

## **Married by Mistake – Chapter 2301**

"Danny..." Ava raised a slight smile while calling out Daniel's name affectionately and naturally.

Daniel looked at this warm and gentle smile, a subtle feeling quietly surging in his heart. He did not know how to describe this feeling, but when he looked at Ava's smile, he felt very comfortable and motivated.

"Dan, hurry up. Get in the car so we can go home. Don't make Naya wait too long." Daniel's mother urged impatiently from in front of them.

Daniel glanced sideways at his mother, indicating that he understood. Then, he turned his head to meet Ava's gaze again.

"I've forgotten a lot of things." Daniel parted his lips, and his tone was very gentle. "The only thing I remember now is my name. They showed me some photos and videos. They also told me some things. To avoid unnecessary trouble, I think you should not come look for me for the time being."

After Daniel said these words, the wind threatened to blow away the smile on Ava's face. Even so, she maintained her graceful smile.

"I came here today because I heard that you're going to be discharged from the hospital." Ava smiled and handed over the bouquet in her hand. "This bouquet is for you. Congratulations on being discharged from the hospital. Just recuperate well after you go back. Don't think about anything else. Just go with the flow. When you recover your memories naturally, I believe you'll come back to me."

Ava said with a smile. Seeing that Daniel was staring at her absentmindedly, she simply put the bouquet into Daniel's hand. The moment their hands touched unintentionally, Daniel's heart started beating even faster.

"Dan, remember to take good care of your injuries. Maddie is still waiting for me. I'll go first. Bye." Ava waved at Daniel, then turned around carefreely.

Daniel looked at Ava's back. He still did not come back to his senses even when Ava had already gotten into Madeline's car. He remembered that both his mother and Naya had told him that Ava was a woman who constantly pestered him, but just now, she was so free and easy. She left

after handing him the flowers and her blessings. She did not seem like a rambunctious and unreasonable person at all.

Seeing that Ava had left, Naya immediately got out of the car and walked to Daniel's side.

"Dan, let's go home..."

Upon hearing this, Daniel took another look in the direction where Ava left before getting into the car.

After the car started, Daniel looked at the bouquet in his hand. He frowned and said, "The woman named Ava from just now seems to be completely different from what you guys described."

Naya and Daniel's mother were strunned when they heard that. They looked up to see that Daniel's expression was serious.

"She doesn't seem like an unreasonable person at all. It doesn't seem like she wants to pester me either."

"Dan, she's just pretending!" Daniel's mother slandered Ava the moment she opened her mouth. "You don't remember how many wicked things she did in order to break you and Naya up. Oh, forget it. Everything is in the past now. Don't mention it again."

"Really? What wicked thing did she do? I wonder if it might help me regain my memory?" Daniel pressed on.

He did not seem like he was joking.

Naya glanced at Daniel's mother a little nervously. Then, she put on an aggrieved expression and said in a soft voice, "Dan, let's not mention this person again, okay? Mrs. Graham is the person you're closest to, so why would she lie to you? You and I have been childhood sweethearts and now, I'm your fiancée. Everything I do is for us. Ava is really scary. Let's try our best to stay away from her when we see her in the future."

Although Naya's voice was very gentle and sounded sweet, for some reason, Daniel just found it abnormally ear-piercing.

"Dan, did you hear what Naya said? Stay away from that Ava person in the future so that you won't upset Naya," Daniel's mother also chimed in.

Daniel nodded lightly as if to show his agreement. However, the sight of Ava's carefree back view lingered in his mind. After Ava followed Madeline into the car, the smile on her face no longer remained. In fact, she was not free and easy at all. She was just forcing herself to be brave.

Madeline also understood what Ava was thinking now. Although she had some suggestions, she still respected Ava's thoughts more.

Ava knew that she could not do anything right now. Daniel's mother and Naya were colluding together. It was not easy for her to deal with them. She could go head-on with Naya, but Daniel's mother was his mother, after all. She had the right to control her son, but what about her?

She was originally his fiancée, but Daniel could not remember her now. What did that make her?

Not long after, Ava got out of the car at the side of the road. Madeline was worried to leave Ava on her own, but Ava insisted on being alone. Hence, Madeline could only leave first.

Ava walked aimlessly on the street alone. When she saw a couple holding hands and smiling sweetly on the street, she naturally thought of the person she loved.

"Danny, you'll remember me soon. I believe so," Ava muttered to herself before taking a deep breath and sighing.

She decided to recompose herself and continue to work hard. She could not be filled with negativity and worries every day. That was what Ava thought. Then, she turned around and raised a smile. However, when she turned around, a stall selling churros by the side of the road caught her eye.

She slowly walked over, and past memories immediately started playing in her head like a movie... She was still in primary school that year. She was just an innocent and ignorant child. She was loved by her parents and would play with her classmates often. She seemed so happy back then. Every day after school, she would wait for her parents to pick her up to go home. There were many food stalls on the roadside in front of her school, and her favorite was churros. Every time she asked, her parents would satisfy her, but one day...

Ava's thoughts were wandering. Just then, a familiar figure unexpectedly appeared in her blurred vision. When she snapped back to her senses and looked carefully, she found that it was not an illusion.

Raegan also noticed that Ava had spotted her, so she took a pack of churros, walked to Ava with a loving smile, and handed the churros over.

"Ava, I remember that this is your favorite food."

When Ava saw the churros that Raegan handed over, a wave of rejection and disgust surged in her heart. She tried her best to restrain her emotions. Then, she said softly, "I haven't eaten this for more than ten years."

Raegan looked slightly stunned. She slowly retracted her hand that was frozen in midair. She asked carefully, "Is it because back then..."

"Don't mention what happened back then. It's in the past now."

Ava hurriedly interrupted Raegan, not wanting to look back on those unhappy things.

"By the way, why are you here?"

"I didn't dare bother you, so I asked Mrs. Whitman. She said you were around here, so I came to try my luck."

Ava nodded and did not think much of it. Suddenly, she thought of something. "What a coincidence. I need a favor from you."

Hearing that Ava wanted her help on something, it was exactly what Raegan wanted.

"Ava, just tell me what it is. I'll help you as long as it's within my ability."

Ava looked around. "Let's find a place to sit and talk."

Raegan's gaze shifted. "There's a very suitable place nearby. Ava, come with me."

Raegan said and led the way. Ava followed Raegan into the car without hesitation.

After driving for about five or six minutes, the car stopped downstairs at one of the high-end residential areas.

Ava was also no stranger to this area as it was not very far from where she worked. She then remembered that Raegan had told her earlier that she bought a unit near her company for her. Hence, the apartment building in front of her was probably the unit Raegan mentioned. Of course, Ava did not ask. She had never thought of asking for anything from Raegan, and she also knew that Raegan was trying her best to make up for the damage she caused her in different ways.

When the elevator reached the floor, Ava came back to her senses.

Raegan took Ava to the door of an apartment and unlocked the door with her fingerprint.

After the door was opened, Ava could smell a faint fragrance. It was the smell of flowers. The living room was well-lit, and they saw sunlight pouring in as soon as they entered the room. It made the living space feel particularly cozy.

What surprised Ava was that the interior of this apartment turned out to be the style she liked. She was very fond of the layout and even the small decorations around. It could be seen that Raegan had seriously tried to understand her preferences.

Raegan made some black tea and poured a cup for Ava. Under the warm sunlight, the mother and daughter sat on the sofa by the French window. The scene looked very warm.

Raegan looked at Ava with anticipation and love. Then, she smiled and said, "I think you must have guessed it by now, Ava. Yes, this apartment is the one I wanted to give you before but you refused. I can understand your feelings completely. What I owed you back then can't be made up for with money or a house."

As she said that, Raegan's guilt in her heart deepened. Seeing that Ava's eyebrows were also slightly furrowed, Raegan hurriedly changed the subject.

"By the way, Ava, what do you need my help with?"

Ava's thoughts were also pulled back by Raegan's words.

She put down the teacup and looked at Raegan with a serious expression. "I still remember the last time Danny went to the emergency room because of a sudden urgent situation. It's all thanks to the doctor you hired that he could survive. He's recovering well and was discharged from the hospital today. But, as you know, Danny's head was severely concussed when the car accident happened, so he can't remember the past. I hope you can help me contact the doctor again."

Raegan understood what Ava meant. She nodded, and her expression was serious. "Actually, I contacted that doctor long ago."

Upon hearing this, Ava was very surprised. "You did?"

"Yes." Raegan smiled slightly. "However, he's not an expert in neurology, so he said that he may not be the most capable candidate for this. But Ava, don't worry. That doctor knows many experts and professors. He just called today and told me that he has contacted a professor who's an authoritative figure in neurology."

"Really?" Ava could not hold back the joy in her heart and shrieked in surprise.

Raegan gave her a firm answer. "It's true, so don't worry too much, Ava. I think it won't be long before Danny remembers everything."

After hearing what Raegan said, Ava felt a lot more at ease.

After suppressing her joy as much as possible, Ava looked at Raegan gratefully. "Thank you."

"Ava, you never have to thank me." Raegan's eyes were filled with nothing but warm motherly love.

Ava's heart warmed as she felt the sincere concern from Raegan. Hence, she did not say any more words of thanks. She did not leave right away and followed Raegan around the apartment instead.

This apartment was large, being almost 2,000 square feet. There was a balcony surrounded by various flowers. When there was a breeze, one would be able to smell the fragrance of flowers. Ava was an interior designer, so she knew the housing prices in this area very well. The unit that

Raegan wanted to give her was probably almost nine figures. Before she knew it, it was almost evening.

Raegan was very happy. Not only did Ava not leave, but she also went to the vegetable market with her. Ava also washed the vegetables and cooked with her. Raegan had never dared to imagine such a scene.

As the sun set, a strong aroma of food wafted out of the dining room.

Raegan was very excited at the moment She never thought that she and Ava could cook together and eat such a warm home-cooked meal. Ava also seemed to be in a good mood at the moment, presumably because she knew that there was a doctor who could help Daniel. If Ava's mood improved, Raegan's mood would also improve.

After eating, the two cleaned up the dining room and kitchen together. Raegan suggested going downstairs for a walk, and Ava did not refuse.

Under the chrome-yellow streetlights, Ava and Raegan took small, leisurely steps. The evening breeze in spring was blowing gently. It was not so cold anymore. As she walked, Ava could not stop herself from asking the doubts in her heart, "So, have you seen him after that?"

Raegan gradually paused her footsteps and looked at Ava deeply. "Ava, are you talking about..."

"The man who also had a part in giving birth to me," Ava answered bluntly.

Raegan was stunned for a moment. Then, she frowned as if she wanted to say something. However, she stopped herself. After a while, she said, "Ever since I left you that year, I went to Y Country by myself and never saw your father again."

Raegan felt very guilty whenever she mentioned what had happened back then.

"Actually, I didn't know that after I left, your father also left," Raegan said, feeling guiltier and guiltier. "Ava, do you miss your father?"

"No, I don't," Ava replied indifferently as she started walking again. "Let's walk for a while more. I need to go back later."

Hearing that Ava would be leaving, Raegan could not help but feel a little sad. However, after she thought about the time she spent with Ava today, she did not feel so pessimistic anymore. There would be a lot of time in the future. The important thing was that Ava was gradually accepting her again.

Ava had been waiting for updates from Raegan since she went back. She wanted to see the neurologist as soon as possible. She hoped to see Daniel recover soon. On this day, Ava finally received a call from Raegan. She said that she had made an appointment to meet the doctor at the apartment they were previously at.

Ava was very surprised. Why would Raegan ask her to meet a doctor at home? However, Ava did not think much about it and went straight over.

After finishing her work for the day, Ava packed up and was ready to head to the apartment. As soon as she left the entrance of the company, a car drove up in front of her. After the window was rolled down, she saw Tom raising a very gentlemanly smile at her.

"Where to? Let me send you." Tom was very polite.

Ava was stunned for a moment. Although Tom, her boss, was very friendly, he was still her boss. It would be a little uneasy for her to hitch a ride from her boss. When Ava was about to refuse after thinking about it, Tom unexpectedly got out of the car and helped Ava open the door to the passenger seat.

"Get in the car. I'll drive you."

"Uhm..?" Ava did not know how to refuse Tom's direct behavior for a moment.

"Actually, you don't need to feel uneasy. I know where you're going, and I'm about to go there as well. It's more convenient like this."

Tom's explanation surprised Ava.

"You know where I'm going?"

"Uh-huh." Tom gave a meaningful smile and motioned Ava to get in the car again.



Out of curiosity, Ava eventually got into Tom's car. After the car started, Ava could not help but ask, "Mr. Lowe, how do you know where I'm going?"

Tom smiled when he heard this. "Of course, I don't know where you're going. If I hadn't said that, you probably wouldn't have gotten into my car."

Upon hearing Tom's explanation, Ava was once again stunned. It turned out that Tom only said that to make her get into the car. Ava then smiled embarrassedly. "Mr. Lowe, thank you very much, but the place I'm going to is nearby. It only takes a ten-minute walk. I really don't need to trouble you."

"Since it's so close, then that's even more reason for me to send you there." Tom gave her a friendly smile and asked where she was going.

Seeing that Tom was so polite, Ava did not want to waste any more time and told Tom the address.

Tom nodded and turned the steering wheel. He could see that Ava was a little uncomfortable, but perhaps he was a businessman, he could behave naturally and without restraints.

"I heard that you've encountered some troubles recently. Actually, you don't have to be in a hurry to come back to work. I'll let the other colleagues follow up on the project you're working on. You can take care of your matters first."

Tom was very polite. When he saw that Ava seemed surprised and puzzled, Tom continued.

"You're good friends with Maisie, and she likes to hang out with you. Maisie told me about you. She's very nosy, after all. Don't blame her for telling me so many things."

It turned out that this was the case. Ava was immediately relieved. Then, she instantly felt a lot more at ease.

"How can I blame Maisie? I know that she cares about me. Although Maisie and I don't spend a lot of time together, I also like her very much. She has a strong sense of justice and is straightforward in everything she does. I can see myself in her. I think Maisie and I are the same kinds of people."

Tom smiled in agreement when he heard what Ava said. Although it was time to get off work and there were many cars, they arrived at their destination very quickly. He even opened the car for Ava gentlemanly.

"Thank you, Mr. Lowe." Ava thanked. "Then I'll go in now."

"Okay, go ahead," Tom said and turned to get in the car.

"Tom?"

Suddenly, the curious voice of a man came from not far away. Tom stopped in his tracks, and Ava looked up as well. She saw that it was a tall and well-proportioned middle-aged man in casual clothes. He looked elegant, and at the same time, he also looked scholarly and refined.

Ava looked at the man, and for some reason, she felt a familiar feeling when she looked at him.

The man seemed to be stunned when he saw Ava. However, he quickly looked away and walked toward Tom.

"Tom, it's really you. Why are you here?"

"Dr. Long, long time no see. I'm here because I sent a friend here. What about you? When did you return to Glendale?" Tom asked with a smile.

Upon hearing the words, the man glanced at Ava meaningfully. "Friend? Don't you mean girlfriend? You sure have a good eye, Tom."

"Dr. Long, you've misunderstood. She's really not my girlfriend," Tom explained seriously. Then, he lowered his eyes and glanced at the time. "I need to take care of some things, so I need to head off. Let me treat you to a meal in a few days, Doctor. We'll keep in touch."

The man nodded. "Yes, let's..."

Tom did not say anything else and quickly drove away.

People were walking back and forth along the road, but Ava felt a little awkward for some reason. When she saw the doctor smiling politely at her, she also returned a polite smile. Then, she turned around and walked quickly toward her apartment door.

The doctor surnamed Long looked at Ava's back and frowned thoughtfully.

After Ava entered the building, she quietly waited for the elevator to come down. Just as the elevator was about to arrive, she heard footsteps behind her. She glanced behind her casually and found that the person approaching her was the man who had just greeted Tom.

The elevator arrived at this moment, so Ava went in and pressed the floor she was going to. The man followed her into the elevator, but even when the elevator was ascending, he still did not press any buttons.

Ava was not someone who felt uncomfortable even when meeting someone new, but a relationship like this would make her feel particularly awkward. Now, this man had not even pressed the button for the floor he was going to, which made her find things even stranger. Plus, she seemed to sense this man staring at her.

After thinking for a few seconds, Ava asked, "Um, do you need me to press the floor for you?"

Upon hearing this, the man immediately came back to his senses and raised a faint smile. "Oh, no, I'm going to the 22nd floor too."

"You stay on the 22nd floor as well?" Ava was even more surprised. Could there be such a coincidence?

"I don't stay here. I'm going to a friend's house today," the man explained.

Ava did not ask any further questions, but she still thought that it was such a coincidence.

Seeing that the elevator was arriving on their floor, Ava deliberately took out her phone and started playing with it. She wanted the man to step out of the elevator first.

After the elevator arrived and as soon as the doors opened, the man stepped out of the elevator while Ava slowly walked out from behind him. What she never expected was that the man stopped in front of the familiar house number.

His destination turned out to be the same as hers!

Ava then recalled Tom calling him Dr. Long just now. He was the neurologist!

He was the neurologist Raegan was meeting tonight, that authoritative doctor.

Was it really him?

When she thought of this, Ava hurriedly ran over.

When he heard the hasty footsteps, the man turned his head to look at Ava and asked, "I don't suppose that things could be so coincidental and we share the same destination?"

Ava stopped and raised a polite smile. "Excuse me, are you the neurologist Dr. Long?"

The man looked at Ava and seemed to ponder for a few seconds. Just as he was about to speak, the door of the apartment opened.

Raegan was wearing an apron and holding a spatula in her hand. She looked like she had been busy cooking in the kitchen. When she saw the man standing at the door with Ava, Raegan was obviously stunned. "D -Did you guys come together?"

"I ran into her downstairs," the man explained as the expression on his face changed subtly. Even the way that he was looking at Ava began to become very unusual.

As soon as Ava heard this, she immediately confirmed that this man was the neurologist she was supposed to meet tonight.

The scene seemed to pause for a moment. Raegan then hurried back to her senses and opened the door for them. "Come in. Come in and talk."

Raegan said before facing Ava again with a loving smile. "Come in, Ava."

Ava thought that she could discuss Daniel's condition with this expert soon, so she nodded obediently and walked into the apartment.

The man looked at Ava, who entered the door with a smile. He stood at the door for a long time, not doing anything else. From the look in his eyes, his mind seemed to have drifted far away. His eyes were out of focus, but they were fixed on Ava's face.

When she saw the man looking at her absent-mindedly, Ava was curious, but she still smiled politely and said, "Doctor, please come in."

When the man heard that, he suddenly returned to his senses. Even so, he still looked like he was in a trance. He walked in to change his shoes but never once took his eyes off Ava.

"Is your name Ava? You're Ava Long?" The man seemed to change his shoes absentmindedly, but he was watching Ava change her shoes with a serious gaze.

Ava nodded, but at the same time, she was also a little curious. "Yes, my name is Ava. But how do you know my full name, Doctor?"

The man paused and explained casually, "When I was on the phone with your mother, your mother mentioned that her precious daughter has the same last name as me..."

"I see," Ava said and did not have any doubts.

After entering the house, the man closed the door while he was at it.

Ava poured a cup of tea for the man and served him very politely. In fact, she really wanted to talk to the doctor about Daniel's condition right away, but she was afraid that she would make the doctor feel uncomfortable by being too direct. Hence, she did not speak first.

Raegan, who returned to the open kitchen to cook, glanced at the living room. There were many emotions surging in her heart, but she suppressed all of them.

In the living room.

When Ava saw the doctor finishing his tea, Ava poured him another cup and handed it to him to avoid any awkwardness between them.

The man quickly reached out to grab it. He then thanked Ava in a gentle tone and gestured for Ava to sit down. "Miss Long, sit down."

Ava sat down without hesitation.

"I heard that you're a very good interior designer. Is that so?" the man asked. He put on an unusually gentle and friendly smile that reached his handsome brows.

Ava was quite surprised and glanced at Raegan. "Did my mother tell you this as well?"

Upon hearing this, the man was stunned for a moment. Then, he smiled and said, "I just asked her casually at the time and she just replied."

Even at this point, Ava did not think there was any problem with the man's answer. However, from the looks of it, Ava felt that the doctor and Raegan seemed to share some sort of relationship. If they did not know each other, how could he talk to her like this?

Ava thought to herself and asked doubtfully, "Dr. Long, do you and my mother know each other?"

The man seemed to pause for a second, then nodded. "Your mother and I used to be classmates."

"Classmates?" Ava was surprised again.

The man nodded, his gentle eyes never once moving away from Ava's face. However, his expression started to look a little serious.

"Your mother and I knew each other many years ago, but I left Glendale to study medicine. It's been more than ten years since I left. I didn't have your mother's contact information during that period of time and we only got in touch recently."

After listening to the man's explanation, Ava blinked and pondered silently.

Why did it sound like this doctor shared a close relationship with Raegan?

Ava wondered. When a thought appeared in her head, Raegan came over.

"Dinner is ready. Wash your hands and come to the dining room."

Raegan glanced at the man calmly before turning to Ava.

"Ava, what would you like to drink? I'll get it for you."

"I'm fine with anything. Dr. Long, what would you like to drink?"

"I'll have whatever you ladies have." The man smiled slightly and looked at Raegan.

Ava caught sight of Raegan and the man looking at each other. She kept feeling as though there was something odd in her heart, but she could not put a finger on what it was. She did not think anymore and followed the man and Raegan to the dining room for dinner.

The dinner was sumptuous, and Raegan had prepared everything herself.

The man picked up his fork and put a piece of meatball in his mouth before chewing it. Then, he praised, "For so many years, I thought you were only concentrating on your career, but I didn't expect that your cooking skills have not regressed at all. This tastes exactly the same as it did 20 years ago. How nostalgic..."

When Raegan and Ava heard the man lamenting, they were stunned for two seconds.

Raegan glanced at Ava, who was frowning and in thought. Then, she hurriedly said, "Dr. Long, you're too kind. I just casually made this. No skills are needed."

The man also seemed to realize that he made a mistake and corrected his behavior immediately.

Ava initially had something to say, but at this moment, she was holding her fork as she ate her pasta with her head lowered. She did not say a word. However, she was stealing glances at the man.

Raegan was worried that Ava would notice something, so she hurriedly put another meatball on Ava's plate. "Ava, eat more. You've lost a lot of weight recently. Don't worry so much. Daniel will definitely remember everything and remember that you're his most beloved woman."

After hearing that, the man said, "Miss Long, don't worry too much. I'm confident that your fiancé will get well soon. You'll look haggard if you keep worrying."

After listening to Raegan's and the man's words, Ava gradually stopped eating and tugged the corners of her lips into a forced smile.

"Thank you, Dr. Long. You guys should eat first. I just remembered that I have an important call to make."

Ava got up and walked to the living room.

Raegan and the man wanted to say something, but they tacitly came to an understanding and did not stop her. When they saw Ava leave the dining room, the man put down the tableware. A heavy sense of sadness and unspeakable joy suddenly appeared on his face.

"It's been more than ten years. I didn't expect her to be so slender and elegant. Rae, Ava really looks like when you were young."

"Neil, I have to remind you. Don't say anything you shouldn't. If Ava suspects that you're the biological father she has hated for so many years, she'll leave immediately."

Neil's face changed in an instant, and a trace of anxiety flashed in his red eyes.

"Rae, does our daughter really hate me that much?"

"She doesn't just hate you, she hates me too." Raegan sighed helplessly.

"But who can blame her for feeling this way? We can only blame ourselves for causing this."

"No, you can't blame yourself. It's my fault." Neil took all the blame himself. "If I had found out earlier..."

"It's been so many years. Don't mention it again." Raegan interrupted, not wanting to recall the painful memories related to her family.

"No matter what happened back then, it was our fault as parents. We shouldn't have left Ava alone and made her into an orphan. The child went without parental love for more than ten years. That's something we'll never be able to make up for in our lifetimes."

Having said that, Neil also sighed in remorse.

Although Raegan was also sad, a smile crept back up to her face after thinking about how Ava was slowly trying to accept her as her mother again.



"Okay, don't think about it too much. Ava is our biological daughter, after all. This child seems hard-headed, but she has a soft heart. I believe that one day, she'll be willing to accept you as her father again."

"Really?" Neil was full of anticipation, and his tone became a little excited. "If that's the case, then it'll be great. Then we can be reunited as a family."

"Reunited as a family?" Raegan seemed to doubt the word for a short moment.

It was something that people yearned for, but it seemed very far from their touch judging by how things were now. Raegan sighed silently, and when she heard Ava's footsteps approaching, she quickly gave Neil a hint. She lowered her voice to remind him.

"Don't expose yourself. You should focus on playing your role as a doctor and treat our future son-in-law. We'll talk about the other matters when this is over."

"Okay, don't worry. Just leave our son-in-law to me." Neil solemnly promised.

Raegan breathed a sigh of relief. Ava came back with the phone in her hand not long after Neil said that. With a faint smile, she looked at Raegan and Neil. "Why aren't you guys eating? You weren't waiting for me, were you?"

"No, we weren't," Neil denied it. "I was just talking with your mother. We ate some of the food."

"Okay." Ava nodded and sat back down.

Throughout the dinner, Ava did not say anything more. However, she had a smile on her face the whole time.

After dinner, Ava helped Raegan to clear the table. After the tableware was in the dishwasher, the two of them went back to the living room.

Neil sat on the sofa and had some documents in his hands. He looked like he was very seriously reading them.

Ava walked over and saw that Neil was looking at the medical records she brought, so she approached him. "I was just about to give them to you, but you're already looking at them."

Upon hearing this, Neil raised his head. The serious expression on his face dissipated a lot. "I saw them on the coffee table, so I picked them up and started reading."

"It's alright. I was going to show them to you anyway." Ava sat down. "This is the information of all the examinations and treatments my boyfriend underwent after his car accident. Doctor, how long do you think my boyfriend will take to recover based on his current condition?"

"Judging from this information, your boyfriend's injury is recovering faster than the average person. This may depend on the patient's physique and the people taking care of him. It can be seen that his external injuries have basically recovered."

"Really?" Ava asked worriedly. "He was in a coma for many days, and the doctor said he might end up in a vegetative state."

"Judging from the examination results at that time, his brain was severely concussed and there were obvious small lumps of blood compressing the nerves, so there was a small probability of him falling into a vegetative state. The doctor was probably just informing all the possible situations to the patient's family. It didn't mean that it would definitely happen."

After listening to Neil's explanation, Ava suddenly felt a lot more relaxed.

"So, does this mean that Danny's body is basically fine now?"

"You can say that." Neil looked very relaxed as well. "His biggest problem now is that he can't remember people and things from the past. In fact, over the years, I've come into contact with a lot of patients with amnesia. However, most of them are just suffering from temporary amnesia caused by trauma. It doesn't last long, so you don't have to worry too much."

Neil's remarks made Ava even more at ease. A sincere smile gradually appeared on her face.

"If you have time, why don't you ask your boyfriend to come over and I'll help him do a comprehensive examination?"

"Okay, I'll definitely bring him to see you." Ava agreed immediately. At the same time, she also saw hope.

In order to avoid Ava's suspicion, Neil did not dare stay for too long and left after sitting for a while.

Not long after Neil left, Ava also went home. After she arrived home, Ava contacted Daniel as soon as possible. The call went through but no one picked up. Just when it was about to stop ringing, someone finally answered the call.

Ava's face was instantly filled with joy. "Danny..."

"Ava, why are you still pestering us?" Naya said, her voice filled with arrogance and cold mockery. "Dan has already forgotten you, so why are you still here trying to turn things around for yourself? Listen to me, Dan still has blood clots in his brain and he'll have headaches from time to time. Don't say things that shouldn't be said and trigger him."

Naya warned Ava deliberately. Of course, she was also worried that Daniel would know that she and his mother were working together to lie to him.

Ava panicked after hearing this, but she did not want to waste her words arguing with Naya. Hence, she just retorted coldly, "Naya, can you please behave more like a human? The lie you told will never become the truth. When Danny recovers, he'll naturally remember everything, and at that time, you'll be the one trying to turn the tables only to end up humiliating yourself."

"You..." Naya was obviously provoked. She hung up the phone without saying another word.

When Ava called back, she realized that Naya had blocked her number. In fact, Ava had predicted that she would meet some obstacles if she wanted to look for Daniel. She had mentally prepared herself for it, but Naya and Daniel's mother were just full of surprises.

Through Madeline's connections, Ava managed to find out that Daniel would go back for a consultation in the hospital on Wednesday afternoon. Ava calculated the time and arrived at the hospital before Daniel's appointment.

After a while, Daniel indeed appeared at the entrance of the hospital. Ava wanted to go over and talk to him, but when she saw Naya next to him, she

could only stop herself. She would not rush this as she had already come up with another plan to get close to Daniel.

Naya accompanied Daniel to the room to see the doctor who was going to give Daniel a follow-up consultation. The doctor gave him a simple examination and suggested that Daniel should have another CT scan of his brain to see if there were any changes to the clots in Daniel's brain.

When Daniel was queuing up for his scan, Naya was always by his side.

"Dan, don't worry. Your condition will not get worse. Even if the test results are not ideal, I won't leave you. I'll always be with you no matter what happens to you," Naya said with deep affection and sincerity.

She was trying to make herself look gentle and affectionate. However, Daniel's reaction had always been very calm. He seemed to have doubts about his relationship with Naya. However, he had seen some old photos that Naya and his mother showed him. They all showed that he and Naya were indeed childhood sweethearts who had known each other for a long time. There was also a video of their engagement party as well, but the video was not very complete.

Daniel knew that his and Naya's family were somewhat influential in Glendale, so he wisely went to the internet to search for videos related to his engagement with Naya, but he found nothing.

Although Daniel could feel Naya's concern and love for him, he did not seem to have any love for Naya.

On the contrary, whenever he thought of Ava, his heart would throb a little. Just like now, when he recalled the moment Ava had walked toward him with a smile at the hospital's entrance that day, his heartbeat became a little faster.

Naya saw a slight smile on the corner of Daniel's mouth and thought that what she just said had made Daniel happy. Hence, she immediately felt proud.

In time, as long as the relationship between her and Daniel deepened and they had a child, Ava would not have a chance even if Daniel finally got his memory back.

Naya was having wishful thinking when she suddenly received a strange call. She looked at the number, hesitated for a few seconds, and then picked it up.

When Naya was about to ask, a young female voice came from the other end of the phone. "Is this Miss Mendez?"

"Who are you?" Naya asked curiously.

"Hello, Miss Mendez. I'm the nurse from Dr. Peters' office. You left a document in Dr. Peters' office just now, so please come back and get it."

Naya was reluctant to make this trip. "I'll go back after I'm done with my boyfriend's CT scan."

"Miss Mendez, Dr. Peters' consultation hours will end soon, so we'll have to lock the doors to the office. Please come and get it."

Naya was very reluctant, but she still agreed.

"Dan, I'll go get something. I'll be back soon. Wait for me here."

Daniel nodded. "Go ahead. It'll take some time before it's my turn."

"Okay," Naya replied with a smile. Then, she walked away after grabbing her bag.

Daniel did not pay attention to Naya leaving. He sat quietly on the chair when suddenly, he seemed to remember something. He took out his phone and went through his contacts. However, after looking through the list, he did not see the name he was looking for. When he was feeling sad, he saw a figure that could make his heart skip a beat from the corners of his eyes.

Daniel looked up immediately. A bright and charming smile was reflected in his clear pupils.

"Danny," Ava greeted Daniel with a smile.

Daniel stood up slowly. "It's you..."

"Yes, it's me." Ava smiled slightly and looked up at the screen that displayed the queue numbers. "Dan, I know that I may be unfamiliar to you now, but please, believe me... I won't hurt you."

Daniel looked into Ava's eyes, and his emotions were influenced by her.

"Why did you say that?"

Ava smiled calmly. "I can guess how your mother and Naya have been describing me, but it doesn't matter because what's real can't be fake. They can't continue their deception for long. After you regain your memory, those bad people will all be exposed."

After listening to Ava's words, a slightly surprised expression appeared on Daniel's face.

"Dan, are you willing to believe me?" Ava raised her beautiful clear eyes and stared at Daniel seriously.

Daniel nodded without thinking. "I don't think you'll lie to me."

Ava was already satisfied with this answer. "Dan, can you promise to do one thing for me, then?"

"What is it?" Daniel went straight to the point without any hesitation.

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Naya went back to the office after being instructed by the nurse on the phone call earlier, but when she arrived, she found that she did not leave anything behind. After asking the doctor, the doctor said that he did not ask the nurse to call her at all and it was still within his consultation hours.

Naya felt that something was very wrong after listening to this and did not think that it was a prank. Then, she called back the phone number from just now and found that she could not get through to the other person anymore. Naya quickly figured out that this person might want to send her away. The more she thought about this, the more she felt that this was the case. Hence, she quickly ran back.

Naya was a little smart. She figured that Ava wanted to drive her away and take Daniel away. However, after she rushed back to where she left Daniel, she saw Daniel sitting quietly in the same place. There were no weird people around Daniel either.

Naya searched the place again as she was feeling uneasy. After confirming that there was indeed nothing strange, she returned to Daniel's side with a sigh of relief.

Daniel did not have much of a reaction when he saw Naya coming back. After waiting in line, Daniel took a CT scan of his brain and went back to the doctor.

The doctor had the results of Daniel's examination. It was obvious from the film that there was still a clot in Daniel's brain, but the size of the clot was much smaller than it was before. The doctor said that Daniel's condition had improved and there was no major problem with him, so he should go back to recuperate and come back for regular check-ups.

Naya thanked the doctor and brought Daniel back. After they went back to Graham Manor, Naya wanted to accompany Daniel but Daniel said his head felt heavy. Hence, he wanted to rest. He did not allow Naya to follow him anymore.

Naya came to the living room with a frown. When she saw Daniel's mother walking over, she asked without thinking much of it.

"Mrs. Graham, something strange happened when I went to the hospital with Dan."

Daniel's mother was curious too. "What happened?"

Naya told Daniel's mother about the phone call. "Mrs. Graham, I think someone was trying to drive me away on purpose. I think it was Ava."

"Ava? Why is it her again? What tricks is she trying to play this time?" Daniel's mother's face was full of impatience.

Naya sneered contemptuously. "Dan has amnesia now, so she must be feeling unresigned. She has probably thought up of countless ways to get close to Dan to get a n opportunity to tell him that we're lying."

"I'll never allow that woman to approach Dan again!" Daniel's mother said angrily and sat down on the sofa.

"That woman's horoscope sign clashes with Dan's. If Dan gets back together with this woman again, maybe he'll lose his life in the future. She

was the one who was supposed to be in the car accident this time, yet Dan suffered the calamity for her!"

Naya felt pleased when she saw Daniel's mother scolding Ava. She was also very satisfied that Daniel's mother was targeting Ava and not her, but she did not quite understand it as well.

After thinking for a while, Naya sat next to Daniel's mother with a smile to try to worm her way into building a closer relationship with her. "Mrs. Graham, I should apologize to you for something."

Daniel's mother glanced at Naya. "What do you have to apologize for?"

"The matter about me gifting you fakes..."

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Graham's expression turned unpleasant.

"Mrs. Graham, I was kept in the dark about this too."

"What do you mean?" Daniel's mother did not understand.

Naya opened her mouth to explain, "Mrs. Graham, even if I would lie to anyone else, I won't lie to you. You've been so kind to me since I was a child and have always protected me. How could I dare to use fake goods to lie to you? That day, Eveline said that the gifts I gave you were all fakes according to the appraisal report. After I went back, I contacted the friends who helped me buy them. After checking, I found out that they tried to pass shoddy goods as authentic goods and sell them to me so that they could make a profit off of me..."

Naya said with an aggrieved look, "Mrs. Graham, I really had no idea. You also know that I have no shortage of pocket money at all. Plus, you've worn so many luxury goods, so you certainly have the ability to identify them. Why would I risk embarrassing myself and also risk getting exposed by you?"

When Daniel's mother heard that, she felt that something sounded sketchy, but she did not want to admit that she did not know how to identify luxury goods. Hence, she pouted and said nothing.

"Forget it, it's all over now."

Daniel's mother frowned unhappily.



"I know you didn't do it on purpose and I know you really like Dan. You couldn't be with Dan before, but now that this incident has happened, I won't let Dan and Ava be together anymore. You should take this opportunity to stay by Dan's side. Maybe over time, Dan will develop feelings for you. When that happens, it's useless even if Dan remembers Ava."

What Naya wanted to hear the most from Daniel's mother was this statement. With these words, it meant that she was still sitting firmly in the position of Daniel's future wife. In the end, she was the final winner.

On the other hand, after Ava came back from the hospital, she happened to bump into Neil while she was waiting for her ride. Neil drove the car in front of Ava, lowered the window, and asked in surprise, "Ava? Why are you in the hospital? Are you feeling unwell, or are you visiting a friend?"

Ava was also surprised to run into Neil here.

Neil looked around and then invited, "I can't stop my car here. Please get in the car first, Miss Long."

Ava looked at Neil's friendly and gentle eyes. She got into the car without any hesitation. In fact, she had planned on looking for Neil for something.

Her original plan was to call Neil after going back, but she did not think that she would run into him at this moment.

After Ava was seated, Neil stepped on the accelerator.

He could not help but look at Ava a few more times. The joy and excitement in his heart were surging fiercely, but he told himself that he had to suppress his emotions.

"Why were you at the hospital, Miss Long?" Neil asked again.

Ava pursed her lips and smiled. "I had something to take care of. By the way, why were you there as well, Doctor?"

"I was specially invited to give a lecture," Neil explained.

"Doctor, you're so busy, yet you still need to take time out to check on Danny's condition. Thanks for the trouble." Ava thanked him very politely.

"It's no trouble at all. You're my fam..." Neil almost blurted out that she was his family member, but he hurriedly stopped himself. "I mean, after being a doctor for so many years, I've long regarded patients as my family. I'll feel happy and have a sense of purpose whenever they recover."

"Dr. Long, you're indeed an angel in white. You have such noble medical ethics too," Ava praised. "Right, I wanted to look for you and tell you something. I've already made an appointment with my boyfriend. He'll be able to meet you at noon tomorrow. I wonder if you're free then, Dr. Long?"

Neil agreed without hesitation. "It's absolutely fine. You can bring your boyfriend to the same hospital just now. It just so happens that I'll be in this hospital for half a day tomorrow."

"That's great!" Ava could not hold back the joy and excitement in her heart. "Then I'll need to trouble you when the time comes."

She said and pointed to the subway station entrance in front. "Dr. Long, you can just stop in front. I can take the subway back by myself."

"You don't need to go through all the trouble. I'll take you home." Neil continued to step on the accelerator as he explained, "I need to go meet Tom anyway, so your place will be on the way."

Ava understood what Neil meant. He was going to take her to the apartment near her company. However, she did not stay in that apartment. It was just that she had been there for the past two days. Ava wanted to explain but she stopped herself. Instead, she just thanked Neil.

Normally, the trip would only take about 20 minutes, but the journey felt longer today. When the car stopped, Ava spotted Raegan walking over with what seemed to be groceries that she had just bought.

"Miss Long, that looks like your mother." Neil reminded.

Ava spotted Raegan. She wanted to go back home after she got out of the car, but she did not expect to run into Raegan.

"Yeah, it's my mother." Ava was in a dilemma, but she finally chose to get out of the car.

Raegan was very surprised to see Ava, but she was also thrilled.

Neil got out of the car and greeted Raegan very politely. Raegan also politely invited him, "Since this is such a coincidence, Dr. Long, you should stop by for a meal after you meet your friends later. You can also talk about my son-in-law's condition."

"Please don't mind me for intruding, then," Neil agreed immediately after hearing this. Then, he glanced at Ava and smiled before driving away.

After Neil drove away, Raegan naturally called Ava upstairs. Ava did not refuse and followed Raegan back to the apartment. Raegan then went directly to the kitchen after entering the door. It seemed like she was in a good mood and was about to prepare to wash the vegetables to cook.

Ava followed her into the kitchen and looked at the portion Raegan prepared. Then, she could not help but laugh sarcastically.

Raegan stopped in her tracks in confusion. "Ava, what's wrong?"

Ava looked at Raegan's smiling face but could not help frowning. "You already knew that the doctor and I would be here for dinner tonight, didn't you?"

After Ava asked that, Raegan suddenly stopped cutting the vegetables and the sharp edge of the knife accidentally slid across her finger. Bright red blood instantly flowed from the wound.

Hiss!

Raegan reflexively made a muffled sound.

Upon seeing this scene, Ava suddenly blamed herself for asking this question at this time. Her heart ached when she saw Raegan's wounded and bleeding finger.

"Where's the first aid kit?" Ava asked hurriedly, knowing that they usually kept a small first aid kit at home.

Raegan did not care about this small wound, but she felt very happy to see Ava being so concerned about her. "Ava, it doesn't matter. It's such a small wound. I don't need the first aid kit," Raegan said nonchalantly and washed the wound with clean water.

After seeing that Raegan was not taking it seriously, Ava hurriedly turned around and looked around the living room. Soon, she found a small first aid kit. After taking some alcohol cotton swabs and an adhesive bandage from it, she went back to the kitchen.

Before Raegan could speak, Ava placed the alcohol swab close to Raegan's injured finger. Then, she grabbed Raegan's hand with one hand and carefully dabbed the alcohol swab on Raegan's bleeding finger. In that instant, Raegan did not feel the slightest pain and only an unusual warmth in her heart. Despite the reluctance written on Ava's face, Raegan could sense the genuine concern she felt for her.

Ava carefully sterilized Raegan's wound, before putting on an adhesive bandage on it. Finally, she rolled up her sleeves and walked to the kitchen counter.

"I know how to make this too. Go sit over there."

As Ava said that, she picked up the kitchen knife and started preparing dinner herself.

Raegan stood in front of the counter, watching Ava's skillful chopping. When she saw Ava washing and preparing the vegetable so skillfully, her eyes turned red.

"If I had been by your side to take care of you, you wouldn't have had to learn how to take care of yourself at such a young age." Raegan sighed in pain.

After hearing this, Ava continued to cut the vegetables calmly. "I don't think there's anything wrong with this. It's very important to be able to take care of myself. No one can accompany me forever."

This answer from Ava made Raegan blame herself. "But I shouldn't have left you alone when you were young and needed your parents' care the most."

Slam!

Ava slapped the kitchen knife on the counter. "It's all in the past now. Don't mention it again."

She continued calmly, "What's more, it's too late to regret it now. Time will not go backward. You can only move forward in life."

From what Ava said, it was clear that she had already seen through life, but Raegan felt even more distressed hearing that. The damage she caused when she left her child when she was at a carefree age with no worries had caused irreparable damage to the child that could not be fixed for a lifetime. Raegan was afraid that if she said anything more, she would trigger Ava again. Hence, she stopped talking.

Ava did not speak again. She just lowered her head and sorted out the ingredients silently.

Not long after, Neil arrived.

The way he entered the door was very natural. He was talking and laughing as if he belonged to this family. "I wanted to chat with my old friends today, but I didn't think that Tom would suddenly have an important guest to see, so he left me there."

Ava heard Neil's voice in the kitchen. She looked up and brought the freshly made dishes to the table.

Only then did Neil notice that the person busying away in the kitchen was Ava. He stopped in his tracks and was slightly stunned.

Seeing Neil in a daze, Raegan quickly walked to his side and said in a low voice, "Tonight's dishes were all made by Ava."

When Neil heard this, a look of delight and surprise appeared on his face. However, he soon furrowed his brows. "I wonder when my daughter started learning how to cook?"

He sighed regretfully and turned to face Raegan.

"It feels like our daughter has always been preoccupied. I wonder if it's because of our future son-in-law."

"It must be. Ava has lost a lot of weight taking care of Dan these days. What I don't understand is Dan's parents. That girl named Naya is very hateful and even spent money to instigate someone to tamper with Ava's car, but for some reason, someone else became her scapegoat."

The more Raegan spoke about the incident, the angrier she became. When she thought about how Naya's original target was Ava, she was fuming.

"That Naya person is vicious and merciless. She looks soft and weak on the surface, but her heart is malicious. I'll never let her go unpunished like this."

"I read about this incident on the internet, but I didn't know at the time that the person who was almost harmed was our daughter."

Neil's expression also looked increasingly serious. "What's the origin of this Naya person? How could someone be willing to take the blame for her?"

"It's probably because of money. They still can't get to the bottom of this yet." As soon as Raegan finished speaking, she caught a glimpse of Ava coming out of the kitchen. Then, Raegan quickly took two steps back and drew some distance from Neil.

Ava noticed this, but she just smiled faintly. "Food is ready. We can eat now."

Neil hurriedly responded with a smile, "I heard that you're the one who made the dishes, Miss Long, so I really want to try them."

Ava did not answer Neil.

After the three of them walked to the dining room and sat down together, Neil picked up his fork and tried some food. A delicious taste started dancing on his taste buds. This joyful feeling could not be described by words.

"This is really the best dish I've ever eaten." Neil could not control his excitement and praised passionately.

Ava smiled when she heard this. Then, she parted her lips indifferently, "Dr. Long, with your status, you must have tasted countless delicacies before. Why do you have such a high evaluation of an ordinary home-cooked meal like this? What's more, the dishes I cook are not half as good as my mother's."

Upon hearing Ava's words, Neil immediately denied it. "How could they be the same? No matter how good those delicacies are, they can't compare to these because my precious..."

Neil almost blurted out the words 'precious daughter' but stopped himself because of a look from Raegan.

He stopped quickly and coughed twice to smooth things over. "I mean, this is a home-cooked dish that you made by yourself, Miss Long. It's rare for me to have a chance to taste it. So, of course, I think it's unique and also extraordinarily delicious."

"I don't think that's the reason." Ava suddenly refuted what Neil said. She slowly put down the fork in her hand and raised her eyes to look at Neil, who was suddenly stunned.

"Actually, you meant to say because it was made by your precious daughter, right?"

Ava's answer shocked Raegan and Neil.

"Am I right?" Ava spoke again, looking at the two dazed people in front of her.

Raegan was quick to come back to her senses and quickly put down the fork in her hand. "Ava, this..."

"Back then, you two colluded to deceive me. You left me alone next to the stall selling churros and never returned. Today, both of you are still working together to deceive me again." Ava said with a sarcastic bitter smile on the corners of her lips.

"Do you really think of me as your daughter?"

When Ava asked this, her eyes were full of disappointment.

Raegan and Neil stood up nervously. "Ava, we didn't mean to lie to you. It's because..."

"Because you're afraid that if I know he's my irresponsible father from back then, I'll reject and refuse to acknowledge him, right?"

Ava interrupted Raegan and asked coldly. Then, she laughed. "Don't worry, I won't reject him. It's a rare chance for Dr. Long to examine Dan, and that's all I want. But other than that, there's no relationship between us."

After decisively saying that, Ava turned around and left. She picked up her bag and walked toward the door.

"Ava..?"

"Ava!"

Neil and Raegan quickly chased after Ava at the same time.

"Ava, I didn't mean to lie to you. Really! When I first met you on the street, I didn't know that you were my daughter. I was really happy to see you again, but I didn't dare to face you..."

Neil's voice became softer and softer the more he spoke.

"Ava, I don't dare to ask for your forgiveness at all. As long as I can sit and have a meal with you and chat with you, I'll be satisfied."

Neil looked at Ava's back, and his eyes turned red unconsciously.

After listening to Neil's words, Ava could not help clenching her fists. She took a deep breath and slowly turned to face Neil and Raegan, who were both clearly disheartened. "Actually, when we ate together last night, I already knew the truth but I told myself to pretend not to. You're that irresponsible father whom I don't want to face but you're also the neurologist who can help Dan. I'm really conflicted. Can you understand this feeling?"

After she said that, Ava turned around and strode away.

Raegan and Neil kept calling Ava's name to stop her, but they also knew that Ava would not look back. The two of them looked at each other with self-blame and guilt in their eyes. If they could do it all over again, they would definitely have chosen to stay. No matter how hard their lives would be, they should make sure their family stayed together instead of thinking that leaving would be the best arrangement for the child.

In fact, they were horribly wrong.

After Ava left the apartment, she stood in the dark, not knowing what to do and where to go for a while. There were so many grievances and distress in her heart that she wanted to talk to someone.



At this moment, the first person she thought of was Daniel, but she could not find comfort in hiding in Daniel's arms like before due to his current situation.

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In Old Whitman Manor, Madeline was feeding her youngest son when she suddenly received a call from Ava.

Upon hearing Ava's depressed voice on the other end, Madeline handed her son to Jeremy without saying a word before driving to Ava. She left Jeremy holding the little boy at the dining table while feeling dazed.

Madeline arrived at her destination according to the address given by Ava soon after.

The night wind in spring was not as cold as in winter, but it was still windy.

Madeline did not know why Ava would be in the area where they went to university back then. She stopped her car and subconsciously came to the small restaurant where they used to drink together.

Ava was sitting by the window by herself at the moment, downing drinks after drinks.

Madeline hurried in and went to Ava's side. "Ava, what's wrong with you? Why are you drinking alone here? Is it because of Dan? Is that why you're drinking your sorrows away?"

Ava raised her blushing face. She looked at Madeline with her slightly bloodshot almond-shaped eyes and smiled. "Maddie, you're here. Sit down, sit down..."

Ava pulled Madeline to sit beside her as if nothing had happened.

Madeline was worried that Ava was drinking too much, so she reached out to put all the glasses out of Ava's reach.

"Ava, tell me what happened. Why did you come here to drink alone? Is it because of Dan? Don't be so sad. Dan will be fine. If you have any difficulties, you can tell me. I'll always be by your side to support you and help you, Ava."

Madeline held Ava's hand with concern and asked worriedly.

Ava still wanted to drink her sorrows away, but when she heard Madeline's concerned words, she broke down in an instant.

"Maddie..." Ava buried her face into Madeline's shoulder and started sobbing uncontrollably. "Maddie, what should I do? What the hell should I do?"

Madeline patted Ava's shoulder in distress. "Don't cry. There's a solution to everything. If the problem is very difficult, then we'll think of a way together. Don't cry. I'll always be here. You won't be alone no matter what."

Madeline comforted Ava sincerely, and Ava started crying even louder now. The customers who were eating at one side, as well as the servers, were all looking at Madeline and Ava curiously. They all subconsciously thought that Ava was very drunk.

After a while, Ava finally stopped crying.

Ava laughed self-deprecatingly again, tears slipping silently from the corners of her eyes. Madeline looked very distressed. She wanted to comfort Ava, but then she heard Ava sarcastically saying, "My parents are both so capable. How great of them! But I can't even see my boyfriend. It's ridiculous, so ridiculous..."

While talking, Ava picked up the glass again and wanted to drink.

Madeline hurriedly reached out her hand to stop her. "Ava, stop drinking. Drinking too much will hurt your health."

"But I'm so sad now..." Ava cried out, "Maddie, have a drink with me. I want to forget those unhappy things for a while."

After hearing what Ava said, Madeline's heart ached. Then, she slowly let go.

Sometimes, drinking was not necessarily a bad thing. At least, it could make people forget all their troubles temporarily. It was not a bad thing. She had stopped breastfeeding her son, so Madeline raised the glass with confidence.

Just before drinking, she messaged Jeremy.

Ava was in a very bad mood and Madeline did not want her to drink too much. She was worried that Ava would hurt her body if she drank too much, but Ava was stubborn and pushed Madeline away. She refused to stop and downed drink after drink.

It did not take long for Ava to fall into a drunken stupor. She was leaning on Madeline's shoulder while babbling drunkenly.

Madeline patted Ava's shoulder distressedly. "Stop crying. It'll all pass. Dan will recover and he'll remember you. You have to believe that your parents love you. Maybe they left you back then because they had some difficulties that couldn't be easily solved."

Ava seemed to hear what Madeline said and mumbled, "Danny... Danny will be alright. My parents. My parents I don't have parents."

After Ava finished saying this, she fell onto Madeline's shoulder dazedly and fell asleep.

Madeline felt more and more distressed for Ava. "You dummy, of course, you have parents. I believe they love you. Give yourself a little more time, okay?"

Madeline said softly while stroking Ava's hot and rosy cheeks.

"Linnie..." Jeremy's concerned voice came from beside her ears.

Madeline lifted her head to meet Jeremy's deep gaze.

"Ava is drunk. Let's have her sleep at our place tonight."

"Why did she drink so much? You drank a lot too, right?" Jeremy looked at the bottles and cans on the table before helping Madeline support Ava.

"I didn't drink much. Ava drank most of it. I couldn't stop her." Madeline sighed helplessly. She and Jeremy worked together to help Ava into the car.

Before drinking, Madeline sent a message to Jeremy, asking him to take a taxi over here so he could drive her car home.

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Ava was exhausted and woke up from a hangover with a particularly bad headache. She glanced at the surrounding environment and found that it

was a little foreign. After taking a closer look, she finally determined that this was Old Whitman Manor.

Knock, knock, knock.

There was a knock on the door.

Ava figured it was Madeline, and sure enough, the door was opened gently in the next second.

"Ava, you finally woke up." Madeline handed over a set of clean clothes to Ava. "Do you have a headache? Do you want to take a shower first? I made some chicken soup to help with your hangover. You can drink it after you shower."

Ava raised her hand and patted her head. It really hurt.

"Hiss..." Ava frowned and suddenly thought of something. "Maddie, what time is it?"

Madeline glanced at the clock on the nightstand. "Um, it's almost noon."

"What? It's so late? Oh no!" Ava seemed to be refreshed all of a sudden. She did not care about her headache anymore as she reached out and grabbed the clothes that Madeline was hanging over before running into the bathroom to take a shower.

"Ava, slow down. You just woke up." Madeline reminded her.

"I know. I won't make you worry," Ava replied loudly.

Madeline also turned around and went downstairs to prepare chicken soup and breakfast for Ava to sober up.

After taking a shower, Ava looked a lot more energetic. Madeline then learned that Ava had asked Daniel to see a doctor today.

The doctor was Ava's biological father, Neil.

"I have to hurry up and look for Danny after eating. Danny should have left home by now. Maddie, can you drive me there in a while?" Ava said while wolfing down her food.

Madeline smiled lightly. "You dummy. Of course, I'll take you there. Eat slowly and don't choke."

"I can't. I can't make Danny wait for me for too long. If Naya and Danny's mother find out, they'll cause more trouble for us again."

Ava quickly ate the meal Madeline personally cooked. After eating and drinking, Ava looked much better. After she got into Madeline's car, she called Daniel but she could not get through to him. Since they last met, Ava had already removed her number from Daniel's blocked list, so it was impossible for her not to be able to call him. Ava was very confused. When she was about to call him again, she received a call from Neil.

Ava looked at the caller ID and was a little lost for a few seconds. However, she picked it up anyway.

Neil's tone sounded very careful. "Ava, is that you? I'm not urging you, I just want to tell you that I'm already in the hospital. You can come here with Daniel now."

Ava felt very uncomfortable listening to Neil's pleasing tone.

She took a deep breath in silence and then said, "Thank you, Dr. Long. I'll take my boyfriend there soon. I'm hanging up now."

After speaking, Ava hung up the phone immediately.

Madeline could tell that the person on the other end of the phone was Ava's father. At the same time, she could also sense Ava's conflicting feelings.

"Maddie, give me your phone. I want to call Danny." Ava requested.

Madeline readily handed her phone to Ava.

Ava quickly dialed Daniel's number using Madeline's phone. "Danny, it's me."

"Ava?" Daniel, who was on the other end, seemed surprised. "Why is the name on the caller ID Eveline?"

"Eveline is our good friend. I've been unable to get through to your phone. Let's not talk about this for now. Where are you now, Danny? I'll pick you up."

"I'm at the place we agreed on that day."

When Ava heard that, she let out a sigh of relief. "Wait for me, then. I'll go get you now."

"Alright, I'll wait." Daniel's tone was still so amiable and was filled with endless gentleness.

Ava quickly told Madeline an address, and Madeline drove to their destination according to the address Ava mentioned. Before Madeline could park the car, Ava quickly got out. She asked Daniel to meet her at the door of a florist near the hospital. After Ava got there, she did not see Daniel. At this moment, she heard a woman's slow voice from behind her.

"Stop looking. The person you're looking for is not here."

This voice that was filled with arrogance and haughtiness was all too familiar to Ava. Ava clenched her fist, knowing that her plan today was ruined. She took a deep breath, recomposed herself, and turned around with an indifferent face.

Naya was dressed beautifully and carrying an expensive handbag. She stood in front of Ava arrogantly.

"Ava, this is the last time I'm warning you. Stop approaching my fiancé again."

"Heh." Ava could not help sneering. "Fiancé? Naya, you're so shameless."

Ava immediately replied sarcastically, causing Naya's face to sink.

"Ava, you..."

"What? Naya, you know exactly who Dan's fiancée is. You're taking advantage of Dan's amnesia and you want to instill him with memories that aren't true at all. Listen to me, it's useless. Sooner or later, Dan will remember everything."

After hearing this, Naya gritted her teeth in disapproval. However, the next second, she showed a sinister and smug smile again.

"Yes, you're right. Dan's memory loss won't last forever, but I promise that when Dan regains his memory, he won't be able to be with you again." Naya curled her red lips, and her tone was unusually determined.

"Ava, you're not destined to end up with Dan in this life. We have fought back and forth for so long, but the final winner is me." Naya said domineeringly and turned around with a smile.

Just as Madeline parked the car and came to look for Ava, she saw Naya walking toward her with a complacent look. Madeline looked around subconsciously, but she only saw Ava standing in front of the florist with a solemn expression. She could not see Daniel anywhere. Suddenly, she understood what was going on.

Before Madeline could say anything, Naya took the initiative to walk in front of Madeline. She showed a proud look to her once again.

"Eveline, I warn you to stop messing with me. So what if you're the young madam of Glendale's number one rich family? I'll never be afraid of you. Even if Jeremy wants to use his power to put pressure on my daddy, the Mendezes will not give in. I haven't forgotten about how you framed me for attempted murder. I'll definitely pursue it to the end!"

Naya gave Madeline a vicious warning and started to walk away.

Madeline raised her beautiful eyes calmly. "Wait." She stopped Naya.

Naya stopped in her tracks.

Madeline started to walk gracefully in front of Naya, her delicate and beautiful eyes filled with sharpness. However, she still had a smile on her face, but this smile looked very subtle.

"Naya, I think you're mistaken. My husband will never use such means to pressure anyone. You're slandering us by saying that, and I will reserve the right to hold you accountable. Secondly, I never make guesses out of thin air. I won't casually slander anyone. Naya, you know best in your heart who's the last person who tampered with Ava's car."

"Huh?"

After listening to what Madeline said, Naya was speechless for a moment.

Madeline's eyes were too sharp and piercing. The cold light coming from her eyes was extraordinarily powerful too.

Naya pursed her lips and retorted unconvincingly, "You're just making it up. The real criminals have already been convicted and you still want to slander me. Eveline, we shall wait and see!"

After warning Madeline, Naya started to walk away without stopping. It was as if she was afraid that Madeline would see through her if she was any slower. However, Madeline already knew the truth. It was just that it was covered by a veil.

"Judging from her arrogant appearance, I think she's quite sure that the thug who took the blame for her won't expose her." Ava walked over slowly.

Madeline then turned around and handed the phone to Ava. "Ava, you should call Dan first and ask where he is."

"I don't think that's necessary anymore." Ava sighed with a smile. "Naya's appearance means that Dan won't be able to meet me anymore. All of this is Naya's fault."

"If that's the case, I think it's necessary to find evidence of Naya's crime as soon as possible."

Madeline's expression also became a little more serious. "The previous evidence couldn't be established because the thug who took Chloe's money suddenly pleaded guilty. It must mean that someone had talked to him."

Ava seemed to have figured out something the second after she heard what Madeline said.

"Maddie, I see what you mean. You're saying there's still someone out there who can prove that Naya is the real perpetrator?"

"This person must exist, but we don't know who it is yet."



Madeline started contemplating for a short while. Then, she gave Ava comfort and encouragement.

"The person Naya wanted to harm was you, but Dan ended up facing the disaster for you. Ava, you and Dan are my good friends. Both of you were by my side when I was at my most helpless. You can rest assured, Ava. I'll definitely not let Naya continue to go unpunished like this. Just leave this to Jeremy and me. I'll definitely bring her to justice."

Ava felt much more at ease after Madeline said that.

On the other hand, Neil was still waiting for Ava in the hospital. He thought he was able to see his precious daughter today, but Ava never showed up even after he waited for a long time. Finally, he received a message.

Ava was not coming. She informed him via a text message, which showed how much she did not want to talk to her biological father.

Neil felt lost and helpless, but more than anything else, he was remorseful.

If they had not failed as her parents back then, this would not be happening now. There was a reason for all of this.

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Graham Manor.

Naya was sitting beside Daniel with a sad expression at this moment. Her charming face was full of endless desolation, and there were even hypocritical tears in the corners of her eyes. In addition to that, her tone was soft and weak.

"Dan, why did you go to meet another woman without telling me? We grew up as childhood sweethearts, and I'm your fiancée now. I love you so much. I really don't want to see you get too close with other women, especially Ava. She has already harmed you enough."

Daniel's expression was calm, but his thick eyebrows were deeply furrowed.

"I don't think she's the kind of person you made her out to be. Plus, she asked me out just to take me to the doctor. She knows a neurologist who's an authoritative figure in the field and can help me quickly recover my memory."

"Don't listen to her nonsense!" Daniel's mother, who was on the other side, denied it coldly. "If such a doctor exists, do you think the Grahams wouldn't know about them? They're all lies that woman made up to deceive you! Dan, promise Naya you won't go see that vixen again."

The word 'vixen' sounded very unpleasant in Daniel's ears. He did not reply to his mother directly. Instead, he just said he was not feeling well and went upstairs to his room.

Naya could tell that Daniel was protective of Ava, so she clenched her fists in dissatisfaction. She looked at Daniel's mother with reluctance. "Mrs. Graham, I think you saw that too. Even though Dan has lost his memories, he seems to still have feelings for that woman. I think we only have one solution to get rid of all future problems."

Daniel's mother knew that something was up when she looked into Naya's eyes.

"What do you have in mind?" Daniel's mother asked curiously.

Naya averted her gaze and made sure that Daniel had gone upstairs. She then got close to Daniel's mother and spoke in a low voice.

"Mrs. Graham, Dan thinks I'm engaged to him now, so we'll use this to our advantage and set a wedding date. As long as Dan and I are married, it's useless even if Ava makes a fuss."

After listening to Naya's suggestion, Daniel's mother seemed hesitant. She had her own plans in mind. The reason she agreed to let Daniel date Ava back then was because she knew that Ava's mother was the richest person in F Country. It was certainly a good thing to have a wealthy in-law. However, Daniel had gotten into a car accident, and with Old Master Graham's nagging, Daniel's mother had started to blame Ava again. In contrast, she felt that Naya was more suitable for Daniel. At least, relatively speaking, Naya was more obedient to her words.

Upon thinking of this, Daniel's mother decided that she should stop hesitating.

When Naya saw that Daniel's mother was still thinking about it, she started to win her over by saying, "Mrs. Graham, I know it hasn't been easy for you to raise Dan for so many years. Dan is so excellent because of your hard

work over the years. I've already thought about it. When our wedding date is set, I'll ask my daddy to privately transfer one million to you as a way of thanking you for your hard work in raising Dan for so many years. "

Daniel's mother was still a little hesitant at first, but when Naya said this, her eyes suddenly lit up.

"Naya, you're really sensible. I'll be much more at ease in the future with such a considerate daughter-in-law."

Daniel's mother agreed immediately. "By the way, when do you want the wedding date to be?"

"The sooner the better." Naya did not want to wait another moment. "Let's set it for next Sunday. What do you think, Mrs. Graham?"

Daniel's mother agreed, "Okay. The date you suggested is good. Naya, don't call me 'Mrs. Graham' anymore, just call me 'Mom' like Dan."

When Naya heard what Daniel's mother said, she was instantly elated. Sure enough, Daniel's mother was still so easy to bribe.

When the wedding date was officially set, she would find another excuse to con Daniel's mother. That way, the one million dollars would never reach the hands of Daniel's mother.

Naya already had her plan and was just waiting now. In the evening, Daniel came downstairs for dinner. When the family was sitting at the dining table for dinner, Daniel's mother pretended to inadvertently mention the wedding. In reality, she was doing that on purpose.

"Dan, during this period, you should take good care of your body at home. Don't go anywhere. Your wedding with Naya is coming soon, so make sure nothing goes wrong."

Daniel stopped eating immediately. "Wedding?"

"Yeah, you're getting married to Naya next Sunday," Daniel's mother affirmed. "You lost your memory, so you don't remember anything. You even forgot such an important day, but don't worry. I'll take care of everything for you, so you can just happily marry Naya when the time comes."

After hearing what his mother said, Daniel frowned and fell into deep thought.

On the other hand, Naya purposely smiled shyly to make herself look very gentle and abashed. She was thrilled because she knew her position as Dan's wife was in the bag now.

After they got married, she would be pregnant with Daniel's children. Even if Daniel remembered everything in the future, what could he do then?

She wanted to see how Ava would snatch away her man when that time came!

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The night enveloped the apartment in the city that was filled with lights.

In the room, Raegan and Neil sat facing each other. They stared at the food on the table, but they did not start eating even after a long time.

"Ava must have heard everything we said here that day." Raegan broke the silence.

Neil sighed lightly. "I think so too. Ava already knew that I was her biological father at the time. She didn't say anything because she probably didn't know how to face me."

As he spoke, Neil met Raegan's gaze guiltily.

"Your relationship with Ava had turned for the better, but my appearance has made your relationship stiff again. I really don't know what to do to ease the current situation..."

"Don't blame yourself too much." Raegan comforted him. "Ava is hard on the outside but soft on the inside. In fact, that child has a very kind heart. She usually looks like she's carefree, but she's extraordinarily attentive and gentle." Raegan said with a tinge of pride on her face.

"I'm really honored to have such a sensible, kind, hard-working, and motivated daughter. It's a pity that we weren't the ones who raised her. She gradually became the person she is now by relying on herself."

When they were speaking about this, Raegan's eyes became slightly wet.

Neil stood up, took a tissue, and handed it to Raegan. He stretched out his hand and patted Raegan's shoulder lightly to comfort her. "Don't be sad. I believe that one day, Ava will be willing to call us her mom and dad again from her heart."

"I hope so." Raegan was longing for that day. As soon as she said that, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Raegan did not know who was at the door. She got up and walked over to open it. When the door opened, she saw that it was Ava.

Neil, like Raegan, froze in disbelief.

Ava noticed the reactions of the two people in front of her but remained calm.

"Can I come in?"

Raegan and Neil hurried back to their senses. "Of course!"

"Ava, come in..."

Raegan and Neil were both very enthusiastic. Ava could feel the love from her biological parents but had a strange feeling in her heart. She could not put a finger on this feeling. She also did not know whether she was happy or unhappy.

"Ava, this is your home to begin with, so you can come whenever you want. The passcode for the door is your birthday. Whenever you're free, you can save your fingerprint so it'll be more convenient for you to come over next time."

Raegan kept talking to Ava with a bright smile on her face.

"Ava, have you eaten yet? I just made dinner, and you came just in time. The food is still warm."

Ava looked at the dining room and nodded. "Okay, I'm a little hungry. Let's sit down to eat and talk."

They did not think that Ava would agree to have dinner together with them so readily. Hence, Raegan and Neil were both overjoyed. They were pouring drinks for Ava and serving her all kinds of food. Ava did not refuse any of it.

Seeing that Ava was accepting their kindness, Raegan and Neil breathed a sigh of relief. The two were thinking about a topic to talk about when they heard Ava speak.

"The reason why I came here today is that I'm taking my friend's advice," Ava said as she put down her fork gently. "I think I should give you a chance to explain yourselves. I want to know why you abandoned me back then."

Ava suddenly went straight to the topic. Raegan and Neil were frozen for a moment. After the two exchanged glances, they both lowered their eyes silently. They seemed to blame themselves and feel regretful over it, but at the same time, they did not know how to start explaining.

Their reactions made Ava even more puzzled. "I've been alone for so many years. Every time I saw other students being picked up by their parents when I went to school and came back, it puzzled me why my parents abandoned me."

What Ava said made Raegan and Neil contemplate even more. They then fell into deeper remorse.

"Over the years, I really hated you two and never had the thought of reconciling with you. Why did you abandon me when you wanted to and then acknowledge me again when you felt like it? I feel like a toy that comes and goes as you please."

"No, Ava. How could that be? How can you be a toy? You're the apple of your father's and my eyes," Raegan hurriedly explained. That strong woman who was always so calm on the outside was at a loss right now when she was being questioned by Ava. Even her explanation sounded incoherent.

"Then why did you both leave me on the same day?" Ava found it incomprehensible, and this question had been sitting in her heart for more than ten years.

"I've persuaded myself to calm down and listen to your explanations, so why are you still hesitating? There's no explanation at all, right? The fact is that you felt that my existence hindered your lives and you would have better opportunities after leaving me. One of you became the richest

woman in a country while the other became an expert in a medical field. After abandoning me, both of you became amazing people, right?"

After saying these words, Ava started to become emotional. She felt more and more like a joke as she recalled the years she spent living like an orphan. She would never forget that she was a child abandoned by her parents on the streets.

Raegan and Neil felt as if their hearts had been struck hard when they saw that Ava had misunderstood them. Their eyes turned red, and Raegan could not hold back her tears anymore.

She hurriedly walked to Ava's side. She wanted to hold Ava's hand to comfort her, but Ava avoided her. Then, Ava chuckled coldly with red eyes.

"I was so naive. Why should a child who was abandoned by her parents have any kind of fantasies? Why should I expect you to tell me that you had your reasons for abandoning me back then?"

"Ava, it's not what you think," Neil quickly explained as well. His heart was hurting, and he felt helpless.

Ava took a deep breath and asked after calming herself, "Alright. Let me ask you a question, then. Did you purposely abandon me on the streets back then? Did you purposely lie to me telling me that you'd buy me something tasty so you could leave me all alone?"

Raegan and Neil were silent as they faced Ava's questioning. However, less than two seconds later, Neil came back to his senses and explained, "Ava, it's not what you think..."

"Your silence just now is the best answer," Ava interrupted Neil, a bitter smile appearing on the corners of her lips. "It seems that I shouldn't have made this trip."

After she said this, Ava walked to the door.

"Ava!"

"Ava, Ava!"

Neil and Raegan called out to Ava to try to make her stay, but Ava stormed out of the door. Her determination to leave was too strong. Raegan felt

extremely remorseful as she started bawling. Neil went over to hold Raegan's shoulders and pull her into his arms.

"One day, our daughter will forgive you."

"No, she won't..." Raegan did not agree, falling into deep remorse and unease. "I did purposely leave her alone on the streets. I watched her small figure on the street, and she looked so lost when she was looking for me. I watched her look for her parents and just left without turning back..."

When she recalled what had happened back then, Raegan's heart was as painful as if it had been stabbed by countless needles.

"There's nothing to explain. Back then, I did leave our daughter..."

When Raegan said this, Neil also fell into a long silence.

Did the event of that year count as deliberate abandonment?

Perhaps, it did.

Madeline wanted to leave after she sent Ava back to the apartment. However, she got a call from Jeremy, so she started talking on the phone with him. Unexpectedly, she saw Ava running out of the apartment while sobbing after a while. Madeline quickly hung up the call with Jeremy and ran to Ava after getting out of the car.

"Ava!"

Ava did not think that Madeline would still be here. However, when she heard Madeline's voice at this moment, the grievances in her heart poured out immediately.

"Maddie!"

Ava quickly ran into Maddie's arms and started crying.

"Ava, what happened? Why are you crying so badly?"

Madeline felt her heart tightening. "What happened? Is your mother not home? Or did she tell you an answer you didn't want to hear?"



"They admitted that they weren't at all concerned when they purposely left me on the streets back then!" Ava yelled as she bawled. "They deliberately abandoned me!"

Madeline was shocked when she heard Ava. At that moment, she did not know how to comfort Ava. If they did abandon her on purpose, then Ava would only get hurt a second time if she told her to go ask for the truth once more. Madeline held Ava close, feeling distressed. She did not say anything anymore.

The passersby did not understand why Ava was crying while hugging Madeline. They only thought that Ava must have broken up with her lover.

Madeline ignored the glances from the passersby. She only held Ava to try to give her warmth and assurance. After a long while, Ava finally stopped crying.

The night wind blew over and dried the tears on her face.

Ava sniffled, and suddenly, she acted as if nothing was wrong. She said calmly, "Maddie, can I spend the night at your house again?"

"Of course. Let's go home." Madeline quickly opened the door of the passenger seat for Ava.

Ava did not cry anymore. She got into the car silently and was quiet the entire journey.

Madeline brought Ava home, and Jeremy was already waiting in the living room. At first glance, he could tell that Ava's complexion was not right. He wanted to ask, but when he saw the look in Madeline's eyes, he obediently picked up his youngest son and stood at one side.

Madeline went to the room with Ava. Ava said she was tired and wanted to sleep after showering. Therefore, Madeline did not disturb her anymore. However, she told Ava that she could call out to her whenever she needed anything.

After Ava answered, Madeline went out.

After she closed the door, she saw Jeremy walking over to her with a worried look on his face. "Linnie, is she okay?"

Madeline shook her head. "Let's talk in the room."

Jeremy followed Madeline obediently and did not ask anymore. They went back to the room, but Madeline received a call from Raegan the moment she wanted to speak with Jeremy.

Madeline did not hesitate and quickly answered the call.

Raegan's voice sounded softly with a hint of hoarseness, "Mrs. Whitman, sorry for disturbing you. I'm Ava's mother."

"I know, Ms. Xander. Do you have something to tell me?" Madeline asked politely, knowing that Raegan was probably calling her because of Ava.

Raegan sighed. "I saw you and Ava downstairs of the apartment just now. I didn't dare to disturb her again, so I didn't go over. I just want to ask if Ava's mood is much more stable now?"

"Ava seems calm now. She just took a shower and said she's a little tired, so she wants to rest..." Madeline told the truth.

"That's good." Raegan seemed to be relieved. Then, she made a polite request. "Mrs. Whitman, if I may be so bold to ask for a favor, I hope you can find some time to meet me tomorrow. "

Madeline heard the helplessness and powerlessness in Raegan's words. To resolve the matter that had been gnawing on Ava's mind and prevent her from suffering, Madeline readily agreed to meet with Raegan.

After hanging up the phone, Jeremy quickly moved to Madeline's side.

"Linnie, was that Ava's mother? What happened? I heard that Ava seems to have reconciled with her biological mother, so why did they start quarreling again?"

Madeline could not help but sigh, "Ava's dad is back too."

"Ava's dad?"

"Yeah." Madeline nodded. "He's a very authoritative neurologist."

"One is the richest woman in a country, and the other is an expert. Ava's parents are really something else," Jeremy praised.

"Yeah, Ava's parents are very capable. I think they feel guilty about abandoning Ava back then and want to make amends, so I persuaded Ava to give her parents a chance to explain why they left Ava back then. In my opinion, there are no parents in the world who would be willing to abandon their children no matter what."

When she said this, Madeline's gaze softened. Her eyes then fell on the little boy in Jeremy's arms before she spoke again.

"Ava listened to my suggestion and went to her parents to ask about the situation back then, but Ava came to me crying and told me that she found out her parents had abandoned her on their own initiative."

"Abandoned her on their own initiative? It doesn't seem reasonable." Jeremy frowned, feeling suspicious and puzzled.

"How could a person who became the richest woman in a country be able to do something like abandoning her child?"

"Maybe there's something else to this matter."

Madeline also felt that Jeremy had a point. "She asked me to meet her tomorrow. I think I should be able to find out the truth when the time comes."

"Do you want me to accompany you?" Jeremy wished he could stay by Madeline's side all the time.

"You have to go to work so that we'll have money for our son's milk." Madeline smiled and patted Jeremy's handsome face. "Alright, I'm going to take a shower now. You should coax our son to sleep tonight."

After Madeline said that, she turned around. Jeremy looked at her, reluctant to part with her. Madeline quickly sensed it and turned back around to plant a kiss on the corner of Jeremy's lips after standing on her tiptoes. Then, the man went to coax their son to sleep while feeling satisfied.

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The night passed. When Madeline woke up, she realized that Ava had gotten up even earlier than her.

It was a nice day today, and the sun was shining brightly. At this moment, Ava was in the courtyard, holding Pudding's hand and talking to Karen about something.

Since Madeline had an appointment with Raegan, she figured she would find an excuse to go out later. Madeline ate some breakfast, and when she was about to get up, Ava walked over with Pudding.

Ava looked like her mental health was doing much better. She greeted Madeline with a smile, "Maddie, you're up. Pudding is so cute. I used to want to have a daughter when I got married, but I think having a son isn't that bad either."

Madeline smiled when she heard that. "Then give birth to twins so that you can have a boy and a girl at the same time. However, just don't complain about how hard it is to raise children when that happens."

"It'll be hard work, but the hard work is worth it since children are so cute."

Ava smiled and teased the little boy in her arms. The smile on Ava's face became much brighter when she saw the little boy chuckling.

Madeline also felt very warm watching this scene. "That's right You'll feel joy every time you look at the baby who came out of you. As long as the child is well, we, as parents, will feel that the tiredness and hard work are all worth it."

After Madeline said that, the smile on Ava's face changed slightly. She was still smiling, but her smile looked a little sarcastic.

"But not all parents think so," Ava said.

Madeline paused for a while, then realized that she should not have said this so casually. She had brought up a sensitive topic, and it upset Ava again. Madeline blamed herself silently and wanted to say something else to comfort Ava, but Ava suddenly raised a very unrestrained smile.

"Maddie, it's almost time for me to go to work. But I still want to stay here tonight. Can I?"

"Why are you being so polite with me? My home is your home. You can come and go freely. No one will restrict you."

Madeline got up and took Pudding from Ava.

"I'm about to go to Whitman Corporation too. Let me drive you."

"Okay," Ava replied with a smile. She seemed to be in a good mood.

However, Madeline was worried that Ava was just holding on despite her pain. After all, it was not that easy to move on from the fact that her parents had voluntarily abandoned her.

When Madeline was sending Ava to work, she would pay attention to Ava's expression from time to time. She knew very well that Ava was just pretending to be happy. Plus, Daniel was in such a situation now, so it was really difficult for Ava to feel happy.

After sending Ava to the lobby of her company, Madeline did not get out of the car. When she saw Ava enter the door, she called Raegan to confirm that Raegan was already on the way to the place where they had agreed to meet. Then, Madeline drove over immediately.

About ten minutes later, Madeline arrived at a cafe.

It was working hours, so there were not many people in the cafe. Madeline and Raegan were sitting in a corner. The first thing Raegan said was to ask Madeline about Ava's mood. After knowing that Ava had gone back to work, Raegan did not know whether to feel relieved or more worried. Looking at the worried and sad expression on Raegan's face, Madeline was even more sure that Ava might have misunderstood the so-called 'abandonment' back then.

If Raegan had really deliberately abandoned Ava at that time, it would be impossible for Raegan to show such an expression now.

"Ms. Xander, I don't think you voluntarily abandoned Ava back then like how Ava described it. Can you tell me what happened back then?"

Indeed, Raegan asked Madeline out to talk about this. She knew that it would be hard for her to talk to Ava now, so maybe it would be better to do things through Madeline. However, recalling the scene at that time, Raegan still had an indescribable sense of guilt in her heart.

Madeline saw the torment and regret in Raegan's eyes. After thinking for a moment, she parted her lips and asked, "Last night, Ava told me while crying that you admitted that you deliberately abandoned her back then. But I've always felt that it's not the case..."

Upon hearing this, Raegan sighed in remorse before she started speaking, "Ava is right. It's true that I deliberately left her alone on the streets. I was even standing in the corner, watching how helpless she was. I just left without turning back."

Madeline was surprised by Raegan's answer.

Was it really intentional?

Madeline's heart ached for Ava. No wonder Ava was so sad and disdainful. Which child could accept being abandoned by their biological parents like this?

No one could accept it.

"Why did you do it at the time?" Madeline felt indignant for Ava, so her tone was slightly aggressive.

"It was our decision as mothers to give birth to a child. How could you abandon her just because you wanted to?"

"Mrs. Whitman, you're right. You're also a mother, so I think you can understand my feelings the best," Raegan lamented.

Madeline was a little confused, but she did not agree with Raegan's statement.

"I think it's hard for me to understand."

Raegan knew that Madeline was a little angry at the moment, and she completely understood. Suddenly, she smiled, feeling slightly relieved.

"If leaving the child is the best arrangement for them, will you do that?"

Raegan suddenly asked such a question, and the unease in Madeline's heart dissipated. She looked at Raegan and suddenly seemed to understand how Raegan felt when she had to 'abandon' Ava.

"If I could do it all over again, no matter how difficult the situation was, I wouldn't have left Ava to fend for herself. But I know that if I could really do it all over again, the result would still be the same. It's because I have no way to defeat the disease that's pestering me."

Madeline fell silent again. She listened to Raegan's explanation, and without her realizing it, the hot latte on the table gradually became cold. However, her heart was warmed by what Raegan was saying at this moment.

Madeline even felt tears in the corners of her eyes. She had the urge to cry.

'Ava, your mother actually loves you very much. She really loves you.'

After hearing all the facts, Madeline understood Raegan a lot more.

"Why didn't you tell Ava the truth? I believe she'll be able to understand you, just like how I do. She'll even feel distressed for you."

"How can I say that? No matter what, I did abandon her."

"It wasn't of your own volition."

"That'll only become an excuse for me to leave Ava behind back then." Raegan blamed herself. "Plus, Ava's father didn't handle this well back then."

Madeline nodded to show that she understood. "I'll tell Ava about this."

"You don't have to deliberately mention this to Ava, Mrs. Whitman. I hope after you understand what I had to go through, you can take good care of Ava for me. Now that this has happened to Daniel, she doesn't have the person she wants to rely on the most, is the closest to, and loves the most by her side. I'm worried that she'll get anxious and do something stupid."

"Don't worry about this, Ms. Xander. Ava is my best friend. No matter what happens, I'll stay by her side and take care of her. I'll comfort her, and I'll let her rely on me. She'll never fight this battle alone."

Madeline promised solemnly.

Raegan immediately felt much more at ease, and she was very grateful to Madeline for her love for Ava.

In the company, Ava wanted to concentrate on her design but was a little distracted.

After seeing that Ava was feeling so down, Maisie decided to buy Ava a cup of milk tea. Whenever a girl was unhappy, drinking some milk tea would immediately change her mood. This was a kind of metaphysics. Maisie thought to herself and was about to order delivery, but as soon as she turned on her phone, there were suddenly two cups of milk tea on her desk.

She looked back in astonishment and saw Tom raising the corners of his lips into a faint smile.

"This is your afternoon tea. Go share it with your colleagues."

Maisie opened her mouth and hesitated. There were just two cups, so how could she share them with her colleagues?

They were clearly for her and Ava, right?

As if he could read Maisie's mind, Tom pointed to the door of the office. "The rest of the delivery is on the way. You can drink these first."

Tom said before he glanced at Ava lightly. Then, he gave a vague reminder to Maisie. "Remember to share it with your colleagues." After saying this, Tom went back to his office.

Maisie looked at the milk tea in front of her. When she opened the bag that came with it, she found that there were two pieces of tiramisu. They were made by a professional chef. He was clearly playing favorites.

Maisie hurriedly took out the milk tea and tiramisu before taking them to Ava. "Ava, have a cup of milk tea and some cake. You should rest first and continue later."

After hearing Maisie's voice, Ava came back to her senses. "Maisie, are you talking to me?"

Maisie could not help frowning when she looked at Ava, "Ava, look at you. You look so inattentive. Do you know you'll make people who care about you very worried by being like this? "



Ava could feel Maisie's kindness, and a smile suddenly appeared on her face. "My heart is already warmed before drinking the milk tea because I have a good friend like you who cares about me so much."

"Then drink this cup of milk tea now to warm your heart even more." Maisie helped Ava open the milk tea.

"Ava, don't think about so many unhappy things. I believe all troubles are only temporary."

While listening to Maisie's words of encouragement, the anxiety and uneasiness in Ava's heart dissipated a lot. After all, there were still so many people who cared about her.

Ava smiled and nodded. "Yeah, you're right. Troubles won't stay forever, but happiness will."

"Yeah." Maisie was happy that Ava was thinking that way.

After Ava drank the milk tea and ate the cake, she felt much better. She was much more focused when she was drawing her design. Indeed, it was useless for her to worry about everything that was happening to her lately.

It was almost time to get off work, and Ava was very happy that she managed to finish her work today. She said goodbye to Maisie and was about to call a cab to go back to Madeline's place. Then, coincidentally, she saw Tom stopping his car in front of her.

"Let me drive you." Tom smiled and offered.

Ava was curious. "Are you also going where I'm going this time, Mr. Lowe?"

"I can drive you even if I'm not," Tom said and got out of the car to open the door of the front passenger seat for Ava in a gentlemanly manner.

Ava looked at the opened door and remembered Tom greeting Neil the last time. They knew each other. When she thought about this, Ava hesitated for two seconds before getting into Tom's car.

She initially had something she wanted to ask him, but now that she was sitting in his car, Ava did not know how to start the conversation. She looked at the cars coming and going outside the car window. A burst of desolation suddenly surged in her heart.

"If I guessed correctly, you agreed to get in my car because you want to ask me something, right?"

Suddenly, Torn broke the silence in the car.

Ava came back to her senses and looked at the man who was driving.

Tom looked sideways with a faint smile. He looked very gentlemanly and warm.

Ava nodded without denying it. "Yes, I do want to ask you about something."

"Is it about Dr. Long?" Tom asked very directly.

There was a hint of surprise in Ava's eyes. It was as if she was surprised that Tom had read her mind.

"It was just a guess."

Tom opened his mouth to say that before continuing. "I ran into Dr. Long when I drove you to the apartment near the company. At that time, I thought you looked a lot like him, and both of you have the same surname too. I just wondered if you were father and daughter. I didn't expect it to be the case."

Ava involuntarily fell into silence when she heard what Tom said. 'I guess I look like him, huh?'

Ava finally came back to her senses after staying silent for a very long time.

"How did you meet him?"

"Him? Do you mean Dr. Long?"

"Yeah," Ava replied softly. She still could not get herself to get used to the word 'dad'.

Tom did not delve into what was on Ava's mind. He only answered naturally, "Two years ago, my dad always had headaches and was in a lot of pain. Sometimes, he would faint because of how serious it was. I contacted a lot of my connections, and in the end, I found Dr. Long. He was very busy, but he's a very authoritative figure in this field. He treated my dad for his stubborn headaches. Dr. Long is an expert in this field. He can treat almost

all challenging illnesses easily. I also became friends with him after meeting him. "

After hearing what Tom said, Ava fell silent again.

It seemed that Neil was busy but still made time to help Daniel despite never having the chance to examine Daniel yet. Ava was touched when she thought about this.

"I heard from Maisie that your boyfriend has short-term amnesia after getting into a car accident. If your father is already treating him, I think he should be fine soon."

"Mr. Lowe, I humbly accept your blessings." Ava smiled, but she had mixed feelings in her heart.

"You don't have to be so formal with me." Tom looked at Ava from the corners of his eyes. "You're good friends with my sister, so I think we can be friends too. You don't have to call me 'Mr. Lowe' outside of the office. You can just call me by my name."

Tom was magnanimous, but for some reason, Ava was not used to that. It was not a problem to be friends with the boss of her company, but she would feel awkward calling him by his name.

Tom seemed to sense Ava's awkwardness, so he smiled gentlemanly. "It's fine. You can slowly get used to it. You'll get used to something if you keep doing it. Not everyone can sit at the same table and have a meal with someone they just met."

Ava seemed to relax a lot after she heard Tom saying that.

"Thank you, Mr. Lowe," Ava thanked him.

Tom smiled and did not pressure Ava.

"Right, what else do you want to ask me after getting into my car? I met Dr. Long a few days ago and we chatted for a while. I could tell that he had something heavy in his heart, and it seems to be related to you."

There was a hint of curiosity and doubt in Tom's words.

Ava paused. She immediately understood what Tom had in his mind. She let out a wistful sigh, and a wry smile appeared on the corner of her mouth.

"My parents abandoned me when I was very young, but recently, they've found me one after another."

After Ava said that, they coincidentally came to a red light. The car stopped. Tom looked back at Ava with slight shock and regret in his eyes.

"If this is true, I really have a hard time believing that a talented person like Dr. Long would make such a serious mistake when he was young. Could this be a misunderstanding?"

"I don't think so." Ava denied it. "I asked them in person if they willingly abandoned me back then and they admitted it."

After hearing Ava's answer, Tom's eyes were still filled with uncertainty.

"Perhaps sometimes what we see with our own eyes is not the truth."

"But it's a fact that they didn't want me."

After hearing what Ava said, Tom did not know what else to say. He stopped mentioning it again to avoid making Ava feel uncomfortable.

About half an hour later, Tom drove her to the gate of Old Whitman Manor according to the address given by Ava.

Madeline originally planned to go and pick Ava up, but Ava sent her a message half an hour ago saying that someone would be sending her back. Hence, Madeline went straight home. At this moment, Madeline was a little puzzled when she saw Tom getting out of the car and opening the car door for Ava so considerately.

She walked over and looked at Tom from head to toe. "You must be Mr. Lowe."

Tom nodded to Madeline. "Hello, Mrs. Whitman. We met at a business party before."

"No wonder you look familiar to me." Madeline smiled and politely invited Tom into the house to sit and have a cup of tea. However, Tom said he had something he needed to take care of and left.

Madeline turned around to look at Ava. "So, your boss sent you here? Why is he so good to you? Does he have feelings for you?"

"No way." Ava denied it. Then, she made a guess. "Maybe I'm only receiving this special treatment because of him."

"Him?" Madeline was confused. Then, she started taking small steps toward the house with Ava.

Ava smiled bitterly. "It's that amazing neurologist."

"You mean your dad?"

Ava did not nod or shake her head when she heard that. Instead, she just smiled.

"Mr. Lowe just told me that his dad was always pestered by a stubborn headache, but he was cured after seeing that doctor. Maybe I'm benefitting from association with him and got myself a lift."

"I see..." Madeline was rueful.

Ava wanted to say something more, but suddenly, Pudding appeared in front of her. A smile appeared on her face at once, and she quickly walked over to Pudding to pick him up.

Madeline smiled and also wanted to go over, but Jeremy suddenly appeared next to her and stopped her.

"Linnie..."

"Jeremy, when did you come back?"

"I just parked the car." After Jeremy said that, he took out a pink invitation card from his pocket. "Linnie, look at what this is."

Madeline took the invitation card from Jeremy suspiciously. After opening it, she saw that the name on the invitation letter was someone she didn't know. However, the contents of the invitation letter surprised Madeline.

"Dan is going to marry Naya?"

Jeremy frowned. "I saw this invitation letter when someone else was reading it. Judging from Naya's arrogant and proud behavior, she probably

doesn't want any unforeseen complications. That's probably why she didn't invite us or Ava."

"She definitely wants to nip this in the bud so it'll be too late for us to do anything after this. Even if Dan regains his memory, there's no way to change the fact that he and Naya are married." Madeline exposed Naya's dirty tricks.

Jeremy thought so too. He looked in front of him and saw that Ava was playing with Pudding.

"Linnie, are you going to tell Ava about this?"

Madeline looked at Ava who had a smile on her face and shook her head. "I'm going to go see Naya."

"Linnie, I'll go with you."

"No, I can go by myself." Madeline smiled. "Don't worry, I can handle it."

Of course, Jeremy knew that Naya was not on the same level as his wife. However, he was still a little worried.

"If anything happens, be sure to notify me as soon as possible."

"I will." Madeline promised.

In order to not waste any time, Madeline drove directly to Graham Manor the next day. As soon as she arrived at the gate, Madeline saw a big congratulations banner hanging above it. It was clear that what was said in the invitation letter was the truth.

Daniel and Naya's marriage was real.

Madeline parked the car and walked toward the gate. Before she got close, she saw that the servants in the yard were busy making arrangements.

"Work faster. I hired you to work, so why are you so slow?" Daniel's mother urged the servants impatiently.

After Daniel's mother scolded and complained about the servants, she turned around and saw Madeline, who was walking in through the gate.

"Eveline?" Daniel's mother was very surprised. She then turned around and walked toward Madeline. "Eveline, what are you doing in our house? You're not welcomed here."

"You're right. This is Graham Manor, and it doesn't belong to just you. So, that's why I'm here to look for Dan and not you," Madeline said and walked inside calmly.

Daniel's mother was furious when she saw that Madeline was still stubborn. She immediately chased after Madeline. "Eveline, this is my house and I'm the matriarch of this house. I didn't let you in, so who do you think you are to barge in? Somebody, hurry up and kick her out!"

"I asked her to come." Daniel's voice suddenly sounded in front of them.

Daniel's mother froze in her tracks. When she saw Daniel standing not far away from them, she quickly ran over with a look of nervousness on her face. "Dan, did you remember something? Why would you ask this person to come here?"

When Daniel heard what his mother said, he asked with even more curiosity, "Are you saying that it's more probable for me to invite her over after I remember something?"

"Um..." His mother did not know how to retort. "Not entirely. I just think that you don't have much of a relationship with her, so there's no need for you both to see each other. You're just normal friends from university."

Daniel's mother was perfunctory with him. When she saw that Daniel was insisting on letting Madeline into the house, she did not say no. Instead, she quickly walked to one side and called Naya.

Naya was trying on a wedding gown in the bridal shop. After receiving the call from Daniel's mother, she immediately drove back. She was worried that Madeline would tell Daniel something negative about her. She did not want anything to go wrong at this crucial time.

Back in the house.

Daniel asked Madeline to sit down, then asked the servant to bring them some tea and snacks.

"You're Ava's friend, Eveline." Daniel looked at Madeline.

It sounded as if he was confirming their relationship.

Madeline smiled slightly. "Dan, you're right. I'm Ava's friend, but I'm also your friend. We've always been good friends."

Daniel pondered thoughtfully as if he was digesting the information Madeline had just given him.

"Do you have no memory of the past at all?"

Daniel looked up and shook his head gently. "It seems that something is blocking the nerves to the part of my brain that's associated with memory, so I can't remember anything about the past. I have to think hard about it, but it'll cause my head to feel heavy."

"Then don't think too hard," Madeline suggested. "I know a doctor who's a very authoritative neurologist. He's very confident that he'll be able to cure you after he heard about your situation. Whenever you're free, I can take you to see him."

"Ava told me as well that she knew a very good neurologist..."

"It's the same doctor Ava mentioned. He's an authoritative figure in the field and also very skillful," Madeline confirmed.

"Actually, I'm always free," Daniel said. "I'm fine with any time, but..."

"Dan, don't listen to her nonsense. There's no such doctor." Daniel's mother came over and interrupted them.

After that, she warned Madeline in a very unfriendly tone, "Eveline, I won't quibble with you if you came to give Dan your blessing for his marriage, but if you're here for something else, then I have to ask you to leave immediately."

Madeline calmly listened to Mrs. Graham's words and raised her eyebrows calmly. "When Dan and Ava get married, I'll definitely give them my best wishes. But if it's with Naya? Don't even think about it."

Mrs. Graham's face froze. She wanted to lose her temper and retort, but she soon heard what Madeline said to Daniel.



"Dan, it's precisely because you've lost your memory that you can't be at the mercy of others. The woman you loved the most before your memory loss was Ava, and you also proposed to Ava in front of everyone. Ava agreed to marry you. Plus, she has been worrying about you every day since your accident, so you can't let her down."

"Eveline, don't make up nonsense and tell such lies to fool Dan. It's clear that everything is all that woman's wishful thinking and one-sided..."

"God is always watching. The truth can't be covered up with just a few lies by you people," Madeline interrupted Daniel's mother coldly and decisively.

At this moment, Daniel's eyebrows were already tightly furrowed. He seemed to be feeling very troubled by Madeline's argument with his mother. Naturally, Daniel's mother did not have Madeline's aura. She wanted to retort, but after she thought about it, she could not come up with the right words.

Madeline was very calm. She lifted the tea to her lips and slowly took a sip.

Daniel's mother was fuming as she watched that. "Eveline, you've said what you needed to say, so you can leave now. Stop hindering our family from celebrating this joyous celebration."

"I'll leave after I see the person I'm waiting for." Madeline placed her teacup down slowly and calmly.

Daniel's mother was confused. "You're waiting for someone? Who?"

The second Daniel's mother finished talking, Naya quickly ran over from the doorway.

Naya was trying on wedding gowns at a bridal shop near Graham Manor, so it did not take much time for her to get there. Moreover, she was speeding all the way, so she arrived quickly.

Madeline heard the footsteps and looked back. When she saw Naya's hurried expression, she raised her pink lips slightly. "Miss Mendez, you came so quickly. Were you afraid that if you delayed for even a second, I would ruin your meticulous plans?"

Naya's face sank, but since Daniel was here, she knew that she had to put on an act. She immediately responded with an aggrieved expression, "Mrs. Whitman, I really don't understand what you mean by that. I know you and Ava are very good friends, but this is not how you should help your friend. You can't slander me again and again."

In the face of Naya's fake disguise, Madeline only gave her a cold look with an unwavering expression.

"Naya, your acting skills are really superb. You can do one thing in front of others and do something completely different thing behind their backs. These tricks can only deceive those ignorant women and children."

Daniel's mother felt that Madeline was mocking her when she heard the words 'ignorant women and children'.

She smacked her lips in dissatisfaction but did not seem to want to interrupt. Daniel's mother simply stood at the side as she knew that Naya still had some fighting spirit left in her.

Naya started to stand up for herself at this moment. She turned toward Madeline quite imposingly and retorted, "Mrs. Whitman, don't go too far. Although the Montgomery and Whitman families have great power, this doesn't mean you can bully me whenever you want."

Naya walked up to Daniel with a face full of grievances.

"Dan, I don't know what Mrs. Whitman told you, but you must not believe her. Since the day I decided to stay by your side when I was a child, my heart has always been yours. I've never lied to you."

Naya raised her eyes while forcing tears to well up in them. She looked pitifully at Daniel who had a frown on his face.

Daniel did not say anything. Instead, he just looked at Naya.

Madeline looked down on such dirty tricks that Naya loved to pull the most. Naya knew how to put on an act, but Madeline knew how to expose her. However, Naya was also worried that Madeline would say something that would make Daniel suspect her. Hence, she decided to gain the initiative by striking first.

"Mrs. Whitman, please leave. I can stop pursuing you for your slander against me because you and Dan went to the same university back then. However, please stop disturbing me and Dan. We're getting married soon and don't want to be disturbed by irrelevant people. Please leave!"

Naya wanted badly to kick Madeline out at once. However, Madeline stood up slowly. "Naya, you were so confident when you told Ava that even if Dan regains his memory, Ava will never get back together with Dan. I was curious about it, but I understand now. So, this is how you want to get your hands on Dan who has lost his memories. Naya, you want to trick Dan into marriage."

Naya's expression changed immediately when Madeline exposed her plan all of a sudden. She was worried that Daniel would believe it, so she tried her best to maintain her good girl image in front of Daniel.

"Mrs. Whitman, I've never said something like that. I've never met Ava alone either. Stop making false accusations against me. I know you're only saying these things to ruin my relationship with Dan for your good friend, but..."

"But Naya, you did say that, and you did meet Ava."

"I didn't." Naya was still denied this. Then, she looked at Daniel who was silent the entire time. "Dan, I really didn't meet up with Ava."

"Naya, you talk so much crap, but in the end, you still can't win against the footage captured by the dashcam in my car. That disgusting and arrogant expression you showed when you were in front of the florist isn't the same as this good girl image you're putting on now. Do you want me to play the video so that Dan can admire it too?"

When Naya heard this, her confidence from a second ago was utterly crushed. She opened her mouth to retort but was even more afraid that Madeline would show Daniel the footage from that moment.

She did not want her impression in Daniel's heart which she had so painstakingly built since she was young to crumble now.

When Madeline saw that Naya had stopped retorting arrogantly, she smiled in satisfaction. She did not talk to Naya anymore. Instead, she faced Daniel.

"Dan, I think you already have an answer to who exactly is the one lying and putting on acts. I just want to tell you not to do anything that you'll regret. Your amnesia is just temporary. You'll remember everything soon. By then, you'll also remember who you truly love."

After Madeline said that, she peered at Naya and turned around to leave carefreely. Madeline spotted Naya glaring at her with an extremely aggressive look Madeline smiled calmly and arrogantly. "My dashcam didn't capture anything, but the guilty party ended up revealing the truth with their silence."

Naya finally realized that she had walked straight into Madeline's trap. When she wanted to curse at Madeline, the woman had already left the doorway carefreely.

Naya turned around quickly and explained to Daniel while sobbing, "Dan, did you see how schemeful Eveline is? She's doing this on purpose and wants to drive a wedge between us. You can't believe her!"

Daniel lifted his warm eyes, then his gaze became stern all of a sudden. "I feel dizzy now. I want to go back to my room to rest..."

After he said that, he turned around to head toward the stairs.

Naya quickly followed after him. "Dan, we're childhood sweethearts. Do you really not trust me?"

Daniel paused in his tracks. "I want to believe you, but can you tell me why you were quiet just now?"

Naya was speechless at that second. Then, she could only watch as Daniel left her and went upstairs. Naya clenched her fists in unwillingness when she recalled the trap Madeline had set for her. She clenched her teeth, but at this moment, there was no way for her to vent her anger.

"Great! After Madeline caused such a scene, Dan might really change his mind." Daniel's mother's voice came softly from behind Naya.

She sounded as if she was saying that this was none of her business.

"Naya, if you don't have any other ideas, you might not be able to have this wedding anymore."

"No, I have to get married to Dan on the date we set!" Naya was very determined.

She did not bid farewell to Daniel's mother before she turned around and barged out. Daniel's mother did not stop her. However, she did not know what Naya would do to convince Daniel.

After Madeline left, Daniel locked himself in his room to think about things. Even though he had no memories of anything, he subconsciously would much rather believe in Madeline than Naya.

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In the afternoon, someone knocked fiercely on Daniel's door.

He thought the person was asking him to go down for dinner, but he heard his mother shrieking, "Dan, open the door! Something bad has happened!"

Daniel had no idea what was so urgent, but the hurried knocks gave him a headache.

"Dan, open the door now!" Daniel's mother's urgent voice could be heard.

Daniel got up and unlocked the door before opening it. When he saw his mother looking anxious, he frowned. "What happened? Why are you in such a hurry to look for me?"

"Something bad happened to Naya!" His mother emphasized.

For some reason, Daniel was calm when he heard the words. He just felt inexplicably irritated.

"What happened to her?"

"She left a suicide note and attempted suicide by overdosing!" Daniel's mother did not look like she was joking. "She's being rescued in the hospital right now. We're not sure if she'll be able to make it. Dan, you have to go check on her no matter what."

When Daniel learned of the situation, he did not delay things. He grabbed his coat and rushed to the hospital with his mother.

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The doctor came out of the emergency department the moment they arrived.

Daniel saw Naya's parents rushing over to ask about Naya's situation. Then, the doctor quickly gave them an answer that reassured them.

"Sir, Madam, don't worry. We were successful in pumping your daughter's stomach, and she's not in any danger now. However, she's very weak and needs to rest well. Don't trigger her again. Try to follow her wishes and fulfill her every need. Otherwise, she might do something irreversible after getting triggered again."

"Thank you, Dr. Swift. We'll keep that in mind." Ethan thanked the doctor, and it seemed that he knew the doctor.

"It's good that Naya's fine. That's good..."

Naya's mother wiped away her tears at one side. She let out a sigh of relief and turned her head, only to see that Daniel and his mother were here. Then, Naya's mother angrily barged over to Daniel and started scolding him. "Daniel Graham, what did our Naya do to you? Is she not good to you? How could you work with outsiders to hurt her? If you had sided with Naya, she wouldn't have done something stupid to hurt herself."

Daniel was confused and knitted his eyebrows together after being scolded by Naya's mother.

"She did it because of me?"

"Just read it for yourself!" Naya threw a letter at him angrily.

Daniel hesitated for two seconds before he grabbed it. After he opened it, he saw that it was the suicide note Naya left before she took the pills.

[Dan, I regret saying goodbye to you in this manner. Back then, I thought nothing could change our close bond no matter what. I was certain since I was a child that I wouldn't have feelings for another man except you. I started falling for you when I was still an ignorant little girl. I thought we'd be fine. I thought we'd get married as expected, but a pestering woman appeared halfway and made me suffer endless grievances and humiliation.]

[I can stop fussing over everything. I can stop arguing about your entanglement with Ava, and I can stop fussing over Eveline's slander against me. But I can't accept how you look at me with so much distrust in your eyes. Dan, I'm very sad and emotionally exhausted. I was so happy that I would be your bride soon and we could have our family. However, I didn't expect that you would grow distant from me just because of Eveline's one-sided statement.]

[I'm tired, Dan. My heart hurts a lot and I don't want to be in pain anymore. Hence, I'm bidding farewell to you.]

[Dad, Mom, I'm sorry. I'm an unfilial daughter. Please forgive me and please don't blame Dan. Also, don't blame Ava and Madeline because this is my choice.]

[Goodbye, Dan. You have to be happy.]

Finally, it was signed Naya Mendez.

This was a suicide note no matter how one looked at it. One seemed to be able to see Naya's determination to die from the words she wrote.

"Dan, Naya did this for you." Daniel's mother advised Daniel after she finished reading Naya's suicide note. "Naya is so stupid to have done such a ridiculous thing because of two outsiders. Ava and Eveline indirectly tried to kill her, that's for sure. But Naya is most upset about you not trusting her, Daniel," Naya's mother emphasized. "Dan, Naya was just saved, so you have to take good care of her until she recovers. You heard what the doctor said just now. You can't trigger Naya anymore."

Daniel did not know the people in front of him, but he ultimately nodded when he looked at Naya's suicide note again.

When Naya's mother saw him nodding, she felt much more at ease. However, when she recalled the contents of Naya's suicide note, she felt flames of anger rising within her chest again.

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Old Whitman Manor.

It was time for dinner, so Madeline and her family were about to eat in the dining room. Ava held Pudding in her arms lovingly. She wanted to feed the little boy. Madeline felt at ease that Ava was so happy when she was with Pudding. However, right as she picked up her fork to eat, a maid quickly ran over.

"Sir, Madam, a woman angrily barged in and said she must meet the young madam and Miss Long."

Madeline looked at Jeremy curiously. Before she could find out who this woman was, Naya's mother appeared in front of them.

"Eveline, Ava, how can you two still be in the mood to eat?!" Naya's mother started screaming. She had discarded her image of a prim and proper lady from the upper class a long time ago.

Karen knew Naya's mother because they would always see each other in their circle of rich women. Now that Naya's mother was pointing and screaming at Madeline, she naturally got up to protect Madeline.

"Mrs. Mendez, why are you pointing at my daughter-in-law and screaming at her? How did my daughter-in-law and her friend offend you?"

"Karen, you still have the nerve to ask! Your son is so unlucky to have married this kind of woman!"

"Shut up!" Jeremy interrupted coldly all of a sudden.

His cold gaze fell on Mrs. Mendez's face. "It's my greatest blessing to have married my wife. Mr. Mendez is the unfortunate one for having a wife like you and that kind of daughter."

Naya's mother did not think that Jeremy would retort to her like that. "You..."

"What? Is my son wrong?" Karen stopped being polite to Naya's mother. "Look at you. You're a lady from the upper class, yet you came here like a shrew. What is it that happened that can't be discussed in a civilized manner?"

"Discuss in a civilized manner? How do you expect me to do that? My daughter took half a bottle of pills and attempted suicide after what your



daughter-in-law said to her. We almost lost her. How do you expect me to talk calmly?"

A hint of doubt flashed across Madeline's and Jeremy's eyes when they heard this. However, Ava was surprised and confused. What did Maddie say that caused Naya to attempt suicide?

What happened?

Karen was also confused. "What are you talking about? Your daughter swallowed pills to kill herself? It's good that they managed to save her, but what does my daughter-in-law have to do with your daughter's suicide? Why would your daughter kill herself because of what my daughter-in-law said?"

Naya's mother seemed to be so mad that she was about to go insane after hearing what Karen said to protect Madeline. She took out the suicide note that she got from Daniel and aggressively threw the paper at Karen.

After Karen caught it with her quick reflexes, she looked at Naya's mother curiously.

"What's this? Why did you throw this at me?"

"That's my daughter's suicide note!" Naya's mother seemed to have roared this sentence through gritted teeth. "Karen, look at my daughter's suicide note. Do you still think that your daughter-in-law is not at fault?"

When Madeline heard the furious words of Naya's mother, she recalled what had happened this morning when she went to Graham Manor.

"Naya's suicide note?" Ava frowned and walked behind Karen with Pudding.

After Karen opened this suicide note, Madeline and the rest of them quickly saw the contents of the letter.

Naya's seemingly helpless and devastated complaints were written in the note. She accused Madeline and Ava of working together to falsely accuse her and slander her. She was also upset that Daniel did not trust her.

However, toward the end of the letter, Naya seemed kind enough to ask her parents not to pursue this with anyone. She looked like such a highly principled and kind woman.

However, to Madeline and the rest of them, Naya's suicide note looked like it was something a two-sided b\*tch would write.

"Karen, have you read it clearly? Do you see how evil your daughter-in-law is? I'll post this online and seek justice for my daughter!"

After Naya's mother said this, she reached out to take back the suicide note.

Then, Karen quickly retracted her hand.

"Karen, what's the meaning of this? Give me back my daughter's suicide note!" Naya's mother reached out her hand and demanded aggressively.

Karen said with a solemn expression on her face, "I believe that my daughter-in-law isn't that sort of person. If you post this suicide note online, you'll only make those keyboard warriors, who wish for the world to be in chaos, hurt my Eveline's reputation."

"If I can't ruin that woman's reputation, does it mean my daughter deserves to die because she was triggered?"

"Stop being so unreasonable!"

Ava suddenly said something. She handed Pudding, who was in her arms, to the maid. She walked in front of Naya's mother with a serious look on her face.

"The decision Naya made whether to live or die falls on her shoulders alone. It has nothing to do with anyone here. Stop throwing a tantrum. If you really care about your spoiled daughter, you should go back to watch her in case she's so fragile that she chooses to try and kill herself again if she can't see her mother."

"Well, well, well, Ava! You're so evil!"

"No matter how evil I am, it doesn't even amount to one-tenth of how evil Naya is," Ava retorted in neither an obsequious nor a supercilious manner. "I believe as her mother, you know as well how scary Naya can be. After all, you gave birth to her."

Naya's mother was so mad that she did not know what to say in return.

Madeline smiled calmly too. Then, she took the so-called suicide note from Karen's hand.

Karen was worried and also confused. "Eveline, what..."

"Mom, don't worry about me. True blue will never stain. Have I, Eveline Montgomery, not suffered any grievances in my lifetime? I believe that the truth will come out eventually."

Madeline said magnanimously and handed the suicide note to Naya's mother.

"Go ahead. You can expose me on the internet, and you can also hire more paid posters to attack me with all their might. But if you think that doing this can somehow make you be in the right, then you're more naive than my youngest son."

Naya's mother was scolded by Ava and Madeline one after another. Her face was ashen due to anger. She grabbed the suicide note from Madeline's hand and pointed at Madeline angrily.

"Eveline, don't think that you can be so unbridled and arrogant just because you have the Whitmans and the Montgomeries supporting you. I want to see how proud you can continue to be when I expose the fact that you forced my daughter to her death on the internet!" Naya's mother pointed at Madeline angrily and quickly turned away after warning her.

After Naya's mother left, Madeline felt more at peace, but Ava was worried about Madeline.

"Maddie, when did you go to look for Naya? Did you go look for her for me?"

At this point, Madeline knew that there was no need to hide it from Ava anymore. However, Jeremy, who was next to her, explained it to Ava before she could.

"Yesterday, Linnie found out that Daniel and Naya are going to get married next week, so she went to look for Naya today. Perhaps Daniel was suspicious of Naya and didn't want to proceed with the wedding, so Naya decided to put on an act and pretended to commit suicide."

Jeremy calmly analyzed the situation. He had seen through the details of this matter clearly.

Madeline also agreed with Jeremy. It must be because Daniel had doubts about the lies fabricated by Naya, so she deliberately pretended to commit suicide in order to convince Daniel, who had amnesia, to believe her. However, after Ava heard that, she could not keep her cool anymore.

"Danny is marrying Naya? Next week? How can this be?" Ava could not accept the news.

"Ava, you must calm down and be clear-headed about this matter. Dan is being taken advantage of because of his amnesia. He was instilled with some memories that don't belong to him, so he's in a very passive state." Madeline hurriedly held Ava's hand to reassure her.

"Naya is a very scheming and wicked woman. She had a plan when she deliberately misled Dan to marry her. You have to believe that all this wasn't Dan's idea. Dan must've believed what I said this morning, so that's why Naya put on this act."

After listening to Madeline's comforting words, Ava's emotions were gradually soothed. She knew that she should trust Daniel. Even though he had lost his memory, she could still see the same tender look in the depths of Daniel's eyes when he looked at her.

Right now, Ava was just worried that Madeline's reputation would be tarnished.

Sure enough, after Naya's mother went back, she asked the company's technical department to publish Naya's suicide note online. She also spent some money to make it go viral. She displayed the exaggerated headline 'Eveline Montgomery Forced Naya Mendez to Her Death' on the trending searches.

Soon, Madeline became the target of abuse from keyboard warriors and other netizens after they read the suicide note and saw the photos of Naya looking weak in the hospital. However, Madeline had gone through countless trials and tribulations since long ago. For her, these could not cause her any harm. However, the incident caused a decline in the share price of Whitman Corporation and Montgomery Enterprise.

Even so, Jeremy's and Madeline's parents did not care about the impact on their share prices. They only cared about Madeline's feelings and opinions.

When Ava saw those malicious words directed at Madeline, she could imagine how happy Naya was when she saw all this happening.

After finding out which hospital and ward Naya was staying in, Ava prepared a recording device and a small camera in advance. She planned to let everyone see Naya's true colors. After she found Naya's ward, Ava waited outside for a while. When she saw Naya's mother leaving, she waited for a while more before pushing the door open to go in.

In truth, Naya had been pretending to be sick all this while. Her attempt to commit suicide by overdosing was just a show she put on. She was in good spirits, and her body was not hurt in the slightest.

When her mother went out to buy food, she was comfortably holding her phone and reading the abuse the netizens were hurling at Madeline. At this moment, she suddenly heard the sound of someone pushing the door open. She thought Daniel had come to see her, so she immediately put down her phone and pretended to look weak. However, when she saw that it was Ava, she was stunned for a moment. She did not speak and just looked at Ava with suspicious eyes. She continued to look weak.

"Ava, what are you doing here? Who let you into my ward? I don't want to see you." Naya furrowed her brows tightly and looked at Ava with a face of disgust.

"Mom... Where are you? Mom?" Naya called out for her mother in the direction of the door in an unusually weak tone.

Ava looked at the pretentious Naya and walked toward her while finding the situation ridiculous.

"Naya, there's no one else here. Stop pretending."

Seeing Ava approaching, Naya's face even showed a trace of panic.

"Ava, please stop coming here. I really don't want to see you!" Naya said in an unusually weak tone, and her expression became even more flustered.

"I know you like Dan very much, so I won't fight with you, okay? As long as you love him, I won't argue with you about anything else. After this, I'll ask my dad and mom to call off the marriage. Please give me a break and stop asking Eveline to come to trouble me again. I just want to live a quiet life now..." As she spoke, Naya burst into tears.

Ava looked at Naya's hypocritical acting. She was sick to her stomach.

"Naya, do you think I'll be fooled if you say something like this and pretend to be pitiful? You're a very cunning and insidious woman! You planned this out and put on such an act just so you can win Danny's sympathy, right? Danny has amnesia now, but that doesn't mean he has no sense of judgment. I'm warning you, don't overdo it."

Ava thought that if she angered Naya like this, Naya would surely break character. However, Naya displayed an even more pitiful expression instead. Tears also fell from her eyes.

"I don't even know what you're talking about. Dan and I grew up together as childhood sweethearts. We experienced many ups and downs together. It's only natural that we'll develop feelings for each other, but you suddenly appeared and fell in love with Dan, so you want to steal him from me. You even teamed up with your good friend to slander me, demean me, and hurt me. I really don't want to live anymore."

"Naya, stop pretending!" Ava could not stand it any longer. "Do you think I don't know that you're acting? You said you don't want to live anymore, so why are you still alive and well now?"

Ava suddenly reached out and grabbed Naya's wrist. "Naya, you're thrilled to see Maddie being abused by netizens because of what your mother posted on the internet, right? Heartbreak? Attempting suicide by overdosing? Leaving behind a suicide note? Only those who haven't seen your true colors will believe it! You harmed me, then hired someone to be the scapegoat. Now, you're lying to Danny and framing Maddie. I won't let you go unpunished!"

Ava said and pulled Naya's wrist hard. "Get up! Naya, get the hell up!"

"No, Ava, don't pull me. I feel so uncomfortable. Please just get me a break. I'll let you have Dan. Please don't bother me again. I just want to live peacefully."

"Naya, you're so good at acting. If you want to live a peaceful life, you wouldn't have caused so much trouble. Don't think you can get away after finding a scapegoat to take the blame for what happened to my car. Listen to me. The truth will come out sooner or later! I'll find evidence to prove that you're the real murderer!"

"No, I didn't do anything like that... Ava, let me go, I beg you," Naya said with a very humble attitude. Then, she suddenly turned her head toward the door and shouted weakly, "Help, help..!"

Ava knew that Naya was just pretending, but she was making it seem very real this time.

Seeing that Naya wanted to break free from her grip, Ava wanted to tighten her grip. However, at this moment, the door of the ward suddenly opened.

"Help me, Dan. Help me..." Naya called for help in the direction of the door.

Ava was stunned for a moment, and out of the corners of her eyes, she saw Daniel's figure.

When she saw that Ava was in a daze, Naya withdrew her hand. Then, her body tilted forward and she fell to the floor.

"Ah!" Naya yelled in pain.

Ava came back to her senses and saw Daniel hurriedly running in front of Naya.

"Get up..." Daniel went to help Naya.

Naya wept, and tears rolled down her face. Now, she was leaning her head against Daniel's chest.

"Dan, I really don't want to live anymore. Why did you save me? Just let me die..."

"Don't say such negative things. Get up first," Daniel persuaded and gently pushed Naya's head away from his shoulders.

However, Naya did not seem willing to be pushed away. This was such an eyesore for Ava, so she walked over, grabbed Naya, and threw the confused Naya on the bed.

"Are you done? Naya, do you really think you're a movie star and everyone will fall for your act?"

Creak!

The door of the ward was pushed open again, and Naya's mother angrily ran over to Ava.

"What are you doing in my daughter's ward, you vixen? How dare you come to trigger Naya?! Why are you so evil?"

Ava glanced at Naya's mother indifferently. "You know best in your own heart who's the evil one."

"You..."

"Stop stammering. The truth will never be buried." Ava knew she would not be able to get anything from Naya, so she stopped wasting her time. However, before she left, she glanced at Daniel profoundly before turning around to leave.

After Ava left, Daniel turned around without hesitation too.

When Naya saw this, a spark of jealousy appeared in her eyes. When Naya's mother saw how unhappy her precious daughter was, she angrily turned around and barged out.

When she was outside the ward, she saw Daniel calling out to Ava. Ava stopped walking. The two of them were facing each other, and it seemed that they were affectionate. They were about to say something.

Naya's mother clenched her fist tightly and quickly charged to where Ava was standing.

Ava heard hurried footsteps approaching her. When she lifted her eyes to look over, she received a heavy slap across her face before she could even see Naya's mother clearly.



Naya's mother appeared too suddenly, so Ava did not have time to react. Daniel could not stop Naya's mother in time as well, so Ava was slapped across the face.

The people who saw this were starting to crowd around them while discussing among themselves.

"Mrs. Mendez, how could you hit Ava?" Daniel was subconsciously dissatisfied when he saw Ava's dazed look, so he questioned Naya's mother.

Naya's mother pointed at Ava angrily, cursing without caring about her image at all. "Dan, you're my son-in-law. Why are you defending this vixen at this time? This vixen almost killed your wife! Not only are you not accompanying your wife, but you even came out to talk to her. How do you have the heart to face Naya?"

Naya's mother's screams surprised the onlookers.

"What? Is this woman a mistress?"

"She does look like a mistress with that face of hers."

"This man is also a scumbag. He doesn't care about his wife and is getting himself entangled with his mistress in public. It's no wonder that the wife's mother slapped this vixen. If I were her, I would hit her too. I'd even hit the scumbag!"

When Naya's mother saw that everyone was on her side and was all scolding Ava, she was elated.

It was not that Ava could not hear what the people around her were saying, but she just held her swollen cheek and remained silent without any reaction. However, Daniel could not keep his cool. He raised his eyebrows and faced Naya's mother with dissatisfaction.

"Mrs. Mendez, do you know the reason why I call you Mrs. Mendez? Your daughter and I are not at all..."

"Daniel, you and my daughter have already set a wedding date, and you two are getting married next week. Don't you recognize me as your mother-in-law? Daniel, this is not how a decent human being behaves..."

"You're right, Dan is not a decent human being..." Ava said suddenly.

Naya's mother was stunned for a moment. She inexplicably felt panic rising in her chest when she saw Ava walking toward her with a cold expression. A look of crisis shot out from her eyes frigidly. Suddenly, she heard Ava speak again.

"One shouldn't be gentle and friendly with everyone like Dan. One should treat a slanderous shrew like you like this."

Naya's mother did not understand what Ava was trying to convey, and while she was still in a daze, Ava suddenly raised her hand. When Naya's mother was

The sound of the slap was particularly loud, even louder than the slap that Naya's mother gave Ava just now.

"Gosh..."

The people around them were shocked, and even Daniel was beyond surprised.

Naya had been hiding behind her ward door as she watched this. At first, she was thrilled when she saw people criticizing Ava. However, when she saw Ava slapping her mother, her jaw dropped.

Naya's mother was also so shocked that her mouth was open wide. She clutched her painful cheek and lifted her head abruptly to glare at Ava dazedly, "H-How dare you slap me?"

"Yeah, I did slap you. Why wouldn't I dare to do so?" Ava replied calmly, her eyes cold. "You didn't hesitate when you slapped me. If that's the case, why should I hesitate to slap you? I'm not related to you in anyway, so I don't need to indulge you."

"You..."

"You're a mother, yet you don't even know how to be a decent human being yourself. It's no wonder that the daughter you educated is also such a shrew."

Naya's mother did not expect Ava to scold her. At this moment, she felt her cheek hurting even more. "Ava, w-what nonsense are you talking about? Stop slandering my daughter!"

"Perhaps the onlookers here can't be sure whether I'm slandering her or not, but you and your daughter Naya know best in your hearts. Danny dated me first, while the pestering vixen is your daughter. Just because you're loud and managed to attract onlookers doesn't mean you're right. Again, justice will prevail. The truth might not be out now, but it'll never be buried forever."

Ava directly turned around after speaking. Those onlookers glanced at Ava and consciously stepped out of her way to let Ava pass by. They seemed shocked by Ava's words and actions just now.

Naya's mother clearly felt that she had the upper hand just a moment ago, but now, it seemed that she had become the clown. However, what happened next surprised Naya's mother. Someone had filmed a video of Ava slapping Naya's mother, and it was posted on the internet.

Since the video only contained the part where Ava slapped Naya's mother and nothing else, Ava also became the target of abuse by many keyboard warriors following Madeline. They were all scolding Ava for bullying Naya and her mother, which was outrageous.

After seeing this, Madeline realized that Ava wanted to expose Naya's true colors, so she went to the hospital to look for Naya. She was trying to trigger Naya to reveal her true colors and then film Naya's hideous nature. However, Naya seemed to be very vigilant this time and never once removed her hypocritical mask. Hence, Ava had wasted her time on this trip.

What made Madeline and Ava even more surprised was that after Ava went to Naya's ward, the entire encounter was also filmed.

Only then did Madeline and Ava understand why Naya behaved like that at the time. It turned out that she had already made preparations.

After Raegan saw this on the internet, she immediately took down the trending searches. Although she was fast, the incident had spread widely.

Ava was not surprised that she was being cyberbullied by netizens. While criticizing Ava, the netizens would also comfort and encourage Naya.

At the same time, Naya posted something at this time. She uploaded a photo of herself in the ward while attached to the IV drip to prove that she was indeed hospitalized. Furthermore, she even wrote a caption that made Madeline and Ava feel that she was extremely two-faced.

She asked all netizens to stop attacking Ava and said that she did not want to see her loved ones bothered by this matter. Finally, she thanked the netizens.

Great. The netizens immediately thought that Daniel was distressed by Ava being cyberbullied. As a result, the netizens wrote even harsher words about Ava. Some people even deliberately went to the apartment where Ava lived before to throw rotten eggs and splash red paint on her door. Things were getting worse and worse now.

Raegan was worried about Ava's safety, so she called Madeline. Madeline was worried as well and had been with Ava this whole time.

Ava knew Naya wanted to completely destroy her, but she did not want Madeline to worry about her too much. Hence, she pretended to be very at ease.

Since there was something at the company that Ava needed to take care of, she purposely avoided working hours and asked Madeline to send her to the lobby of her company.

Madeline told Ava to wait for her to park the car so the two of them could go up together. Ava knew Madeline was worried about her, so she waited at the door and did not go anywhere. However, a figure slowly approached her from the side under the gray and foggy night sky.

Ava also heard footsteps approaching. When she was about to look back, a strong arm suddenly stretched out and grabbed her shoulders. Ava wanted to dodge, but the man held her even harder and pulled her to the side.

Just as Ava was about to break free, something seemed to pass by her side from the corners of her eyes.

Crash!

The sound of something shattering could be heard from beside her.

Ava froze for a moment...

"Are you okay?" A familiar and concerned voice entered her ears at this time.

Ava snapped back to her senses and raised her eyes. In her doubtful gaze, Tom's extremely handsome face was reflected in her pupils.

"Mr. Lowe?" Ava was very surprised. "I... Am fine." Ava spoke incoherently as she had yet to recover from what had just happened.

She turned her head to look in the direction where the sound of the shatter came from, only to find that a flowerpot had fallen to the ground less than a meter away from her.

In other words, a flower pot had fallen to where she was standing just now. Coincidentally. Tom saw it, so he rushed over to pull her away.

Ava looked at the broken flower pot with a silent sigh of relief. Then, she turned to face Tom. "Mr. Lowe, thank you."

Tom had already let go of his arms in a very gentlemanly manner. He also glanced at the flowerpot, but his face was a little serious.

"It's good that you're fine. I'll ask someone to find out how the flowerpot fell. If it was done deliberately, I'll definitely avenge you."

Ava was curious when she heard what Tom said. It would make sense if someone had accidentally pushed the flowerpot. How could it have been done deliberately? Did someone want to kill her with a flowerpot?

Tom walked toward the building, but he did not forget to ask Ava, "Why are you standing at the entrance of the company at this late hour?"

Ava quickly came back to her senses and followed behind Tom. "There's a problem with the design draft for a project and it's the deadline tomorrow. I have to settle this design draft tonight in case the client is unhappy with the company."

After Tom heard that, a deep smile appeared on his handsome face. "It's my honor to have such a considerate employee like you in the company. I think I have to give you a salary increment this year."

"Thank you, Mr. Lowe. I'm just doing my duty."

Ava walked into the elevator with Tom, and at the same time, she also messaged Madeline that she had run into her boss and was following him upstairs. Hence, Madeline could stop worrying about her.

Madeline had just found a parking spot and was about to park the car. After she received Ava's message, she drove the car away to buy something from the supermarket nearby. She could pick up Ava when she was done. Since Tom and Ava were in the office together, Madeline did not need to worry.

After Ava got into the office, she immediately went to her seat to start working. However, when she turned on her computer and sat down, she felt like something seemed strange about her workspace. Upon taking a closer look at things, she saw that the handle of the mug she usually drank from was broken. Some of her files were even out of order as if they had been tampered with.

Ava could not help recalling the flowerpot that shattered next to her.

Did someone do it on purpose?

As she thought about this, her computer screen lit up in front of her. However, what appeared was not her usual wallpaper but an abnormally scary photo.

"Ah!"

Ava screamed reflexively, and in that instant, the lights in the office suddenly went out.

Although Ava had a carefree personality and a clear conscience when it came to dealing with people, she was still a woman, after all. It was inevitable that she would feel a little bit of panic and fear when facing such a sudden situation.

What terrified Ava even more was the gloomy voice of a woman that came out of nowhere. "Ava, God is always watching. If you dare to keep bullying people and do as you please, I'll haunt you every day and night..."

Although Ava was a little terrified, she knew that someone had set this up to scare her. She calmed herself down and picked up her phone. She turned on the flashlight to see what was going on.

Coincidentally, Tom strode toward her from the door of his office. "What happened? Ava, where are you?"

"Mr. Lowe, I'm here." Ava shook her phone.

Tom saw the light and quickly came to Ava's side. His brows were furrowed with worry.

"What's the matter? I heard you screaming just now. When I came from outside, I vaguely saw a figure flashing past the door of the office. Who was that?"

After Ava heard that, she felt a chill running down her spine. She was even more sure that someone wanted to pull a prank on her now.

"I don't know who it was, and I don't know how the lights went out all of a sudden. Also, it seems like someone has vandalized my computer and my office desk."

"Really?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Lowe. I think it's because my personal affairs have gotten a little out of hand recently. Some people don't like me and want to target me."

"If that's the case, I have to take you back first," Tom said solemnly. Suddenly, he reached out and grabbed Ava's wrist, pulling her out of the office with great care.

"For the time being, you can just leave your work to the other employees. Your personal safety has been threatened by unknown sources, so your safety is the most important thing right now."

Tom sounded serious. He grabbed Ava before leaving the office with her.

Ava knew that she was in a slightly dangerous situation now. She decided to call Madeline when she suddenly heard Tom say, "I remember that your apartment is nearby. It'll only take a few minutes for me to send you there. Don't come out after you go back. You can call me if you need anything."

Ava did not want to say anything after she saw how considerate Tom was being. Hence, she just nodded and agreed. At the same time, she withdrew her hand.

Ava was sent to the apartment that Raegan had bought her before this. After Tom left, Ava called Madeline. After learning about the situation, Madeline rushed from the supermarket to the apartment.

Madeline breathed a sigh of relief after seeing Ava. Madeline also admired the apartment while she was there and found that all the decorations were of Ava's style, which showed Raegan's sincerity toward Ava.

It also happened that Raegan was away today, so Ava felt a little more at ease.

Madeline looked at the house for a while, and after sitting down, her expression became a lot more serious.

"So, there are really such crazy netizens who would harass you to this extent just because of your matter with Naya? They even wanted to smash a flowerpot on you?"

"Maybe that person isn't a crazy netizen but someone instigated by Naya. It's very likely."

With Ava's analysis, Madeline also figured that it was very possible.

"Ava, why don't you go back to the old house with me first? I keep feeling that it's unsafe here." Madeline suggested, and Ava agreed.

When the two were walking toward the door, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Madeline and Ava stopped in their tracks at the same time. They looked at each other, then at the door with a wary look in their eyes.

Ding dong!

The doorbell rang again.



Madeline walked to the door, and through the peephole, she saw a familiar face.

"Tom?" Madeline turned back. "It's Tom."

"Mr. Lowe?" Ava was also quite surprised. 'Didn't Tom just leave? Why is he back again?'

Ava thought to herself before opening the door.

Tom was about to speak, but when he saw Madeline there, he was a little surprised. "Mrs. Whitman, you're here too? Since there's someone to accompany Ava, then as her boss, I can feel relieved."

He said and handed Ava the bag he was holding. "I thought you wouldn't have eaten yet, but it might be dangerous if you go out or order takeout. Hence, I bought you something to eat at a nearby restaurant."

Tom's thoughtfulness warmed Madeline and Ava.

"Thank you, Mr. Lowe, but I'm planning to go back to Maddie's house. There are a lot of people in her house, and she also has bodyguards there. Even if someone really wants to hurt me, it won't be that easy."

"That's good. I don't want such an excellent employee to be hurt. Besides, you're also a good friend of Maisie." Tom smiled slightly, then very thoughtfully walked Madeline and Ava to the car.

When Madeline's car drove far away, Tom left without any worries.

After returning to Old Whitman Manor, Jeremy found the incident very strange when he learned what had happened to Ava.

"Naya seems to have expected that you'd go to the hospital to look for her, so she prepared the camera in advance. When you decided to trigger her with psychological methods, she deliberately pretended to be innocent and pitiful so that she could post the video online to gain pity.

"I think Naya was also the one who filmed the scene of you slapping her mother. Judging from the angle, she must've been standing at the door of the ward."

Jeremy analyzed slowly, then watched the video that was still trending online two more times.

Despite Raegan spending money to remove the trending searches, the video was still everywhere. The netizens continued to hurl abuse on Ava's profile.

"I didn't expect Naya to have made so many preparations in advance. Great, everyone online thinks that you're constantly bullying Naya and that you even forced her to attempt suicide. Aside from that, you even slapped her mother in public."

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows, but when she lifted her eyes, she saw Ava smiling at her mysteriously.

"Ava, do you really not care about what's happening on the internet?"

Ava smiled and shook her head. "I'd be lying if I said I don't mind. It's just that I saw how Naya's so-called suicide note was published on the internet, which incited netizens to start criticizing you. That's why I went to the hospital to look for her and provoke her to reveal her true nature, but I didn't think that she was already prepared to play the role of a two-sided b\*tch until the very end. However, she probably has no idea that I also went there prepared."

Madeline looked at the confident smile on Ava's face and suddenly felt a lot more at ease.

"Ava, you mean..."

"It's exactly what you think." Ava picked up her phone with a smile, opened one of the videos, and finally handed it to Madeline.

Jeremy also leaned over to Madeline's side and looked down. He did not expect to see such a clear and more complete video than the one on the internet.

"Ava, so, you were also..."

"Yeah, how could I go meet such an insidious woman unprepared?" Ava leaned back on the sofa. "We'll just let those netizens continue to kick up a

fuss and scold me for bullying Naya and her mother. When the time comes, they'll know who's the true bully."

Ava was confident, and she did not seem to be worried at all. Madeline figured that Ava's lack of worry was because she had a clear conscience.

Although some frightening things had happened that day, Ava did not take them very seriously.

She lay down on the bed after taking a shower. She saw the messages from Raegan and Neil. They both wanted to know about her situation, but they did not dare to bother her. Their cautiousness somewhat touched Ava's heart.

Ava looked at the words of concern and exhortation on the screen. She began to space out. Suddenly, the familiar ringtone brought her back to reality. She looked at the caller ID in disbelief and answered the call without hesitation.

"Danny?" Ava asked in uncertainty.

Then came Daniel's warm reply, "It's me."

After hearing this reassuring answer, Ava felt that all her troubles were instantly swept away.

"Danny, why are you calling me?"

"I saw those things on the internet and feel very sorry."

Daniel's tone was full of guilt. "If it weren't for me, perhaps conflicts wouldn't have arisen. Are you okay?"

Ava did not feel much when Daniel apologized, but when she heard him ask her if she was okay, Ava's tears escaped from the corners of her eyes almost instantly. However, she suppressed her emotions forcefully and did not let Daniel hear that she was crying.

When Daniel heard the long silence on the other end of the phone...

"Ava, can you hear me? Are you crying?"

"No, I'm not crying..." Ava was forcefully holding on, but her voice was obviously shaking and hoarse.

"Don't cry. No matter what happens next, you won't face it alone. Also, I'll make things clear to the Mendezes so that you won't suffer unwarranted grievances again."

"I don't feel wronged anymore after hearing you say that." A happy smile gradually appeared on Ava's face.

"Danny, don't worry. I'll never back down because of any difficulties or threats. The only thing I'm worried about and scared of is losing you."

Perhaps Ava's words touched Daniel, so it was silent on his end.

Knowing that Daniel might not feel anything toward her words, Ava sighed quietly. She did not want to upset Daniel too much. Then, she thought about hanging up the phone.

"You won't lose me." Suddenly, Daniel's response came from the receiver. "Although I've lost my memory, my feelings tell me what you've told me is the truth."

These words lingered in Ava's ears softly. She felt her heart beating normally again.

After hanging up the phone, Ava lay on the bed and read the comments of netizens who criticized her and comforted Naya. She closed the page in a hurry and opened the live broadcast application on her mobile phone. She would let the storm come more violently. Ava would never show weakness anyway.

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At this time, Naya was lying on the hospital bed while feeling great. She was also reading the comments on the internet with great delight.

Naya's mother happily peeled an apple for Naya. "Naya, look, Ava is now the target of scorn."

When Naya's mother said this, she could not conceal the joy on her face. Naya sat on the bed with no expression. She seemed to be thinking about something.

At this time, some nosy netizens heard from somewhere that Ava had started a live broadcast. Hence, they immediately searched for the link to find the live broadcast room.

As soon as they came in, those keyboard warriors started cursing and scolding Ava immediately.

[Ava, you're so shameless. How dare you start a live broadcast?!]

[Is this shameless person using this method to become popular in hopes to make money from this?]

[Damn, how gross!]

[Ava, you're just a beast that was abandoned by your parents. Come out and apologize to Miss Mendez now!]

[You b\*tch! Miss Naya was almost driven to death by you and she even wrote a suicide note. Aren't you embarrassed to be alive? You should be the one committing suicide!]

The abusive words of the netizens quickly filled the screen. Ava saw every comment. However, Ava just lay on the bed comfortably and watched calmly. There was even a smile on the corner of her mouth.

Madeline and Jeremy had just taken a shower. Right after they got into bed, Madeline suddenly received a link from Ava on her phone.

After Madeline clicked in and saw the scene in the live broadcast room, she finally breathed a sigh of relief.

"Oh? Is Ava finally going to fight back? I thought she wanted to continue to stay silent," Jeremy looked at the screen of the phone and said with a small grin. He did not forget to reach out and pull Madeline into his arms.

Madeline leaned against Jeremy's warm chest affectionately with a smile on her small face. "She probably couldn't find a good opportunity before, but it seems that this is a great time for her to make a move."

Madeline then projected the screen of her phone to the screen in front of them. Then, they could clearly see the live broadcast.

On the screen, Naya's mother was sitting next to the hospital bed while peeling an apple. Meanwhile, Naya was sitting silently on her bed without saying a word. The comments in the broadcast room were all vulgar words directed at Ava. Some of the netizens even asked Ava to apologize to Naya. In addition to that, people were even saying that Ava was the one who should die. They threatened Ava to be careful when she crossed the road.

While Madeline was wondering if there were really such crazy netizens, she suddenly heard Naya's mother talking.

"Here, Naya, have an apple. You have to nurse your body back to health no matter what." Naya's mother sounded like she was currying favor with Naya. It could be seen that she pampered her daughter very much. However, after Naya's mother said that, the comments in the broadcast room slowly changed.

[Isn't this Ava's ward?]

[Damn, guys, look. That looks like Naya!]

[Why is Naya in Ava's live broadcast? Also, Naya's mother is there too!]

[What's going on?]

[Is Ava filming them in secret?]

[Damn it, Ava is too heartless. She's even secretly filming Naya in her hospital ward. Who has Naya's contact information? Go and tell her!]

Some enthusiastic netizens started looking for Naya's contact information. However, while these people were spamming the comments section, the scene that took place next stunned everyone.

Naya reached out and pushed her mother's hand away extremely impatiently. The peeled apple rolled to the floor.

"Can you please be quiet and stop talking? I'm tired enough now!"

Naya's mother did not expect Naya to suddenly throw such a huge tantrum. Although she did not understand, she knew very well that Naya had always been arrogant and unruly.

"My precious daughter, what's the matter? Ava is now the target of scorn. Everyone is scolding and cursing her. Those stupid netizens who make a fuss the moment they smell something are all siding with you now. Isn't this good? What are you still angry about?"

"How can I not be mad?" Naya's eyes widened angrily. "I did so many things just to make Dan pity me, feel sorry for me, and then agree to marry me, but what happened in the end? What's the situation now? How did Daniel react when Ava was here to make a fuss in my ward?"

Naya took a deep breath and tried to suppress her emotions, but she still could not hide her nasty true nature. She gnashed her teeth in anger and displayed a vengeful expression.

"I finally came up with such an amazing way to get Dan to agree to marry me, but did you see Daniel's reaction? He didn't care about me at all. He chased out to comfort Ava instead!"

Naya's mother hurriedly comforted her daughter when she saw how mad she was. "I knew you were unhappy at the time, so I immediately ran over to slap Ava in the face when she was least expecting it. I even deliberately said all those nasty things about Ava in front of the onlookers and made them blame Ava. I've already avenged you. Also, didn't you take a video of Ava slapping me back? Since it was posted online, the netizens have been scolding her so harshly. It's such a pleasant sight to see."

"They all think that Ava was the one who bullied me. No one knows that I slapped her first. Who asked her to bully my precious daughter?"

Naya's mother said triumphantly. She picked up the bowl of chicken soup next to her. "Naya, don't be so angry. The netizens are siding with you now. Ava will get scolded the moment she steps out of the house. Why are you still so mad? Come, have some chicken soup and nurse your body back to health. Let's get you discharged first."

Naya rolled her eyes in annoyance when she saw the chicken soup brought by her mother.

"Discharge? I only pretended to attempt suicide by overdosing and leave a suicide note just so that Ava would be pushed to the forefront of this fiasco. If I'm discharged so soon, Dan won't even care about me at all."

"W-What?" Naya's mother was stunned. "Naya, you didn't attempt suicide by overdosing?"

"Heh..." Naya chuckled disdainfully. "I still have a great life waiting for me. Why would I attempt suicide? I even prepared cameras in advance when Ava came to my ward to cause a ruckus. I deliberately pretended to be weak and let Ava pull me so I could pretend that Ava pushed me to the floor. All of these were just acts I prepared in advance."

As she said that, an increasingly proud and pleased grin appeared on Naya's face.

"Suicide? Huh, I've done so many things and set so many traps just to destroy Ava. Who asked her to steal Dan from me? Even if Dan doesn't like me, I'll make him mine as long as I like him."

Naya's mother finally understood after she heard what her daughter said. However, her mother was not surprised at all. She knew what kind of person her daughter was. After knowing Naya's plan, Naya's mother chuckled and started praising Naya. "Naya, you're so smart."

On the other hand, the netizens and keyboard warriors who were spamming curses in the broadcast room were all quiet. Their worldview was completely shattered.

Then, Naya curled her lips into a pleased smirk. "Of course, I am. How can Ava defeat me?"

Naya raised her eyebrows, her face full of unconcealable arrogance and pride. She knew very well that although her matter with Chloe had affected her reputation a little, she still had the upper hand now. No matter how one looked at the situation now, Naya had the upper hand. Although Daniel's attitude toward her was not very good, as long as she used the topic to cause trouble again, their wedding could still be held as usual.

The expression of Naya's mother suddenly became extraordinarily proud when she saw Naya's confident appearance.

"Naya, you're really smart for knowing how to manipulate people." Naya's mother praised her.



She did not forget to chuckle and say in a mocking tone, "You're right. Those netizens on the internet are really easy to fool. Plus, I even hired paid posters. Ava has no chance of making a comeback now."

"Heh, she shouldn't have gone against me in the first place." After Naya said that, she got out of the hospital bed with vigor. Right now, she was in high spirits and looked completely different from the weak person in the video that was previously posted online.

She had indeed put on an act just to gain sympathy and demean Ava.

Naya had no idea that her and her mother's actions were being broadcasted live on the internet at this moment. She even smiled smugly, took out the carefully hidden cigarette from the drawer, and skillfully started smoking one.

Naya's mother was not surprised by this. She obviously knew that Naya had the habit of smoking. It was not like smoking was something sinful. It was just that Naya's image had always been of a noble, gentle, well-behaved, and sensible daughter from a rich family. Her skillful act of smoking had completely shattered the persona she created for herself.

Naya smoked the cigarette, walked to the window sill, and suddenly let out a sneer.

"So what if Ava's mother is rich? No matter how rich she is, she can't sweep this matter under the carpet for Ava."

Naya was coming up with a plan.

"If Dan comes to see me tomorrow, remember to cooperate with me. Tell him that Ava came to cause trouble again and she even hit me. I'll use makeup to make it seem as though I have wounds on my hand. With the previous video as evidence, Dan and those idiot netizens will surely believe me."

Naya's mother understood what Naya meant and quickly chimed in.

"Don't worry, Naya. I'll definitely cooperate with you."

"That's good." Naya turned around in satisfaction. A sinister and pleased smirk appeared on the corners of her lips. "I want to see whether Ava will

still dare to go against me again. If she does, I'll make her disappear from this world."

After she said this, Naya's eyes looked extremely ferocious. She even snapped the cigarette she had just finished smoking into two.

After she tampered with Ava's car, she had turned from feeling anxious all the time to getting completely used to it. She had to be more savage. Otherwise, she would not be able to reach her goals.

Naya laughed. She planned to go back to her bed to play with her phone. However, when she turned around, she saw something that she had never seen before placed on the corner of the window sill.

"What's this?" Naya picked it up curiously. At the same time, her face was magnified on the screen of the broadcast room.

Naya's mother did not know what Naya was talking about. When she was about to go closer to take a look, Naya's expression changed.

"Naya, what's going on? What did you see?"

"A camera? Is this a camera?" Naya was talking in a suspicious tone, but at the same time, she could already conclude that this was indeed a camera.

"A camera?" Naya's mother was curious. "Isn't this the camera you prepared before?"

"It's not mine! I've gotten rid of mine!" Naya was furious.

As she was looking at the flashing red dot, her whole body almost exploded. "Who put the camera here? Who is it?"

She asked angrily, then remembered.

"Ava! It was Ava! It must be her! No one came to my ward except her! That b\*tch! She must have recorded our conversation just now. She'll surely put it online!"

"What?!" Naya's mother was also shocked. "Naya, could it be that you're mistaken? How could she be so smart..."

Smash!

Naya smashed the camera on the floor before turning around to pick up the phone. After finding Ava's phone number, she dialed it without hesitation.

The phone rang once before it was quickly answered Naya directly screamed, "Ava, you despicable rat! How dare you put a camera in my ward? Tell me, what sort of footage did you get? Are you going to upload the video on the internet? Do you want to ruin my reputation?" Naya questioned loudly, her tone extremely anxious and urgent.

When she heard the silence on the other end of the phone, Naya roared again.

"Ava, answer me! Who do you think you are? You dare to do such a thing, but you don't dare to admit it?"

"Dare to do something but not admit it?" After a few seconds of silence, Ava finally replied. Her tone was indifferent, but at the same time, it was laced with irony.

"Naya, I wonder who's the person who dares to do something but not admit it. I also wonder who's the one despicable enough to want to plot against me and want me dead." Ava retorted back calmly and laughed.

"But you're right, you're going to be ruined soon."

"Y-You're the one who placed the camera there! I'm warning you, you'd better not post what you've captured on the internet!" Naya threatened her, "If you dare to, I'll make everyone around you suffer!"

After Ava heard that, she pretended to be scared. "Naya, what are you going to do?"

"What do you think? Ava, I know you care about Dan and your best friend Eveline the most. I've hated Eveline a long time ago, but she has Jeremy as her backer, so I can't touch her. However, it's a piece of cake for me to take action against Daniel, who has amnesia."

"Naya, how dare you take action against Danny? Where's your conscience?"

"Heh, conscience? What can I do with a conscience?"

Naya mocked, then warned Ava again, "Society is very realistic now. Ava, don't be too naive. People can be very complicated. Think about how Daniel got into such a serious accident. Perhaps the next accident will be even more serious. Do you dare to take the risk?"

It was obvious what Naya was trying to say.

Ava's eyes twinkled. "Naya, are you going to tamper with my car again?"

"I have a lot of ways to deal with you. Plus, don't think I don't know that you want to record this conversation. You're trying to get me to expose myself so you can slander me and say that I'm related to the accident. Listen to me, Ava. I won't fall for it again!" Naya said, thinking that she was smart.

Ava had planned on doing that. She wanted to use this opportunity to get Naya to expose herself. When she heard Naya's words, she smiled.

"Naya, you're overthinking. I'm not planning to do that because you're already on speaker and on a live broadcast now."

After Ava finished speaking, Naya seemed to be stunned on the other end of the phone call. A few seconds later, Naya said in an angry questioning voice, "What are you talking about? Ava, what nonsense are you talking about?"

Ava deliberately imitated Naya's smug look and chuckled. "Naya, I'm not like you. I don't have to put up an act no matter what I do. I, Ava Long, never do things by resorting to tricks."

Naya was speechless for a while. When she was about to ask Ava how she was broadcasting this, she suddenly heard her mother's shriek.

"Oh no, Naya! Look!" Naya's mother approached with her phone. "Look, isn't this woman Ava? Is it broadcasting live? Why are all the netizens hurling abuse at you in the comments section?"

Upon hearing this, Naya suddenly grabbed the phone from her mother's hand. She widened her eyes angrily and saw Ava's smiling face on the screen.

In addition, Naya also saw Ava holding another phone. The phone screen showed that Ava was on a call with someone. Although the number looked a little fuzzy, how could Naya not recognize her own phone number? She could clearly recognize every single digit on it.

“What do you think? Now you know I’m not lying, right?” Ava’s voice came from the phone and also from the phone Naya’s mother was holding after a slight delay.

This was enough to prove that Ava was really on the phone with her. She was on speaker and also on the live broadcast. The soles of Naya’s feet became cold in an instant, but the fire in her heart was raging.

“When did you start the broadcast?” Naya forcefully suppressed her anger and asked through gritted teeth.

Ava smiled calmly. “I think it was from when your darling mother called me a target of scorn while feeling pleased with herself.”

“Huh..?”

When she got this answer, Naya clenched her fists. She remembered what she and her mother had talked about not long ago. She lowered her head to look at the netizens’ comments that were filling up the screen. She felt as if her lungs were going to explode from anger.

[Damn, Naya is really a two-faced b\*tch!]

[It’s too lenient to call her a two~faced b\*tch. This woman is so treacherous and malicious!]

[How disgusting! Like mother, like daughter. Naya’s mother is not a good person either!]

[Gosh, Ava was really falsely accused. Poor her. She was cyberbullied for so long. Guys, let’s band together and attack them so that Naya and her mother can get a taste of what it’s like to be bullied!]

When Naya looked at the comments appearing on the screen, she felt that her life was basically over. She did not think that her situation with Ava would have such a huge turn. Just now, she was still pleased with her plan.

Now, she was the target of scorn. However, Naya was unconvinced. She could not let Ava have a comeback like this.

She looked at the phone call which was still connected and suddenly said softly, "Ava, why are you doing this to frame me? You almost forced me to my death. Will you only be happy when I really die?"

"Naya, stop acting. No one will believe you now," Ava exposed her calmly. "Stop wasting time trying to quibble too. It's useless. Countless people have seen your ugly true colors by now."

Naya was fuming when she heard this.

Knowing that continuing to talk would only be detrimental to herself, Naya hung up the phone and threw the phone on the bed.

After seeing this, Naya's mother picked up her phone and continued to watch the live broadcast for a while. She tried to comment something to speak up for Naya, but Ava shut the live broadcast room as soon as she was done typing.

"That b\*tch Ava actually put a camera in your ward and broadcasted all our conversations live on the internet! Does she want to die?" Naya's mother was furious and threw the phone away.

"I think she's relying on her rich mother to go against it s, Naya. What do you think we should do this time?"

"Stop talking!" Naya interrupted her mother and stared at her fiercely.

Naya's mother was stunned for a moment, but she did not dare to continue speaking. She saw that Naya was suddenly vigilant and searching all corners of the ward as if looking for other cameras.

After confirming that there was nothing else that was suspicious, Naya walked to the door of the ward to take a look before closing the door and sitting down angrily.

"Ava, how dare you set me up like this? It seems that you're seeking death, huh? Alright, I'll see who can have the last laugh!"

Upon hearing Naya's words, Naya's mother was also apprehensive.

"Naya, what are you going to do now in this situation? Why don't we go home first? You're fine, and the netizens already know about all this. It's useless for you to continue pretending. If those people come to cause trouble for you like how they cyberbullied Ava, it'll be dangerous."

"Shut the hell up!" Naya glared at her mother impatiently. "It's all your fault! Why couldn't you have talked to me about other things? Why did you have to talk to me about that in the ward? How could I have gotten exposed if it weren't for you? Also, I hired those people to cause trouble for Ava. Did you think those people would have gone to cause trouble for her for no good reason?"

Naya's mother was stunned once again. She knew her daughter's personality. She had been arrogant and proud since she was young. Moreover, Naya also had a horrible temper. It was just that Naya's mother had no idea that she was also so savage. She did not dare to say a word for fear that Naya would shift her anger toward her.

Of course, Naya knew it was useless to stay in the hospital to continue her act. A lady who lived a pampered life every day would feel that it was troublesome to stay another second more in the hospital. If it were not for this act, she would not have brought upon herself so many grievances.

Naya asked the driver to prepare the car. She was about to leave after changing. However, on the way to the elevator and the entrance, Naya could feel that a lot of passersby were staring and pointing at her. She even heard someone say in a low voice, "That's the lady from the live broadcast just now."

"She looks innocent, but her heart is so cruel."

"She can do anything for a man. It's better to stay away from someone like her."

Similar statements kept entering Naya's ears.

Naya was fuming, but she did not want to pay attention to those people. However, she suddenly heard her mother explaining to those passersby, "You're mistaken. My daughter was falsely accused. That woman named Ava purposely did that to frame my daughter!"

None of the passersby were willing to believe Naya's mother's forceful explanation.

Naya felt extremely ashamed. She was so embarrassed she thought she was about to fall ill.

She was almost at the entrance, so she picked up her pace. However, she did not think that she would see Daniel's figure in front of her.

Naya stopped in her tracks. As she was looking at the handsome and cold Daniel, Naya could not stop herself from wondering if Daniel had also watched the live broadcast on the internet. However, she still held onto the last ray of hope and walked in front of Daniel with a smile.

"Dan, it's so late. Are you here to see me?"

She looked at Daniel with a lovely gaze. Before Daniel could speak, she heard people pointing at her and talking.

"It's that woman..."

"She's the one in the live broadcast just now."

"She looks so ugly. No wonder she's so heartless."

Naya did not expect someone to even comment on her appearance. Although she was very angry, she did not want to admit that they were talking about her.

"Dan, let's talk in the car if you have something to tell me." Naya wanted to leave this place as soon as possible.

However, Daniel suddenly said coldly, "Let's talk right here."

Naya had just started walking when she suddenly stopped again. She could clearly sense the displeasure in Daniel's tone, but she still tried to maintain her image.

"Dan..."

"Stop causing trouble for Ava in the future. If you're dissatisfied, come look for me instead," Daniel spoke very decisively. He said this sentence in a particularly domineering tone.



Naya could not believe that Daniel, who had always been gentle and elegant, would say such words in a tone like this. She stared blankly at the man who was evidently angry and treating her coldly. Then, she felt a strong sense of envy, jealousy, and hatred in her heart.

Furthermore, Daniel had made his words very clear. He had watched the live broadcast and knew what had happened. He knew that she had just pretended to commit suicide to win his sympathy and try to get him to marry her.

Naya knew that she would only humiliate herself if she continued to pester him and put on an act to explain herself. Not only would she not get Daniel's understanding, but she would also be laughed at by the people around her. Hence, Naya chose to leave this place first.

However, when she walked past Daniel, Naya did not forget to show a sad expression and whisper to him, "Dan, we have a relationship of more than 20 years. I didn't expect you to not believe me. Ava is not as innocent as you think she is. You have no idea how scheming she is."

After saying this sentence, Naya quickly walked toward the entrance. She could not stay for another second. Naya's mother followed closely, but she did not forget to quibble with Daniel. "Dan, you must trust Naya. You two are childhood sweethearts. Don't trust Ava. That vixen will do anything for her own benefit!"

Naya's mother's words were even more unpleasant to Daniel's ears, and at the same time, he felt a little tingling in his head. It was unknown whether it was from the clot in his brain that had not dissipated.

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When Naya got home, the first thing she did was call the police. She wanted to report Ava for installing a camera in her ward to film her, but she did not expect the police to tell her that Ava had voluntarily surrendered herself.

Naya hung up the phone angrily, knowing that she had fallen right into Ava's trap.

When Ava came to the ward to look for her that day, she thought that if she filmed that video, everyone would think that Ava was bullying her.

Yes, what happened back then was exactly according to her plan, but she never expected that Ava also came prepared. However, she only thought that Ava would carry a voice recorder on her. She never expected Ava to use that opportunity to place a mini camera on the window sill.

Now that she thought about it, maybe she had given a chance for Ava to place the camera when she pretended that Ava pushed her on the floor. At that moment, her eyes were only on Daniel.

How could Naya be reconciled to admitting that she had failed now that things were at this stage?

She took a deep breath and mustered the courage to log in to her account on social media.

Sure enough, the comments were filled with netizens hurling abuse at her.

Naya then saw the complete video of Ava's live broadcast on the trending searches. She clicked in and saw how arrogant and complacent she was. Plus, she could clearly hear the conversation between her and her mother.

Smack!

Naya angrily threw the tablet to the floor.

"Ava, you just have to make everyone the loser in this situation, huh? If I can't get the upper hand back in this situation, I'll make your life a living hell! I'll just take you down with me!"

Naya said ruthlessly. She could not imagine what she would face when her image was completely shattered.

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Early the next morning, Naya hurried to the police station. When she arrived, Ava was leaving.

As soon as she saw Ava, Naya stepped forward and accused, "Officer, it's her. She installed a camera in my ward and violated my privacy! It's against the law!"

Seeing Naya so emotional, the officer kindly advised her, "Miss Mendez, please calm down. Miss Long has already explained the ins and outs of the

matter to us. Although Miss Long's actions were inappropriate, your actions, Miss Mendez, seem to be more controversial."

Naya's eyes widened in disbelief.

"What are you saying?"

Ava, who was at one side, smiled lightly. "The meaning is very simple. The dispute between you and me has not yet reached the stage where legal actions are required."

"What? You filming me in secret doesn't count?"

"I wasn't filming you in secret. I was just using a more inappropriate way to prove my innocence."

"On the other hand, Naya, you pretended to commit suicide to win sympathy so that you could get Dan to marry you. Plus, you even exaggerated the entire thing to incite the netizens to cyberbully me. If I want to pursue this, you and your good mother might receive a lawyer letter soon."

"Ava, you..." Naya was fuming. "If that's the case, why are you at the police station? Didn't you come here to surrender yourself?"

"I think you've made a mistake. I came here as a victim and am here to make a report," Ava answered calmly.

Naya's gaze changed. "Make a report? What report?"

"I don't think I need to tell you about that." Ava curled the corners of her attractive lips. When she was about to say something, her phone rang.

When she saw who it was, Ava smiled and answered the call. Then, she called out sweetly, "Danny..."

'Dan?' Naya was seething.

When Ava turned around and left, Naya asked the officer next to her.

"Officer, may I know what report Ava made?"

"The computer in Ava's office was tampered with by someone. Last night, someone even threw an object from above with the intention to hurt her. In addition, she's being stalked."

After the officer said that, he looked at Naya sharply.

"Miss Mendez, since you're here, we hope that we can get your help in the investigation."

"Help you in the investigation? What can I help with?" Naya asked innocently, but she was starting to feel guilty.

"We've looked into it, and recently, you're the only one who's at odds with Miss Long. So, you're one of the people we have to look into now, Miss Mendez."

Naya was dumbfounded. She was a suspect now?

Although she had indeed paid someone to do those things, she just needed to scare Ava. However, Ava did not seem to be frightened at all. Otherwise, how could she so calmly make a report?

"Miss Mendez, please come with me. We have something to ask you." The police officer made a gesture of invitation.

Naya suppressed the anxiety in her heart and smiled indifferently. "If you want to investigate, just investigate. I would never do anything that breaks the law. However, if you find that this has nothing to do with me after your investigation, I want you to apologize to me."

"Miss Mendez, citizens are obliged to cooperate with the police in this type of investigation. We rely on evidence when handling cases. So, you can rest assured that there'll be no unjust cases."

Although Naya was very dissatisfied, she could not say anything else.

After arriving at the interrogation room, Naya kept emphasizing that she had been in the hospital this entire time. She had not gone anywhere nor contacted anyone.

She also generously handed her mobile phone to the police. Of course, the reason why she was so proactive was that she had already cleaned up all the traces that would cause suspicion.

Naya seemed to be very cooperative in answering the police's questions, but she knew best that she, Naya Mendez, was the mastermind.

After answering a series of questions, Naya breathed a sigh of relief. She saw that the police did not suspect anything. However, she was still mad that Ava filmed her like that and almost ruined her reputation.

Before leaving, Naya reluctantly asked again, "Officer, doesn't Ava need to take any responsibility for breaching my privacy like that?"

"Under normal circumstances, she would have to take responsibility. However, she did it because you framed her first. Hence, she had reasonable reasons for her actions. It's not entirely impossible for you to sue here, but her case against yours will be very strong if you two do go to court."

After hearing this, Naya's heart was burning with rage. 'Doesn't this mean that Ava is innocent?'

Naya turned around and walked to the entrance in a rage. Knowing that Daniel had called Ava just now, she figured that Ava was most likely with Daniel now.

After getting in the car, Naya took out another phone from the glove box and dialed a number. After the other party picked up, Naya asked directly, "Where's Ava now? Send her location to me at once."

After the other party heard Naya's order, he hesitated and could not give Naya an answer.

Naya immediately blew up. "I gave you money to keep an eye on her all the time. You've taken my money but you aren't doing anything?"

"Miss Mendez, it's not that I'm not doing anything. There are a lot of reporters around Ava now, so I can't follow her too closely," the other party explained.

Naya gritted her teeth, threw her phone away, and slammed on the accelerator.

Ava had already met Daniel at this time. The place where the two of them met was the florist where they failed to meet the last time.

After Ava arrived, she saw Daniel's tall and lean body standing in front of the shop. Under the bright sunshine, his warm eyes looked abnormally

handsome and refreshing. As soon as Daniel saw Ava, he handed a freshly wrapped bunch of pink tulips to her. Ava did not falter at all. She smiled and held the flowers in her hands.

They were lovers, so it was normal for him to buy her flowers.

"A lot of things have happened these days and caused you trouble. I'm really sorry that all these things happened because of me," Daniel gently raised his sharp eyebrows and apologized.

Ava shook her head. "All of those things have nothing to do with you. Don't blame yourself for what happened."

She did not have any complaints against him. On the contrary, Ava was very happy because Daniel had never doubted her from the beginning to the end.

"Come on, Danny. My car is parked on the side of the road. I'll take you to the doctor I know for a check-up first."

After Ava finished speaking, she took Daniel to the car which she borrowed from Madeline when she went out this morning. Daniel followed closely, but the moment he opened the door to the passenger seat, a bunch of reporters suddenly appeared out of nowhere. They surrounded Ava and Daniel.

"Miss Long, can you explain what happened in your live broadcast last night?"

"I heard that it was your plan to secretly film Naya. Is this true?"

"How do you plan to fight Naya back after she framed you like this?"

"Is it because of Mr. Daniel Graham that you have a grudge against Naya?"

When the reporter asked that, he shifted his attention to Daniel.

"Mr. Graham, what do you think of Miss Long and Naya Mendez fighting over you?"

"Which one of them will you choose?"

"I heard a while ago that you were going to marry Naya, but now that you're with Ava again, does that mean you're going to abandon Naya? At the

end of the day, she's still your fiancée. Wouldn't it be immoral for you to do this?"

"The immoral ones are Naya and the unscrupulous reporters like you." Ava's clear voice sounded in the crowd, making the surrounding noises pause for a moment.

Everyone was staring at Ava, and the cameras were aimed at her too. However, Ava was very calm and did not hide from the doubts and dissatisfaction of those people in the slightest.

"You should stop now. If you want to interview someone, go to interview Naya Mendez, that sinister and cunning woman. Mr. Daniel Graham and I have always been a couple in a great relationship. This time, Naya took advantage of my boyfriend's amnesia after the car accident to fabricate a lie about how they were engaged and tried to get him to marry her. Fortunately, my boyfriend has regained his memories, so everyone should stop speculating now."

After Ava finished saying that coldly, she looked back at Daniel and smiled at him.

"Danny, let's get in the car."

Daniel smiled back at her and pushed aside the reporters to walk to Ava's side. He helped her to open the car door. After Ava got into the car, Daniel also got into the front passenger seat.

Ava turned on the double signal for a while. The reporters surrounding the car finally gave way. Ava then drove to the hospital.

Neil had received a call from Ava this morning. After knowing that Ava would bring Daniel to see him later, he was very happy and glad that Ava actually contacted him. He had made preparations in advance. He waited until Ava finally brought Daniel into the consultation room.

It was the first time that Neil met Daniel face-to-face, and Neil was very satisfied with Daniel's elegant appearance and temperament.

"Dr. Long, please do a brain examination for my boyfriend to see when the clots in his brain will dissipate and when he'll be able to fully recall the past," Ava was polite but also distant when she spoke to Neil.

Although Neil was disappointed, he did not mind Ava's foreign attitude. After he agreed, he immediately started to examine Daniel. The results of the examination were out soon after.

Naturally, Ava could not understand the CT scan of the brain, but she saw that Neil was looking at it very intently. She looked at this man. This was her biological father who made her an orphan back then. He was now an authoritative professor with great prestige in the medical world. She also knew how this man was dying to acknowledge her as his daughter again, but when she thought about what had happened, she would have mixed feelings in her heart.

"Ava, Ava..."

Suddenly, Daniel's deep and soft voice sounded next to her ear.

Ava came back to her senses and realized that her thoughts had wandered. She smiled nonchalantly at Daniel and turned to see Neil picking up Daniel's CT scan. She looked at them with a relaxed expression.

"I've looked at the results. I have plenty of experience with cases like this."

Neil's answer calmed Ava down a lot. She could not wait and asked, "Does that mean that we can find a cure for Danny's amnesia?"

Neil nodded. Of course, he would not let Ava down after seeing the anticipation in her eyes.

"Don't worry. I'm confident that my future son-in-law will recover as soon as possible. Ava, you don't have to worry too much."

Ava and Daniel were both stunned by what Neil said.

He then stood up and looked into Daniel's eyes solemnly all of a sudden.

"Dan, although you don't remember Ava now, you have to trust her. She's the one you love. Please don't be manipulated by some other people with malicious intentions."

Ava knew that Neil was trying to help her, but she was worried that Daniel would resist such words. Unexpectedly, Daniel agreed with a smile.



"Actually, I've always had a vague feeling about this," he said while lowering his eyes to meet Ava's. "I've indeed lost my memory, but feelings won't lie."

Daniel's answer shocked Ava, but she was pleasantly surprised.

Neil was very relieved to see this. Afterward, he let Daniel lie down on a bed in the outpatient department. Then, he used a unique technique to massage Daniel's head.

Ava could see that Neil was very attentive, and at the same time, Daniel was very relaxed.

It took about 20 minutes before the entire process ended. When they were heading back, Neil told them some things that they needed to remember. Then, he followed Ava and Daniel all the way to the hospital's entrance.

Neil only turned around after Ava drove away.

In the car.

Daniel felt that Ava seemed to have something on her mind, but he did not want to be too direct and make Ava feel uncomfortable. Hence, he found a topic to talk about.

"Dr. Long's skills are really good. My head feels very relaxed now, and I don't get a headache when I think too deeply about things."

Ava came back to her senses after hearing that. "He's a very authoritative figure in neurology. So, of course, he must have some skills to be able to gain such a reputation."

"I see, Dr. Long is so famous." Daniel sighed. "He has the same last name as you, and you could get an appointment with him for me. Do you two know each other?"

After hearing Daniel's question, Ava could not help but fall into a brief daze.

Before Daniel lost his memory, she did not even know that her biological father would come back. Of course, Daniel had no idea that Neil was her father.

"Ava? Ava?"

"Huh?" Ava snapped back to her senses and found herself distracted again.

"You seem absent-minded. Why don't I drive?"

"How can I let you drive? You're a patient." Ava smiled to adjust the atmosphere in the car. "You should just sit still. I'll take you back first. After you go back, you have to follow Dr. Long's instructions and have a good test. You must not be too upset."

"I'm not upset, but I feel that recent events have made you very upset." Daniel sounded distressed when he said that.

Ava looked at the bunch of tulips placed in the backseat through the rearview mirror and instantly felt that all of her troubles had been swept away. She turned on the radio and wanted to change the station to listen to some music, but unexpectedly, she had switched to a live broadcast channel.

In the broadcast, both Ava and Daniel heard the host mention Naya's name.

Those reporters had gone to Naya after failing to interview Ava. Now, Naya was surrounded by a group of reporters at the door of her apartment.

"Miss Mendez, what do you have to say about the collapse of your elegant and dignified persona as a rich young lady?"

"You deliberately framed Ava so that you could marry Daniel, right?"

"You and Ava have such a huge beef. Were you involved in the incident of Ava's car being tampered with and Daniel getting into an accident after a freak combination of factors?"

Naya was questioned by the reporters, and as soon as she heard the questions, she turned back angrily and scolded the reporters.

"Watch your mouths! Stop talking nonsense or I'll sue you for defamation!"

Naya warned ferociously, her gentle and vulnerable image completely gone. She had no way of continuing her act in this situation. After Naya's roar, she had undoubtedly exposed her true nature. She did not want to hide anymore. She pushed the reporters who were blocking her and drove away.

Ava heard a summary of what had happened on the radio. She knew that Naya was in a horrible mood right now, but she felt great.

It was normal that Ava retaliated after everything Naya had done to her. And actually, it was not retaliation. She was just showing everyone the truth so they could see Naya's true colors.

As she thought about that, she looked at Daniel. His eyebrows were furrowed together, and his expression looked solemn. Of course, he was not feeling sorry for Naya right now. Instead, he felt hateful that he was almost fooled by Naya's act.

Ava was not the same as Naya. She would not hit Naya while she was down.

After she sent Daniel home, Ava asked him to rest well and did not mention Naya anymore.

Daniel wanted to invite Ava into the house to sit for a while and have a cup of tea, but Ava recalled his mother's attitude toward her and made an excuse to leave first.

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Although Ava did not want to entangle herself with Naya too much, Naya did not feel the same. Things had developed to this level, so she naturally wanted to vent all of her anger and resentment on Ava. She was driving her sports car and got information that Ava had gone to the hospital with Daniel before sending Daniel home. Naya stepped on the accelerator and rushed to Graham Manor as soon as possible.

While Naya was rushing to Graham Manor, she saw the car that Ava was driving today when she passed an intersection not far from Graham Manor.

Naya stared at the car for a few seconds before suddenly gripping the steering wheel with a grim look in her eyes.

"Ava, since you're so determined to make both of us the losers in this situation, I'll just drag you down with me!"

Naya seemed to be in a state of madness. After saying this, she slammed on the accelerator and stared at the car in front of her. She was determined to kill Ava, but of course, Naya would not die with her.

The driver of the car that was driving safely in front was curious when she heard the engine of a sports car quickly approaching. The driver looked up

and was stunned to find a red sports car speeding toward her at a fast speed. The car seemed to have gone out of control. When the driver wanted to avoid the sports car, she saw the red car suddenly swerve and hit the driver's door with the front of the car.

"Ah!" The woman screamed in horror.

What followed was a violent crash.

Bang!

Naya hit the car and was very satisfied with her masterpiece, but when she was sent flying forward due to inertia, her head hit the steering wheel and she quickly lost consciousness.

Daniel's mother was at home. When she heard the loud noises, she took a curious look and saw a familiar car.

"Isn't that Naya's car?"

Daniel's mother was surprised and followed the crowd to the road where the accident happened.

Daniel's mother was surprised and followed the crowd to the road where the accident happened.

Through the glass window of the red car, Daniel's mother saw the unconscious Naya leaning against the steering wheel. Her forehead was covered in blood.

"It's really Naya!" Daniel's mother widened her eyes and hurriedly took out her mobile phone to call Daniel.

Daniel was about to find some information about himself and Ava on the internet when he suddenly received a call from his mother.

On the other end of the phone, Daniel's mother sounded very urgent. "Dan! Come down quickly. Naya got into an accident on the road not far from our house!"

"Naya got into a car accident?" Daniel was doubtful because Naya had once pretended to commit suicide by overdosing.

"Dan, it's true this time! I'm seeing it with my own eyes! She has blood on her head, and she's already unconscious. It looks like she came for you, but when she was turning a corner, she hit another car. The car that was hit looks a little familiar. I think it's the car that just sent you back."

Before Daniel's mother could finish speaking, Daniel suddenly got up and strode toward the door.

Daniel's mother thought that Daniel was worried about Naya.

After Daniel rushed to the scene of the accident, the first thing he saw was not Naya's red sports car but the car that Naya hit.

"Ava?!"

Daniel's heart skipped a beat. When he was about to rush over to see Ava's condition, he calmed down upon seeing the car plate.

After a while, the police and ambulance arrived one after another.

Naya and the driver of the other car were lifted onto stretchers and sent to the hospital.

When Daniel's mother saw that Daniel did not follow after them, she was curious.

"Dan, aren't you worried about Naya?"

Daniel's face looked very solemn. "Do you know how she got into the accident?"

Daniel's mother answered without thinking, "She must have crashed because she wasn't paying attention. Otherwise, did she intend to crash into the other car?"

"She did." Daniel came to this conclusion without hesitation.

Daniel's mother paused in surprise. "Dan, what are you talking about? Do you suspect that Naya deliberately crashed into that car to kill herself to gain your sympathy?"

"She didn't want to gain my sympathy. She wanted to kill the person in the other car." Daniel's expression became more and more solemn. "The person who sent me back just now is Ava."

"What?! Ava..?" Daniel's mother was surprised, but she gradually understood what Daniel meant.

The car that Ava drove just now was the same model and the same color as the car that was hit by Naya. Naya must have thought that Ava was driving that car, so she...

"Dan, d-did you make a mistake? How could Naya make such a bet with her own life?"

"So, do you also think that she wouldn't have attempted suicide for me? You already knew that she might have put on an act when she claimed to have attempted suicide by overdosing, right?" Daniel asked in a sharp tone, his eyes falling on his mother's evasive gaze.

"Uhm..." Daniel's mother did not know how to answer that.

Daniel did not say anything. He felt very uneasy, so he called Ava.

Ava was driving to her company when she suddenly received a call from Daniel. Hence, she happily turned on the Bluetooth headset.

After hearing Ava's voice, Daniel felt a lot more at ease. When he found out that Ava was heading to the company, he did not say anything about Naya's crash.

Ava only thought that Daniel missed her and did not think much about it. She drove to an intersection with traffic lights. When she was about to say goodbye to Daniel and hang up the phone, she glanced in the rearview mirror. She saw a man in black clothes and sunglasses quickly walking over.

She thought that this man was just in a hurry, so that was why he was walking so quickly. However, a strong sense of crisis suddenly overwhelmed her. Ava subconsciously raised her hand to close the car window, but at this moment, the man suddenly stretched out his hand and strangled her neck.

Ava suddenly could not breathe. She struggled in pain and made a weak cry for help, "Let me go! Help..!"

When Daniel heard her strange voice on the other end of the call, he called out anxiously, "Ava? Ava, what's wrong with you? Ava!"

Ava heard Daniel's voice on the Bluetooth headset. She wanted to answer, but she could not speak.

While she was struggling, the Bluetooth headset fell off.

The man in black saw Ava struggling and resisting non-stop. His eyes suddenly turned fierce. He raised his palm and struck Ava's neck heavily.

Ava lost consciousness in an instant and fell onto the car seat.

Upon seeing this, the man quickly pulled Ava from the driver's seat to the backseat. Then, he got into Ava's car, stepped on the accelerator, and drove the car away.

On the other hand, Daniel could hear strange noises coming from inside the car. He could roughly figure out that something had happened. However, he saw that the call never ended and it seemed that the man did not notice.

Daniel decisively drove to the police station, informed the police of the situation, and handed his phone that was still connected to the police for investigation.

The police immediately launched an investigation. They tracked the location of Ava's phone and immediately dispatched someone to track it down. However, just ten minutes after the police went out, the call was suddenly interrupted. It seemed that the other party had realized the phone was still on a call and hung up.

Suddenly, the police were unable to track Ava down and had to change their methods.

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In hospital.

After Naya was pushed out of the emergency room, the first person she saw when she woke up was her mother. Although she was also injured, it was not serious. After making sure that no one else was around, Naya asked her mother impatiently, "Where's Ava? What's Ava's situation now? Is she dead?"

Naya's mother looked at Naya in surprise and hurriedly reached out to support Naya.

"Naya, slow down. You just woke up. Why are you asking that?"

Naya's mother was puzzled and asked in a low voice, "Could it be that you asked someone to do something to Ava?"

Naya was very vigilant this time. After she confirmed that there were no strange people and things around, she answered in a low voice.

"Why would I be lying here if I hadn't tried to crash into her?"

"What? What do you mean?" Naya's mother was even more astonished. "C- Could it be that you were the one who..."

"Yes, I crashed into her on purpose!" Naya's eyes narrowed, and her eyes were full of ruthlessness.

After hearing this answer, Mrs. Mendez's expression changed. She quickly walked over to close the door of the ward, then asked in disbelief.

"Naya, you're saying that you drove your car into that car?"

"That's right." Naya admitted it very readily, then she asked impatiently, "So, what's the situation with that b\*tch Ava now? Is she dead?"

Naya's mother was speechless for a while. "Naya, are you confused? The person in the car you hit isn't Ava."

Naya's expression froze instantly. "What did you say..? Not Ava..? Ava was obviously driving that car today! I've seen it before. It's Eveline's car, and Ava drove Eveline's car to look for Dan!"

"B-But the woman in that car really isn't Ava!" Naya's mother was very sure.

When Naya was being resuscitated in the emergency room, she learned the name of the woman who was hit. Plus, that woman's husband and family members were all here. She had never met those people before, so how could they have anything to do with Ava?

Naya looked dazed for a moment. "Are you sure the person I crashed into wasn't Ava?"



"Yes!" Naya's mother said affirmatively. "How is that possible. That car is obviously..."

Knock, knock, knock.

The knocking on the door caused Naya to be distracted. Regardless of who it was, she quickly made herself look very weak and leaned on her pillow. She closed her eyes halfway and displayed a very pained expression.

Naya's mother glanced at Naya before opening the door. When she saw that the people at the door were two police officers in uniform, Naya's mother unconsciously shifted her gaze with a guilty conscience.

"Is Naya Mendez staying in this ward?" an officer asked.

Naya's mother nodded in a panic. "Yes, she is. My daughter just woke up. Officers, can I help you with anything?"

"It's good that she's awake. We have some questions we want to ask Miss Mendez about the accident."

After the officer said that, the two of them walked directly to the hospital bed.

The police officers were serious as they looked at the weak-looking Naya. "Miss Mendez, please cooperate with us to answer a few questions."

Naya raised her eyelids laboriously, wanting to show that she was unable to cooperate with the investigation due to her current situation.

Naya's mother understood what Naya meant and hurriedly explained to the officers, "Officers, my daughter has just woken up, so she's still very weak. I'm afraid she can't answer your questions. Can you let my daughter rest first?"

"Mrs. Mendez, before we came, we had already asked Miss Mendez's attending doctor. The doctor said that Miss Mendez only suffered from superficial wounds and isn't in a serious condition. As long as she's conscious, she's able to cooperate with our investigation."

Naya's mother glanced at Naya in embarrassment after hearing this. Naya also felt a little embarrassed, but she still pretended to be very weak and slowly sat up. "Mom, I'm fine. I'm not in that much pain now."

As she said that, she looked at the two police officers beside her with a good-natured look on her face.

"Officers, you can just ask me anything you need to. I'll try my best to cooperate with your investigation."

The officers' sharp eyes stayed on Naya's calm face for a few seconds. Then, one of them asked directly, "We've checked the surveillance footage of the road at the time of the accident and found that you deliberately rammed into the other car with your car. The woman in the other car is severely injured, and she's still in the emergency room now. Miss Mendez, why did you suddenly speed up and crash into Ms. Guzman's car?"

After listening to the police's question, Naya felt that her mind was much clearer now. She was very glad that the person she crashed into was not Ava. Otherwise, she would have no excuse to quibble with the officer.

Naya responded pitifully and even squeezed out a few tears, "Officer, I... I don't know what happened at the time. I seemed to lose control of my car back when I wanted to hit the brakes. Since my fiance's house was right next to me, I wanted to slow down and go the other way, but I have no idea why the car suddenly accelerated. By the time I realized the seriousness of the situation, I had already hit the car..."

Naya said with a look of remorse and pain. Then, she raised her hand and covered her face. "How could this happen? If they fail to rescue Ms. Guzman, then I'll be a murderer. How did this happen?"

Naya was very good at acting, and her tears only solidified her act. She did look like she was genuinely feeling remorseful.

Naya's mother hurried over to comfort her. "Naya, don't blame yourself too much. You didn't want this to happen either. Maybe the brakes of the car are faulty. It's not your fault, so don't be too sad. Ms. Guzman will survive this."

"It's my fault. It's all my fault. If I hadn't gone to look for Dan, this wouldn't have happened. It's my fault..." Naya continued her act, but the corners of her mouth were secretly lifted.

While comforting Naya, Naya's mother said to the police, "Officers, this must be an accident. Why would my daughter crash her car into another

car for no reason? What's more, Ms. Guzman isn't related to our family at all. I've never seen her before. We have no beef nor grievances, so why would my daughter want to crash her car into that person's car? Don't you think so?"

"But in the surveillance footage, we clearly saw Miss Mendez's car speeding up and crashing into Ms. Guzman's car." The officers emphasized, "We also saw how Miss Mendez had deliberately turned the steering wheel, causing the front of the car to hit Ms. Guzman who was in the driver's seat."

"I don't know. I just felt that I had lost control of the brakes and steering wheel," Naya quibbled. "Officers, you can look into this if you don't believe me. I really have no reason to deliberately crash into Ms. Guzman..."

Before Naya could finish speaking, a voice suddenly came from the door.

"Dan?" Naya was a little surprised. She thought that Daniel must have learned that she had gotten into a car accident, so he was here to see her. However, Daniel started questioning her with a solemn and anxious expression.

"Naya, where's Ava? You got someone to abduct Ava, right? What do you want? You want me to marry you, right? I'll marry you as long as you let Ava go. Tell me where Ava is and I'll marry you!"

Naya originally thought that Daniel was worried about her safety, so he came to the hospital to visit her. She never imagined that Daniel came for Ava. However, Naya did not quite understand something.

Had something happened to Ava?

The two police officers on the side were also puzzled when they saw Daniel questioning Naya so emotionally.

"Sir, is your friend missing? Since you came to question Naya in such a hurry, do you suspect that your friend's disappearance is related to Naya?"

Naya became restless when the officers asked this.

"Officers, I'm being falsely accused. I don't even know what he's talking about."

Naya looked at Daniel innocently.

"Dan, how can you question me like this when Ava is gone? I just got into a car accident not long ago and I almost couldn't save myself. How would I know what happened to Ava?"

"Daniel, you're going too far! No matter what, Naya is your fiancée. Are you trying to destroy her by asking her this in front of the police?" Naya's mother chimed in as well.

Yet, Daniel looked solemn. "I'm not talking nonsense. If something happens to Ava, the only person who might have taken action against her is you."

Daniel's sharp eyes locked on Naya tightly.

"Tell me, where's Ava? As long as you tell them not to hurt her, I'll promise you anything you want."

Naya did not expect that Daniel, who had amnesia, could make such a sacrifice for Ava. She suddenly felt that this was very ironic. She felt like she was a joke. She did so many things to torment herself, but in the end, it was just a farce she created.

Naya laughed self-deprecatingly, leaned back, and spoke in a very calm tone. "Officers, I can't go anywhere anyway, so I'll just lay down here. You should go and look into it. If you have evidence that I hit the car on purpose, or that I hired someone to kidnap Ava, you can arrest me."

Naya closed her eyes and said in a deliberately weak tone. "I'm a little tired now. If there's nothing else, please leave."

"Naya." Daniel did not want to leave because he was sure that Naya must be related to this matter.

"Daniel, you've gone beyond reasonable limits. Naya has said that this matter has nothing to do with her. If you have evidence, show it to us. Otherwise, leave immediately. Do you really think Naya has to marry you? You can't bully her like this!"

Daniel wanted to say something back about Mrs. Mendez's accusations, but he was stopped by the police.

"Sir, you can tell us about what you just said. Since Miss Naya has denied it and you can't produce any evidence, we should go out first." The police officers persuaded Daniel to leave the ward.

Before leaving, they did not forget to remind Naya. "Miss Mendez, please don't leave this ward for the time being. We'll come to question you at any time."

"I have a clear conscience, so I won't leave. You can come and ask me questions at any time." Naya looked at them magnanimously.

The police officers then left the ward without saying anything else.

Naya's mother immediately went over and closed the door of the ward. When she looked back at Naya, she saw that Naya's face had changed. At this moment, her eyes were gloomy, and her teeth were gritted together in anger.

"Naya, what the hell is going on here? Is Ava..."

"I really didn't expect this." Naya sneered. "I've known Daniel for so many years, but I'm not as good as Ava who has only known him for a few years? And he still has amnesia, so he doesn't even remember who Ava is. Yet, under such circumstances, he's still defending that b\*tch." Naya was really angry and felt extremely aggrieved.

Naya's mother looked a little distressed as she stood by Ava's side. Then, she hurried over to comfort Naya. "Naya, don't be angry. With your qualifications, you don't have to marry Daniel. There are many sons of rich and noble families for you to choose from in Glendale."

"Of course, I know that there are still many men I can marry, but I only want to marry Daniel! I've liked him for so many years. Why does he have no feelings for me? Plus, the Grahams in Glendale are one of the four giants in Glendale. Can those other rich families compare to them?"

Naya's words were filled with deep unwillingness and dissatisfaction.

"I won't lose to that b\*tch Ava!"

Mrs. Mendez's expression changed when she heard that. "Naya, was it really you who got someone to kidnap Ava?"

"If I had gotten someone to kidnap Ava, why would I crash my car? Hmph, how great. Someone else suffered this calamity for her once again. Why is that b\*tch so lucky every time?"

"That's weird. Based on what Daniel said, someone kidnapped Ava." Naya's mother became more and more curious.

Naya also found it strange, and after thinking about it, she remembered something. She immediately asked her mother.

"Where's my phone? And my bag? Did you help me get them from the car?"

"Yes, they're here." Naya's mother took out Naya's bag from the cabinet and handed it to her.

Naya hurriedly found the spare mobile phone in her bag. There were very few contact numbers in it. Then, she found the call log and called the number at the top. The call was connected after a few rings.

"Miss Mendez, what a coincidence. I was just about to call you." The man's rude voice came from the other end of the phone. "Didn't you want me to keep an eye on Ava? I've kidnapped her and locked her in an abandoned electronics factory in the suburbs. Tell me what you want me to do and I'll follow your instructions. As long as you pay up, I'm willing to do anything."

After hearing what the man said, Naya finally understood what had happened to Ava. Daniel was right Ava's disappearance was indeed related to her.

A smile crept up on Naya's face. However, she did not want to be involved in this, so she pretended to be mad as she said, "I only told you to keep an eye on her. I didn't tell you to kidnap her. Listen to me, it's none of my business what you want to do to her. If you want money, you can go ask her mother for it. Ava's mother is the richest woman in F Country. She loves her daughter very much, so she'll give you as much money as you want. In short, stop contacting me!"

Naya hung up the phone decisively and then switched it off.

Naya's mother could piece together what was happening after she listened from one side. Her expression started to turn unpleasant. "Naya, you're involved in Ava's kidnapping?"

"What nonsense are you talking about? What do I have to do with that? I didn't ask him to kidnap her." Naya distanced herself from the matter and pretended to be innocent. However, the smile on the corners of her lips turned deeper.

Naya's mother shut her mouth and did not say anything after she heard Naya's explanation.

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Inside the abandoned electronics factory in the suburbs. The man grabbed Ava's phone and woke Ava, who was still unconscious, up.

"Hey, unlock your phone and call your mom. Tell her to bring over ten million dollars if she wants to save you."

Before Ava was fully awake, she heard a rude man's voice ordering her around. She felt a pain in the back of her neck. She wanted to raise her hands to massage it, but she found that she could not lift her hands.

"Did you hear me? I'm talking to you!" The man urged impatiently and pushed Ava without pity.

Only then did Ava wake up completely. She looked up and saw the man in black standing in front of her. After that, she remembered what had happened before she fell unconscious. She was driving on the road waiting for a red light when this man rushed over, strangled her, and knocked her unconscious.

Although Ava had always been straightforward, she also knew to act according to the situation. At this time, she was tied up and had no idea where she was. Of course, she could only keep her cool.

"Who are you? Why did you bring me here?" Ava pretended to be scared as she stared at the man, secretly sizing him up. She was sure that she did not know this man.

When the man saw Ava being so afraid of him, he immediately felt very proud.

He picked up a worn-out chair and put it in front of Ava before sitting on it leisurely.

"I don't want to waste time with you, so I'll just say it outright. Someone told me that your mother is the richest person in F Country, and I want to make some money. Since your family is so rich, just think of this as you guys pitying unmotivated scumbags like me. Pocket money of ten million dollars should be enough."

After hearing this, Ava understood what was going on. However, who on earth said that Raegan was the richest person in F Country? Raegan had clearly started her career in Y Country.

This man knew that her mother was loaded, yet he only asked for ten million dollars. It would not be too much even if he asked for 100 million dollars. She had no idea if this man was genuinely stupid or if he did not want to extort too much for fear that he would face a heavy sentence if he was caught. However, in some sense, ten million dollars was already a huge sum of money.

"As long as you call your mother and ask her to send someone to deliver the money, I'll let you go. Otherwise..." The man took out a switchblade from his pocket, and his intention was quite obvious.

Looking at the switchblade, Ava had no idea if the man dared to really make a move on her or not. She thought for a while before cautiously asking, "Handsome, can you first tell me who asked you to kidnap me for money?"

"Why? Are you trying to talk terms with me?" The man got a little impatient and picked up the phone again. "Come on. What's the password to unlock your phone?"

Ava knew that it was useless to be tough at this time, so she softened her tone. "Handsome, let me tell you this. The woman who gave birth to me is indeed rich, but she abandoned me more than ten years ago. I don't even acknowledge my relationship with her. If I call her at this time, I can't guarantee that she'll fork out the money to save me."



The man frowned when he heard this. Perhaps he did not think that Ava and Raegan's relationship was like that.

"You're not lying to me, are you?" The man was doubtful.

"Handsome, why would I lie to you at this moment? The person who gave birth to me is loaded. She can get me back by just spending a little money. Do you think I don't want to continue living?" Ava emphasized seriously.

The man felt that her words were reasonable, but in the end, he still requested for Ava to unlock her phone.

Ava had no choice but to tell the man her password. After the phone was unlocked, the man started searching her contacts by typing 'Dad' and 'Mom'. However, he did not find anything.

He started to believe Ava, but at this moment, Madeline called her.

"Who's Maddie?"

Ava was stunned when she heard that. Then, she saw the caller ID flashing on the screen.

'Why is Maddie calling me at this time?' Ava was still wondering when the man suddenly picked up Madeline's call.

Madeline had no clue about Ava's kidnapping. She just wanted to ask Ava when she would return to the old manor. She did not expect a man to answer the phone.

"Who are you? Where's Ava?" Madeline subconsciously felt that the person answering the phone was not a good person because the way the man spoke and his tone was rather rude.

"Who are you to Ava?" the man asked proudly.

"You should answer me first. Who are you? Why do you have Ava's phone?"

"Ava? Since you're so worried about her, you must be Ava's good friend or best friend. Let me tell you this. Ava is with me now, and I want ten million as ransom, so hurry up and get ready to pay up. Otherwise, don't even think about seeing Ava again."

When Madeline heard this, her heart skipped a beat. Ava was kidnapped?

"Why should I believe what you said?" Madeline questioned.

The man did not waste any time. After hanging up Madeline's voice call, he immediately made a video call and pointed the camera at Ava.

Madeline saw Ava with her hands tied behind her back. She was being held hostage beside a pile of junk. A strong sense of worry crept up from the bottom of her heart.

"Hey, aren't you Eveline Montgomery, the wife of the richest man in Glendale, Jeremy Whitman?" The man looked at Madeline through the video call and suddenly recognized her face.

"I almost forgot that you have a rich best friend. All is fine, then. If your mother refuses to pay, I'll just ask for the money from your best friend." The man was elated.

"Mrs. Whitman, if you don't want anything to happen to your friend, prepare ten million. Remember, don't tell anyone about this. Don't even think about calling the police! I want you to bring the money here yourself. I'll tell you the time and location with another phone later. That's all for now."

The man did not give Madeline a chance to speak at all. He hung up after speaking. After noting down Madeline's phone number on his cell phone, he switched off the phone.

"You know a lot of rich people. I think I asked for too little when I asked for ten million dollars." The man looked at Ava greedily. "I'm going out now. Be obedient. If you dare to run, I'll tell my boys to break your leg."

The man turned around after warning Ava.

Ava watched the man walk out the door before she heard the man leaving in a car he called. She immediately wanted to stand up and try to get out, but her bound feet made it hard for her to stand.

"Naya, you're definitely the one behind this. You must be the one doing this to me, you maniac!"

Ava figured that this man must have some sort of relationship with Naya. She angrily struggled, but there was really no way for her to break free from the ropes that tied her hands and feet. She had no choice but to give up.

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After the man hung up on Madeline, she looked up at the man sitting in the driver's seat

Jeremy's deep and charming eyes were staring into her eyes. "Ava was kidnapped?"

"You heard what the man said just now, right?" Madeline frowned worriedly. "Jeremy, what do you think we should do to minimize the danger Ava is in?"

Jeremy did not think for too long before he came to a decision.

"We should call the cops first."

"But the kidnappers said..."

"Linnie, I know you're worried about Ava. But at a time like this, we have to trust the police. Even if you don't trust the police, trust me. I won't risk the safety of your best friend." Jeremy's gentle tone convinced Madeline.

Madeline looked into Jeremy's deep eyes and nodded. "Okay, I believe you."

Jeremy squeezed Madeline's hand to give her some comfort before driving directly to the police station. After they went to the police station, they found out that Daniel had been here to lodge a report too. Madeline and Jeremy immediately contacted Daniel.

After the three met, Daniel did not seem as foreign as when he first got amnesia. Instead, he immediately told Jeremy and Madeline what he knew.

"Ava was kidnapped, and I think it has something to do with Naya. I went to look for Naya, but she refused to say anything."

"Dan, why are you so sure that Naya has something to do with Ava's kidnapping?" Madeline wondered why Daniel was so sure.

Daniel frowned and seemed very troubled. Then, he spoke, "It seems that Naya wants to kill Ava."

Madeline and Jeremy glanced at each other.

"Dan, do you remember what happened in the past?"

"No." Daniel shook his head. Then, he continued, "Naya got into an accident and is in the hospital. The reason she got into an accident is that she deliberately caused it. She crashed into a car that's the same model as the car Ava drove today. It's the same model and color."

Madeline immediately understood after she heard that. "Ava left with my car today. Did Naya think that Ava was driving the car she crashed into?"

"I think so too." Daniel agreed with Madeline's thoughts. Hence, that was why he was so emotional when he went to look for Naya in the hospital just now.

"How's the victim of the crash doing now?"

"I heard she's still in the emergency room. She's in a critical condition."

When Jeremy heard this, his expression changed slightly. "Naya is a lunatic. She really dares to do anything."

"There are really many people in this world who'll do anything to achieve their goals." Madeline sighed helplessly with a smile. "Jeremy, what should we do next?"

"Don't worry too much, Linnie. Daniel and I will definitely find Ava and bring her back safely." Jeremy promised Madeline with a gentle smile. He lowered his eyes and glanced at the time. "Linnie, you should pick Jack up from school first. Just leave Ava's matter to us."

Of course, Madeline trusted Jeremy, but while she was on the way to pick Jackson up from school, her heart still felt uneasy. She wanted to go to the hospital to look for Naya, but she quickly dismissed the idea.

During dinner at night, Pudding kept calling out childishly. "Aunt... Va... Aunt Ava."

During the few days Ava stayed here, she had formed a very good relationship with Pudding. Plus, children's feelings were so intuitive. They liked whoever was nice to them.

Madeline could only pick up her youngest son to comfort him, "Pudding, Aunt Ava will come back to play with you tomorrow. Be a good boy and eat first."

The little boy blinked his big watery eyes and looked at Madeline seriously.

"Mommy."

"Mommy is here. You're such a good boy, Pudding," Madeline patted his little head lovingly.

"Mommy, isn't Aunt Ava coming to our house today?" Jackson also asked curiously.

Madeline was trying to find an excuse to muddle through this when she heard the familiar footsteps coming from the entrance. She looked up and saw that Jeremy was back.

Madeline stood up while carrying her youngest son. "Jeremy, you're back. Any news?"

Jeremy took the little boy from Madeline's arms and kissed him intimately.

"No news yet, but I've already found out who kidnapped Ava."

"Who is it?"

"The kidnapper is just a lazy bum who has a lot of criminal records. In order to make quick money, he'll do anything."

After that, Jeremy analyzed the situation and said, "I found that he has been receiving a lot of money in his account recently, and the amount is the same as the money Naya transferred. It means that Naya must have a deal with this person."

"No, it's not a guess but the truth," Madeline affirmed.

"I can't imagine that Naya would do something so outrageous. She's a highly educated lady from a rich family, so how can she do such outrageous things?"

"For some people, evil is engraved in their bones. Even if they're highly educated, they still can't hide the evil in their hearts."

"But if this is the case, will Ava be in danger?"

"The kidnapper is only after the money, so he won't do anything to Ava until he gets the money."

"But if he kidnapped Ava according to Naya's instructions and Naya gave him enough money, he'll listen to Naya's demands. He might take action against Ava." Thinking of this, Madeline became more anxious and worried.

Jeremy grabbed Madeline's shoulders, gently soothing her nervous and anxious emotions. "If Naya wanted to get rid of Ava, why did the kidnapper ask for ransom?"

After Jeremy's reminder, Madeline felt less tense at once. That was right. If Naya had asked this man to kidnap Ava, why would she take the extra step to contact them and ask for money?

Naya could directly kill Ava, so what was going on?

Madeline fell asleep worrying. When she woke up the next day, she found that Jeremy had already gone out. He was actively following up on Ava's kidnapping.

Madeline was not idle either. After breakfast, she sent her son to school first. On the way back, Madeline felt a little uneasy for some reason. She parked the car in the parking lot beside the road and opened the photo gallery on her mobile phone. There were some old photos of Ava and her on her phone. As she was looking at these photos, Madeline's heart tightened.

"Ava, please be safe." Madeline prayed silently, then the sudden ringing of her phone brought her thoughts back.

After seeing the caller ID, Madeline hesitated for a while before picking up the call.

She could hear Raegan's polite greeting. "Mrs. Whitman, sorry for disturbing you. I heard that Ava took Dan to see her dad yesterday. I called Ava several times but can't get through to her. Is she with you?"

Madeline wanted to inform her of Ava's current situation, but this would only cause one more person to worry. Hence, she prevaricated.

"Ava has been staying in my house these days. I think she's in a bad mood, so she didn't turn on her phone. But don't worry, Ava is fine."

After hearing Madeline's answer, Raegan did not ask any further questions and hung up the phone at ease.

Madeline was also relieved. She put down her phone and was about to drive when she suddenly heard a knock on her car window.

Madeline looked up and saw a man dressed in black and sunglasses. He looked like a thief or a robber. She was sure that she did not know this man, but she felt that he was inexplicably familiar. After thinking about it for a second or two, Madeline suddenly remembered that this man was the thug who kidnapped Ava.

Madeline's eyes lit up as she recalled the footage Jeremy showed her last night. This man in front of her was surely the one who kidnapped Ava.

Knock, knock, knock.

The man knocked on Madeline's car window again.

Madeline cautiously lowered the window a little. The gap was not enough for anyone to reach their hand in. She looked at the man with a calm and puzzled expression, "Sir, what's the matter?"

"You're Eveline Montgomery, right?" the man asked directly, and his voice which was as rough as sandpaper made Madeline even more certain that he was the kidnapper who wanted a ransom of ten million dollars.

"I am. May I ask who you are..."

"Eveline, I don't want to waste my breath with you. Open the door now." The man was very direct. He raised his hand and knocked on the car window again.

Madeline already felt that this person was quite dangerous. She quietly picked up her mobile phone and wanted to call Jeremy, but at this moment, the man suddenly slammed the car window with a loud bang.

"Hurry up and open the door!" the man ordered fiercely.

Madeline did not panic, but at the same time, she also sensed the crisis. She raised her arrogant brows and looked at him imposingly. "What do you want?"

"I want to take you to meet your good friend."

"Open the door now, or you won't be able to see her again," the man said in a threatening tone. Even though Madeline could not see his eyes under his sunglasses, Madeline felt that this man could do anything for money.

She had no choice but to open the door.

The man looked at Madeline's clothes with satisfaction.

"Take off all your jewelry and give them to me along with your cell phone. Then, follow me and I'll take you to meet your friend."

Madeline took off her jewelry and handed her phone over according to the man's wishes.

She thought that the man was coveting her jewelry, but she saw him throw her jewelry and phone in the car.

"I heard that your husband is very concerned about you, so there must be a GPS tracker in your jewelry or phone." The man looked proud.

Madeline did not expect the man to be so smart. He was indeed right.

"I've removed all of them. Are you going to take me to see Ava now?" Madeline asked calmly.

"This too." The man pointed to the ring on Madeline's ring finger.

Madeline raised her hand slightly and stretched it out in front of the man.

"This is a wedding ring. I've been wearing it for many years and can't take it off now. Do you think a GPS tracker will fit in such a small ring?"

The man looked at Madeline's wedding ring doubtfully. As he was looking at it, he started having an interest in Madeline's beautiful hands. Madeline had sharp eyes and quickly retracted her hand.



"Don't you just want money? I'm already preparing the money, so why are you here all of a sudden?"

"How dare you question me?!" The man's face sank "I told you not to call the cops. Not only did you call the cops, but you even asked your husband to investigate me."

Madeline had no idea where the man got this piece of news from. Perhaps Naya was the one who told him.

"Come with me now. Don't try to flee or alert passersby. If I'm not back within half an hour, Ava will go straight to hell."

Madeline dared not gamble on Ava's safety.

She glanced around. There were passing vehicles but no passersby. Even if there were passersby, it was not easy to ask for help.

Madeline followed the man to the other side of the road, only to discover that the car she lent Ava yesterday was parked there. The man drove this car and followed her to the vicinity of Jackson's school.

Someone must have told him her route since he was able to figure it out within a day, and this person was none other than Naya.

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In the hospital.

Naya was lying comfortably on the bed. She had long been fine, except for a little flesh wound. She was basically unscathed, but the woman who was hit by her was still in a coma in the ICU. She picked up another spare mobile phone.

When she was about to make a call, she saw her mother walking in nervously.

Naya hid the phone and asked suspiciously, "What happened? Why are you panicking?"

Naya's mother was pale, looking as though she was at a loss. "Dead... Naya, that woman is dead!"

Naya's expression immediately froze. "What? What did you say? Who died?"

"It's that woman you hit. The doctor just informed me that they couldn't rescue her and she died!"

Naya was speechless for a while, and her expression was a little flustered. However, she soon laughed indifferently.

"It was just an accident. It has nothing to do with me. So what if she died? Worst-case scenario, we'll just compensate them. Do you think our family can't afford that?"

Seeing Naya's indifferent attitude, Naya's mother continued to be nervous. "I heard that the family doesn't lack money and they're going to sue you!"

"Sue me? Hmph." Naya was still dismissive. "Go ahead. Let's see if they can do that."

Naya did not take it seriously and was also not bothered by that woman's death. She just wanted to know what had happened to Ava.

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Inside the abandoned electronics factory in the suburbs.

Ava, who was trapped by the waste pile, was still struggling to escape. She did not know where the man had gone, but she only knew that this was a good opportunity to escape. However, she had not eaten for almost the entire day and only had a few sips of water. Hence, she did not have much energy. After struggling for a long time, she felt that the ropes were even tighter now. In fact, she just had no more strength.

Ava leaned against the wall tiredly. She wanted to rest for a while and then continue with her escape plan, but suddenly, she heard the sound of a car's engine outside.

Ava decided to give up struggling. She thought the man was the one who came back, but to her surprise, she heard two sets of footsteps. The other set of footsteps sounded very familiar to her. She opened her eyes to look in the direction of the door, and the next second, she widened her eyes in surprise.

"Maddie?" Ava thought her eyes were playing tricks on her. However, the person who approached her was indeed Madeline. "Maddie, why are you here? Why were you kidnapped as well?"

Ava was worried. She wanted to get up but could not. Madeline quickly ran to Ava to untie the ropes around her limbs. However, the moment she untied Ava, the man's shadow towered over her from behind.

Ava's expression suddenly changed, and she rammed into Madeline with her shoulder.

"Maddie, he won't do anything to me. You should leave."

"Since you're already here, don't even think about leaving." The man's evil voice came from behind Madeline.

Madeline raised her hand and gently wiped the stain on Ava's face. Then, she stood up. She raised her imposing eyes. "You're only doing these things for money. Since that's the case, how about we make a deal?"

After hearing this, the man stared at Madeline with a playful look in his eyes for a few seconds. "Mrs. Whitman, you're my hostage now. You're the most valuable item that I'll be using to extort money, so why are you even talking to me about conditions?"

"You're just saying that because you want money. I want to live, and I want to take my good friend out of here safely. I'm willing to propose a higher price to buy both my and my good friend's lives."

The man originally thought that Madeline was just saying this to buy more time, but seeing Madeline's serious expression at the moment, he was a little shaken.

To be honest, people like him were only involved in this kind of work for money. He would work for whoever paid him more and would not bother about benevolence and righteousness.

"Mrs. Whitman, are you serious?"

"Do you think I'd play with my life?" Madeline asked sternly.

The man figured that it made sense. After he thought about it, money was just a number to those with a family background like Madeline. They would

not lose their lives for a small sum of money. The man's eyes suddenly became greedy. "Then how much can you give me?"

"I'll give you twice as much as the other party gave you for our lives. But if you can tell me who hired you to target me and Ava, I'll let you name the price."

Upon hearing this, the man's eyes lit up even more, "Eveline, you have to keep your word."

"I'm a woman of my word."

"Alright, I'll... I'll ask for 100 million dollars, then." The man proposed an outrageous price.

Madeline smiled and did not say anything.

The man thought Madeline was not satisfied. Hence, he said, "Mrs. Whitman, since you're so straightforward, I won't beat about the bush with you. The person who asked me to keep an eye on Ava is Naya Mendez."

When Madeline and Ava got this answer, they were not surprised at all. They had already guessed that Naya was the one behind this.

When he saw that Madeline seemed to be stunned, a smug smirk appeared on the corner of the man's mouth.

"Mrs. Whitman, what do you think? Is this information worth 100 million dollars?"

Madeline smiled. "I'll give you 200 million dollars. You should cooperate with me to do something. After the deed is done, not only will I give you the remuneration you deserve, but I'll also tell the police that you didn't kidnap me and Ava."

After hearing this, the man's jaw dropped open. He was utterly stunned. 'What a great deal!'

"Mrs. Whitman, do you think I'm five years old?"

"I never lie to children." Madeline's answer was very serious. "That's settled, then. You should go get some food and drinks."

"No way!" The man refused. "If your friend runs away with you when she's full and has regained her energy, then I would've made a loss."

The man remained suspicious of Madeline. He picked up more rope and pointed at Madeline's hand.

"Mrs. Whitman, if you don't want your delicate skin and tender flesh to be hurt, then cooperate."

His meaning was very clear. He wanted to tie up Madeline as well, just in case.

"Maddie, don't listen to him. You can't trust people like him at all. You should leave as soon as you can," Ava advised, worried that Madeline would be implicated by her.

Madeline looked at Ava and gave her a reassuring smile. "Ava, since I'm here, I'll return with you. Don't worry, I believe that money can solve many problems in this world, including the problems we're facing now."

After Madeline finished speaking, she simply stretched out her hands to the man. "Go ahead."

"As expected of Jeremy's woman. How courageous." The man praised and quickly tied Madeline's hands.

As soon as he was done tying her hands, the man received a call.

He glanced at Madeline and Ava who were already tied up and went outside to answer the phone with confidence.

Ava sighed depressedly. "Maddie, how did you get kidnapped?"

"It's almost like what happened to you. He suddenly knocked on my car door and I didn't have time to react," Madeline explained, not wanting to tell Ava that she had to compromise and get into the man's car because she was worried about her safety.

"Sigh." Ava sighed again. "I didn't expect the grudge between Naya and me to get to this level."

"This has nothing to do with you. Naya's the one who's sick in the head." Madeline looked at the door and vaguely caught a glimpse of the man talking on the phone. "I'm afraid he's talking to Naya."

Just like Madeline expected, Naya was hiding in the bathroom and on a call with the man. The police and the family of the woman who died had yet to come to make a fuss with her. She was overjoyed to learn that the man had even kidnapped Madeline. She was being locked in the abandoned electronics factory with Ava. She wanted to use this chance to get rid of Madeline and Ava, but she did not want to get into trouble. Hence, she could only use this man for now.

"What are you going to do now that you've kidnapped Eveline and Ava?" Naya tried to figure out the man's next plan.

"I kidnapped them for money, of course. Isn't this what you keep reminding me about, Miss Mendez? One of them has a rich mother while the other's husband is the richest man in Glendale. I have to get as much money as I can from them no matter what. "

"They can indeed get you a lot of money, but I have to remind you that Jeremy loves Eveline very much. Since you've kidnapped his wife, he won't forgive you even if you flee to the end of the world." There was a hint of intimidation in Naya's words.

The man was silent for a few seconds, seemingly panicking.

"And what good tips do you have, Miss Mendez?"

"I'm just saying... Just take it as though I'm talking to myself," Naya said with a sinister smile on her face. "Once you get the money, you should just leave those two there and have others rescue them. Otherwise, if those people manage to rescue the two before that, I'm afraid that you'll have to spit out the money you already have. Not only that, you'll spend the rest of your life in prison. If necessary, I think you can just kill them."

"Kill them?"

"That's right." Naya continued to scare him and egg him on. "If you can't kill them, their parents and husband will kill you."

When the man heard this, he was clearly panicking.

Naya hung up the phone happily. She knew she already had this in the bag. She then hid her phone in the cabinet of the toilet before walking out. The moment she walked out, someone suddenly pushed the door open and barged in.

"Naya, come out!"

Naya abruptly stopped in her tracks and looked at the man who broke into the room angrily. She did not know him at all.

"Who are you? Why are you screaming my name?" Naya said coldly, feeling pissed.

The man suddenly turned his face when he saw Naya. The man's red eyes fell on Naya's arrogant face, and Naya was startled by those eyes. When she was in a trance, the man rushed in front of her without her noticing. Then, the man raised his hand and slapped Naya's face heavily.

Slap!

"Ah!" Naya screamed in pain and raised her hand to cover her cheek. Then, she widened her eyes to look at the man in astonishment before taking two steps back in horror.

"W-Who are you? Why did you slap me? Nurse! Where's the nurse? How can you let just anyone into the VIP ward?" Naya shouted toward the door of the ward.

"Naya, what's the matter? What happened?" Naya's mother also came back at this time. She hurried to Naya's side and looked at the man with red and teary eyes, "W-Who are you? Why are you in my daughter's ward?"

Upon hearing Naya's mother's words, the man was even more emotional.

"So, you're Naya's mother! You deserve to be slapped too!"

After the man said that, he slapped Naya's mother as well.

Naya's mother screamed in fright and pulled Naya back. However, not only did the man not leave, he picked up a fruit knife on the coffee table and chased after Naya and Naya's mother.

"Ah! Help! Someone, please get in here! He's trying to kill us!" shouted Naya's mother.

When the man's knife was about to reach them, someone finally pushed the door open and came in. The people who came in held the man back together. Naya and her mother finally let out sighs of relief.

Seeing that the man was still trying to attack them, Naya rolled her eyes in anger.

"What's going on? Where did this lunatic come from? How dare he come in here to cause trouble?!"

Naya touched her cheek which was hurting after she was slapped. Then, she walked arrogantly toward the man who was being held by others. She raised her hand and was about to slap him back.

"How dare you slap me?! I'll let you know what the consequences of slapping me are!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she reached out and struck down.

Slap!

"Ah!"

A loud slap could be heard, but the slap landed on Naya's face instead. She looked at the young man who slapped her in astonishment. "W-Who are you? Why did you slap me?!"

"Yeah, I slapped you. You're Naya Mendez, right? You killed my sister with your car. That slap my brother-in-law gave you just now was considered him being lenient. How dare you make so much noise here? Just wait. Don't think that you can settle this with money. We've already seen the surveillance footage. You deliberately crashed into my sister's car! We won't let you get away with this!"

When Naya heard what the young man said, she and her mother did not have the confidence to talk back anymore.

They were the family of the woman who died.

"Just wait, you evil woman!" The woman's husband pointed at Naya and scolded her in sorrow.



Naya was fuming but did not dare to talk back for fear that the man would slap her again.

After the man was pulled away by his relatives, Naya quickly closed the door and pushed everything in front of her to the floor in anger.

She touched her sore cheek, gritted her teeth, and clenched her fists. "Ava, you're the one who did this to me. You were the one who should have died! I won't forgive you! I'll never forgive you!"

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Whitman Corporation.

Jeremy had been looking for Ava's whereabouts for a long time. Aside from having no clues about where she was, Madeline was also suddenly uncontactable. He made several calls in a row but still, no one answered.

He was a little worried. He finally found Madeline's car using the GPS tracker.

Unexpectedly, Madeline's car was still parked on the side of the road near Jackson's school. The door was not closed tightly, while Madeline's phone and the jewelry she usually wore were strewn on the driver's seat.

Jeremy had guessed that Madeline might be in trouble on the way here. After seeing this, his heartbeat, which had always been calm, began to become irregular. Jeremy quickly turned on the dashcam. Not long after he saw Madeline parking in this spot, a man's voice was heard. It was clear that the man's voice was the same as the kidnapper who kidnapped Ava.

Jeremy concluded that Madeline had also been kidnapped by this man. He did not expect things to turn out like this. This man was so bold as to kidnap Madeline in the same way.

Jeremy was anxiously waiting for the kidnapper's call, but he had not received any calls yet.

Based on the clues provided by Jeremy, the police began to send additional personnel to track Madeline and Ava down. On the other hand, Jeremy personally came to the hospital ward where Naya was and began to observe Naya's actions.

Although Naya did not look suspicious, Jeremy kept feeling that this matter was absolutely inseparable from Naya.

In fact, just as Jeremy expected, Naya made a call to the man again when she was inside the bathroom. Knowing that the man had no intention of doing anything to Ava and Madeline for the time being, Naya was very anxious. She desperately wanted something bad to happen to Ava and Madeline, but the man refused to act rashly until he got the money.

However, if the man got the money, Madeline and Ava might be rescued. If that happened, what she hoped would happen would not happen.

Naya thought about it. There was only one option left for her. After hanging up, Naya walked out of the bathroom.

Seeing Naya's heavy expression, Naya's mother walked over with great worry. "Naya, just lie down on the bed and rest. Leave the rest to your father."

Naya sneered, "What can he do about this? That woman is dead, and her family is intending to fight this to the end with me."

"So what? Mendez Group has such a huge team of lawyers. How can those civilians win against us? Plus, there are indeed problems with the brakes of your car, and you didn't mean to crash into her. The police don't have concrete evidence yet, so they can't accuse you of anything."

Naya chuckled indifferently when she heard what her mother said. Then, she lay down on the bed lazily.

"I'm a little tired and want to sleep. Mommy, you should go back. You don't have to accompany me today. I want to stay here by myself."

Naya's mother wanted to stay here to take care of Naya, but Naya was not in the best mood now, so she grabbed her bag and left.

After Naya's mother left, Naya lay on the bed for a while. Suddenly, the corners of her lips upturned. She quickly changed her clothes and put the clothes she changed out of under the blanket to make it seem that she was resting on the bed. She then snuck out of the ward.

She bought something from the convenience store near the hospital. Then, she called a car and left after telling the driver her destination.

Inside the electronics factory in the suburbs.

At this moment, the sky outside the window was gray, and the afterglow of the setting sun had long since dissipated.

Madeline glanced at Ava next to her, who looked weak.

"Ava," Madeline called out to Ava. "Ava, are you hungry?"

Ava moved her eyelids and leaned her head on Madeline's shoulder very tiredly. "Maddie, I'm so hungry and sleepy. The man said he'll get us something to eat. What is taking him so long? Why isn't he back yet?"

"Someone like him might be having a good time right now." Madeline guessed.

"Then why did you trust him and strike a deal with him?" Ava joked before sighing. "Back then, I thought that Meredith was crazy and perverted enough. I didn't expect that there are so many women like her."

Madeline laughed and sighed. "There are always people who'll do heartless things in order to achieve their goals, but I believe that such people will get their due punishment and retribution in the end."

Ava curled her lips and smiled. "Then I hope the retribution will come sooner. I hope God will come to take action against that demonic woman Naya soon so that she can be punished as soon as possible."

"Hmph."

The moment Ava finished saying that, a disdainful chuckle suddenly came from the door. Then, they could hear a female voice uttering an arrogant statement.

"I'm afraid you're going to be disappointed because no matter what, you won't see the day I get my retribution."

Ava suddenly opened her eyes, raised her head, and straightened up. Ava saw Naya swaggering in from the gate at almost the same time as Madeline.

The lights in the electronics factory were very dim. As Naya approached them, she looked like a witch who was exuding somberness all over her body. She was staring maliciously at Ava who was beside the pile of waste with her hands and feet tied up.

"Naya..." Ava looked at Naya, a gleam of light flashing in her eyes. She then glanced sideways into Madeline's eyes before shifting her gaze back to Naya, who had already walked in front of her.

"You didn't expect that I would show up here, right?" Naya reached out her hand triumphantly and suddenly grabbed Ava's chin.

"Naya, what do you want?" Madeline snapped. "I should tell you to stop while you still have time. Otherwise, you'll regret it."

"Hahaha..." After hearing what Madeline said, Naya burst into laughter. "Eveline, you won't be able to save yourself soon, yet you still dare to scare me?" Naya said and looked at Madeline with eyes full of resentment.

"If you want to blame someone, you should blame yourself for wanting to be friends with this kind of person. Since you want to protect her so much, I'll send you to hell together."

Ava's face changed, and she seemed to be scared. "Naya, what else do you want? Why did you get that thug to kidnap me and Maddie here?"

"What do you think I want?" Naya sneered and pushed Ava away. "Ava, you're so naive. Since I'm standing here now and letting you guys know that I'm the one behind this, what do you think I'm going to do?" Naya said, slowly lowering her gaze. There was an extraordinarily eerie cold look in her eyes.

"I want you to disappear from this world forever, of course."

"You want to kill me and Maddie?" Ava's eyes narrowed. "Naya, the person you hate is me, and it's me you want to get rid of. This has nothing to do with Eveline, so you should let her go. If you want to kill someone, you should just kill me!"

Madeline frowned. "Ava."

"Tsk, ts, what a touching sisterhood," Naya mocked.

"But don't worry, I won't let you die alone."

Ava struggled to move, but she could not stand up. "Naya, is it necessary for you to resort to murder? What deep hatred do you have for me?"

After Naya finished speaking, she sat down on the chair next to her. It was as if she was extremely amused by what Ava had just said.

"Ava, you're seriously asking me what kind of hatred I have for you? Heh?!"

Naya's eyes flickered suddenly, and she raised her foot to kick Ava's shoulder hard.

Ava had not eaten for almost two days. She was so weak that she could not withstand Naya's kick. She groaned in pain and fell beside Madeline in a sorry state.

"Ava, Ava!" Madeline leaned over to Ava worriedly.

However, she could not help Ava up.

Naya was overjoyed when she saw this scene. "Ava, are you scared now?" she asked.

Then, she stood up and squatted in front of Ava. Suddenly, she reached out and grabbed Ava's collar. Her eyes seemed to be laced with poison as she looked as though she wanted to swallow Ava alive.

"Why did you have to steal that man from me? Do you know how many years I've liked Dan? If it weren't for you, I would already be married to Dan right now. None of these things would have happened!"

"Naya, you can't force a relationship! Why do you insist on thinking that Dan can only marry you?" Madeline scolded Naya for Ava. "Let go of your hand now!"

"Eveline, shut up!" Naya turned her head and glared at Madeline fiercely. "What right do you have to tell me such a thing? You also pestered Jeremy non-stop back then. You couldn't get him even though you loved him. Didn't he fall for you only because you kept harassing him? Since you can do that, why can't I?"

Madeline was speechless after hearing Naya's words, while Ava could not help but burst into laughter.

Naya frowned and seemed unhappy. "You're about to die. What are you laughing at?"

"I'm laughing at you, Naya. You look like a lunatic right now."

"You..."

"Jeremy has always loved Maddie, but that fool didn't have a clear head in the beginning. Jeremy and Maddie love each other. Danny and I are also in love with each other. You should just stop being delusional."

"Shut up! Shut the hell up!" Naya suddenly roared like a madwoman and pushed Ava like she had been possessed.

Ava fell back again. This time, she was barely able to get up.

Naya looked down at Ava and gritted her teeth.

"Ava, you leave me no choice."

When she said that, Naya took out the lighter she had just bought from her pocket. There was a weird grin on her lips.

Both Madeline and Ava could guess what Naya was going to do next. She wanted to burn them to death. When Naya saw that Madeline and Ava seemed to be scared, she chuckled triumphantly.

"Are you scared? It's too late to be scared now, Ava. In the end, you'll never end up with Dan, and I won't be punished by the police either. No one knows I'm here, and they'll just think it was the thug who burned you to two to death. So, the final winner is still me."

Naya started laughing wildly.

Meanwhile, Madeline and Ava looked at each other. "Ava, are you okay?"

Ava pulled the corners of her lips into a smile. "Don't worry, Maddie. I can still hold on."

Upon hearing this, Naya abruptly stopped laughing. In a flash, she turned to Ava with an extremely fierce attitude. "Hold on? How are you going to hold on?"

Not to be outdone, Ava stared coldly back at Naya. "Although I'm being held here, I know there's someone who's in love with me waiting for me to return safely, and this is my belief. It's something you won't understand."

"Are you still thinking about going back safely? I guess you're still indulging in your fantasy." Naya sneered and suddenly lit the lighter.

The flames were small, but if Naya wanted to burn them to death, the small flame was enough to burn down the entire abandoned electronics factory.

"Ava, you were lucky those two times, but this time, I won't let you escape from under my eyes again." Naya suddenly took the initiative to say this.

Madeline immediately understood. She shifted her sharp eyes to Naya. "Naya, are you admitting that you caused the car accident that happened near Dan's house? You thought Ava was the one driving, so you intentionally crashed into the car to kill Ava, right?"

Naya glanced at Madeline disdainfully, "Yes, I'm admitting to it! I crashed into that car on purpose because I thought the person in that car was this b\*tch! So, I accelerated and planned to kill her! But unexpectedly, Ava was really lucky. It seems that there are people who'll take the disaster for you every time."

Naya's eyes were full of hatred. Suddenly, she extinguished the lighter before reaching out and grabbing Ava's collar again with an angry face.

"B\*tch, do you know how annoying you are? I've hated you to death since the day Dan brought you to Graham Manor for the first time!"

The first time she stepped into Graham Manor...

Ava remembered that it was Old Master Graham's birthday, and Daniel took her to meet his parents. At that time, Naya was sitting among the relatives of the Graham family, and she seemed very close to them.

Ava was still in the midst of recollecting the past when suddenly, she felt a tightness around her neck. Naya was increasing her strength as she held Ava's collar and scolded her fiercely.

"B\*tch, do you know that the moment you appeared, I really wanted to find a hole in the ground. You were wearing the same dress as me, but that dress is a limited edition. I was wearing a top-quality imitation product, but you were wearing the real thing. Do you know how embarrassed I was? Thankfully, my family background was able to let me gain a foothold. On the contrary, you became the vain clown who wore fake goods."

When she said this, Naya chuckled.

"Now that we're on this topic, Dan's mother is hilarious. She's a wealthy woman who's been in the upper class circle for so long, but she can't differentiate between real and fake goods. I gave her so many branded goods all these years to get on her good side but none of those were real. She's blind and can't tell that they're all fake. How hilarious! However, the tricks I used to fool her for so many years were suddenly exposed by you!"

Naya suddenly pushed Ava away and then glared at Madeline aggressively.

"Eveline, you're just as hateful as this b\*tch!"

Madeline smiled calmly as she faced Naya's vicious expression.

"Really? Am I hateful? I don't seem to have had much contact with you, Miss Mendez. Why do you hate me so much?"

"How dare you ask me that?" Naya strode over to Madeline. The anger in her chest overflowed. "You dared to set a trap for me and almost sent me into prison!"

"Oh? When did I do that?" Madeline asked innocently. "Naya, did you make a mistake?"

"I didn't make a mistake!" Naya gritted her teeth. "That time, you and your husband Jeremy put on such a good act in the parking lot downstairs of this b\*tch's apartment to trap me. Fortunately, I was smart enough to escape. Did you forget?"

After listening to Naya's angry roar, Madeline still smiled calmly.



"I didn't forget, but you seem to have made a mistake. It wasn't you who escaped the disaster but Ava. If Dan hadn't driven the car that was tampered with, Ava would have been the one who got into an accident. In the end, the police couldn't convict you not because you averted the disaster but because you bribed the thug to help you. The reason is that the person who tampered with the car is you, Naya."

After Madeline finished speaking, Naya seemed to be stunned. After a few seconds, Naya let out an extremely sinister laugh. Even her eyes were filled with a gloomy chill.

"Eveline, you're pretty smart." Naya's sentence seemed like a compliment and a compromise. Then, Madeline and Ava heard Naya admitting it. "That's right, it was me. I was the one who tampered with Ava's car!"

Naya finally admitted this, but there was no guilt on her face. Instead, she started describing the incident while feeling pleased with herself.

"That day, that fool Chloe suggested to me that we should tamper with Ava's car. I didn't say anything, but, of course, I hoped she would do it. However, I was worried about her execution of things, so I quietly followed her. I saw that she hired a thug to pry open Ava's car, but it didn't take long before he got out of the car. After they left, I got into the car myself."

The smile on Naya's face grew even bigger.

"Later, I popped open the hood of the car, checked the relevant information on the internet, and made sure that the brake was damaged before I left. But I really didn't expect Dan to drive the car! You should've died in that car accident, Ava!"

"Naya, you had the intentions to murder someone, so you're guilty of the crime. You haven't realized your mistake, yet you still want to get rid of Ava. In the end, you even killed an innocent person," Madeline sternly accused her, but Naya did not take her seriously at all.

"Since you're going to die soon, I've already made sure you'll die knowing what really happened. The bad guys always die from being too talkative. So, I won't waste any more time with you."

Naya said and picked up the lighter to light it again. Then, her face became much more malevolent.

"Ava, you're finally going to hell. Without you, my road ahead will be very smooth! Hahaha..!"

Naya could not stop herself from laughing maniacally. She found a suitable position, piled all the flammable and explosive waste next to Ava and Madeline, then finally moved the lighter to the pile.

"Go. Go become good friends in hell. See you never!"

After Naya said that, she stretched her hand to a piece of paper as that would ignite the most easily. However, at this moment, a gust of sharp wind whistled past her all of a sudden. Naya felt that her palm seemed to have been penetrated by something sharp.

"Ah!" Naya screamed in pain.

The lighter in her hand also fell, and she looked at her bloody palm in disbelief. There was a look of utter defeat on her face. Amidst her panic, she opened her eyes in disbelief. Before she could look up to see the situation in front of her, she saw several police officers pointing their guns at her and rushing toward her.

What surprised her even more was that Jeremy was among them.

However, Jeremy's target was not her. He just glanced at Naya in disgust before walking quickly to Madeline's side and untying the ropes on Madeline's body.

After Madeline was released, she quickly turned around to help Ava. At this time, Ava had already fainted from exhaustion.

"Ava, Ava!" Madeline called out to Ava anxiously.

"Ava!" Daniel hurried over at this time and held Ava, who was gradually slipping into unconsciousness.

"Dan..." Naya looked at Daniel who had suddenly appeared and was holding Ava so nervously. He was completely ignoring her, and Naya could not accept this at all.

Even though her palms hurt so much that she was shaking, she could only watch as Daniel picked up Ava and left while she was restrained by the police.

"Naya, you're involved in two serious criminal cases. You have the right to remain silent, and everything you say will become evidence in court."

After hearing what the police said, Naya's heart skipped a beat as an unprecedented chill penetrated her body. She closed her eyes. When she recalled what she had just said proudly, she suddenly laughed.

"Haha..." Naya's eyes slowly turned red as she cackled.

"So, this is another trap... Eveline, was this your idea as well?"

Naya set her scarlet and tearful eyes on Madeline.

"Only you can come up with such a method to fool me." Madeline stood up and leaned against Jeremy. Then, she looked at Naya who was being restrained by the police.

"No one set any traps to trick you, and I didn't expect that I'd be kidnapped either. I just found a way to survive in a desperate situation. I could even trace the clues to their roots to make you, the real devil, show up."

After listening to what Madeline said, Naya gritted her teeth fiercely as unwillingness took over her. She thought she already had this in the bag, but it turned out that she still suffered a crushing defeat.

Naya did not understand. How did she lose? She first lost to Ava, and now to Madeline. She was not reconciled. She was not reconciled at all!

Naya was quickly taken away by the police.

Ava woke up naturally after receiving an infusion of nutritional supplements.

After learning that the person who had been watching over her was Daniel, Ava felt that all the grievances she had suffered these days were immediately swept away. In fact, she had always been very happy. It was because even though Daniel had lost his memory, he did not alienate her. On the contrary, he always trusted her and even defended her.

Ava was discharged after resting for one day in the hospital.

Raegan and Neil were both beyond horrified when they learned of Ava's kidnapping a few days ago. Although Ava had been saved, they still had lingering fears when they thought of the situation at that time.

Since Naya was involved in several serious criminal cases and was also sued by the family members of the woman she killed, the police were paying special attention to her cases. Naya was quickly charged by the prosecution, and she genuinely never thought that there would come a day when she would be in such dire straits.

She was convicted of several charges, almost all of which she admitted to. However, Naya was still trying to fight even though she was on the verge of death.

"Your honor, I made up everything I said back then. I didn't do anything to Ava's car, I didn't kill anyone on purpose, and I didn't ask anyone to kidnap Ava and Eveline. I just... I'm just..."

"You just made a bad move and lost everything in the end." Madeline's voice came from the witness stand.

She looked at Naya who was fumbling and trying to argue. She spoke calmly, "Naya, stop trying to argue. You don't have any facts to support your argument, but on the contrary, your crimes are all supported by evidence."

"Heh..." Naya sneered. "Evidence? Where's the evidence?"

"The facts you admitted are more reliable than any other evidence," Madeline replied calmly. "Naya, I think you should be curious why the police were lying low at the abandoned electronics factory in advance, right?"

Naya frowned, obviously curious.

"Why? Why on earth did they ambush me there?" Naya asked fiercely.

"Because if you can bribe people with money, then we can bribe them in the same way."

"What?" Naya widened her eyes in disbelief.

Madeline smiled slightly. "That's right. I made a deal with that thug. I gave him twice as much as you gave him, and everything he told you later was instructed by me. I asked him to tell you that he wasn't going to take action against me and Ava. I knew it would frustrate you. So I let that thug leave the abandoned electronics factory on purpose. I knew you'd come, and sure enough, you didn't let me down."

'Huh?' After hearing this explanation, Naya gritted her teeth to glare at Madeline.

She was so mad that she was going to blow up on the spot.

"Madeline, you're so sinister!" Naya roared. "You deliberately got me to the truth the moment I stepped into the factory!"

When Madeline heard this, she smiled faintly. "Are you now admitting that everything you said is the truth?"

Naya was struggling and had nothing to retort. She did not expect to be fooled by Madeline once again at this last moment.

"Heh, hehe... Hahaha..!" Naya was laughing and crying as though she was going mad.

Naya's parents, who were sitting in the spectator seating, were feeling utterly hopeless. Naya's charges were now confirmed. Naya did not seem to want to waste her breath anymore. After crying and laughing, she suddenly became quiet. A few seconds later, she let out a terrifying sneer.

"Oh, that's right, I did everything."

Like a deflated ball, Naya completely lost interest in quibbling. Suddenly, Naya raised her scarlet eyes again and locked eyes with Ava in the spectator seating.

"Ava, do you know how much I want to get rid of you? I'll even be willing to die with you if that's what it takes. Even if I'm sentenced, don't think that you'll be safe. Ava, just you wait. I'll never give you a day of peace!"

Naya was almost roaring when she said that. She screamed and warned Ava frantically.

Naya's parents felt extremely distressed and anxious as they watched this scene in front of them.

Naya had completely broken down. Her future was ruined. However, Ava just looked at the crazy Naya very indifferently. She did not feel any emotions in her heart and even wanted to laugh a little. If she was feeling something, then it would be relaxed and happy.

Naya, the psycho who was always causing Ava trouble, had finally landed herself into trouble this time.

Not long after Naya pleaded guilty, her charges were determined. She had multiple charges against her, but she firmly stated that she would appeal.

Ava did not take her seriously. After the verdict, she and Madeline left the courtroom. As soon as she walked out of the door, the bright sun shone down on her. It seemed that the last bit of frigidity of spring was blown away.

Ava closed her eyes comfortably and took a deep breath. Then, she opened her eyes with a smile.

"The sun is so nice today, Maddie. Let's go for a walk together..."

Of course, Madeline agreed. She and Ava smiled tacitly, then they left arm in arm.

When the Grahams learned that Naya was sentenced, Daniel's mother was stunned. After being stuck in a daze, she still felt a lingering fear. She did not think that Naya would be so savage. She was not able to tell from her appearance at all. She always thought that Naya had a bit of a temper but was still a good woman nevertheless. She did not expect Naya to do something as horrendous as murder.

The more Daniel's mother thought about this, the more fearful she felt. She sat down on the sofa and took a deep breath, "She usually looks so obedient and gentle. I didn't expect that she would have the heart to murder. Thankfully, all of her crimes were exposed. Otherwise, she might have the intention to poison me if I ever offend her after she marries into our family and becomes my daughter-in-law..."

Old Master Graham was speechless as he sat at one side listening to this.

Back then, he was all for Naya becoming his granddaughter-in-law. Now that this had happened, he felt very ashamed.

Daniel came downstairs at this moment and was about to get out in a hurry. When Old Master Graham saw him, he stopped him quickly. "Daniel, you haven't fully recovered yet, so you should just stay home and rest. Don't run around all the time."

"I'm going to look for Ava. Why didn't you tell me Naya's hearing is today?"

"Why is that necessary? That woman is beyond redemption. She tampered with Ava's car and almost killed you. Why do you want to go to her hearing?" Daniel's mother rolled her eyes as she said that. She was very angry.

"She even admitted that she purposely gave me fakes back then. Plus, she said I was blind, so I differentiate fakes and real goods. What an evil little rat!"

Daniel ignored his mother's continuous nagging and went straight to the door without saying a word.

"Dan, Dan!" Daniel's mother tried to stop him but to no avail.

She sighed in annoyance. "Old Master, you saw that. Dan has lost his memory but he still cares so much about Ava, which shows just how much Dan can't let her go. Now that Naya is like this, it's impossible for Dan to get into a relationship with her. Old Master, will you allow Ava to join our family this time?"

"Hmph..." Old Master Graham snorted. "Since she couldn't join our family back then, she shouldn't even think about joining us in the future. So many things happened because of her."

"That's right" Daniel's mother nodded in agreement. "If it weren't for Ava, Dan would've married Naya long ago and all of these would never have happened. In fact, Naya was forced to be like that."

"In any case, that Long woman can't join this family. Otherwise, our family will never have a day of peace."

Old Master Graham's attitude was very firm.

Daniel's mother did not say anything, but she found it to be a shame. The marriage with the Mendezes was ruined just like that, and it seemed that there was no hope with the Longs as well.

Since Naya was sentenced to prison, Naya's mother had been rushing about at Mendez Group's legal team and major law firms all day long. She was looking for a better lawyer to help Naya make her appeal.

She found a lawyer in the end, but the appeal was still dismissed.

Naya was charged with multiple crimes, and all of them were related to human life. Hence, there was no chance for her to appeal at all.

When Naya's mother heard the result, her heart sank almost instantly. She only had one daughter and that was Naya. She had always protected Naya and spoiled her since she was a child. She was never willing to scold Naya, but now, Naya had ended up like this. Naya's mother could not accept it.

On the other hand, Raegan thought Naya got the punishment she deserved. What she wanted the most was to not have Naya bother Ava anymore. Of course, Ava felt the same. After Naya was punished by the law, she also felt much more carefree and relaxed. In addition, Dan, who had amnesia, still cared so much about her. Now, she was very energetic even at work. Now that she was free from worries, she felt much more carefree and relaxed even when working.

Ava completed a designing task in just five days when it would have usually taken her a week.

When she was about to get off work, Ava called Madeline and was about to go to Old Whitman Manor for dinner. However, as soon as Ava stepped out of the door, a basin of ice-cold water was suddenly splashed on her face.

Ava stopped abruptly. When she was clueless about what was going on, she saw someone throwing something at her out of the corners of her eyes.

"Watch out!"

At that critical moment, Tom appeared from behind Ava in time. He quickly grabbed Ava's shoulders and pulled her to the side.



Only after Ava stood firm did she realize that the person who splashed water on her just now was Naya's mother.

"You b\*tch! Ava, you b\*tch!" Naya's mother pointed at Ava and cursed at her. Since it was time to get off work, many people were walking through the door, hence Ava naturally became the focus of many employees.

Upon seeing Ava's wet body, many people started to talk among themselves. They had seen the horrible news about Naya, but they did not know that the person scolding Ava right now was Naya's mother. It was inevitable that they would start to whisper among themselves. They thought that Ava had done something shameful, so that person came here to teach her a lesson.

Ava heard Naya's mother's insults toward her, but she still calmly raised her hand to wipe the water from her face.

"Mrs. Mendez, I'm in a good mood today. I won't split hairs with you about your tantrum today, but if you continue to spoil my good mood, I can send you to see your precious daughter in prison."

"You... B\*tch!" Naya's mother's eyes were bloodshot with anger. "Ava, you'd better sleep with one eye open. You caused my precious daughter to spend nearly the rest of her life in prison. I won't let you have a day of peace!"

Naya's mother angrily pointed at Ava after scolding her, then turned around to leave.

"Stop right there." Tom stopped Naya's mother.

"Madam, are you thinking of leaving without a single word of apology after you made such a fuss in my company and bullied my employee?"

Naya's mother laughed out loud when she heard what Tom said.

"Tom, don't talk to me like that. Your family and my family are friends. I didn't settle the score with you for your sister joining forces with this b\*tch to screw up Naya's engagement party the last time. Now, you're defending this woman as well?"

Naya's mother said and suddenly looked at Ava with a very contemptuous look.

"What an amazing two-sided b\*tch. You're so amazing at seducing others. You seduced my daughter's fiance and you're also so close to the president of Lowe Group. Ava, I really underestimated you!"

Naya's mother was very harsh with her words, and the employees on the side finally knew who the rude lady who was swearing and targeting Ava was.

It was Naya's mother.

Naya had been very popular on the internet recently. She was the daughter of a wealthy family but had committed several serious criminal cases. She was sentenced to prison. It could be said that she was a lost cause. Plus, the reason why Naya ended like this was rumored to be related to Ava. However, at the end of the day, it was Naya who pushed herself to ruin.

Ava was not the one to blame.

As they thought about this, everyone felt that Naya's mother was too much while Ava was very unlucky. After the daughter stopped pestering her, the mother came to take over. However, Ava was not at all angry in the face of Naya's mother's aggressive and insulting words.

She just laughed, raised her hand, and brushed the wet hair on her forehead.

"Yeah, Mrs. Mendez, you're right. I'm indeed so popular with men. Your daughter will never be able to compete with me in this aspect."

"You!"

"The man that your precious daughter has been pursuing for more than ten years and the man that she has been racking her brains to get her hands on doesn't care about her at all. In the end, not only did she fail to get the man, but she even ended up behind bars. How ridiculous and pitiful."

"But, those who are pitiful must have a reason for their falling to this state. Naya deserves it, and she doesn't deserve anyone's sympathy at all."

Naya's mother wanted to embarrass Ava, but unexpectedly, she made herself and Naya into a joke. She was enraged, and when she was utterly discomfited, Naya's mother reached out and snatched the milk tea in the

hand of an employee who was standing at the side. She splashed it on Ava. However, this time, Ava was quick to react. She decisively stretched out her hand and grabbed the wrist of Naya's mother. Before Naya's mother could react, Ava snatched the cup and splashed it on Naya's mother when she least expected it.

"Ah!" Naya's mother screamed.

When she finally came back to her senses, her body was covered with brown stains from the milk tea. Naya's mother widened her eyes in astonishment. She flew into a rage out of humiliation when she looked at her dirty body.

"You!"

"It's enough for the same bad thing to happen once. Do you really think I'm weak?" Ava interrupted Naya's mother coldly, her eyes becoming extremely cold at this moment.

"If it isn't because I'm rushing to meet my friends for dinner, I would've chosen to call the police and let them deal with you. But I'm in a hurry and don't want to waste time with you. Mrs. Mendez, you're an adult and should know what's right and what's wrong. Don't repeat your precious daughter's mistakes."

After Ava's solemn reminder, she turned her head to look at Tom apologetically. "I'm sorry, Mr. Lowe. Due to my personal affairs, I got you involved too. I'm really sorry."

"You're too polite. You're an employee of my company, and someone is here to make trouble. It's only right that I help you." Tom's attitude was very serious.

As he said that, he raised his dark eyes and looked at his employees.

"Go home now so that you won't get hurt all because you chose to be nosy." Tom glanced at Naya's mother when he said this.

Everyone understood what Tom meant, and they did think that Naya's mother could be dangerous. They did not want the same thing to happen to them as that employee who had their milk tea snatched. The employees left one after another.

When Naya's mother saw that there were no passersby to incite and knew that it would be unfavorable for her to continue to deal with Ava, she left angrily after saying some harsh words.

Ava did not want to stay too long either. She sent a message back to Madeline and was about to leave when Torn held her back.

"You're soaked all over. Why don't you change your clothes before leaving? It's still raining outside. You'll catch a cold if you go out like this."

"Thank you for your concern, Mr. Lowe. My friend is waiting for me downstairs."

Tom nodded to show his understanding. Before Ava left, he decisively took off his suit jacket and put it on Ava.

Ava was stunned for a moment. When she was about to reject, Torn smiled and said, "Please don't mind this, and don't overthink it either. The most important thing right now is to stop yourself from catching a cold. Your friend is still waiting for you downstairs, so you should go down first. Don't make your friend wait too long."

Now that Tom had said so, it was not easy for Ava to reject him.

"Thank you, Mr. Lowe. I'll return this to you in two days."

"No rush. I'm not in a hurry to wear this."

"Okay." Ava did not say much before going to the elevator to head down immediately.

Daniel, who was looking for Ava, had just entered the door when he saw Ava coming out of the elevator. He raised a smile and walked over to Ava. Unexpectedly, he saw that Ava was wearing a man's suit jacket. Daniel was stunned for a moment. He slowly stopped, not knowing whether to advance or retreat. A very strange feeling appeared in his heart.

At this time, Ava also spotted Daniel. She never thought that Daniel would come to the company to find her.

"Danny." Ava happily ran in front of Daniel. "Danny, why are you here? Are you here to look for me?"

A smile quickly returned to Daniel's face. "I heard that you work here and it's raining today, so I came to pick you up from work."

Daniel's answer warmed Ava's heart. She originally planned to go to Madeline's place tonight. She had just given Tom an excuse earlier when she said she had a friend waiting for her downstairs. Since Daniel was here for her, Ava was more willing to hang out with Daniel.

Ava was happily thinking to herself when she suddenly noticed Daniel's eyes hovering over her upper body.

She lowered her eyes to look at the suit jacket on her body and realized something. Without hesitation, Ava took off the jacket over her body.

Only then did Daniel realize that Ava's upper body was wet. "Why are you wet?"

Ava was stunned for a moment. Then, she explained, "A colleague accidentally spilled water on me just now. Another colleague didn't want me to catch a cold, so he lent me his jacket."

Ava lied a little as she did not want Daniel to worry about her just because of Naya's mother. She also did not want Daniel to misunderstand anything.

Daniel did not doubt what Ava said. He just saw that most of Ava's upper body was wet and figured that this could not have been done with just a glass of water. However, Daniel did not ask any questions.

In the car.

Daniel took a clean towel and handed it to Ava. Before he could speak, he heard Ava sneeze. He frowned worriedly. "I'll take you home to change first. Otherwise, I'm afraid you'll really catch a cold."

Ava was happy that Daniel cared about her so much. She smiled and nodded. "Okay."

Seeing the smile on Ava's face, Daniel immediately felt very happy.

When the car stopped, Ava was surprised. It was because this was the apartment she rented. Daniel should not remember that she stayed here if he lost his memory, so why did he park the car here?

When Daniel was about to get out of the car, he was curious when he saw Ava looking at him like she was lost.

"What's wrong?"

Ava hurriedly turned around and asked, "Danny, why did you drive your car here? Did you remember something?"

After hearing Ava's question, Daniel looked at the apartment building in front of him in a trance. "Yeah, why did I drive my car here? Where is this place?"

"I'm renting a unit in this apartment building. You used to send me back here often."

Daniel nodded as if he had just realized something. "Perhaps my feelings guided me here."

'Feelings?'

Ava shuddered. "Danny, is this a sign that you're going to recover your memories?"

Daniel stayed silent for a few seconds. "Perhaps. It's possible."

"It'll be amazing if it is." Ava was delighted.

She wanted to contact Neil so that he could take a look at Daniel. However, she was worried that she would mess up Daniel's natural recovery with her anxiety. After pondering for a while, Ava figured that she would not go see Neil for the time being. However, Neil and Raegan wanted so badly to see Ava. After Naya had been sentenced, they had never seen Ava again.

Aside from working, Ava would go to see Madeline after getting off work. It had been a long time since she went to the apartment Raegan gave her.

Neil and Tom were friends, so he could get some information about Ava. He had just ended the phone call with Tom and learned that Naya's mother had gone to cause trouble for Ava. Therefore, Neil was furious.

After Raegan learned about this situation, she came to the Mendez family's house without further ado.

Naya's mother was so aggrieved when she was at Ava's company and was now annoyed with nowhere to vent her anger. Then, she heard from the maid that a woman named Raegan was here to see her. Hence, she changed her clothes and came downstairs in a rage.

"Hmph." Naya's mother sneered and put on an arrogant posture. "You came just in time. I was about to go look for you."

Raegan looked at Naya's mother's arrogant attitude, and at the moment, she was extraordinarily calm. Compared to Naya's mother who was trying to hold herself back from flying into a rage, Raegan just smiled slightly.

"Oh? Why did you want to see me, Mrs. Mendez?"

"Of course, it's because I want to question how you're educating your daughter. She's an uncultured woman who will only harm society if she's allowed to run free."

After listening to the accusation, Raegan still kept a calm and shallow smile. "Mrs. Mendez, you're so ridiculous. Who's the uncultured one here? You should be very clear in your heart who's the one who indulged an uncultured woman to kill, kidnap, and deceive, causing her to finally be sent to prison."

"You..."

"But speaking of it, the uncultured woman who was sentenced to prison isn't the most hateful. The most hateful one is the person who gave birth to her. That person only gave that uncultured woman life but didn't educate her to be a decent human being. No wonder her daughter became so messed up and walked the wrong path." Raegan retorted back mercilessly.

Naya's mother was so embarrassed that her face turned ashen.

"Mrs. Xander, don't cross the line. Do you think you're all that because you're rich? Our family is not short of money, so we don't need to do things according to your wishes."

"No one is asking you to do that. Mrs. Mendez, I'm here just to tell you the truth. There's a limit to how much a mother can spoil a child."

"Hmph, how funny. I heard that your daughter was abandoned by you when she was a child. What qualifications do you have to educate me?"

Naya's mother sneered and said sarcastically. Then, she turned around and sat down on the sofa leisurely. "I finally understand. It turns out that the reason why Ava is so lacking and insisted on competing with my daughter for a man is that she had no parents since she was a child. No one taught her how to be a decent human being, so that's why she's so cheap now."

"Shut the hell up!" Raegan was usually calm, but at this moment, she could not bear it anymore.

"Like mother, like daughter!"

"W-What do you mean by that?" Naya's mother abruptly stood up, flying into a rage out of humiliation.

Raegan did not hold herself back at this moment, lecturing Naya's mother severely, "I regret leaving my daughter when she was young, and I regret not giving her a good study environment and the warmth of a family. However, even though she grew up in such a horrendous environment, she's able to distinguish right from wrong. She has always had values, but on the contrary, what about you and your daughter?"

"Naya's a princess who grew up sheltered but she's as evil as the snakes and scorpions that hide in the dark. She can do anything to reach her goals. The reason why Naya ended up like this is because of her mother who doesn't know right from wrong!"

Naya's mother was so mad that she wanted to take the glass of water that the maid just brought over and splash it on Raegan.

Raegan saw through her ideas at once. Hence, she picked up the glass one step ahead of Naya's mother and splashed the water on her face.

"Ah!" Naya's mother screamed, and the servants next to her were also startled.

"Raegan, you..."



"Don't think that my daughter is really an orphan. I'm not reminding you, I'm warning you! If you dare to cause trouble again, I promise that Mendez Group will disappear from the business world forever!"

After Raegan gave Naya's mother a resonating warning, she turned and walked away.

Naya's mother stomped her feet in anger before quickly running after Raegan and cursing at her back while pointing. However, Raegan turned a deaf ear to those words. She then got into her car and left.

Naya's mother was still annoyed but it was useless.

How could she endure this grievance?

When she was thinking that she had to fightback, she suddenly received a call from her husband. Naya's mother picked up the call and wanted to complain to Ethan, but then she heard a terrifying piece of news.

Naya's mother could barely hold her phone.

She calmed herself down and asked incredulously, "Are you telling the truth? Are you really?"

After Naya's mother asked more questions, she finally got an answer. She could barely stand still. She leaned back on the sofa while feeling dizzy.

"I want to see Naya! I want to see Naya now!"

After his wife's strong demands, Ethan finally managed to get them the chance to see Naya through his connections.

It was almost the 20th day of Naya's imprisonment. Naya's mother did not expect to visit Naya like this. Naya was currently in the detention ward in prison. As soon as Naya's mother saw Naya, she wanted to rush over, but the guards stopped her and reminded her.

"The two of you only have ten minutes. Don't talk loudly. If there's any violation of the rules, I'll ask you to leave immediately."

Naya's mother did not listen to what the man said. She just looked at Naya and nodded casually. Ethan nodded his head seriously. Then, the man went to the door to keep watch.

Naya's mother ran to Naya's side immediately when she saw that the man was gone.

"Naya!" Naya's mother's eyes were full of distress. "Naya, Why are you so stupid? You're not the one who's at fault, so why are you hurting yourself?"

Even though Ethan knew that Naya was in the wrong this time, she was still his biological daughter. He was heartbroken when he looked at Naya's pale and haggard face.

"Naya, no matter what, you can't do anything to hurt yourself."

"Heh." Naya sneered and glanced at the masterpiece on her wrist. "Do you think I could've gotten to see you if I hadn't done this?"

Hearing this, Ethan and his wife looked at each other. Then, they turned their eyes back to Naya at the same time. "Naya, y-you mean you cut your wrist on purpose just to see me and your father?"

Naya did not want to waste her breath explaining. She frowned slightly due to the pain. After all, the cut on her wrist was real. If it was slightly deeper, she would have already gone to the afterlife.

"Naya, we don't have much time to talk. Tell us, why do you want to see me and your mother in such a hurry? As long as it's within our power, we'll do it for you." Ethan promised Naya.

Naya sat up slowly. "Okay, since that's the case, then I won't waste time. I want you to help me get rid of Ava."

Ethan and his wife were stunned for a while. Then, Ethan quickly recovered and persuaded her, saying, "Naya, you've already gone down this road of no return. Don't you feel any remorse?"

"Remorse?" Naya was amused. "Why should I? I don't understand how I'm at fault. You taught me since I was a child that no matter what I do, I must have perseverance. I must persist in doing something and can't give up halfway, so I'm now determined on doing what I want to do. Am I wrong? The person who's at fault is that b\*tch Ava!"

"Right, you're right. That b\*tch Ava is the one at fault. Naya, you're not at fault." Naya's mother hurriedly comforted her and gave Ethan a look. "It's

hard for us to get to meet Naya, so can't you just go along with your daughter? What's more, the reason why Naya ended up where she is now is because of Ava."

Ethan had a headache after hearing this, but he could only be silent now.

When Naya saw that her father was silent and not speaking, her face darkened in dissatisfaction. "Why are you still not siding with me at this time? What have you worked so hard for most of your life for? Is it to let an outsider bully your daughter whom you have cherished since she was young?"

"Naya, calm down. Take care of your body. Don't get angry with your father. You should know in your heart how much your father loves you."

Naya's mother raised her hand and patted Naya's shoulder to reassure her. She wanted to hold Naya's hand, but when she saw the handcuffs on Naya's other wrist, she was on the verge of an emotional breakdown. A spark of hatred also started burning within her.

"Naya, tell me. What do you want us to do? Even if your dad refuses to do it, I'll do it for you no matter what! I've disliked Ava for a very long time. She's hurt you to this point. I'll make her life a living hell."

When she heard what her mother said, a sinister smile immediately appeared on Naya's face. She looked at her mother with fierce eyes. She did not look like a patient who was injured and in need of recuperation at all.

"I want Ava to die!"

Naya spat out these five words from her mouth.

Naya's mother was stunned, while Ethan could not believe that the daughter he had raised since birth was such a ruthless person. However, the facts told him that the princess he cherished was more vicious than he imagined.

After leaving the detention ward, Ethan felt very uneasy. When he turned his head and saw his wife thinking about something, he quickly advised. "You must not listen to Naya."

His wife pondered for a while before speaking leisurely.

“Actually, from the moment Naya was sentenced to prison, I had thought about avenging my precious daughter. Ava caused our daughter to suffer so much by relying on the fact that Daniel likes her. And I hate her opinionated mother. I get angry the moment I look at her. I can’t suffer this grievance in silence after being bullied by that pair of mother and daughter.”

Ethan felt uneasy when he heard that. “Listen to what you’re saying. Are you about to do something stupid? Do you want to spend the rest of your life in jail just like our daughter?”

“Don’t worry, I won’t.” Naya’s mother reassured him, but she had already made up her mind.

She would not just let this matter end like this.

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Ava went back to work as normal at her company. Nothing else happened since Naya’s mother came to make trouble that day. At first, Ava decided to temporarily stay in Old Whitman Manor so that at least she would have Madeline to take care of her. However, since Daniel started to come and pick her up from work every day, Ava went back to her apartment. Although Daniel’s memory had not recovered, he and Ava did not feel uncomfortable or awkward when they were interacting with each other.

This made Ava abnormally happy. To her, the person Daniel cared the most about in his heart was still her. It did not matter whether he had lost his memories or if they had to start over.

Friday evening, Ava finished her work as normal. When she was about to go home, she ran into Tom who was about to leave too. Tom politely offered to drive her back but Ava rejected him decisively.

After she went downstairs alone using the elevator, she went to the place where Daniel would usually wait for her. However, Daniel did not show up today.

When she did not see Daniel, Ava’s heart skipped a beat. She felt uneasy for some reason. Recalling the previous car accident, Ava immediately took out

her phone to call Daniel. She held the phone as her hand trembled uncontrollably.

'Please, don't let Dan be in trouble.' Ava prayed silently in her heart, but she could not get through to Daniel's phone.

This uneasy feeling caused Ava's heart to completely lose its normal rhythm. She wanted to find Daniel but did not know where to look.

Suddenly, familiar footsteps approached from behind her. Ava turned around abruptly. "Dan... Mr. Lowe."

When she saw Tom, Ava's expectations were also completely shattered.

Yet, Tom still gave Ava a friendly smile. "I saw from the lobby that you've been standing here alone for a long time. You seem to be very distressed. Is there anything I can help you with?"

Ava was stunned and shook her head. "No, I'm waiting for my friend, but he doesn't seem to be here yet. I can't get through to him either."

When Tom found out what was going on, he nodded. "If you're worried, I can take you to find your friend."

"It's alright." Ava decisively refused and turned her head to look around. "I think he should be on the way, so it'll be better for me to wait for him here."

Ava was very insistent, so Tom did not say anything. However, when he was about to turn around, he seemed to have seen an acquaintance. A smile appeared on his face as he greeted the person.

"Mr. Long, what a coincidence..."

'Mr. Long?' Ava immediately knew who it was.

"It's not a coincidence. I came to look for you." Neil's voice approached closer, and Ava turned her back to Neil.

When she was about to avoid him, Neil spotted her. "Ava?"

Ava paused, not knowing whether she should continue to wait or not. At this time, Ava desperately wanted Daniel to appear. That way she could be sure that he was safe and he could get her out of this situation.

Just when she was thinking about it, Ava's phone suddenly rang.

She looked at it immediately. Unexpectedly, it was really Daniel. Daniel said there was some traffic on the road and since there was no signal, he was not able to answer Ava's call in time or reply to her messages.

When Ava saw Daniel's reply, she immediately calmed down.

"Ava, it's been a long time since I saw you. Considering it's such a coincidence, I wonder if I can invite you to have dinner with me?" Neil walked in front of Ava and cautiously invited her.

Ava was in a good mood after seeing Daniel's reply. Hence, she blurted out, "Okay."

"That's great!" Neil was overjoyed. He did not think that Ava would agree so quickly.

Ava finally realized that she had agreed too quickly. At that moment, she held her phone, not knowing what to say.

Tom seemed to be able to tell Ava's uneasiness. He smiled and asked, "Ava, didn't you say you were waiting for someone just now?"

Ava and Tom looked at each other. Ava seemed to understand that he was trying to get her a way out of this situation. She nodded and wanted to reject Neil, but she heard Neil say regretfully, "Really? You have an appointment with a friend, Ava? That's a pity. Today is your mother's birthday. Our family has finally reunited. I think your mother also hopes that we can sit down and have dinner together again."

Upon hearing these words, Ava's words of rejection were stuck in her throat. She was unable to speak for a while.

"Ava, if you can..." Neil sounded to be pleading with her, but in the middle of the sentence, he suddenly smiled with ease. "Since you have a prior appointment, it's better not to miss it. It's fine for your mother and me to spend it together."

"You can bring me along too if you don't mind." Tom smiled. It seemed as if he was joking.

Neil warmly invited, "If you don't mind, we can add an extra seat for you, Mr. Lowe."

Tom smiled when he heard that. "Let's go, then. My car is parked on the side of the road."

"You don't need to drive. It's just that apartment behind, so it's only a few minutes walk. Rae bought the ingredients for the meal, and I happen to have something to talk to you about, Mr. Lowe. Let's talk while we eat."

After Neil finished speaking, he smiled lovingly at Ava. "Ava, do you want to ask if your friend is here? I'll leave when you meet your friend." Neil seemed worried.

Ava suddenly felt uncomfortable when she looked at Neil's amiable smile. Although she had said a lot of decisive words, she was a little shaken when she heard Neil talking about family.

In a daze, Ava heard a beep on the phone. Daniel had sent another message to her.

[Ava, there's a sudden emergency at my house and I have to go back immediately. I can't pick you up right now, I'm sorry.]

Ava's heart sank slightly when she saw the words displayed on the screen. Even so, she was understanding. She replied to Daniel and asked him to go home quickly to deal with the matter. They still had a lot of time and opportunities to meet.

After replying to the text, Ava looked up at Neil. "My friend can't come because of some matters. I have to go back now. I hope you'll have a happy meal and a pleasant chat."

After she finished speaking, she turned around decisively for fear that if she slowed down, the indifferent mask on her face would fall. However, before she could walk far, Tom's voice came from behind her.

"Ava, if your friend isn't coming, it means that your plans have been canceled. In this case, let's go to your mother's birthday party with Mr. Long."

Neil's eyes suddenly glowed when he heard this. "Ava, what do you think?"

She knew that Neil was desperate, and she did have the idea of turning around. It seemed that it was not easy for her to get out of this.

"Alright, let's go together." Tom walked directly in front of Ava, his smiling eyes looking extraordinarily gentle. "Treat this as showing consideration for your boss and eating with him."

Was Tom finding a way to let her get out of this difficult situation? She did not want to reject it because it would make her look unreasonable. Hence, she nodded and agreed.

Neil was overjoyed. However, he suppressed his emotions. He was worried that he would scare his daughter away if he was too excited.

Ten minutes later, Ava and the rest arrived at the apartment. After they rang the doorbell, Raegan came to open the door. When she saw Tom, she was pretty surprised. She politely invited Tom into the house to have a seat.

Suddenly, Neil kept her on tenterhooks. "Rae, I have an unexpected surprise for you here. Come out and see who it is."

Raegan started to have some expectations in her heart after seeing how Neil was behaving. She took two steps to the door, and her expression froze.

"A-Ava?" Raegan looked at Ava who was standing in front of her in disbelief.

Ava pulled the corners of her lips into a smile. "This is for you. Happy birthday."

She handed Raegan a bouquet of carnations in her hands. Raegan was taken aback and felt tears prickling the corners of her eyes. This scene was something she had never dared to imagine.

When Neil saw that Raegan was on the verge of tears, he quickly broke the silence. "What delicious food are you cooking? I can smell it from here."

Upon hearing this, Raegan understood what Neil was saying immediately. She quickly recomposed herself and invited Ava inside.



"Ava, come in quickly. You don't need to be humble. This is your home, so you can come back whenever you want. The door of this home is always open to you."

Raegan held the bouquet with a smile on her face and invited Tom inside too. "Mr. Lowe, please come in quickly. I hope you won't mind me not attending to you well."

"You're being too courteous. It's your birthday today, so you don't have to attend to me." Tom then gave Raegan his blessings. "I don't have any present for you except for this cake. Happy birthday, Ms. Xander. I hope you have a happy family reunion."

"Thank you for your blessing, Mr. Lowe."

The smile on Raegan's face could not be concealed at all at this moment. She never thought that Ava would bring a bunch of flowers to celebrate her birthday.

After entering the house, Raegan happily found a vase and trimmed the stem of each flower with great care. She then put them in the vase. She placed the vase on the dining table as a decoration.

Ava saw Raegan's series of actions. She could feel how happy Raegan was at this moment. Perhaps to Raegan, this was the family reunion and domestic bliss that she had longed for in so many years.

As she watched Raegan go back to the kitchen to cook, Ava thought for a while. Eventually, she got up to go into the kitchen to help Raegan wash the vegetables.

Raegan could not believe this. She wanted Ava to rest and sit, but at the same time, she desperately wanted to spend more time with Ava.

In the living room.

Neil and Tom watched the scene in the kitchen. Both of them had happy smiles on their faces.

"Tom, thank you so much for being willing to cooperate with me to put on this act. Otherwise, I really wouldn't know what reason I could use to go to

your company to look for Ava and pretend to meet her by accident." Neil sincerely thanked Tom.

Tom smiled slightly. "Actually, I didn't help much either. At the end of the day, it's up to Ava whether she wants to come here or not. However, it's clear that she's willing to come over to celebrate Ms. Xander's birthday. I think Ava must also long for a family reunion."

Neil nodded in agreement, feeling extremely relieved and full of expectations.

"I sincerely hope this child can heal soon.

"Perhaps telling Ava about Ms. Xander's situation back then can speed up the process," Tom suggested.

Neil seemed to have fallen into deep hesitation as he looked at the warm scene in the kitchen.

After a short wait, a table of sumptuous food was ready.

Neil and Tom came to the dining room and sat down. Neil put a candle on Raegan's cake. After they turned off the lights, the fire on the candle illuminated the entire dining room. The soft candlelight that was swaying gently was like Ava's emotions right now, uneasy and anxious.

Raegan closed her eyes and made a wish in front of this swaying candlelight before blowing it out.

"What did you wish for?" Neil asked jokingly.

Raegan just glanced at Ava with a gentle and loving smile. "It won't come true if I tell you, and I think my wish will come true soon."

Neil understood what Raegan meant, and so did Ava and Tom. Everyone was tacitly aware of this.

"Let's eat. Try the food and see if it's delicious. Ava made these two dishes, so please give her some feedback." Raegan smiled to adjust the atmosphere.

Neil and Tom also cooperatively lifted their forks to try the two dishes made by Ava. After chewing, they gave unanimous comments.

"Ava, not only are your designs great, but the food you cook is also amazing. The taste of these buttered prawns is great," Tom praised without holding himself back.

Neil nodded in agreement, a proud smile on his handsome face.

"Of course, my daughter excels in whatever she does."

After he said that, Neil felt that he might have said something wrong. He glanced at Ava nervously and saw that Ava's expression did not change at all. She was just drinking Coke and eating the vegetables in a very calm manner. Neil was relieved.

To Raegan, this seemed to be a sign that Ava was gradually accepting them.

After the meal, Raegan shared the cut birthday cake with Ava, Neil, and Tom. The four were sitting in the living room while eating the cake, but the atmosphere seemed to fall into silence again.

"Tom, could you please do me a favor and take a photo for us?" Neil asked.

Tom agreed immediately, took out his phone, and was ready to take photos of them.

Raegan glanced at Neil a little nervously, then asked Ava, "Ava, do you think it's okay?"

Ava gently put down the plate in her hand and nodded. "Of course."

Raegan and Neil were overjoyed by Ava's quick answer. Tom also quickly took a few satisfactory photos of their family of three. In the end, Tom turned on the self-timer and took a photo of the four of them after standing beside the family of three.

Tom sent the photos to Ava, and when Ava looked at the photos, the rhythm of her heartbeat changed subtly.

'Mom and Dad...'

She had parents. And... She also had a home.

It was just that this comfort and warmth had been delayed for a long time, and because of their abandonment back then, she was left alone in the rain

for so long. It had been so many years and her heart had become cold. It was difficult to warm it up again.

As it was late at night, Tom offered to send Ava back to her apartment. Neil and Raegan were worried about Ava going back alone as well, so they asked Tom to send Ava back. Ava did not reject. She got into Tom's car and went back to her apartment.

She wanted to go in by herself after she got out of the car, but Tom insisted on sending her upstairs. It was because what had happened back then almost threatened Ava's safety, so Tom was very cautious this time. Plus, Naya's mother had just caused trouble for Ava not long ago. He could not be sure whether she would come and make a fuss again.

Ava also felt that it was reasonable for Tom to have these worries. Even so, she felt that Naya's mother would not be as cruel as Naya. However, when she walked to the door of the apartment building, Ava suddenly felt that she might have underestimated Naya's mother.

Naya's mother might be even crazier than Naya.

Ava looked in surprise at Naya's mother, Esther.

She was standing at the door of her apartment. It was hard to imagine how long Esther had been waiting here. When Esther saw Ava and Tom walking together, she immediately let out a sarcastic chuckle. "Tsk tsk, Ava. I really underestimated you. No, everyone has underestimated you."

Ava smiled when she heard that. "Oh, really? Mrs. Mendez, you might as well be direct and just say what you want to say."

Esther was extremely pissed when she saw Ava's arrogant attitude, but she still pretended to be calm and sneered.

"Because of your slander, my daughter was accused to be a ruthless vixen who tried to destroy other people's relationships. Everyone thinks that Naya is an unruly person, but Ava, what qualifications do you have to slander my daughter like that? You hooked up with Daniel and now you're with Tom, so why are you still pretending to be innocent?"

"Mrs. Mendez, I won't split hairs with you for the sake of our families' relationship. But don't slander my relationship with Ava. I only sent her

home because it's on the way back to my place," Tom emphasized with a serious look on his face.

Of course, Esther did not believe it. "The boss deliberately sending an employee home in the middle of the night? I won't believe it even if you say there's nothing going on between you two."

"Yeah, so what if my boss sent me home? What does it have to do with me whether you believe it or not? I advise you not to come to my apartment to trouble me again. The next time I see you, I'll definitely call the police."

Ava's warned sternly before turning to give Tom a friendly smile.

"Mr. Lowe, thank you very much for today, and thank you for sending me back. See you next week." After Ava thanked Tom politely, she went straight to the door of the apartment and pushed Esther, who was blocking the door, away.

"Don't stand in front of my food. If you have time to do these meaningless things, it's better to request for a few more visits to the prison and enlighten your precious daughter who's filled with distorted thoughts and wrong world views."

After Ava said that, she quickly opened the door and got inside the house.

Esther looked at the tightly closed door and glared at it angrily. Then, she heard footsteps behind her. She quickly turned her head to look. When she saw Tom leaving as well, she quickly chased after him.

"Tom, stop right there!"

Tom did not want to pay attention to Esther, but Esther ran directly in front of him and blocked his way.

Tom was a gentleman, but he was also a gentleman with a temper. Facing Esther, who was so uncivilized, annoying, and rude, he did not want to be polite with her at all.

"Mrs. Mendez, what Ava just said isn't wrong. If you have spare time, why don't you go back and reflect on why your precious daughter ended up like this? Ask yourself whether Ava is really the reason why Naya ended up like this. Ava is just a lucky victim."

"Victim? Did you seriously just call that b\*tch a victim?" Esther pointed at the door of Ava's apartment and glared fiercely.

"Tom, your sister and my daughter used to be good friends. After Ava appeared, not only did she ruin the friendship between your sister and my daughter, but she also made you side with her now. Heh, she's really something else."

Tom could tell what Esther wanted to express and frowned slightly. "Yes, my sister and I both like Ava. We're all adults and have our own judgments and opinions. We all know who's worthy of our friendship and who isn't."

"Tom, did you just admit that you like that b\*tch?"

"Please show some respect. She has a name, and it's Ava," Tom emphasized, feeling displeased.

He did not bother to waste his breath on Esther anymore and immediately started to leave.

Esther stared grimly at Tom's back. A weird sneer appeared on the corner of her mouth.

After Ava entered her house, she quickly took a shower and got under the covers. She habitually sent a message to Daniel, and while waiting, she saw that Tom had sent her a message.

Tom was worried that Ava would be afraid after Esther's sudden appearance just now, so he checked in on her.

Ava felt warm and texted Tom back. However, when she was on the chat interface, Ava saw the photo that Tom sent to her not long ago. That could be regarded as a family photo.

Ava quietly stared at Raegan and Neil in the photo. Their eyes were filled with so much unconcealable joy. It was the joy of losing something and then regaining it. This might be the family photo they had been looking forward to for a long time.

'If you were so reluctant to part with me, why did you abandon me so ruthlessly back then?' Ava asked herself incomprehensibly, but she could not find the answer.

She looked at the photos sadly and finally saw the two photos with Tom in them.

"Mr. Lowe is in these photos, but it feels strange for some reason," Ava said to herself.

However, on second thought, Tom and Neil were friends. There was nothing wrong with taking a birthday photo with a friend's family. Ava smiled, then suddenly remembered that Daniel had not texted her back yet. She felt a little worried for some reason and wanted to call Daniel to ask him what he was doing.

Coincidentally, Daniel texted back.

Daniel: [I'm sorry, Ava. I've been busy and only had time now. You should rest early. I'm going to take a shower and sleep too.]

Ava felt inexplicably down as she looked at the text from Daniel on the screen. Maybe it was because Daniel had been calling her by her name so coldly. However, what could she do?

He had lost his memories and could not remember a lot of things. Despite that, he still cared about her, right?

"Huff..." Ava took a deep breath and smiled. After she sent a goodnight text to Daniel, she pulled the blanket over her and fell asleep peacefully.

After she rested for two days, Ava went to work as usual. However, the moment she got to the building of her company, she noticed that everyone around her was looking at her strangely.

When she got into the elevator, there were a lot of employees since it was working hours. Ava could clearly sense the people around talking about her. Ava was curious but had no idea what happened.

When she wanted to know what was going on, a voice from a video suddenly played in the silent and dull elevator. Then, someone let out a surprised gasp.

"Wow, isn't that Mr. Lowe? Does he like Ava? The same Ava who had a court case with Naya back then? I heard her mother's a very rich woman in

some country, right? Wow, Mr. Lowe likes her? Wait, doesn't Ava have a boyfriend?"

After hearing this, Ava immediately knew why other people were looking at her like that. It turned out that someone had spread rumors about her relationship with Tom and posted them on the internet so that people would criticize them. Moreover, Ava did not need to think to know who did this.

"Shh, stop talking. She's right here." It was unknown who said that, and the employee who was exclaiming just now stopped talking immediately.

Ava felt uneasy for a while, but she did not bother to explain too much. How many people would be willing to believe her in this situation?

Ava's phone rang while she was thinking about this. She glanced at it and found that it was Maisie. Just then, the elevator reached her floor. She did not answer and just got out of the elevator straightaway. She felt that as soon as she stepped out of the elevator, the people in the elevator would begin to discuss her impatiently.

Ava took a deep breath and calmed herself. Then, Maisie called her again.

Ava, who was already approaching the door of the office, suddenly heard a loud noise from the other side of the office. Her intuition told her that something must have happened. Ava immediately quickened her pace, but just as she stepped into the office, a person suddenly appeared at Ava's side.

The man took Ava's arm and pulled her to the side. Ava found this person's aura a little familiar, so she did not resist. After seeing the person clearly, she realized that it was Tom.

"Mr. Lowe? What's going on? Did something happen in the office?"

Tom's expression was a little serious. "I'll take you down using the other elevator first."

Ava glanced in the direction of the office again with some confusion. The doubts in her mind increased. However, she did not hesitate too much right now and just followed Tom down the elevator.



Looking at the missed calls on her phone screen, she probably understood why Maisie was calling her again and again. It was because something did happen in the office.

After coming to the lobby downstairs, Ava once again felt the strange gazes of the employees coming to work.

Now that she had time, she used her phone to search for the gossip going around on the internet. Sure enough, she saw her and Tom's names next to each other on the list of trending searches.

Ava clicked in to take a closer look. Then, she saw that in the short video posted, someone exposed that Tom Lowe, the president of Lowe Group, was dating Ava. That person had even attached several photos of Tom and Ava walking together. The photo that made everyone's imagination run wild was the photo of Tom sending Ava to the door of her apartment.

Ava was unusually calm as she looked at all this. As expected, this was all done by Esther.

The daughter was so insane, and it seemed that the mother was not to be outdone as well. Ava felt that this was very ridiculous.

Tom, who was walking beside Ava, saw her smiling. He was a little puzzled when he saw Ava watching the video that was trending on the internet.

"Are you not angry at all? You can still bring yourself to laugh?"

Ava chuckled after hearing this. "Don't you think it's ridiculous, Mr. Lowe? I thought Naya's behavior was ridiculous, but it turns out that her mother is even more unreasonable."

Tom nodded lightly. "Have you ever thought that Naya is like this because of her mother?"

"I have." Ava pursed her lips and smiled. Then, she suddenly felt apologetic again. "I'm sorry, Mr. Lowe. The person Naya's mother wants to target is me. I didn't expect to get you involved too."

"Don't say that. We have clear a conscience, and we can't predict what the next step will be for those with bad intentions. Just be yourself and protect yourself. That'll be enough."

Tom's answer gave Ava a particularly calm feeling. She indeed had that mindset. She thought that Tom would think that way because he had been in the business world for so long, so he must be used to these boring trifles.

"Mr. Lowe, what happened in the office? It sounded like a lot of people were making noise," Ava asked curiously.

Tom met Ava's confused gaze with gentle eyes. "That woman probably hired someone to come cause trouble for you. I've already asked someone to deal with it." Tom said, his expression gradually became solemn.

"Ava, I think you should be careful these days. I keep feeling that something might be wrong after seeing Naya's mother waiting for you at the door of your apartment that night. Normal people won't do something so strange." Tom reminded her kindly.

Ava also thought that Tom was right "I plan to stay at my friend's house for a while. It's better to have someone looking out for me."

Tom paused slightly. "You mean your boyfriend Daniel's place?"

"No," Ava added. "It's my good friend, Maddie. You know her as well, Mr. Lowe. She's Jeremy's wife Eveline, but I'm used to calling her Maddie."

After hearing this, a happy smile appeared on Tom's face.

"Right, Mr. Lowe. Even though you don't mind the rumors and gossip Naya's mother is spreading online, I think we still need to clarify things. I don't want this to affect the company's reputation."

"Dummy, even if everyone thinks I'm dating you, it won't affect me and the company's reputation. It's my private matter whoever I want to date."

"However, malicious comments have already appeared online. They're calling you a third party who forced your way into my and Danny's relationship." Ava looked serious.

Tom could see Ava's concerns, so he nodded and agreed. "I'll send you back to your friend's place first, then I'll make an announcement to clarify things when I get back."

"You don't have to go through all the trouble, Mr. Lowe. I'll be careful." Ava also did not want to bother Tom to drive her again.

Aside from troubling him, it might also create opportunities for others to gossip. Tom did not force it either. After telling Ava to be careful, he went back to the office to deal with those uninvited guests. After he took care of the matter, he immediately issued an announcement clarifying it, but at this moment, he received a strange call.

It was from an unknown number, but Tom recognized the voice on the other end of the line. It was none other than Esther Mendez, Naya's mother.

Esther smiled coldly. "Tom, I knew you'd definitely clarify it. I was waiting for you to do so. Then, I'll take it upon myself to confirm that you two are an adulterous couple!"

Esther hung up the phone after threatening him.

Ava had just arrived at the lobby of Whitman Corporation by car. When she was about to go in to find Madeline, she saw Madeline coming out of the lobby. On the way here, Ava had told Madeline that she was looking for her. Hence, Ava naturally thought that Madeline was here to pick her up. "Maddie, you're so punctual. I just got here."

However, Madeline walked up to Ava with a worried look. "Ava, have you been able to get into contact with Dan since last night?"

When she heard Madeline asking her this, Ava felt as if her heartstrings had been tugged by something abruptly.

"Maddie, why are you asking that?" Ava was so nervous that she even stuttered a little when she spoke. As she asked, she took out her phone. "I talked with Danny last night. Maddie, look..."

She handed the phone to Madeline nervously.

"He was fine when he was talking to me last night. How could something have happened today?"

Madeline hurriedly calmed Ava's emotions. "Ava, don't be nervous. Let me take a look first."

Madeline took the phone and saw the messages Daniel sent Ava last night.

"Ava, you didn't talk on the phone with him, did you?"

"No." Ava shook her head, looking increasingly nervous and solemn.

"Maddie, what happened? Did something happen to Danny?"

Madeline looked up at Ava's anxious eyes. "Ava, calm down and listen to me. Maybe nothing has happened to Dan, but he's missing."

"What? Missing?" Ava's eyes widened in shock "Missing? How did he go missing all of a sudden? No, no, no, we just talked to each other last night!"

Ava got her phone back and called Daniel right away. However, he did not pick up. Ava called two more times in a row, but still, no one answered. However, after a minute, she got a message.

Daniel: [Ava, I'm busy right now. I'll reply to you later.]

This message was sent in Daniel's name but clearly, this was not Daniel's reply.

"Ava, just reply and say okay," Madeline asked Ava to reply.

Ava was in a mess at the moment. She texted back according to Madeline's order, and the other party did not reply anymore. Ava did not understand what was going on right now. She followed Madeline to the office. As soon as she entered the door, she saw Jeremy talking to someone on the phone. Jeremy's expression looked unusually cold.

Jeremy and Madeline looked at each other. After a while, Jeremy hung up the phone.

"Jeremy, how is it? Any news from Dan?"

Jeremy shook his head slightly. "I've asked Ken to follow up."

"Maddie, Jeremy, can you tell me what exactly happened?"

Ava felt like her heart was going through extreme torment with every passing second.

Madeline did not want to hide it at first, but she was worried that Ava would be restless with worry when she found out.

When he sensed Madeline's dilemma, Jeremy said softly, "Linnie, just tell Ava. She'll find out sooner or later anyway."

Madeline did not hesitate any longer and told Ava what she had just learned in the morning. "Ava, it seems that Dan has been kidnapped."

Ava was stunned when she heard that. She wondered if she had heard it wrong.

'Kidnapped? Danny was kidnapped?'

She and Madeline were just kidnapped a while back, and now, it was Daniel's turn?

Seeing how lost Ava was, Madeline opened a message on her phone to show Ava.

The message was sent by the unknown number displayed on the screen. The person was demanding a ransom of 500 million dollars. Otherwise, they would kill the hostage.

What was even more surprising was that the kidnapper requested Madeline to be the one to deliver the ransom and have Madeline negotiate with them in person.

"Is this true?" Ava looked at the extortion message in disbelief, wondering why the kidnappers asked Madeline for ransom.

"I'm not sure if this is true, but I asked Jeremy to track this number. This is indeed a little fishy."

Madeline's explanation made Ava feel uneasy all of a sudden.

"No, I have to go to Danny's house. I have to check whether Danny is really kidnapped." Ava turned around in a hurry.

"Ava, I'm going with you." Madeline followed behind Ava.

Jeremy chased after them without saying a word. In this current situation, he was really worried about letting Madeline out of his sight. It was weird that this kidnapper came to Madeline to ask for money.

It did not take long for the three of them to arrive at Daniel's house.

Ava got out of the car and rushed toward the gate. Coincidentally, Daniel's mother was hurriedly walking out at the moment.

Upon seeing Ava, Daniel's mother's expression visibly changed.

"Ava, did you ask Dan out? He said yesterday afternoon that he was going to look for you, but he hasn't come back yet," Daniel's mother asked, her tone extremely hostile.

"I wonder what Dan likes about you."

After Daniel's mother said that, she realized that Madeline and Jeremy were also there. Her expression suddenly became very strange.

"What's happening today? Mr. and Mrs. Whitman, you're also here."

"Mrs. Graham, we didn't come to argue with you. We're here to find Dan," Madeline explained directly.

Daniel's mother smiled. "Last night, Dan said he was going out to pick this woman up from work, but Dan didn't come back all night and isn't answering his phone. Now, for whatever reason, you guys are here for Dan. Are you kidding me?"

Seeing how emotional Daniel's mother was, Madeline could already be sure that Daniel was not at home and that something had really happened. When Ava heard what Daniel said, she only felt fear in her heart.

'Who the hell kidnapped Daniel by? Esther?' Esther suddenly appeared in Ava's mind.

She clenched her fists tightly, turned, and ran back.

"Ava, where are you going?"

"I'm going to find that woman and question her! If something has happened to Danny, she must have something to do with it!" Ava said, running down the street to hail a taxi.

Madeline hurriedly asked Jeremy to drive after her. "Ava, get in the car. We'll go wherever you want to go."

After hearing that, Ava got into the car decisively and said, "Let's go to the Mendez family's manor."

"The Mendez Manor?" Madeline gradually understood.

"Do you suspect Dan's disappearance has something to do with Naya's mother?"

"It must be her." Ava was very sure. "After Naya was sentenced to prison, she did a series of extreme things. Apart from her, I can't think of another person who would do such a crazy thing."

"Perhaps. That's a possibility." Suddenly, Jeremy chimed in. "Back then, I heard Naya slit her wrist to kill herself in prison. Then, Naya's father pulled some strings and went to the detention ward to visit Naya with his wife."

Madeline and Ava widened their eyes in surprise. "Naya attempted suicide again?"

Jeremy answered, "She did lose a lot of blood, but I think she just did that to see her parents. Someone so selfish and jealous wouldn't be willing to admit defeat just like that."

Jeremy analyzed.

"She's been arrogant and willful since young. Her mother has spoiled her rotten. Hence, her mother might do some insane things for her inhumane precious daughter. However, I think it's better not to go to her house to look for her right now."

When Ava heard Jeremy's suggestion, she was confused.

"Why can't I go to the Mendez family's manor to look for that maniac? The longer it is, the more danger Danny might be in."

"But if you go to look for her and she did kidnap Daniel, then you'll be inadvertently alerting the enemy. This might result in Daniel being in more danger," Jeremy explained why he was stopping Ava.

"Did Naya's mother really ask someone to do this?" Madeline was still doubtful.

"Naya likes Dan so much, so how could she hurt the man her precious daughter loves?"

"She wants to destroy the thing that she can't have. Someone as selfish as Naya would definitely do something like this." Ava clenched both of her fists tightly.

'Danny, you need to be safe.' Ava prayed silently in her heart.

Even though Jeremy was right, when Ava thought about how Daniel might be in danger right now, her heart could not stop racing. She followed Madeline and Jeremy back to Whitman Corporation, but she still could not calm herself down.

When Madeline and Jeremy were discussing something in their office, Ava snuck out to look for Naya's mother with the excuse of going to the restroom. However, after hearing what Jeremy said, Ava prepared a backup plan for herself. She did not enter the Mendez family's manor straight away. Instead, she got out of the car at a place nearby. After that, she just watched the movements in front of the Mendez family's manor in secret.

As time passed, Madeline realized that Ava had not come back after she went to the restroom. She called Ava but Ava just told her that she was feeling very frustrated right now, so she went out to take a walk by herself. Madeline said she wanted to go with Ava, but after Ava rejected Madeline incoherently, she hung up the phone.

At this moment, Ava saw Esther walking out of the gates. As a lady from a rich family, she would usually have drivers driving her around. However, this time, Esther was calling for a cab at the side of the road.

This looked very fishy.

Ava also called a cab to follow behind Esther.

The car drove southwest and headed into different junctions. Soon, Ava noticed that the cars on the road were getting fewer and fewer.

Ava was worried that Esther would notice her, so she asked the driver to keep a distance from her. After about half an hour, Ava could see the car that Esther was in driving in the opposite direction.

Ava took a look and saw there was no one else in the car apart from the driver.

Ava told the driver to stop and walked forward carefully. She looked ahead, and in front of her were some old houses that were going to be demolished. It seemed that no one was living here anymore.



'Is Dan being locked up here?' Ava thought to herself and moved slowly toward the old buildings.

However, there were so many houses here. Even if Daniel were here, it would be hard for her to find out his exact location. After thinking for a while, she thought of a plan. She picked up a pretty heavy rock and threw it heavily at a wall.

With a thud, it fell down and created a dull sound.

After that, Ava quickly found a concealed place to hide before pricking up her ears to listen to the sounds around her.