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Shandie's back was soaked with sweat by now. "M-Mr. Nightshire..." She could yell at Arielle easily, but she dared not yell at Vinson. Vinson retracted his arm and announced coldly, "I know plenty of people are dying to get my name card, so I've never seen someone discarding my name card like trash. Ms. Southall, do you resent me that much?" Shandie's gaze narrowed in shock. She swallowed hastily and found her voice.

"N-No. It's because Arielle was outrageous. It has nothing to do with you. I..." "Pick up that name card!" Vinson cut in impatiently. Shandie's fists balled up at his order. *Did he just ask me to pick it up? This is so humiliating!* Alas, she didn't have the courage to go against Vinson's orders. With an ugly scowl, she went back to pick up the name card and handed it to Arielle reluctantly as the crowd gave her mocking gazes.

She had just stretched out her hand to give Arielle the name card when Vinson seized it. Confused, she turned toward Vinson. He asserted, "Since the Southalls resent me, I shall take back the name card none of you wanted." With that, he tore the name card into pieces. Shandie froze in fear as sweat trickled down her back. Tossing the pieces into the trash can, Vinson announced, "I heard your family is trying to strike up a deal with our company.

I don't think it's going to work. Hence, I shall call off all the collaborations with Southall Group." Shandie's face instantly drained of all color. She knew how hard Henrick worked to strike up a deal with Nightshire Group. If he found out she caused the deal to go down the drain, he'd kill her for sure. She started shivering in fear and grabbed Vinson's sleeve pitifully.

"Mr. Nightshire, please don't call off the deal. It was all my fault. You can punish me, but please don't involve my dad and his company." Vinson wasn't at all empathic, so he merely felt annoyed by Shandie's pleading wails. He shoved her away and responded coolly, "It's too late. Why didn't you realize it was wrong to steal my name card? Don't beg for my forgiveness.

This is irritating." Shandie cowered back in fear. *Arielle's my only hope now.* "Arielle, I shouldn't have stolen the name card from you. You can't watch and do nothing as the deal goes down the drain! You're part of our family, too!" Arielle was sneering inwardly. *Ha! You wanted me dead back then. Have you forgotten about the venomous snake and vicious dog you let out to kill me? Is this how family treats one another?*

Arielle pretended to stretch her hands helplessly. "I'm not close to Mr. Nightshire either. As I'm a country bumpkin, I have no say in this. I think you should go home and talk to Dad so he can figure out a solution." Shandie couldn't believe Arielle

turned her down. She hissed angrily, "If our family becomes bankrupt, you'll lose everything. Do you want to return to the countryside?"

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Arielle's remained cool. *I'll lose everything? No, the Southalls will lose everything. I've never been a Southall. I'll never be one of them as they've never treated me like family.* Arielle's heart clenched painfully. She no longer wanted to stay and argue with Shandie, so she turned to leave the scene. One shouldn't sin if one didn't want to get caught. Since Shandie stole something that didn't belong to her, she had to bear the consequences.

As Arielle left without saying anything, Vinson ran after her hastily. "Hey! Wait up!" Shandie watched them leave while gritting her teeth in fury. *Look how fast Vinson caught up to Arielle. How dare she say she isn't close to him? Bullshit! She must've said that on purpose to harm me!* "B*tch! That b*tch!" Shandie barked out with all her might. On the other hand, Sam frowned in displeasure when Shandie began yelling like a madwoman.

Since she was just an impersonator, he didn't have to worry about offending the woman. There was also no need to tamp down his irritation for Shandie. At once, he ordered, "Kick this impersonator out!" Shandie glowered at him. "How dare you?" Sam clearly didn't expect that Shandie would still be so arrogant. Amused, he responded, "Why wouldn't I dare?" Shandie stuck her chin up. "We've signed a contract!

So what if I got the name card from Arielle? She's my sister! Everything that belongs to her is also mine. Anyway, since we've signed the contract, you need to treat me with respect. Otherwise, I shall quit!" Sam burst out in laughter. Shandie knitted her brows furiously. "Why are you laughing?" Sam took Jerry's arm and massaged his temples in exhaustion. "Explain to her." After what had happened earlier, Jerry was no longer polite.

He declared, "Ms. Southall, didn't you read the contract carefully? If you breach the contract, we can kick you out from the film crew and demand compensation of one hundred million. You should go home and prepare the money. Our legal team will be in touch with you soon." Shandie paled visibly. "What the heck are you talking about?

Why do I need to compensate you?" Jerry retorted, "You refused to go along with our arrangements and refused to put on makeup, among others. That's considered breaching the contract." *If it weren't for Vinson, I would've kicked her out ages ago!* "You didn't say that earlier!" insisted Shandie. Jerry pulled out the contract and pointed at the clause. "Have a look for yourself."

Shandie grabbed the contract and read the stipulated clause, which stated that if she refused to cooperate, she had to compensate one hundred million. Instantly, her expression clouded over.

One hundred million! That's a lot of money! It didn't take a fool to realize how Henrick would react the minute he found out about it. "I-I..." She grabbed Jerry's sleeve and desperately pleaded, "I was just joking. I promise I'll cooperate from now on."

Jerry shoved her away impatiently. "It's too late. You can discuss this with our legal team. Take her out!" "No! Let me go! I promise I'll cooperate and act in a professional manner. Don't kick me out!" The production assistant dragged her out of the set without hesitation.

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None of the film crew liked Shandie. She had brought this upon herself. Still, if they had kicked the female lead out, who will take over her place? Both Jerry and Sam were caught in a dilemma. The female lead of the movie was a young girl in her twenties who had just graduated from the police academy. Most of the experienced actresses in the entertainment industry were in their thirties. Nowadays, it was rare for veteran actresses to take up young roles, so the crew had initially auditioned actresses in their twenties. After the news of Shandie being accepted for the role using her connections went viral in the industry, no one would want to replace her. The film had begun shooting. It was hard to get a suitable replacement whose schedule was empty on such short notice even if they used Sam's name.

Right then, a face that resembled the original character in the comic popped up in Sam's mind. His eyes lit up. "I have someone in mind!" He dashed out of the set immediately. "Hey, Mr. Sleight! Who are you talking about?" Jerry ran out after him. That was the first time he had ever seen Sam sprinting this quickly. Outside, Arielle was about to get into Vinson's car when Shandie's voice rang out from behind. "Arielle! Wait up!"

When Arielle's head jerked around subconsciously, she saw Shandie sobbing sadly. "Arielle, it was all my fault. Can you please tell Mr. Nightshire not to pin the blame on our family?" Arielle scanned Shandie carefully and realized the latter's gaze was full of hatred though tears were streaming out of her eyes. Snickering inwardly, she thought, *Look at how bad her acting skills are. She isn't fit to be the female lead.*

Putting on a helpless expression, she uttered, "It's not that I don't want to help you. Mr. Nightshire won't change his mind easily. You can get mad at me, but why did you throw his name card onto the ground right in front of him? Also, I wanted

to give this name card to Dad. How could you take it away from me?" "You—" Shandie was at a loss for words. Her heart was simmering in resentment, but she couldn't vent her frustrations right now.

At this point, she had no choice but to bow down to Arielle. She was prepared to get on her knees to beg for Arielle's help when someone rushed past her. She blinked twice and saw Sam standing in front of them, panting heavily. The director seemed like he wanted to say something, but couldn't do so as he was short of breath. Hence, he bent down slightly and took deep breaths. *Huh? What is he doing?*

Oh, has he regretted kicking me out? Is he here to beg me to resume shooting? The most important thing right now is to resume shooting. If I'm still the female lead, Henrick might forgive me this once. I'll become a popular celebrity after the film's release. By then, I can earn more than the profit that my family is set to earn from the deal they struck up with Nightshire Group

. Ha! I don't have to beg for Arielle's help, then! Shandie grew increasingly excited. As Sam was rude to her earlier, she decided to insult him before agreeing to return. *I must make him beg for my return!* Ignoring Arielle, she turned to Sam and announced arrogantly, "Look at how anxious you are."

You're only realizing your mistake now? Let me warn you. I won't agree to return easily! You need to visit my house and apologize sincerely before I agree to forgive you and resume shooting. Besides that, everyone on the film crew needs to listen to my instructions, get it?"

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Shandie was all cocky now. She would've lifted her tail haughtily if she had one. Sam shot her a look full of disbelief as his lips twitched. "What are you talking about?" Shandie furrowed her brows. "I'm talking about the future arrangements! If you want me to return, please show me your sincerity!" "Ha!" Sam sniggered. He glanced at Arielle before looking at Shandie. "You're wrong." Shandie was dumbstruck. Without hesitation, Sam ignored Shandie and went to Arielle. "Miss, do you have any acting experience?" Shandie was speechless once again. *Why is Sam posing that question to Arielle?* A strong sense of foreboding nagged at her. Arielle's puzzled voice rang out. "No. Why?" Sam hesitated before blurting out, "Miss, you resemble the original character in the comic that was adapted to our film. I was wondering if you're interested in taking up the female lead role of our film?"

Shandie's eyes widened in shock. *Wait. Sam isn't here for me. He wants Arielle to replace me? So I said those words for nothing?* At once, Shandie felt her cheeks burning up in embarrassment. Humiliation, fury, and chagrin overwhelmed her.

She couldn't stop herself from shooting daggers at Arielle and Sam. *I can't let Arielle steal the spotlight from me again and again. She must disappear right now!* Shandie kept her resentment in check as she glared at them both for one last time before stalking away.

As Shandie left without warning, Arielle narrowed her gaze. After a brief silence, she gazed at Sam and rejected his offer. "Thank you for your offer, but I'm not interested in joining the entertainment industry." "Well..." Sam didn't expect that she'd reject his offer. He immediately tried to convince her. "I've been working on this film for a few years. Please consider my offer. We have an excellent film crew and production team.

If you can act well, you'll definitely bag the Best Actress Award next year. I guarantee you'll propel to stardom!" Arielle remained unfazed while she shook her head. "I'm sorry, but I'm not interested, and I don't have time for this. Thank you for the offer, though." She gave Sam a wave before entering the car. Vinson had overheard the entire exchange in the car. He turned to Arielle and inquired, "This film has potential.

I think it will be a hit, so you should consider his offer." Arielle shook her head without hesitation. "I'm busy with something else." Vinson's gaze darkened. Confusion flitted across his face as he blurted out curiously, "Actually, I've been wanting to ask you some questions." Arielle met his gaze.

"What is it?" Vinson paused for a moment before asking, "Who are you?" Arielle was taken aback, but Vinson continued, "You're one of the Southalls, but we first met on an uninhabited island. To be honest, I ran a background check on you and found out you grew up in the countryside. I don't believe that, though. Who are you? And why did you return to the Southalls?"

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Arielle lowered her gaze silently. Vinson couldn't tell what was on her mind because her eyes weren't visible to him. Just when Vinson thought he wouldn't get an answer, she suddenly looked up. "Revenge." "Huh?" Vinson thought he was hearing things. Arielle stared at the landscape outside and revealed, "I came back to take revenge for my mother." "Revenge?" Vinson was astonished. He immediately realized who she was talking about.

"Oh, you mean Mrs. Southall... No, Ms. Moore. Rumor has it that your mom committed suicide because she suffered from depression. You don't think she killed herself?" "Of course not!" Arielle stated firmly. "I don't remember my childhood clearly, but there are snippets I remember. There are clues to prove my mom didn't commit suicide. For example, the moment she died, the Moore family became the Southall family.

Also, I couldn't find any traces of my mom in that house. I'm pretty sure she was murdered instead." Vinson's gaze grew dark. "Who do you suspect? Your dad?" Arielle nodded before shaking her head. "I'm not sure. It's either him or Aunt Cindy. Perhaps they both did it together. I'm still investigating the matter. When the truth is revealed, I shall make sure the culprit gets punished!" Vinson inclined his head.

"No wonder you said you're busy. If you discover your dad was the culprit, what will you do?" "I'll make sure he gets what he deserves," came Arielle's calm reply. She wouldn't let him off easily! "Got it." Vinson stared at her. "If you need my help, just let me know. You don't have my name card, but you have my number. Just give me a call." Arielle lowered her gaze. "Thank you." Strangely, Vinson's words gave her a sense of security.

Before she realized it, he had become her pillar of strength and support. Vinson inquired, "By the way, do you want me to call off the collaboration between my company and Southall Group?" Arielle stiffened. "Didn't you say you'll call it off?" "It depends on you," Vinson responded, his gaze tender. Warmth spread in Arielle's heart as she told him, "Go ahead and call it off. Shandie's too annoying, so I want her to shut up for now."

"Got it," answered Vinson with a nod. "If you want me to resume the collaboration, just call me." Arielle suddenly had an urge to spill everything out, but she only managed a curt, "Thank you." Vinson pretended to touch his ears impatiently. "I told you that you don't have to thank me."

Arielle couldn't stop herself from giggling. The reason she returned to the country was to find out the truth and avenge her mom before restoring the Moores' former glory. Before she achieved her goals, she wasn't thinking of extending her social circle lest her friends got implicated.

Right then, it suddenly occurred to her that it would be nice to have a friend like Vinson. Soon, they arrived at the Southall residence. Arielle got off at the foot of the hill lest someone else grew suspicious. Vinson gave her one last look and parted his lips to say, "Do you remember my suggestion? You should run a DNA test if possible. If you find it uncomfortable to do it at other hospitals, you can ask for my help."

He made a gesture for her to give him a call. Arielle inclined her head before closing the door. She watched as Vinson drove away. Meanwhile, Shandie arrived home a few minutes earlier than Arielle. Immediately, she went to complain to Cindy.