

## **Married by Mistake – Chapter 2201**

Ava's words shocked both Raegan and Daniel, who were standing by the side. Both of them thought that Ava would be heartless, but it turned out that she was not.

Raegan froze for a few seconds before a look of surprise and joy appeared on her face. She had not felt so happy in years.

"Of course, I don't mind! I don't mind at all! I'm not busy tomorrow. Come and see me tomorrow when you're done with work! I can wait for you!"

Raegan's voice was a little shaky, and she could not hide the joy flashing in her eyes.

"You guys should rest early, then. I'll go back too. Daniel, take good care of Ava. I'll be leaving now."

"Okay, take care, Mrs. Xander. I'll take care of Ava, don't worry," Daniel promised Raegan.

He could clearly see how happy Raegan was. Even though Raegan's back was turned, he could see the spring in her steps.

Ava stood at the same spot until Raegan was not in view anymore. After that, she withdrew her gaze, and her eyes quietly turned red.

Daniel saw the subtle change in Ava's expression and immediately closed the door. He guided her by her shoulders and brought her back inside.

"I really thought you'd completely shut her off. Although I don't know what happened between the two of you, I can see that she's very apologetic and genuinely concerned about you. "

Ava smiled bitterly. "Unfortunately, her concern came too late. "

Daniel furrowed his eyebrows in confusion. "Can you tell me what happened between both of you?"

Ava gently sat down on the sofa. After a few moments of contemplation, she parted her lips lightly and said, "When I was in junior high, my parents split up because they were incompatible. My mom wanted a career while

my dad scolded her for only thinking about work and not her family. Then, the two of them separated."

"I thought it was fine because many parents ended in divorce. I accepted it, but I didn't realize that neither of them wanted me."

Daniel gazed at Ava with a heartfelt look but did not quite understand.

"You mean neither of them wanted to raise you?"

"Yes, neither of them wanted me." Ava's eyes narrowed. When she said that, she could not help but clench her hands.

Daniel felt a sharp pain in his heart. He reached out to hold Ava's hands tightly, trying to reassure her and give her some warmth.

Ava felt Daniel's kindness and gentleness. She smiled slightly, but it was a bitter smile.

"Compared to my mother who only cared about her career, at least my father was a little more conscientious. He left me with my elderly grandmother, but she died in an accident within six months. I had no relatives who were willing to take me in, and my parents couldn't be contacted. After all that, I ended up in an orphanage."

When Daniel heard what she told him, his heart broke. When Daniel saw the tears rolling out of the corners of Ava's eyes, he took her into his arms and offered her comfort.

"That's all in the past."

"Yeah, it's all in the past." Ava shut her teary, red eyes.

Even after being alone for all these years and despite all the dark days being behind her, she suddenly felt scared again.

"Daniel, will there suddenly be a day when you won't want me anymore like my mom and dad?"

Daniel loosened his embrace, gazing deeply and sincerely into Ava's teary eyes.

"No matter what happens in the future, you'll always be my number one."

When Ava got such a sure and sincere answer from Daniel, she could not hold back her tears any longer. She cried her heart out. Daniel lifted his hand and wiped away every one of her tears sadly.

Before this, he did not know about Ava's past. Now, he understood why Ava had reacted the way she did to her own mother. It was because she was traumatized at a young age. However, he believed that this trauma would one day be healed.

Daniel intended to stay with Ava, but in order to give her a good night's rest, Daniel did not stay late.

When he returned home, he found his parents waiting for him in the living room.

As soon as Mrs. Graham saw Daniel, she rushed over to him and pulled him to ask, "Is Ava really Raegan's daughter? The same Raegan who's the richest person in Y Country? Ava is her biological daughter? Why didn't you tell us about it? If you had told us, all this trouble could've been avoided."

Mrs. Graham started grumbling.

"If you had told us about Ava's family, your father, your grandfather, and I would've never objected to your relationship!"

After Daniel listened to Mrs. Graham's remark, he was incredulous and frowned deeply.

"The reason I got together with Ava is that I genuinely and truly like her as a person! It has nothing to do with her status! Haven't you guys understood this by now?"

When Mrs. Graham saw that Daniel was starting to get a little angry, she hurriedly agreed. "Yes, yes, you're right. Whatever it is, it's fine now. Your father and I are fine with the marriage, but your grandfather..."

Daniel was still a bit upset about Old Master Graham faking his illness to make him get married to Naya, but he was his grandfather, so he decided to let the matter go.

When Daniel saw that his mother was quiet, he calmly asked, "Why is Grandpa against it now?"

"Your grandfather felt humiliated that he was exposed at the hotel for faking his illness. His temper got the better of him and he said that he would never approve of Ava." Mr. Graham told Daniel what Old Master Graham told them. "But you don't have to worry too much. Your grandfather has always loved you. If you try to persuade Grandpa, I'm sure he'll eventually relent."

Daniel understood what his dad meant, but he started to look even more serious.

"I've already given in as much as I can, but your behavior tells me that doing so will only aggravate and upset the people I love. There's no way I'll continue to compromise any longer from now on."

The expression on Mrs. Graham changed, and she tried to persuade him again. "Daniel, are you..."

"It doesn't matter if Ava isn't accepted into this family because I've already accepted her in my heart. Besides, I plan to use the money I earned over the years to give us a home of our own. I won't let you worry about my marriage any longer because I can handle it myself."

After Daniel finished, he started walking toward the stairs.

"It's late and I'm getting tired. I'm going to rest now. You guys should go back to your rooms to sleep too."

"..."

Mrs. Graham looked at Daniel's decisive back as he walked up the stairs before looking back at her husband with a depressed look. Similarly, Mr. Graham was just as confused and stressed as she was. It was probably because neither of them could have imagined that Daniel would come to such a decision.

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The next day, Ava naturally woke up at the same time and went to work after washing up.

As soon as she entered the office, Ava felt a very odd atmosphere.

It was still early, so she put her bag down and was about to go to the pantry to have some breakfast. However, as soon as she turned around, her path was blocked.

Ava was holding her glass of water with a puzzled expression as she looked at the two people who were blocking her way. They were the two most gossipy women in her office. As Ava looked at them, it gradually dawned on her that they were there for something.

Even so, she just looked at them with confusion and asked, "What is it? Do you girls want to go have breakfast with me?"

As soon as Fiona and Kendra heard that, a flash of surprise lit up in both of their eyes.

"Sis, if you don't mind, we'd love to have breakfast with you!"

"Yeah, we'd love to, Sis!"

"Huh..?"

When Ava heard how Fiona and Kendra addressed her, she felt goosebumps all over her body. She tried to smile but it just looked like an awkward and impolite fake smile.

"What are you gals doing here? It doesn't seem appropriate for you gals to call me 'Sis' when I joined the company later than you. I'm your junior."

After Ava said that, she walked around them and quickly headed straight for the pantry.

Fiona and Kendra hurriedly followed behind her. The other people in the office were curious when they saw this scene.

"What are Fiona and Kendra doing? Why are they calling Ava 'Sis'?"

Maisie, who was skipping to work, heard the voices of her colleagues as soon as she entered the office. She stopped her happy steps and looked toward the pantry.

When they saw Maisie coming, they softened their voices. No one in the office dared to offend Maisie now unless they were looking to get fired.

Maisie did not care that her colleagues were afraid of her and just walked toward the pantry.

At the pantry, she saw Fiona and Kendra gathered around Ava, chattering away and gossiping.

"Ava, is everything on the internet about you true? You're such a mysterious woman!"

"I know, right! So your boyfriend is the Grahams' son. His family is one of the four richest families in Glendale! And you're even more impressive! Your mother is the richest person in Y Country! The richest person!" Kendra had a very exaggerated look of amazement on her face. "Ava, why do you even bother coming to work if you're the daughter of the richest person in Y country?!"

When Ava heard what Fiona and Kendra said, it confirmed her suspicions. They must have seen the video that was posted on the internet last night and found out about her rich boyfriend and rich mother. They deliberately came to look for her to curry favor with her.

Maisie knew what was happening too. She leaned leisurely on the door frame of the pantry with her arms folded.

"No wonder you're even calling her 'Sis' now. It turns out it's because you found out about Ava's status."

Maisie snapped sarcastically. "I can't believe you guys. Have you no shame trying to curry favor like this? I feel embarrassed for you."

Fiona and Kendra turned their heads to see Maisie leaning against the door, smiling sarcastically at them. Both of them started to feel a little uncomfortable, but luckily, they were shameless enough to flatter Maisie as well.

"Good morning, Ms. Lowe. We were just curious and joking around with Ava."

"Yes, yes, we're just concerned about Ava."

"Thank you both for your concern, but I have to eat breakfast now. Maybe we'll talk another time." Ava sent them away with a smile, but the smile and wave were toward Maisie.

Maisie understood what Ava was hinting at and continued her cheerful stride toward Ava.

Since Fiona and Kendra did not want to continue to make a fool of themselves, they left resentfully. When they saw Ava and Maisie chatting away happily, the two became incredibly envious.

As soon as they returned to the office, the other colleagues who were curious about what had happened started to question Fiona and Kendra.

Fiona and Kendra did not say anything. They returned to their seats and replayed the video from this morning. The more they watched it, the more envious and jealous they were.

Why was Ava's background so exceptional?

Furthermore, she also had an extremely wealthy mother. Just how rich was she?

After Ava finished her breakfast, she did not care whether Fiona and Kendra were paying attention to her. She was busy with her own work, and when it was almost 12 o'clock, she received a text message from an unknown number.

There was only a short sentence. [Ava, I'm downstairs at your company. You can come down when you're free. I'll always wait for you]

Ava looked at the text on the screen of her phone, and she was inexplicably touched.

"Ava, it's almost lunchtime. Do you want to have lunch together?" Maisie walked over.

Ava put away the phone and got up. "Maisie, I have an appointment with someone today."

"Oh? Is it with your super handsome boyfriend? No, no, he's your fiancé now." Maisie jokingly teased. She raised her eyebrows and looked at the ring that Ava was wearing on her ring finger.

Ava's cheeks warmed up slightly at the thought of Daniel.

"No, it's not him. It's someone else," Ava explained, picking up her bag and preparing to leave.

"Why are you denying it? Your face is all red!" Maisie yelled at Ava's back

Ava did not say anything else. She just turned back around and made a face at Maisie before quickly walking toward the elevator. However, after entering the elevator, Ava's heartbeat began to become a little frantic.

What kind of attitude should she put on to face her biological mother later?

She thought to herself as the elevator arrived on her floor. As she was walking toward the entrance, Ava slowed down unnaturally. The closer she got to the entrance, the more nervous she felt.

She was not like this before. Before, she was able to confidently face this woman who had abandoned her without a care in the world. At this moment, however, she did not know why her heart was beating so anxiously.

However, when Ava was at the door, she did not see Raegan.

The cold wind that signaled the end of winter blew over and was still bone-piercingly cold. Ava grabbed her phone. Right when she was about to ask Raegan where she was, she heard an affectionate and warm voice from her side.

"Ava," Raegan called out Ava's name in an amiable tone.

Ava was stunned for a moment before she lifted her eyes to look over.

Raegan looked at her carefully and approached her. "Ava, you must be hungry. Think about what you want to eat. Let's find a place to sit and chat while we eat."

Ava looked at Raegan. This time, she did not refuse, but she did not speak either. Instead, she just nodded to show her agreement.

Raegan was very happy. She asked Ava what she wanted to eat. However, Ava just said 'whatever' indifferently. Even so, Raegan did not mind Ava's indifferent attitude. She had already learned about Ava's current

preferences from Daniel and Madeline, so she chose an Italian restaurant that Ava liked to eat at.

After sitting down, Raegan ordered a table full of Ava's favorite dishes. However, Ava did not have an appetite as she looked at the table full of food.

Seeing Ava's dull expression, Raegan tried to regulate the atmosphere.

"Ava, I heard from Daniel that you like tiramisu and carbonara the most. I like them too. It seems that we're quite similar. Do you think this is hereditary?"

It was evident that Raegan was trying to get closer to Ava, but Ava's reaction was still very cold. There was no change in the expression on her face. She just silently looked at the food on the table in front of her.

Seeing that Ava did not want to talk to her, the smile on Raegan's lips gradually disappeared. "Ava..."

"It's better not to inherit some things." Suddenly, Ava spoke.

Raegan was slightly stunned. She looked at Ava in confusion, then she heard Ava continue speaking.

"I don't want my children in the future to inherit your cold-blooded genes. I don't want them to abandon their young children so ruthlessly and leave without even looking back."

As soon as she heard Ava's words, Raegan's heart seemed to be struck violently. However, no matter how painful or heavy the blow was, she could not blame or reproach anyone. All she could think of was how much harm she had done to her child when she left so resolutely.

Her child should have had a carefree and happy childhood, but it was torn to pieces due to her irresponsible parents.

"Ava, I know it's my fault. I also know that it's too late to apologize. I won't force you to forgive me, and I'll be satisfied as long as I can see you every day."

Raegan looked at Ava's unwavering eyes with sadness. She hoped that Ava would give her a little attention and response, but Ava was still very cold.

"I didn't ask you here today to have lunch with you or to give you hope. I want to tell you that I hope you'll try not to appear in front of me in the future."

"..."

Raegan was stunned when she got this answer. Unexpectedly, this was the reason why Ava wanted to see her. Last night, she could not sleep from happiness because she thought that her daughter was finally willing to give her a chance to make up for her mistake.

However, in reality, Ava just wanted to cut ties with her.

"Thank you for helping me get out of that situation last night. However, I've gotten used to being by myself after so many years. I'm used to not receiving love from a father or a mother. Your sudden appearance will only make me uncomfortable."

"Ava..."

"Perhaps we don't have the fate to be mother and daughter." Ava lifted the corner of her lips and lamented with a smile. Then, she looked into Raegan's sad and tearful eyes. "I also hope you can understand what I'm feeling now, just like how I understood both of your determination in cruelly abandoning me without hesitation and without considering my feelings."

After Ava finished saying that calmly, she grabbed her bag and slowly got up.

Raegan sat on her chair, feeling stunned. She had no idea what to say to that

Ava felt uncomfortable looking at Raegan's lost and stunned expression. However, in the end, she still expressed the most genuine thought that she had in her heart.

"It's not that I don't want a home or I don't want to go back to my parents. It's just that it's been too long and I've forgotten what it's like to receive love from my parents. I can't adapt to this love that came too late."

As she finished saying that, Ava slowly walked away.

However, Ava's last words were like shards of glass that stubbornly stuck in Raegan's heart. She could not recompose herself for a long time, but the pain was not from her. To be frank, she felt more distressed for Ava.

Raegan could not help but feel guilty when Ava said that it had been too long and she had forgotten what it was like to be loved by her parents.

She could not hold back her tears, so she wept quietly as she felt an ache in her heart. She did not know whether she should try to save this mother-daughter relationship that was close to being fully destroyed anymore.

Just when she was feeling upset, two people suddenly appeared beside her. Fiona and Kendra smiled and greeted Raegan with a friendly and amiable look.

"Hello, are you Ava's mother? We're Ava's colleagues."

Upon hearing this, Raegan immediately picked up a tissue and wiped away the tears from the corners of her eyes. After that, she raised her sharp and piercing eyes. She glanced at Fiona and Kendra before her gaze softened.

"You're Ava's colleagues?"

"Uh-huh." Fiona and Kendra nodded quickly. "We work in the same office as Ava. We usually have lunch together. Occasionally, we'd plan some activities too. Just now, she asked us to go out and eat first because she would be eating with others. I didn't expect that we'd run into each other. We happen to be sitting at the next table. I'm sorry for overbearing your conversation."

"I see..."

Raegan expressed her understanding. She was concerned about Ava and wanted to know more about some fragments and details of Ava's life. Hence, she did not ask these two women too many questions. Instead, she amiably asked Fiona and Kendra to sit down.

Fiona and Kendra just wanted to try their luck. They did not expect Raegan to be so easy-going.

They just casually talked about Ava's work, but some of them were just lies that were made up on the spot. However, Raegan listened to everything

carefully and gave the two of them beauty coupons for high-end spas. Before leaving, she also paid for the untouched food on the table.

Fiona and Kendra pretended that they could not accept the gift from Raegan, but in the end, they happily held the coupons in their hands. After Raegan left, the two of them picked up the utensils and ate contentedly.

"It's different when you have money. She can so casually give out beauty coupons worth 10,000 bucks. I'm only willing to eat Italian food like this once a month!" Kendra sighed and exclaimed without exaggerating it.

Fiona picked up the business card Raegan left and glanced at it, her eyes gleaming with greed. "Ava is so stupid. She has such an extremely wealthy mother yet she's refusing to acknowledge her. I wonder why she's being so pretentious."

"That's right. If it were me, I would have gone over and curried favor with her long ago. I have no idea what she's doing!" Kendra also grumbled. Then, she laughed. "But that's fine. This will give us a chance to make more money. "

Fiona smiled without saying a word. She agreed with Kendra's words in her heart.

In the future, as long as they 'sold' some news about Ava to Raegan, they would have indispensable benefits.

Ava had no idea that Kendra and Fiona followed her to the restaurant, nor about how they had started to record her every move to report to Raegan.

Raegan knew that this kind of behavior was wrong, but she could only resort to it to relieve her longing and concern for Ava.

Ava found things a little strange. When she accidentally broke a cup, there would be an identical one on her table the next day. When she casually said she wanted to eat something, someone would send the food she mentioned to her in the afternoon. She thought it was Daniel's doing but Daniel denied it. However, Ava just thought that he was doing it on purpose.

In the evening, Daniel came to pick Ava up from work. When Ava asked about it again, Daniel's answer was very serious.

"You're really not the one who gave me the cup and donuts?" Ava confirmed again.

Daniel shook his head. "It really wasn't me."

Ava was stunned with confusion. "Aside from you, who else would be so concerned about my wants and needs?"

When Ava asked this question, Raegan's face naturally popped into her mind. The only person she could think of was Raegan.

Daniel also guessed this possibility. "I think it must be your mother. She really cares about you. "

Ava smiled bitterly when she heard his words. "When I needed my parents' care the most, they chose to abandon me. Now, I don't need these belated concerns anymore."

She said while meeting Daniel's gentle gaze.

"Your care and love are enough for me now."

Daniel understood the meaning behind Ava's words. He grabbed her hand tightly, and his eyes overflowed with love.

In the following period, Ava would still receive various small items from time to time. She thought that they were from Raegan, but it was strange how Raegan would know exactly what she needed every time.

Ava felt that Raegan might have arranged someone to observe her every move. She felt disgusted, but she did not have concrete evidence. She did not want to question Raegan either. Therefore, she began to observe whether there were people around her who were acting strangely.

After some observation, she found that Fiona and Kendra seemed to be enjoying a particularly lavish and happy life recently.

The two of them would often go to high-end restaurants to eat. When they chatted, they would also talk about going to high-end spas for beauty treatments. What was more conspicuous was that the two of them had bought new branded bags. It would be impossible for them to buy those particular bags if they did not have any acquaintances who had connections with that brand.

After Ava connected the dots in her head, she had a general idea about what was going on. She deliberately did not go out to eat during lunch break. Instead, she just warmed up something to eat in the pantry.

Maisie was confused when she saw Ava eating fast food. "Ava, did you say you didn't want to go out and eat because you wanted to eat this?"

Ava shot a faint glance at Fiona and Kendra, who were in the office. Then, she replied casually, "I recently took a fancy to a bag that costs me two months of my salary, so that's why I can only live frugally."

"Is that so? Which bag is it? I'll see if I can find someone to help you get a discount."

Maisie was still as friendly and welcoming as ever, but she still did not understand Ava's behavior.

"Ava, you're really stupid. If you want a bag, you can ask your boyfriend to buy it for you. Your boyfriend is so rich, and so is your mother. Why do you want to let yourself be so miserable and save up money just to buy it?"

"I'm too ashamed to ask them," Ava replied. She also deliberately raised her voice so Fiona and Kendra could hear her.

Fiona and Kendra were indeed deceived. They came over to ask questions while pretending to be curious. "Ava, which bag do you have your eyes on? Why is it so expensive that it even costs two months of your salary?"

Ava looked up and asked with a half-smile.

"Why? Are you guys also interested in buying it?"

Fiona hurriedly waved her hand. "If you have to save money for two months to buy it, how could I be able to afford it? I'm just curious. "

"I'm also curious. Which bag is it?" Kendra asked as well.

Seeing that Maisie was dissatisfied and wanted to send the two away, Ava quickly told them the bag she wanted.

After Fiona and Kendra knew about it, they found an excuse to leave.

Ava pretended to start eating, but her eyes were focused on Fiona and Kendra. The two of them picked up their phones and walked out while

whispering to each other. If she was right, they were probably reporting it to Raegan.

Sure enough, just as Ava guessed, Fiona and Kendra reported the situation to Raegan as soon as possible. After Raegan learned about the bag that Ava liked, she asked the manager of a luxury store to obtain the bag as quickly as possible.

After a while, Raegan sent the bag to Ava's company and asked Fiona to pick it up for her. She also asked Fiona to put it in Ava's cabinet before Ava went to work the next day. Fiona had accepted money from Raegan, so of course, she would need to serve Raegan well. However, when she got the bag, she was a little swayed.

This bag was gorgeous, and the texture was so good. Most importantly, this bag was really valuable as it was a limited edition. As she thought about it and looked at it, Fiona's mind changed.

She wanted to keep this bag for herself. She only needed to tell Raegan that she had given it to Ava because Raegan would never come to the office to verify it in person.

After making the decision, Fiona quietly hid the bag. Ava thought that after expressing that she wanted a bag, the bag would suddenly appear just like before. However, this time, it did not.

As a result, Ava felt that she was overthinking.

This weekend, Daniel brought Ava to a high-end restaurant. Daniel's father and mother had already been waiting for them for a long time. Daniel had also asked Ava's opinion before taking her to see his parents.

After sitting down, Ava could also feel that the attitude of Daniel's parents toward her was different from before. She found it somewhat ironic that her true love for Daniel could not be exchanged for the approval of his parents. Instead, it was the fame, fortune, and background that could win her his parents' approval. Although she thought so in her heart, Ava did not show it. She smiled the whole time and talked with Daniel's parents magnanimously.

This was the first time Ava saw such a smile on Daniel's mother. This smile had never appeared on her face before. Daniel's mother had always looked down on her until Raegan's identity was revealed.

This time, the words Daniel's mother said to her were even a little flattering. She complimented Ava a lot. After all, Ava was now the daughter of an extremely wealthy woman.

When they were about to leave after dinner, Daniel's mother kept holding Ava's hand with a friendly and affectionate look.

"Ava, drop by the house whenever you're free so that we can get to know each other more. I didn't do well enough in the past. Please don't take it to heart."

Ava displayed a rather embarrassed smile. She gently withdrew her hand and stood next to Daniel.

"Thanks, Mrs. Graham."

Daniel's mother could somewhat sense that Ava was feeling uncomfortable, so she stopped herself and left after saying a few words to Daniel's father.

Ava breathed a sigh of relief.

Daniel saw this and felt distressed. "I've wronged you."

Ava quickly returned to her senses. "No, I don't feel wronged. As long as I can be with you, nothing else matters."

After hearing what Ava said, Daniel felt a surge of warmth in his heart. He took Ava's hand and was about to take her somewhere else. However, as soon as he turned around, Ava's eyes were suddenly fixed on a spot ahead.

"What's the matter? Did you see someone you know?"

Daniel looked curiously in the direction of where Ava was staring. "That person seems to be your colleague. Would you like to go over and say hi?"

Ava looked at the person sitting by the window of the restaurant from a distance. Then, her vision landed on that person's bag on the chair. After staring for a while, Ava gradually understood something.

She made an excuse and said that she wanted to eat the cream puffs from a certain shop that had gone viral online. She asked Daniel to buy them for her now. Daniel felt that Ava was trying to send him away, but he figured that she had her reasons, so he did not ask any more questions. He obediently went to buy the cream puffs for Ava.

After she saw that Daniel was gone, Ava looked in that person's direction and grabbed her phone to call Raegan.

Raegan never thought that Ava would take the initiative to call her. She was so excited that she almost dropped her phone. She thought that she could finally chat with Ava, but Ava just said a few quick words before hanging up the phone. Raegan was stunned for a moment while holding the phone. Then, she came back to her senses.

After Ava hung up the phone, she walked straight to that person.

Before she could get close enough, Ava heard that person talking to the man sitting opposite her.

"You speak too highly of me, Mr. Biles. I'm not as good as you said." That person was being very modest, and she put on a shy expression.

Ava took two steps closer and heard that person say in a serious tone.

"Actually, I've always felt that both men and women should rely on themselves and work hard to make money. I'll only have a sense of satisfaction and achievement if I buy something I like with the money I earn. I'm not like some other women who would get boyfriends and make them buy gifts for themselves. I don't think that's right."

As soon as that person said those words, the eyes of the man sitting across from her suddenly lit up with admiration and respect.

"Miss Channing, you said it so well. Every time I go on a date, those women would ask me how much I earn and if I have a house or a car. I thought those women were too snobbish. I'm really happy to have met such an upright woman like you, Miss Channing."

The man kept complimenting Fiona. It seemed he had a good impression of her.

When Ava heard this, she already understood it completely.

Was Fiona on a date?

This man looked pretty decent judging from his appearance, and it seemed that his family was also quite well-off.

Fiona obviously wanted to snag a rich husband. It did not matter if Fiona wanted to get a rich husband or if she wanted to put on an act because Ava could not control her life decisions, but looking at the bag on the chair, Ava felt that she had to step in.

The man sitting opposite Fiona seemed to notice Ava's presence. He glanced at Ava curiously and asked suspiciously.

"Miss Channing, is this lady your friend? She seems to have been standing behind you for a while."

Fiona paused after hearing that and turned to take a look. When she saw Ava standing not far away from her, her heart violently skipped a beat. She subconsciously lifted her hand to tug the bag she put next to her. She seemed to not want to let Ava see it, but Ava had already seen it. She also noticed Fiona's gesture.

"A-Ava? Why are you here?" Fiona was speaking a little incoherently.

Ava grinned softly and approached them. "What a coincidence. My boyfriend and I were eating around here too, so I spotted you. That's why I came over to say hi."

"..."

When Fiona heard Ava's explanation, she felt even more uncomfortable.

They could even run into each other like this? When did Glendale become so small?

As Fiona was silently cursing in her heart, she heard Ava let out a gasp of surprise all of a sudden.

"Hey, isn't this the bag that I wanted to buy recently but don't have the money for? Fiona, did you get a raise recently? You can actually afford this

bag? It's so hard to buy this bag too. Even Mr. Lowe's sister said that she couldn't find anyone to help her buy this bag. Fiona, you're really capable!"

Ava kept complimenting Fiona until goosebumps appeared on her skin. She knew that Fiona was more embarrassed and uncomfortable than her at this moment.

On the other hand, the man did not know what was going on, so when he heard Ava complimenting Fiona, he also complimented her.

"Miss Channing, you're indeed really capable. You're upright and independent. A good woman like you is really hard to find."

After Fiona was praised like that, she felt even more anxious. She thought she was able to bag this rich man, but she did not expect Ava to appear so suddenly. She was afraid that Ava would see through her.

"Hehehe." Fiona forced a smile, lifting the corners of her mouth. Then, she deliberately approached Ava's side and explained in a low voice, "Ava, my bag is a fake. It's not real. I'm still on a date. What's the matter? We'll talk about it later."

"I know you're on a date, so that's why I want to tell this gentleman how special you are!" Ava said and sat down beside Fiona.

Fiona looked at Ava, who was now sitting beside her, with a confused expression. She scolded Ava in her heart. She could not smile anymore.

The man sitting opposite was very interested and seemed to want to know more about Fiona. It could be seen that this man's impression of Fiona was indeed very good.

Ava did not want to ruin Fiona's reputation, but looking at this bag, she could not just stay put and do nothing. "You're Miss Channing's colleague, right?" the man opposite asked.

"Uh, yes, we're colleagues." Fiona quickly answered and continued saying, "Ava, if you're busy, you should go first. Don't make your boyfriend wait too long."

Fiona wanted to send Ava away as soon as possible. Ava did not waste any time either and smiled meaningfully at Fiona.

"I'll be leaving soon, but I need to tell this gentleman some of your characteristics first."

"..."

Fiona had a hunch that Ava would not say anything nice, but she never expected that Ava would be so direct. "Sir, you're really lucky to have met our Fiona. There's nothing great about Fiona. She's very selfish, nosey, extremely vain, and loves to lie through her teeth. She's also especially..."

"Ava!" Fiona jumped up and interrupted Ava abruptly.

The man sitting opposite was also dumbfounded. What did he just hear?

"Ava, don't go too far! Although we had some conflicts with each other at work, you can't drag my integrity through the mud on this occasion just because you're not happy with what's going on at work!"

Ava calmly raised her smiling face. "Integrity? Do you even have it?"

"..."

"If you had integrity, this bag wouldn't be with you."

"..."

Fiona began to feel guilty when Ava mentioned this bag, but she had to keep her cool in this situation. "What's wrong with this bag? I bought this bag with the money I earned through my hard work!"

"Did you buy it or did you get it by scamming someone?" Ava asked bluntly, her eyes suddenly turning sharp. "Fiona, the nerve of you to do this kind of thing!"

Ava directly pointed out that there was something wrong with the origin of this bag and affirmed that there was a problem with Fiona's integrity. As a result, Fiona naturally could not keep her cool and immediately blew up in a fit of rage.

"Ava, you're doing this on purpose!"

The man opposite could not watch this anymore. He started accusing Ava as well.

"Aren't you going a bit too far? It's normal for colleagues to have disagreements but why are you holding grudges? Miss Channing and I are on a date right now. Do you have any manners? Besides, Miss Channing has the ability. Isn't this just a bag? Do you think she can't afford it?"

The man was siding with Fiona. Evidently, he was fond of Fiona's hypocritical character.

Ava did not care that the man being deceived was making a lot of complaints about her. She calmly looked at Fiona, whose face had turned pale with anger. "Fiona, I don't want to argue with you. Facts speak louder than words." Ava did not utter a single word of nonsense.

Fiona could not understand what Ava was saying, but the next second, she heard the sound of rapid footsteps approaching from the door of the restaurant.

Fiona looked up and saw Raegan rushing over. Her face grew even paler from embarrassment.

"Ava!" Raegan rushed to the restaurant after Ava sent her the address. She was very happy when she saw Ava, but she glanced curiously at Fiona, who was standing aside with an embarrassed look on her face.

Raegan thought that Ava had discovered what she had been doing with Fiona and the other girl. She was worried that Ava would be angry, so she immediately apologized in a gentle tone.

"Ava, d-did you find out something?"

Ava looked into Raegan's eyes from the corners of her eyes. "If you're asking this, it means my guesses are correct."

"Um..."

"You bribed her and Kendra. You asked them to keep an eye on my every move in the office and then report to you. Then, you gave them all kinds of benefits, am I right?"

Ava questioned, going straight to the point.

After Raegan heard this, an apologetic and remorseful instantly look crept up on her face. "Ava, I didn't want to do this. I'm just concerned about you and want to know more about your life..."

"Do you think you're doing this because you're concerned about me and your actions aren't disturbing me?"

"Ava..."

"Also, do you see that bag?"

Ava pointed at the branded bag on the chair.

Raegan looked at that bag and apologized. "I found out that you like this bag, so I asked someone to ship it over from another area."

When Raegan said that, Fiona immediately panicked. When the man opposite heard this, the way he looked at Fiona changed.

After Ava heard Raegan's words, a sarcastic smile appeared on the corners of her lips.

"You wanted to give this to me, but she never did. You've been working out there for so many years and seen all kinds of people. Couldn't you tell what kind of person she is? She's been lying to you so that she can scam some money out of you."

Raegan never thought that Fiona would take this bag for herself. Her sharp eyes peered at Fiona, who did not dare to make a peep, before she shifted her apologetic gaze to Ava.

"Ava, I just want to give you more love and care."

"I don't need those things." Ava rejected her immediately. "I also hope you can stop this childish behavior. I don't want to be disturbed like this."

After saying the last sentence, Ava turned around and left decisively.

"Ava!" Raegan hurriedly turned around and wanted to catch up with Ava, but she turned back just after she started walking. Her piercing eyes were domineeringly glaring at Fiona.

"Actually, I could see through the motives and schemes of people like you at first sight. If it weren't because I wanted to learn more about Ava's life,

people like you wouldn't even have gotten a chance to talk to me. However, you were actually ballsy enough to take this bag that costs six digits to keep it for yourself. I'll take legal measures regarding this matter. Just wait for the police to come get you!"

After Raegan finished speaking, she left the restaurant to chase after Ava.

Fiona was stunned for a few seconds. Then, she heard the man's frustrated voice in her ears.

"Fiona, it turns out that your colleague didn't accuse you wrongly just now. I didn't expect you to take other people's things and say that you bought the bag with your hard work I thought you were a woman worth dating, but I didn't expect you to be so unruly! Don't contact me ever again. It's disgusting to be friends with someone like you."

"..."

Fiona was scolded right in her face by the man. She wanted to refute but could not utter a single word. When she recalled that Raegan said she was going to take legal action, she panicked and immediately picked up her bag before running out. However, the waiter in the restaurant stopped her, saying that she had not paid for the lunch yet. The man had left, so Fiona could only pay for it with her own money.

She thought she could get a good meal out of him, which was why she chose this high-end restaurant. Great! She tried to gain an advantage only to end up worse off.

When Fiona finally ran out, Raegan and Ava were nowhere to be seen.

After Ava called Daniel, she told him what had happened just now.

Daniel thought Raegan was doing everything she could to give Ava gifts, but he did not know the specific details. He wanted to say that even though Raegan's actions were not right, she was only doing it because she was concerned about Ava. However, when he saw Ava's dull expression, he did not say anything.

Ava received a call and many messages from Fiona. She chose to ignore them and turned on her phone's 'do not disturb' function.

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On Monday morning, as soon as Ava stepped through the door of the office, Fiona rushed in front of her.

"Ava! Are you finally willing to show up?" Fiona shouted at Ava. There was an exaggerated expression on her face. Although she was wearing makeup, it still could not hide her haggard and anxious look or her dark circles. It could be seen that she was quite distraught with anxiety.

"Ava, I'll give the bag back to you!" Fiona put the bag in Ava's hand. "Call your mother right now and say I've given the bag back to you!"

Ava looked at the anxious Fiona indifferently and did not take the bag. "Please don't get in my way. I'm going to work."

"Ava!" Fiona grabbed her violently. "Ava, we're colleagues. Do you really want to push me into a dead end?"

The other colleagues who did not know what was going on heard what Fiona said and curiously walked over to take a look

What was going on? Why did it sound like a life and death situation?

However, even though Fiona looked extremely anxious, Ava still looked as calm as ever. She glanced at Fiona and displayed a soft smile on the corners of her lips.

"When you were enjoying the things you got from my mom, you should've known that you'd end up this way."

"Ava, a-are you going to leave me to die?"

"I'm not leaving you to die. You only have yourself to blame."

After Ava said that, two figures came in through the office door.

When Fiona saw the two police officers walking through the door, her face turned pale with fright.

Raegan really called the police!

The employees in the office who did not know the situation were all watching curiously, but they could all tell that the police officers were here for Fiona.

"Which one of you is Fiona Charming?"

A policeman asked, scanning the people in front of him with sharp eyes. Soon, he spotted Fiona's panicked face.

"Are you Fiona Charming?"

How would Fiona dare to lie to the police? She nodded silently.

When they saw Fiona admitting it, the police officers went straight to her.

"Fiona Channing, someone reported you of stealing another person's property. Please return to the police station with us to help with the investigation."

"What? Fiona stole something? Could it be that bag?"

"I don't mind her being nosey but she's a thief too?"

"Judging from how vain she usually is, it really is possible for her to do such a thing."

"No wonder she talked to Ava like that just now. It turns out that the bag belongs to Ava. Did she steal Ava's bag?"

Several female colleagues were discussing among themselves at one side, and Fiona's face became even more embarrassed when she heard them.

"I didn't steal it! Sir, it's just a misunderstanding!" Fiona tried her best to quibble. She turned her head to look at Ava to try to appear pitiful.

"Ava, are you really not going to help me? I just wanted to help you and your mother ease your relationship. What did I do wrong? Your mom insisted on giving me this bag, but I don't care for it at all. I'll give it back to you!"

Seeing Fiona twisting the facts, Ava looked back at her unhurriedly.

"Just explain it to the officers. They'll investigate it clearly to verify whether you're being wrongly accused."

"You..." She did not expect Ava's attitude to be so firm. Fiona was angry and anxious, but there was no other way. In the end, she was taken away by the police in front of everyone.

Kendra, who was on the side, watched this scene and could only hide in the corner as she shivered. She had also received a lot of benefits from Raegan lately, but those benefits were all given to her by Raegan. She should be fine, right?

As she thought about it, Kendra suddenly met Ava's meaningful smiling eyes. She could not help but cower and hurried back to her seat, not daring to say a word.

During lunch break, Ava was about to go out to lunch with Maisie. However, when they walked out of the office, they saw Raegan waiting there.

"Ava, your mother is here so I won't disturb you guys. I'll go find my brother." Maisie was very tactful and quickly fled the scene.

Ava did not want to make her relationship with Raegan even tenser in front of her colleagues, so she took the same elevator with Raegan to go downstairs. After they left the elevator, Ava walked to the entrance herself while Raegan chased after her.

"Ava, don't walk so fast. It's snowing today. Be careful of the slippery ground." Raegan reminded her, her tone filled with concern.

However, Ava did not slow down. She only stopped walking when she got to the side of the road and was some distance away from the entrance of the company. Raegan quickly went to Ava's side too.

"Ava," Raegan carefully called out Ava's name.

Ava lifted her eyes to look into Raegan's expecting and anxious ones. Then, she took a deep breath before saying.

"I've already..."

"Ava, don't say anything first. I know what you're going to say. Calm down and listen to me first." Raegan interrupted hastily, soothing Ava's emotions that were on the verge of breaking down.

Ava, who was interrupted, did not show displeasure. Instead, she just looked at Raegan calmly.

"Okay, speak."

Seeing that Ava was not angry, Raegan was silently relieved. She also recomposed herself before speaking.

"Ava, I know that you don't like what I did back then and what I've done now. I don't want to find excuses for myself because I know I'm the one at fault. But Ava, we're mother and daughter. You're my flesh and blood. I'm really reluctant to let go of you forever."

Raegan's voice began to sound choked when she was still speaking. Her eyes gradually became wet and red. "Ava, will you give me a chance to make things up for you?"

Raegan's tone was careful, almost pleading.

Ava's hands that were hidden in her sleeves clenched slowly. She could see the countless hopes and regrets in Raegan's eyes.

However, she could not forget Raegan's heartlessness back then.

"Ava..."

When Ava was silent and did not know how to answer, Daniel appeared at the right time.

"Mrs. Xander, you're here too." Daniel greeted Raegan politely.

Raegan also smiled slightly. At the same time, she felt that the initially rigid atmosphere had been eased a lot. Daniel smiled and held Ava's hand that was hidden in her sleeve. When he felt Ava's fingers trembling slightly, he gently intertwined his fingers with hers, giving her warmth and solid support.

"Mrs. Xander, you probably haven't eaten yet. Why don't we go to the restaurant to eat something together?" Daniel asked and looked down at Ava for her opinion. "Ava, is that okay with you?"

Ava knew that Daniel was trying to create opportunities between the two, but at the same time, he also respected her opinions. She did not speak and just nodded lightly in acquiescence.

Seeing Ava's reaction, Raegan was overjoyed.

She could finally have lunch with Ava, and this time, they did not part ways unhappily like the last time. After lunch, Daniel sent Ava back to the office.

When Daniel sent Ava to her office, Ava thanked Daniel.

Daniel looked puzzled. "Why are you thanking me? Have you forgotten who I am?"

Ava smiled knowingly. After seeing that there was no one around, she quickly kissed Daniel's cheek and immediately turned around to run into the office while blushing.

The sharp-eyed Maisie saw this sweet scene and went back to tease Ava. Ava did not mind it either, so she magnanimously allowed Maisie to tease her.

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Over the next few days, Ava and the rest of the employees found the office to be much quieter because Fiona was detained for a week. A week later, Fiona came to work listlessly. However, as soon as she entered the office, she was summoned by the human resources department. After a while, she came back with a gloomy expression on her face. She rushed directly in front of Ava.

"Ava, you're so f\*cking ruthless! I was detained for seven days and am left with a criminal record. Now, I don't even have a job anymore!" Fiona threw the dismissal letter in her hand at Ava. "You just want to take the position of the design department manager, right? You're just afraid that I'll compete with you, right? Are you happy now, you b\*tch?"

Fiona raised her hand in anger and wanted to hit Ava. Right when Ava was about to dodge, Maisie grabbed Fiona's wrist forcefully.

"Why are you still making a fuss here? I was the one who asked the human resources department to sack you. What qualifications do you have to stay

here if you have sticky fingers? It's even more hilarious for you to mention the position of design department manager. Judging from your work ability, character, and the way you handle things, how can you even compete with Ava? If you don't want to be even more humiliated, get out!"

After being scolded by Maisie like this, Fiona gritted her teeth. She glared at Maisie and Ava fiercely.

"Ava, you're really underhanded. Whoever dares to be your colleague in the future will have to worry about being framed by you and being left with a criminal record. People like you will face retribution!" Fiona cursed angrily before she turned and walked away.

Maisie sneered contemptuously in the direction Fiona left.

"Who does she think she is? She has sticky fingers and stole your bag because she doesn't have limits. But now she's pushing the blame to you. I think she not only has a personality problem but also a brain problem." Maisie complained before turning her head to comfort Ava again.

"Ava, don't pay attention to such people. She was detained because she stole something. It has nothing to do with you."

"Maisie, thank you." Ava smiled and thanked Maisie, but she was not affected by what Fiona said.

The other employees in the office did not speak. Instead, they all sat quietly in their seats. However, as soon as Ava and Maisie left, they started talking.

Kendra was desperately emphasizing that it was Ava's mother, Raegan, who took the initiative to give them gifts. She was trying to distance herself from this whole kerfuffle.

Ava was not a fool. She also noticed that her colleagues were looking at her strangely, but she did not care much about it. In this world, there were too many moments that she could not understand anyway, so she did not care. She only cared about the people close to her.

Just as Maisie had predicted, the decision to promote Ava as the design department manager came quickly. Great, more malicious remarks began to spread around in the office. It was not yet time for work, and those who arrived early had already raised various questions about this matter.

"See? I told you it'll be Ava!"

"Miss Lowe already gave the answer long ago. Ava has such a good relationship with her, so she'd definitely tell Mr. Lowe to promote Ava!"

"This must be it!" Kendra also chimed in and affirmed.

"I didn't expect Ava to be so backhanded. She used her means to get rid of Fiona first so that no one in our office would compete with her for this position!"

"No way! I don't think Ava is that kind of person."

There were also employees who disagreed with Kendra's statement. "She has the ability and qualifications for this position."

"Oh, Penny, you're still too young and inexperienced." Kendra looked arrogant as if she was the only one sober among drunkards.

The girl named Penny glanced indifferently at Kendra. "Aren't you the same age as me?"

"..."

Kendra looked embarrassed. When she was about to refute, she saw Ava and Maisie coming in from the office door together.

Kendra curled her lips in secret. In fact, she envied Ava very much. She envied Ava for having such a rich mother and also envied her friendship with Maisie, someone who could help her in her career. Hence, she would try to slander Ava bit by bit every chance she got. However, Ava had already seen through Kendra's plans. She was just too lazy to deal with her.

Ava sat in her seat and quickly entered her working zone. However, she suddenly heard a strange sigh from one side.

"Sigh, some people are truly blessed. They don't need to take any exams before getting promoted. They could be promoted by just being friends with a certain someone. I'm so envious."

"That's right, some people are just that lucky," Kendra also chimed in.

Ava knew that these people were saying that to her. She raised her head with a smile and said.

"This kind of thing doesn't depend on fate. If you don't have the ability, you won't be able to sit in the corresponding position."

"Not necessarily," Kendra retorted.

"Why not?" Ava aimed her sharp eyes at Kendra. Kendra pursed her lips. She wanted to speak but stopped herself.

At this time, Tom entered the office with a woman in business attire who looked very capable.

"My fellow colleagues, please stop what you're doing," Tom said and then introduced, "This is Ms. Parker, the new manager of your design department. She'll be managing all affairs of the design department in the future. Just look for her if you have anything you want to ask."

After Tom finished making the introduction, everyone in the office except Ava was stunned, including Maisie. She had clearly heard that Ava was going to get this position, so why did someone else replace her all of a sudden?

"Good morning, everyone. I'm your new manager. If you have any work-related matters in the future, feel free to come to me." The woman introduced herself with a smile. It was obvious that the position of manager of the design department was hers.

Kendra and the other colleagues looked at Ava in confusion and surprise. However, Ava was extraordinarily calm.

Tom left with the new manager after staying for a while. Immediately after, the office was in an uproar.

"Ava, what's the matter? I clearly heard that the company was going to give you a promotion. Didn't you get called over by Mr. Lowe two days ago? Didn't you guys talk about the promotion?" Maisie expressed her doubts. She referred to her elder brother as Mr. Lowe in the office according to company rules.

When everyone around them heard Maisie's question, they also pricked up their ears to listen to Ava's answer.

Ava smiled at Maisie and explained, "That did happen, but I rejected the offer."

"What? You rejected?" Maisie was confused. "Why?"

"Because I felt that once I'm promoted to that position, I might not have more energy to spend on my design drafts. I love designing, and I'm happy with my current salary, so I don't wish to change my position," Ava slowly stated what she was thinking.

After Maisie heard that, her eyes were filled with admiration. "Ava, I'm growing more and more fond of you. If I were a guy, I'd definitely pursue you!"

"I'm honored." Ava went along with Maisie's joke and lifted her eyes to look at Kendra, who was now speechless.

Just now, Kendra was inciting other employees to make oblique accusations at Ava. In the end, however, it turned out that Ava did not want to be promoted at all. They could only swallow their complaints against her just now.

After the new manager took office, she quickly issued a new task to Ava and it was also a very important one. This was enough to show the manager's trust in Ava's design ability.

After reading the contract, Ava could grasp the client's situation and needs. The client was an influencer who had gained fame on the internet. She was going to marry her rumored boyfriend next year, so she specially asked a designer to help design her new house.

Since the client's requirements were pretty stringent, Ava specially brought the information to the venue stated by the client for a meeting.

After arriving, it was not the owner of the house she would be designing who welcomed her. Instead, it was a man. .

The man said that the owner of the house was waiting for her in the house she would be designing, so Ava had no doubts and took the elevator upstairs. However, the person she saw immediately after exiting the elevator made Ava think that this might be a set-up.

"Miss, Miss Long has arrived."

The man beside Ava announced respectfully to the woman standing not far in front before turning to speak to Ava.

"Miss Long, this is our young mistress and the owner of this house, Miss Tawney."

Ava did not know that this little-known influencer was also the daughter of a wealthy family. However, what surprised Ava was not the influencer but the woman standing beside the influencer, Naya.

Since she came here for work, Ava ignored everything and walked to the influencer with a polite smile.

"Hello, Miss Tawney. I'm the designer responsible for the interior design of your house. My name is..."

"You don't need to introduce yourself to me. I know who you are." Chloe Tawney interrupted Ava. Her face that was covered with heavy makeup was full of arrogance and disdain. "Aren't you Ava Long, the vixen who shamelessly seduced another's fiancé at their engagement ceremony?"

Upon hearing Chloe's answer, Naya sneered. She seemed very satisfied.

"Ava, I didn't expect you to be the interior designer my best friend hired. Is the world too small or is this an inevitable clash between opposing sides?"

Ava calmly listened to the cynical and insulting words of the two best friends before speaking slowly.

"The world isn't too small. It's just that an evil person with ulterior motives deliberately arranged this encounter. As for who this person is, you know best in your heart."

"..."

The smug look on Naya's face faded a little. Upon seeing Ava's calm appearance, she felt that she could not keep her cool. However, Naya did not want to cause trouble so brazenly, so she just glanced sideways at Chloe, who was beside her.

Chloe understood what Naya meant and began to stir up some trouble.

"Ava, stop talking nonsense. Let's talk about the design."

"I don't think that's necessary because I think no matter how perfect my design is, I won't be able to satisfy you, Miss Tawney. I'll let the company arrange a better designer to complete your dream home."

Ava turned around to leave, but Chloe's arrogant warning came from behind her.

"You can leave if you want, but you have to pay ten million in liquidated damages first. When I signed the contract with your company, I specifically specified that you needed to be my designer. If you don't take up the job, it'll be a breach of contract."

"Oh, don't you have a very rich mother? Just ask your mother to write a check to me and you won't have to serve me."

Ava could hear the confidence and pride in Chloe's words. She could confirm now that this was indeed a set-up. They were working together to take action against her.

Since this woman had said that, she had obviously found out that Ava did not have a good relationship with her mother. She knew Ava would not ask her mother for money, so Ava would not be able to reject taking this job due to the breach of contract and having to pay a huge amount of liquidated damages.

Ava stopped in her tracks.

Although she knew that she was being set up, she had no way to get out of this for the time being. She could only face the problem head-on. Ava quickly adjusted her mentality, putting on a professional and polite smile once more.

"Miss Tawney, do tell me your requirements for the design, or you can show me any examples that you like."

"What? I need to show you examples?" Chloe showed a surprised expression. "Is a designer's job so easy that you just look at other people's work and copy it? Is it so easy for you to make money?"

Ava knew that Chloe was misinterpreting her words on purpose, but she still calmly explained, "Miss Tawney, I asked you to show me an example so that I can get to know your style and understand your preferences."

"I see." Chloe looked like she just understood, but a wicked smirk soon appeared on the corners of her lips. "You can talk to my good friend Naya, then. I bought this house as a gift for her, so she can decorate it as she likes. You just need to listen to her."

After hearing what Chloe said, Ava was not stupid and knew Naya was obviously trying to set her up. These two were just beating about the bush.

Naya was arrogantly looking at Ava from the corners of her eyes. She was waiting to see how Ava would be set up by her later. She knew that Ava's mother was the richest person in Y Country and she could not compare to her in terms of financial resources. Furthermore, she also knew that Daniel adored Ava right now and she had no way to change that either. However, she had to get back at Ava for the grievances and humiliation she suffered at the engagement ceremony!

Ava knew that she had already stepped into the trap. Since she was still working right now, she needed to maintain her professionalism and talk to Naya about interior design.

However, Naya did not want to hear her talk at all. She would interrupt whenever Ava had just said a few words. She would repeat the same question over and over again, obviously trying to torment Ava. However, there was no displeasure shown on Ava's face. She just calmly did what she was supposed to do the entire time.

About two hours later, Naya seemed to be tired from all the tormenting. Hence, she asked someone to buy them coffee and snacks.

Ava sorted out the relevant information, and she was ready to leave after packing up. For the sake of the company's image and etiquette, Ava still bade farewell to them very politely.

"I'll hand over the follow-up design draft to you within the agreed time. If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving first."

"Miss Long, why are you leaving in such a hurry? You must be tired after explaining to Naya for so long just now. My servant will be back soon. Let's have a drink before you leave."

"Thank you for your kindness but my time is almost up today, so I have to go back to the company now."

After saying that, Ava went straight to the door. Coincidentally, Chloe's servant came back with coffee and desserts. Ava ignored them and continued to walk forward after passing the servant.

Just as she was about to reach the door, Naya's voice came from behind.

"Ava, you forgot something."

Ava subconsciously looked at the work documents in her hands. She did not think she had forgotten anything, but to be safe, she still turned her head. However, the moment she turned around, a cup of steaming hot coffee was splashed on her. The hot liquid was spilled all over her clothes.

Ava quickly lifted her piercing eyes to look at Naya, who gave her a provocative look.

Naya smirked in disdain. "I told you I wanted to buy you coffee. I'm so sorry I didn't hold it properly. My hand was shaking. I'll just assume you've already drunk the coffee."

Ava knew Naya was doing this on purpose. After she heard that, she burst out laughing all of a sudden.

"Miss Mendez, you're too kind. Let me treat you to some coffee too!"

After Ava said that, she reached out decisively and quickly, snatching the other cup of coffee in Chloe's hand. She splashed it on Naya's body without hesitation.

Naya screamed immediately.

"Ah!"

She took two steps back in a fluster. She had a panicked look on her face but there seemed to be a smirk on her lips.

"Ava! Are you crazy? How dare you splash coffee on Naya like that?"

Chloe immediately rushed over to vent her anger on Naya's behalf. There was a look of justice on her face like she was coming to the aid of someone suffering an injustice.

"Why are you so cruel? Do you think you're all that because your mother is the richest woman in Y Country? Do you think you can bully people like this? Before this, you stole Naya's fiance in front of everyone, and today, you're causing trouble for Naya. Naya is very gentle but that's not an excuse for you to bully her like that!"

Chloe was speaking righteously, and at this moment, Naya's face was full of innocence and hurt.

"Forget it, Chloe. Stop talking. My dad is still negotiating business with Ava's mom. I'll be a disappointment to my dad if the business fails because of me."

Naya spoke in a weak tone. She suddenly appeared to be very weak and pitiful.

Ava felt ridiculous when she heard this. Then, she threw the empty cup in her hand to Naya's feet, her eyes were full of contempt. She was looking down on Naya's pretentious and hypocritical appearance.

"Yes, remember this. My mother is the richest woman in Y Country. If your father wants to close this business deal, you'd better not mess with me. Otherwise, you'll be in trouble."

"Ava, you really are something else. How dare you threaten Naya like this? Do you really think that you're powerful just because your mother is the richest woman in Y Country? Do you think you can bully people like this just because you're the daughter of the richest woman in Country Y? Ava, you think so highly of yourself!" Chloe continued to speak up for Naya.

Ava was not bothered. She raised the corner of her lips and sneered. "Yes, I'm indeed powerful."

"You..." Chloe seemed to be out of breath. Two seconds later, she spoke again, "Ava, don't forget, you're here to serve us on behalf of your company. Naya and I are your clients. If you do this, not only are you showing that you're unprofessional but you'll also bring criticism to your company!"

In the face of Chloe's rebuke, Ava replied neither too quickly nor too slowly, "When I was leaving, I already told you that my time to serve you today was up. I'm standing here telling you my personal views. It has nothing to do with my job. If you can't accept it, come at me, then."

"Ava, you..."

"Miss Tawney, if you're angry, you can go to my boss to discuss the termination of the contract. But if you're the one who takes the initiative to terminate it, don't think about getting the ten million in liquidated damages. If you don't, let's continue to confront each other in this kind of environment in the next few days." Ava smiled lightly and finished her sentence casually.

After she looked at the coffee stains on her neckline, she was about to leave.

However, the moment she left, something seemed to snap inside of Naya. She suddenly ran over to apologize to Ava.

"Ava, I know I was wrong. I shouldn't have fought over Dan with you. I've given everything to you, and I've also given Dan to you. If my father's business fails, then I'll just accept it. However, please don't treat my friend like this. She only spent so much money to hire you because she admires your design skills. Please don't shift your anger for me to my friend."

Naya looked very sincere but Ava did not understand why Naya seemed to have a completely different personality now. Ava did not want to waste her breath. Instead, she just looked at the two women in confusion before leaving without saying anything.

As soon as Ava stepped out of the door, Naya and Chloe suddenly displayed sinister smiles on their faces.

Ava drove away. The more she thought about the incident after she calmed down, the more she felt that there was something wrong with Naya's behavior just now. She knew that Naya had managed to provoke her a little just now, which was why she made such a counterattack.

She had always been like that, but because of Daniel, she began to hold herself back.

In the past, even when she was weak, she had never been afraid of facing Jeremy. She always said whatever was on her mind and never held back when she was angry. Furthermore, Naya and Chloe were clearly colluding against her this time. They said they liked her designs, but in reality, they were just trying to fool her and vent their anger.

After returning, Ava did not tell Daniel and the others about it. Instead, she just went back to her work. However, after a while, the new manager called Ava into her office.

The manager said that she had just received a call from Chloe, who was very angry and complained about Ava. She even said that she wanted to terminate the contract, but their company must compensate for the loss. Therefore, the manager asked Ava what had happened.

Ava told the manager what had happened in the morning and also explained that she and Chloe's friend, Naya, had some personal grudges. In order to avoid unnecessary trouble, she would take the initiative to withdraw from the job, but she would not pay the compensation that Chloe was asking for.

The manager said that she believed what Ava said and she would talk to Chloe in person. However, not long after, Ava's name was suddenly trending on several major websites.

Ava also learned from Maisie that her name was trending. She clicked in and found out that her conflict with Naya and Chloe earlier today was posted on the internet. There was also a video.

In the video, Ava's side profile was seen as she splashed the coffee on Naya. Then, she warned Naya with a very arrogant and mean attitude. The netizens who did not know the truth were infuriated by her behavior.

Meanwhile, in the video, Chloe was fighting for justice for Naya like the good friend she was. As for Naya, her clothes were clearly stained with coffee and she had tears in the corners of her eyes. Her pitiful appearance would surely break the hearts of those who looked at her.

After watching the entire video, Ava finally understood why Naya's attitude underwent a 180-degree change then. Naya and Chloe had planned this.

They had instructed the servant at the side to film the scene with a camera. Naturally, the scene of Naya stopping Ava and splashing coffee on her was edited out. Everything that was posted for the public to see was detrimental to Ava, but they were absolutely beneficial to Naya and Chloe because they seemed innocent.

"Ava, what's going on? I don't believe that you're someone like this," Maisie asked quickly. When she saw the netizens scolding Ava in the comments section beneath the video, Maisie was so mad her hands were shaking.

When she was about to retort to those netizens who were cursing Ava for no good reason, Ava stopped her. "Maisie, don't be mad. I'm not even mad."

Ava comforted Maisie, but in reality, she almost could not contain the anger in her heart.

Not a lot of people could keep calm after they were framed like this. A video of the conflict was even posted online so that Ava would be criticized and cyberbullied by netizens who did not know the truth. However, at this moment, Ava did a good job of controlling her emotions. She grabbed her phone and walked out of the door.

Maisie wanted to follow Ava to know what exactly was going on. At the same time, she wanted to comfort Ava as well. However, after seeing her serious expression, she decided not to follow her anymore so that Ava would not be disturbed.

Ava was about to call Madeline, but she did not expect Madeline to call her first. After picking up the call, Madeline's worried voice came from the other end.

"Ava, where are you now? I'll go look for you."

"Maddie, did you also see the video on the internet?"

Ava could hear that Madeline was worried about her.

"Jeremy told me about it. That's how I got to know that this sort of thing is happening to you." Madeline was a little anxious. "Where are you? I'll go look for you."

Ava knew this had to be resolved, and at the same time, she had also planned on asking Madeline for a favor. Hence, she did not refuse.

Ten minutes later, Madeline arrived downstairs at Ava's company.

Ava applied for a leave of absence with the new manager and went to Madeline.

Maisie was worried about Ava, so she quietly followed behind her. After seeing Ava and Madeline walking into a coffee shop next to the company, Maisie also went in and found a seat to sit down.

She watched Ava and Madeline talk from a distance. She took a few more curious glances. "I think I've seen this beauty with Ava somewhere before," Maisie asked herself curiously.

While she was thinking about where she had seen this beautiful face, she accidentally met Ava's gaze.

Maisie froze a little embarrassedly while she was holding the coffee cup. Seeing that Ava also looked surprised, Maisie got up and walked over.

"Maisie, why are you here too?" Ava's eyes were filled with doubts. Then, she guessed aloud, "Did you follow me here?"

Maisie nodded embarrassedly. "I was worried about you, so I followed you."

Upon hearing Maisie's answer, both Ava and Madeline felt a burst of warmth in their hearts.

Madeline smiled and got up to introduce herself. "Hello, Maisie. I'm Ava's friend. My name is Eveline Montgomery. I often hear Ava talk about you. You're such a good girl who's rare to come by."

After hearing Madeline's compliments, Maisie blushed even more shyly. However, after two seconds, Maisie suddenly showed an expression of sudden realization. "You're Eveline Montgomery! No wonder I found your face so familiar! I've seen you several times on the internet. You're Jeremy Whitman's wife!"

Maisie's eyes could not hide her surprise. Then, she looked up and down at Madeline.

"You're so beautiful. Plus, the jewelry pieces you design are so unique too! There was a time in my life when I was obsessed with your work! I didn't expect you to be Ava's friend."

Madeline did not expect Maisie to be her fan. She felt happy and asked Maisie to sit down with them.

After knowing that Madeline was here for Ava because of what had happened on the internet, Maisie's face became serious. Maisie almost could not suppress her anger after hearing Ava tell them the truth.

"I knew you weren't like that, Ava. Those two are so evil to have edited the video like that. They obviously edited the video with malicious intent to slander you, Ava! I didn't think that Naya was the kind of person who would say one thing but mean another. I even wanted to be her good friend back then! I must have been blind!"

Maisie squeezed her coffee cup angrily, and it could be seen that she felt especially indignant about vile characters who did such despicable things.

"Ava, Eveline, it's not difficult to solve this matter. As long as we get the full, unedited version of the video, we can prove Ava's innocence."

Maisie offered her own views and suggestions.

"Didn't Ava say that there was a servant who helped Naya buy coffee? I suspect that this person was the one who filmed it. We just need to find this person."

Madeline and Ava felt that this approach was feasible. Moreover, it was likely that this accomplice who filmed the video to frame Ava could be bribed with money and benefits. Although money was not everything, it was enough to make these unscrupulous people turn against each other.

"Maddie, I can only ask for your help on this matter. I don't want Dan to worry about me, and I don't want the company's reputation to be affected because of my personal grudges with Naya. So, please help me take down as many of those trending topics and videos as possible," Ava pleaded. This was also the reason why she wanted to ask a favor from Madeline.

Madeline understood how Ava was feeling, and she could not stand those keyboard warriors who did not know the truth attacking Ava so crazily either.

In addition, Chloe was a popular influencer who had nearly a million followers. With her instigation, it could be said that Ava was at the center of the storm now. Those netizens were really saying all kinds of nasty and horrible things. She also had the idea of taking down the trending topics, but she had other thoughts running in her mind as well.

"No, Ava. I don't think we should take them down." Maisie objected. Coincidentally, her suggestion coincided with what Madeline was thinking at the moment.

However, Madeline felt distressed that Ava was being scolded by netizens, so she was also in a dilemma.

"Ava, don't worry about the company's reputation. I guarantee that the company's reputation and business will not be affected because the truth is on our side. Taking down the trending topic now will only give those keyboard warriors and rumor-mongers more things to say. I think we should turn this into a bigger deal than it is."

"A bigger deal?" Ava was puzzled.

"Ava, do you think you can endure the comments of those people on the internet? If you can, we'll let them make things worse. If you think those comments are eyesores, I'll immediately ask Jeremy to take them down."

After she heard this, Ava was also curious. "Maddie, do you mean you're also in favor of making this into a bigger deal?"

Madeline nodded as a sharp glint of light quietly flashed across her eyes.

"Aren't they deliberately doing this to target you? They want to see you get exposed on the internet and make you have a breakdown from the humiliation. Since that's the case, let's make this into a bigger deal. If they dare to bully you so blatantly, I'll let them know that there's a heavy price to pay for bullying my Ava."

After hearing this, Ava felt her heart getting warmer. Whether it was Maisie or Madeline, they both genuinely wanted the best for her.

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On the other hand, Chloe and Naya were sitting together as they read through the comments cursing Ava online. The more comments they read, the more pleased they felt.

"Naya, do you see this? Ava is done for. She won't be able to clear her name no matter what she does now! Haha!" Chloe cackled. "I'll torment her for going against my best friend!"

Naya lifted her charming eyes and scoffed in disdain. "Hmph, Ava, don't admit defeat so quickly and run to your rich mother. The best has yet to come."

She turned to glance at Chloe, who was smoking at her side.

"Go instigate your stupid followers and get them to find Ava's personal details. She should've never stolen my man from me. I want her to know how tragic the consequences of offending me are."

While saying this, Naya gritted her teeth viciously. Chloe, who was sitting on the other side, had always wanted her popularity to soar. Now, there was a chance for her to get more exposure and this was exactly what she was looking for.

Seeing that everyone in the comments section at the bottom of the video was insulting Ava, Chloe responded aggrievedly to those comments with her account. Almost every netizen was feeling sorry for Naya now, and all of them were criticizing Ava for what she did.

Ava was quickly labeled by netizens who did not know the truth as a vixen who was self-righteous. By relying on her mother's fortune, she thought she could steal another person's fiancé and bully others.

Then, Chloe used her secret account to expose all of Ava's personal information. She exposed the school Ava went to, her current office, and even the apartment where Ava stayed. Everything was exposed without a single detail left behind. Chloe thought that what she had revealed was detailed enough, but what she did not expect was that more powerful netizens revealed Ava's past history.

Someone even found a photo of Ava and Madeline from their university days. They added a caption saying that the wife of the wealthy young master of Glendale and Ava were very good friends. That person even said in a mocking tone that if the netizens kept cyberbullying Ava, their accounts might disappear one day.

The other netizens who read this got even more triggered. They said that if the trending topic disappeared or their accounts were banned, then it would further prove that Ava was a sinister and despicable villain. At the same time, some people even started to criticize Madeline too.

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At this moment, Madeline was bringing Ava to her parents' house. Ava would be lying if she said she did not care about the comments on the internet, but at the same time, Ava did not take them too seriously either. Knowing that this was the trap Naya set for her, she would be defeated if she took this seriously. Plus, this was not the truth anyway. When the truth was announced, these netizens who were bullying and cursing her would soon shift their targets. This was the cruel reality.

Madeline and Jeremy were living in the Montgomeries' newly built villa with their children because Hannah, an irrelevant person, was staying in the Whitmans' old house.

At dusk, Jeremy returned from the company. After knowing that the incident was getting out of control on the internet, he had an unpleasant look on his face. It was because those keyboard warriors were scolding Madeline as well.

Although he had already issued a warning saying that if anyone dared to slander Madeline's reputation and spread groundless rumors about Madeline, he would definitely pursue the matter till the end, some brainless idiots continued to post comments that made Jeremy want to beat them up.

Madeline could tell that Jeremy was upset, but she did not care. The innocent were innocent even if they did not say anything in their defense. She was very calm and also expressed her standpoint with a clear conscience.

Had she not suffered enough injustice and grievances over the years?

She had long been invulnerable to everything, but Madeline was very worried about Ava.

"Ava, don't pay attention to the gossip on the internet. Some netizens just like to create disturbances. Besides, I think some of them are paid posters that Naya and Chloe hired. Don't take their comments to heart."

Knowing that Madeline was worried that she would be in a bad mood because of those comments, Ava leaned back on the sofa very leisurely.

"Maddie, don't worry about me. I'd be lying if I said I'm not bothered by those comments, but if they're out of sight, they're out of mind. Just let them say whatever they want to. They'll shut up when the truth eventually comes out anyway."

Ava could think things through, and Madeline felt a lot more relieved after Ava said this. However, Jeremy suddenly said, "Doesn't Daniel know that this is happening to you? Why hasn't he come to pick you up and comfort you?"

When Ava heard this, a playful smile appeared on her face. "What's wrong? Mr. Whitman, do you think my existence is preventing you from being lovey-dovey with Maddie? Well, let me tell you that I'll be sleeping with Maddie tonight. Please step aside now."

Jeremy was just joking, but seeing that Ava seemed to be serious, he was a little uneasy. "Are you sleeping with Linnie tonight?"

"Yes." Ava nodded solemnly. "You've seen it too, right? Those idiotic netizens have exposed all my personal information, and some even said they're going to wait for me at my apartment I'm a woman, so how would I dare to go home? I can only hold on to Maddie for comfort."

"Uhm..?" Jeremy was speechless for a moment but he quickly thought of a savior.

"Why isn't Daniel coming over to look for you? He's your boyfriend, and this is the perfect time for him to carry out his duties."

"I don't want Dan to worry about me. Otherwise, why would I come here with Maddie?" Ava had a good reason.

Jeremy suddenly had nothing to say. It was reasonable even if Ava really stayed and slept with Madeline.

Seeing that Jeremy had stopped speaking and was only looking at Madeline with pitiful eyes, Ava could not bear it anymore. Hence, she burst out laughing.

Was this still the Jeremy she used to know?

Obviously not.

After seeing Ava laugh, Jeremy realized that he might have been tricked, but he was in a better mood nonetheless. It seemed that he did not need to be alone tonight. Ava probably guessed what Jeremy had in his mind and could not help teasing Madeline.

"Maddie, look at your husband. He's so afraid that he won't be able to hold you to sleep tonight. I'd better not fight with him over you."

Madeline blushed in embarrassment when she heard this. On the other hand, Jeremy coughed twice. "I'll go see what the children are doing. You guys can continue to chat. If you need me to deal with the matters on the internet, just call out to me."

Jeremy said and glanced at Madeline. After getting a nod from Madeline, he turned around obediently.

Ava could not help but sigh again. "Maddie, it seems that every dog has its days. Jeremy's eyes are full of light whenever he looks at you. That's probably how someone looks when they really love someone."

"Daniel looks at you the same way too. Haven't you noticed?" Madeline asked rhetorically.

When Ava was blinking and thinking about it, a tall figure hurriedly entered the door.

"Daniel is here." Madeline reminded Ava.

Ava looked up and saw Daniel hurrying toward her with a worried look on his face.

"Ava!" Daniel ran straight to Ava and grabbed her hand. "Ava, why didn't you tell me about such a serious thing? If I hadn't seen it and didn't ask you, would you not have told me?"

Ava hastily explained, "I didn't want to worry you, so..."

"How could I not worry? Ava, have you forgotten? You've already agreed to my proposal and I'm your fiancé now."

Daniel's face was full of nervousness and worry. Furthermore, there was a trace of complaint in his anxious voice. He was complaining about how Ava did not tell him about this the first chance she could. He was her fiancé, the most important person in her life. He hoped that Ava would think about him the moment she needed help.

Ava saw the thoughts in Daniel's eyes, so she hurriedly explained, "Danny, it's not that I didn't want to tell you about it right away. I know you're busy with a project recently, so I didn't want to make you upset. I figured I could look for Maddie to help me solve this first before I went to talk to you."

After listening to Ava's explanation, Daniel did not quibble anymore. Instead, he turned his head to look at Madeline and asked, "So what's the solution now? Before I came here, I still saw a lot of articles and comments that are unfavorable to Ava on the internet."

"Don't worry, Danny. I don't care about those malicious comments on the internet. They're all rumors written by people with the intention of deliberately slandering me anyway. Everything will be clarified sooner or later." Ava answered with a nonchalant smile. At the same time, it was to prevent Daniel from worrying about her.

"Plus, I've discussed it with Maddie. We'll let this blow up as big as possible."

"Let it blow up?" Daniel did not quite understand. "Why?"

"Since the other party wants to play, then we'll play with them to the end. The more they slander Ava, the bigger the price they'll need to bear in the future. We won't just let this matter pass lightly."

Jeremy's voice came from the stairs. He was walking at a lazy pace with Pudding in his arms. He approached them leisurely.

Daniel looked up. The moment he met Jeremy's eyes, there was no longer any sense of confrontational hostility that was between both of them before. Instead, they looked at each other calmly. Daniel also understood what Jeremy meant. The reason they wanted to blow this up was to make the initiator behind this pay a heavier price in the future. However, Daniel still did not know the ins and outs of this matter. Even so, he believed in Ava and was on Ava's side.

"By the way, Danny, have you contacted Naya?" Ava asked curiously, waiting for the answer expectantly.

"Why would I contact her? Should I listen to her complaints and slander against you?" Daniel looked at Ava incomprehensibly, but there was endless tenderness in his eyes. "You're the one I care about, so even if I want to understand what's going on, I'll only ask you about it."

After hearing Daniel's answer, Ava's heart was filled with unlimited sweetness.

Madeline was watching at one side, and she felt glad for Ava.

Daniel was definitely a good man whom Ava could entrust her whole life to. Moreover, Ava would definitely be happy for the rest of her life.

It was soon time for dinner, so both Ava and Daniel stayed at Montgomery Manor for dinner.

The harmonious scene caused Ava to start imagining her future with Daniel when they finally had a family of their own. She could finally have a family. She would have a safe harbor that could give her warmth and protection.

After dinner, Jeremy held his youngest son and chatted with Daniel in the living room. Meanwhile, Madeline and Ava were making tea while chatting in the pantry. However, before they could say much, Ava's phone kept ringing. She did not pick it up, though.

Madeline quickly figured out the reason why. "Is it your mom?" she asked.

Ava smiled bitterly and did not deny it. "She must have seen the news online so she's calling to ask what's going on."

"She doesn't just want to know what's going on. She's truly concerned about you," Madeline said, "Can't you accept her even a little?"

Ava pondered for a few seconds after hearing the words. Then, she looked at the phone screen that lit up again and silently muted her phone before smiling.

"Maddie, you should know this feeling very well. In the times when you're most helpless and aggrieved, you'll naturally long for your parents to be by your side. You'll yearn for your father and mother's love. But what happens when you call out and no one responds to you? The coldness from being alone all the time can even freeze a scorching heart."

Ava's answer greatly affected Madeline.

Did she not experience those helpless moments one after another herself? She even suffered more than Ava, but in the end, those traumas and pain finally became a thing of the past. Of course, she also hoped that Ava's trauma could disappear one day, but at this moment, she would not persuade Ava to understand and forgive her mother because there was no real empathy in this world.

Madeline and Ava came to the living room with the brewed black tea and some light desserts. They saw that Daniel was trying to coax and play with Pudding. At that moment, sweetness surged in Ava's heart.

'Danny must also love children. Danny will be very gentle and warm as a father. He'll be a good dad.'

Ava thought silently, and the corners of her mouth unconsciously raised into a sweet smile.

Ava stayed at Montgomery Manor that night. Since Daniel was still concerned about her, he stayed with Ava for the night as well. Although Ava said that the malicious comments on the internet did not affect her, Daniel was still worried. However, Ava really did not seem to be bothered by it. She slept peacefully throughout the night and woke up in good spirits the next day.

Raegan had stopped calling her but she sent a lot of messages. Ava had also sent a message back to Raegan before going to bed last night. She told Raegan not to be worried about her affairs and told her not to interfere. Although it was only a few words, one could still sense Ava's estranged relationship with Raegan.

Raegan did not dare to disturb Ava anymore because she was worried that she would make Ava unhappy. She did not go to look for Naya and Chloe either. However, she had to find out the ins and outs of this matter. Raegan would not allow anyone to slander Ava maliciously.

During breakfast, Ava got a call from Maisie. She asked Ava not to go to the company today in case some people who had nothing better to do caused trouble for her at the company.

Ava knew Maisie was concerned about her, so she agreed. However, the new manager of the design department called Ava. She told Ava that she had to go to the company to give her an explanation. She wanted to know what was going on as this incident had already affected the company's reputation.

Ava did not hide from this. After breakfast, she asked Daniel to send her to the company.

On the way, Daniel still had some concerns in his heart. He kept feeling as if something would happen.

When they arrived, Ava wanted to ask Daniel to go back, but Daniel insisted on going up with Ava. In the end, Ava did not reject. However, the moment they walked to the entrance of the company, someone yelled.

"Ava is here!"

"That's Ava!"

After that, a huge crowd appeared from one side. Some reporters who were waiting idly for Ava were also swarming over.

Daniel's hunch earlier was right; The anxiety in his heart was because he had predicted that something like this would happen.

These reporters, including this bunch of people who had nothing better to do, gathered around Ava.

"Yes, she's Ava!"

"It's really her. She's so beautiful but I didn't expect her to be so diabolical."

"That's right! How dare she bully our Chloe Baby's good friend?! Hey, do you think you're all that just because you have a rich mother? You're so shameless to steal Naya's fiance at her engagement party, Ava!"

Chloe's fans scolded Ava with unbearable curses. Immediately after that, those reporters also pointed their cameras and microphones at Ava.

"Miss Long, what do you have to say about the things that have been exposed about you online?"

"Is Ms. Raegan Xander really your mother?"

"Some sources say that you went to the engagement party of Miss Mendez and Mr. Graham to cause trouble in order to marry into a wealthy family. Is this really the case?"

"Ava, please respond to these questions."

The reporters kept entangling her and questioning her. Ava wanted to leave. She did not want to pay any attention to these people, but Daniel, who was beside her, grew infuriated.

"Enough!" Daniel interrupted this troublesome crowd furiously, his thick eyebrows furrowing together tightly.

"Can you reporters go and cover some positive news that's happening in society? Have you ever thought that you'll end up hurting someone if you conduct interviews for gossip that has no factual basis?"

Those reporters were a little stunned when they heard Daniel's rhetorical questions.

However, Chloe's fans seemed to have found a perfect opportunity and reason to keep attacking them.

"Hey, aren't you the scumbag who abandoned your original partner at the engagement party and then proposed to this vixen?"

"I heard that the son of the Grahams is an elegant gentleman, but it seems that the rumors are false. In reality, you're just a scumbag!"

"Scumbag, do you have problems with your eyes? How could you like such an evil woman? Have you read the news on the internet? This vixen splashed boiling hot coffee on your original partner. She could even do such a thing! She's so inhumane!"

At first, these people were just attacking Ava, but now, they had shifted their anger to Daniel. Ava could not bear it anymore. She suddenly raised her sharp eyes and looked at these agitated people who seemed to be fighting for justice.

"You guys want a response and fight for justice, right? Fine, I'll give you a response, but please close those mouths that can't seem to say anything good!"

"..."

Ava's counterattack silenced everyone around her. At this moment, she was so powerful that she managed to shut the mouths of all those who were aggressive.

"Since you insist on interviewing me, then listen up!" Ava was unequivocal.

"Firstly, I, Ava Long, have never bullied the faint-hearted nor feared the stout-hearted. I will not deny what I have done. I did splash hot coffee on Naya that day, but that's because Naya splashed hot coffee on me first."

"Secondly, Raegan Xander is indeed my biological mother, but I've never thought that I have a great status because of it. The money she earns has nothing to do with me, so I won't bully others just because I have money."

"Thirdly, I never stole anyone's boyfriend. Daniel and I have always been in a relationship. Naya took the initiative to propose the idea of an engagement party to my boyfriend, saying that it was a way to appease my boyfriend's grandfather. Hence, they had no choice but to put on a performance. However, Naya just wanted to make this fake arrangement into reality. So, listen closely, the pretentious and diabolical one is Naya."

"Finally, I'm ending this with a quote. 'The truth may be late, but it will still come eventually'. The above is my response, so please don't bother me

again, you so-called righteous people. Otherwise, I'll go through legal proceedings to deal with all of you."

After Ava finished speaking, she held Daniel's hand with a faint but meaningful smile. Then, she pushed through the crowd and strode into the door.

Naya, who was drinking coffee leisurely at home, saw this scene from the live broadcast and smashed the coffee cup in her hand to the floor in a fit of anger. The maid next to her was hit by the shards of the broken cup and groaned in pain.

"What are you screaming for? Hurry up and clean this up!" Naya roared angrily.

The maid shuddered with fright and hurriedly squatted on the floor to clean up the mess.

"Oh, Naya, why are you so angry?" Naya's mother came over to comfort her, saying, "Aren't the netizens scolding Ava? She's getting her retribution after bullying you. After some time, I think Daniel will break up with her as well. That diabolical woman is so nasty!"

Naya pursed her lips together unhappily. She did not want to tell her mother the truth.

At this time, Chloe came over. Naya grabbed Chloe and brought her to her room. Chloe took out the fake evidence she got from her bag, took a photo, and posted it on the internet. Then, she took a few more photos of the top part of Naya's chest that was covered in special effects makeup. They would pretend that the burn marks were serious.

As a result, the online discourse intensified.

Naya felt slightly better, but she was still dissatisfied and worried.

"Chloe, we're not going to screw this up, are we?"

"How could we mess this up? Can't you see that the netizens are scolding her? With the edited video and the proof from the hospital, I can guarantee that not only will Ava be finished but the company where Ava works will also be seriously affected. Also, Daniel..."

"Will Dan be affected too?" Naya was still worried about Daniel.

"Of course, he'll be. But think about it, Naya. If Daniel and his family are also implicated by Ava, they'll certainly hate her. When that happens, won't you have a chance with Daniel?"

After hearing these words, the corners of Naya's mouth gradually raised into a smile and she felt relieved.

On the other hand, after Ava reached the company, she explained what had happened to the manager of her department. Tom later showed up but he was very friendly and did not ask Ava to bear any responsibility. Instead, he asked Ava to go back and rest. Moreover, he even cracked a joke and asked Daniel to go back and accompany Ava.

After Ava thanked Tom, she informed Maisie before she left. While she was leaving, she spotted Kendra huddling with a few of their other colleagues. She was staring at Ava as she muttered something.

Ava could guess what Kendra was saying. She looked at Kendra calmly and walked out of the door with Daniel. While they were waiting for the elevator, Ava received a call from Madeline.

Ava did not hesitate and picked up the call. "Maddie, are there any updates?"

"Ava, I found something discovery."

When Ava heard what Madeline said, a glint of surprise flashed across her eyes.

"Maddie, where are you now?"

"I'm at the house Chloe invited you over that day," Madeline replied.

Ava replied that she would go over immediately before hanging up the phone. Before she hung up, Ava had vaguely heard the voice of a woman beside Madeline who seemed to be talking to her.

Daniel knew that Ava was going to look for Madeline. He was relieved. Ava asked him to go back to work first and Daniel obeyed. Not long after Daniel left, Ava suddenly received a call from Chloe.

Chloe was talking in an airy and arrogant tone, "Ava, what's wrong? Aren't you coming to work today? Are you not coming to work because of some personal matters? Your work attitude is so horrible. If you don't come today, I'll complain to your supervisor."

"I knew that you, a popular influencer, would say that. Complain if you want to," Ava replied nonchalantly and was about to hang up.

However, Chloe's provocative voice came from the other end. "Tsk tsk, people are so different when they have a wealthy mother. They're so arrogant when they speak."

Chloe then threatened her again, saying, "But I heard that you're very stubborn. You even told the media that your mother's money has nothing to do with you. So, if you don't come today, how are you going to get ten million dollars to pay for the liquidated damages?" Chloe warned Ava using the agreement again.

Ava did not want to pay any attention to the wicked Chloe, but when she remembered that Madeline was also in that residential area, she figured she would just go over since she had to face this horrible person sooner or later anyway. Hence, Ava did not give any response to Chloe and simply hung up the phone.

Chloe called her again, but Ava pretended not to see it and silenced her phone.

After more than ten minutes, Ava drove to the vicinity of this high-end community. When she got out of the car, she saw Madeline's car parked on the side of the road.

Madeline spotted Ava from the car and immediately got out to meet Ava.

"Maddie, you said on the phone that you found something surprising. What is it?" Ava asked impatiently.

Madeline smiled slightly, but her face quickly turned serious again. "Ava, I just saw Naya and Chloe enter the residential area together. Not long after they entered, I saw plenty of medial personnel and even a mob of people. I think Naya and Chloe were the ones who deliberately called these people over. They probably want to cause a bigger ruckus."

Ava glanced at the residential area. "No wonder they called me to come over. It seems that they want to put on another act."

"They called you before this?"

"Yeah." Ava nodded. "Maddie, what do you think I should do now? Should I go over?"

Madeline looked at Ava, feeling impressed. "Ava, you're still so courageous. Aren't you scared that once you go there, those people will circle you and curse you to death?"

Ava lifted her eyes and smiled smugly.

"Don't they want to continue to slander me and make this into an even bigger deal? Coincidentally, we want to do the same thing too. Now that she's invited so many media personnel, isn't this the best chance to stir sh\*t up? When we finally reveal the truth, the slaps they'll receive on their faces will be even more vicious."

Ava was confident, making Madeline admire her even more.

There were probably not many people who could be so optimistic and calm in the face of such rumors and criticism, yet Ava was one of them.

"Let's go, then. I'll accompany you." Madeline turned around and took a tablet: from the backseat. Then, she took Ava's hand and walked straight to the door.

"Maddie, are you really not afraid of being implicated by me and being chased and scolded by those so-called righteous bystanders?" Ava also looked at Madeline with admiration.

Madeline looked very relaxed. "Let them continue to scold if they dare. Jeremy will personally send them each a lawyer's letter."

"Heh, how nice is it to have a husband who'll back you up," Ava said jokingly.

"It's the same for you too. You have a fiancé who's always considerate of you." Madeline also joked. Then, she said seriously, "Actually, there's another person who also cares about you very much."

"Maddie, the person you're talking about is my birth mother, right?" Ava asked with a smile. In fact, she knew this in her heart, but she still could not accept it. Madeline did not say anything. Instead, she just nodded and smiled. They already tacitly knew the answer.

Naya and Chloe were waiting for Ava in the empty house, and they knew very well that there was a lot of media personnel waiting outside.

Behind the door, Naya asked Chloe in a low voice as she was a little unsure, "Will Ava really dare to come?"

"Isn't she very hot-tempered? If so, she'll definitely come." Chloe looked like she had seen through Ava's personality.

Ava had always been really straightforward. She would not hold suppress her grievances without venting out. Just when Naya wondered if Ava was really coming, she heard a commotion outside. Naya and Chloe quickly walked to the door, pricked up their ears, and listened to the sounds outside.

"I didn't expect her to come." Naya's face showed undisguised joy, but she quickly tried her best to suppress her happy emotions and adjusted her clothes. After she put on a pitiful expression, she opened the door and walked out. After Naya opened the door and went out, those people at the door all looked over at her.

However, what Naya did not expect was that not only Ava was here but Madeline too. Naya knew Madeline's status in Glendale, so she did not dare to target Madeline. She only dared to confront Ava.

"Ava? Why do you still come here? Why did you bring so many media personnel along?" Naya looked innocent and surprised, but in reality, she was the one who deliberately leaked the information to the media.

Ava did not want to argue with Naya at all, so she replied casually, "Yeah, I asked them to come. Isn't this what you want to see?"

"... "

Ava's answer was beyond Naya's expectations. She even froze for a few seconds before reacting. "Ava, what do you mean? I'm not fighting with you anymore. Why are you still bothering me?"

"Because I'm evil." Ava laughed and spoke ill of herself. Then, she faced the media personnel's cameras and those surprised bystanders magnanimously. After that, she walked toward Naya carefreely.

Naya was also shocked by Ava's move. She wanted to work with Chloe to humiliate Ava so that she would never have a chance to make a comeback. However, not only did Ava come here on her own but her actions also caused Naya to be at a loss.

When Chloe saw what was happening at the door, she quickly came over to support Naya. Then, she began targeting Ava.

"Ava, you're so shameless. How dare you call so many media personnel over so that you can bully Naya in front of them again? I think you want to become popular so badly that you've gone insane. Since you want to become popular, then we'll help you."

Chloe pretended to be filled with righteous indignation as she spoke. Then, she pointed at Ava angrily and faced the cameras.

"As you can see, this is Ava Long. She came to trouble my friend Naya again today. How can there be such a vicious woman in this world? She bullies others time and again. She's still as proud as ever. Does having a rich mother mean she can do whatever she wants?" Chloe turned back and pulled Naya to her side.

"Naya, tell everyone how this vixen robbed you of your fiancé and splashed you with hot coffee. You should expose her and let her be popular!"

After Chloe said that, Naya shook her head in a pretentious manner.

"Forget it, Chloe. Let's just forget about it. I don't want to embarrass everyone, let alone Dan. I just hope that Miss Long can truly love Dan because I don't want to fight anymore. Chloe, let's go in."

Naya was saying all those pitiful words and looking so vulnerable that she was almost in tears. It was really distressing to watch, and it also made the netizens on the internet even more disgusted with Ava. The abuse hurled at Ava became more and more vicious. However, Ava and Madeline were not bothered by that. The two of them were watching Chloe and Naya perform in a very calm manner.

Seeing that Ava was not speaking and only looking at her and Naya with a shallow smile, Chloe felt dissatisfied and a little anxious. She really wanted to provoke Ava like she did that day so that Ava would lash out. That way, they could further confirm that she was a shrewish and barbarous woman.

Unfortunately, Ava was very calm at the moment.

"Chloe, let's go back, I really don't want to see those things be exposed on the internet." Naya looked distressed. "Let's go."

"Naya, you're too kind." Chloe looked as if she felt sorry for Naya. "How can you let that woman bully you like this? This matter must not..."

"Hello, Miss Mendez. I'm Ava's friend. My name is Eveline." Madeline interrupted Chloe suddenly.

When Chloe heard that, she immediately answered, "Eveline, I know you. You're the wife of Mr. Whitman, the young master of Whitman Group. Although we really can't afford to offend you because of your status, I want to tell you in front of all the media personnel right now that we're not afraid of power!"

"Miss Tawney, you seem to be overthinking. I'm not an authority, and I'm standing here on the same level as you," Madeline explained calmly.

Chloe was confused. 'On the same level?'

"What do you mean, Mrs. Whitman?"

"I mean, I'm here to fight and get justice for my good friend," Madeline explained with a smile.

"What?" Chloe scoffed. "Do you still think it's necessary to get justice for Ava after everything she's done? She stole Chloe's fiancé and even splashed hot coffee on her. Does she still have the nerve to ask for justice after doing such vile things?"

"That's right. You're correct," Madeline replied, agreeing to what was being said.

Then, her answer confused Chloe, Naya, and also the media personnel around them.

Eveline was agreeing with Chloe?

Did she not want to seek justice for Ava?

What was going on?

When she saw the look of surprise and confusion on everyone's face, Madeline walked elegantly to Chloe and Naya.

"You're right, and the netizens on the internet are also right. People who steal the fiances of others and scald others with hot coffee are really not worthy of sympathy. They deserve it even if they're exposed on the internet, but I want to emphasize that it wasn't my friend Ava who did those things, Chloe. It's your good friend Naya."

Madeline said. Her eyes suddenly flickered to Naya's surprised face.

Naya opened her mouth like she was about to say something, but she was worried that she would offend Madeline by saying something wrong. Hence, she just bit her lip while pretending to be at a loss and aggrieved.

"Mrs. Whitman, I didn't do the things you said. Dan and I have been childhood sweethearts since we were young, and our relationship has always been very good. The Grahams were also very happy about my and Dan's relationship. I had no idea that Grandpa Graham was pretending to be sick. I only found out later." Naya explained aggrievedly, her eyes quickly filling with tears.

"Also, regarding the coffee spilling, I believe you must have seen the video on the internet. The video is real without any editing. It's not fake. If you don't believe me, you can ask a professional to verify it. I, Naya Mendez, will never do anything that goes against my conscience."

Naya swore, seemingly having a clear conscience.

Chloe also chimed in from the side, "Mrs. Whitman, I know you really want to clear your good friend's name, but what we're saying is all facts and we have evidence. Do you know how hot the coffee was? Even if it wasn't 100 degrees, it was still at least 90 degrees. Naya's flesh is still red after being scalded by such hot coffee. The doctor said that it'll take a while for her to recover."

"If it's a real burn, of course, it'll take a while to recover. But I want to say that even if Naya's burn doesn't heal, she only has herself to blame," Madeline said in a cold tone.

Everyone who heard this was greatly surprised. "Damn, Eveline actually said such a vicious statement to help her friend."

"She's using her power to bully others."

"How despicable!"

The bystanders started to criticize her.

Chloe chimed in as well, "Eveline, don't think you're all that because you're the young mistress of a wealthy family. You can't bully others like this!"

"Naya and you are the bullies." Madeline interrupted her directly. "Chloe, I know you're an influencer and you've always wanted to become popular, right? Since you have the chance today, I, Eveline Montgomery, will make you the trending topic."

As Madeline said that, her eyes became more and more piercing.

Chloe looked into Madeline's eyes, and her heart skipped a beat.

"Chloe, you said that Ava came here to cause trouble for Naya, but I'm sorry to tell you that I have a voice recording of you calling Ava to come over half an hour ago. Plus, your tone on the phone was completely different from your tone right now."

"..." When Chloe heard this, her expression changed. "W-What are you talking about? When did I call Ava? Ava was the one who deliberately came here to cause trouble..."

"I'm not done." Madeline said coldly. Then, she lifted her arrogant and charming eyes.

"Not long ago, I ran into a kind-hearted person in this residential area and they showed me a video. What's interesting about this video is that it's the same as the video you posted online but the angle is different. Also, the length of the video is double the length of the video you guys posted."

"..."

Madeline's words caused Chloe's and Naya's expressions to freeze at the same time. The media personnel around them also got excited after hearing it.

"Mrs. Whitman, did you just say that you have the full video of the coffee incident that day?" One of the reporters asked.

Both Chloe and Naya widened their eyes as they looked at Madeline with uneasy expressions.

Meanwhile, Madeline pursed her lips and smiled calmly. "Yes, I have the complete video of what happened."

Madeline's answer caused Chloe's and Naya's complexions to suddenly change again. The two looked at each other at the same time. They had the same look of anxiety and tension in their eyes.

How was this possible?

The only people at the scene that day were them and a servant who was running errands. The servant was also the one who shot the video. Did the servant give the video to Madeline?

No, that was impossible.

At that time, after the servant was done filming, Naya took the phone back as soon as possible. The servant should not have had the time to do anything else.

Eveline must be lying.

After thinking for a moment, Naya regained her composure. There was a pitiful look on her face again. "Mrs. Whitman, I don't know why you're saying that, but no matter how long the video in your hands is, it still can't change the facts."

"Naya is right!"

Chloe chimed in. However, her heart was not as calm as how Naya looked on the outside. After all, she knew very well what exactly happened. Even so, she had to pretend like she had a clear conscience no matter what. "Ava, don't think that your name will be cleared because you asked your rich

friend to say something like that. Stop daydreaming! Show us the video if you have the guts. If not, stop trying to act mysterious and confuse others!"

Ava slowly curled the corners of her lips. "Since you want to watch it, then I'll ask my good friend to fulfill your wish."

As she said that, she turned her head to look at Madeline. "Madeline, show everyone the piping hot evidence that you just obtained. Show them how good a performance these poor victims are giving us."

"Alright, I'll let everyone see the performance of Miss Mendez and this little miss influencer."

Madeline took out the tablet she brought along. Then, she quickly unlocked the screen and found the video she received not long ago. Before she played the video, Chloe and Naya saw the thumbnail of the video. The two women on the thumbnail were clearly them!

Was this real?

Naya was panicking right now. If they had the complete video, then did it mean the scene of her provoking Ava was also recorded?

Naya panicked. She did not want the media personnel and netizens to see her real self.

When Naya saw that Madeline was about to press play, she immediately pretended like she was about to pass out. She leaned against Chloe like she was exhausted and sluggish.

Chloe did not know what was going on. However, since they were in front of so many people, of course, she had to pretend like she was concerned. Therefore, she immediately grabbed Naya. "Naya, what's wrong?"

"I feel so dizzy all of a sudden," Naya answered weakly.

"How did this happen?" Chloe looked confused, then she glared at Madeline and Ava in dissatisfaction. "You must be so angered by those two and that's why you're feeling dizzy now. You've always been weak."

Chloe held Naya while feeling distressed. "I'll bring you inside so you can sit down."

Naya nodded weakly. "Okay..."

She was feeling pleased in secret. Right now, she only wanted to flee this scene.

"Wait." Madeline directly called out to the two who were about to turn around and flee.

"Miss Mendez, you're being naive if you think you can escape the truth."

Madeline's calm voice entered Naya's ears faintly. Naya suddenly opened her eyes that were pretending to be tired. Her expression became more and more unpleasant.

"Naya, you don't have to face this video now, but I can still show it to everyone here. Once they've seen it, I'll upload it online for all the netizens to watch."

Naya and Chloe stopped in their tracks at the same time. Before they could come back to their senses and look back, they heard a mean and provocative voice of a woman coming from the tablet.

Naya was all too familiar with this voice because that was her voice!

"Gosh..."

Those reporters who witnessed the truth could not help but sigh.

"It turned out that Naya was the one who took action first."

"If I were Ava, I would definitely fight back too! Who told her to splash coffee first?"

"Tsk, you're not 100 percent in the right even if you're the one who released videographic evidence first. I told you, how could there be such a coincidence that someone just happened to have a video of Ava bullying Naya? It turned out that these two were deliberately provocative."

"I think that influencer wants to be popular so badly that she's gone mad. She even decided to stir up such drama."

After hearing these words that were coming from behind her, Naya could not hold herself back anymore. She stood up straight and gone was her

weak appearance from a moment before. She turned around and looked back at the tablet in Madeline's hand.

Madeline saw Naya looking back at her, so she pulled the progress bar to the beginning again calmly, letting Naya watch the video from beginning to end. Naya was stunned. The angle of this video seemed to be shot from the door, which was completely different from the angle they asked the servant to shoot at.

In other words, there was someone at the door at that time and everything that happened on that day was filmed.

Who was this person?

Was it Eveline?

"Weren't you dizzy just now, Miss Mendez? Why aren't you dizzy now?" Madeline asked with a smile. "I wonder if you're feeling better after watching this full video?"

"..."

Naya's face turned pale for a while, and her eyes were fixed on the tablet. She did not know how to refute anymore.

Chloe was also stunned when she saw this video. Unexpectedly, when she asked someone to shoot the video, there was also someone shooting this scene from the outside. When she saw how she and Ava were aggressive toward Ava in the video, she could not bear to look at it anymore.

The image of the weak victim she had before was gone now. However, she still did not want to admit it as she did not want her reputation to suffer because of it.

"T-This video is not real! It must have been edited!" Chloe quibbled.

Madeline smiled when she heard that, but the smile quickly dissipated and there was a sharp edge in the depths of her eyes.

"You know best in your heart whether the video is edited or not."

"Naya, I know that you're very dissatisfied that the person Daniel loves is Ava, so you thought of joining forces with your so-called good friend to

make a fool out of Ava. But I guess heaven isn't blind. When you were planning to frame Ava, someone just so happened to film the whole truth on video."

Madeline said and shifted her sharp eyes to Chloe's face.

"Miss Influencer, can you guess who's the person who recorded the complete video?"

When she saw the deep smile on Madeline's face, Chloe's expression gradually became rigid. She had a feeling that the person Madeline was going to mention might be someone she knew. However, Chloe still refused to admit that the incident was real.

"This video must've been edited and the person you mentioned doesn't exist!"

Chloe was still insisting and quibbling. She turned her head and saw Naya looking like she was in a trance, so she took Naya's hand.

"Naya, let's go. Don't waste your breath on these people. They came prepared!"

Right now, Naya just wanted to get rid of the problems in front of her so she wanted to take advantage of the situation and go with Chloe. However, the media would not let this happen now.

"Aren't you going to explain this, Miss Mendez?"

"The two women in this video are clearly both of you and it doesn't look like it was edited. Don't you have any explanation for this?"

"What explanation? I just told you that this video is edited! It's fake!" Chloe was shamed into anger. She wanted to flee the scene quickly after she said that angrily.

However, Madeline naturally would not give her such a chance. "Naya, you don't seriously think this will be over just because you're running away from it, right? You created rumors, slandered Ava, and incited netizens who don't know the truth to expose Ava online. I can't let the matter rest just like that."

Madeline's tone suddenly became a lot more serious.

"You made this matter known to everyone and made it impossible for Ava to live a normal life. Now that the truth has surfaced, you'll soon know how uncomfortable it is to be exposed on the internet and have your normal life affected."

Madeline did not seem to be joking at all as she solemnly emphasized.

"Chloe, you may not have thought that this video was accidentally shot by one of your fans."

"..."

'What?' Chloe was completely stunned. This video was actually recorded by her fan?

"This fan of yours really liked the persona you created for yourself on the internet, but after this incident, she saw that your cute and innocent image was all a disguise. She was very disappointed in you..."

After listening to Madeline's explanation, Chloe felt her chest getting heavier. It turned out that she had a true fan, but now, it seemed that she had messed everything up.

Did she just set up a trap for herself?

"Your fan is also a resident here. She happened to run into you that day, so she was incredibly happy and excited. She wanted to record a video so she could tell her friends that she met her idol here. It just so happened that she filmed the video of you and your good friend Naya teaming up against Ava." Madeline revealed the whole story.

Chloe and Naya were speechless by now. However, when Chloe thought that the persona she created was going to be destroyed just like this, she did not want to admit to it no matter what.

"What fan? What do you mean by it being a coincidence? Eveline, this is a lie you made up yourself! I swear that no such thing happened! Ava stole Naya's fiancé and it was her who splashed Naya with hot coffee. Everything was done by Ava and Naya is the real victim!"

Chloe stressed while feeling flustered and exasperated, but at this moment, a figure walked over from the crowd.

"Naya isn't the victim. She's the perpetrator who joined forces with another party to frame Miss Long." A woman's voice came through the crowd.

Naya and Chloe were stunned for a moment. The others also looked over and saw a petite girl who seemed like a college student walking over with a serious expression.

"Who are you? How dare you lie about us like this? Did Eveline hire you to put on an act here?" Chloe looked at the girl questioningly.

When the girl heard what Chloe said, her eyes became more desolate and disappointed. However, soon after, the girl took a deep breath to adjust her emotions.

"I don't know who Eveline is at all. I only know that I became a huge fan of you this year. No, I should say that I became a fan of the persona you created for the internet. I really regret it. How could I like a person like you?"

"..."

After the girl finished talking, Chloe seemed to freeze in an instant. She was completely dumbfounded. It turned out that the girl in front of her was the fan that Eveline mentioned. Chloe suddenly felt as if she had shot herself in the foot.

"I can vouch that the video I filmed is the whole truth, and I can also be a witness. I saw everything that happened at that time." The girl emphasized, "Everything I said is true, if someone doubts me, I can go to the police station and let the police verify whether the video I captured is real."

The girl was just and righteous. Every word she said was decisive, rendering Chloe with no way to refute. This scene was also spread to the internet through the live broadcasts of the media personnel.

The image Chloe created for the internet completely collapsed at this moment, and the image of Naya being the pitiful victim also came crumbling apart. The group of netizens who heckled and abused Ava back then quickly switched their targets.

More and more people went into Chloe's homepage but her number of followers kept dropping. The true fans who really liked her and supported her in the past also started unfollowing her one after another.

Naya was not doing any better. All her personal and private information was exposed on the internet just like how she previously instigated netizens to expose Ava's information.

All her private information from details about her family background to how arrogant and rude she used to be in school were all exposed.

Naya was boiling with rage!

She originally set a trap for Ava, but she did not expect to fall into that trap herself!

After Naya left the scene in a hurry, her face turned red in anger as she looked through the remarks about herself on the internet. Chloe sat next to her and slammed her hand down on the table angrily. "Damn it! I didn't expect Ava to be able to prove her innocence!"

"It's all your fault! It was fine before a fan of yours showed up to accuse us. Your fan screwed up all of our original plans!"

"What?! You're blaming me now?" Chloe glared at Naya unwillingly. "Do you think I would end up in this state if I hadn't helped you? I've lost hundreds of thousands of fans in such a short period! Those true fans who were originally devoted to me have all fled and you're still blaming me?"

"Why can't I blame you? Your fans mean nothing. Didn't you make up a persona online for money? I have all the money in the world! But do you know that my background has been exposed now?"

Naya was extremely distressed.

"My socialite image is all destroyed. Dan will definitely feel more sorry for Ava too. I will never be able to make Dan side with me anymore, do you understand?"

Chloe knew that her ability and financial resources were not as powerful as Naya's, so she could only pout. Seeing that Naya was so angry that her chest was still heaving violently, Chloe rolled her scheming eyes and said,

"Since things have already come so far, why don't we just go all out and do something big?"

A wicked cold light flashed across Chloe's eyes.

Naya was stunned for a moment. She wanted to say something but stopped herself. Then, she picked up the coffee cup in front of her and took a sip. In the blink of an eye, she seemed to have made up her mind.

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After the truth of this incident was completely exposed, Ava also returned to her normal life. Upon learning the situation, Reagan could breathe a sigh of relief as well. She wanted to comfort Ava too, but she did not dare to approach Ava recklessly.

On that note, Chloe and Naya made Ava suffer so many grievances and caused others to doubt her. Reagan took these personally. She got someone to shut out Chloe, and as for Naya, Reagan naturally would not allow her to continue to be so free and easy.

Naya originally thought that this incident would slowly pass and no one would remember how she and Chloe had teamed up to frame Ava. After all, the netizens were very forgetful. However, she did not expect that as soon as she went out to shop, everyone looked at her with strange eyes.

She would go to this particular luxury store every once in a while, but now, for some reason, the things she had her eyes on would always be out of stock. Judging from the gazes of the salespeople, they must be aware of the conflict between her and Ava. Naya felt ashamed and left the luxury store with a gloomy expression. She picked up her phone and called Chloe. She asked to meet in her private apartment.

After they saw each other, Chloe said to Naya in a mocking tone, "Do you know who I saw on the way here?"

Naya was not stupid either and could hear the clue from Chloe's mysterious tone.

"Did you see Ava?"

Chloe sneered, "Not just Ava but also Dan whom you're always thinking of."

Upon hearing this, Naya's initially unpleasant expression became even gloomier. "What were they doing together?"

"They got into the car hand in hand while carrying shopping bags. The two of them looked so sweet. Judging from the direction they drove off to, they must be going to Daniel's house. It seems that Dan was bringing Ava to meet his parents."

After Chloe said that, Naya clenched her fists as her face turned red with anger.

"That b\*tch Ava caused me to be criticized even when I go out to shop while she's shopping with Dan so carefreely? Why?!" Naya cursed in anger.

"It's because she's good at seducing others." Chloe hurriedly added fuel to the flames. "Naya, I really feel sorry for you. You and Daniel were childhood sweethearts. Plus, your relatives and friends were optimistic that you'd get married to each other, but unexpectedly, Ava appeared all of a sudden."

Chloe sighed again and said, "I understand this feeling the most. It's a treasure that you had your eye on for many years and it was going to be yours soon, but all of a sudden, a robber suddenly showed up and snatched your treasure. Tell me, how could you take this lying down?"

After what Chloe said, Naya became angrier the more she thought about it.

Yes, Daniel was about to be her man but Ava's appearance shattered her beautiful future. She was nearly engaged to Daniel and was only one step away from being Mrs. Graham. However, not only was all this destroyed by Ava but she also became a target of scorn.

How could she swallow this anger?

When Chloe saw that Naya's emotions had been triggered, she started to incite her, though it was seemingly done out of kindness.

"Naya, we're good friends, after all. You've always taken care of me so much. I really can't stand seeing you be bullied like this. Do you remember what I told you the last time in the cafe? Do you really want to watch the

man who originally belonged to you marry and have children with another woman?"

"Of course, I don't want such a day to come!" Naya almost roared, her eyes widening viciously as her breathing grew heavy.

"You were right last time. When a person's existence hinders one's life, then that person is better off disappearing from this world."

Naya's eyes became sinister and vicious for a moment. After a while, she stabilized her emotions and seemed to ask calmly.

"Will your plan work?"

"It'll definitely work. Even if something happens, it'll have nothing to do with us," Chloe swore, but Naya still had some concerns.

"Do you really have someone you can trust to execute this?"

"Naya, don't worry so much. As long as money is involved, anything is possible for people who do those kinds of things. You should transfer the money to me first and then I'll transfer it to that person. You'll have no contact with that person, so even if something happens, you won't be involved."

Chloe calmed Naya's emotions and then told her the plan again.

"After that person gets the money, he'll find a suitable time to go to tamper with Ava's car. After this matter is done, I think it won't be long before we see on the news that a female driver suffered from an accidental death due to brake failure."

Accidental death. Naya was very happy with those two words.

She pulled the corners of her mouth into a smile. "Ava, you shouldn't have laid a hand on me. What I hate most in my life is someone fighting over something with me. Since you're seeking death, who am I to stop you?" Naya chuckled in disdain and quickly transferred 100,000 bucks to Chloe.

"Give the money to that person. After the job is done, I'll give you another 100,000 bucks," Naya said in an arrogant tone, "I won't treat the people who help me badly."

Chloe only flattered Naya so much and always curried favor with her because of Naya's wealth. This time, it was also for money. However, Chloe was lying to Naya. She was just going to put on an act. After all, if the police started investigating this murder case, it would be difficult for her to get rid of the suspicions on her. If she was caught because of this, she would not have the chance to enjoy whatever money she got. Hence, Chloe had already plotted everything from the start. She was not going to help Naya and was just doing this for her own interests. However, Chloe still had to do something in case Naya thought that she was lying to her.

On the weekend, Chloe brought a man along to find Ava's car in the parking lot of her apartment. Then, using some tools, they opened Ava's door without leaving a trace. That man went inside and pretended to do something. Chloe hid at one side and secretly took a photo of this scene to send to Naya.

She told Naya that the job was done.

When she saw Naya's satisfied reply, Chloe then asked the person to leave. However, not long after Chloe left, a figure appeared behind a pillar not far away. After that person looked around them cautiously, they quickly approached Ava's car...

At this moment, Ava was nestled in Daniel's arms in her apartment. They were watching a movie that was playing on the projector screen in front of them. They rarely had the weekend together so they originally planned to go out and have a stroll to relax, but it happened to be raining lightly today.

In addition to it being the transition period from late winter to early spring, it was extremely cold and humid outside. Hence, they chose to seek warmth from each other and watch a movie in the apartment instead. They had also asked Madeline and Jeremy to come over for dinner in the evening. The timing would be just right if they started cooking after finishing the movie. However, as Ava was watching the movie, her mind wandered slightly.

She went to Graham Manor with Daniel two days ago, and once again, she could clearly feel the change in Daniel's mother's attitude toward herself. In the past, she would ignore Ava and roll her eyes at her with disgust. Now, she would greet Ava warmly and have a smile on her face the entire time.

Plus, she even lowered herself and apologized to Ava for what happened in the past.

Ava knew that the change in her attitude was because of her wealthy mother and not because Daniel's mother was really willing to accept her.

Ava also told herself not to think too much about it. As long as she and Daniel could be together peacefully, she would not ask for anything more. As she was thinking of this, she felt a surge of sweetness in her heart and hugged Daniel's arm tightly with a smile.

Daniel also felt the change in Ava's mood, so a surge of sweetness also flowed through his heart. He hugged Ava even harder.

After the movie, Daniel and Ava went to the kitchen together and started preparing dinner. Since they had invited Madeline and Jeremy to come over, the dishes they were preparing were very sumptuous.

Daniel and Ava chatted and laughed as they cooked. The atmosphere looked very harmonious.

"Speaking of which, the four of us are all alumni, Danny. You and Jeremy are seniors to Maddie and me. You guys are one year older than us. Back then, Maddie liked Jeremy very much. I only noticed you in the years Maddie was pursuing Jeremy. Now that I think about it, maybe some things were meant to be."

Ava lamented with a smile, but she felt very blessed and happy.

Daniel also lamented with a grin. "Yeah, this must be fate."

"Yeah..." Ava nodded with a smile and put away the washed ingredients one by one.

When she looked at the time and was about to start cooking the first dish, she realized that she had run out of tomato paste.

"I'll go buy it. I'll get some fresh fruits too while I'm at it." Daniel packed up and prepared to go out.

"Danny, buy some ingredients for dessert too. I'll send you a message in a while. You can decide what to buy." Ava followed Daniel to the entrance.

Daniel nodded with a smile. Then, he changed his shoes, picked up the car keys on the cabinet at the entrance, and turned to open the door.

When the door opened, a cool breeze came in. Suddenly, Daniel turned around again.

"Go in. It's cold outside." He reminded Ava with a soft smile.

Ava looked at Daniel's gentle gaze and nodded obediently.

"Yeah, come back soon. I'll wait for you. I don't know how to make some of the dishes. I need you to come back to make them."

"I got it, Miss Long. I'll come back soon." Daniel promised. Suddenly, he went in front of Ava and lowered his head to give her a soft peck on the cheek before turning around.

For some reason, Ava felt an intense emptiness in her heart the moment she watched the door close. She stood on the same spot.

This was something normal. This was not the first time Daniel had gone out to buy something, but for some reason, she felt abnormally reluctant today. Also, Daniel seemed to be reluctant to part from her as well. Ava stood there for a while before going back to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

About half an hour later, Madeline and Jeremy arrived.

Seeing that Madeline had brought fruits and her homemade dessert, Ava pretended to be depressed. "Maddie, If I knew you would bring fruits and desserts, I wouldn't have asked Danny to go out to buy them."

"What? Do you feel bad that your future husband is outside in such cold weather?" Madeline teased while helping Ava prepare dinner.

Ava was used to it and she admitted, saying, "Yes, of course. I feel bad since it's so cold out there. You'd feel the same way if it was your man."

It was an open concept kitchen, so Madeline glanced at Jeremy, who was sitting on the sofa watching the projector screen while eating fruits. She said indifferently, "He and I have been married for so long. How would we be as sentimental as you two?"

"Married for so long, huh? You're not any less sweet than those young couples fresh in love," Ava replied with a smile and subconsciously looked at the time. "I'll give Danny a call."

Ava wiped her hands and picked up the phone. However, no one answered the call even though it got through. For some reason, Ava's heartbeat suddenly became very unstable.

She tried calling again but still, no one answered.

Madeline noticed Ava's worried expression and stopped doing what she was doing at the moment.

"What's wrong? Is Dan not answering the phone?"

"Yeah, he's not. " A look of worry appeared in Ava's eyes as her heartbeat became uneasy. "Nothing had happened to him, right?"

"No way. Maybe he's not paying attention to his phone because he's driving or his phone is on silent mode," Madeline guessed aloud. It helped relieve Ava a little.

"That's possible. We'll just wait, then." Ava held her phone, but it seemed to be getting more difficult for her to breathe. She felt as if something was stuck in her throat and she could not get it out. Ava walked back to the kitchen but she was absent-minded.

Madeline also noticed Ava's inattentiveness and knew that she was worried about Daniel.

It had been more than an hour since Daniel went out. There was a supermarket near the apartment, and it only took ten minutes to drive there. Ava did not think that Daniel would take so long when she took time to make a round trip and shop into account. Daniel had not responded to the message she sent him after he went out either.

The more she thought about it, the more restless her heart became. She could not wait any longer, so she took off her apron and was about to go out.

Jeremy, who was sitting in the living room, raised his eyes when he heard the commotion. When he saw Ava's nervous expression, he felt a little strange. "What's wrong? What happened?"

"Dan has been out for a long time and he's not back yet. Ava is a little worried and wants to go to the supermarket nearby to take a look," Madeline explained. "Jeremy, you should stay here. I'll accompany Ava out to take a look at things."

"I'll drive you," Jeremy said and got up.

Madeline and Ava did not reject his offer. They went out together.

On the way to the supermarket, Ava clenched her fists. Cold sweat started appearing in the palms of her hands unknowingly. She kept having a bad feeling. This feeling seemed to be confirmed when she saw a crowd gathering at the crossroad not far away from the supermarket.

"Stop the car!" Ava yelled those three words, unable to control herself.

Jeremy quickly stopped the car, and Ava opened the door to quickly run over.

"Ava!"

Madeline shouted in Ava's direction, but Ava had already rushed into the crowd.

Jeremy looked curiously at Ava who was suddenly behaving frantically and came up with a possibility in his mind. He was about to speak when Madeline hurriedly opened the door and followed. He did not think much before he rushed out of the car to chase after Madeline.

There were many people in front of her, so Ava pushed the crowd away and came to the front. When she saw the familiar vehicle, her blood seemed to be chilled by the cold wind. The bright red scene in front of her turned dark gray in her eyes.

She collapsed to the ground limply almost instantly. The people around her were puzzled. They all thought that Ava was frightened by the scene of the car accident.

Madeline could smell the blood before she even got close. Her heartbeat gradually became uneasy too. When she saw the car in front of her that had gotten into an accident, she was stunned.

This was Ava's car. She was not mistaken. Almost half of the car was caught under a big truck and the paramedics were on standby, waiting for the rescuers to rescue the victims trapped in the car.

Madeline dared not make any guesses, but her strong, restless heartbeat told her that something bad might have happened to Daniel.

She tried hard to stabilize her emotions before quickly running to Ava's side. Then, she squatted down and pulled Ava into her arms.

"Ava, are you alright?"

"Danny..." Ava looked at the car in front of her like she was in a trance. She did not cry, but her mental state seemed tense.

She might still be expecting something. She might still be expecting Daniel to be okay. She was even so selfish to hope that this was not her car and it was just a car of the same model. However, even when she was deceiving herself like this, she could not pretend that she could not see the license plate number.

Ava stared at the car with a pale face and took out the phone from her pocket with trembling hands. It was obviously a number she knew by heart, but she could not seem to remember the string of numbers at the moment. She flipped through the call log with trembling fingers and dialed Daniel's number again.

A few seconds later, amid the noise, Ava heard a familiar melody coming from the front.

At this moment, Ava's tears seemed to escape from the corners of her eyes as though a dam had burst.

It was at this same moment that Madeline saw that the rescuers were finally bringing out the wounded who was trapped in the wrecked car. The paramedic on the side also quickly stepped forward to carry the wounded onto a stretcher.

Ava restrained her emotions that seemed to be at the brink of a breakdown. She got up with Madeline's help and walked over. When she saw the blood on the face of the person on the stretcher, she immediately lost all senses and fainted.

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Since Naya did not want to go out and be criticized by others, she had been staying in her apartment and watching videos. Suddenly, she came across a short video of a car accident in her city. At a glance, she saw that the car was half-smashed into a truck. The blood on the ground was blurred, and finally, her eyes fell on the car's license plate number.

'Is this... Ava's car?'

The corners of Naya's mouth lifted into a smile. To confirm that this was Ava's car, she watched the video Chloe sent her before again and realized the license plate number was exactly the same.

Ava got into an accident so soon.

Naya was a little surprised. She did not expect Ava to use the car today. She thought that she would have to wait until Ava went to work tomorrow before she discovered that there was a problem with the brakes and got into a car accident. She did not expect that the moment she had been waiting for came so soon!

Naya's uncontrollable joy was about to pour out of her. She quickly went to search for more relevant videos of the car accident and was browsing through them happily. However, before she could be happy for long, the smile on her face suddenly froze.

She saw Ava crying in the crowd and Madeline beside her. Then, she saw paramedics lifting a man covered in blood onto a stretcher and into an ambulance.

Although the video was not high-definition enough, Naya still recognized the man lying on the stretcher as Daniel at a glance!

Naya's mind immediately became muddled. She felt so uncomfortable that she could not breathe normally. She could not believe this, and neither did she want to believe that it was Daniel who had gotten into an accident, not

Ava. She looked at a few more videos and the scene that caught her eye told her that she was not mistaken. It was indeed Daniel who had gotten into the accident.

Naya's hand shook violently, causing her phone to drop to her feet.

The comments she had just read reappeared in her mind, many of which were comments made by people at the scene. They said that they had witnessed the accident with their own eyes.

They said that Daniel's car seemed to have lost control at the time and it hit the big truck. It was also said that after Daniel was rescued, his entire face was badly injured. It was impossible to see what he originally looked like.

Naya felt as if the sky was falling when she thought about these comments.

She hurriedly picked up the phone on the ground, hastily grabbed a coat, and went straight to the hospital that the netizens mentioned.

After arriving at the hospital, Naya asked the hospital staff and found the location of the emergency room. From a distance, she saw Ava and Madeline waiting at the door of the emergency room with Jeremy not far away. Naya did not dare to go over. Her eyes fell on Ava as they got colder and darker.

'Why did you let Dan suffer this for you? Ava, you're the one who should die!'

Naya cursed fiercely in her heart. When she was hesitating whether to go over, two figures suddenly passed by her side. They were Daniel's parents who just got the news.

Daniel's parents hurried to the door of the emergency room, seemingly unaware of Naya's existence.

When Daniel's mother saw Ava sitting there with a sluggish expression, she hurriedly asked, "What's going on? What on earth is going on? Dan was fine a second ago. How could Dan have gotten into a car accident? I saw on the internet that the car wasn't Dan's at all! Is this a mistake?"

"Hello, Mrs. Graham. I'm Ava and Dan's friend, Eveline. That car is indeed not Dan's. Dan drove Ava's car to go to the supermarket to buy some

things and got into an accident on the way back." Madeline tried to keep her emotions in check as she explained patiently word by word.

Upon hearing this, the eyes of Mrs. Graham suddenly turned red as her voice trembled. "Does it mean that Dan is really the one who got into an accident? How could this happen? Why is this happening? How is Dan now?"

Although Naya was far away, she could still hear the emotional questioning of Daniel's mother.

She was also very nervous at the moment as she waited for the answer that Madeline and the rest would tell Mrs. Graham.

She hoped that Daniel was not in any danger, but the nervous Naya only got an uncertain answer.

"The doctor is doing all he can to rescue Dan. Dan is a good man and he'll be blessed by God, so I'm sure it won't be too serious. Mr. and Mrs. Graham, sit down with us. Let's wait for the operation to be over."

Madeline persuaded in a friendly tone. She did not want to tell them not to worry too much. As parents, how could they not worry about their child?

Daniel's parents listened to Madeline. The worry on their face intensified, and Daniel's mother also started crying inconsolably. "How could this be? How could such a thing happen to Dan? He was fine when he left the house in the morning and now he's in the operating room covered in blood! How could this be?"

Daniel's mother cried sadly while leaning against Daniel's father.

Madeline did not know how to comfort her, and Ava, who was beside her, wept even harder when she heard Daniel's mother crying.

"Ava, don't cry." Madeline tried to appease Ava's emotions, but she knew all too well that only Daniel's safety could truly appease Ava's heart at this time.

Madeline glanced at the operating room in front of her. The red light continued to stay on. After two long hours, the door of the operating room finally opened.

Ava rushed over immediately, her scarlet eyes staring straight at the chief surgeon.

"Doctor, how is my boyfriend? Is he okay now?"

Daniel's parents also had heavy looks on their faces as they looked at the chief surgeon expectantly.

The doctor looked at them and sighed with regret. "We've done our best. The patient has to rely on his willpower to survive."

Upon hearing those words, Ava instantly seemed to have been drained of all her strength. She weakly fell backward.

Madeline quickly reached for Ava. "Ava!"

Daniel's mother cried out in despair, "Dan!"

Jeremy, who was standing on the side, felt bad as well when he saw this scene. 'One will never know if misfortune will befall them tomorrow,' he thought silently as his eyes naturally fell on Madeline again.

In the days to come, he just wanted to cherish the people around him even more. It was because the future was not guaranteed.

After Daniel came out of the operating room, he was transferred to the intensive care unit. His family members were not allowed to visit him.

Ava could only stand at the door of the intensive care unit and watch Daniel, who was lying on the bed, through the glass window.

Daniel's injuries were serious because the front of the car had hit the back of the truck, causing the airbag to deploy. Daniel's brain was severely concussed and there were various degrees of fractures and scratches all over his body. Hence, his whole body was covered with gauze.

Madeline looked at Ava, who was crying silently from devastation. She could only stay by her side without disturbing her. She could fully understand Ava's feelings at the moment. When Jeremy was unconscious in the hospital because of an accident, she was in the same state as well. She still felt sad whenever she thought of that heart-wrenching feeling.

Since Daniel's vital signs were alright now, the doctor advised them to go back first.

Although Daniel's parents were unable to accept this situation, they still decided to go back to discuss Daniel's care in the future. At the same time, they would also get ready to transfer Daniel to a better hospital.

However, Ava insisted on staying. She had no intention of dealing with other matters right now and did not want to go back to the apartment at all.

Madeline said a few words to Jeremy and stayed with Ava. She was Ava's only friend. Back then when she was helpless, only Ava was there by her side. She could not let Ava face this alone. Right now, Ava needed comfort and someone to rely on the most.

Jeremy could emphasize, so he listened to Madeline and went back first.

Naya, who had been hiding in the distance and paying attention to the situation, saw that almost everyone had left. Hence, she did not stay there any longer. Naya drove away immediately, but not in the direction of her apartment but Graham Manor.

In her initial plan, the person who was supposed to get into a car accident was Ava. However, Daniel took Ava's place. Therefore, Naya was angry but at the same time, worried about Daniel.

After all, her feelings for Daniel were genuine. Over the years, she had done everything she could to marry Daniel, so it could be said that she really loved this man. However, now that things had turned into this, even if she loved Daniel a lot, she must do whatever she could to get rid of all possible suspicions on her.

Not long after Daniel's parents returned home, Naya arrived.

Naya pretended to have just found out about Daniel's accident and hurriedly entered through the door. When she saw that Daniel's mother was sitting on the sofa in tears, Naya strode over.

"Mrs. Graham, is it true what's being said on the internet? Did something bad happen to Dan?"

Naya rushed to Daniel's mother and asked, her eyes filled with tears that had been suppressed for a long time.

Daniel's mother was thinking about Daniel at the moment, so she was not in the mood to think about why Naya had appeared at this time. She just thought that Naya cared about Daniel and nodded sadly.

"Dan was in a car accident and he's now in the hospital's intensive care unit. The doctor said whether he wakes up or not will depend on his will to survive..."

Daniel's mother choked up and cried as she spoke. "How could Dan be so unlucky to encounter such a thing..."

"How could this happen, Dan..." Naya also burst into tears, and her eyes turned red from sadness. "I just met Dan a while ago and he was fine. How could something like this happen after just a few days?"

Naya said quietly and glanced at Daniel's mother from the corners of her eyes. Then, she pretended to be puzzled.

"Mrs. Graham, the netizens on the internet are saying that it was too late for Dan to avoid the big truck because the car's brakes failed, but I watched the video and it's not Dan's car. Mrs. Graham, did they make a mistake?"

"That car wasn't Dan's. He was driving Ava's car," explained Daniel's mother.

This was the answer Naya wanted to hear, so she decided to use this to make a fuss. She pretended to sigh.

"So it turns out that the car belongs to Dan's girlfriend, Ava. I've read that the brakes of this car brand often have problems. If Dan hadn't driven Ava's car, this wouldn't have happened. Dan is so pitiful."

Daniel's mother was shocked when she heard Naya's seemingly unintentional words.

"You're right. Dan wouldn't have gotten into the accident if he hadn't driven Ava's car!" Daniel's mother's eyes suddenly became extremely piercing.

"Just now at the hospital, Eveline said that Dan was on the way back from the supermarket. Ava must have been the one who asked Dan to go to the

supermarket! That car got into an accident today and it was Dan who's faced with this tragedy instead of Ava. The one who got into an accident today should've been Ava! Even if someone were to die, it should be Ava. My Dan was harmed by that woman!"

Daniel's mother suddenly became very emotional. Her initial sadness seemed to be replaced by anger. She stood up abruptly and strode toward the door.

Naya could probably guess where Daniel's mother was going, but she pretended to be curious and concerned as she caught up to her.

"Mrs. Graham, where are you going? Don't walk so fast. It's raining outside. Be careful. The road is slippery."

"I'm going to look for Ava! I want her to give me back my Dan!" Daniel's mother replied angrily with a sob.

When Naya heard the words, she smiled wickedly. However, in order to put on a complete show, she still pretended to go over and stop Daniel's mother.

"Mrs. Graham, calm down. What's the use of you going to Ava like this? And have you forgotten? Ava has so many people behind her. Her mother, Eveline, and Jeremy are all standing behind her. It'll be very hard even if you want justice."

Naya deliberately said this to intensify the conflict between Daniel's mother and Ava.

Sure enough, Mrs. Graham's expression became more unpleasant the next second.

Naya knew that her goal had been achieved. She had triggered Mrs. Graham's hatred for Ava and at the same time, she got rid of the possible suspicions on her.

When Naya was about to add more fuel to the fire, Old Master Graham came downstairs angrily.

"I told you a long time ago that we couldn't let Dan be with that woman. So what if her mother is wealthy? Do we not have money? Do the Mendezes

not have money? Nothing would've happened if Dan had gotten engaged to Naya early on. Great, something bad has happened to Dan now!"

Old Master Graham smacked the cane in his hand against the floor angrily. His face was also overwhelmed with concern.

"What's the situation right now? What happened to Dan?"

Seeing Old Master Graham so angry, Daniel's mother burst into tears.

"When I just came back from the hospital, the doctor said that Dan's condition isn't optimistic and that he'll probably be in a vegetative state."

"What? A vegetative state?" Old Master Graham was shocked.

Naya's heart was also dealt a huge blow. The man she had loved for so many years was about to fall into a vegetative state!

Naya could not accept this result and grew even more worried. If the police thoroughly investigated the cause of the car accident, was it possible for her not to be implicated?

Naya took two steps back in panic. Daniel's mother thought that Naya was sad because she heard that Daniel would fall into a vegetative state, so that was why she could not stand still. Therefore, she quickly supported Naya.

"Naya, are you okay?"

Naya hurriedly returned to her senses and shook her head with a pale face.

"I... I'm fine." She tried to regulate her emotions. While she was at it, she squeezed out a few drops of tears. "I didn't expect this to happen to Dan. I'm really sad."

That was what Naya said, but she was more worried about whether the car accident would affect her.

"Don't be sad, Naya. The doctor also said that if Dan's will to survive is strong, there's still a chance that he'll wake up."

Daniel's mother consoled her. Then, she started to blame herself and feel remorseful.

"I should have insisted that Dan break up with that woman. Now, it's no use even if we have money.

"Naya, it's all my fault. Dan needs someone to cheer him on and accompany him now. If you have the time, why don't you go to the hospital to accompany Dan more? If Dan wakes up, I'll convince him to marry you."

"Mrs. Graham, don't worry. Regardless of what happens to me and Dan in the future, I'll still go to the hospital to take care of Dan," Naya promised, showing her understanding and generous side.

Daniel's mother was more satisfied with Naya after hearing this. Right now, she was starting to reject Ava more and more in her heart.

Hospital.

Ava watched Daniel all night in the intensive care unit, and Madeline accompanied her.

Jeremy went back to the hospital in the middle of the night and brought coats for both women. The corridor of the hospital was very cold. Even if the air conditioner was turned off, Ava's heart would still be cold.

Daniel was lying on the hospital bed, and there had been no response from him since he entered the ward. He looked like he was just sleeping, but Ava knew that this was not the case.

Madeline looked at Ava's increasingly haggard face and felt heartbroken.

"Ava, do you want to go back and rest first? Let Jeremy stay here with Dan. He'll notify us as soon as there's any news."

Madeline persuaded. Ava looked at Daniel who was lying on the hospital bed, and her dry eyes became wet again.

"I don't want to go back to rest. I'll just sleep here for a while." Ava declined, still wanting to keep an eye on Daniel here.

"How can you have a good rest here? Ava, listen to me and go back to sleep first. Dan's condition is stable now, so you don't have to worry too much."

Ava thought for a while and seemed a little swayed.

"Let's go, Ava. I'll drive you back." Madeline took Ava's hand.

Ava did not refuse and was about to go with Madeline.

"Jeremy, you should stay here with Dan and call me as soon as there are any updates," Madeline told the man beside him.

Jeremy responded quickly, "Don't worry, I'll be here to keep watch. You guys go back and have a good sleep."

"Okay." Madeline nodded. She did not say any more before taking Ava's hand and turning around.

However, before they could go far, Madeline saw Naya and Daniel's mother walking toward them hurriedly. Ava was already very tired, but at this moment, she deliberately cheered up to say hello to Daniel's mother. However, just as she was about to speak, Daniel's mother suddenly rushed in front of her, raised her hand, and slapped her across the face.

The sound of the slap was extremely loud.

Ava could not maintain her balance and staggered backward a little. Madeline quickly supported Ava and looked up to glare at Daniel's mother with dissatisfaction.

"Mrs. Graham, why did you slap Ava?"

"Yes, I slapped her!" Daniel's mother pointed at Ava angrily and gritted her teeth. "She's a bringer of trouble and bad luck! If Dan hadn't driven her car, how could such a thing have happened? It's all her fault!"

Upon hearing this, Madeline understood what Daniel's mother meant. However, she thought it was ridiculous.

"The crash was an accident No one wanted it to happen. How could the responsibility for this be placed on Ava? I don't think you're someone who can't tell right from wrong, Mrs. Graham."

"I don't want to know what's right and wrong now. I just want my son to be healthy and safe!" Daniel's mother emphasized while pointing at Ava.

"Leave right now. I don't want to see you again. Dan doesn't need you to stay by his side either. Get lost!"

Jeremy, who was on the side, could not stand it anymore. "I think if your son wakes up now, the person he would want to see most is Ava. Why are you driving her away? Do you think that if Ava is gone, your son's condition will improve?"

Daniel's mother looked up and met Jeremy's deep, cold eyes. She was a little scared, but she did not show any weakness. Instead, she just avoided Jeremy's eyes.

"In short, I don't want this woman to appear by my son's side again. My future daughter-in-law Naya will be taking care of my son from now on!"

Madeline was surprised by what Daniel's mother said.

Ava also looked at Daniel's mother in astonishment after hearing what she said.

"Mrs. Graham, what did you just say?" Ava looked in disbelief at Daniel's mother and Naya, who was standing beside Daniel's mother with a small smile.

It was obvious that Naya had said something to Daniel's mother. Otherwise, Daniel's mother would not have suddenly changed her mind at this time, calling Naya her future daughter-in-law.

"I was very clear just now. Do you really not understand or do you want me to repeat it to further humiliate yourself?"

Mrs. Graham's tone was very aggressive, and her eyes looked even more vicious.

"I shouldn't have agreed to let you get together with Dan, you bringer of misfortune! If Dan can't wake up, I'll definitely take you to court! I'll make you pay!"

Daniel's mother walked past Ava after warning her angrily. Naya also followed Daniel's mother, but when she passed by Ava, she deliberately bumped Ava with her shoulder.

After seeing this scene, Madeline was about to stop Naya, but Naya stopped herself first. She turned back to look at Ava with a strange smile. "I'm so sorry for bumping into you, Miss Long. I didn't mean to do it."

Naya was apologizing, but her eyes were full of provocation.

Of course, Madeline was reluctant to let Ava suffer like this in vain. However, Ava stopped her just as she was about to go forward.

"Maddie, I'm very tired. Go back and sleep with me."

Madeline knew that Ava was saying this because she did not want to make things worse or disturb Daniel, so Madeline suppressed her emotions and asked Jeremy to come back

"Jeremy, can you drive me and Ava back to my parents' house?"

Jeremy seemingly glanced at Naya before obediently following Madeline.

Naya quietly watched the trio turn around and leave from the corners of her eyes. Seeing that they were a distance away, Naya quietly chuckled and averted her gaze. However, she could not feel pleased for a long time. When she saw Daniel lying on the hospital bed with bandages and tubes all over his body, she suddenly felt horrible.

This accident was really unexpected. She wanted Ava to disappear from this world, but she did not think that Daniel would be injured.

Naya felt flustered once more. They could not start investigating his case. Otherwise...

"Naya," Daniel's mother called out to Naya suddenly. Naya snapped back to her senses. "Mrs. Graham..."

"Naya, I didn't expect you to be so affectionate and righteous. I don't know whether Dan will wake up or not. Do you really not mind taking care of Dan like this all the time?"

Naya knew that her feelings for Daniel were true, but if Daniel really fell into a vegetative state, she would not sacrifice her whole life for him. However, she still had feelings for Daniel now and there was no one else she was into, so naturally, she would just go along with the situation for now.

"Mrs. Graham, you watched me grow up. Don't you know what kind of person I am? Regardless of whether Dan will wake up in the future, I'll never leave him. Even if Dan wakes up in the future and still decides to choose Ava, I'll have no regrets."

Naya's hypocritical words sounded very touching to the ears of Mrs. Graham, who was so moved that her eyes were red. She immediately grabbed Naya's hand and praised her.

"Naya, you're such a good girl that's rare to come by. Dan didn't choose you because he's been blinded by that vixen."

Daniel's mother was pushing the blame on Ava.

Naya did not say anything. She just patted Daniel's mother's shoulder with a reassuring smile. Although she knew that she did not achieve a perfect win in this round, she did not lose either.

In the next few hours, Naya stayed at the door of the intensive care unit and never left. After another hour, Daniel's mother finally left.

As soon as she left, Naya immediately took out her mobile phone and called Chloe, but after several calls, Chloe still did not answer. Naya could not sit still anymore. When she was about to call again, Chloe took the initiative to call her back.

She answered the call without hesitation and asked, "Why didn't you answer your calls or reply to my messages? Where have you been? Do you know that something bad has happened?"

Chloe, who was on the other end, was immediately scolded and questioned by Naya. It took a few seconds before she answered in a daze.

"What? Who are you? Are you Naya? I was out playing and my phone ran out of battery. Why are you so urgently looking for me?"

"Have you been drinking too much? Where the hell are you? Don't you know that something bad has happened?"

"What's the matter? Let's talk when I wake up. I haven't slept all night," Chloe said weakly and was about to hang up.

Naya immediately stopped her. "You're still in the mood to sleep? Dan was in a car accident because of you and he may fall into a vegetative state!"

"What? What are you talking about? Who's Dan?" Chloe sounded like she was very drunk.

Naya was boiling with rage when she heard this. She was flustered and exasperated.

"Chloe, hurry and sober up! You got someone to do something to Ava's car that day, but Ava didn't drive the car. Daniel drove it. He got into a serious accident and might not ever wake up! The police have started to look into the car accident. They'll go looking for you soon, do you understand?"

After Naya finished saying that, there was a long silence on the other end of the phone. After a while, Chloe's stunned and astonished voice followed.

"W-What did you say? Daniel got into an accident while driving Ava's car?" Chloe asked in disbelief, then got an affirmative answer from Naya.

"Yes, it happened yesterday."

"Impossible! H-How is that possible?" Chloe was fully awake at the moment, but she could not believe that this was true.

She did not ask the person she got to do anything to the brakes. She just asked him to pretend to get in the car and do something to the car. In reality, it was just so she could fake evidence to show to Naya.

Her purpose was just to get the 200,000 bucks. She never thought about committing murder. However, what was Naya telling her now? Someone had an accident in that car?

No, this was impossible!

When Naya listened to Chloe's denial, she asked Chloe resolutely, "Why is it impossible? Did you forget that it was you who got someone to get in the car and do something to the brakes? You even took a video for me. I still have the video saved. Plus, Dan got into the accident because the brakes didn't work."

"..." Chloe's hands and legs went cold. Her back was drenched in a layer of cold sweat.

This was so strange.

She never asked that person to do anything to the brakes. Did that thug act on his own initiative?

How was that possible?

Those kinds of thugs would not do any additional work after they got their money, so how could the thug she hired sacrifice himself like this?

Chloe still felt that it was impossible. At this moment, someone knocked on the door of her hotel room.

Chloe suddenly shuddered. Then, she hurriedly put on her clothes and went to open the door. She thought it was room service, but when the door opened, she saw two policemen.

Chloe was stunned. She thought the police might be here to investigate her sleeping with a strange man in the hotel after she had too much fun in the bar last night. However, this was very common nowadays, so Chloe did not worry too much about it.

"Officers, what's the matter? I don't think sleeping with the temporary boyfriend I found in the bar last night is illegal, right?"

The police had no intention of going around in circles with Chloe at all. They made their intentions clear in a straightforward manner, "Chloe Tawney, you're suspected of being involved in a criminal case. Please go back with us immediately to assist in the investigation."

Upon hearing this, Chloe felt ill.

She felt as if all of her energy had been drained all at once. It took her a few seconds to react. "No, no, what criminal case am I involved in? I'm a good citizen, and I'm a public figure. How could I possibly..."

"A good citizen?" One of the police officers smiled faintly, seemingly knowing that Chloe and Naya had colluded to frame Ava before.

After all, the incident was trending on the internet. As long as one had a mobile phone, they would know about this piece of gossip.

"The police will give you a fair and just answer on whether you're a good citizen or if you've violated the law. Please cooperate with us."

"No, I didn't... I didn't break the law..." Chloe panicked and began to stutter.

The police were experienced. Upon seeing Chloe's guilty conscience, they were even more certain that they got the right target.

Chloe was quickly brought back for questioning. She cooperated with the questioning in a panic, but she denied all allegations against her.

"Officers, I didn't touch Ava's car at all. Yes, I despise that woman, but I'm a well-known person myself. I wouldn't sacrifice my entire life for this." Chloe explained seriously.

"Officers, you must investigate this thoroughly and prove my innocence."

"We'll definitely investigate this clearly. Please don't leave the country for the time being as we'll still need your assistance in the follow-up investigation."

"Of course. I'm a good citizen and will definitely cooperate with the police's investigation." Chloe promised. She was glad that the police did not have any definite evidence to prove that she had gotten someone to get into Ava's car.

The first thing Chloe did after leaving the police station was to contact Naya. Then, she went to Naya's apartment.

Naya had been waiting for Chloe for a long time. She was also prepared, knowing that Chloe would definitely come to find her. As soon as Chloe saw Naya, she hurriedly sat down on the sofa. When Naya saw Chloe's panicked expression, she handed a glass of warm water to her while pretending to be concerned.

"Where were you last night? Did the police look for you?" Naya asked.

Chloe quickly drank a mouthful of water before taking a deep breath.

"This really has nothing to do with me. Daniel's accident has nothing to do with me. It really has nothing to do with me..." Chloe quibbled incoherently.

"I don't want to go to jail."

When Naya saw Chloe panicking, she figured if the police asked to see Chloe again, she would definitely tell them everything.

Naya did not want anything to go wrong at this crucial juncture, so she deliberately pretended to persuade Chloe.

“Didn’t I tell you that we shouldn’t do something like this? But you persuaded me, saying that it’s okay and no one will find out. You also promised me that you wouldn’t implicate me. Now that the police have found you, they’ll come to look for me too when the time comes. Even though I didn’t do anything, perhaps I’ll still be implicated by you.”

After listening to Naya’s complaints, Chloe did not think much of them. Instead, she said in a panic, “I didn’t expect things to turn out like this. I just wanted money...”

She wanted to say something but stopped herself. She wanted to tell Naya that she did not get anyone to do anything to the car, but she was afraid that she would offend Naya and have to pay back the money. When that happened, she would have trouble from both sides.

Maybe Naya could still rely on her connections to protect her in this situation. Hence, she just kept her mouth shut.

After Naya sent Chloe away, she returned to the hospital.

Before reaching the door of the intensive care unit, Naya saw Ava and Madeline sitting at one side from a distance.

Naya was reluctant to offend Madeline, but she had to elicit some anger from Ava no matter what.

Madeline and Ava heard the sound of approaching footsteps and looked over at the same time. When they saw that it was Naya, Madeline instinctively became vigilant. Madeline knew that Naya was definitely here to cause trouble for Ava by just looking at Naya’s provocative and arrogant eyes.

Sure enough, as soon as Naya approached, she stopped in front of Ava and looked down at Ava with a condescending attitude.

“Why are you here again? Do you like seeking trouble so much? You have a wealthy mother who can see the bigger picture and do big things, so why are you so narrow-minded? It’s no wonder that your wealthy mother abandoned you back then.”

Of course, Madeline could not just sit back and ignore such an obvious act of provocation. She stood up abruptly, her sharp eyes falling on the evil grin on Naya's face.

"Although Ava didn't live with her parents when she was young, she knows how to be polite, honest, and respectful. Miss Mendez, you seem to have grown up in a good environment and studied in a famous university. Didn't your parents and teachers teach you the most basic manners?"

"... " Naya's smile froze as she looked at Madeline with a cold expression. "Mrs. Whitman, I'm not talking to you."

"If you're provoking Ava, it means you're provoking me."

"..." Naya's face turned dark. She wanted to refute, but when she saw Madeline's sharp eyes, she did not dare to offend her anymore.

Ava reached out to pull Madeline's hand. "Maddie, it's fine. Ignore her. I don't want to care about anything else except for keeping an eye on Dan now."

Ava did not want to pay any attention to Naya. Since Madeline did not want to trouble Ava further, she obeyed Ava's wishes and stopped talking nonsense with Naya.

However, the moment Madeline sat down, she heard Naya turning around and calling out in the direction of the corridor, "Mrs. Graham."

When Ava heard that, she turned around to look.

Daniel's mother was smiling when she saw Naya, but when she saw Ava, she could not keep her cool anymore. "Why are you here again?" Daniel's mother's expression fell. "I told you that you're not allowed to visit Dan, you bringer of bad luck! Do you still want to harm Dan even more? Get lost! I get so annoyed when I see you."

Ava knew that Daniel's mother did not like her right now because Daniel got into an accident while driving her car. She did not want to explain anything, so she just stood up and said nicely, "Mrs. Graham, I just want to stay here with Dan. As for the others, I won't..."

"What other things are you thinking about? Dan's matters in the future are none of your business now!" Danie's mother scolded. When she wanted to continue to complain, two police officers showed up behind her.

When Daniel's mother saw Madeline and Ava looking behind her, she turned back curiously. She was a little surprised when she saw the two policemen.

"Officers, what's the matter? Who are you looking for?" Daniel's mother asked with a perplexed expression.

Then, something seemed to click in her head. She suddenly pointed at Ava.

"You're here to arrest this woman, aren't you? My son got into an accident because he drove her car!"

Madeline was utterly speechless when she saw Mrs. Graham's actions, but she was sure the police were not looking for Ava.

Sure enough, the next second, the police looked at Naya who was standing beside Daniel's mother. They asked with a serious expression, "Are you Naya Mendez?"

Upon seeing this, Daniel's mother was even more surprised. "Y-You're looking for Naya? What did Naya do?"

Naya ignored Mrs. Graham's confused and shocked expression when she saw that. She had already expected the police to come to look for her, but she did not expect them to be so fast and arrive at such a time. She nodded while pretending to be confused and meek.

"I'm Naya Mendez. Can I help you with anything?"

"Is Chloe Tawney your friend?" The police showed Naya Chloe's photo.

Naya took a serious look and nodded affirmatively. "She's my friend. Did anything happen to her?"

"We just need you to verify that she's Chloe Tawney." The police put away the photo and stated the reason why they were here.

"Chloe is suspected of instigating others into tampering with the brakes of the car with the license plate number 886. It caused the car to have a brake

failure and the driver got into an accident. After finding out that Chloe instigated others, we discovered that you transferred 10,000 dollars to her, so we have reason to suspect that Chloe was instigated by you."

"What? What did you say?" After hearing this, Daniel's mother was greatly surprised. She glanced at Naya in disbelief, then asked the police, "Don't talk nonsense. How could Naya instigate others to do this kind of thing? It's impossible!"

Madeline and Ava also looked at each other in surprise.

Was that crash not an accident but a deliberate attempt?

"The police will investigate the case thoroughly to determine if it's the case. Now, Miss Mendez, please come with us," the police said sternly.

"I'm happy to cooperate with your investigation, but I can swear on my family's reputation in Glendale that I, Naya Mendez, have never done anything wrong, let alone commit any illegal acts." Naya swore and turned to look at Daniel's mother.

"Mrs. Graham, I know you're worried about me, but don't worry. The police won't wrongfully accuse a good person. I'm just going back with them to assist in the investigation. I'll be back soon to continue watching over Dan."

Upon hearing what Naya said, Daniel's mother could not see through Naya's pretense at all. Instead, she even felt a little distressed for Naya.

"Someone who previously colluded with her friend to frame others dares to guarantee that she has never done anything wrong. Miss Mendez, are you really not afraid that your family's reputation will be affected by you?" Madeline said with a soft smile, her tone slightly sarcastic.

Naya's face collapsed slightly, but she also knew that she would not get any benefits from refuting Madeline. Besides, after the previous incident, her reputation had already been ruined. Arguing right now would only make her even more embarrassed. Hence, Naya stopped talking and turned around to leave.

"Wait."

Madeline stopped them and then strutted in front of the police. Suddenly, her expression became abnormally serious and stern.

"Officers, you said my friend's car was tampered with just now, so that's why the car couldn't stop and crashed into another vehicle. However, that car belongs to my friend and it was just a coincidence that her boyfriend drove her car that day. If there was no such coincidence and my friend drove her car, the person who would get into an accident would be my friend. What does this mean, then?"

As Madeline said that, she shifted her sharp gaze to Naya's face.

"That means the person that tampered with the brakes of the car was trying to murder my friend."

Madeline's use of the word 'murder' was no exaggeration.

After listening to Madeline's analysis, Ava felt a chill run down her spine. It turned out that it was Naya and Chloe who wanted to harm her again. This time, they even wanted to take her life!

Ava looked silently in Daniel's direction with heartache. Suddenly, she clenched her fists and rushed in front of Naya. She grabbed Naya's collar, not allowing Naya to react and break free. After that, Ava immediately slapped her across the face.

Slap!

"Ah!"

Naya screamed in pain and covered her face subconsciously.

"Naya Mendez, you despicable rat! You evil woman!" Ava cursed.

The police and Madeline stepped forward at the same time to pull Ava away, while Daniel's mother went up to defend Naya.

"How dare you slap Naya, you bringer of misfortune?!"

"So what if I slapped this scumbag?" Ava could not hold herself back anymore.

"You..." Daniel's mother glared at her. "Who are you to slap her? You're the one who caused Dan's accident!"

"Shut up! That's enough!" Ava yelled at Daniel's mother.

Daniel's mother was also stunned. She seemed to be shocked by Ava's sudden burst of anger.

Madeline had never seen Ava so angry before. Her eyes were red with anger, but at the same time, there was also sadness. She looked like she was covered with flames and anyone would be burned if they got close to her. Her anger was surging violently.

"I've always known that you weren't bright, but I didn't expect Dan's mother to be so idiotic!"

"..."

Mrs. Graham's face turned red. She felt very embarrassed. "What nonsense are you spewing? How dare you say that about me?"

"Am I wrong? You're an absolute idiot to defend such a sinister and hypocritical rat. She instigated someone to tamper with my car and accidentally hurt Daniel in a freak combination of factors. However, you're here defending her. Why are you even defending her? Is it because she occasionally buys you some fake and counterfeit jewelry?"

After she was scolded by Ava, Daniel's mother felt very ashamed.

However, Naya wanted to use this chance to pretend to be a good person and side with Daniel's mother.

"Ava, you've gone overboard. It's one thing for you to slander me saying that I instigated others to murder you, but how could you scold Mrs. Graham too? Ava, you..."

"You shut your mouth too!" Ava glared at Naya in an imposing manner. "Naya, you'd better not waste your breath and your acting skills to try to get in between me and Dan's mother so you can rid yourself of the suspicions on you. Listen to me. You can't escape this because you did it. You people are the ones who hurt Dan!"

When Naya saw Ava's firm gaze, her heart skipped a beat. At that moment, she felt so guilty that she could not speak.

A few doctors and nurses came over because of the noise. When they saw that this bunch of people was fighting because of a conflict, they warned them that they should not make so much noise in the hospital and they should leave.

Naya had to leave with the police now, and Ava followed after them without hesitation.

Daniel's mother was frozen in place when she saw that everyone had gone. Knowing that the car accident was a deliberate attempt, she felt even more resentful. However, she still insisted that this matter was not related to Naya.

Naya was so good and often complimented her, pleased her, and would also give her luxury gifts from time to time.

Then, Daniel's mother paused, recalling what Ava just said. Were all those luxury goods that Naya gave her fakes and counterfeits?

Daniel's mother's heart was racing. She wanted to go back immediately to look for the gifts Naya gave her and do an appraisal, but she was still worried about Daniel. Hence, she stayed at the door of the intensive care unit for now.

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Inside the police station.

Naya was taken directly into the interrogation room while Madeline and Ava were waiting in the hall.

Upon seeing that Ava was in a bad mood, Madeline pulled her to sit down on the chair. Ava had remained silent the whole journey here and she was still not saying a word.

"Ava, do you have something you want to say? If you have anything you want to say, you don't have to restrain your emotions. You can say anything in front of me." Madeline comforted Ava, expressing her care.

Ava clenched her hands that were on her lap. She pursed her lips tightly, then her eyes turned red.

"It turns out that there are such inhumane demons in this world, and there are quite a number of them." This sentence escaped Ava's lips. It was evident how much anger she had in her heart at the moment.

"I've been alive for so many years and I can say that I've never done anything against my conscience. If I do something like that, I definitely wouldn't be able to eat or sleep. But those people without a conscience can do such inhumane things without the slightest remorse. They just want to do whatever they can to achieve their goals."

Madeline understood what Ava meant. She could understand this feeling all too well. She had also endured unjust accusations and torture from people like them. However, she believed that only when she became tough and strong would those demons and ghouls not dare to approach her.

Madeline gently held Ava's hand to give her warmth. "Ava, don't try to understand such people's hearts. It's enough as long as we have a clear conscience."

"But I don't want to have a clear conscience now." Ava was a little sulky. "Maddie, if Dan really falls into a vegetative state and he really can't wake up again, I won't just let those demons face the law. I'm going to retaliate against them. I want them to taste the pain that Dan suffered!"

"Ava, don't think like that." Madeline held Ava's hand tightly. "I believe I'll see the day you and Dan get married. He'll recover. With your care and encouragement, he won't dare sleep for too long."

After Madeline said that, Ava burst into tears. Madeline took out some tissue paper and wiped away the tears on Ava's face.

"Don't cry. If Dan can sense this, I'm sure he won't want to see his cheerful and happy Ava crying for him."

Ava heard what Madeline said. She sniffed and took the tissue to dry her tears. When Madeline saw that Ava had stopped crying so pessimistically, she felt much relieved.

At this moment, a young police officer walked over and asked politely, "Which one of you is Miss Ava Long?"

Ava stood up quickly. "I am."

"Miss Long, we need to ask you some questions related to the car accident. Please come with me."

The young police officer showed the way. Madeline followed Ava to one of the offices.

Instead of being questioned like Naya, the police explained the cause of the accident to them and asked if Ava had any arguments with Chloe and Naya before this.

Ava did not hide anything, nor did she exaggerate what had happened. She just told the police the facts.

"Yes, I did have some grievances with them, but I thought everything was over. I really had no idea that they tampered with my car." As she said that, Ava became a little emotional.

"Officer, is there any evidence pointing that Naya instructed Chloe to tamper with the brakes of my car? My boyfriend just happened to drive my car, so that's how he got into the accident. Otherwise, it would be me lying in the hospital now. Officer, this is murder! They were trying to murder me!"

"Miss Long, please calm down first."

"Ava, don't be too emotional. The police will definitely give us a fair and just account of this matter. As long as Chloe and Naya did it, they'll definitely be punished."

Madeline chimed in, patting Ava on the shoulder to reassure her.

"The two of them are indeed the suspects, but there's no definite evidence that Naya instigated the murder. But you can rest assured that we already have a direction for the investigation. I believe there'll be results soon." The police officer assured Ava before asking Ava some more related questions.

More than ten minutes later, Madeline and Ava came out of the room together. At the same time, Naya came out from the room on the opposite side too.

Naya smiled when she saw Ava's gloomy face. Then, she strode in front of Ava.

"Aren't you disappointed? I'm not being detained because I never did anything wrong. No matter how hard the police look into me, they won't find anything because I have a clear conscience." Naya smiled brightly.

Ava knew that Naya was deliberately provoking her. She wanted to hold herself back but failed.

"Naya, don't be so pleased with yourself. The police just haven't found any evidence to arrest you yet, but you would've definitely left clues behind if you were the one who did it!"

"There's no evidence at all because the police have already sent someone to arrest the person who really wants to murder you." Naya looked confident. Madeline and Ava froze for a moment. They looked at the police officer standing behind Naya.

The police officer understood what Madeline and Ava meant. He nodded and replied, "Miss Naya just provided a very important piece of evidence to us, which is enough to prove that the person who tampered with Miss Ava's car is Chloe Tawney. We've sent someone to arrest her. From the evidence provided by Miss Naya, Chloe is indeed the mastermind."

After hearing the police's answer, Madeline and Ava did not quite believe it. The grievances between Chloe and Ava were not enough to make Chloe want to get rid of Ava. However, Naya would have the motive to do something like this.

"What evidence?" Ava asked.

"We can't disclose it at the moment," the police officer replied.

Naya raised the corners of her lips slightly when she heard the words. As she was looking at Ava's unwilling appearance, her smile became deeper. Then, she showed a sad look.

"I'm really heartbroken and sad that such a thing has happened to Dan. I didn't expect Chloe to do such a thing on the spur of the moment to help me out either. Ava, you can't wrong me anymore because I, Naya Mendez, am innocent!"

Ava and Madeline looked at Naya's confident face, finding it ridiculous. Moreover, they did not believe that Naya had nothing to do with this matter. However, at this moment, Naya swaggered out of the police station.

"Officer, are you barking up the wrong tree? That woman just now must have something to do with this. There are no grievances between Chloe and me. I only have grievances with that woman named Naya."

Ava emphasized to the police officer in front of her.

"Sorry, Miss Long. We act per the procedures and evidence. According to the evidence we have so far, the car accident has nothing to do with Naya. From the evidence she provided, Chloe is indeed the mastermind of this accident."

"May I know what evidence she provided to prove that Chloe is the mastermind?" Madeline could not help but wonder.

"Isn't it strange that the evidence she provided can prove that Chloe is the mastermind? Did she know that she'd be exposed in advance so she prepared this piece of evidence to get rid of the suspicion on her?"

"Um..." After hearing Madeline's question, the police officer also showed a confused look.

"It sounds like there are still many doubts about this matter. I'll report it to my superior. If there's no thing else you need to take care of, you can leave first. We'll follow the progress of this matter closely."

"But..."

"Ava, we should leave first." Madeline took Ava's hand. "Let's go."

Ava was still a little unwilling, but she rarely went against Madeline. It was because she knew that in this world, apart from Daniel, Madeline was the only person who was truly and sincerely good to her. Of course, there might be another person, but she could not face that person right now. Back in the car, Ava asked directly, "Maddie, is there any reason why you didn't let me keep asking questions?"

"You won't get anything from doing that. The police can't disclose to us what they have investigated yet, so we'll now find some evidence ourselves."

"Ourselves?" Ava did not understand. When she was about to continue to ask, she saw Naya walking slowly to the side of the road to a car. She came to the police station in a police car just now, so she must have called a car to go back.

Madeline did not hesitate. She stepped on the accelerator and followed behind the car.

Ten minutes later, Naya got out of the car near a demolished building.

When Madeline parked the car far away and was considering whether to get out of the car to follow Naya, Chloe appeared in their sight.

"Maddie, the police said just now that they've sent someone to arrest Chloe. Now that Chloe is here, should we tell the police?"

Madeline nodded, and at the same time, she took out her phone and turned on the camera. "Ava, call the police. I'll go closer to listen."

"Maddie, be careful." Ava urged her.

Madeline immediately got out of the car with her phone in hand. Then, she found a suitable position where she could hear the conversation between Naya and Chloe clearly.

"Hurry, Ava has already reported to the police that you tampered with her car. She also provided quite strong evidence. Now, the police have sent people to arrest you. If you don't leave, you'll probably have to spend the rest of your life behind bars."

Naya seemed to be informing Chloe this out of kindness. She pushed all the blame to Ava. However, Chloe would later know from the police that it was clearly Naya who reported her to them.

At this moment when Chloe heard what Naya said, she panicked.

"What? Ava actually reported me? How could she have evidence against me? How is it possible?" Chloe strongly denied it.

Naya glanced at Chloe impatiently. "I don't know how she reported you. Anyway, the police have sent people to arrest you, and I was called to the police station just now to assist in the investigation. I saw it with my own eyes, so you'd better run away now."

"Run away? W-Where can I run to?" Chloe turned pale in panic. Finally, she turned her eyes to Naya and asked her for help, "Naya, you have to help me. I did this for you..."

"For me? You did this for yourself and money, didn't you?"

Naya did not let Chloe continue and interrupted decisively.

"Speaking of which, I'm also a victim in this accident. You encouraged me to teach Ava a lesson at the time, but now, things have turned out this way. I didn't do anything, but I'm going to be implicated by you. I'm likely to be accused of obstructing justice. I'll be in so much trouble!"

Upon hearing this, Chloe looked even more terrified.

"You can't help me either? What should I do now? What should I do?"

Chloe asked herself incoherently when suddenly, her eyes lit up.

"I know who can help me! He can prove that I didn't do anything to that car! Daniel's car accident has nothing to do with me. At most, I was just obstructing justice! At worst, I'll just have to pay a fine. I won't get any jail time!"

The nervousness on Chloe's face dissipated as a smile appeared. However, Naya's face changed, and her brows seemed to furrow tightly together.

Madeline was standing behind the tree. She felt quite curious listening to this as well.

'Does this really have nothing to do with Naya? And who is this person Chloe is talking about?'

"Who are you talking about?"

Madeline heard Naya questioning Chloe in the distance. Madeline was also preparing to hear what was going on when she heard the siren of a police car coming from afar.

Naya seemed to be panicking. "Chloe, tell me. Who's the person who can help you? The police are coming soon. If you're not confident, you should run now."

"I won't!" Chloe had calmed down a lot. "If I run, the consequences will be very serious. It's best if I surrender to the police now."

"..." Naya was speechless.

Then, she saw Chloe turn around and take the initiative to run in the direction of the police car's siren. Naya was trying to stop her but she suddenly glanced in Madeline's direction.

She knew that Madeline and Ava were following her, so she deliberately said those things earlier to distance herself from the accident. However, she really did not expect that Chloe would suddenly reveal another person's involvement at this time.

Who was this person?

At this time, Madeline stopped hiding behind the tree because she also noticed the look in Naya's eyes just now.

She stepped out directly and stood face-to-face with Naya. "Miss Mendez, you don't seem surprised at all."

Naya's face sank, and she did not speak. She looked up at Chloe when the police car had arrived.

The police stopped the car. When they were about to arrest Chloe, Chloe ran straight over and surrendered herself.

"Officers, I'm here to surrender myself!"

Chloe ran to the police officers who got out of the car, saying very sincerely and eagerly, "Officers, I surrender. I admit that I did instigate another person to tamper with Ava's car!"

In the distance, Naya heard what Chloe said to the police and her brows were already knitted together.

'Idiot!' She cursed in her heart, but she could only let things be even if they were going in the opposite direction of what she had planned. After all, she could not compete with the police.

The police had doubts about Chloe's 'surrender'. At the same time, they looked at Naya, Madeline, and Ava in confusion.

Chloe was then taken into the police car to go to the station. Madeline and Ava were also ready to follow. On the other hand, Naya suddenly walked over to the backseat of the car and got in without asking for Madeline's and Ava's permission.

"Who asked you to get in? Get out." Ava was fuming when she saw Naya, so, of course, she would not show a good attitude to Naya.

"Don't waste your time. Don't you guys want to go to the police station as soon as possible to find out the latest situation? In that case, start driving." Naya sat still and after speaking, she lowered her head and started playing with her mobile phone.

She was confident that Madeline and Ava would not waste any time. However, the next second, Naya heard the sound of the door opening. She looked up suspiciously and saw Madeline getting out of the driver's seat and opening the door next to her.

"Get out." Madeline looked cold and decisive.

"If you don't get out of the car now, I can call the police for you so that you can go to the station as quickly as possible."

"..." Naya was a little stunned when she heard what Madeline said. However, she was only in a daze for two or three seconds. When she saw Madeline gesturing that she would make the call, Naya could only get out of the car angrily.

Madeline closed the door, got into the car, stepped on the gas pedal, and sped away.

Naya got the cold shoulder, but what could she do?

The Mendezes came from an influential background, but compared to the Whitmans and the Montgomeries, they were still far behind. Hence, she could not confront Madeline.

After Chloe was brought to the police station, she told the police everything.

"Yes, I paid a man to pry open Ava's car, but the man didn't do anything to the car, nor did he tamper with the brakes of the car. I only told the man to get in the car and pretend to do something to it. He didn't actually do anything. So, the car accident has nothing to do with me. I didn't do anything because I was afraid of taking responsibility."

Chloe swore by it.

"I was only doing this for money this entire time."

After the police heard Chloe's confession, they asked again sternly, "You said you were doing this for money, so who gave you the money?"

"Naya. She agreed to do this too. She hates the woman named Ava Long because she stole the man she likes and made her lose her prestige in public. So, she wanted to seek revenge. I... I only gave her a suggestion."

Toward the end of her sentence, Chloe's voice was barely above a whisper.

"A suggestion? You instigated her to murder."

"N-No! I was just casually talking about it. I had already thought about it and planned to only pretend to have tampered with the car. I didn't really do it. I really don't know why there were problems with the car. I only did this for money. Look, Naya transferred the money to me and I sent the video of the man getting in the car to Naya. After that, she transferred another 100,000 bucks to me. I have no idea what happened next."

Chloe found the proof of mobile transfer and gave her phone to the police. When she saw the police looking at it carefully, she felt uneasy and started to explain herself again.

"You must not listen to the nonsense that Ava told you. Also, the evidence she provided must be false because I really didn't tamper with the brakes of the car. You'll know if you find the man."

"Did you just say the evidence Ava provided?" the police asked rhetorically.

Chloe nodded. "Didn't you only come to arrest me because she reported me?"

"I think you've made a mistake. It was Naya Mendez who reported you and it was her who gave us evidence against you."

"Huh..?"

Upon hearing this answer, Chloe was instantly frozen in place. It took a while for her to finally react.

"A-Are you serious? Was it really Naya who reported me? She also provided evidence?" Chloe was dubious.

The police quickly showed her evidence that Naya had provided them not long ago. It was a recording.

Chloe's eyes widened when she heard the recording.

Was that not the conversation she had with Naya in Naya's apartment after she was summoned by the police for questioning?

At that time, she was so panicked that she did not expect Naya to be prepared.

Now that she was listening to the recording, Chloe could tell that Naya had deliberately tried to get her to say all those things. At the same time, she was trying to distance herself from this incident.

Chloe could not keep her cool anymore. "Officer, Naya was purposely leading me on so that I would say all that in the recording. She did that on purpose! What a scheming b\*tch! I was such a fool to have trusted her. At the end of the day, she was the one who asked me to do that. She shouldn't even think about getting away from this!"

The police were calm when they saw Chloe flying into a rage out of humiliation.

"Officers, I'll admit everything! I did spend some money to hire someone, but Naya is not a bystander in this matter. She's guilty as well!"

"We will investigate and collect evidence to get the full truth. We'll find the man you mentioned as soon as possible. However, you have to be clear about one thing. We have thoroughly checked the car and the brakes were indeed tampered with. The main cause of the accident was also due to brake failure. You said you didn't let anyone mess with the car, but can you guarantee that the person didn't do that?"

"..."

Chloe was suddenly speechless. She was really confused now. Could it be that the man really did something to the car?

How could that be?

How could a person who was only there for money cause trouble for himself?

Madeline and Ava were waiting in the lobby at the moment. Naya arrived later and waited in the lobby with them.

Moments later, the police officers came out of the interrogation room with Chloe following behind them in handcuffs. When she looked up to see Naya, Chloe suddenly rushed over but was stopped by the police.

"Naya! We're good friends but you betrayed me after what I did for you! How cunning of you!" Chloe yelled at Naya.

Naya's face sank, and her expression seemed a little uneasy. However, she knew she could not panic right now.

"Chloe, what nonsense are you talking about in front of the police? What have you done for me? Don't falsely accuse me!"

"I'm falsely accusing you?" Chloe was triggered. "It was you who complained about Ava to me all daylong. You were always saying how you wanted to deal with her. Do you think you're so powerful because you have the recording as evidence against me? Let me tell you this now. I have a recording that can pose as evidence against you too!"

Naya was initially very confident, but she was stunned when Chloe suddenly uttered that sentence.

'What? This woman has a recording as well?'

'What did she record?'

'Could it be a recording from when we reached an agreement to tamper with Ava's car?'

There was a trace of panic in Naya's eyes, and Madeline also noticed the fleeting glint in Naya's gaze.

"Chloe, you said you have a recording. What recording is it?" the police asked.

Naya's heart seemed to be suspended by something invisible when she heard this. She was extremely nervous.

Chloe also seemed to sense Naya's anxiety, but now, she seemed much more carefree and pleased. She rolled her eyes at Naya, and suddenly, her eyes fell on Ava's face.

"Ava, I think if you're not a fool, you must already know who exactly wants to make a move on you. I have no grievances with you and we're not connected by anything. There's no reason for me to target you or frame you. I only did that because Naya asked me to!"

"Chloe, this is slander!" Naya interrupted Chloe in a panic.

However, Chloe rolled her eyes in disdain.

"Naya, since we're already at this stage, I don't want to waste time arguing with you anymore. You came to my place and told me that you were very upset recently, so you wanted to teach a woman named Ava Long a lesson. You came up with a plan to use my name and pretend to be a client in Ava's company so that I can sign a contract with them for the interior design of my house. However, you were the real mastermind behind the contract."

"The reason why you went around in such big circles during the designing process was that you want to make Ava do things according to your wishes. You wanted to humiliate her, and at the same time, you also came up with a sinister plan. It was this incident that blew up on the internet."

Naya did not think that Chloe would mention that, but of course, she would not admit it.

"Chloe, I really didn't expect you to slander me with such lies in order to escape your crimes. You..."

"Naya, stop pretending and stop making excuses. I told you I have a recording to prove it. Oh no, it's not a recording. It's surveillance footage."

"..."

Chloe was quite decisive this time. She did not give Naya a chance to continue to argue and bite back before she interrupted her directly. Then, she turned around and told the police.

"Officer, the place where I live is equipped with surveillance cameras. All my conversations with Naya on the day she came to my house were captured and recorded. You can find the footage on my mobile phone. That's your evidence that Naya had asked me more than once to help her take action against Ava. This time with the car was also the same. Everything I said is true!" Chloe emphasized the last sentence.

The police also quickly unlocked Chloe's mobile phone in front of everyone and found the surveillance app.

Naya was standing at one side, her face looking extremely flustered. She never thought that there would be surveillance cameras where Chloe lived, and it had been a while since the previous incident. Although netizens had seen the truth and knew that it was her and Chloe who colluded to frame Ava, they did not know that she was the mastermind and she was the one who instigated Chloe.

This was great. If the police got their hands on the surveillance footage, not only could it prove that Naya had indeed instigated Chloe but this would also show the netizens her more sinister and evil side.

Madeline and Ava both knew what Chloe said was true. Naya was the one who wanted to take revenge on Ava. However, even after the police searched for a while, they did not find the footage Chloe mentioned.

The calmness and complacency on Chloe's face was suddenly wiped off. "That's impossible. What I just said is true. Everything was recorded!"

Chloe said while taking the phone over to search for the footage herself. After searching for a while, she finally realized the problem.

All footage were only kept for half a month, and coincidentally, the footage from that day was automatically deleted today.

Naya spotted the annoyed look on Chloe's face, and the corners of her mouth were raised into a smile again.

"Chloe, you can't keep up with your act anymore, huh? What you said was completely false. Officer, I'm going to sue this woman for slandering my reputation." Naya made a false countercharge.

Chloe raised her head sharply and glared angrily at Naya, who was looking smug. She tried to run over to her but was pulled back by the police again.

The smile on Naya's mouth grew even bigger. As she looked at Chloe who was being taken into custody by the police, she smiled and turned to look at Madeline and Ava.

"Are you a little disappointed?" Naya's tone was sarcastic. "Actually, so what even if she really had evidence to prove that I was the instigator? In short, the car accident has nothing to do with me and the police will never find any evidence to arrest me."

Naya said and took two steps toward Ava, her eyes suddenly looking stern.

"Ava, Dan suffered this disaster for you. Are you heartbroken? Even if the accident was a deliberate attempt, it can't change the fact that this happened to Dan because of you. You'll have to live with this trauma all your life because you should bear half the responsibility of what happened to Dan."

"Naya, don't try to say that so you can shift the responsibility. The police just haven't found evidence yet, but it doesn't mean they'll never find evidence. Everyone knows who the person who wants Ava to disappear the most is." Madeline's eyes became much sharper in an instant. A glint of cold light shot out from those pupils that suddenly contracted.

Seeing that Ava was silent and not speaking, Madeline turned sideways and took Ava's hand.

"Ava, let's go to the hospital. Now that Chloe has been detained by the police, I think it'll be someone else's turn soon. We'll leave this to the police. I'll accompany you to the hospital first."

Ava was still not speaking. Instead, she just nodded and followed Madeline.

"Tsk." Naya snorted unhappily. The smug look on her face from a second before had completely dissipated. The hidden look of panic and anxiety reappeared in her eyes. As she recalled what had happened in the parking lot today, her fingers suddenly trembled.

She knew best in her heart that Chloe did not lie and the man who was hired to pry open Ava's car did not do anything to the car. It was because she was the one who tampered with the car.

Daniel's mother stayed at the door of the intensive care unit for most of the day. Daniel's condition was still the same. He neither improved nor worsened. When she saw Ava and Madeline walking over, she was very dissatisfied, but she also wanted to go back to appraise the things Naya had previously gifted her. Hence, she muttered a few curses to Ava before leaving.

Ava did not care, and she did not even seem to have heard those unpleasant things Daniel's mother said. At this moment, she just sat quietly on the chair. After sitting down, she silently raised her head and leaned against the wall behind her. The tears that had been forming in her eyes escaped unbeknownst to her.

Madeline could feel a pang of pain in her heart. She walked over and hugged Ava gently. "Ava, I know what you're thinking about right now. Don't blame yourself. You're not the one who's at fault. "

Madeline consoled her, knowing that Ava must be brooding over what Naya said not long ago.

"Ava, you mustn't be influenced by what Naya said. The person at fault is the person who tampered with the car."

After hearing what Madeline said, Ava started to cry even harder.

"Actually, what she said isn't completely wrong. If I were the one who went out and not Dan, the person lying inside now would be me. It was Dan who saved me from this disaster."

Ava raised her tearful eyes slightly. She tried her best to look at the man lying on the hospital bed through her blurred vision but she could not

seem to see clearly. Daniel's body was wrapped in a lot of gauzes, including his face and head. Ava could not stop her tears when she looked at Daniel in this state.

Madeline took out a tissue and wiped Ava's tears. She kept saying comforting words to Ava again and again, but she knew it was useless. Ava would only feel better if Daniel's condition improved.

After Madeline wiped Ava's tears, she sat by her side and stayed with her.

Soon, Jeremy arrived. He figured that Madeline could not keep staying with Ava. If this continued, both of them would be exhausted. Of course, he was selfish and felt more distressed for Madeline.

From the corners of her eyes, Madeline noticed that someone was watching her from afar. She glanced sideways and met Jeremy's deep eyes that were as gentle as water. Seeing that Ava had closed her eyes to take a nap out of exhaustion, she gently got up and walked to Jeremy while taking small steps.

They met each other's gaze, affection and nostalgia flowing in their eyes.

"Jeremy, when did you arrive? Have you been standing here for a long time?"

Jeremy raised his hand to tuck the hair on Madeline's face behind her ear. Then, he smiled and said, "I just arrived and didn't want to go over to disturb you two since you look exhausted."

Madeline looked back at Ava. "I'm fine, but Ava is really exhausted. She feels even more terrible now."

"There are ways to treat Daniel. I've contacted several more authoritative professors in the field. They'll take time out as soon as possible to check on Daniel's situation."

Jeremy's answer made a look of glee appear on Madeline's face instantly.

"Is it possible that Dan's condition will improve?"

"I can't guarantee that Daniel will get better, but at least we can have a little more hope."

Madeline nodded. She figured that Jeremy was right. This was the only thing they could do now.

After Daniel's mother went back, she immediately took out all the luxury gifts that Naya had previously given her.

Daniel's father stood by and was confused. "What are you doing with your clothes and jewelry at this time?"

"Gosh, honey, look at this crystal. It really seems fake. Could it be that she has been using fake products to fool me all these years? If that's the case, won't I be utterly humiliated? I've worn these things to so many parties."

The more Daniel's mother spoke, the more she felt that something was wrong. She packed all the things that Naya had given her and sent them to the appraisal agency early the next morning. After that, she went straight to the hospital. However, after arriving at the hospital, Daniel's mother did not see Daniel in the intensive care unit. Ava was not there either.

She immediately felt uneasy. Daniel's mother knew very well that no matter what, Ava would definitely stay by Daniel's side. Now that they were both gone, it was very likely that something bad had happened to Daniel. Sure enough, Daniel's mother stopped a nurse and learned that Daniel's situation suddenly had a bad turn.

He was in the emergency room at the moment.

Daniel's mother immediately felt tense and rushed to the emergency room. From afar, she spotted Ava, Madeline, and Jeremy waiting at the door with heavy expressions on their faces.

"What's going on? What happened? What's wrong with Dan?" Daniel's mother asked loudly as she quickly walked toward the emergency room.

Madeline raised her eyes when she heard the noise. When she saw Daniel's mother in a hurry, Madeline subconsciously moved in front of Ava and said coldly.

"There was a fluctuation in the machine's reading just now. The doctor is now inside giving Dan a detailed diagnosis and treatment. The specific situation is still unclear."

"A fluctuation? Which machine? Dan's condition must have deteriorated and that's why he's in the emergency room."

Daniel's mother became nervous. The next second, she started to target Ava again.

"It's all your fault! You made Dan like this! I shouldn't have given in and agreed to let you date Dan back then!"

This made Madeline very uncomfortable. However, before she could speak, Jeremy quickly retorted.

"Instead of blaming the criminal who tampered with the car and caused the accident, you're here blaming the person who loves your son wholeheartedly. Is there some thing wrong with your thinking?"

Daniel's mother's expression froze when she heard Jeremy scolding her. Just as she was thinking about what to say, she heard footsteps behind her. Daniel's mother turned around, only to see two doctors in white coats and a few nurses hurriedly walking toward the emergency room. Her heart trembled, and she felt that something was not right.

"Doctors, has my son's condition worsened? How is he doing now?"

"Madam, please make way." The nurse reminded Daniel's mother not to stop the doctor.

"Tell me what's going on with my son first. Is he beyond rescue?"

"If you stop the doctor from going inside, then we won't be able to tell you what's going to happen," the nurse replied.

Daniel's mother was stunned for a moment. Suddenly, she felt a force on her shoulders. Then, her whole body was pulled back by someone.

"Mrs. Graham, watch out." Naya's seemingly concerned voice came from behind, followed by a dissatisfied reproach.

"Ava, how could you pull at Mrs. Graham like this? She'll fall."

When Daniel's mother heard what Naya said, she realized that it was Ava who pulled her. She turned back and glared at Ava. "You..."

"I really don't want to waste my time arguing with you. Dan definitely doesn't want to see me arguing with you. The doctor is inside now, so we'll just wait here quietly for them to bring us news. Stop making trouble." Ava said these words calmly before she turned around and walked to the corner. After that, she sat down without saying a word.

"Ava, you're so good at acting. How could you say that to Mrs. Graham?" Naya continued to provoke her, saying, "It's uncertain whether Dan will live or die right now and it's all because of you. However, you're talking to Mrs. Graham with that tone. Do you still have a conscience?"

Ava seemed to turn a deaf ear to Naya's provocation. However, Madeline was not going to allow Naya to take the opportunity to trouble Ava again.

When she was about to speak up for Ava, Raegan showed up. She was overbearing. Furthermore, she seemed to be enveloped by a very strong aura as she walked toward them. It felt very oppressive.

Raegan walked straight up to Naya, her eyes piercing and sharp.

"You poorly educated degenerate. Apologize to Ava right now!"

Madeline did not expect Raegan to suddenly appear. Ava, who was sitting in the corner, gave a small reaction too. However, her brows seemed to furrow even tighter now.

Naya was stunned for a moment. She widened her eyes in disbelief as she looked at Raegan in front of her.

What did this woman say she was?

A poorly educated degenerate? A degenerate!

She was a dignified young lady who grew up in a life of luxury. She had always been a delicate princess with an extraordinary status, but now, she was called a degenerate!

Raegan probably read Naya's thoughts from her conflicted and angry expression, but Raegan did not change her mind.

"Did you hear what I said? Miss Degenerate, please apologize to my daughter right away." Raegan repeated herself and directly called Naya 'Miss Degenerate'.

Naya was really frustrated now. "How dare you call me that? Do you think you're all that just because you have money? Do you think you can bully others just because you have money?"

Raegan smiled calmly and gracefully in the face of Naya's angry accusation. "I've never thought that being rich is great, and people in the upper class who are truly rich will never think that as well. They'll use their money to help people in need, not bully others. But you seem to be different, Miss Degenerate. Everyone knows about what you've done before, so you don't have to quibble about whether you're a degenerate or not."

After Naya heard these words, she was even more annoyed. Her face turned red with anger. She felt so uncomfortable with how Raegan kept calling her a degenerate.

"Are you not going to apologize?" Raegan reminded again.

Naya sneered. "Why should I apologize to her? Is she even worthy of my apology?"

"What Naya said just now is right. She can't escape the fact that she's related to Dan's car accident." Daniel's mother was also siding with Naya at this time.

However, Raegan's expression did not change in the slightest. "Mrs. Graham, even a passerby who doesn't know the whole story wouldn't stupidly accuse an innocent person. The car indeed belongs to Ava, but what did she do wrong?"

"Is it just because she's dating your son?" Raegan suddenly asked such a question.

Daniel's mother and Naya seemed to grasp this key point, and they both looked up.

"Yeah! She shouldn't be with Dan!" Daniel's mother emphasized.

"Actually, I think so too. Your son shouldn't be dating my daughter," Raegan retorted.

This sentence surprised everyone in front of her. It also made Ava's expression finally waver.

She stood up and looked at Raegan in confusion. However, she noticed that not only were Raegan's eyes sharp at this moment, but there was also a touch of indescribable gentleness.

"Mrs. Graham, you must think that your son is an elite like no other. If he were to find a wife, then she must be an appropriate match with him. You look down on my daughter because she's an ordinary woman. To be honest, I also look down on every one of you except for Daniel."

Daniel's mother's face fell. "What do you mean?"

"I've made myself very clear, but I don't know if you understand, Mrs. Graham. Just ask yourself. Aside from your status in Glendale, what else is there for the Grahams to be proud of? Your blood is blue yet you don't even know the most basic form of respect. You say you belong to the upper class but you can't even differentiate right from wrong. Don't you think that's ridiculous?"

Daniel's mother was still confident, but when she was called out by Raegan like that, she immediately felt ashamed. At the same time, she did not want to lose as well.

"Hmph!" Daniel's mother huffed. "Respect? Your daughter is the one who threw herself at my son. She doesn't respect herself, so why should I respect her? Plus, the Grahams are a reputable family in Glendale. So what if I want to find a daughter-in-law who's a suitable match with my family?"

After Daniel's mother said that, Raegan and Madeline were fuming. However, Ava just had a sarcastic smile on her lips.

"Mrs. Graham, your words are so awful. What do you mean Ava threw herself at your son? How could you describe the person your son loves like that? Plus, Dan was the one who stopped her when she wanted to leave. That's why she agreed to stay. I was there and saw everything with my own eyes. "

Madeline emphasized, her gaze sharp and piercing. "It's a harmonious relationship where both sides love each other, but in your eyes, Ava threw herself at Daniel. Even if you don't want to respect Ava, you should at least respect Dan."

After Madeline said that, Daniel's mother pouted. It seemed that she could not find anything to retort this. She huffed in annoyance and went to stand at a corner.

Naya followed after her too. "Mrs. Graham, don't listen to their nonsense. After all these years, I can see how good you are to Dan. You're a mother, so of course, you're always thinking about your son. You're not wrong."

When she heard Naya saying that, Daniel's mother was suddenly confident again. "Naya, you're right. I'm a mother, so how am I wrong for wanting the best for my son?"

"You're not the only mother in the world," Raegan said in a calm but resonating voice.

When Naya and Daniel's mother heard this, they had nothing to say.

Madeline could not stand watching the actions and hearing the words of Daniel's mother and Naya. If it were not because Ava was in love with Daniel, Madeline knew that the bad-tempered Ava would not have continued to endure this injustice. At the end of the day, this was all for love.

Raegan glanced at Ava who kept quiet this whole time. She did not disturb her and backed to one side, silently waiting for the light of the emergency room to be turned off.

More than an hour had passed when the light of the emergency room was finally turned off. The door opened and a few doctors walked out at the same time.

Daniel's mother was truly worried about Daniel, so she rushed over. Even though Ava desperately wanted to know the situation, she was trying her best to control her emotions.

"Doctor, how's it? How is my son? Has he woken up?" Daniel's mother asked worriedly.

The doctor smiled kindly. "Madam, please calm down. The patient's condition is stable, so you can rest assured."

When everyone heard what the doctor said, they let out sighs of relief, including Naya.

Then, the doctor walked straight to Raegan and said, "Ms. Xander, if you need any assistance next time, don't hesitate to call us. We'll be in Glendale for the time being."

"Thank you, Dr. Liam. Is my future son-in-law alright?" Raegan asked with a smile.

The word 'future son-in-law' sounded extremely unpleasant to Naya, but Daniel's mother and Ava were surprised. It seemed that the doctor who rushed here were hired by Raegan.

Ava had mixed feelings in her heart. She lifted her eyes to look at Raegan. She wanted to say something to her but it felt as if her words were stuck in her throat. She could not get them out.

As Ava was still feeling conflicted, her attention was suddenly attracted by what the doctor had said.

"Don't worry, Ms. Xander. I believe that your son-in-law will definitely wake up." The doctor promised confidently.

"He has a very strong will to live. We believe it's only a matter of time before he'll wake up. You can just wait patiently. Tell your daughter to stay by his side. We believe that after some time, he'll wake up."

When Ava heard the doctor saying that Daniel would wake up soon, a pleased smile broke out of her face.

"Really? Doctor, are you telling the truth?" Ava asked excitedly. She had been staying silent for a long time but she finally said something now.

The doctor smiled and nodded at her. "I believe so. May I know who you are?"

"She's the patient's fiancé," Madeline answered for Ava.

The doctor nodded as a look of surprise appeared on their faces. "I see. You're Ms. Xander's daughter. Then, you have to stay by your fiancé's side. With your company and encouragement, I believe he'll wake up very soon."

After she got the doctor's affirmative answer, Ava almost cried from happiness. In that instant, her tears started pouring out from her eyes uncontrollably.

Daniel's mother's eyes were also red. "Doctor, are you sure that my son is going to wake up soon?"

"I'm very sure," the doctor's answer was still firm.

Mrs. Graham let out a sigh of relief. Then, she turned around and said to Naya, "Naya, please take care of Daniel from now on. With your care, I'm sure Daniel will be able to recover very soon."

A smile immediately appeared on Naya's face. "Don't worry, Mrs. Graham. I'll not let you down. I'll do my best to take good care of Dan. I also hope that he'll recover quickly."

As Naya said that, she peered at Ava with a proud expression. It seemed that she was showing off the fact that Daniel's mother was siding with her.

"It's good that you're considerate, Madam, but you don't need to take care of the patient," the doctor suddenly said.

The smile on Naya's face froze. She did not understand and glared at the doctor with a dissatisfied look on her face. "What do you mean by that, doctor?"

Facing Naya's question, the doctor smiled back at her magnanimously. "Oh, it's because when we were rescuing the patient just now, he temporarily regained consciousness. Even though he was still very weak, we could clearly hear him calling out for Ava. We believe that the person the patient wants to see the most is this lady called Ava. So, it'll be most suitable if Miss Ava takes care of him."

Naya scoffed when she heard that. "Heh, Dan is so seriously injured, so he won't know who the one taking care of him actually is. Doctor, are you taking us all for fools by saying that?"

Daniel's mother nodded in agreement too. She did not want Ava to take care of Daniel, so naturally, she would side with Naya.

Soon enough, the doctor's powerful and resonating answer completely defeated Daniel's mother and Naya.

"I've been in this field for dozens of years and have seen countless situations like this. At this time, the will of the patient to survive is the most important thing. You might think that if the patient is in a coma, they might not know anything. But in fact, they have very strong perceptions. If you don't believe what I say, you can take the risk."

After the doctor said this, he did not want to waste his breath talking to Naya and Daniel's mother anymore. Instead, he turned around and said to Raegan, "Ms. Xander, I still have something I need to take care of, so I'll be leaving now."

Raegan smiled and did not say anything more.

After the doctor left, Naya said sarcastically, "I didn't think that someone would use this method. Hmph, how sinister it is to use Dan's safety to reach one's goal."

Daniel's mother knew what Naya was saying. She then scoffed sarcastically as well. "Ava, you're really something else."

"What an idiot to be unable to recognize others' good intentions or differentiate right and wrong."

Raegan retorted back without holding back. Her sharp gaze landed on Naya and Daniel's mother's face like knives.

"I can tell you with confidence that if I hadn't hired this doctor last night, Daniel's condition would never have been able to turn for the better so quickly. And the reason I did that is all because of my daughter, but you're saying all those things without shame. I'll say this one last time. If you don't want something bad to happen to Daniel, don't offend my daughter. Otherwise, you'll be crying for a long time."

Raegan warned, then looked at the absent-minded Ava with very gentle eyes. Finally, she turned around and left.

The expressions of Daniel's mother and Naya fell. They wanted to vent their anger but they could only glare at Ava. Finally, the two of them left resentfully.

Ava did not care about the attitudes of Daniel's mother or Naya. She did not notice that they had left either. All this while, she was stuck in an absent-minded state.

"Ava." Madeline patted Ava's shoulder. "I think you saw how your mother did all this for you."

When she heard what Madeline said, Ava seemed to come back to her senses. She looked at Madeline, and suddenly, she turned around and ran in the direction Raegan left.

Madeline smiled gladly. Then, she felt a familiar warmth enveloping her from behind. "Did she go to chase after Ms. Xander?"

"I think so. Ava should have let go of some of the resentment toward her mother."

Jeremy smiled. "Are all mothers this way? They'll do everything for their children no matter what it is."

Madeline smiled as a gleam of happiness shone in her eyes. "I think most mothers in the world are like that."

When Jeremy heard this, he did not say anything. However, he was looking at Madeline with more doting and love.

After Ava chased after Raegan, she could not find her after looking around. The night wind in late winter and early spring went deep into her bones. Ava stood in the cold wind and allowed the wind to blow on her. Her body was a few degrees colder, and her heart had also turned frigid unbeknownst to her.

It seemed that her fate with her mother was too shallow.

Ava silently thought about this before slowly turning around. When she lifted her head to look in front of her, she saw a benevolent smiling face in front of her.

"Ava..." Raegan called out to Ava and slowly walked to her.

Ava looked at Raegan blankly. In that instant, she felt that the coldness in her body was now chased away by an invisible warmth.

Raegan walked in front of Ava. When she saw Ava's serious face, she smiled at Ava affectionately. However, she was worried that Ava would hate her, hence she said carefully, "Don't worry. The doctor I hired is an authoritative figure in the field. If he says Dan is fine, then nothing bad will happen to Dan. Just wait for him to wake up without worries."

Raegan comforted Ava before carefully reminding her. "It's cold outside. Hurry up and go inside."

After Raegan said that, she could only turn around reluctantly. She knew Ava did not like to see her and she did not want to cause Ava trouble. Hence, she left without wasting one more second.

However, before she could walk far, she heard Ava calling out to her from behind, "Wait! "

Raegan thought she was hearing things, but then she heard Ava's footsteps approaching her. She slowly turned around and saw that Ava was almost in front of her.

Ava looked into Raegan's eyes. She seemed lost for a moment. Raegan seemed to be waiting to hear what Ava wanted to say next.

The cold wind swept against their faces again and again, but they seemed to be unable to feel it. Under the starry night sky, Ava finally relaxed her tightly clenched hands after some time.

"Thank you." Ava said those two words.

The expectant look in Raegan's eyes dissipated slowly. Then, her eyes lit up again. "It's cold outside. Go back in."

Raegan replied with a smile. Ava looked at Raegan blankly for two seconds before she turned around and walked to the entrance of the hospital.

Raegan stood where she was as she watched Ava's figure that was walking away. There was a faint smile on her lips.

After Naya went back with Daniel's mother, she did not forget to drive a wedge between Ava and Daniel's mother. "Mrs. Graham, I think something's not right about this. That doctor who appeared all of a sudden must be in cahoots with Ava. That's why he kept siding with Ava."

Mrs. Graham was lectured by Raegan just now and was still mad about it. "I knew something must be wrong. Dan's condition isn't as serious as they mentioned. They're just deliberately making this unnecessarily complicated so that Ava can get close to Dan! But how can I let that bringer of misfortune get close to Dan? Dan wouldn't be lying in the hospital if it weren't for her!"

When Naya heard this, her heart skipped a beat. She knew best why Daniel got into the accident.

Naya kept her secret without batting an eyelid, then answered Daniel's mother, "Mrs. Graham, what should we do now? Ava is doing this because she has a lot of people supporting her. Now, she's gluing herself to Dan. I wonder what's going on with the cops? Dan got into an accident because he was driving her car. They should bring her to the station for questioning."

"Her mother must have bribed the police!" Daniel's mother said affirmatively.

Naya quickly chimed in, "She must have."

"How despicable!" Daniel's mother was unconvinced. "Naya, you don't have to care about them. Go and take care of Dan tomorrow for me."

"I got it, Mrs. Graham. I will." Naya smiled and accepted the task. Her heart felt much more relieved.

What did it matter if Ava had a lot of people supporting her? She could be authoritative as well as long as Daniel's mother was on her side.

The next morning, Naya dolled herself up and came to the hospital. However, she was told that Daniel had been transferred to the VIP ward from the intensive care unit. Naya found the ward, but before she pushed the door to go in, she spotted Ava leaning on the sofa next to the bed. She was resting her eyes.

Naya rolled her eyes and scoffed in contempt. When she was about to push the door open, she heard Madeline's voice.

"Miss Mendez, you're still in the mood to come here?"

Naya stopped in her tracks and turned to see Madeline walking over with a meaningful smile.

Naya did not dare to offend Madeline, so she put on a hypocritical smile. "Mrs. Whitman, this is not private property, so why can't I come here? Also, I'm in a good mood today. Do I need to get your permission to be here?"

Madeline smiled. "You've misunderstood me, Miss Mende. I mean to say that the police will come to question you soon, so how could you still be in the mood to leave the house?"

Naya was a little flustered when she heard Madeline mention the police, but she pretended to be calm. "What do you mean, Mrs. Whitman?"

"I mean..."

Before Madeline finished speaking, Naya's cell phone rang. She glanced at the caller ID and frowned. Then, she ended the call and muttered, "Why are there so many harassments calls lately? It's so annoying."

After she complained, she did not continue to pay attention to Madeline. She pushed the door into the hospital ward.

Ava was feeling a little sleep when she was suddenly awakened by the sound of the door opening. When she raised her drowsy eyes and saw that the person who came in was Naya, she immediately stood up vigilantly.

"Why are you still here?"

"Ava," Madeline walked in and called out to Ava.

A small smile crept across Ava's vigilant face. "Maddie, you're here."

"Yeah, I brought you breakfast. I made it myself. You should eat first and take a rest."

Ava smiled and nodded. Then, she took the breakfast from Madeline and walked to the side to sit down, preparing to eat. She completely ignored Naya.

Madeline also seemed to ignore Naya. Without even looking at Naya, she sat next to Ava, and the two chatted in soft voices.

Looking at this scene, Naya inexplicably panicked. She looked at Daniel, who seemed to be silent on the hospital bed. Then, she slowly approached him and suddenly bent down to say into Daniel's ear.

"Dan, don't worry. No matter what you become, I'll be by your side. I believe that you will recover soon."

Naya said those gentle words, deliberately saying them loud enough for Madeline and Ava to hear. She glanced at Ava provocatively, her eyes beyond proud.

"Ava..." Daniel suddenly uttered.

Naya froze abruptly, not expecting Daniel to speak at this time. Plus, he was even calling out to Ava. She instantly felt that her provocation against Ava just now had turned into an insult aimed at herself.

Ava, upon hearing Daniel's voice, threw the fork in her hand away and hurried to Daniel.

"Danny, Danny, you're calling for me, right?" Ava grabbed Daniel's hand and stared at the sleeping man with teary eyes.

Naya, who was on the side, could not stand it any longer. "Ava, let go of Dan. He's already so weak yet you're still pulling on him like this. Don't you want Dan to get better?"

"When exactly did you see Ava pulling on Dan? Naya, you know best in your heart who Dan wants to see the most. I'm telling you now not to make a fool out of yourself here." Madeline stepped forward to speak up for Ava.

When Naya wanted to retort, she suddenly seemed to hear Daniel's weak voice calling out for Ava again. "Ava..."

Naya felt as if she had been slapped in the face. Her face felt hot and burning.

Ava did not want to pay attention to Naya now. She grabbed Daniel's hand tightly as tears escaped her eyes. "Danny, I'm here. I'm right here. I'll stay with you no matter how many people want to stop us from being together. I'll never leave you."

Ava seemed to be saying this to Naya.

Naya bit her lip in anger. She did not like to see Ava getting close to Daniel. When she wanted to mention Mrs. Graham to put pressure on Ava, two police officers pushed the door open and walked in. Their target was clear as they walked straight to Naya.

"Are you Naya Mendez?"

Naya was stunned for a second. Then, she turned to look at the police, her heart pounding.

Madeline also followed the source of the sound and could probably guess what was going on. However, Ava did not care about Naya at all. Her eyes and thoughts were all on Daniel.

Although Naya was very nervous, she knew that she could not panic.

"I'm Naya Mendez." Naya walked over, pretending to have a clear conscience. "May I help you, officers?"

"We've found the person who broke into Miss Long's vehicle that day. The other party is a gangster who idles his time away. What he said is almost the same as what Chloe Tawney said," the police officer said directly.

After he said that, Madeline's and Ava's expressions changed at the same time.

They found the man who tampered with the car?

Naya's face flashed with panic, but she pretended to be calm as she said, "It's good that you've arrested him. You should go find that man. Why did you come to me?"

"We want to ask you to assist in the investigation of some related urgent matters. We have to trouble you to go to the police station with us."

Upon hearing the police officer's words, Naya breathed a sigh of relief. She thought the police had found something, but they did not.

Naya followed with a friendly smile. "I'm happy to assist the police." After she finished speaking, she looked at Ava, whose eyes were blurry with tears. "Ava, no matter how much you distance yourself from the fact, nothing can change that Dan was driving your car when he got into the accident."

Naya glanced at the police after saying that. "Let's go, Mr. Officer."

The leading police officer turned around and led the way. Just then, Madeline stopped the other police officer who was walking behind. "Officer, I want to know something."

The police officer asked politely, "May I ask who you are?"

Madeline explained her relationship with Ava and Daniel. Then, she asked, "Did the man you catch admit that he was the one who tampered with my friend's car?"

"No." The policeman answered firmly.

"He admitted to taking money from Chloe Tawney to break into Miss Long's car, but he said he just stole valuables from the car and didn't do anything to the brakes."

Ava gently released Daniel's hand when she heard the words. She stood up. "He isn't the one who tampered with the car? Is his confession credible?"

"We did a polygraph test with him and he didn't lie, but a polygraph isn't necessarily 100 percent accurate."

"So what does this matter have to do with Naya?" Madeline asked.

The officer said he could not reveal to them the details of the investigation. Hence, he turned around and left.

"Maddie, what's going on? If that man didn't tamper with my car, how did the brakes get damaged?"

Ava grabbed Madeline's hand and asked in confusion. A look of self-blame appeared on her face.

"So, it's still my fault. Nothing would've happened to Danny if he hadn't driven my car."

"Ava, you're overthinking again. I told you that this has nothing to do with you." Madeline comforted Ava, but she was quietly thinking about the doubtful points in this case.

"I'm not overthinking, Maddie. Danny took this calamity for me."

Ava went back to Daniel's side sadly. Madeline was worried that Ava would waste time dwelling on insoluble problems again, so she decided to stay by Ava's side. At the same time, she also sent a message to Jeremy.

Jeremy received a message from Madeline just after sending their son to school. After taking a look, he immediately called the relevant personnel to find out what had happened. After learning about the situation, he immediately replied to Madeline's message.

After seeing Jeremy's reply, Madeline had a bold guess in her heart.

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In the police car...

Naya suppressed the panic in her heart and remained calm on the surface. She really wanted to know what the police wanted her help on. However, she was afraid that if she asked too much, the police would suspect something. Hence, she kept silent. However, the events of that day popped up in her mind involuntarily...

That day, she received a message from Chloe saying that she had gotten someone to tamper with Ava's car.

On that day, she had actually followed Chloe. She found a blind spot where the surveillance cameras would not be able to capture her and hid behind a pillar. She watched the man Chloe hired break into Ava's car. Meanwhile, Chloe was standing there taking the video. It did not take long for Chloe to send the video to her. Naya glanced at it and did not reply. She was focused on the situation in the car.

After about ten minutes, the man got out of the car and left Chloe also left soon after.

When the parking lot was empty, Naya got into Ava's car. Since the door was forcefully pried open, it could not be closed tightly. Naya put on rubber gloves and performed a series of operations on the brakes using the relevant information she found on the internet. After doing this, she carefully left the crime scene.

Naya did not think about anything at the time. She just wanted Ava to drive the car, get into a serious accident, and die. She was just worried that

Chloe's guy might not be cruel enough, so she decided to do it herself. Indeed, Chloe's guy did not do the job well even after taking the money. However, Naya never imagined that Daniel would be the one who drove that car.

When Naya found out, her heart froze and her hands also turned cold.

The police car stopped at this time, and Naya was taken directly to the interrogation room. After sitting down, the first question she was asked by the police officer was where she was when Ava's car was tampered with.

Naya's back turned cold, but she did not even bat an eyelid before she parted her mouth and said, "I was watching a movie in my apartment that day."

"Are you sure you were in your apartment that day? You remember it so well?" The police officer maintained reasonable suspicion.

Naya nodded. "I'm pretty sure." She assured, followed by a sad and innocent expression. "It's because I was getting cyber-bullied during that period and people would look at me with strange looks wherever I went, so I didn't dare to go out."

After listening to Naya's explanation, the police officer said, "We have also learned about the incident on the internet. You suffered the consequences of your own actions."

Naya wanted to express her grievance, but she did not expect to be ridiculed. She began to panic in her heart. If the police asked her that, then they definitely knew something.

However, unlike what she thought, the police officer just continued to ask some seemingly insignificant questions before letting her go.

After leaving the police station, Naya went straight back to her apartment. She was restless. After a while, she drove out. After circling the city center, she could not help but head to one place and stopped her car there.

After driving there, Naya was a little hesitant as she sat in the car. However, since she was here, how could she go back at this time?

Hence, she had to go. After Naya thought about it, she got out of the car and walked straight toward one of the parking spaces.

On that day, she did not think that she was photographed by anyone or captured by any surveillance cameras. However, she was not so sure anymore. It was because the police had approached her for questioning. The reason why the police did this must be that they had some evidence. When she thought of this, Naya's heartbeat became unstable.

She could not escape from this, so she had to go back to the crime scene to see if there was any evidence left behind that could be used against her. However, Naya's footsteps suddenly stopped. From a distance, she seemed to see a familiar figure hovering near the parking space in front.

Naya stopped abruptly and stepped back to the edge of the pillar.

She was not mistaken. The woman in sight was Madeline.

However, why was Madeline here?

Naya was full of doubts and wanted to get a closer look but was afraid of being discovered.

At this time, Madeline seemed to have spotted something on the floor. She suddenly squatted down to pick it up.

"Jeremy, what do you think this is?" Madeline picked up something and suddenly raised her eyes, speaking to the person in front.

Only then did Naya realize that Jeremy was there too. Naya was getting more and more flustered now. 'Jeremy is here too? What does that mean?'

Naya did not dare to think too much, so she retracted her head behind the pillar. In the distance, she vaguely heard the conversation between Madeline and Jeremy.

"Jeremy, what do you think this is? This should be something only girls have, right?"

"Could this be Ava's? This is her parking space. It's not surprising that she might have dropped something here."

"No, Ava wouldn't like such accessories." Madeline denied.

Upon hearing this, Naya felt a thin layer of sweat on her palms. She subconsciously looked at the accessories she was wearing, wondering if it was a ring or a bracelet that had fallen near the parking space. If her belongings were found here, it would be difficult for her to justify herself.

However, what was it?

"Jeremy, it seems that someone other than Chloe and that man she hired were here. That person is probably the one who tampered with Ava's car."

Madeline analyzed the situation, and upon hearing this, Naya became more and more uneasy. The cold sweat on her palms increased as well.

'How is this possible? How do they know that the accident was caused by someone else? Do they really have any relevant evidence?'

Naya made a guess and stuck her head out a little to look over.

At this moment, Madeline and Jeremy were looking down at the ground as if they were still looking for something.

"Jeremy, are the results of what I asked you to investigate this morning reliable?"

"It's reliable." Jeremy assured. "The man who broke into Ava's car didn't do anything to the car. After he went back, he showed off to his group of friends that he received money after he got into the car and put on a show. That night, he used that money to go to the bar to have a good time. He spent all of the money in one night."

"That said, he did not lie and the police even did a polygraph test on him. He passed the test. It seems that someone else tampered with Ava's car."

Madeline lifted the thing she just picked up. "That person is most likely the person who left this object."

"I think so too." Jeremy agreed. He raised his eyes and looked around.

"Unfortunately, this is a blind spot for the surveillance cameras. And the police have investigated everything they could. Linnie, let's go back."

Jeremy's words reassured Naya. The absence of surveillance footage was to her advantage. However, before she could feel happy for a few more

seconds, she suddenly heard that Madeline seemed to have found something important.

"Jeremy, look at the surveillance camera over there. Do you think it can film what's going on at this spot?"

Jeremy looked in the direction Madeline pointed and pondered for a few seconds. "Linnie, come on. Let's go to the apartment building's surveillance room."

"Okay." Madeline took Jeremy's hand, and the two left immediately.

Naya hid behind the pillar, listening to the sound of Madeline's and Jeremy's footsteps getting farther away. After that, she slowly walked out of her hiding place. She vigilantly looked around, then walked cautiously to the parking space of Ava's car.

The parking space was empty and there was nothing here, but she wondered if she had really dropped something here when she was not paying attention. Naya did not dare to waste any time and quickly searched around. Luckily, and somewhat surprisingly, she indeed saw something that belonged to her. It was a brooch that fell over the gutter, but since the brooch was slightly larger, it got stuck in the notch.

Naya picked it up without hesitation and stuffed it into her pocket. She did not forget to continue searching around the parking space to make sure everything was fine before leaving.

She avoided the surveillance cameras and returned to her car as fast as she could. Her hand that was holding the steering wheel started trembling a few times.

After taking a deep breath, Naya took out the brooch hidden in her pocket and looked at it absent-mindedly.

She was suddenly a little confused. Did she wear this brooch that day?

However, this brooch was indeed hers.

Naya did not think much of it and quickly drove away. In the distance, Madeline and Jeremy sat quietly in their car, watching Naya's car get farther and farther away until it disappeared into the traffic.

Madeline looked at the thing she had just picked up from the ground with heavy eyes. The guesses in her heart had been confirmed.

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In hospital.

Ava stayed by Daniel's bed all day and all night. Early next morning, she thought Madeline would bring her breakfast again. She did not expect Raegan to come. Ava had mixed feelings once again when she was looking at the breakfast Raegan brought her.

Raegan was a little uncomfortable when she saw that Ava seemed to be at a loss, but she still smiled. "Ava, this is the breakfast I made myself. You might not like the taste, but it should be okay. You should go wash up first and eat something. I'll help you watch Daniel."

Ava looked at the breakfast Raegan had placed on the coffee table. There were different kinds of breakfast with plenty of choices for her. It was probably because Raegan did not know what she liked, so she made a lot of food to let her choose. Ava did not know what to say for a while, but there was already a surge of warmth in her heart.

After Ava finished washing up, she picked up the buns and ate them. It was unknown if it was because she had not eaten buns for a long time, Ava actually thought they were delicious.

Raegan quietly watched Ava eating the breakfast she made, and while watching, she noticed tears falling from Ava's eyes.

Raegan's heart ached. She did not think much before she went straight to Ava's side and sat down.

"Ava," Raegan called Ava's name affectionately, reaching for a tissue.

Ava looked at the tissue through the tears in her eyes. She did not speak and just quietly took the tissue. She quickly wiped the tears off her face and continued to eat the buns. She tried to pretend to be nonchalant, but her tears kept falling.

Raegan's heart ached as she saw this. "Ava, do you want..."

"Can you go out first?" Ava finally said, but the words turned Raegan's heart cold. However, she would not refuse Ava's request.

"I'll just be outside. You can call me if you need anything." Raegan turned around after saying this.

When she was closing the door, Raegan could not help but steal a few glances at Ava.

After Ava saw Raegan go out, tears poured out from her eyes. Even so, she still did not dare to be too loud. She did not want to disturb the sleeping Daniel even though she knew that it was unlikely for Daniel to wake up now.

At this time, Daniel's mother came to the hospital to see Daniel. She also brought Naya with her. Although Daniel's mother suspected that Naya had given her fake jewelry, the appraisal agency had not yet given her the results. She was more willing to talk to Naya.

Before reaching the door of the ward, Naya spotted Raegan. "Mrs. Graham, look It's Ava's mother."

Daniel's mother followed her line of sight, and a displeased look appeared on her face. "What's so amazing about this woman anyway? She just knows how to make money. So what if she has money? Her husband is gone, while her daughter is ignoring her and doesn't want to acknowledge her kindness. Hmph, my son is the one inside, so why should an outsider like her order us around?"

Daniel's mother said with an arrogant face as she stepped toward the ward.

Raegan heard the footsteps approaching and looked up. When she saw Daniel's mother and Naya, she did not do anything and just watched them silently.

Daniel's mother was quite imposing a second ago, but for some reason, she suddenly lost her confidence when facing Raegan. She did not talk to Raegan and wanted to push the door open to go into the ward.

"The doctor has just checked your son. He specifically told us not to go in and disturb him. You can visit him later." Raegan reminded calmly.

Naya stopped and glanced at Raegan arrogantly, "Dan is just lying on the bed and resting. How are we disturbing by going in to look at him? You don't want to let us inside because you want your daughter to be alone with Dan, right?"

Raegan knew that Naya only looked like a good woman, but in reality, she was extremely troublesome. She looked at Naya indifferently, "Although Dan is lying there and is still unconscious, it doesn't mean he can't feel things. Ask yourself, who's the person Dan wants to see the most?"

"What? Do you think my son must have your daughter with him? I don't believe that my son won't want to see his mother!" Daniel's mother got angry, pushed open the door, and rushed in.

Ava, who was crying while eating the buns, immediately put down the buns when she heard the noise. She wiped away her tears.

Although Ava moved quickly, Naya still spotted her wiping away her tears.

Naya snickered and sneered. "Only you and your mother would use despicable means just so you can have Dan all to yourself."

Ava sorted her emotions and glanced at Naya indifferently. She was not in the mood to argue with Naya. Plus, it was reasonable for Daniel's mother to want to see Daniel, so Ava thought about going out first to avoid unnecessary trouble. However, just as Ava was about to turn around, she heard Naya's disdainful rant from behind. "Mrs. Graham, look. Dan isn't waking up at all, unlike what the doctor said. The doctor only followed someone's instructions and said that on purpose so that a certain someone can stay by Dan's side alone."

Daniel's mother heard this and looked at Daniel's haggard and pale face. She felt both uncomfortable and dissatisfied. Out of the corners of her eyes, she caught a glimpse of Ava standing at the door in a daze. She opened her mouth and scolded.

"Dan doesn't need you here anymore. You should leave with your billionaire mother. The farther away you are from us, the better."

Ava clenched her fist, but eventually, she released them. "I'm not leaving Dan."

Daniel's mother frowned, turned around, and stared at Ava, "Why are you such a nuisance? Dan hasn't woken up because he drove your car. How are you still shatneless enough to stay here?"

"If it weren't for the sake of my daughter, I wouldn't have bothered to use my connections to get the doctor to come and treat your son." Raegan walked in from the door. When she saw Ava's red eyes, she walked over in distress and grabbed Ava's hand. "Ava, although Dan really wants you to be by his side, I don't want to see these unreasonable people ganging up to bully you."

After Reagan spoke, she was about to pull Ava away.

Ava was probably a little surprised by Raegan's sudden grasp. Before she could react, she heard Naya's mocking voice.

"Ms. Xander, you spoke so well, but don't you think you're being ridiculous? Your daughter doesn't even care about you at all. She hates you to death. I heard that it's because you abandoned her for your career. Tsk tsk, what a pity. Site doesn't want your kindness at all."

Naya's words were full of pertinence.

She just wanted to see Ava unhappy and uncomfortable. She knew very well that the relationship between Ava and Raegan could be described as incompatible as fire and water. Therefore, she wanted to drive a wedge between Ava and Raegan.

"Who said I don't want it?" Ava's rhetorical question sounded abruptly. "Why would I not want a billionaire mother who spoils me so much? I guess some people are just jealous."

Ava raised the corners of her mouth into a smile, her eyes a little more arrogant than before. She took advantage of the situation and grabbed Raegan's hand tightly while smiling even brighter. "Mom, we haven't seen each other for so many years. Now that we've finally reunited, let's go and have a nice long chat."

Ava said and took Raegan's hand before turning around and walking out.

Naya's face had already darkened at this moment. She snorted with dissatisfaction and stayed in the ward with Daniel's mother.

Outside the ward, Raegan's face was full of joy at the moment, when she wanted to say something, Ava hurriedly released her hand.

The smile on Raegan's face froze a little, but there was still joy. She understood Ava very well, so she planned to stay quiet. However, she suddenly heard Ava talking to her.

"Thank you..." Ava thanked her again.

Raegan was stunned for a moment. Just when she was about to say 'you're welcome', Ava repeated it and added another word.

Raegan knew that she heard it right, but when the word left Ava's mouth, Raegan felt like she was dreaming.

"Mom," she said.

To Raegan, that word felt like a dream. While Raegan was still in a daze, Ava spoke again.

"I'm really thankful for you. Thank you for taking care of me and Danny all this while. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. "

Ava's attitude was sincere. Raegan felt tears sting the corners of her eyes. She was a calm person, but right now, she was so excited that she could not even say a word.

"T-This is what I should do," Raegan stammered a little when she spoke, her overly excited emotions making her beating heart tremble even more.

"Ava, are you willing to forgive me?" Raegan could not help asking after a while.

Ava looked at Raegan's hopeful eyes and lowered her eyes in disappointment.

"There's nothing to be forgiven. I just know that seeing you at this moment makes me feel at ease." Ava expressed her true feelings.

Raegan was very satisfied despite not getting the answer she was looking for.

Her eyes were also dyed red, and the joy in her heart could not be described in words. She tried to stop her tears from falling, but she could not stop the emotions that she wanted to express.

Ava took out a tissue from her pocket, but she did not hand it to Raegan. Instead, she lifted her hand and wiped Raegan's tears for her.

At that moment, Raegan was completely stunned. Her whole body froze in place, and the scorching tears seemed to warm her eyes, causing a warm current to flow through her heart.

There were a lot of things she wanted to express at this moment, but they seemed to be stuck in her throat and she could not speak.

Ava could probably sense what Raegan was feeling at the moment. She took a deep breath and sighed, a relieved smile appearing on the corners of her mouth.

"I know you want to hear me say that everything's okay, but over the past ten years, the loneliness, anxiety, and loss have already deeply accumulated in my heart. There's no way to easily erase them."

Ava candidly expressed her thoughts. The smile on her face became more and more at ease.

"But it's much better now, really. Although I said that I don't want to see you again, every time I see you, a light will ignite in my heart. I know that's the warmth I've been longing for and the motherly love I've been seeking for more than a decade. Now, this love has finally been delivered to me."

At the end of her sentence, Ava laughed and burst into tears. Then, she looked into Raegan's eyes earnestly.

"Mom..."

Two seconds later, Ava called out to Raegan and stretched out her arms to hug her.

Raegan did not expect it but was very surprised and excited. She did not let herself be in a daze for long and quickly hugged Ava back.

"Ava, I'm sorry. I've wronged you."

Raegan cried and apologized. She owed Ava too much.

"After I left you that year, I've always regretted it. In fact, I went back to find you. I secretly watched you carry your school bag to school, and then after school, I wanted so badly to go over and hug you. However, I didn't have the courage..."

Raegan closed her eyes, letting the tears run down her face.

At this moment, they did not talk to each other anymore and just hugged each other tighter.

Naya was standing behind the door of the ward. Upon seeing the scene outside the door through the small window, she rolled her eyes unhappily.

Unexpectedly, her provocation just now had led to Ava and Raegan's reconciliation. This was beyond her expectation.

Naya gritted her teeth and looked back at Daniel, who was unresponsive on the hospital bed. She felt distressed and also irritable.

'Please don't blame me, Dan. I didn't mean to hurt you. If you want to blame someone, blame Ava. We were childhood sweethearts and we're a match made in heaven. It was Ava, an outsider, who suddenly intervened in our relationship.'

'If it weren't for this woman, I believe we would have already gotten married. Ava should have died. You're supposed to be safe and sound. Sigh, I wonder when Dan will wake up. It's been so many days and he's still like this.'

Naya came back to her senses when she heard Mrs. Graham's worries. Then, she put on her good girl act and walked over to comfort her.

"Mrs. Graham, heaven help the worthy. I believe that Dan will be safe and sound," Naya seemed to comfort her kindly. "However, I don't think you can let Ava and her mother do whatever they want. Dan is your son. Your decision outweighs theirs."

Mrs. Graham's face sank after hearing this. "Naya, lock the door and don't let those people come in again."

When Naya saw that she had successfully instigated Daniel's mother, she walked over without hesitation and locked the door.

After talking outside the ward, Ava and Raegan wanted to go in and continue to keep an eye on Daniel. However, when they went to open the door, they found that the door could not be opened. Ava looked up at the small window on the door, but she could only see Naya rolling her arrogant eyes at her. Of course, Ava knew that the door was intentionally locked. However, she did not want to knock hard on the door. Although Daniel had not woken up yet, she was still afraid of disturbing him.

"How outrageous." Raegan felt sorry for Ava, and at the same time, she did not understand the behavior of Naya and Daniel's mother.

"Naya is obviously not a good person. I wonder if Dan's mother is truly a fully-grown adult? Her ability to distinguish right from wrong is worse than that of a child."

"Forget it." Ava smiled indifferently. "I'll just wait here. I don't believe they can stay in there forever."

Ava smiled and sat down on the chair by the door. When she looked back, she saw Madeline coming over. Ava stood up again and walked toward Madeline.

"Maddie, I knew you'd come to see me."

Madeline clearly felt that Ava was in a good mood. Seeing that Raegan was also greeting her with a slight smile, Madeline immediately felt that the relationship between Ava and Raegan seemed to have improved. It was probably a big leap in progress. Madeline was happy for Ava and Raegan. However, she was here for some serious business.

"Ava, is Naya here?" Madeline went straight to the point.

Ava turned around and said, "She's in there. She locked the door to prevent me from going in. Maddie, do you need something from her?"

"Yeah, I do."

Madeline said as she walked to the door of the ward. She then raised her hand and knocked on the door, but there was no response.

Madeline knocked again. "Naya, this is Eveline. I have a few questions I want to ask you about Dan's car accident."

Madeline directly explained the purpose of her visit. At first, there was still no movement inside. After several seconds, the door of the ward finally opened.

Naya held the doorknob, and it did not look like she was going to open the door completely to let others in. However, when she heard that the person knocking on the door was Madeline, the arrogant look on her face dissipated in an instant.

"Mrs. Whitman, it's you." Naya curled her lips while pretending to be calm. However, all she could think about was what Madeline and Jeremy had found in the parking lot. She still did not know what Madeline picked up at the time.

Madeline returned a faint smile. "Yes, it's me, Miss Mendez. I have something important to ask you."

Madeline said and glanced at the ward. "Come out and talk. Let Dan rest."

"What can't be said here? Why does she have to go out to talk?" Daniel's mother came over with a displeased expression, her eyes also filled with doubts.

"Mrs. Whitman, you're not trying to deceive us and have some irrelevant people come in by saying that, right?"

Seeing that Daniel's mother was still talking to Naya at this time, Madeline raised her cold eyes indifferently. "We're going to talk about the main cause of Dan's car accident. Aren't you interested to know, Mrs. Graham?"

Upon hearing Madeline's answer, Mrs. Graham's face changed slightly. Meanwhile, a trace of panic flashed across Naya's eyes.

Madeline calmly retracted her gaze and did not say anything. Instead, she just turned and walked to the side.

Naya's heart skipped a beat. She was worried that she had been exposed. While she was hesitating, Daniel's mother opened the door and walked out.

"What did you just say? The main reason for Dan's accident is because he drove this woman's car and got into a car accident, right? What else is there to say?"

Madeline frowned upon hearing that. "Mrs. Graham, I wonder if you have difficulty understanding what the police said. The police have been very clear about this. Ava's car was tampered with and that's how the accident happened. This isn't Ava's fault."

"Mrs. Whitman, did you come here just to emphasize that Ava has nothing to do with this matter?" Naya said out of nowhere.

Madeline calmly said, "I don't have to emphasize it because this is the truth."

Naya's face sank, and she looked very pissed.

The same went for Daniel's mother. "Even if someone else tampered with her car, that's her problem. If Dan wasn't with her, he wouldn't have driven her car and gotten into that accident."

Madeline was speechless at what Daniel's mother said.

Raegan could not listen to this anymore. When she was just about to say something, she was stopped by Ava. "Mom, there's no need to argue with them. Even if everyone thinks that I killed Dan, I don't care. As long as Dan wakes up and they catch the real mastermind behind the car accident, it's enough."

When Ava said this, she gave Naya a meaningful look. Naya looked at Ava with a guilty conscience. She knew what Ava meant. Ava also thought it was Naya who instructed Chloe to do this, but the truth was that Naya was the one who tampered with the brakes herself.

"Ava, don't worry. Dan will get better and the culprit will be caught soon," Madeline said while fixing her gaze on Naya.

"Miss Mendez, I heard that you were called by the police for questioning yesterday. Can you tell me what the police asked you?" Madeline asked with a smile.

When Naya heard this, she immediately felt that something was wrong but she did not want these people to gain any clues. Therefore, she pretended to be confused. "Mrs. Whitman, this involves the police's investigation. I don't think you have the right to ask me about it."

"Indeed, I don't have the right to ask such a question. But my husband does."

As soon as Madeline finished speaking, Jeremy walked up behind her.

Jeremy was parking the car earlier, so Madeline came to the ward first to look for Naya.

Daniel's mother became more and more confused when she heard that. Then, she glanced at Jeremy who was getting closer and closer. "When did Jeremy become a police officer? Eveline, are you fooling us?"

"I don't have time to fool you." Madeline's eyes became even colder. "Naya, you know very well why the police brought you in for questioning."

"Eveline, what do you mean?" The more Daniel's mother listened to Madeline's words, the more incomprehensible she found them. Her tone was also filled with some complaints. "It sounds as if you're saying that Dan's car accident has something to do with Naya."

"It does have something to do with her." Madeline's answer was firm as she explained Jeremy's situation, "I forgot to mention that my husband is a senior detective of the Interpol. He has the same rights that the police have."

Both Naya and Daniel's mother were startled. They had no idea that Jeremy had this identity. Ava was not too surprised. She knew Jeremy's identity and had sensed a long time ago that Naya was the one who instigated Chloe to do this.

Although Naya had mentally prepared herself, Madeline's direct testimony against her made her very uncomfortable. She frowned, trying to appear innocent.

"Eveline, although you are the daughter of a wealthy family, you're Mr. Whitman's wife. You have a strong background. You can't bully people like this for your so-called good friend, right? If I really had something to do

with the car accident, the police would have come to arrest me a long time ago. Would you even have the chance to question me?"

"Yes, you're right. The evidence has been found now. Not only are you inseparable from this matter, but you're also the main culprit behind the car accident."

After Madeline said that, her eyes became sharper. Naya's expression turned unpleasant all of a sudden as anxiety built up in her heart. Even so, she insisted on arguing.

"Eveline, the main cause of the car accident is that someone tampered with the brakes of your friend's car. This person was hired by Chloe and it has nothing to do with me. The police have also arrested the person and detained Chloe. If I was the one who instigated her, do you think I can stand here all fine and dandy? Eveline, I hope you won't use your background to falsely accuse the innocent." Naya asked rhetorically in a tough tone. Then, she turned her head and expressed her grievance to Daniel's mother with a sad look on her face. "Mrs. Graham, look at these people. They're gauging up to bully me."

Daniel's mother snorted coldly. "Eveline, Jeremy, don't be such intolerable bullies! How could this have anything to do with Naya? How could she want Dan to get into an accident? It's outrageous!"

"According to your logic, Mrs. Graham, do you think Ava wanted something to happen to Dan?" Madeline asked coldly, then turned her gaze to Naya, who looked aggrieved and dissatisfied.

"Naya, you're right again. You didn't instigate anyone because Chloe and that man are just your scapegoats. You're the culprit who tampered with the brakes of Ava's car."

After Madeline said that, everyone aside from Jeremy was stunned.

"W-What? Eveline, what are you saying?" Daniel's mother was confused. Then, she scoffed. "Eveline, do you know what you're talking about? Are you saying that Naya was the one who caused Dan's accident?"

"That's right. She did it," Madeline answered quickly and affirmatively.

When Ava heard Madeline's firm answer once again, she could not keep calm anymore. "Maddie, are you telling the truth? Naya was the one who tampered with my car? Not the thug Chloe hired?"

Madeline shook her head softly. "It wasn't that thug."

Her piercing gaze landed on Naya's face. "Chloe did hire a thug to break into your car, but he only got into your car and stole some valuables. He didn't tamper with the brakes."

"So, the person who did it was Naya. She wanted me dead, right?" Ava started to get emotional.

"Yes, it was her. I can vouch for what I said." Madeline walked in front of Naya. She could tell that Naya's expression was very unnatural right now.

However, even if she was panicking, Naya would not admit it. Hence, Naya still tried her best to argue.

"Heh, I'm learning so much today. The young mistress of an aristocratic family in Glendale is bullying others with her authority for her so-called good friend."

Naya scoffed coldly. She was not afraid to cause a scene. When she saw the doctors, nurses, and patients' families walking past, Naya called out to them, "Everyone, stop and take a look at this. This is what relying on power to bully others looks like."

Naya deliberately raised her voice so the doctors, nurses, and patients' families all stopped to see what was going on.

"What's happening?"

"I know those two. They look like Jeremy Whitman and Eveline Montgomery."

"Aren't they the pair of aristocratic husband and wife in Glendale? I've seen that woman too. I've also seen that one."

"Isn't that the woman in the video that went viral on the internet recently? I remember this woman named Naya falsely accused Ava."

Naya wanted to use the bystanders' criticism and judging eyes to exert some pressure on Madeline, but she did not expect them to know her and remember the incident where she and Chloe had framed Ava. Naya immediately felt her face burning. The feeling of awkwardness overwhelmed her immediately.

She had shot herself in the foot!

However, she could not turn back anymore. She had to continue this no matter what.

"That's right. You didn't see wrongly. I'm Naya Mendez and she's Ava Long." Naya admitted magnanimously.

"I had some beef with her back then, so that's why you saw that video on the internet. But this is not what I want to say." Naya looked serious and righteous before continuing.

"Some time ago, Miss Long's boyfriend, who's also my childhood sweetheart Daniel, got into a serious accident. Do you know what's interesting?" Naya paused as she said that and lifted her arrogant eyebrows.

"They're saying that I caused the accident. I have nothing to do with that accident at all but they're unjustly blaming me using their powerful backgrounds. They're even trying to..."

"Naya, you don't have to quibble anymore. Since I came to look for you, it means I'm very confident." Madeline calmly interrupted Naya and turned around to look at the crowd that had started to gather around them.

"I'm sure everyone has heard about the serious accident that took place near the big supermarket recently. The person who got hurt is Daniel Graham, the eldest son of the Grahams, one of the four richest families in Glendale. Just now, Miss Mendez said I'm falsely accusing her and she has nothing to do with the car accident. I want to emphasize that the accident was a deliberate murder attempt and it was Naya who did it."

When she said the last sentence, Madeline looked straight into Naya's eyes.

"Naya, you can't change this fact. It's just like the last time you colluded with Chloe to frame Ava. In the end, everyone still saw the truth. This time, it'll be the same."

Madeline's tone was powerful and resonating. She was not giving Naya any chance to quibble.

"Naya, you said your good friend Chloe hired a thug to tamper with Ava's car. The truth is, while Chloe did pay the thug, he didn't do anything to the car. They didn't do anything but the car's brakes still stopped functioning and Daniel got into an accident. What really happened, then?" Madeline asked, her sharp and piercing eyes causing Naya to feel uneasy.

"How would I know what happened?" Naya was flustered and exasperated. Her tone sounded more hurried now.

When she saw the people around her whispering about her among themselves, Naya panicked. "Mrs. Graham, it's been so many years and you know me the best. I like Dan a lot, so why would I do something that would upset Dan? Even though I don't like Ava, she's still the woman Dan loves. At most, I would just throw a tantrum. I wouldn't do anything illegal!"

After Daniel's mother heard that, she nodded. Her face darkened as she looked at Madeline in dissatisfaction. Then, she also looked coldly at Ava.

"Don't make a fuss at a place where Dan is resting. I watched Naya grow up and I know what she's like the best. She wouldn't do something so immoral. Go away now. This is so annoying."

After Daniel's mother said that in annoyance, she wanted to bring Naya back to the ward. Suddenly, she heard Madeline say sarcastically.

"Mrs. Graham, if you're so clear on Naya's character, why did you take the branded goods Naya gave you for appraisal?"

Mrs. Graham blushed as she quickly stopped in her tracks.

Naya was also stunned. She had no idea that Daniel's mother had taken the jewelry, bags, and clothes she gave her all these years for appraisal. If she took them for appraisal, then Naya would be exposed. None of those branded goods she gave Daniel's mother in the past few years were authentic.

Daniel's mother was worried and embarrassed. She immediately denied it. "What nonsense are you talking about? What did I take for appraisal? I did no such thing."

"No?" Madeline asked slowly. "I have a copy of the appraisal report. Everything is clearly stated here, and the results of every appraisal are here. I got this from a friend of mine who's an appraisal expert. She knew I was coming here today so she asked me to bring this to you."

After Madeline said that, she took out a few folded pieces of paper from her bag. "Are you sure you don't want to look at the results, Mrs. Graham?"

Even though Daniel's mother denied it, she still wanted to know the results of the appraisal. She was very dissatisfied because that appraisal expert did not tell her at once when she got the results but instead, she asked Madeline to send the report to her.

Naya's eyes also unconsciously landed on the papers Madeline was holding. This time, she had no idea whether Madeline was deliberately faking this.

Madeline did not give Naya the chance to guess either, and she did not let Daniel's mother feel conflicted for too long. She immediately took the papers in her hand and showed the results to them.

The eyes of Daniel's mother widened as the items listed on the papers were all the items she sent for appraisal. There were 33 items, not one item more or one item less. Then, she noticed the results of the appraisal. What shocked her was that there was not a single 'authentic' remark on the report. All of them were fake!

Of course, Naya saw the results as well. Her face was just like Daniel's mother's. It immediately turned dark, and she looked very embarrassed.

"Mrs. Graham, you're seeing this too, right? The jewelry and bags Naya gave you are all fakes. She only did that to get on your good side. At the same time, you don't know anything about branded goods, so you've been helping her save the cost of flattering you."

Madeline was straightforward, and Daniel's mother became burning hot after hearing that. She was a rich woman from an aristocratic family, yet she

was called stupid in front of everyone. How would she be able to save her dignity now?

What embarrassed Daniel's mother even more was that she had worn the jewelry and bags Naya gave her to a lot of upper class parties and dinners. When she thought about how the things she wore were all fake and the other rich women might have been laughing at her behind her back for wearing fakes, she wanted so badly to crawl into a hole.

That was so embarrassing!

Naya noticed Mrs. Graham's expression. She wanted to maintain her image. Of course, she would not admit it so easily.

"Eveline, what kind of appraisal expert is your friend? She got the results yet didn't send them directly to the client but instead, she handed them to an irrelevant person like you. Who would dare visit an appraisal expert who leaks her clients' details to others? Also, the branded bags and jewelry I gave to Mrs. Graham are all from the stores. How can they be fakes? I think your appraisal expert friend is the fake one." Naya denied it and turned her head to try to comfort Daniel's mother.

"Mrs. Graham, don't trust what Eveline said. She's here to speak on behalf of Ava, so she must be saying that to drive a wedge between us. The things I gave you are all authentic. The only fake thing is the appraisal report."

Naya insisted, then looked at Madeline with an arrogant and disdainful look.

"Eveline, don't try to drive a wedge between me and Mrs. Graham. Don't try to slander me. Even if I had really broken the law, you have no right to criticize me here. The police would've been here for me a long time ago."

"Naya Mendez."

After Naya finished quibbling, a righteous voice suddenly came from among the crowd.

Naya was stunned and did not know who was calling her name. She looked in the direction where the voice came from and saw two police officers in uniform walking over to her while pushing through the crowd. Naya was staring blankly ahead like she was in a daze. Her arrogant confidence from

the previous second was immediately blown away by the wind in that instant.

Madeline saw the change in Naya's expression and smiled. "Just as you wish, the police are here for you."

When she heard this, Naya backed away in a panic. At that moment, she felt her footsteps getting light.

The expressions of Mrs. Graham and Ava changed at the same time. It was because the police had really come for Naya.

"Naya, we have enough evidence to prove that you're involved in an attempted murder case. Please go back with us for questioning."

The police were stern. Of course, they were not joking with Naya.

When Naya heard the words 'attempted murder' and could not keep her cool anymore. Especially when the people around her were looking at her with doubt. She was feeling more and more flustered now.

"W-W'hat's happening? What did they say? Naya is related to an attempted murder case? Who did she want to kill? Who was killed?" Daniel's mother was confused.

"She wanted to kill Ava but the person who got into the accident was Ava's boyfriend, Daniel," the police officer told her the whole situation.

When Daniel's mother heard this, she immediately understood what was going on. However, she still did not believe it.

"I understand what you mean. You're trying to tell me that Naya is the one who tampered with that woman's car, right?" Daniel's mother pointed at Ava. It was obvious that she was still siding with Naya. "What evidence do you have that points to Naya being the one who tampered with the car?"

When Naya saw that Daniel's mother was still siding with her, she felt much calmer. However, this calm was quickly broken by Madeline.

"You want evidence? That's simple. The evidence is with me." Madeline's straightforward statement caused Naya's expression to freeze.

People who had done something wrong would naturally feel guilty. Naya watched as Madeline walked in front of her. She felt as though her heartbeat was going to go out of control.

"Naya, do you still remember where you went yesterday?" Madeline smiled faintly.

Naya gritted her teeth. "Where I went is none of your business!"

"It's okay if you don't want to answer or if you've forgotten. I have surveillance footage that can tell everyone where you went and what you did yesterday." As Madeline said that, she quickly took a laptop from Jeremy's hands. Then, she opened the surveillance footage.

Ava immediately went over to take a look. She saw Naya in the parking lot downstairs of her apartment. Plus, Naya was also next to her parking space. However, Naya was not the only one in the footage. Madeline and Jeremy were there too.

After Madeline and Jeremy left, Naya snuck out from behind the wall and walked straight to Ava's parking space.

Naya seemed to be looking for something around the parking space. After she picked something up, she immediately fled the scene. Naya looked just like a sneaky thief while she was doing that.

Naya was utterly shocked when she saw the footage. This angle was not from the surveillance camera in the parking lot. This was clearly from a dashcam of a car!

Madeline noticed the changes in Naya's expression and said, "You didn't expect this, right? Jeremy and I were waiting for you in the parking lot."

Naya was stunned. She wanted to argue, "I-I don't know what you're talking about. I also don't know why you two were waiting for me there. I-I dropped something, so that's why I went back to look for it! It's that simple! Officer, I'm not lying. I really went back to get something back."

"May I know what you went back to get?" Madeline asked.

Naya quickly took out the brooch she picked up from the gutter of the parking lot from her bag. "I went back to get this! I dropped my brooch there. I'm not lying."

"But, how did your brooch get there?"

"But, how did your brooch get there?"

Naya was stumped by Madeline's question. At that moment, she was speechless. Her jaw dropped open and she did not know what to say.

Yeah, how did her brooch get there?

Why was it in Ava's parking space downstairs of Ava's apartment?

Naya's train of thought was disrupted at that moment. She did not know what to say anymore. However, if she kept silent, they would think that she was tacitly admitting to this. She would not allow herself to be brought away like this.

"Heh." Naya scoffed after she came back to her senses.

"Is it strange for my belonging to have dropped there? I walked past that place recently and wanted to have a cup of coffee all of a sudden, so I stopped my car in the parking lot to go to a café nearby. I must have dropped my brooch then."

"Then may I know which café you went to?" the police officer asked.

Naya rolled her eyes and continued to explain, "I stopped the car and took a few steps. Suddenly, I didn't want to drink coffee anymore, so I drove back."

Naya's explanation sounded very far-fetched and was not convincing at all.

However, Naya knew that the parking lot in Ava's apartment was pretty run-down and most of the surveillance cameras were just there for decoration. One did not need a resident's access card to enter the apartment's parking lot, so even though her explanation sounded fake, no one could expose her. However, Madeline seemed to know that Naya would come up with such an outrageous explanation. She smiled and said.

"Miss Mendez, you must have remembered it wrong. The brooch in your hand didn't end up in the parking lot that way."

When Naya heard this, she felt that Madeline might have obtained some more evidence. She pretended to be calm. "Eveline, what are you trying to say now?"

"Nothing. I just want to tell you that the reason the brooch was in the gutter is that I was the one who put it there."

"Huh?"

When Naya heard this answer, she was stunned. "Eveline, what did you say? I accidentally dropped it there. How did you..."

"I placed it there." Madeline did not want to argue with her, so she opened the laptop once again and played the footage she captured before Naya came to the parking lot.

The scene showed that Jeremy was the one taking the video. One could see Madeline holding Naya's brooch as she squatted and put it in the gutter. Then, she tried to adjust the position of the brooch in the gutter.

When Naya saw that, her face turned dark. She did not expect this to be a trap!

She fell into the trap Madeline and Jeremy had set for her.

"Do you see it now? Do you see how the brooch got there?" Madeline asked with a smile.

Naya could not accept this and felt that this was strange. How did her brooch end up with Madeline?

However, Madeline immediately saw through Naya's thoughts. "Are you curious about why your brooch was with me? It's not strange at all because that's not your brooch."

'What?'

Not hers?

Naya widened her eyes and stared at the brooch between her fingers.

This was not hers?

She remembered that when she bought this brooch, it was a limited edition and there were not many socialites or rich women in the upper class who owned it. Plus, there was a custom engraving at the back. How could it not be hers?

As she was thinking to herself, Naya suddenly turned the brooch to look at the engraving. To her surprise, the initials engraved on the back were actually Mrs. Graham's name.

Naya was stunned.

This brooch was actually the fake she gave to Daniel's mother.

Daniel's mother also reacted when she looked at the brooch. "I have this brooch too. It looks like the one you gave me back then."

"That's right, Mrs. Graham. This brooch is the fake Naya gave you back then. I asked for it from my appraiser friend." Madeline explained with a smile, her sharp eyes falling on Naya's bewildered face.

"Miss Mendez, it's probably because you had a guilty conscience at the time, so you didn't notice that this brooch is actually the fake you gave to Mrs. Graham. You didn't even bother to look at the engraving on the back of the brooch when you saw it. When the brooch showed up in the parking lot, you only had one thought. And that was to take away the incriminating evidence you thought you left behind at the scene."

As Naya was faced with Madeline's sharp and domineering accusations, Naya pursed her lips tightly. She did not know how to explain this. She knew that she had fallen into a trap. Madeline might have prepared an impeccable countermeasure no matter what she said now. If this went on, her crimes would be confirmed.

After thinking quickly for a few seconds, Naya pretended to be calm and laughed. She avoided Madeline's sharp gaze and looked at the two police officers.

"Officers, I'm willing to cooperate with you to assist in the investigation, but what I want to emphasize is that what Eveline said just now is just her self-

righteous speculation. I will not accept these accusations against me. I want to see my lawyer and sue Eveline for slander.”

Naya changed from being passive to active. She then left with the police under the watchful eyes of the public.

As soon as Naya left, Daniel’s mother took the appraisal report from Madeline’s hand and took a closer look. She felt more and more annoyed as she read through the documents as they were all fakes. She thought that at least one of them would be real, but there was none.

“I didn’t expect this at all,” Daniel’s mother complained extremely unhappily.

“Yeah, the act of deliberately trying to murder someone is really unexpected.” Madeline’s tone became a little more serious. “If Dan really marries such a woman, who knows if she’ll come up with a plan to kill you if you piss her off one day?”

Daniel’s mother felt a chill run down her back when she heard this, but she still had to keep calm. “The police haven’t convicted her yet, so how can you insist that Naya was the one who did it? Although she’s unruly and willful, she wouldn’t kill someone. Would you kill someone if you hate them? That’s absurd.”

“It’s absurd that there are people in this world who are genuinely this insane.”

Ava really could not continue to be a bystander anymore. She looked solemnly at Daniel’s mother with a gloomy face.

“I know you don’t like me very much, and you only chose to accept me later because you learned I have a wealthy mother. You can continue to not accept me, but you’re an adult with an IQ. Are you really going to turn a blind eye to the real murderer just because you want to win this fight with me?”

After Ava said these words, her eyes turned red. She loved Daniel so much, but it seemed that Daniel’s mother did not. She seemed to care about her reputation more. Otherwise, why would she still protect Naya?

Daniel's mother did not speak anymore. Madeline held Ava's hand to comfort her and found that Ava's palm was cold.

She wanted to tell Ava that the matter would come to an end soon and that Naya would be charged, but she received incredible news in the afternoon.

Madeline rushed to the police station as soon as she learned of the news. When she was about to go in, she saw Naya swaggering out of the door followed by an impeccably dressed man who seemed to be a lawyer.

Naya also spotted Madeline at this time. She raised a smug smile and walked to Madeline step by step.

"This is expected of you, Mrs. Whitman. You're really well-informed. I think you must be very unhappy to see me standing here now, right? But I'm very happy to see you." Naya's tone was full of irony, and the corners of her mouth were raised in a complacent smile.

"I've long said that the police are fair and impartial. I'm innocent and can't be slandered by someone who claims to have found evidence. Mrs. Whitman, I understand that you want to help your friend, but the fact is that I didn't do it."

Naya's smile became smugger and smugger. She was also looking at Madeline with provocation.

"Mrs. Whitman, you must be wondering what's going on, right? If you have any questions, go to the police and they'll give you the answer." Naya smiled and turned back to the lawyer beside her.

"Mr. Luschek, let's go. Come to my house for dinner tonight. My father said that he has been wanting to change the team of lawyers in our company's legal department, so he wishes to talk to you about it."

The lawyer immediately smiled when he heard this. "Thank you for your care, Miss Mendez. I'll be there."

Naya nodded in satisfaction and followed the lawyer into a car that had been waiting on the side of the road. She never gave Madeline a chance to refute.

Madeline did not want to waste her breath on Naya either. After she watched Naya get into the car, she turned around and walked into the police station. Madeline found the two young police officers who took Naya away earlier. After asking them, she found out that Naya was not released on bail. Instead, she came to the police station to assist with the investigation, which meant that Naya was not a suspect.

Madeline did not understand because things seemed to be going off track.

When Madeline wanted to inquire, the senior police officer in charge of the case showed up. He politely invited Madeline to his office and explained the situation.

"Mrs. Whitman, our higher-ups are very concerned about this case. We're even more desperate than you to find out the truth, but Naya Mendez really has nothing to do with this matter."

"Why do you say that?" Madeline asked, going straight to the point. She handed over the information that she and Jeremy had gathered. "It can be seen from these materials that Naya is the most suspicious person in this case."

The police officer just smiled politely after listening to Madeline's words and looking through her information.

"I've already read all these materials, Mrs. Whitman. Although Naya's explanation is a little far-fetched, these materials are not strong enough evidence for us to convict her. We have no substantive evidence to prove that Naya was ever in Ava Long's car, and there's no evidence to prove that Naya tampered with Ava's car."

Madeline's heart sank at the officer's answer. When she wanted to ask more in detail, the police officer said he had to take care of some matters and left. Of course, it was not good for Madeline to continue to get in the way of the officer, but she kept feeling that this was very strange.

Judging from Naya's reaction at the time, she was definitely the one who tampered with the brakes. Naya's proud smile just now also revealed her smugness at being able to get away with this.

When Madeline walked out of the gate of the police station, she found that it was already late.

The gray sky looked so deserted and hazy without the golden halo of the sunset.

Madeline could not help but think of the scene where she was wrongfully imprisoned. Did she still have to watch as right and wrong became distorted like this?

In addition to that, this was happening around her. Ava and Daniel were her good friends, so she had no reason to just be a bystander.

Madeline told Jeremy about it after returning home.

Jeremy frowned. "It's indeed strange. Naya was obviously the one who did it but the police let her go so easily," Jeremy said with a faintly sarcastic smile. "There are really many gray areas in this world."

"Jeremy, do you mean..."

"Linnie, don't worry. Since this incident happened under my nose, I won't let it go into any gray areas. Don't worry, I'll handle it."

Jeremy held Madeline's hand, and his gentle eyes were filled with endless doting and caring.

"It makes me feel so distressed to see you running around these past few days because of this incident."

Madeline smiled slightly. "I have you to pamper and protect me, so I don't feel tired or troubled at all. But it's not the case with Ava. We don't know when Dan will wake up, and I'm really worried seeing Ava looking so lost every day."

Jeremy was also quite powerless when it came to this. He would help if he could, but now, all he could do was comfort Madeline.

"Linnie, trust the doctor. Daniel will emerge out of this peril safely. We haven't attended his and Ava's wedding yet, so he won't stay asleep forever."

With Jeremy's words, Madeline suddenly felt less uncomfortable. However, she did not tell Ava about Naya's supposed innocence for the time being. She was worried that Ava would become more irritable when she found out.

In order not to let Madeline worry about this, Jeremy went to understand the situation in person the next day. However, he got an even more unexpected result. The gangster who was hired by Chloe suddenly pleaded guilty. If that man pleaded guilty, it would mean that Naya was innocent.

Jeremy found the person in charge of the case and met the thug who pleaded guilty.

The thug did not know Jeremy but had heard of Jeremy's name. Therefore, when Jeremy asked him if his confession was true, the man nodded.

"I did it. I broke into the woman's car and tampered with the brakes. I was the one who did it, alright?"

"Then why did you keep denying it before?" Jeremy's tone became colder.

"I... I was afraid. I was afraid I would go to jail if I pleaded guilty," the man stammered.

Jeremy's eyes suddenly turned sharp. "Then why are you pleading guilty now?"

"I..." The man paused, a spark of emotion flashing across his face. Then, he stammered, "I didn't want to do it either. I heard from the police that the victim is very seriously injured and he may never wake up for the rest of his life. After I heard it, I felt very sorry for that man. I have a guilty conscience. I was being tormented every day, so I chose to plead guilty in the end..."

Toward the end of the sentence, the man's voice gradually became softer as if he had really received the condemnation of his conscience. He even looked very guilty.

However, to Jeremy, that did not seem like the case. He left the police station and made a phone call as soon as he got in the car.

Jeremy's assistant, Ken, quickly looked into this thug's connections and relationships as per Jeremy's orders. After he found out, Jeremy coincidentally arrived at the company. Ken respectfully handed the information he gathered to Jeremy and reported it to him clearly.

"Mr. Whitman, I've already looked into everything. This thug's parents are in the countryside, and he has one younger sister who works in Glendale. His

family has not met any strangers in recent days and their accounts have not received any transactions from unknown sources.”

After listening to Ken’s report, Jeremy frowned slightly. He was not very satisfied with the results of this investigation. According to his speculation, Naya should have paid off the thug to bear the crime but it did not seem to be the case. However, Jeremy still thought that there was something wrong with this. When he was about to investigate deeper, Madeline arrived.

Madeline looked like she was in a hurry as she ran straight to Jeremy. “Jeremy, is this true? Did that thug plead guilty?”

Jeremy nodded. “He did plead guilty. I went to see him just now and he confessed to the charge.”

“Naya must have done something for this sudden change to happen.” Madeline made this guess without a doubt.

Jeremy also agreed with Madeline’s speculation, but they currently had no clues and evidence to prove that Naya was involved.

Madeline did not know how to tell Ava this news, but there was no way to hide it. Therefore, Madeline told Ava everything truthfully. Ava and Madeline had the same idea. The thug was just a scapegoat, but at present, they could not do anything about it. For the next half a month, Ava devoted herself to taking care of the unconscious Daniel. Naya never showed up again.

Since the thug had pleaded guilty to the car accident, the prosecution was successful and happened very quickly. The court date was quickly determined.

When the day came, Ava hired a carer to take care of Daniel while she went to court. She wanted to see with her own eyes what the scapegoat would say in court.

After arriving at the court, Ava joined Madeline and Jeremy. They sat in the gallery together, but to their surprise, Naya appeared.

Naya came with Daniel’s parents. She was adorned in branded clothes and had a dashing posture. She seemed to have gone on a vacation somewhere for the past half month and looked amazing.

Naya also spotted Madeline and Ava. She raised her arrogant eyes nonchalantly and sat down with Daniel's parents in the gallery on the other side.

Madeline really could not understand how Daniel's mother's brain worked. Naya was obviously not a good woman who was kindhearted and knew her place, but Daniel's mother seemed to be blind. She could not tell the difference between right and wrong.

Madeline held Ava's hand lightly and found that Ava's hand was cold. She raised her eyes to look at her only good friend and realized that Ava had lost a lot of weight these days. She was taking care of Daniel herself every day. It was only natural that she lost a lot of weight. However, Ava did not seem to notice that not only had she lost a lot of weight, but her complexion was also a lot worse. Right now, Daniel was the only thing occupying her brain. If Daniel were to remain sleeping forever, Ava would probably silently wait for him just like this.

Madeline felt sorry for Ava, but at the same time, she also felt powerless.

Soon, it was time for the trial. After a while, Chloe and the thug were both standing on the dock.

Compared to her bright and beautiful image on the internet, Chloe could only be described as dull and haggard now. She had completely lost her brilliance from before. She and the thug stood on the dock with their heads down, both of them looking listless and desolate.

Since Chloe had admitted that she did hire the thug and the thug also admitted to tampering with the brakes, they were quickly convicted. However, after she was convicted and knew that she would be imprisoned for the next seven years, Chloe raised her head suddenly. She could not keep her cool.

"I want to appeal! I have to appeal!" Chloe yelled hysterically. "I only pretended to promise Naya to get someone to tamper with Ava's car, but I told this thug not to do it! I didn't know that he would really do it! I'm not the mastermind, and the car accident has nothing to do with me. I'm innocent!"

"Silence!" The judge hit the gavel. "Defendant, please calm down."

"How can I be calm?" Chloe roared. "I'm not guilty at all. I just... I just accepted some money. I can return all the money!" She roared, and her eyes suddenly landed on the gallery. She searched for a while, and finally, she found Naya.

"Naya, it's because of you that I became like this. How can you sit there so indifferently? I've done so many things for you, yet you're not even helping me!"

When Chloe screamed that, everyone's eyes fell on Naya.

Madeline and Ava also looked at her, but Naya seemed to be prepared. She was very calm, and at the same time, she showed a wronged and innocent expression.

"Chloe, I'm really sad that you've gotten yourself in this situation. But you have to ask yourself. Did I instigate you to do these things? Yes, I have beef with Ava, but I've never thought about murder. All this while, it was you who encouraged me and it was you who gave me ideas to deal with her. I'm a victim too."

"What?! You're a victim?!" Chloe seemed to have heard the most hilarious joke ever, but no matter how she argued or how hysterical she was, Naya still sat in the gallery calmly.

After the final verdict, both Chloe and the thug were taken away. Naya walked out of the courtroom swaggering as if nothing had happened.

Ava and Madeline felt a weight on their hearts after hearing the verdict.

It was obvious that Naya was the real murderer, but now, Chloe and that thug had taken the blame for her.

When Jeremy went to the parking lot to get the car, Madeline and Ava walked toward the gate together. In the distance, they saw Naya standing alone at the gate as if she was waiting for them.

When she saw that Madeline and Ava were coming, Naya raised a bright smile to face Madeline and Ava.

"This matter has finally come to an end. The judge is very fair. Those who did bad things were finally punished," Naya said with a grin.

Ava stared coldly at Naya's smiling face and said with insinuations, "The bad guys will definitely be punished. It's just a matter of time."

Naya knew that Ava was talking about her, but she did not care or panic at all because the case had been settled. The scapegoats had been arrested.

"Maddie, let's go. Let's not waste our breaths on this kind of person." Ava grabbed Madeline and wanted to leave. Just then, her phone rang.

When she saw that it was Raegan, Ava hesitated for two seconds before answering it. When she heard what Raegan said, Ava's eyes turned red.

Seeing that Ava's mood was not right, Madeline stepped forward worriedly. "Ava, what happened? Why are you crying?"

Ava fell into Madeline's arms and hugged her tightly. "Maddie..."

"Ava..." Madeline did not know what was going on. She just hugged Ava tightly and stroked her shoulder to comfort her. "What happened? Stop crying."

Naya stood by with a puzzled face. She was still complacent about this victory a moment ago, but now, she was also curious about what had happened to Ava. However, Naya felt great seeing Ava so sad and crying. Before she could feel happy for long, she suddenly heard Ava crying with excitement, "Maddie, Danny's awake! He's awake!"

'What? Dan is awake?' Naya's eyes widened in amazement, and after getting this information, she immediately ran out.

Madeline was also full of surprises at the moment. She did not care about Naya at all. She held Ava's hand tightly, and their joyful eyes met.

"Really? Is Dan really awake?"

"Yeah!" Ava nodded again and again.

"Then let's hurry back to the hospital." Madeline took Ava's hand and turned around. Right then, Jeremy drove the car in front of them.

Ava did not say a word and followed Madeline into the car. Jeremy was very happy to learn that Daniel had woken up. He sped up the car and they arrived at the hospital not long after.

When Madeline was waiting for the elevator with Ava, she could feel Ava's nervousness. Ava impatiently watched the elevator slowly descend floor by floor. She wanted to run up the stairs, but Madeline held her back. There would be more than ten floors. If she ran up, she would be utterly exhausted. Five minutes later, Madeline and Ava took the elevator to the correct floor.

In the distance, Ava saw Raegan standing at the door of the ward with a worried expression. Raegan was about to call Ava again, but when she heard footsteps approaching, she turned around and saw Ava. She walked over immediately.

"Ava, you're finally here."

"Danny really woke up, right?" Ava's eyes were full of urgency as she walked toward the ward uncontrollably.

Raegan followed closely, but there was a look of sadness in her eyes. "Dan is awake, but..."

Before she could hear what Raegan said, Ava quickly ran into the ward. However, when she got inside, Ava saw Daniel's parents and Naya around the bed. They managed to rush to the hospital a step ahead of her.

Of course, Ava did not mind who went to the hospital sooner to see Daniel. As long as Daniel woke up safely, she would be happy enough. Her eyes uncontrollably turned red again, and she was very emotional. There were many words that she wanted to say to Daniel, but her emotions could only be expressed through her eyes right now.

Daniel was half-lying on the hospital bed at the moment. His gaze that was on somewhere else suddenly met Ava's teary eyes.

Naya and Daniel's parents also noticed Ava coming in at this time. Daniel's father did not react, while Daniel's mother and Naya rolled their eyes in unison. Naya looked a little more arrogant. Her eyes were full of envy, jealousy, and hatred.

It was because she knew that as long as Ava stood in front of Daniel, she would be the winner even if she did not do anything.

It was because Daniel loved Ava.

Ava held back her tears and approached Daniel step by step. Her heart beat more enthusiastically and wildly with every step closer to him. She looked at his handsome and fair face under the lights. Although she had lost a lot of weight, the gentle look in her eyes was still the same.

He was also looking at her, and although he did not speak, he was still able to leave an impact on her heartbeat.

Ava could not express the joy and excitement in her heart. "Danny." Ava finally called out Daniel's name, her voice trembling slightly. "Danny, it's great that you finally woke up."

Ava leaned over and squeezed Daniel's hand tightly. This grasp seemed to surprise Daniel very much. He even reflexively pulled his hand back the moment Ava clenched him tightly.

Ava was stunned by Daniel's action, and so was Madeline, not to mention Daniel's parents and Naya. Daniel was clearly resisting Ava. However, how was that possible?

"Danny?" Ava looked at Daniel inexplicably, feeling a chill in her heart. "Danny, what's the matter?"

Daniel frowned slightly, but his eyes were pure and clear. He looked at Ava with doubts in his eyes. "Do we know each other?"

"..."

Daniel's rhetorical question undoubtedly shocked everyone in the ward. However, Raegan, who was standing at the door of the ward, sighed helplessly. She knew that Ava was going to have a hearing today, so she came to the hospital earlier.

When she arrived, she saw the attending doctor and the nurse in the ward. After she went in, she realized that Daniel had already woken up. However, something was not quite right. He seemed to have forgotten a lot of people and things. He seemed to also not remember what had happened before he went into a coma. He only remembered that his name was Daniel and not anything else.

The doctor guessed that his brain might have suffered a severe concussion during the car accident, which led to temporary amnesia. They would still

have to observe him to know more about his recovery. The doctor could not come to a firm conclusion right now either. Then, Raegan immediately contacted the expert she knew before continuing to wait for Ava's arrival.

However, Daniel's parents and Naya were the ones who came first. Ava arrived less than a minute after they went into the ward.

Just when she was about to tell Ava about the situation, Ava headed straight in as she could no longer wait. When she saw this scene, Raegan felt very bad.

After discovering that Daniel had lost his memory, Daniel's parents were very emotional and irritable. However, Naya secretly smiled after she recovered from her shock.

Daniel did not know Ava anymore, which meant she could take advantage of the opportunity. It had been two days and Ava still could not accept Daniel's amnesia. However, she had no choice but to face it.

Sitting on the bench downstairs of the hospital, Ava seemed to not feel anything even when gusts of cold wind blew on her. Madeline sat beside her, not knowing what to say other than words of comfort.

"Ava, Dan's amnesia is only temporary. When his body fully recovers, he'll naturally remember everything. Don't be too pessimistic."

After listening to Madeline's comforting words quietly, Ava suddenly sighed and smiled. "I'm not being pessimistic. I've been through so many difficulties. As long as Danny is safe and sound, that's enough."

"It's good that you think this way." Madeline also sighed in relief. "Let's go visit Dan now and let him get to know us again."

"Okay." Ava raised an optimistic smile and followed Madeline back to the ward, only to see that someone was one step ahead of her.

Naya had come unbeknownst to them, and she was bringing a bowl of chicken soup that was meant for Daniel.

Daniel's right arm was still wrapped with lots of gauze, so he could not exert much force. He just looked at Naya and said, "Thank you."

Naya quickly showed a shy smile. "Dan, why are you being so polite to me? We grew up together and are childhood sweethearts. We've been through all kinds of ups and downs together. Plus, I'm your fiancée now, so I have to take care of you."

Madeline and Ava heard what Naya said to Daniel. The fire in their hearts burst out at the same time.

Naya was lying through her teeth and saying lies to Daniel, who was now an amnesiac. Her motives and intentions were too obvious. However, when Madeline and Ava were about to enter the ward, Daniel's mother suddenly appeared in front of them. While Ava and Madeline were stopped outside, Daniel and Naya, who was sitting by the bed, looked over. Compared to her previous impatient attitude, Mrs. Graham now acted indifferently.

"Ava, you should leave. Don't disturb Dan again. I don't want to repeat what I've said. In short, you can't be with Dan. Don't waste any more time."

After she finished speaking, she closed the door of the ward without giving Madeline and Ava a chance to speak.

Upon seeing this, Madeline wanted to open the door and go in. However, Ava stopped her. "Let Dan get a good rest first."

"Ava, if we don't go in now and make it clear to Dan, he'll probably believe Naya's lies. That woman is clearly trying to take advantage of the situation."

"No, I trust Dan." Ava pulled the corners of her lips, but the smile was so forced. "Maddie, why don't you go back first? You've been with me all this time and sacrificed a lot of your personal life for me. You should go back. I can stay here alone. Go and accompany Jeremy."

The smile on Ava's face was much brighter, and it seemed to be very relaxed. However, Madeline knew that Ava was just forcing herself. "Ava, I know what I'm doing. I just want to be with you right now. I'll only focus on taking care of you now."

Madeline said and sat down with Ava on the chair outside the door of the ward.

Inside the ward.

Daniel was still looking in the direction of the door of the ward. Ava's expression from just now remained in his mind for a long time.

"The woman from just now..." Daniel slowly parted his lips. "I mean the woman with long hair."

Daniel's mother and Naya paused for a while. After they exchanged glances, Daniel's mother spoke first, "That woman is Ava. Dan, don't you remember her?"

"Ava..." Daniel uttered the name softly. He felt as though something had penetrated his heart and was gently scratching it with an indescribable subtle feeling.

Naya and Daniel's mother were both carefully observing the reaction on Daniel's face at this time. Obviously, Daniel was very confused about Ava's identity. It was because he did not remember Ava.

This was good.

Naya and Daniel's mother both breathed a sigh of relief. Then, Daniel's mother said, "It seems that you don't remember that woman. This is good. That woman used to pester you a lot and would give you headaches. She wanted to get close to you and destroy the relationship between you and Naya. Fortunately, your relationship with Naya is stable and no one can break you guys up. Now that you and Naya are engaged and are about to get married, I'm relieved."

Daniel's mother lied through her teeth without batting an eyelid.

Naya also went along with Mrs. Graham's act by showing a sad and conflicted expression. "Forget it, Mrs. Graham. We won't mention this person in the future. I just want to live a quiet life with Dan."

"Okay, we won't talk about her anymore. If she dares to pester you again, I'll get bodyguards to kick her out." Daniel's mother used this topic to put forth her ideas.

Upon hearing this, Daniel's heart felt uncomfortable. He frowned and did not drink the chicken soup that Naya brought. Instead, he seriously emphasized, "If she comes to me next time, let me talk to her. Don't use such violent means to drive her away."

Daniel's mother and Naya were stunned for a moment, feeling that Daniel still had some subconscious pity and love for Ava. Daniel's mother felt the need to make a swift decision on this. Hence, her face sank. "Dan, you're too soft-hearted. You shouldn't give any chances to women like her. If you talk to her nicely, she'll become very arrogant. Plus, if you really agree to meet that woman, Naya will be sad."

Daniel's mother gave Naya a wink as she spoke, and Naya understood immediately. She then showed a very disappointed look.

Daniel's body was still very weak now. After listening to his mother's words and seeing Naya's sad face, he felt his head buzzing. He could not concentrate at all.

Hiss!

Daniel made a muffled sound of pain.

Daniel's mother became nervous, fearing that something would happen to Daniel. Naya also looked worried and anxious. "Dan, what's wrong? Don't scare me."

"I'm not feeling well. I want to sleep for a while." Daniel frowned tiredly and lay down slowly.

Naya wanted to go over to help so she could try her best to leave him with a new and better impression of her. However, after he lay down, he immediately closed his eyes and fell asleep.

Naya was too lazy to play the role of a good girl now. She looked at Daniel's mother, feeling a little pissed. Then, she glanced at the door again before saying with mock compassion, "Mrs. Graham, let's go out. We should let Dan have a good rest."

Daniel's mother roughly understood what Naya meant. She turned around and walked to the door without saying anything. After the two came out, they closed the door of the ward and turned their heads, only to see Madeline and Ava still there. They were not surprised by that at all.

Ava and Madeline stood up slowly. It could be seen that Daniel's mother still wanted to side with Naya.

"Ava, I've already made myself so clear. You must understand my intentions by now, right?"

Her tone was indifferent. It sounded as if she did not want to bother arguing with Ava.

"I don't care what happened to you and Dan in the past. Dan has woken up now, and he has completely forgotten about you. This is what God intended. You're destined to not end up together. Humans can't go against the wishes of God. So, this is the end for you and Dan. Don't Show up in front of Dan again in the future. Otherwise, I'll have the bodyguards kick you out the moment I see you."

Her meaning was very clear. She just did not want Ava and Daniel to be together. At the end of the day, she still chose Naya.

Madeline could not stand it anymore. She gave a small smile and raised her proud but beautiful face.

"Mrs. Graham, do you know what it truly means to go against God's wishes? It's instilling lies into Dan, who has no memory of anything now. It's to know that there's a cruel and despicable woman standing beside him but still trying to force him to get together with her. This is what is called going against God's wishes."

They did not expect Madeline to retort like this. Daniel's mother, who was pretending to be calm and collected, could not hold back her emotions all of a sudden.

However, even though Daniel's mother was angry, she still knew that she could not fight head-on with Madeline. Although the Grahams also were a big family and had a big business, the Whitmans and the Montgomeries were now bound by marriage. It would not do her any good to offend Madeline. Therefore, she just rolled her eyes at Ava.

"Ava, are you so desperate to marry into a wealthy family? There are so many good men in the world, so why do you have to insist on being with Dan? I've already told you so clearly. Why won't you listen to me?" Daniel's mother glared at Ava furiously, her tone getting more and more aggressive.

"Listen to me. I only compromised and agreed with your and Dan's relationship at the time for Dan's sake. I had no idea that such a thing

would happen to him not long after I gave my agreement. I got someone to check your star signs and you two are just not meant to be. If you two continue to be together, Dan will suffer even worse things in the future!"

Daniel's mother suddenly started talking about star signs, but Madeline knew that it was all an excuse.

She wanted to speak up for Ava, but at this moment, Ava held Madeline's hand very calmly. She was also showing a slight smile, which did not seem forced at all. It looked as though it came from the heart.

"Maddie, I suddenly feel a little hungry. Why don't you accompany me to eat something?" The meaning of Ava's words was obvious. She did not want to argue anymore and just wanted to leave.

Madeline respected Ava's wishes, so she picked up her bag and turned around with Ava to leave.

"Wait." Naya suddenly stopped them.

Madeline and Ava paused, while Naya stepped forward. They thought she wanted to look for trouble with Ava, but Naya walked up to Madeline instead.

"Mrs. Whitman, you truly are something else. In order to help your good friend, you have targeted me again and again. You even set up a trap to frame me. Now, you're pointing at me and calling me a cruel and despicable woman. Eveline, do you really think you can do whatever you want just because you have the support of the Whitmans and Montgomeries? Let me tell you, I won't be afraid of you. I must sue you this time for ruining my reputation!"

Madeline smiled gracefully and calmly when she saw Naya's dignified and upright appearance.

"Okay, sue me if you want. I'll be waiting for your lawyer's letter."

"Just you wait!" Naya seemed to say that through gritted teeth.

Madeline glanced at Naya indifferently before taking Ava's hand and leaving together.

Naya stared at Madeline's back in dissatisfaction and snorted coldly. Then, she turned around and put on a gentle demeanor to please Daniel's mother.

After leaving the hospital, Madeline asked Ava about the situation. Ava knew that Madeline would have doubts, so she quickly explained herself.

"Maddie, you want to ask me why I'm leaving just like this, right? You want to ask why I'm letting Dan's mother and Naya defame my relationship with Dan?" Ava said and raised a relieved smile.

"Actually, I didn't consider much. I just want Dan to rest and recover quickly."

Ava's explanation touched Madeline quite a bit. This was how a person who truly loved someone would act. As long as the other party was alright, nothing else mattered.

Madeline understood this feeling too well, so she did not say anything.

However, Ava was a little worried. "Maddie, Naya just said that she's going to sue you. You have to be careful."

Madeline nodded. "Don't worry. She can't do anything to me."

She smiled and did not take it to heart at all, but three days later, Madeline really received a lawyer's letter.

After seeing that, Madeline thought it was ridiculous, but Jeremy was dissatisfied.

How dare Naya sue Madeline? She was even suing Madeline for ruining her reputation. This was downright ridiculous.

Madeline did not want to deal with Naya's ridiculous behavior and left it to her own team of lawyers to deal with it. However, Jeremy did not want Madeline to suffer such grievances. Even though he knew that Naya could not successfully sue Madeline, Jeremy decided to deal with it in person in order to avenge his precious wife.

Mendez Group.

Naya's father was having a meeting with the senior executives in the conference room. At this moment, someone knocked hurriedly on the glass door of the conference room. A second later, a female secretary pushed the door open to come in.

Of course, the senior executives were very dissatisfied with the behavior of the female secretary. However, Ethan knew very well that the secretary would not do this unless there was something urgent.

"What happened?" Ethan asked with a frown.

The female secretary pointed toward the door, "Jeremy..."

However, before the female secretary could finish her sentence, a deep, lazy but powerful voice came from the door of the conference room.

"I'm sorry to interrupt the meeting."

Ethan and the other senior executives looked up when they heard the voice. Jeremy's cold and handsome face immediately caught their eyes. Everyone present knew Jeremy. Mendez Group had wanted to cooperate with Whitman Corporation on several projects before but they never had the chance.

Ethan was very surprised to see Jeremy here. He was even more surprised by the manner Jeremy chose to show up in. It was obvious Jeremy was not here to talk business. He was wearing a very casual tracksuit with no assistant following him. He had one hand in his pocket, while the other was holding a piece of paper that looked like a letter. He looked more like he was here for a casual visit.

Although Jeremy seemed to be dressed casually, his innate noble temperament remained undiminished.

"Mr. Whitman, what's the matter? Why are you making such a sudden and urgent visit?" Ethan got up and asked politely. The other senior executives were also embarrassed to continue sitting.

Jeremy raised his delicate eyebrows, waved his right hand, and threw the lawyer's letter sent by Naya onto the conference table.

"Mr. Mendez, take a look at what this is first."

Ethan looked at it suspiciously. The female secretary on the side immediately picked up the lawyer's letter and handed it to Ethan. When Ethan opened it, his expression changed. Then, he instantly understood why Jeremy had barged into the conference room so suddenly.

Jeremy put his hands in his pockets and parted his lips coldly. "Mr. Mendez, you're doing a good job managing such a big company, but why don't you know how to discipline your own daughter?"

Ethan paused in embarrassment. "Mr. Whitman..."

"Before this, your daughter had already made a fool of herself in public. Then, she put on a great performance with that so-called influencer to frame my wife's good friend. As a result, her despicable true nature was exposed. Why are these two incidents not enough for her to remember her lesson?" .

Jeremy did not show mercy at all. He listed Naya's wrongdoings one by one in front of all the senior executives of Mendez Group.

Ethan felt embarrassed just hearing it, but Naya was still his daughter, after all. Hence, Ethan wanted to protect his daughter's prestige, but Jeremy's tone grew even sharper.

"I don't care if your daughter was spoiled since she was a child. Since she doesn't know the most basic principles of being a human being and decided to lay a finger on my wife, coupled with the fact that your family doesn't know how to discipline her, then I'll let her know what it means to be disciplined by society."

After Jeremy said that, the entire conference room was so silent that only the sounds of breathing could be heard. Everyone present understood what Jeremy meant very clearly.

The daughter of the Mendezes had offended Jeremy's wife. Therefore, the young master of Glendale came here to criticize Ethan.

Ethan held the lawyer's letter from the Mendezes in his hand and frowned, his head aching. This unruly daughter had gotten into enough trouble recently. Ethan did not expect her to cause trouble again. How great! This time, she even provoked the person who was the most difficult to deal with in Glendale.

Ethan was a well-behaved businessman, and he was also kind in dealing with others. This time, he hoped that he would be able to make this issue on hand sound less serious and then reduce it to nothing at all. With that approach in mind, he was very polite and apologetic to Jeremy.

"Mr. Whitman, I'm really sorry for causing trouble to you and your wife. My daughter has been arrogant and self-willed since she was a child. No matter how her mother and I discipline her, it just doesn't work. This time, she's done such a thing to cause you so much trouble. Mr. Whitman, if you trust me, I'll handle this matter properly and will let that unruly girl look for you to apologize in person."

"There is no need to apologize because she won't be sincere in her apology anyway. I have some faith in you, Mr. Mendez, so I won't pursue this matter. But I want to remind you that when you go back, please be sure to discipline your daughter. Otherwise, someone will definitely take action to discipline your daughter in the future."

"Mr. Whitman, you're right. I'll take good care of that stubborn girl when I go back." Ethan promised. "Mr. Whitman, let me walk you out..."

Jeremy felt a lot more comfortable seeing that Ethan's attitude was so sincere. Hence, he decided to let Naya off the hook on behalf of Ethan this time.

Ethan accompanied Jeremy to the door of the conference room. "I'm really sorry for making you take this trip, Mr. Whitman. In fact, I've always wanted to visit you at Whitman Corporation to see if there's any chance for us to cooperate. Whitman Corporation is a multinational group. If we're given the honor to cooperate with you, then we, Mendez Group, will definitely do our best."

Ethan was trying to get the desired outcome through flattery.

Jeremy was not against Mendez Group. Mutually beneficial cooperation would be good for everyone, but he really despised Naya. Hence, Jeremy casually replied, "Mr. Mendez, you're very kind. If there's a chance in the future, we can work together."

Ethan was elated when he heard it. "It would be great to have that chance."

However, just as they were about to reach the door of the conference room, someone arrogantly said from outside, "So what if he's in a meeting? That's my daddy and I can look for him whenever I want. Who do you think you are? How dare a watchdog like you stop me?"

Upon hearing these unruly words, the smile on Ethan's face suddenly stiffened.

The senior executives and female secretary who were still in the conference room were not surprised when they heard Naya's arrogant words. Naya's image in the public was a well-informed young mistress of an affluent family. That was also what they thought in the beginning. However, after some time, they gradually saw Naya's true colors.

This unruly lady could not be described as willful at all. As such, they were not surprised when they heard that Naya had teamed up with Chloe to frame Ava because Naya was indeed that kind of person. She was not what she seemed. She was hypocritical and contrived. Plus, she was great at playing dirty tricks. They had seen through her now.

Naya came looking for Ethan so that she could get their team of lawyers to sue Madeline. Who knew when she turned around and stepped into the door of the conference room, her eyes met Jeremy's deep and bottomless gaze that was chill-inducing.

Naya stopped abruptly, and her expression displayed utter dismay.

She looked at Jeremy for a few seconds before striding over to Ethan's side.

"Daddy, why is he here? What is he doing in Mendez Group's conference room?" Naya used a puzzled tone and reached out to hold Ethan's hand with a hint of pamperedness.

Ethan's face sank as he pushed Naya's outstretched hand away. "How dare you ask Mr. Whitman why he's here? Ask yourself what you've done!"

Naya had never seen her father get so angry with her, so she was stunned. When she came back to her senses, she realized there were so many people watching in the conference room. She felt embarrassed and ashamed. Hence, her temper started to rise again.

"What's wrong? What have I done?"

"You're still playing dumb?!" Ethan's eyes widened in anger as he turned back to pick up the lawyer's letter on the conference table. "Look at what you've done!"

Ethan did not have the heart to throw the lawyer's letter directly on Naya, so he shoved it into Naya's hands instead.

Naya grabbed it and saw it instantly. However, Naya became even more enraged.

"Daddy, is this why you're yelling at me?" she asked and looked at Jeremy again. "Mr. Whitman, did you come to Mendez Group for this? What? Do you want to use your identity to pressure my daddy? The Whitmans indeed have money and power in Glendale, but the Mendezes will not give in!"

"Shut up!" Ethan was fuming now.

"Do you still not know the seriousness of the matter?"

"How is it serious? I just want to fight for my legal rights. Am I wrong?"

Naya gritted her teeth unwillingly and opened her mouth to complain in anger.

"Eveline keeps targeting me because she's one of the Whitmans. Last time, she partnered with Ava to bully me. A while ago, she said in public that I'm the real murderer who's responsible for Dan's car accident. She slandered me saying that I tampered with Ava's car. Two days ago, she was even more hateful. She pointed at me and called me a cruel and despicable woman! How can I endure that?"

Apart from the incident on the internet, Ethan had no idea about the other incidents. After listening to Naya's words, Ethan felt that his precious daughter did seem to have been wronged. Hence, he somewhat went soft-hearted.

Naya could also sense that her father was feeling sorry for her. This time, she forced out tears to look aggrieved.

"Daddy, I had no choice but to issue this lawyer's letter to Eveline. Do you know what those people on the internet who don't know the truth are

saying about me? Daddy, I'm a victim. Do you want to just watch as other people bully your daughter?"

"Huh?" Ethan was stunned for a while. After he thought about it, he turned toward Jeremy. "Mr. Whitman..."

"Mr. Mendez, it would be better if you don't talk first." Jeremy suddenly parted his lips and interrupted. His voice was as alluring as always, but his tone was unusually cold. Plus, those deep and frosty eyes of his were like ice blades piercing Naya's face.

Naya had never seen such a deep and cold gaze, so her heart skipped a beat as she panicked.

Jeremy did not beat about the bush either. His cold gaze looked straight into Naya's panicked eyes as he retorted ruthlessly.

"Do you know the meaning of the word 'victim'? How thick is your face to be able to say such a thing, huh?"

Naya's cheeks heated up when she heard the words. Embarrassment overwhelmed her instantly. Naya tried to explain and rebut, but she heard Jeremy's cold voice again.

"I think everyone present, except for Mr. Mendez, knows exactly what's the truth of the matter that went viral on the internet. You can't just rely on your one-sided statement to clear your name. My wife was right to say that you're a cruel and despicable woman. Not only are you cruel and despicable, but you're also very insidious."

Jeremy did not show any respect for her at all, and his eyes were even sharper now.

"Naya, you know best in your heart who's the real mastermind behind Daniel's car accident. Don't try to argue. I, Jeremy Whitman, promise that one day, you'll end up in jail."

Naya's face looked even more off-colored now. There were so many people in the room, so if she continued to be silent, she would be regarded tacitly agreeing to these accusations. Hence, she opened her mouth to refute.

"Jeremy, how dare you twist the facts to slander me in order to help your wife?! I'll definitely sue you!"

"Heh..." Jeremy sneered indifferently. "I'd like to see how you're going to sue me, Miss Mendez."

Jeremy was not bothered at all and turned around gracefully after saying this.

Naya froze in place dumbly as Jeremy's figure quickly disappeared. Before she could react, Ethan strode out. "Mr. Whitman."

Ethan called out to Jeremy as if he was trying to apologize for the incident.

Naya felt very embarrassed. When she looked back and saw that the senior executives were looking at her strangely, she gritted her teeth in dissatisfaction and turned to leave. As soon as she exited the room, she saw Ethan coming out of the elevator.

Naya immediately went over to him. "Daddy", she called out to Ethan pampereedly and was about to complain. However, before she could utter a word, Ethan suddenly raised his hand and slapped her face heavily.

When the group of senior executives who were just coming out of the conference room saw this scene, they suddenly felt that they did not know whether to go back inside or continue walking.

Naya was even more dumbfounded and felt ashamed. However, she was more shocked than anything else. "Daddy, d- did you just hit me?" Naya asked, covering her face in disbelief.

Ethan's face was ashen with anger. "Have you not caused enough trouble? Do you still think that you've done nothing wrong at all?"

"What did I do wrong?" Naya stubbornly said, "Those outsiders are all ganging up to take action against me. I'm just fighting back. Am I wrong to do so? You're my dad, but you're helping outsiders instead of me? What's so great about Jeremy? Isn't he just the richest man in Glendale? Are we living in poverty? Why should we be scared of him?" Naya yelled at Ethan in exasperation.

"I'm going to sue Jeremy and Eveline! You might be afraid of Jeremy, but I'm not!"

After Naya roared these words angrily, she covered her face and ran to the elevator. Ethan tried to stop her, but he was so angry that he almost fainted. After Naya ran out of Mendez Group angrily, she was still unconvinced no matter how she thought about it.

She was like a princess at home since her childhood. Her parents were usually reluctant to even criticize her, but now, her father actually slapped her!

The reason why he did it was actually because of Jeremy.

"Jeremy Whitman and Eveline Montgomery!" Naya gritted her teeth and muttered these two names. As she was feeling annoyed, Naya saw Jeremy drive past the gate.

His resolute, cold, and handsome side profile sent Naya into a trance for a while. Then, her anger turned into jealousy in an instant. She knew that Jeremy took this trip today for Madeline, so the reason why she got slapped today was actually Madeline. The more Naya thought about it, the angrier she became. She would never forgive Ava and Madeline!

Naya would not let herself suffer from this loss.

Madeline did not know that Jeremy went to Mendez Group to deal with this matter, and Jeremy did not mention it to Madeline either. In his opinion, it was a matter of course for a husband to stand up for his wife. He did not need to mention this to Madeline.

During this time, Madeline had been spending more time with Ava. Of course, he did not want Madeline to worry about these trivial matters.

A few days later, Jeremy did not get the lawyer's letter that Naya said she would send him. Instead, he received a call from Ethan to apologize. He assured Jeremy that he would discipline his daughter well.

Jeremy had always thought that Naya was the kind of rich and self-righteous young mistress of a wealthy family, so he did not plan to pursue it further. However, he warned Ethan not to let Naya cause trouble again. Of course, Jeremy did not forget about how Naya had gotten someone else

to take the blame for her crimes for her. He did not mention this to Ethan because he knew very well in his heart that even if he mentioned it, Ethan would still stand on Naya's side.

Jeremy had just hung up the phone and was about to continue his work when he looked up to see Madeline walk in.

He was a little puzzled but was even more surprised. He immediately got up and walked towards Madeline. "Linnie, why are you here? Aren't you supposed to accompany Ava to the hospital to see Daniel?"

Madeline furrowed her beautiful eyebrows in distress. "Dan was taken away and is no longer in the hospital."

"He was taken away?"

"I think Dan's mother doesn't want Ava to see Dan again, so she transferred Dan to another hospital. We don't know which hospital he's in, so I came back first." Madeline explained and looked at Jeremy's face pleadingly.

"Jeremy, you should be able to help with this, right?"

Jeremy did not think it was something difficult. Besides, Madeline had already asked him for help. With Jeremy's help, she soon learned which hospital Daniel was in now.

Madeline told Ava the news at once. After Ava found out, she immediately brought the chicken soup she made, took a taxi, and set off to find Daniel. She followed the address Madeline told her and found the ward. After taking a deep breath, Ava walked to the door of the ward and raised her hand to knock on the door.

At this moment, the door of the ward opened.

It was none other than Naya who came out. The strange thing was that Naya was wearing a mask as if she was covering up something. What did not change was the arrogance and disdain in her eyes.

"You're literally everywhere, Ava." Naya sneered. "We're all trying to avoid you, but why do you insist on coming to throw yourself at Dan? Dan doesn't remember you at all, but he remembers me. He remembers that

we're already engaged and about to get married. So, don't waste time and energy trying to turn the situation around. Just get out of here."

Naya's attitude was extremely bad. After speaking, she turned around and wanted to close the door, leaving Ava standing outside.

Ava did not bother to argue with Naya. She raised her hand and patted the door lightly. "Wait."

Naya frowned impatiently. "Ava, stop humiliating yourself. You..."

"Naya, you don't want to see me, and I hate seeing people like you too. But I think we have a common goal, and that's Danny's speedy recovery."

Ava's expression was calm and indifferent. Her tone was calm as well. Her eyes flicked across Naya's puzzled face, trying to catch a glimpse of Daniel in the ward. However, her view was blocked by Naya.

Ava did not feel much about Naya's dirty tricks, but at the same time, she did not want to talk too much nonsense with such people. She retracted her hand and slowly handed the thermos in her hand.

"I learned from the doctor that Danny can have some soup. This is the chicken soup I made for Danny in the morning. It is very nourishing and will help Danny's recovery to a certain extent. Since you refuse to let me in, then please, Miss Mendez, bring it in and give it to Danny for me."

After listening to Ava's words, Naya glanced at the thermos in Ava's hands with disdain before letting out a sneer.

"No one has ever ordered me around since I was a child. Who do you think you are? How dare you teach me how to do things?"

"I'm not teaching you to do anything, and I don't want to trouble people like you either. So why don't you get out of the way and I'll go in by myself?" Ava said coldly, no longer bothered to be polite to Naya.

If Naya asked her to get out of here, she would also ask Naya to scram. Naya's face sank. She was pissed, but of course, she would not let Ava in. She chuckled again and reluctantly said, "Okay, since you so desperately want my help, then I'll agree this time."

She looked like she had no choice but to compromise. Then, Naya reached out to take the thermos.

When Ava's hands were empty, her heart felt heavy. She still wanted to see Daniel even if Daniel did not recognize her now. However, she also knew that Naya and Daniel's mother would definitely interfere in every possible way. If she insisted on seeing Daniel, they would definitely break out into an argument. She did not want to affect Daniel's rest, so she could only continue to give in.

"Remember to give it to Danny," Ava reminded.

Naya sneered grimly. "You can leave now."

Ava, who was too lazy to argue any further, turned and left. However, before she took two steps, there was a sudden loud sound behind her. It sounded like the sound of something being smashed to the floor. At the same time, Ava felt some warm liquid splashing onto her leg. The loud noise startled many people.

Some nurses, passing patients, and family members looked over curiously.

Ava could probably guess what had happened. When she looked back, she saw the thermos that she had just handed to Naya lying on the floor. Although the thermos was not broken, all the chicken soup inside had spilled out.

All her efforts were wasted by Naya in a blink of an eye.

Naya sneered dismissively, "The servants in my house can make a ton of this. Do you think Dan will want to drink this? Dan will be thrilled as long as he drinks a glass of water that I poured for him. You should stop coming around."

After Naya was done sneering, she turned around with an arrogant smile and then slammed the door of the room with a bang. She did not care whether Daniel would be affected or not.

Ava pursed her lips and heard criticisms from all around her. She slowly loosened her clenched fists. Then, she found cleaning tools to clean up the chicken soup that had spilled all over the place before leaving.

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Half a month passed.

The weather had also turned a lot warmer. It was spring, so flowers were blooming. Everything looked vibrant in this season.

For more than half a month, Ava had not been able to see Daniel even once. Today, she heard the news that Daniel was going to be discharged from the hospital. Ava hurriedly got up in the morning to wash up and dressed up nicely, hoping that Daniel could remember her now. Madeline drove Ava to the hospital. As soon as they arrived at the gate, they saw Daniel's mother and Naya beside Daniel. They were walking toward the MPV parked in front of the gate.

Under the sun, Daniel's warm and gentle face looked to be in good spirits. Although he had not fully recovered, Ava was very happy at the progress he had made. She picked up the bouquet she bought and hurriedly got out of the car to run toward Daniel.

Madeline fully understood Ava's urgency at the moment. She smiled and got out of the car as well.

Daniel was about to get into the car when he suddenly heard a pleasant voice calling out his name in the distance.

"Danny!"

Ava's tone was cheerful. She was very happy and satisfied to see Daniel standing in front of her safe and sound.

Daniel paused just as he was about to get into the car. He raised his eyes to look at the source of the sound. Ava's bright smile soon appeared in his eyes. Looking at the smile that was gradually approaching, Daniel's heart started beating faster for some reason. He looked at Ava, not remembering what he was going to do for a while.

Daniel's mother and Naya also saw Ava running toward them. The two exchanged a tacit glance at each other, then urged Daniel to get inside the car.

"Dan, you haven't fully recovered. Don't stand here in the wind. Get in the car now."

"Yeah, Dan, get in the car. Let's go home," Naya said with a smile that she thought was very sweet. Then, she was about to hold Daniel's hand.

However, Daniel did not seem to hear what Naya said at all. Instead, he started to take two steps in Ava's direction.

"Dan!" Daniel's mother grabbed Daniel's arm, not considering the force she was exerting. "Dan, what did I tell you before? This woman has bad intentions. She approached you just for money, so don't be entangled with her anymore. Hurry up and get in the car with Naya. Naya is your fiancée!"

Her tone was very stern because she wanted to avoid unnecessary problems. She grabbed Daniel's arm harder, trying to pull him into the car.

Daniel frowned. "Let me have a chat with her."

Naya and Daniel's mother were a little flustered when they heard this.

"Dan, don't waste time. Let's go."

"Dan, I really don't like her being too close to you," Naya said with an aggrieved expression, trying to soften Daniel's heart.

However, instead of seeing Daniel turning around, Naya saw that Daniel wanted to get closer to Ava instead.

"I'll just say a few words to her. You guys can wait for me here." After Daniel said this, he slowly walked away.

After recuperating for half a month, he looked a lot thinner now. Even so, the figure standing in the sunshine and amid the soft breeze was still so tall and handsome.

Ava trotted over to Daniel, took a few deep breaths for a few seconds, and smiled before meeting Daniel's gaze.