong to hit someone, but Henneh only pushed her! She did not hit Lilly at all! It was nothing but an excuse by Lilly to hit her!

Winone then looked at Betty who pushed herself towards Lilly in her wheelchair. Instead of comforting Henneh, she went to comfort Lilly.

Winone's heart broke. Henneh was also Betty's granddaughter! Why did she not comfort Henneh immediately? Did she know how heartbroken Henneh was by being ignored?

Winone hugged Henneh tightly and said, "Good girl, I'm here."

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“That’s enough!” roared Hugh as he interrupted Winona.

“How dare you try to school others on being meek? Look at Hannah, is she meek and obedient? In this case, she was the one who snatched Lilly’s parrot and raised her hand against Lilly first. You dare to be the first to criticize Lilly?”

Winona paused. Despite not saying another word, she was shaken deep down.

Yes, she was too rash with her words, but her precious child was never hit by anyone since birth. Winona never even raised her voice towards Hannah. To see Hannah in pain at that moment, how could she, as a mother, keep quiet?

What’s more, it was wrong to hit someone, but Hannah only pushed her! She did not hit Lilly at all! It was nothing but an excuse by Lilly to hit her!

Winona then looked at Bettany who pushed herself towards Lilly in her wheelchair. Instead of comforting Hannah, she went to comfort Lilly.

Winona’s heart broke. Hannah was also Bettany’s granddaughter! Why did she not comfort Hannah immediately? Did she know how heartbroken Hannah was by being ignored?

Winona hugged Hannah tightly and said, “Good girl, I’m here.”

Winona angrily left with Hannah in her arms, infuriating Hugh even more. He shouted, “So I can’t even criticize her now? Does she not see what the problem was?”

Liam, who had been quiet throughout, finally said, “Calm down, dad. Winona has always been a little more sensitive when it comes to her child...”

Hearing that, Hugh was even more worked up, but it was not the time for that. He turned around and went to Lilly.

“Are you alright, Lilly?”

Lilly nodded quietly while holding Polly in her hands. Tears could be seen welling in her eyes.

Bettany was so distressed that her tears started streaming down. She embraced Lilly and stroked her back while saying, “Don’t cry. Our precious Lilly is a strong girl...”

Choking in between sobs, Lilly said, “It was Hannah who hit Polly first...”

She did not want to be meek and courteous. She was also a child after all. Why did she have to give in to her sister when Hannah was the one that hit Polly first?

Lilly felt that she was wronged. She never cried when she was beaten or scolded in the past. However, with Bettany embracing her and Hugh comforting her at that moment, she could not hold back her tears any longer.

All of a sudden, Lilly burst into tears and cried loudly, as if releasing all the pent-up emotions she had over the years.

The three boys who were peeking in from the door quietly ran back to their room.

As they expected, sisters are all just annoying crybabies.

They did not want crybabies as their younger sisters!

Back in Hannah’s room, Winona was tending to Hannah’s wounds. Looking at the scratch marks on her child’s arms, she got angry again.

At that moment, Liam walked in and said, “What’s wrong with you? Go and apologize to Hannah!”

Winona exploded in anger and flung the wet towel in her hands to the ground. She replied, “What kind of dad are you, Liam? Our child got bullied there! Look, her eyes are swollen and her arms are bleeding!”

Liam sneered back, “Would this all have happened if she did not try to snatch someone else’s stuff?”

Hannah cried louder when she heard that.

Hearing her cries, Liam turned around and left in annoyance. He did not bother to say much to them.

Both Liam and Winona never got along well. He only married her to take responsibility for getting her pregnant during their fling back then. Up until this day, he had no feelings for Winona at all.

It was only after Hannah was born that Liam found out that Winona had planned everything back then. He wanted a divorce but Winona refused.

Even Winona’s mother had advised him to not get a divorce for the sake of his two children. On top of that, the Crawford family had been preoccupied with locating Jean after her disappearance, so his divorce took a backseat.

All Winona could feel at that moment was heartbreak. What did she do wrong? Was it wrong to love and protect her own child?

Chapter 16 A Tantrum Throwing Spoiled Brat

Back in Lilly’s room, Polly was snuggled in Lilly’s hands while she was snuggled in Bettany’s arms.

Lilly was sad seeing how shaken the parrot was after almost being strangled to death. She failed to protect Polly in an environment that was new and foreign to the parrot.

Seeing Lilly slowly calmed down, Bettany said, “Do you feel better now? This was indeed Hannah’s fault, not yours, Lilly.”

Hugh also chimed in, “Yeah! You are a very good and obedient girl.”

Bettany continued, “You are my lovely little gem!”

Both of them kept praising her one after another.

It was the first time for Lilly to be praised in such a way that she shyly fiddled with Polly's wings and said, "Grandpa and grandma are lovely little gems too!"

The old folks were taken aback for a moment before they let out a hearty laugh.

Just then, Anthony was done with his meeting in the study and walked out. He furrowed his brow when heard about the fight between Lilly and Hannah.

His heart ached as he looked at Lilly from outside the door quietly.

Seeing Liam walk past, Anthony quietly said, "You need to settle this as soon as possible, Liam."

When Winona was married into the family, her relationship with Liam was shaky, but they were able to get by relatively peacefully because they already had their son by then.

It was only until the birth of Hannah did the Crawford family find out the whole truth. When Liam asked for a divorce, the Jackson family refused to let it happen.

The whole issue with Winona was dragged on for so long because the Crawford were too preoccupied with searching for their missing sister, Jean.

Liam replied, "I know. But now that my two children are grown up, I'm afraid the divorce will affect them."

No matter what, they were still his children and even though they did not always get along, Liam could not bear to lose them.

Anthony nodded. He knew that every family had their own skeletons in their closet and it was not his place to make decisions for Liam.

He replied, "You have to take care of it yourself."

Both of them looked into Lilly's room. It seemed like the storm had passed and the child was discussing her name with Hugh and Bettany.

She said, "Mommy said that a lily is a very pretty flower. It means love, admiration and compassion. This was why mommy named me Lilly."

Even though she said it with a child-like voice, her straight face made it look like she had memorized what her mother said verbatim.

Bettany felt an ache in her heart as she nodded, “It is a good name. Your mother’s surname is Crawford, so you will also be called Crawford, okay?”

Lilly nodded happily, “Yes, Crawford. I’ll have the same surname as mommy!”

Hugh smiled and said, “Let’s see, what name goes well with Crawford?”
Back in Lilly’s room, Polly was snuggled in Lilly’s hands while she was snuggled in Bettany’s arms.

Lilly immediately raised her tiny hand and replied, “Lilly Crawford!”

Everyone could not help but burst out laughing.

Anthony walked in and said, “Yeah, Lilly Crawford sounds good.”

Shaking her head, Bettany replied, “But don’t you feel like something’s missing with that name?”

Everyone was at a loss for words. It did sound like something was missing and more importantly, it would be great to have a new name for Lilly to have a new start for her life. They wanted Lilly to leave the past behind.

They decided that they would call a family meeting to brainstorm a name for Lilly.

Bettany turned to ask Lilly, “You will be three and a half years old this year, right?”

Lilly cocked her head as she thought for a bit before saying, “I think so? Mommy said I came out from her tummy on 315.”

Everyone thought for a moment, “315... March 15th, that’s next week!”

In a week, Lilly would turn four years old.

Bettany said, “That’s great! We can do a birthday party for Lilly and get you a big big cake, okay? And then you can make a wish in front of the cake!”

Lilly’s eyes sparkled as she happily asked, “Really?”

She could also finally have a huge cake!

Seeing how happy Lilly was, Betty asked, "Who do you celebrate birthday with before this?"

Lilly shook her head and said, "I never celebrated my birthday. Daddy was always busy and stepmother said she felt like vomiting when she saw a cake after she got pregnant..."

Lilly initially wanted to ask for a small cake from her grandparents, but what kind of cake did they offer to get instead? A huge one!

Now, Lilly was brimming with excitement for her birthday to come.

She could make a wish with the cake! Lilly already knew what she was going to wish for.

Her wish was, "I hope mommy will live happily in the heavens together with Grandpa Sun and Grandma Moon while being surrounded by fluffy clouds! I hope that grandpa and grandma will live a long life and be happy everyday!"

Seeing the kid happy, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

As dinner time approached, the whole Crawford family was back home together. It was the first time in four years where the Crawford mansion was so lively.

At the dining table, Hugh brought up the issue of giving Lilly a new name, and it stumped the eight powerful Crawford men who were there.

For a moment, the dining table was eerily silent as everyone racked their brains coming up with a name for Lilly.

Winone remained silent as the dissatisfaction welled in her heart.

After Lilly hit Henne, they were still in a mood to fuss over a new name for Lilly instead of fussing over Henne's injuries?

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Winona remained silent as the dissatisfaction welled in her heart.

After Lilly hit Hannah, they were still in a mood to fuss over a new name for Lilly instead of fussing over Hannah's injuries?

"Here's your favorite crab meat, Hannah..." said a sad Winona as she put the crab meat onto her daughter's plate.

Hannah was giving Lilly death glares. She did not want to eat with Lilly. The dining table was hers, and the house was also hers. What was a stray brat doing at her house?

Lilly knew what was going on, but she chose to ignore Hannah instead. She was still resentful of Hannah for almost strangling Polly to death.

Not getting a reaction out of Lilly, Hannah flew into a rage again. She threw the spoon in her hand to the ground and started bawling her eyes out.

The three boys rolled their eyes at the same time.

There she goes again!

Winona asked, "What's wrong, Hannah? Why are you crying suddenly?"

Hannah grabbed the plate in front of her and flung the food out of it, crying, "She bullied me but all of you are ignoring me!"

Winona felt an ache in her heart and she took a deep look at everyone at the table.

See that? It's all your fault!

Children are very sensitive to their surroundings. By not speaking to Hannah and comforting her, you're mentally abusing her!

Winona tried to comfort her, "Good girl. I'm here. I'm not ignoring you."

Instead of calming down, Hannah grabbed plates and anything she could get her hands on and threw them to the middle of the table, screaming, "No! I don't want! I don't want to eat with her! I don't want a sister!"

Hugh tried to suppress his anger as he said coldly, "Leave the table if you don't want to eat! Who taught you to throw plates and cutlery all over the table?"

Hearing her grandfather's fierce remarks, she cried harder and started kicking the dining table. She cried, "I don't want to, I don't want to! I don't want to!"

No matter what anyone else said, she kept yelling the same four words, "I don't want to!"

Everyone was speechless.

Without saying a word, Liam stood up and tried to carry Hannah away from the table, but she kept squirming around. It made him so mad that Liam grabbed her by the collar and proceeded to haul her upstairs.

Winona immediately asked, "What are you doing, Liam?!"

Seeing Liam hauling Hannah by the collar made Lilly jolt up in fear and she dropped the piece of meat in her hand. Her father did the same thing to her before.

She suddenly felt pity for Hannah.

Winona snatched Hannah from Liam and glared at him while she carried Hannah upstairs in a huff.

She felt that they had crossed the line.

Did they need to be so cruel to a child? Did they not see the wounds on Hannah's arms and her swollen eyes? Why did they still single out Hannah like that?

Winona's heart was shattered to a million pieces.

Chapter 17 Lilly's Starry Dress

Winona embraced Hannah who was crying. She began to shed tears as well.

Winona felt that the situation was too cruel as Liam remained indifferent towards Hannah despite being together for six years.

As they were crying, Helen made a video call. "What's going on?" she asked as Winona picked up.

Winona proceeded to tell Helen everything that happened.

"Seems like I was right! When the Crawford family only had Hannah, they would pamper her like a princess! However, everything's changed ever since that brat joined the family!" Helen uttered furiously.

Hannah cried louder as she heard their conversation. She realized that it was the first time that she got beaten yet no one cared about her.

"Mom, that's enough," Winona muttered in frustration. "Did I say anything wrong? It's the truth! The fact that a blood-related child is no match for an adopted brat left me speechless!" Helen said as she glared at Winona through the screen.

"Lilly will inherit the Crawford family name soon," Winona said. Helen shook her head and said, "Hannah is done for when that happens! Lilly is a brat that shouldn't be provoked. She pushed her stepmother down the stairs and caused her miscarriage. Despite that, her uncles decided to cover up the truth and caused the Hatcher family to go bankrupt!"

Winona frowned and replied, "Wasn't it Lilly's stepmother that caused her own miscarriage to frame her?"

"Give me a moment, I'll send you the evidence," Helen said. Winona received a video recording the next second. The recorder was a person that used a voice changer. They claimed to be good friends with Debbie.

The recorder showed a medical report stating that Debbie had undergone critical conditions twice due to a miscarriage. After that, a video recording displayed two bodyguards forcing Paula, Richard, and Stephen out of the Hatcher Mansion. Moreover,

the recording revealed Edward holding Stephen's head and brutally smashing it against the wall.

The faces of the Crawford family were censored in the video except for Lilly's. Winona embraced Hannah who was crying. She began to shed tears as well.

Helen said, "Who would put their line on the line just to freme e child? There's no wey that Debbie would herm herself end her unborn child out of hetred. She suffered meyor blood loss twice! They seid that Henneh is being disobedient, but Lilly is streight-up outrageous! She's e sly bret yet she's good et putting on e feçede despite her young ege. Lilly beet up Henneh todey yet the Crewford family turned e blind eye. This proves that Lilly hed been spreeding nonsense end bed mouthing Henneh!"

Winone was disgusted efter wetching the video recording. "Seems like we heve to be on guerd when Lilly is eround," she seid.

Lilly killed her stepmother's beby; Lilly is e sly bret; Lilly is putting up e feçede...

Henneh hed kept their words in mind es she listened in.

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The video recording was not distributed through the mess medie. Instead, it wes spread through discrete chennels. The fect that Lilly ceused Debbie's miscerriegen end ceused the benkrupctey of the Hetcher family hed reeched multiple online groups within e week. However, the Crewford family wes unewere of it until Lilly's birthdey.

The invitetions to Lilly's birthdey perty were sent eheed of schedule. The Crewford family wes eeger to enounce that Lilly wes ebout to inherit the Crewford family neme end become en officiel member. They hed invited celebrities from eround the city.

Lilly's werdrobe wes filled with meny dresses in different styles end colors. "Lilly, choose e dress that you like!" Betteny seid es she petted Lilly's heed.

"Any dress that I like?" Lilly esked. Betteny nodded end replied, "Thet's right. All of these ere yours." Lilly hesiteted for e moment end approeched Betteny. She kissed her on the cheek end seid, "Thenks, grenny!"

Lilly decided on a violet Lolite-style princess dress. She tied her hair in the style of twin pigtales with two pink butterfly-shaped hair clips. She also had a bow tie headband to top it off.

“You look so adorable,” Bettany said. Lilly smiled and touched Bettany’s nose with her fingertip. She said, “Granny is adorable too!”

Helen said, “Who would put their line on the line just to frame a child? There’s no way that Debbie would harm herself and her unborn child out of hatred. She suffered major blood loss twice! They said that Hannah is being disobedient, but Lilly is straight-up outrageous! She’s a sly brat yet she’s good at putting on a façade despite her young age. Lilly beat up Hannah today yet the Crawford family turned a blind eye. This proves that Lilly had been spreading nonsense and bad mouthing Hannah!”

Winona was disgusted after watching the video recording. “Seems like we have to be on guard when Lilly is around,” she said.

Lilly killed her stepmother’s baby; Lilly is a sly brat; Lilly is putting up a façade...

Hannah had kept their words in mind as she listened in.

**

The video recording was not distributed through the mass media. Instead, it was spread through discrete channels. The fact that Lilly caused Debbie’s miscarriage and caused the bankruptcy of the Hatcher family had reached multiple online groups within a week. However, the Crawford family was unaware of it until Lilly’s birthday.

The invitations to Lilly’s birthday party were sent ahead of schedule. The Crawford family was eager to announce that Lilly was about to inherit the Crawford family name and become an official member. They had invited celebrities from around the city.

Lilly’s wardrobe was filled with many dresses in different styles and colors. “Lilly, choose a dress that you like!” Bettany said as she patted Lilly’s head.

“Any dress that I like?” Lilly asked. Bettany nodded and replied, “That’s right. All of these are yours.” Lilly hesitated for a moment and approached Bettany. She kissed her on the cheek and said, “Thanks, granny!”

Lilly decided on a violet Lolita-style princess dress. She tied her hair in the style of twin pigtails with two pink butterfly-shaped hair clips. She also had a bow tie headband to top it off.

“You look so adorable,” Bettany said. Lilly smiled and touched Bettany’s nose with her fingertip. She said, “Granny is adorable too!”

**

Two figures were sneaking around outside the lively mansion. It was Debbie and Stephen. Crawford Mansion was decorated with shining lights and filled with melodious tunes.

Debbie felt envious as she looked at the lively occasion. No one knew her sufferings. Her face was scarred and Stephen beat her multiple times as he loathed her. The Hatcher family ordered her around as if she was a servant.

Stephen peaked around and said, “We don’t have an invitation. How are we going to get it?” Debbie suppressed her feelings and replied, “Stephen, we are Lilly’s parents. There is no reason that we can’t enter. We just need to tell the guards about it. However, there is one small issue.”

Debbie felt ashamed as she looked at her shabby attire.

“What is it?” Stephen asked. “Let’s go get some formal clothes. We ought to dress up properly for the special occasion,” Debbie said.

“We don’t have any money for that!” Stephen was frustrated. “Well, I know a place where we can sell blood!” Debbie replied.

**

Anthony held Lilly’s hand and led her down the stairs. She was dressed in new clothes but she was holding an old bunny rag doll. Gilbert, Jonas, and Bryson followed behind her. However, no one else noticed the spirit following them.

Pablo was leaning against the stair railings. He smiled and said, “Good, you’re just in time.”

Pablo snapped his fingers and the spotlight shined on Lilly. Her violet dress began to sparkle like a starry night sky. Everyone was astonished by her appearance.

After seeing the video recording, most had changed their impression of Lilly. Some were afraid of letting their children get close to her, while the latter did the opposite to please her.

Hannah stood on the second floor and looked at Lilly. She pointed at her dress and said, “Mommy, I also want that dress!”

Chapter 18 Lilly Will Not Surrender In A Fight

Winona looked at Lilly’s sparkling dress. She was in awe as it was her first time seeing such a magnificent dress. Such a pretty dress should have been worn by Hannah instead.

“Lilly, I’ll get you another one next time,” Winona said. “No! I want that one!” Hannah exclaimed.

“Isn’t that an exclusive dress from GYFY? It’s the only one available as it’s specially tailored. If it weren’t for Lilly, that dress would’ve been Hannah’s,” Helen said.

Winona wanted to refute that but she realized that Helen’s words were true. The Crawford family used to treat Hannah like a princess. However, they shifted their attention and care to Lilly when she arrived.

Hannah was left with nothing as all of her belongings were given to Lilly. Winona was upset as they were treated unfairly.

The Crawford family had forgotten that they purchased a dress for Hannah similar to Lilly’s. Both were starry dresses of different styles but the prices were identical.

Hannah was on the verge of crying after hearing Helen’s words. As Winona was about to bring her into her room, she rushed downstairs.

“Hannah!” Winona exclaimed as she chased after her.

**

Lilly was sitting at the table with other children as they were waiting for the cake. Amongst the girls sat a young boy. It was Drake. He was Lilly’s older brother.

Drake was Anthony's eldest son. He was there to look after Lilly as instructed by his father. He was seemingly cool as he was expressionless just like Anthony.

Winona looked at Lilly's sparkling dress. She was in awe as it was her first time seeing such a magnificent dress. Such a pretty dress should have been worn by Hannah instead.

As Lilly was cutting the cake, the children were all drooling. Lilly was tempted as well. However, she passed the slice of cake to Dreke instead. "Dreke, this is for you!" Lilly said.

"I'll pass," Dreke said as he turned his head. He was not fond of Lilly. She was disappointed and took the cake back.

"Aw, don't mind him, Tulip! It's your birthday today, how about learning a smell trick?" Peblo said as he tried to cheer her up.

As Lilly was about to reply, a figure pounced on her. Henneh pulled Lilly's dress and yelled, "This dress is mine! You took it away from me! You're a meanie!"

Henneh pushed Lilly forcefully and caused her cake to drop on her dress. Lilly was dazed. "Uncle Anthony gave me this dress..." Lilly tried to explain. However, Henneh did not bother and slapped Lilly.

"I'll beat you to death! I hate you! Get away from my home! Don't you ever come back!" Henneh cried aloud.

Lilly was furious. Henneh took away Polly, snatched her dress, and now she was hitting her. Lilly slapped Henneh as well.

Henneh was stunned. She covered her face and cried. "You hit me! You dare to hit me!"

Lilly bit her lips as she was feeling insecure about the venue. However, she remained resilient and said, "You hit me first, so I did the same!" Her mother taught her to fight back if could not reason with her opponent. Lilly tried to explain but Henneh did not listen. Therefore, she decided to hit her in return.

As Lilly was cutting the cake, the children were all drooling. Lilly was tempted as well. However, she passed the slice of cake to Drake instead. "Drake, this is for you!" Lilly said.

“I’ll pass,” Drake said as he turned his head. He was not fond of Lily. She was disappointed and took the cake back.

“Aw, don’t mind him, Tulip! It’s your birthday today, how about learning a small trick?” Pablo said as he tried to cheer her up.

As Lilly was about to reply, a figure pounced on her. Hannah pulled Lilly’s dress and yelled, “This dress is mine! You took it away from me! You’re a meanie!”

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They continued to fight each other. Lilly’s red bracelet began to glow and she sent Hannah flying with a slap. Hannah fell to the ground and felt a burning sensation on her cheek. She cried loudly.

The fight was over in an instant. The children were dumbfounded. Drake hurried over to help Lilly. “Are you alright?” he asked.

Although Drake dislikes Lilly, his father had ordered him to look after her. Lilly shook her head silently as her eyes became teary. As for Hannah, her cries were ear-piercing.

No one expected the two daughters of the Crawford family to start a fight all of the sudden.

Winona rushed over and checked on her injuries. “How can you hit your sister?” Winona asked furiously.

Lilly clutched her dress and muttered, “She hit me first...” Winona yelled, “That’s nonsense! Hannah would never hit anyone!”

“It’s true. Hannah started the fight,” Drake said as he frowned.

“It was her! Lilly hit me first! That’s my dress! She stole it from me and now she’s hitting me! Lilly is a naughty child! She’s a sly brat!” Hannah cried.

She uttered the words that Winona and Helen said. The crowd was astonished.

“I can’t believe that the dress she’s wearing was Hannah’s!”

“This kid snatched away her sister’s beloved dress as soon as she came into the Crawford family!”

“Yet, the Crawford family is conniving in Lilly’s actions. They’re so cruel to Hannah!”

Chapter 19 Convicting Lilly

Winona hugged Hannah with tears in her eyes. She comforted her, “Good girl. It was Lilly who beat you first. My baby. Don’t cry...”

Drake said coldly without any expression, “Aunt Winona. You can ask other people if you want to know who hit whom first.”

Drake was speechless. He didn’t like his sister, but he hated Hannah even more.

The kids around them looked at each other.

Winona pointed at one of the girls, “Cheryl, tell me.”

The girl called Cheryl was shocked. She looked at Winona before looking at her mother. “I... I didn’t see clearly. I think it was Miss Lilly who hit Miss Hannah first...”

Drake frowned when he heard the answer.

It was Hannah who pounced at Lilly and hit her first. How did it become Lilly who was the one who hit Hannah first?

“What did you say? Say it again.” He stared at Cheryl and said in a cold voice like his father.

Cheryl was at a loss and held onto her mother’s shirt. She lowered her head and said nothing.

Everyone else was speechless.

It was rumored that the child the Crawford family took in was bad. She caused her stepmother’s miscarriage and asked her uncles to bankrupt the Hatcher family. The Crawford family was spoiling Lilly to make up for what they owed Jean...

It seemed like the rumor was true after looking at what Drake did.

“Mr. Drake, please stop scaring Cheryl! She was only telling the truth!”

“You will spoil Miss Lilly. Although it is sad that she doesn’t have a mother at such a young age, you shouldn’t do this...”

Hannah started to cry louder when she saw that everyone was on her side. They were all blaming Lilly.

Lilly clenched her fists. She didn’t know why the adults blamed her even though she did nothing wrong. She wondered if the world of an adult was different from hers.

Lilly insisted, “I didn’t do anything wrong! She lied! Uncle Anthony bought me the dress. It was Hannah who hit me first...”

Before she could finish, Winona interrupted her, “Enough! Look at Hannah’s bruised face. What else do you have to say for yourself?”

Lilly was speechless.

Winona squatted down and hugged Hannah, “Good girl. Stop crying. Let’s go back first.” Winona hugged Hannah with tears in her eyes. She comforted her, “Good girl. It was Lilly who beat you first. My baby. Don’t cry...”

Hannah kept crying louder. “No! I’m not going back! I want my dress!”

Lilly's explanation was covered by her cries and everyone else's words. She stood alone in the crowd.

Dreke was so annoyed at her troubled sister. As he was trying to pull Lilly behind him, a large figure carried Lilly in his arms.

Anthony looked around and coldly asked, "What's wrong?"

His face was so scary. Cheryl was so afraid that she hid behind her mother's back.

Everyone started convicting Lilly.

"Miss Henneh ran over and said Miss Lilly's dress belonged to her. Miss Lilly beat her up without saying anything."

"Yes. Miss Lilly even tried to slam the cake on Miss Henneh's face."

Anthony chuckled, "Did you witness the incident yourself?"

Hugh walked over with a cane in his hand as well. His tone was firm, "I believe Lilly isn't someone who would do that. Who was the one who said it was Lilly's fault? Come out!"

Everyone was stunned and looked towards Cheryl.

Cheryl dared not step out, while Henneh kept crying.

Cheryl's mother smiled and said, "Calm down. Maybe Cheryl just made a mistake. Isn't it common for children to get into an argument?"

However, everyone ignored her.

Winone felt uncomfortable with the atmosphere. She was aggrieved and said softly, "Henneh, let's go. We weren't even supposed to be here in the first place."

Everyone pitied Winone and looked at Lilly in a peculiar way.

Lilly felt indifferent as she was used to situations like this one.

When she was in the Hatcher family, her father would question her whenever her aunt got injured or was crying. His father would always sleep her when she tried to explain.

Lilly got used to it eventually. She would say nothing even when people doubted or hated her.

However, it was different this time. She didn't want Anthony and her grandfather to misunderstand.

She mustered up her courage and said, "I was cutting the cake just now. Hannah ran over and grabbed my dress. Then, she hit me. Then, I was very angry. Then, I pushed her."

Lilly was bad at constructing sentences, but she clearly described the whole incident.

Hannah kept crying louder. "No! I'm not going back! I want my dress!"

Lilly's explanation was covered by her cries and everyone else's words. She stood alone in the crowd.

Drake was so annoyed at her troubled sister. As he was trying to pull Lilly behind him, a large figure carried Lilly in his arms.

Anthony looked around and coldly asked, "What's wrong?"

His face was so scary. Cheryl was so afraid that she hid behind her mother's back.

Everyone started convicting Lilly.

"Miss Hannah ran over and said Miss Lilly's dress belonged to her. Miss Lilly beat her up without saying anything."

"Yes. Miss Lilly even tried to slam the cake on Miss Hannah's face."

Anthony chuckled, "Did you witness the incident yourself?"

Hugh walked over with a cane in his hand as well. His tone was firm, "I believe Lilly isn't someone who would do that. Who was the one who said it was Lilly's fault? Come out!"

Everyone was stunned and looked towards Cheryl.

Cheryl dared not step out, while Hannah kept crying.

Cheryl's mother smiled and said, "Calm down. Maybe Cheryl just made a mistake. Isn't it common for children to get into an argument?"

However, everyone ignored her.

Winona felt uncomfortable with the atmosphere. She was aggrieved and said softly, "Hannah, let's go. We weren't even supposed to be here in the first place."

Everyone pitied Winona and looked at Lilly in a peculiar way.

Lilly felt indifferent as she was used to situations like this one.

When she was in the Hatcher family, her father would question her whenever her aunt got injured or was crying. His father would always slap her when she tried to explain.

Lilly got used to it eventually. She would say nothing even when people doubted or hated her.

However, it was different this time. She didn't want Anthony and her grandfather to misunderstand.

She mustered up her courage and said, "I was cutting the cake just now. Hannah ran over and grabbed my dress. Then, she hit me. Then, I was very angry. Then, I pushed her."

Lilly was bad at constructing sentences, but she clearly described the whole incident.

Anthony and Richard knew their guess was right. It was Hannah who hit Lilly first.

Winona stood firm and said, "Are you trying to say that Hannah was the one who hit you first? Hannah might be spoiled, but she doesn't hit people."

Richard said angrily, "Don't you know well whether she would hit someone?"

Winona said loudly, "Hugh, what do I know? I only know every one of you is against Hannah since Lilly came into the family. Hannah behaved this way because all of you forced her into a corner. She didn't do anything wrong!"

Everyone started mumbling. What Winona said proved their assumption that Lilly was a troublemaker, and she was the one who broke up the family. In their opinion, Hannah would not cry so loudly if she was lying.

Liam was angry, but he only said two words, “Shut up!”

He grabbed Winona’s hand and said, “Come with me!”

Winona shook his hand off and refused.

Hannah saw her parents fighting and started to scream.

Anthony said in a cold voice, “Jack, get the security camera footage.”

Winona was stunned...

Is he going to check the footage? Are they really trying to back Hannah into a corner?

Winona said while choking, “There’s no need for that! I will leave with Hannah!”

She carried Hannah, but Hannah wouldn’t leave. Both of them were crying together,

Everyone looked at them with pity.

Helen Jones, Hannah’s grandmother said, “Calm down! It’s normal for children to have an argument! Do you need to take this so seriously?”

The old woman was smiling and trying to mediate the situation. However, she forgot who was the one who started it.

Anthony ignored her.

Jack brought out a USB drive soon and said, “Sir, I got the footage. Are you going to take a look?”

Anthony said, “Bring out the screen and projector. Show the footage!”

Winona was shocked. She said, “Why do you have to do this?”

Anthony chuckled, “Didn’t you say Hannah wouldn’t hit anyone? What are you afraid of?”

Winona was speechless.

The screen was set up, and what happened in the garden was shown...

Chapter 20 Checking the Footage

In the footage, Lilly could be seen cutting the cake. Drake rejected her when she gave him a slice.

Then, Hannah rushed towards Lilly. She pulled Lilly's dress and pushed her. Lilly was trying to say something, but Hannah wouldn't listen and slapped Lilly's face.

Lilly got angry and started to fight back.

What they were saying could not be heard, but it was obvious that Hannah was the one who hit Lilly first.

Everyone looked at Cheryl in shock. Turned out that what she said just now wasn't true.

“Didn't Cheryl say it was Miss Lilly who hit Miss Hannah first? This is the opposite of what she said...”

“This isn't right.”

Cheryl's lie was exposed. She was so embarrassed that she felt like crying. It was also very awkward for her mother. She smiled and said, “A child might remember things wrongly...”

She didn't expect the Crawford family to check the camera footage! She wanted to get on Winona's good side, but she was left embarrassed.

Everyone didn't believe Cheryl's mother's words. Cheryl wasn't a toddler, so it was impossible for her to remember wrongly.

“In that case, we shouldn't blame Miss Lilly.”

“Indeed. It was Miss Hannah who hit her first. She shouldn't hit people no matter what.”

Everyone who pitied Hannah previously thought she was just a spoiled brat now.

Hannah was at a loss when she saw people doubting her, so she started crying again.

Winona was angry. Her voice was trembling as she said, “Anthony... How could you do this...”

She thought showing the footage in front of everyone would hurt Hannah’s pride. It would be a traumatic experience for her.

Anthony only stared at her without saying a word. Lilly and Hannah were both children. It wasn’t right if Winona thought Lilly should be wronged, yet Hannah shouldn’t.

Anthony looked at Hannah and said in a low voice, “Stand up!”

Hannah was afraid of Anthony. She was crying, but she dared not disobey Anthony. She sobbed and stood up.

In the footage, Lilly could be seen cutting the cake. Drake rejected her when she gave him a slice.

Anthony asked, “Do you think what you did was right?”

Hannah was sobbing without saying anything. She started to feel that she was wrong. She wiped her tears and said, “I don’t want to say it... No!”

She was still making a fuss, but her voice got a lot softer.

It hurt Winona a lot to see Hannah being questioned. Before she could say anything, Liam stared at her and said, “You better shut up! Otherwise, we will be getting divorced when we get back.”

Lilly looked at Hannah. Hannah was really angry.

Lilly didn’t think Hannah was a bad person, so she wondered why Hannah would do this to her every time.

Hannah was supposed to be happy because she had a doting mother who loved her. However, Hannah wasn’t happy at all.

Anthony asked again, “Why did you hit Lilly?”

Hannah sobbed and said, “I want the dress. That is my dress. Without her, they will all belong to me.”

Helen quickly said, “Oh, look at her! She should tell us what she wants!”

Anthony stared at Winone and asked her, "Did you tell Henneh that this dress belongs to her?"

Winone bit her lip, "I didn't..."

Helen said anxiously, "It's just the dress. If Lilly likes it, just give it to her! Henneh didn't know any better."

Gilbert said, "What do you mean by that?"

They weren't trying to care about these minor issues, but they couldn't allow other people to simply point fingers at Lilly. They have to clear up the whole thing today.

Anthony mumbled something to his assistant, and his assistant took out the document.

Winone had the bad feeling suddenly.

Anthony said, "This is the Gelexy Dress order form. Henneh is taller than Lilly. It is custom-made according to Lilly's measurements, so this dress is made for Lilly."

Everyone was dumbfounded. They had never thought about it. The dress was just right for Lilly. Henneh would never fit in the dress.

Anthony asked, "Do you think what you did was right?"

Hannah was sobbing without saying anything. She started to feel that she was wrong. She wiped her tears and said, "I don't want to say it... No!"

She was still making a fuss, but her voice got a lot softer.

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Hannah sobbed and said, “I want the dress. That is my dress. Without her, they will all belong to me.”

Helen quickly said, “Oh, look at her! She should tell us what she wants!”

Anthony stared at Winona and asked her, “Did you tell Hannah that this dress belongs to her?”

Winona bit her lip, “I didn’t...”

Helen said anxiously, “It’s just a dress. If Lilly likes it, just give it to her! Hannah didn’t know any better.”

Gilbert said, “What do you mean by that?”

They weren’t trying to care about these minor issues, but they couldn’t allow other people to simply point fingers at Lilly. They have to clear up the whole thing today.

Anthony mumbled something to his assistant, and his assistant took out a document.

Winona had a bad feeling suddenly.

Anthony said, “This is the Galaxy Dress order form. Hannah is taller than Lilly. It is custom-made according to Lilly’s measurements, so this dress is made for Lilly.”

Everyone was dumbfounded. They had never thought about it. The dress was just right for Lilly. Hannah would never fit in the dress.

Winona still felt they were biased and said, “I didn’t say the dress was Hannah’s. I only said Hannah cried because she doesn’t have what Lilly has.”

Everyone looked at Anthony again.

The assistant flipped to another page of the document. Anthony said, “There is a Galaxy dress custom-made for Hannah too. This is the order form for Hannah’s Galaxy Dress.”

Winona was speechless.

Someone looked at the form and said, “I thought Lilly’s Galaxy Dress was the most expensive one I’ve seen at a million dollars, but Hannah’s dress cost 1.1 million dollars!”

The extra cost wasn’t much for the Crawford family, but it showed that they weren’t biased.

Everyone started to look at Winona in a peculiar way.

A few people said softly, “Children don’t know anything. She must have thought the dress was hers because it was what the adults told her.”

“I think so too. I wonder how her mother taught her...”

“I knew the child was a rude one...”

Winona was so angry at them for talking badly about Hannah in front of them.

Gilbert said, “Hannah, do you understand now? This dress is supposed to be Lilly’s. You have your own dress as well. However, if you want the same one as Lilly, we will also make it for you.”

Hannah was confused. She started to calm down and listen to her uncles. All the children were the same. They could be reasoned with as long as they knew the adults’ bottom line and crying was their way of knowing that.

When Hannah stopped crying, Hugh said, “Drake, take Hannah back.”

He dared not let Winona take her away.

Drake didn’t like Hannah, but he still listened to Hugh. Hannah left with him while sobbing.

Winona was left alone. She was upset and hated how they tried to educate Hannah.