

She Made a Comeback as a Renowned Doctor

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Chapter 571: Chapter 571: Scheme, Killing Two Birds with One Stone

Sophie Zhou pressed her lips together. “If my younger sister spoke to me like that, I wouldn’t just tolerate it. I’d have to teach her a lesson. But look at Hope Williams—who knows if it’s because she’s too good-tempered or has no temper at all? She actually helped Luna Williams.”

“Heh, the Williams Family has one fool, and now it seems our Parker Family has one too.” Old Master Parker let out a cold snort as he shook his head.

Clearly, smart kids always belong to someone else’s family.

“Dad, please don’t say that about Sophie,” Emily Parker spoke on Sophie Zhou’s behalf.

Old Master Parker glared at Emily Parker with irritation in his eyes. “Oh, I can’t even say anything about her now? You’ve spoiled her rotten! And that temper of hers—just like a bull—it all comes from watching you! Every day the two of you act like the world revolves around you. What on earth was that mess yesterday? Making a scene like that? Was it supposed to look good?”

Emily Parker found herself scolded out of nowhere, but she didn’t dare talk back to Old Master Parker.

“We’re lucky the other family isn’t holding it against us. After the banquet is over, apologize properly to them. Use your head in the future. Don’t just bite at anyone blindly, or they’ll think our Parker Family specializes in raising attack dogs.”

Emily Parker flushed red, then pale, under the scolding. She could only endure and nod. “Yes.”

Sophie Zhou looked indignant. “But Grandpa, I was bullied yesterday too...”

Emily Parker yanked her back abruptly.

Emily Parker turned to Old Master Parker. “Dad, I’ll take Sophie out for now.”

Old Master Parker nodded. “Go on.”

Emily Parker pulled the fuming Sophie Zhou aside.

Sophie Zhou stomped her foot in frustration. “Auntie, why didn’t you let me finish talking? Why does Grandpa think so highly of Hope Williams?”

“Enough. There’s no point in arguing with the old man over right and wrong. If you’re really upset, just teach her a lesson.”

“Teach her a lesson?” Sophie Zhou’s eyes lit up. “Auntie, what do you have in mind?”

Emily Parker crossed her arms and smirked. She leaned in close to whisper her plan into Sophie Zhou’s ear.

Sophie Zhou’s face lit up with excitement, and she couldn’t help but cover her mouth as she giggled. “Auntie, you’re brilliant.”

“But why don’t we just target Hope Williams directly? Between her and Luna, I dislike her the most.”

Emily Parker poked Sophie Zhou’s forehead. “The old man wasn’t wrong—you really are dense.”

“Auntie~”

“Hope has Waylon Lewis protecting her. Do you think you can move against her so easily? Besides, when you clashed with her yesterday, I noticed she’s got some skills herself.”

Sophie Zhou nodded thoughtfully. “Got it, Auntie. As long as we can take down those annoying Williams sisters and make their family a laughingstock, I’ll be satisfied.”

The thought of venting her frustration made Sophie Zhou gleeful.

“I just saw Mrs. Reed’s son staring at Luna. Let’s use him.”

“Understood, Auntie.” Sophie Zhou’s eyes sparkled with excitement. Mrs. Reed’s son, Luka Reed, was well-known as a playboy who flirted with countless women.

“I’ll go now.”

“Go ahead.”

...

The banquet had officially begun.

The earlier commotion had been forgotten as everyone turned their attention to offering birthday wishes to Jade Bell.

Jade Bell thanked each guest in turn and eventually made her way to Hope Williams.

Tonight, Jade Bell wore a traditional red gown adorned with exquisite handmade embroidery. Her hair was pulled up neatly behind her head, not a strand out of place.

The red of the dress accentuated Jade Bell's healthy complexion, making her look radiant, elegant, and refined.

Hope Williams smiled faintly at Jade Bell as she saw her approach with an extended hand. Hope quickly reached out to take it. "Grandmother."

"Little Hope, thank you for stepping in earlier to help your grandmother."

"It was nothing."

Jade Bell sighed. "Luna is truly too undisciplined. And now, who knows where she's run off to? She's really worrying."

"Don't worry. She's a grown woman; she won't go missing."

"Hmm, let's not think about her for now. Go find your seat."

"Alright."

As the star of the evening, Jade Bell couldn't linger to chat. She gave a few words of advice and moved on.

Hope Williams scanned the banquet hall with her bright eyes. Waylon Lewis was still surrounded by a group of corporate executives, unable to step away. Luke and Willow had gone off with Zoey Sanders to get something to eat.

Hope was just about to head toward Waylon when Sophie Zhou brushed past her, appearing to inadvertently stumble toward her.

Hope nimbly stepped aside, avoiding Sophie Zhou. However, the wine glass in Sophie's hand splashed its contents onto Hope's dress as expected.

Sophie Zhou covered her mouth in feigned shock. "Oh no, I'm so sorry, Young Madam Lewis. I didn't mean to!"

Hope's expression turned cold as she looked up at Sophie Zhou.

Sophie Zhou clumsily grabbed some napkins and attempted to wipe the spilled wine while apologizing profusely. “I’m so sorry! I really didn’t mean to. Young Madam Lewis, please don’t be mad at me.”

Looking down at the large stain on her gown, Hope stepped back to avoid Sophie’s hand, her expression frosty.

“Young Madam Lewis, you should head to the restroom and take care of it. I’m really sorry.”

Hope knew Sophie had done it intentionally, but there wasn’t an appropriate moment to expose her, so she decided to deal with the dress first.

Turning toward the restroom, Hope began to walk away, only to hear Sophie Zhou call out again. “Young Madam Lewis, you should use the restroom on the third floor. When I was there earlier, the others were pretty crowded.”

Hearing this, Hope’s expression subtly changed as she glanced back at Sophie Zhou.

“Really?”

Sophie Zhou nodded fervently. “Of course. Why would I lie to you?”

Hope’s face remained neutral as she decided to play along, nodding slightly in agreement.

With a gathered skirt, she headed upstairs. The banquet area on the third floor didn’t have any ongoing events, so there were fewer people passing through.

As she reached a quiet corridor, Hope came to a halt, her eyes darting subtly to the side.

From his hidden post, her bodyguard, Alex Xiao, stepped out.

“What is Sophie Zhou up to? Luring me here on purpose—it must be for something.”

“Ma’am, Luna Williams... in the restroom...”

Hope arched an eyebrow. “What about her?”

Recalling what he’d seen earlier, Alex Xiao’s face reddened slightly. “She’s... in trouble...”

Chapter 572: Chapter 572: Defiled

Hope Williams looked at Liam Shaw's expression, her delicate eyebrows arching slightly.

"Hmm?"

"The man inside the bathroom with her is a man."

Hope frowned, seemingly understanding the gist.

She didn't want to meddle and turned to head downstairs.

After just two steps, Hope sensed something was wrong.

"Ma'am, what's the matter?" Liam asked.

Hope turned back to Liam, asking, "Is she willing?"

"Cough..." Liam coughed lightly. In that situation, how would he dare to look closely? He simply reported what he saw and said, "Not sure."

Hope furrowed her brows tightly. Luna Williams had just been discharged from the hospital, where could she have gotten such a good mood?

Besides, she loved Leo Carter to the point of obsession; it was impossible for her to do something that betrays him.

Furthermore, today was the Old Lady Williams' birthday banquet, and guests were swarming downstairs. She's in the third-floor bathroom committing immoral acts with a man?

Luna Williams would have to be completely insane to do such a thing.

And Sophie Zhou deliberately led her to the third floor, just to make her witness this scene?

No, there must be another motive.

Hope began walking toward the bathroom.

"Ma'am." Liam stopped Hope. "Ma'am, whether she's willing or not, you'd better stay out of it. After all, she's not a good person. Whatever happens to her, she's deserved it."

Hope shook her head. "No, Liam. It's not that simple."

Hope strode toward the bathroom, and Liam hurriedly followed.

At that moment, Luna Williams had already been dragged into the bathroom cubicle.

“Let go of me... Ah! Beast, let go of me! Help... Help!”

Luna struggled desperately, finally managing to break free. Summoning all her strength, she climbed up to reach for the door, only to be pulled back by Luka Reed, who grabbed her and covered her mouth.

“Why run away, Second Miss Williams? Why not just give in to me?”

Tears blurred her vision as Luna shook her head frantically.

No! No!

She couldn’t bear to let this disgusting man tarnish her.

Someone, anyone, please come and rescue her.

In her heart, Luna desperately prayed while the man’s vile hands relentlessly tugged at her clothes.

With a lewd smile hanging on his face, Luka Reed left Luna nearly hopeless. He eagerly started to undo his own clothes, releasing the hand covering Luna’s mouth.

“Why? Why are you doing this to me?”

Luna whimpered in fear, frantically slapping his face with her hands.

Luka grabbed her wrists forcefully, pinning them to the door, burying his head into the crook of her neck, kissing her incessantly, and greedily taking in her scent.

Luka recalled Sophie Zhou’s words.

“It’s because I like you. You’re so beautiful—too alluring. I heard your engagement with the Carter Family has been called off. Why don’t you marry me instead?”

Luna bit her lower lip tightly, feeling sick to the point of gagging.

“No! I’m begging you to let me go. If you don’t, the Williams Family will never let you off...”

Luka laughed mockingly, “The Williams Family? The Williams Family will soon belong to your sister. She can’t thank me enough for what I’ve done.”

Luna’s trembling voice asked, “What do you mean? What do you mean by that?”

Luka tore apart Luna's dress as she let out a scream, the vile sounds of Luka's voice echoing in her ears.

"You should thank your sister today. She said she despises you, so she specifically asked me to trap you, defile you, and humiliate you. But I truly like you. If you obediently submit to me, I'll marry you. The title of Mrs. Reed is something coveted by many women."

Luna's pupils constricted as she clenched her hands against the door tightly. Fear gave way to a growing hatred.

Hope Williams!

It was Hope Williams who wanted to harm her!

Hope, I hate you. Even if I die, I won't forgive you.

Luka's face was lecherous, brimming with lust. Without hesitation, he ripped away her final piece of dignity.

"Ah... Please... Don't... Don't listen to her. I'll give you money—a lot, a lot of money—just spare me."

Luna rambled in desperation.

"Do I look like someone who lacks money? Today, I want you, and only you."

Luna wished she could die, but right now, even the option of death was unavailable to her.

She could only endure, utterly humiliated, being violated. Screaming in pain, her mouth was once again blocked, making even crying out impossible.

Tears streamed down incessantly as her nails dug into her skin, the pain penetrating to her soul.

Hope Williams, Hope Williams, just wait! Even as a ghost, I won't forgive you. Just wait.

"Bang!"

The cubicle door was kicked open by Liam Shaw.

Hope Williams looked at the chaotic scene in front of her, her pupils constricting, her heart screaming an ominous warning.

She's doomed!

“Liam!”

Luka Reed, interrupted in the midst of his fun, turned his head. Before he could react, his vision blurred momentarily.

Liam grabbed Luka and yanked him out, twisting his arm until a sharp “crack” echoed in the room as bone fractured.

The piercing pain made Luka let out a pig-like scream.

“Ah—who are you?”

“You beast.”

The man was pulled away from Luna, whose legs gave out beneath her, leaving her collapsed on the ground, utterly weak.

Hope Williams frowned deeply as she glanced at Luna, who was completely disheveled. She stepped forward to pick up the dress lying on the floor and handed it to Luna.

Luna’s lifeless, ashen gaze slowly lifted. Raising a trembling hand, she slapped Hope across the face.

Hope’s hands froze.

“Are you satisfied, Hope? Are you satisfied now?”

“What do you mean?”

“I’m asking you—are you satisfied now? Seeing me like this, does it make you happy? You had him come to defile me just to witness this scene, didn’t you? Well, congratulations! I’ve been defiled; I’ve been reduced to this. Are you satisfied now? You hate me. Why don’t you just say it? Why resort to such despicable methods to harm me? Why?”

Luna screamed at her, her hands striking against Hope repeatedly.

Hope shook off Luna’s hands and took a step back, shielding herself.

Liam, seeing this, immediately stepped forward, pulling Hope up and shielding her behind him.

“You ungrateful woman! Our lady specifically came to save you, yet you repay her kindness with revenge.”

Liam turned his head away, purposely not looking at Luna's exposed body, as he growled with anger.

Hope furrowed her brows, looking at the subdued Luka Reed and then at Luna Williams, her heart slowly coming to an understanding.

Indeed, Sophie Zhou deliberately led her upstairs with ulterior motives.

To defile Luna Williams and frame her, so next the guests downstairs would come up and witness this scene.

Then, news of the Williams sisters fighting would spread: Miss Williams, harboring grudges against the Second Miss, hired someone to assault her during Old Lady Williams' birthday banquet.

The Williams Family would become the laughingstock of the entire city, and she would bear the reputation of hiring someone to assault her own sister.

What a brilliant scheme.

Hope furrowed her brows tightly, looking down at Luna. She knew that in her current state, no matter what explanation she gave, Luna wouldn't believe her.

"Hope, I hate you. I hate you. I won't forgive you." Luna continued to curse vehemently.

"Liam, go outside and check on the situation downstairs."

Liam looked at Hope with concern. "Ma'am, this woman is dangerous."

"I'll be fine. Don't worry."

Liam nodded and quickly left.

Hope picked up the scattered dress from the floor and tossed it to Luna coldly, saying, "Whether you believe it or not, I didn't instruct him to assault you. There's someone else behind this. Now, if you don't want that person to succeed, and if you don't want someone to come up here and see you like this, put your clothes on."

"You're still denying it! Who else could it be? Luka just said it himself—it was you who hired him! Hope, stop playing the righteous one now!"

Luna hurled whatever she could grab at her, shouting as she did.

Hope furrowed her brows deeply and crouched, gripping Luna's jaw firmly, her voice sharp, "Luna Williams, if not for the fact that this is connected to me and tied to Grandma, do you think I'd bother saving you?"

“Right now, believe me or don’t. People will be coming upstairs quickly. If you don’t want to be seen and recorded like this, put the dress on.”

Hope finished speaking and stood up just as Liam appeared at the door and said, “Ma’am, people downstairs are coming up.”

Chapter 573: Chapter 573: Emergency Situation

Hope Williams knew that since the Parker Family had orchestrated this scene, they would exploit it to the fullest extent, ensuring it became the talk of the town.

Downstairs, five minutes earlier.

Emily Parker walked leisurely up to Jade Bell, “Old Lady Williams, may you have blessings as vast as the Eastern Sea and longevity matching the Southern Mountains.”

Jade Bell’s smile faded a bit upon seeing Emily, “I’ll borrow Mrs. Carter’s kind words then.”

“Oh, Old Lady Williams is still upset about yesterday, isn’t she? The matter’s over now. I apologize—it was my mistake, causing such a grand joke to unfold. I felt guilty for quite a while after going home. Please, magnanimously overlook the misstep of someone insignificant like me.”

Emily’s words sounded apologetic, but her gaze carried none of the sincerity.

Jade Bell’s expression was neutral, “Since Mrs. Carter has said so, what could this old woman possibly add?”

Emily continued smiling, “Old Lady Williams, I was thinking of apologizing directly to Miss Williams and the Second Miss, but I haven’t seen them anywhere. Where could they be?”

Jade Bell glanced around but indeed didn’t spot either of them, nor even Hope Williams for that matter.

Emily shot Sophie Zhou a meaningful look, prompting Sophie to step forward with a smile, “Grandma Williams, I just saw Second Miss heading up to the third floor, and Miss Williams followed. They haven’t come down since—it’s been quite some time. Could something have happened?”

Jade Bell furrowed her brow, “They went to the third floor?”

“Oh dear, Old Lady Williams, this is troubling indeed! Second Miss’s mood seemed so agitated earlier—her demeanor was as if she wanted to devour Miss Williams alive. If they’re alone together now, let’s hope they haven’t started fighting.”

Hearing their back-and-forth, Jade Bell frowned deeply, anxiously scanning the banquet hall over and over again.

Luna Williams’ mood was unstable, and Hope was still pregnant—if Luna lost control and clashed with Hope, what if Hope got hurt, or worse, her baby? The thought was unsettling.

Jade Bell hurriedly stood up and summoned two Williams Family Guards to join her in searching.

Emily and Sophie exchanged triumphant smiles. Sophie then raised her voice slightly as she followed Jade, “Grandma Williams, let me join you! If the two Misses really got into a fight, you may not be able to pull them apart alone.”

Sophie’s loud remark reached everyone’s ears.

Were the two Williams sisters fighting again?

Seeing Jade Bell anxiously rushing upstairs, most believed there could be no mistake.

Curiosity piqued, many began trailing behind to watch the unfolding drama.

Luna heard people approaching and, while sobbing, hurriedly pulled the tattered dress back onto her body.

Hope saw her struggling and decided she must step out to handle the situation while warning, “I’ll divert them outside. Stay hidden in here and don’t come out.”

After speaking, Hope exited the room just as Jade Bell arrived in a rush.

Beside Jade were Sophie Zhou and Emily Parker, followed by a crowd of onlookers.

Sophie and Emily exchanged knowing smiles, arms crossed, ready to watch the drama unfold.

Hope remained calm-faced, “Grandma, why have you come upstairs?”

“Little Hope, are you alright?”

Hope shook her head, “I’m fine, Grandma. Who told you something had happened to me?”

“Miss Parker said she saw you and Luna come upstairs. Grandma was worried Luna might harm you with her current mood, so I hurried up to check. As long as you’re okay, I’m relieved.”

Hope maintained a serene expression without revealing the slightest flaw, “You’ve seen I’m fine now. Earlier, Miss Parker informed me that there were too many people downstairs near the restroom, so I came up here instead.”

Hope cast a frosty glance at Sophie Zhou.

Sophie smirked and replied, “There were indeed many people downstairs earlier. However, Miss Williams did spend quite a long time at the restroom upstairs. Did something happen? I clearly saw Luna also come upstairs—why hasn’t she been spotted yet?”

Sophie spoke while deliberately scanning the surroundings.

Hope sneered coldly, “Miss Zhou, how peculiar you are.”

Sophie raised an eyebrow, “In what way am I peculiar?”

“You’ve been so focused on Luna and me for the entire banquet? You saw Luna head to the third floor, then pointed out the crowded restroom on the second floor to me, bringing me here too, and now lured my grandma upstairs? What exactly is your intention, Miss Zhou?”

Sophie hesitated for a couple of seconds while Emily interjected on her behalf, “Miss Williams, Sophie was merely being kind and concerned for you both.”

“Oh.” Hope acknowledged the feigned concern with a nod at the duplicitous aunt-and-niece pair, “Then thank you for your concern. Now that you’ve seen I’m fine, you can rest easy, can’t you?”

Emily smiled, “Of course, but about Luna—where is she? She’s been missing for quite a while now. Could she have fallen into the restroom? That would be alarming! I’ll check on her.”

With that, Emily headed toward the restroom.

Hope stepped forward, blocking Emily’s way with a smile, “Mrs. Carter, how are you so certain Luna is in the restroom? Have you been keeping track of her whereabouts all along?”

Emily paused momentarily before responding, “Not exactly, I just wanted to check if she was inside.”

“She is inside,” Hope answered her matter-of-factly, “Her dress got dirty, so she’s changing in there. Do you, Mrs. Carter, wish to see for yourself how she’s changing clothes? And with so many gathered here, is it that everyone came to watch Luna and me at the restroom?”

Hope’s remarks made the onlookers feel awkward.

“Everyone, go back downstairs and continue with the banquet. Gathering at the restroom door like this—what kind of scene is this?” Hope’s icy tone was slightly raised.

Jade Bell glanced at the people around and quickly added, “Yes indeed, what’s happening here? Please return downstairs and continue the banquet.”

At her urging, the crowd dispersed and headed back downstairs.

Emily squinted at Hope, while Hope’s icy eyes met hers sharply.

Emily understood that Hope’s obstruction confirmed her suspicion.

Luna and Luka Reed must be inside.

Emily threw a glance at Sophie, who promptly shouted, “Actually, there’s more. Just now, I saw Second Miss heading upstairs with Young Master Reed—it can’t be a coincidence that both disappeared on the same floor. What’s the story here?”

The crowd knew Luka Reed to be a notorious playboy, infamous for bedding countless women. Most high-society ladies steered clear of him.

Hearing this, Jade Bell’s brows knitted tighter.

Emily smiled, “Sophie, don’t jump to conclusions. Miss Williams said Luna’s dress was dirty after all. Coincidentally, I have a spare dress in my car. Sophie, quickly go fetch it so Luna doesn’t catch a chill waiting too long.”

“Alright, Aunt, I’ll go right away.”

Emily finished speaking, giving Hope a defiant look.

She wouldn’t believe that, with so many present and only this one restroom, she couldn’t find a way in.

Chapter 574: Chapter 574: Complete Loss of Face

Jade Bell listened to what Sophie Zhou had just said and felt that something was off. She grabbed Sophie and asked, "What on earth are you trying to say? What do you mean by Luna and Young Master Reed going upstairs together and then disappearing at the same time?"

Emily Parker chuckled, "Oh my, Old Lady Williams, don't take it to heart. I just said it casually. Everyone knows what kind of person Young Master Reed is. We're just worried about Second Miss Williams."

The guests, who were originally planning to leave, slowed their steps upon hearing these words, sensing there might be some implication about Luna and Luka Reed being together.

Whispers circulated among the crowd, "Does Mrs. Carter mean that Second Miss Williams and Young Master Reed are together?"

"Sounds like it to me. Although she didn't say it outright, everyone knows what kind of man Young Master Reed is. I even caught him staring at Second Miss Williams downstairs earlier."

"Could it be that Second Miss Williams and Young Master Reed are... together in there? How scandalous!" Someone nervously laughed under their breath, covering their mouths as they speculated wildly.

Emily crossed her arms, her phoenix eyes brimming with amusement. She smirked and said, "Everyone, no need to guess. None of us know for sure. But if we just go inside and take a look, it will all become clear. Why is Miss Williams trying so hard to stop us then? Could it be... true?"

"I already said, her clothes got dirty, so she's changing. Can't you understand that?" Hope Williams replied coolly.

Emily let out a derisive laugh, "Well, well, Second Miss Williams must be taking her sweet time getting changed. It's been almost half an hour since you both came up. What is she doing in there, dolling herself up?"

Jade's expression darkened completely, and she snapped angrily, "Emily Parker, what exactly are you trying to do? Are you bullying our family because you think we have no one to stand up for us? Who gave you the guts to slander Luna so openly?"

"Oh, Old Lady Williams seems upset? Whether your family has anyone or not, you'd know that better than anyone, wouldn't you?" Emily sneered.

Her tone subtly referenced Maverick Williams' imprisonment.

Jade seemed to have been struck where it hurt most. Her aura diminished, and she stared at Emily with a pale, strained face.

Emily's satisfaction was evident in her smile. If not for the warnings from Noah Carter and her father, she would have exposed the Williams Family's current misfortunes right there and then.

But it didn't matter. Either exposing Hope for orchestrating Luka's assault on Luna or Luna's 'indecent' at Old Lady Williams' birthday banquet would be sufficient to disgrace the Williams Family.

Yesterday's humiliation would be repaid tenfold today.

Emily toyed with her hair, brimming with triumph. "If you don't believe me, how about we just go take a look ourselves?"

"And if there's nothing there? Wouldn't that count as slander on your part, Mrs. Carter?" Hope's voice was icy cold.

"Slander? Ha! Why would I waste my time slandering her? Do I look that bored to you?"

Hope nodded slightly. "From the way Mrs. Carter speaks, you seem quite certain that Luna is inside with Luka Reed."

Emily raised an eyebrow, and seeing Hope's persistent attempts to block them, she became even more smug. "I never said that explicitly. I'm just expressing concern. After all, she almost became my daughter-in-law once. Can't I care about her?"

Getting Luna and Luka caught red-handed would tie everything up nicely.

Jade was growing more anxious by the second, unsure of whether the accusations were true. Her eyes nervously flitted toward Hope.

Hope remained calm and gave her a reassuring glance, standing silently as if calculating the time.

"Miss Williams, stop blocking us. Even if there's nothing going on, isn't it our right to check out the restroom?"

Hope's gaze shifted to a corner where Sean Stone gave her a subtle nod.

Hope withdrew her gaze and curved her lips slightly. "Of course."

Sophie and Emily, heads held high with the air of conducting a sting operation, stormed into the restroom—only to be met the next second by a slender figure walking out.

“Looking for me?” Luna, expressionless, asked.

“Luna... Luna Williams?” Emily and Sophie froze in their tracks. Seeing Luna standing there in clean attire with a calm demeanor, they couldn’t believe their eyes. How was this possible?

“Luna?” Jade hurried forward.

“Grandma! What’s everyone doing crowding outside here?” Luna’s gaze swept over the gathering, and a hint of sarcasm appeared in her hollow eyes.

Were they all here to see her humiliation?

“Luna, why were you in the restroom for so long? Did something happen?”

Recalling the events that had just transpired, Luna clenched her molars tightly, suppressing her fury before shaking her head lightly. “Nothing happened. My clothes got dirty, so I asked my sister to bring me a clean set to change into. That’s all.”

Sophie, still unconvinced, craned her neck to peer inside the restroom.

But there was only Luna in there!

The two women exchanged baffled glances. How could this be? Luka failing to succeed was beyond their expectations.

Yet, the restroom clearly only had Luna, who remained composed, as though truly nothing had taken place.

Hope raised an eyebrow slightly and looked toward the duo. “Mrs. Carter, Miss Parker, do you see anyone else in the restroom other than Luna? Would you like to dig through the place?”

Emily tugged at her lips awkwardly. To avoid further exposing herself, she quickly recovered and stepped forward with a smile. “Don’t take offense! We were just concerned about Second Miss Williams’ safety. Now that we see she’s fine, we’re all relieved.”

“Is that so? Well, thank you so much for your concern, Mrs. Carter and Miss Parker,” Luna replied through gritted teeth.

Emily forced out a laugh, “As long as you’re fine, that’s all that matters.”

Noah Carter arrived, supporting Old Master Parker. Seeing the large gathering and tense atmosphere, he pressed forward and asked, “What’s going on here?”

Jade let out a heavy snort. "Why don't you ask those two?"

Understanding the scenario somewhat, Noah cast a furious glance at Emily and Sophie. "What nonsense have you two gotten into now?"

"Uncle..."

Emily defended herself indignantly, "Why are you yelling? We just noticed the third floor was quiet, and Luka Reed followed Luna upstairs. With everyone aware of Young Master Reed's reputation, we were just worried about Luna. We meant no harm, but somehow we're the villains now."

"You..." Noah struggled to withhold his anger.

"Enough, enough."

Jade, now in a sour mood and concerned more chaos would unfold, waved her hand dismissively. She glared at Emily and Sophie. "Haven't you two caused enough trouble today? Leave me be; I'm exhausted."

Turning back to the guests, Jade addressed them, "Thank you all for attending my birthday banquet. Unfortunately, today's events have left me quite drained. Perhaps we should call it a night."

This time, Jade had learned her lesson. Before wrapping up, she pointedly blamed Emily and Sophie for the abrupt end to the party, putting the onus squarely on their shoulders.

The once joyous banquet now soured, guests departed murmuring among themselves. Some cast peculiar looks at Emily and Sophie.

"What kind of people are these? Deliberately stirring trouble. Downstairs, they were already instigating things, and now they're making baseless insinuations about the Second Miss fooling around with Young Master Reed upstairs. Enough is enough."

"Old Lady Williams really invited trouble onto herself by having them here."

"No kidding. So absurd! Let's head out. Next time we host a banquet, let's be sure not to invite them. Imagine if my daughter were chatting with some young man and became the target of their gossip. It doesn't bear thinking about."

"Exactly. They're on my blacklist."

Emily's expression was sour. "What did you say? Come back here! You were all so eager to watch the drama unfold earlier. Hey..."

Noah, now fully fed up, grabbed Emily as she tried to argue further. “Get back home! Haven’t you embarrassed us enough?”

“How dare you yell at me! Dad, look at how Noah Carter is treating me now—”

“Shut up.” Old Master Parker glared at her fiercely, clearly mortified.

Sophie shrank back, biting her lip as she quietly stepped away.

With a face full of shame, Old Master Parker turned to Jade. “Jade, I’m truly sorry for tonight’s incident. It’s my failure as a father to raise her properly. You two, hurry up and apologize.”

Sophie bit her lip and glanced nervously at Emily, seeking her lead. “Aunt...?”

Emily rolled her eyes multiple times but, under Noah’s sharp repeated warnings, took several deep breaths, then stepped forward with a forced smile. “Our apologies. Guess we shouldn’t have meddled. What can I say? You people just don’t appreciate our concern. Fine, it’s all our fault. Happy now?”

Chapter 575: Chapter 575: You Want Answers, I’ll Give Them to You

Emily Parker spoke unwillingly.

Noah Carter: “...”

Old Master Parker raised the cane in his hand, ready to strike Emily Parker.

Emily Parker jumped back twice.

Old Master Parker was so furious that several more wrinkles etched onto his face. He bellowed, full of rage, “Get back there and reflect on yourself!”

Emily Parker ground her molars.

Infuriating!

Today was supposed to be a scandal for the Williams Family, the two sisters of the Williams Family.

But it ended up becoming an embarrassment for them instead. Unforgivable!

Where did it all go wrong?

Emily Parker glared angrily at Hope Williams.

Hope Williams stood quietly to the side. Though she remained silent, her clear eyes seemed to declare that she had seen through everything, leaving Emily and Sophie to look like two clowns stripped bare, flailing before her.

How exactly did she manage to handle everything so perfectly?

The guests gradually dispersed, and Sophie Zhou and Emily Parker were taken away under repeated apologies from Old Master Parker and Noah Carter.

Hope Williams slowly descended the stairs, where Waylon Lewis was waiting for her below.

Upon seeing Waylon Lewis, Hope Williams quickened her pace and walked toward him.

When Hope Williams reached Waylon Lewis, he held a coat in his hands and reached out to personally drape it over her shoulders.

Wrapped in warmth, Hope Williams smiled faintly and looked up at the man before her. The cold, commanding presence she had moments ago was now replaced with tenderness.

"Is everything settled?" Waylon Lewis looked down at Hope Williams, gently tidying her hair as he asked.

Hope Williams nodded. "Mm. How about you?"

"Everything you instructed has been taken care of."

A faint smile danced in Hope Williams's eyes. "That's good."

While upstairs, Hope Williams hadn't been idle. She had already informed Waylon Lewis and prepared a contingency plan in advance.

Luna Williams, who had been forcing herself to maintain control, finally broke down in tears once everyone had left. Large teardrops streamed uncontrollably.

Jade Bell saw her suddenly crying, utterly at a loss.

"Luna, what's wrong?"

"Grandma, I... I..." Luna Williams struggled to speak. "You have to avenge me, or I can't go on living."

Jade Bell furrowed her brows tightly. “Luna, speak slowly. What happened? What’s wrong? Why would you say something like that?”

Luna Williams began narrating the entire ordeal while sobbing.

Listening to Luna Williams, Jade Bell could hardly believe her ears.

She thought she might have heard it wrong.

So tonight wasn’t just Emily Parker and Sophie Zhou stirring baseless trouble—it was something real.

Luna Williams cried so hard she could barely catch her breath. She stormed over to Hope Williams and loudly accused, “It’s all because of you, you despicable person, trying to ruin me! Grandma, it’s her—it’s all her doing!”

Hope Williams: “...”

“You shouldn’t have saved such an idiot,” Waylon Lewis remarked to Hope Williams.

In this situation, even if Hope Williams hadn’t helped Luna Williams and had let Emily Parker lead her people upstairs, Luka Reed would have pinned the blame on Hope Williams in front of everyone. Still, Hope Williams would have been able to prove her innocence and walk away clean.

But all girls would struggle to endure being seen naked by a crowd.

Putting herself in Luna’s shoes, Hope Williams ultimately chose to help Luna Williams at that critical moment, blocking the people who were rushing upstairs.

She had also asked Shawn Lee to climb down from the third-floor window to find clean clothes for Luna Williams to change into. That’s why Emily Parker and Sophie Zhou couldn’t detect a flaw—preserving Luna Williams’s dignity in the end.

Still, Luna Williams failed to realize it was Emily and Sophie’s scheme.

Hope Williams felt speechless.

Jade Bell looked at Hope Williams and then back at Luna Williams in shock, unable to believe this had anything to do with Hope Williams.

But seeing the enormous blow Luna Williams had suffered tonight, Jade Bell measured her response and spoke carefully, “Luna, don’t worry. As for Luka Reed, our Williams Family will not let him off. But Little Hope... Grandma feels it’s impossible that she did this. Someone must have deliberately framed her.”

Luna Williams's mind was a chaotic mess, consumed by the humiliation of being violated.

She couldn't possibly calm down and think. All she knew was that Luka Reed had repeatedly claimed it was Hope Williams who directed him to do it.

She told Jade Bell, thinking Jade would comfort and pity her. Yet Jade still spoke in defense of Hope Williams.

Luna Williams felt abandoned by the whole world, screaming in frustration, "You're biased toward Hope Williams; you favor her in everything. If Grandpa were here, none of this would happen."

Jade Bell reached out to soothe Luna Williams's emotional outburst, but Luna pushed her away forcefully.

The elderly Jade Bell almost fell, but Hope Williams extended an arm to steady her.

"Luna, Grandma doesn't favor Little Hope—it's just that Grandma believes Little Hope would never do such a thing."

"You believe her instead of me, right? Grandma, I am the one who was wronged, assaulted, the victim—but why won't you believe what I'm saying?" Luna Williams cried bitterly.

"Don't you know how much she hates me? Doesn't her hatred for me justify doing something like this?" Luna Williams interrogated Jade Bell repeatedly.

She was completely disillusioned, struggling to understand why Jade Bell wouldn't trust her or take her side.

"Why? Why, exactly?" Luna Williams's face was wrought with pain and sorrow.

Since Grandpa was imprisoned, no one had loved her anymore.

Hope Williams lowered her head slightly, sighed, drew back a strand of hair, and observed Luna Williams ranting manically like a lunatic.

Her cold, indifferent face bore no expression. She lifted a glass of water from beside her and stepped forward.

"Why won't anyone believe me? That wicked woman..."

Her words choked in her throat.

Hope Williams raised her hand decisively, splashing the icy water onto her face. Luna Williams trembled all over.

“Luna... Little Hope, this...”

Hope Williams calmly set the glass down, tucked her hands into her coat pockets, and looked at her coolly. “Calmed down yet?”

“You want answers. I’ll give you one.” Hope Williams took the phone from Waylon Lewis.

The phone was in the middle of a call, though the voice was muffled and indistinct.

The Carter Family.

Emily Parker slammed the car door repeatedly, as though she wanted to vent all her anger on it.

Sophie Zhou hurried to catch up with her.

Noah Carter watched his wife. The leg he had initially extended to step out of the car withdrew. He remained sitting inside, rolling down the window to light a cigarette.

Emily Parker cursed as she walked in a huff. She was still utterly confused about what had happened.

“Aunt, don’t be upset. If this time didn’t work, there’s always next time.”

“How can I not be upset? I really don’t know how those two little wenches got so lucky. Look at your uncle—always siding with outsiders.”

“Uncle might have been duped by them; don’t be mad. Ultimately, you two are husband and wife.”

“And where’s your uncle now?”

Sophie Zhou glanced back. “Uncle didn’t get out of the car.”

Emily Parker grew even angrier. “Look at that—just look! Now he’s sulking at me.”

Emily Parker strode toward the door, only to find no servant there to open it. Her fury was about to explode.

She reached out to knock on the door, but still, there was no response from inside.

Left with no choice, she muttered curses while punching in the entry code, “Where is everybody today? Not even one person to open the door.”

Emily Parker pushed the door open.

“If I catch the lazy good-for-nothing who’s slacking off, I’ll definitely—”

Her words stalled in her throat. Her entire body stiffened as she looked up at the scene before her.

“Ah—” Sophie Zhou let out a piercing shriek.

Darkness filled the space. As the door swung open, moonlight filtered in with an eerie and ghostly pallor. A bloodied figure was bound, dangling high above, struggling incessantly.

A deathly silence fell across the room.

“Ah—”

After a long stunned pause, Emily Parker snapped out of her terror, her legs giving way as she collapsed onto the ground and screamed hysterically.

Chapter 576: Chapter 576: Giving You the Truth

This grotesque scene sent chills down their spines.

“Auntie.” Sophie Zhou curled tightly behind Emily Parker, her entire body trembling in fear. “Is he... dead or alive?”

Emily Parker swallowed hard, her voice trembling, “He’s... alive.”

Because he was still moving!

After a long while, Emily shakily climbed up from the floor. Sophie choked out, terrified, “Auntie, what are you going to do?”

Emily took a few steps forward and reached to turn on the lights.

With a soft click, the entire room lit up.

Only then did Emily clearly see the hanging figure.

Luka Reed!

Emily's chest heaved dramatically as she stared incredulously at Luka, who was suspended in the air. His mouth was sealed with black tape, and he could only make muffled sounds of distress.

"Luka?" Sophie's eyes widened as well.

How could he be here?

"Hurry, untie him quickly." Emily steadied herself and rushed to shut the door.

They quickly freed Luka. Emily ripped the tape off his mouth and anxiously asked, "I told you to stop Luna Williams. How did you end up like this?"

"It... it was Hope Williams. Hope showed up suddenly and saved Luna. Then her people beat me up." Luka's face contorted in pain, his body covered in trauma, likely with multiple broken bones.

Emily furrowed her brows tightly.

"Did you manage to succeed at all?"

"Mm."

Emily's face lit up. "Did you also follow my instructions and tell Luna that it was Hope who ordered you to do this?"

Luka replied, "I told her."

Emily finally allowed a smile to spread across her face. "Good. Then tonight isn't a total loss for us."

"Ha, Mrs. Carter, after the beating I endured tonight, you're still only considering your own interests," Luka grumbled bitterly.

Emily's eyes flashed with calculated malice, and she sneered, "You volunteered for the job. You acted on your lust, and we even gave you the opportunity. Why don't you blame yourself for this debacle?"

Getting beaten half to death for seducing a woman—Luka felt utterly cheated today.

Emily, now in high spirits, adjusted her hair and stood. "Alright, let's get moving. I'll arrange for someone to take you to the hospital."

Hunched over and holding his chest, Luka stumbled to his feet. Suddenly, "thud," a phone fell out of his pocket.

The three of them immediately froze and lowered their heads to stare at the device, which displayed a call duration of thirty minutes.

Emily was completely dumbfounded.

She sharply raised her head.

Luka was equally stunned, staring at Emily in disbelief.

“Who were you on the phone with?”

Luka vigorously shook his head. “I...I don’t know.”

“You betrayed me?” Emily’s eyes widened, and she grabbed Luka by the collar.

Luka panicked and protested, “I did not! I don’t even know when the call started.”

“A phone that was on your person, and you don’t know anything about it?” Emily narrowed her eyes dangerously.

“I really don’t know!”

Emily’s heart raced, dread spilling over her. She knew it was all over!

Meanwhile.

On Hope Williams’ side.

The voices from the phone came through crystal clear.

“I told you to stop Luna Williams. How did you end up like this?”

“It... it was Hope Williams. Hope showed up suddenly and saved Luna. Then her people beat me up.”

“Did you manage to succeed at all?”

“Mm.”

“Did you also follow my instructions and tell Luna that it was Hope who ordered you to do this?”

...

Luna Williams ground her teeth, her eyes fierce and filled with murderous rage as she listened to everything.

“Emily Parker! This is absolutely outrageous!” Jade Bell erupted with fury as soon as the call ended.

Hope’s expression remained calm as she closed her phone. “Did you hear it clearly?”

Standing motionless, hatred surged violently through Luna’s veins. She was so livid that she couldn’t even utter a word.

Hope raised an eyebrow slightly and put her phone back to her ear. “Mrs. Carter.”

When Emily heard Hope’s voice coming from the phone, the true extent of her predicament became clear—everything was in Hope’s grasp.

Emily gritted her teeth, stiffly holding the phone to her ear, and spat through clenched teeth, “Well played, you scheming little snake!”

“Compared to Mrs. Carter, I am still somewhat lacking. Now, I must request that Mrs. Carter visit the Williams Family. After committing such despicable acts, you owe the Williams Family an explanation.”

Emily’s jaw clenched tight in fury. “I won’t go!”

Hope’s cold and detached voice came through with unflinching dominance, “That’s alright. I will send someone to escort you.”

The icy precision of her statement landed heavily, undeniable and laden with authority.

As soon as Hope ended the call, Emily raised her hand and hurled the phone to the ground.

It instantly shattered into pieces.

“Threaten me? She actually dares to threaten me? Who does she think she is?”

Sophie, having grasped the gravity of the situation by now, hunched her shoulders and timidly asked, “Auntie, what do we do now?”

“Do what? What can they do even if they know? They won’t dare call the police for something like this. Unless Luna Williams is ready to lose her own reputation, she’ll stay put at home. I’d like to see what they can possibly do to me.”

As soon as her words fell, a group of bodyguards dressed in black stormed through the door.

The loud commotion made everyone shrink back instinctively. Emily turned to face Thomas Hughes’ piercing gaze.

Emily backed away hurriedly. “What are you trying to do?”

“Our lady requests Mrs. Carter visit the Williams Family.”

Emily swallowed hard, staring straightforwardly at Thomas, attempting to put on a façade of authority. “This is the Carter Family! Do you think you can run wild here? Get out!”

Politeness aside, Thomas’ tone turned harsh. His face carried no trace of warmth. “That’s no longer up to Mrs. Carter.”

The bodyguards behind Thomas moved swiftly and hoisted Emily up before dragging her outside.

Emily’s face turned pale, and she screamed in panic, “Let me go! Breaking into private property—I’ll call the police!”

Thomas, unrelenting, replied coldly, “Hiring someone to commit rape, framing and slandering our lady—compared to Mrs. Carter’s crimes, breaking into your house is insignificant, isn’t it?”

“Let me go! Let me go! Aaah! Help!”

Thomas glanced briefly at Sophie, who was cowering against the wall.

Sophie quickly yielded, saying, “I’ll go on my own.”

Noah Carter, sitting in the car and having just finished his cigarette, was stepping out when he saw Emily being dragged outside, screaming profanities.

Noah’s face tensed as he noticed the menacing group. He immediately stepped forward to block their path. “Stop right there! Where are you taking my wife?”

Emily seized the moment like a lifeline. “Noah, save me!”

Thomas nodded slightly at Noah. “Mr. Carter, perhaps you should ask Mrs. Carter about the ‘good deeds’ she’s done tonight.”

Noah recognized Thomas as one of Waylon Lewis’ men. His brows furrowed deeply as he looked at Emily and Sophie.

Emily lowered her head sheepishly, unable to meet his gaze.

Chapter 577: Chapter 577: Biological Daughter

Noah Carter looked at Emily Parker's expression and reflected that if they hadn't done something to hurt Hope Williams, Waylon Lewis' people would never have personally stepped in.

"What kind of trouble did you stir up this time?"

"I..."

Noah Carter's brow furrowed, a layer of frost settling between his eyebrows, and his gaze filled with deep helplessness.

"Can I go with you all?"

Thomas Hughes nodded, "Yes."

The Williams Family.

Waylon Lewis accompanied Hope Williams to the Williams Family estate, while Luke and Willow were first taken back to the villa by Zoey Sanders and Joseph Sanders.

Luna Williams wept all the way home, her tears more overwhelming than her boundless hatred.

Soon, Noah Carter accompanied Emily Parker and Sophie Zhou to the Williams estate.

The atmosphere in the living room was unbearably tense; Luna Williams' eyes were swollen and crimson from crying.

Seeing Jade Bell's pallor and hearing Luna Williams' sobs, Noah Carter realized the situation was far more serious than he had imagined.

As Luna Williams spotted Emily Parker and Sophie Zhou, her emotions erupted instantly as she screamed and yelled at Emily Parker, "Why did you do this?"

Emily Parker, knowing everyone had heard that phone call, dropped the pretense.

"Why? Because I can't stand you people, can't stand those two faces resembling your mother's. All I wanted was for the Williams Family to be humiliated because of you two sisters and to become a laughingstock in front of all the guests," she sneered.

"Although I must admit, I miscalculated. I didn't expect you to see through my plan and dispel it so easily." Emily Parker's eyes briefly swept over Hope Williams, showing a hint of grudging respect.

"Your plan was too clumsy," Hope Williams said coldly.

Emily Parker laughed twice. “Clumsy? So what?”

She turned her eyes towards Luna Williams, her face full of mockery. “Even with my clumsy plan, I still managed to achieve my goal, didn’t I?”

Luna Williams, boiling with rage, charged over and raised her hand to strike Emily Parker.

Emily Parker brusquely flicked away Luna Williams’ hand. With disdain, she scoffed, “You think someone as scrawny as you can take me on? Go home and drink more herbal medicine for a few years.”

“You!” Luna Williams, flushed with anger, refused to back down and lunged forward, grabbing Emily Parker’s hair.

“Ah!”

Emily Parker felt as though her scalp was about to be torn off. “Let go!”

Luna Williams poured out all her frustration and pain, violently holding on.

Emily Parker wasn’t one to tolerate attacks. She raised her hand to claw at Luna Williams’ face, and seeing her aunt being grabbed by Luna, Sophie Zhou rushed forward without hesitation to help.

“You wretch, let go of my aunt.”

“This is for ruining me! This is for ruining me!”

“Ah! It hurts—let go!”

The three women became a tangled mess of chaos.

Hope Williams’ temple throbbed.

Waylon Lewis looked on coldly, his brow furrowed tightly, silently wrapping Hope Williams in his arms to shield her.

“Enough! Stop it right now! All of you, stop!” Jade Bell shouted urgently.

Luna Williams, utterly consumed by her emotions, showed no intention of stopping, ripping and clawing furiously at the two relatives as if trying to tear off pieces of their flesh.

With both hands at her disposal, Emily Parker fought back two against one. Luna Williams ended up being slapped hard—twice.

Noah Carter hurried forward to pull Emily Parker away. "Let go! Everyone let go! Stop fighting, do you hear me?"

Emily Parker saw her chance, raising her hand to strike Luna Williams again.

In a moment of urgency, Noah Carter pushed Emily Parker away with force.

Unprepared, Emily Parker stumbled backward, hitting her head on the corner of a table.

"Ah!"

"Auntie!"

A sharp, searing pain radiated from her forehead.

Sophie Zhou quickly helped Emily Parker up. "Auntie, are you okay?"

Emily Parker paused for a moment before lifting her trembling hand, only to feel warm blood trailing down her face. When she touched it, her hand came away stained crimson.

"Auntie, you're bleeding!" Sophie Zhou gasped, covering her mouth in shock.

Noah Carter, realizing he had shoved too forcefully in the heat of the moment, frowned deeply, guilt visible on his face. He bent down, intending to help Emily Parker up. "Are you... okay?"

"Get away from me!"

Emily Parker swatted Noah Carter's helping hand away, her eyes raging red. Through gritted teeth, she spat, "Noah Carter, today I finally see you for who you really are. To you, those two sisters are more important than me. You went this far for Luna Williams, even putting your hands on me!"

Noah Carter's brows creased further. "It was a moment of panic; I didn't do it intentionally. What exactly happened between all of you?"

Since his arrival, Noah Carter had been utterly confused. He knew Emily Parker had done something wrong, but he didn't understand what precisely she had done before everything escalated into a brawl.

Hope Williams took note of the situation, pursed her lips, and said flatly, "Mr. Carter, your wife, Mrs. Carter, under the guise of her resentment towards Luna Williams and me, orchestrated a staged adultery incident an hour ago, intending to frame me for the crime. Had things gone according to her plan, I would now be accused of arranging for

Luna Williams to be raped out of spite. In front of all the guests, the Williams Family would have become the laughingstock of the entire city, and Luna Williams..."

Hope Williams' gaze flicked briefly towards the disheveled Luna Williams. She stopped short, knowing Noah Carter could comprehend the rest.

Noah Carter's face turned ashen as he stared in stunned disbelief at Luna Williams. "Luna, you..."

"Luna was ruined by that beast Luka Reed!" Jade Bell snapped angrily.

Upon hearing the explicit truth, Noah Carter's pupils constricted, turning abruptly to glare at Emily Parker. The earlier remorse vanished completely.

"How dare you! Who gave you the audacity to do this?"

Emily Parker, ignoring the injury on her forehead, pursed her lips tightly and stared back at Noah Carter.

"I'm asking you: who gave you the audacity to do this?" Noah Carter repeated furiously when she didn't answer.

Emily Parker's shoulders trembled, her heart sinking into icy despair. She had already been yelled at countless times by Noah Carter over the past few days. And now, he had even physically shoved her for Luna Williams!

Filled to the brim with grievances, Emily Parker's lips quivered. "Isn't it all because of you? First, your entire heart belonged to Maya Williams, and now it belongs entirely to these two sisters. All because they have faces resembling hers! Noah Carter, you've lost your temper at me countless times over the past few days because of them. Is that how much they matter to you?"

Noah Carter's voice weighed heavily. "And that's your excuse for harming them? Emily Parker, how many times must I tell you before you finally believe me?"

"Believe you? After everything you've done, how am I supposed to believe you?" Emily Parker shouted at him, pointing to the wound on her forehead.

Hope Williams raised her hand to massage her temples and turned to glance at Waylon Lewis. Waylon, having sat through all of this, appeared completely out of patience. Hope leaned closer to him, whispering, "Let's go."

She had already untangled the situation and cleared her name. Luna Williams was the real victim, and this was ultimately a matter between the Carter and Williams Families.

She had no need to stay and listen to their arguments. The final resolution didn't concern her.

Just as Hope Williams rose to leave, she heard Noah Carter, pushed beyond his limit, yell at Emily Parker, "Fine then, let me tell you the truth—the reason I've been so concerned about them is because they are my... biological daughters!"

The last four words were spoken with deliberate weight, ringing clearly in everyone's ears.

Silence fell over the room.

Hope Williams froze mid-motion, her hand trembling slightly.

Waylon Lewis furrowed his brows deeply, an uncommon look of shock flashing in his eyes.

Jade Bell stood up abruptly, exclaiming, "What?"

Emily Parker was left utterly speechless, unable to believe what she had just heard.

Chapter 578: Chapter 578: Wanting to Escape, But It's Difficult...

"Noah Carter, what did you just say?" Emily Parker stared directly at Noah.

"I said, Hope Williams and Luna Williams are my biological daughters!"

Noah Carter's entire body tensed as he repeated himself word for word.

Emily Parker was stunned for several seconds before suddenly letting out a spiteful laugh. She sneered, "Noah Carter, are you senile? Running around claiming random daughters!"

Noah's gaze was solemn and earnest as he looked at Emily. "I'm not crazy or old, and I'm certainly not joking. They are indeed my biological daughters! A month ago, I did a DNA test. I wouldn't be saying this unless I was absolutely certain."

"You asked me what I've been doing this past month. I'll tell you—I've been donating bone marrow to Luna at the hospital. I lied to you, and that's my fault. But no matter what I've done wrong, you had no right—absolutely no right—to harm Little Hope and Luna. If you have any grievances, take them out on me!"

Seeing Noah Carter's utterly serious expression, Emily Parker's face froze in place. A torrent of emotions flooded her mind, exploding like a bomb. Her composure crumbled in an instant.

"Aunt!"

Sophie Zhou quickly caught Emily as she stumbled backward. "Aunt, are you alright? Don't scare me! Aunt!"

Emily took a few deep breaths, raising her hand to push Sophie's support aside. She charged up to Noah, grabbing his collar fiercely.

"Noah Carter! When did this happen? When did you and Maya have this affair? Explain it to me now!"

Noah numbly raised his head, his eyes filled with profound pain. After a long silence, he finally spoke, "It was the night I found out Maya was getting married. I got drunk and... went looking for her."

"Slap!"

Emily delivered a fierce slap across Noah's face.

"You... you loved her so much, you got her! Why didn't you just propose to the Williams Family? Why did you agree to marry me afterward?"

"Propose?" Noah let out a bitter laugh. "How could I have the face to propose? Maya wouldn't have agreed anyway. As for marrying you..." Noah lowered his eyes and let out a sigh. Guilt flickered in his gaze. "There was no possibility between Maya and me anymore. Marrying anyone else made no difference to me."

Emily felt a searing pain in her chest.

She had thought, at the very least, his willingness to marry her back then must have held a shred of affection for her.

But it didn't. Not even a shred.

She was merely a substitute!

No! Not even a substitute.

The hatred in her heart grew wild and unrestrained.

She let out a cold, bitter laugh. “So, I’ve always been insignificant to you, haven’t I? Ha... Twenty-some years, Noah Carter—have you no heart? How could I, Emily Parker, have ever fallen for you?”

Noah’s voice grew heavy and somber. “...I’m sorry. If you want a divorce, I will...”

“Divorce?” Emily sneered coldly. “Dream on! Divorce me so you can hand the family fortune over to them, is that it? Absolutely not! Everything in the Carter Family belongs to my son. Those two girls won’t get a single dime.”

Noah squeezed his eyes shut in frustration. Emily’s reaction matched what he’d anticipated all along.

Noah turned a troubled gaze toward Hope and Luna, who had remained ominously silent throughout this ordeal. Their lack of response only deepened his unease.

“Luna? Little Hope?”

He looked anxiously at the two of them, his heart pounding wildly.

No one could comprehend how nerve-racking it had been for him to reveal this secret.

On one side, he was under immense pressure from Emily Parker. On the other, he feared his daughters wouldn’t acknowledge him—or worse, wouldn’t forgive him.

Luna had known the truth long ago. To her, it was nothing shocking. She remained consumed by the anguish of losing her innocence, utterly indifferent to Noah’s calls.

Hope, from start to finish, had not uttered a single word.

Her reaction, in contrast to Emily’s hysteria and Jade’s profound shock, was chillingly composed as she listened to every word.

Yet her hands, hanging at her sides, were clenched into tight fists.

Waylon Lewis furrowed his brows as he observed her, keenly catching the turmoil in her gaze.

Noah had once told her he had done something to her mother that he could never atone for in this lifetime.

So it was this.

How was this different from **rape**?

Hope took several deep breaths, but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't suppress the storm of emotions roiling inside her.

Noah lowered his head once more, consumed by guilt.

"Little Hope, Luna... It's me, your father, who has failed you both. I didn't fulfill my responsibilities, nor did I protect either of you."

Hope's clenched fists tightened further. For all her usual composure and rationality, she found herself incapable of responding to Noah's words now.

Hate him? Resent him? It didn't matter. She couldn't find the words for anything at this moment.

Hope stiffly stood up, turning to Waylon Lewis. "We... Let's go home."

Without hesitation, Waylon responded. If Hope Williams wanted to leave, he would take her away, no questions asked.

"Alright."

Noah looked at Hope's grim expression and grew anxious. "Little Hope..."

Hope frowned slightly, shutting her eyes and quickening her pace to leave.

Meanwhile, on the second floor, Ted Williams raised an eyebrow, having witnessed the entire scene. He was clearly surprised.

A month ago, he had been curious as to why Luna, after waiting so long for a matching donor, had suddenly found one through an anonymous donation.

At the time, he thought it was sheer luck. Who would have guessed it was Noah Carter?

Ted curled his lips into a smirk. This family truly was something else.

Emily Parker's public outburst had unearthed a scandal of this magnitude.

Hope left the Williams Family residence in a rush, her pace hurried as if she were fleeing from something.

She took several deep breaths, leaning against the car and pressing her hand to her forehead to gather herself.

Waylon Lewis approached her quietly, wrapping his arms around her in a comforting embrace. He gently stroked her hair.

Truthfully, even Waylon hadn't anticipated such an outcome.

That Noah Carter turned out to be Hope's biological father—and that he had obtained Hope's mother in such a despicable way.

"Do you resent him?"

After a moment of silence, Hope spoke lightly, her tone indifferent. "From my mother's perspective... yes, I resent him. From my own perspective... my life is because of him. What right do I have to resent him?"

Chapter 579: Chapter 579: Seeking Peace

Hope Williams sighed. "Let's go back."

"Alright, no more thinking about it. We'll head back to the Emperor Capital tomorrow. Everything here is done, okay?"

Hope closed her eyes, burying herself in Waylon Lewis's embrace, and held his waist tightly.

Over. But how hard it is...

When had she not wanted to just abandon everything, to run away from the Williams Family, and to flee from all of this?

Yet she keenly felt she couldn't escape.

Some things could only be faced.

Feeling Hope's helplessness and confusion, Waylon gently stroked her hair.

"It's alright. I'll face it all with you."

...

The next day.

With so many emotions suppressed in her heart, Hope had stayed awake the entire night.

In the morning, she was forced back to bed by Waylon and finally slept until noon.

After lunch, a guest arrived at the villa.

Looking at the elder brought in by Thomas Hughes, Hope frowned lightly. “You are?”

The old man leaned on a cane, yet his spirit was vigorous. “My last name is Parker—I’m Emily Parker’s father!”

Upon hearing this, Hope subtly furrowed her brow but still courteously invited Old Master Parker to sit down.

“What brings you here, Mr. Parker?”

“I’ve come about what happened last night. I’ve heard everything,” Old Master Parker sighed. “Things have escalated to this extent—it’s all my fault for failing to teach my daughter properly. I’m here today to express my apology.”

“The biggest victim in this matter is Luna Williams. If Mr. Parker wants to apologize, it should be to her.”

“I understand. I’ve come to you for another issue as well.”

Hope nodded slightly, understanding blooming in her eyes before Old Master Parker could elaborate.

“Whatever it is, please speak plainly.”

“I’d like to ask you to come with me to the Carter Family. The matter of you and your sister being Noah Carter’s biological daughters cannot be avoided; things need to be clarified.”

Hope shook her head gently, her tone indifferent. “There’s nothing worth discussing. If you, like Mrs. Carter, are concerned that I’m Noah Carter’s daughter and worry I’ll come after the Carter Family’s wealth in the future, let me state it clearly now: I won’t. He is him; I am me. I won’t pursue anything from the Carter Family because of this blood tie—not now, not ever.”

Hearing Hope’s firm stance, Old Master Parker became a bit anxious.

“Child, that’s not what I meant. On the contrary, I believe that since you and your sister are Noah Carter’s biological daughters, he, as a father, owes you both compensation for not fulfilling any parental responsibilities all these years.”

Hearing the word “compensation,” an ache rose in Hope’s eyes, but her tone remained firm. “I don’t need it.”

Compensation!

Too many people had mentioned those words to her.

She had grown tired of hearing them.

Old Master Parker frowned deeply. Seeing the subtle redness in Hope's eyes, he sighed softly.

"Child, can I call you Little Hope?"

Hope's face remained nearly expressionless as she nodded lightly.

"Little Hope, I know you're angry. To be honest, I was both shocked and furious when I found out. From any angle, these matters are truly your parents' fault, and I, as an elder, sincerely wish to resolve them instead of leaving things in limbo like this. I imagine your heart feels heavy too, doesn't it?"

Hope remained silent.

"You're very intelligent—I know you're not someone who avoids problems. So perhaps, Little Hope, could you grant me a favor and come with me to the Carter Family?"

Looking into Old Master Parker's earnest and heartfelt gaze, Hope hesitated for two seconds.

After some thought, she finally nodded.

The Carter Family.

When Hope entered the Carter Family's living room with Old Master Parker, Noah Carter, Emily Parker, and Leo Carter were all present.

Luna Williams and Jade Bell were there as well.

The living room was unusually quiet; no one spoke. Each face looked unbearably tense.

Seeing Hope, a flicker passed through Noah's eyes, and he rose from the sofa.

"Little Hope."

Hope shot him a cold glance, her expression icy.

Old Master Parker gestured for Hope to take a seat, then settled in the main sofa seat himself.

Hope sat in a single sofa. Luna and Jade sat to her right.

Noah Carter, Emily Parker, and Leo Carter sat opposite them.

“Since everyone’s here, let’s put everything out in the open,” Emily Parker was the first to speak.

Old Master Parker glared at her sternly.

Emily clenched her hands tightly, gritted her teeth, and adjusted her tone to a more formal one before producing two checks. She rose and walked to Hope and Luna.

“The matter with Luka Reed last night—it was entirely my fault. Here’s fifty million as my form of compensation.”

She placed the checks in front of the two sisters.

Using money for compensation.

How ironic.

Hope let out a cold laugh and pushed the check away. “Keep it for yourself.”

Luna picked up her check, scanned it coldly, and smirked sardonically.

She stood up, walked straight to Emily, and held the check in front of her.

Emily looked bewildered. “What are you doing? Isn’t fifty million enough?”

Expressionless, Luna tore the check into pieces right before Emily’s face and threw them at her.

“How about I buy a night of you getting raped for fifty million?”

Emily’s face immediately contorted. “Don’t push it!”

“Emily Parker!”

“Emily Parker!”

“Mom!”

Noah Carter, Old Master Parker, and Leo Carter all spoke simultaneously.

Meanwhile, Hope kept her head slightly lowered, staring at her delicate fingers, her demeanor cold and unbothered, as if she hadn’t heard anything.

Emily grit her molars and let out a heavy huff. “What do you want, then?”

“I want you to suffer what I’ve suffered.”

Emily's lips twitched. "You're being unreasonable."

"Unreasonable? Who harmed whom first?" Luna roared, her emotions surging.

"I've already apologized and compensated you. Now you want me to go through what you did? Isn't that crossing the line?"

Both women's tempers flared, and it looked as though they were about to clash again. Old Master Parker intervened. "Both of you, calm down. Emily, this whole thing was your fault. Fix your attitude."

Emily bit her lip and swallowed her words.

"Dad, you've seen it yourself. I've sincerely apologized, but these two refuse to accept it."

"Isn't that completely understandable? If I were in their situation, I wouldn't accept it either."

Old Master Parker turned to Luna. "Luna, Emily bears this responsibility. How about this: in future business dealings between the Carters, Parkers, and the Williams Family, we'll yield two percentage points as compensation. Or if you have another request, please bring it up, and we'll discuss satisfying it."

Luna persisted. "I want her to experience exactly what I did."

"This..." Old Master Parker glanced at Jade Bell, looking troubled. "Jade, what do you think...?"

Jade furrowed her brows tightly. She knew that both the Parker and Carter Families' concessions were already quite significant.

Luna's demand was evidently impossible to meet.

After some thought, Jade stood to take Luna's hand, preparing to persuade her. "Luna..."

Luna interrupted sharply, staring at Jade. "Grandmother, are you about to persuade me? Fine. I'll agree on one condition—give me the Williams Clan, and I'll accept their peace terms."

The matter of the Williams Clan inheritance was brought up again. Jade's expression froze slightly. From the start, she had always envisioned Hope as the successor, but Luna's repeated forcefulness was relentless.

"What's wrong? Can't you agree, Grandmother?"

“Luna, let’s discuss this at home, alright? This isn’t the right time to address it.”

“Then tell me, when will it be the right time?”

Jade looked troubled.

Emily smirked mockingly as she watched the internal strife unfold.

Jade tugged Luna back onto the sofa, speaking with deliberate weight. “This is something we can discuss back home. Inheriting the Williams Clan isn’t as simple as just handing it over. Don’t make a scene here and let others see us as a joke.”

Her eyes hinted at Luna to notice how Emily was reveling in their argument.

Only then did Luna grit her teeth and reluctantly sit in silence.

Noah Carter chose this moment to step forward, addressing Hope and Luna. “Little Hope, Little Luna, I’ve failed in my duty as a father these many years. I deeply regret it, and I’d like to compensate you both.”

He pulled out a document and a list.

“Little Hope is already married, and Little Luna will marry someday too. As your father, I’ve prepared dowries for both of you, and I’d like to give them to you today as a form of compensation.”

At the mention of dowry, Emily’s expression darkened immediately.

“You’re giving dowries to them?! Why didn’t you discuss this with me?”

Noah pressed his lips together. “How could I have discussed it with you?”

Emily glared daggers at him and snatched the list from his hand.

“Let’s see how you’ve arranged this.”

Ignoring Noah’s scowl, Emily scrutinized the document line by line. Her face turned grim.

As she read, she recited aloud: “Hope Williams’s dowry: one hundred and fifty million in cash; one villa at North Jade East Bay; three luxury apartments at Fortuna Wellness Community; five commercial properties—gold shop, porcelain store, beauty spa, café, jade store, and tea house.”

“Luna Williams’s dowry: one hundred and fifty million in cash; one villa at North Jade East Bay; three luxury apartments at Fortuna Wellness Community; one car; three commercial properties—gold shop, KTV, yoga studio, jade store, and tea plantation.”

“Lastly, five percent shares of the Carter Clan for each of them.”

Emily finished reading and threw the list at Noah’s face.

Her expression was bitter, as if she had been flayed alive.

“Well done, Noah Carter! You thief! Why don’t you just hand over the entire Carter Family to them?!”

Chapter 580: Chapter 580: Leaving with Nothing but Oneself

“This is our joint marital property. What gives you the right to decide on your own to give it to them?”

“They are my daughters. As their father, I have failed in my responsibility to raise them all these years. What’s wrong with giving them a dowry? After everything you’ve done to Luna, do you really think this small compensation is too much?”

“A small compensation? You call that a small compensation, Noah Carter? Looks to me like you’re ready to hand over the entire Carter family to those two!”

Noah Carter replied in a calm voice, “I only touched what’s under my name. The rest, which belongs to you, I haven’t touched a penny.”

“Bullshit. We’re married. As long as we don’t divorce, everything under your name is our joint property!” Emily Parker erupted in fury.

“Fine. Then we’ll divorce. Whatever you’re entitled to, I won’t shortchange you by even a single cent.”

Emily Parker stared at Noah Carter, her eyes wide with shock, as though struck by lightning. “Noah Carter, say that again.”

Noah Carter’s expression hardened. Facing Emily Parker’s thunderous roar, he felt as though his ears were about to burst.

“What if I say it again?”

Emily Parker’s face contorted as she took in Noah Carter’s resolute demeanor.

She turned her gaze toward the silent Leo Carter. “Son, say something!”

Leo Carter’s expression was colder than ever. “Give it to them.”

“What?!” Emily Parker screamed, her voice shrill. “Are you crazy? That’s our family’s money! Why should we give it to those two sluts?”

Leo Carter frowned.

“Mom, watch your mouth. They’re also Dad’s biological daughters. Stop calling them sluts with every breath you take.”

“So it’s come to this. Both of you, father and son, are siding with outsiders against me. I’ve busted my ass to plan out the family assets, and here you are, playing big-shot generosity. And now I see—I’m like a pig looking at a mirror, unworthy inside and out.” Emily Parker’s fury was so intense that her chest ached.

“Mom, at this point, you still don’t feel a shred of regret. Sure, Dad made mistakes, but what you did to Luna was even more despicable.” Leo Carter’s anger sharpened as he brought up Luna’s ordeal, his teeth grinding.

And yet, with Luna seated there all this while, he hadn’t dared to meet her gaze even once.

Emily Parker’s facial muscles trembled as she faced her son’s disdain-filled eyes. For the first time, panic flickered across her face.

Noah Carter’s face darkened further. “I know what you’re worried about. Apart from the dowries I’ve prepared for them, once we divorce, you can have whatever you want—money, cars, the house, even the Carter Clan. I don’t want a single thing. I’ll leave with nothing.”

Emily Parker stood rooted to the spot, her eyes nearly popping out of her sockets as she heard his words.

“What did you say?”

“I said everything—money, cars, the house, the company—you can have it all. I won’t take anything. I’ll leave with nothing, but you’re not allowed to touch those two dowries.”

“I know, as a husband, I’ve failed you. As a father, I’ve failed Little Hope and Luna. Now, I’ll use everything I have to make amends to you. All I ask is to try to lessen the pain I’ve caused you all.”

When Noah Carter finished speaking, he let out a sigh of relief, as though a burden had been lifted.

Emily Parker finally broke down, tears trembling down her cheeks. “You—you really can’t go on with me anymore? You’d rather leave with nothing just for the sake of divorcing me?”

Noah Carter pressed his thin lips firmly together into a flat line.

“So you’ve been thinking about leaving me for a while now, haven’t you? Noah Carter, you’re truly heartless. I’ve stuck with you all these years, and the moment you decide to divorce me, it’s final.”

Old Master Parker furrowed his brow and struck the floor with his cane several times, the dull sounds echoing heavily. “Enough. How much longer are you planning to argue?”

Emily Parker pursed her lips tightly, staring at Noah Carter’s unwavering resolve. She turned hopefully to Old Master Parker, seeking his intervention. “Dad, look at the way he’s acting. Please, stand up for me.”

She didn’t want to divorce Noah Carter!

Old Master Parker frowned deeply, lowering his head in contemplation.

“I don’t want anything from the Carter family.”

A light, detached voice rang out.

All eyes turned to Hope Williams. She was leaning against the sofa, slowly lifting her head. Her delicate and beautiful face carried almost no expression.

Yet that voice, so aloof, carried a chill like ice.

Emily Parker’s face immediately lit up with joy upon hearing Hope’s words.

“Little Hope, this is something I, as your father, owe you. It’s rightfully yours.” Noah Carter’s voice trembled with urgency.

“No need. It’s been twenty-some years. You haven’t raised me, and I’ve never called you ‘Father.’ At Emperor Capital Hospital, you saved my life. That clears everything between us. These things don’t belong to me, and I won’t take them.”

Noah Carter frowned deeply, increasingly furrowing his brows as he listened to Hope Williams.

He had understood her perfectly. He hadn’t raised her, and she had never acknowledged him as her father. To her, he wasn’t her father. Anything he gave her as a father didn’t belong to her, and she wouldn’t accept it.

Her words were clear, decisive, even cruel.

Noah Carter stared blankly at Hope Williams, his heart aching like never before.

Emily Parker let out a cold snort, unable to resist adding fuel to the fire. “Noah Carter, did you see that? You insist on giving her everything, yet she couldn’t care less.”

“Shut up.”

“Am I wrong? Your precious daughter married into the Lewis Family, a clan of such standing. Why would she even glance at your pitiful offerings? She probably doesn’t even acknowledge you as her father.”

Emily Parker continued to pour oil on the flames, bending over to gather the documents and papers from the table.

Noah Carter pressed his hand firmly down on them. “I said you’re not allowed to touch these two things.”

Seeing Noah Carter’s determination remain unshaken, Emily Parker slammed the file folder angrily onto the table. “Noah Carter, enough already! Didn’t you hear your beloved daughter? She doesn’t want your things, nor does she recognize you as her father. Do you not understand? She’s lofty and untouchable now, far above needing any of this.”

As she spoke, Emily Parker glared at Hope Williams. “And you! Acting all high and mighty, as if you’re so noble. Without the Williams family identity, you’re nothing. Paired with the Lewis Family, you’re just a lowly bird who’s landed on a high branch—nothing but trash.”

Emily Parker’s vulgar words finally became too much for both Old Master Parker and Leo Carter.

Just as Old Master Parker was about to reprimand her, an icy voice cut through.

“Mrs. Carter, you’ve got quite the nerve. Knowing that Little Hope is part of the Lewis Family and daring to insult her—is this your way of provoking the Lewis Family?”