

# A Beauty With Multiple Masks Chapter 96

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“Mom! I can’t take it any longer. I want Arielle to move out now and disappear from my sight! I never want to see her again!” she declared the moment she stepped into the house. Cindy was busy dealing with her secret overseas slush fund, so she replied impatiently, “I know you don’t like her. Do you think I like her?”

I told you we need to wait for an opportunity to make her slip.” It didn’t matter whether Arielle grew up in the countryside or not, for she was just a young girl in her twenties. Arielle was young, so it was pretty easy for her to commit a mistake, especially when it concerned her love life. Cindy was already busy finding the perfect candidate to seduce Arielle. Right then, she was irritated by how Shandie was kicking up a fuss.

*If Shandie was half as clever as Arielle, I wouldn’t have to do so much.* As Cindy ignored her, Shandie grew increasingly antsy. “Mom, it can’t wait! If this goes on, we shall be the ones who get kicked out!” Cindy continued typing furiously on the keyboard and replied without looking up, “Don’t worry. You’ll be fine as long as you shoot your film obediently. Stop provoking Arielle behind my back.” Shandie bit her lips as her face turned ashen.

She had no idea how to inform Cindy about the earlier incident at the film set. Shandie’s sudden silence had Cindy feeling puzzled. The latter looked at her daughter quizzically. It suddenly occurred to her that Shandie should be on the film set instead of at home. She shut her laptop and asked, “Why are you home at this hour?”

Are you done for the day?” In response, Shandie stuttered, “Uh, something happened at the film set. I... Uh, they said...” Cindy’s scowl deepened. She knew her daughter well enough to know that something had happened. “What on earth happened!” she demanded sternly. Shocked by Cindy’s expression, Shandie’s eyes reddened as she explained hastily, “Arielle took the female lead role away from me. I can’t resume shooting, and I also have to compensate them one hundred million for breaching the contract.

Mom, I need your help!” Cindy’s eyes widened in shock. “What did you say? She took away your role, and you have to compensate one hundred million for breaching the contract?” Shandie nodded profusely. “Yes, she brought Mr. Nightshire to the set to insult me! Mom, I can’t take it anymore.

You need to help me. That country bumpkin bullies me! After what her mom did to you, are you going to let her daughter bully me?” “Shut up!” Cindy slammed the table in fury. She had lost it at the mention of Maureen. Her eyes reddened while her face contorted in anger.

Shandie knew her mom would lose it when she mentioned Maureen, but she had no idea it would be such an intense reaction. Her body was shuddering in fear, but deep down, she was pleased by Cindy's reaction. *Mom has been living peacefully for too long. I need to provoke her so she regains her senses.*

"Where is Arielle?" Cindy choked out. *Shandie's right. Maureen has always been above me. Even though she's dead, the ladies in Jadeborough have always compared us in secret. I can't let her daughter bully my daughter. No way!*

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Shandie answered, "She entered Mr. Nightshire's car, so I don't know where she is." Right then, the housekeeper knocked at the door. "Mrs. Southall, Ms. Shandie, Mr. Southall is back. He wants to see both of you downstairs." When Shandie heard that Henrick's back, her whole body trembled in dread. She tugged at Cindy's clothes instinctively. "Mom, what should I do? Dad's going to punish me." Cindy didn't even flinch and replied calmly, "That's good news. Since Arielle bullied you, I shall inform your dad. He won't let this slide! Don't worry. Your dad adores you more than Arielle as you grew up by his side." Cindy turned on her heels to leave. Shandie was flustered, for she had pushed the blame onto Arielle out of fear. She didn't even tell her mom that Vinson had called off the collaboration with Southall Group. *Shit, Dad's back. How should I explain?* She was sweating profusely when the housekeeper urged, "Ms. Shandie, you should head downstairs now.

Mr. Southall wants to talk to you." "I'm not deaf. Stop being annoying!" Shandie gave the housekeeper a menacing glare and pushed her away before stalking down the stairs. *Fine. I shall head downstairs. Mom will deal with it. I don't think Dad will disown me just because of one contract.*

Shandie caught up to Cindy and appeared relaxed. Downstairs, Arielle had just arrived when she saw Henrick storming in furiously. She immediately knew Nightshire Group had informed Henrick about the revocation of their deal. Pretending not to know anything, she went to him with a concerned expression on her face. "Dad, what happened? Why are you so upset?" Henrick furrowed his brows and snapped, "It's none of your business.

Is Shandie back? I want to see her and her mom now!" Arielle shot the housekeeper an uneasy look, so the latter immediately scurried upstairs to summon Shandie and Cindy. Soon, they both walked down the stairs. When Cindy spotted Arielle, she immediately averted her gaze and gave Henrick a warm smile.

"Dear, why are you back at this hour? Are you suffering from a headache because you drank too much last night?" "The nerve of you!" Henrick barked out angrily

and pointed at Shandie. "Ask your daughter how she offended Mr. Nightshire! He called off the deal with our company out of anger!" Cindy's lips parted in shock as she had no idea about this. Her astonished gaze landed on Shandie, who covered back in fear.

"I know nothing. D-Dad, is this a misunderstanding?" "Misunderstanding?" Henrick raised his phone. "I had just returned from work when Nightshire Group called me. The person in charge told me you offended Mr. Nightshire, so they are canceling all collaborations with us! Tell me. What happened?"

Cindy's shock heightened when she heard what Henrick had said. Clenching her fists, she demanded, "Shannie, what happened? Did you upset Mr. Nightshire?" "No! Of course not!" A terrified Shandie denied instantly. She had already calmed down before getting downstairs. Now, upon seeing how furious Henrick was, she couldn't stop her legs from trembling.

"Hmm? Are you telling the truth?" Strangely, Henrick calmed down after venting out his anger. He took a deep breath before uttering with an indecipherable expression, "Explain what happened today in detail."

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Cindy didn't think much about it as she thought Arielle was trying to sow discord among them. Gently, she urged, "It's alright, Shannie. Tell the truth. Was it Arielle who got you into trouble?" Shandie hung her head low silently. She wanted to pin the blame onto Arielle with her mom, but her lies could be debunked easily. Hence, she dared not utter a word. Cindy thought Shandie was afraid of Henrick, so she turned to Henrick and said, "Dear, I know you're protective of Arielle. However, this has nothing to do with Shannie. Earlier, Shannie came home and told me that Arielle brought Mr. Nightshire to the set to take away the lead role from her. I believe Arielle must've said something for him to call off the deal." She then turned to Arielle and declared frostily, "Arielle, I can't believe you're so evil!

Never mind if you hate your sister and took the lead role from her. Why are you doing this to our company? What evil plans are you hatching?" Henrick felt his head throbbing. Still, the slightest trace of sanity that remained told him the usually obedient Arielle wouldn't do something this horrible.

Holding back his fury, he demanded, "Is this related to you?" Arielle shot Cindy a taunting glance before replying, "Dad, I have no idea Aunt Cindy hates me that much to suspect that I'm involved in this. I didn't want to reveal the truth, but since she tried to pin the blame on me, I have no choice but to reveal everything." Her demeanor was cool. Hearing her words, Cindy began to panic. Arielle raised her chin and revealed, "It all started with Mr. Nightshire's name card.

I'm the ambassador of Soir Coffee, so he gave me his name card. I wanted to give it to you, Dad, but it disappeared after I went out." "What?" Henrick hissed. "That name card is extremely important. Why didn't you keep it well?" Arielle didn't bother beating around the bush. "Because Shandie took the name card without telling me and even used it to gain her lead role—" "Shut up!" Shandie shrieked, unable to stand the humiliation.

Henrick glared at her and barked out, "You should shut up! Let her continue!" Shandie dared not go against him. Hence, Arielle explained how Shandie used the name card to get the lead role. After Vinson found out the truth, he brought Arielle to the set and revealed everything. In the end, the film crew kicked Shandie out.

At this, Arielle exhaled sharply. "After losing her lead role, Shandie flung Mr. Nightshire's name card onto the ground in anger. Mr. Nightshire was terribly upset and announced he'd call off all collaborations with our family.

On the way back home, I tried to persuade him to change his mind to no avail," she lamented and gave Shandie an exasperated glare.

Shandie burst out angrily, "Liar! I bet you didn't even try to persuade Mr. Nightshire to change his mind!" Arielle shook her head sadly. "Shannie, why are you still blaming me? Don't you know your mistake? We are all family. Why would I risk Dad's company just to get back at you?"

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Shandie shouted in anger, "No! You didn't even try to help me—" "Enough!" Henrick roared. He could no longer master his fury and started heaving like he was short on oxygen. Shandie panicked instantly. She grabbed Cindy's arm and wailed, "Mom, help me! It was all Arielle's fault." "Shut up!" Cindy cut in and gave Shandie a forceful slap. *Smack!* Shandie was stunned by the sudden flare of pain that attacked her.

The slap was so forceful that she could even see stars in her vision. Her cheek promptly turned numb. She reached out to caress her cheek and realized the dental crown she had just paid for was broken. Staring at Cindy in disbelief, she uttered, "Mom?" *Did Mom just slap me? Seriously?* Cindy held back her guilt and shook her head. "Stop it. You've brought harm to the entire family. Get on your knees and beg for your dad's forgiveness."

"Mom!" "Get on your knees!" Cindy commanded sternly. Shivering in shock, Shandie trudged obediently to Henrick and dropped to her knees. Alas, Henrick

didn't even spare her a glance. His team had poured in a lot of effort to strike up a deal with Nightshire Group. They were about to sign the contract, but it all went down the drain at the very last minute. It was all Shandie's fault. Suddenly, he wanted to disown this daughter of his. He would've given her a beating, but since Cindy had already slapped her, he couldn't be bothered to waste his energy.

Henrick announced, "Don't kneel in front of me. Go to your Aunt Louisa's monastery to kneel and pray. Six months later, if you have no remorse, you shall follow in your Aunt Louisa's footsteps in becoming a nun!" Shandie's eyes widened in consternation. "Dad! Are you throwing me out?" Henrick was too exhausted to talk to her. He waved and ordered the housekeeper, "Pack up her stuff and send her to the monastery now!"

The housekeeper glanced at Cindy instinctively. Parting her lips, Cindy was about to plead with Henrick to change his mind when she noticed her husband's expression. She shut her eyes in agony and ordered, "Go, help her pack up now." "Mom! How could you agree with Dad?"

I don't want to be a nun! I want to get married—" "Shut up! You don't even know your mistake. You should repent at the monastery!" Cindy shot the housekeeper a look, and the latter immediately dragged Shandie out. Even though Shandie had been brought out, her cries could still be heard from afar. Cindy closed her eyes in pain.

She couldn't bear to let her daughter leave, but she had no choice. If Henrick couldn't relieve his anger, he might do something even more extreme. Hence, she slapped Shandie first so he wouldn't beat her up. *I wonder if Shandie understood my intentions.*

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Cindy opened her eyes and gazed at Arielle viciously. Arielle pretended to not see her. *I knew Henrick will lock Shandie up or send her somewhere else. Turns out, he decided to send her to the monastery. She'll definitely suffer there.* Right then, the housekeeper came downstairs with six pieces of luggage. Arielle questioned, "Does she need this much stuff at the monastery? I think Aunt Louisa can provide her with the clothes, right?"

Cindy glowered at her. "It's getting cold. She needs to bring more clothes to stay warm." Henrick spoke up. "Sannie's right. The monastery has everything she needs, including winter clothes. Besides that, she's not allowed to bring any electronic devices. If she goes there to play games and such, she can't reflect on her mistake!" "But—" Cindy was about to refute his words, but Henrick shut her up with an icy glare.

"I thought you agreed that she needs to reflect on her mistake, but it seems like you don't share my sentiments. So did you slap her to put up a show?" Cindy hastily changed her mind. "I'm worried she might get sick. Forget it, then." Therefore, the housekeeper packed everything in one bag. When Shandie arrived at the monastery and realized there was only one piece of luggage with her undergarments, she nearly lost it. *My phone! Where's my phone?*

"Tell Mom to send me my phone now!" The housekeeper parted her lips to reply, but Henrick's sister, Louisa Southall, ambled out before she could say anything. Louisa had only taken her temporary vows as a nun. When she saw how Shandie was kicking up a fuss, her brows scrunched up. "How dare you kick up a fuss in the monastery?" Shandie shook in dread upon seeing Louisa. Before Louisa became a nun, she was stern to both Shandie and Cindy.

She preferred Maureen to Cindy. After that, she came to the monastery and became a nun. Shandie had no idea what made her do so. "A-Aunt Louisa," she greeted Louisa as her teeth chattered. Louisa eyed her coldly and ordered, "Come in and pray." Shandie was utterly disheartened.

She could only place her hopes on Cindy to get her out of this place. When she recalled how Cindy slapped her, she grew increasingly dejected. *Mom must've abandoned me, her only daughter! I've made up my mind. If she doesn't rescue me from this place, I'll no longer regard her as my mom!* At the Southall residence, Arielle took the letter she had intercepted from the housekeeper. This was the letter Cindy wrote to Shandie.

Arielle bribed the housekeeper to lie to Cindy that the letter had been delivered to Shandie. The future letters Cindy wrote would all be sent to her instead. As the housekeeper was paid, she agreed to help Arielle without hesitation. "Ms. Arielle, I shall take my leave now." "Alright."

Arielle waited for the housekeeper to leave before she took out the letter. The letter was scribbled sloppily, showing how anxious Cindy was. Of course, she would be flustered seeing her darling daughter being sent to the monastery. Still, the moment she regained her senses, she'd target Arielle.

*I need to prepare myself for her retaliation.* Arielle squinted her eyes to read the letter, which explained how Cindy slapped Shandie to relieve Henrick's anger. She also assured Shandie she would save her soon. Shandie was to listen to her Aunt Louisa's instructions and not create any trouble there. There was no useful information until Arielle reached the end of the letter.