## My Accidental Husband is a Billionaire!

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"It's intentional!"

"It's intentional!"

The two said in unison, and Lewis looked at Keira.

Keira replied coolly, "The brake pads on the wheels were tampered with."

Lewis added, "It seems the culprit was worried the brakes wouldn't fail, so they also messed with the brake system."

They both nodded in agreement. "This accident was definitely no accident."

Keira furrowed her brow. "But if this was deliberate, is someone trying to harm the Cobb family? Did the South family foresee this, or are they just manipulating their own prophecy?"

Lewis replied, "It's unclear at this point. The Cobb family will have to investigate this themselves"

Keira sighed. "Regardless, today confirmed something."

Lewis nodded. "Yes, the South family's prophecies hold some weight, whether by design or something supernatural. Whatever they say tends to happen."

Keira said, "I'm hungry."

"You also need to get that injury treated. Let's go."

As Keira and Lewis chatted, they got into the car Lewis had driven over, and he immediately pulled away.

Following behind, Ellie was confused. "Wait..."

She and her brother hadn't even had a chance to thank them before they just left.

She turned to Ryan, who was also staring in the direction of the departing car, looking a bit dazed.

"Ryan, what should we do now?"

Ryan frowned. "Didn't you hear? Someone is targeting us! We need to investigate and get to the bottom of this!"

"Oh, right."

Ellie handed a cotton swab to Ryan.

"I don't need treatment for this minor scrape."

"I didn't mean that. I wanted you to help me with mine."

" "

The rescue team arrived soon after to tow the car away. Ryan and Ellie were taken to the hospital for checks and were cleared with just superficial injuries.

That evening, they returned home, where Gavin and Selena were anxiously waiting for them. Upon seeing Gavin, Ryan hesitated to speak.

But Gavin said, "Ryan, I understand your point. Ms. Olsen saved you, so we shouldn't hold onto our grievances. Let's proceed with the collaboration!"

Ryan paused at his words and glanced at Selena, whose face was dark as if she wanted to say something but hesitated, her expression awkward.

Ryan lowered his gaze. "Ms. Olsen didn't save me for this collaboration."

If that were the case, she would have made her intentions clear right after saving them.

If that were the case, she would have made her intentions clear right after saving them.

But they had left without saying a word...

That clearly indicated that Keira wasn't the type to hold a grudge or seek payback for favors.

However, just because she didn't ask for anything in return didn't mean he could ignore the debt of two lives.

With that thought, Ryan spoke up. "Let's table this discussion for now. We need to investigate exactly what caused that accident!"

Ellie immediately agreed. "Yes, I want to know who's targeting us!"

Keira and Lewis had already returned to the Horton household.

Erin was munching on beef jerky while watching Lewis bandage Keira's injury, and she couldn't help but roll her eyes. "What's with the heroics?"

Keira stayed silent.

Erin leaned in closer. "I know you were looking into that accident, but I can tell you, the South family's prophecies are real; they've never failed. Today proved it. You need to believe in the supernatural!"

"I don't believe it."

Keira replied, "Everything can be orchestrated. The South family has accurately predicted over a hundred events over the years; they can engineer those outcomes. That doesn't prove their prophetic abilities are genuine."

Erin tossed aside her snack and picked up another. "Well, just wait and see. There's still plenty of time before the South family opens the door for us to return home!"

Keira didn't respond.

But Lewis interjected, "Don't put yourself in danger again."

"I know. I didn't take any risks; I knew everything would be fine."

Keira had lost count of how many times she had reassured Lewis on this drive.

Lewis still insisted, "You can't do that next time either. Promise me."

"Fine, fine, fine."

Keira dismissed him with an eye roll, feeling for a moment that Lewis sounded like a nagging parent.

Perhaps sensing her impatience, Lewis suddenly grasped both her hands and picked her up, carrying her upstairs.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Keira protested.

"You didn't take care of yourself today, so now you're getting punished."

"What kind of punishment?"

"No going to bed tonight."

"That's punishment?"

"Yep, we're sleeping on the couch together."

Keira didn't realize what kind of "sleeping" he was talking about...

The next morning, she woke up sore and stiff. She tried to move but found Lewis once again holding her down until she promised she wouldn't take risks again. Only then did he finally let her go.

Just as she was waking up, her phone buzzed with a message from an unknown number. "Ms. Olsen, this is Ryan. When you have time, could you return my call?"

Keira hesitated before picking up her phone and calling Ryan back.

The call was quickly answered, and Ryan's familiar, warm, but distant voice came through. "Ms. Olsen, we've found the cause of the accident."

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Keira and Lewis quickly arrived at the Cobb residence.

It wasn't that they couldn't explain things over the phone; face-to-face, they felt they could pick up on more clues.

Oh, and Erin, the little shadow, was tagging along.

As she munched on pistachios, she looked at Lewis and asked, "Aren't you supposed to be investigating the truth behind the car accident? Why are you here today?"

Yesterday, Lewis hadn't come because he wanted to keep his distance from Keira while he set up surveillance to see if anyone from the South family was approaching. He even deployed a drone, ready to spot a fly buzzing into the Cobb household.

Today, it was supposed to be another coordinated effort, yet Lewis insisted on coming along.

Lewis ignored Erin.

She smirked, leaning closer. "You think I don't know what you're thinking? You're just worried someone's got their eyes on a certain someone!"

Lewis shot her a sidelong glance.

Undeterred, Erin raised her chin defiantly.

It was strange, really. Lewis had an unpredictable nature that could be quite intimidating. On the other hand, Keira always appeared calm and stunningly beautiful, yet she exuded zero hostility.

But Erin, for some reason, feared Keira more than Lewis. When Lewis shot her a glare, she stuck her tongue out in defiance. But when Keira turned to look at her, Erin immediately quieted down.

This scene...

A glimmer of depth flickered in Lewis's eyes.

Lost in thought, he realized the car had already parked, and they stepped into the Cobb family's living room.

Typically composed and aloof, Ryan was not lounging on the couch as he usually did. Instead, he was surprisingly standing outside, waiting.

When he spotted Keira, a spark lit up his gaze as he opened his mouth to say something, but a tall figure brushed past Keira. "Hello, Mr. Cobb," Lewis greeted.

Ryan turned to see Lewis.

The man radiated an aura like a predator marking his territory, his eyes fierce and intense.

Ryan hesitated, placing his hand out toward Keira, but then shifted it to Lewis instead. "Hello. Mr. Horton."

Then he turned to Keira, saying, "Hello, Ms. Olsen."

Erin waved her hand in greeting, but Ryan didn't acknowledge her and stepped aside. "Please, come in."

Erin raised an eyebrow. Seriously? Did Ryan just forget about her?

"Two guests?" she muttered under her breath.

Rolling her eyes, she followed Keira into the living room.

Ellie was already there, her eyes red and puffy, evidence that she'd been crying.

Upon seeing the group, she quickly wiped her tears and put on a brave face. "Ms. Olsen, I can't thank you enough for yesterday. If it weren't for you, my brother and I might not be here."

Keira shrugged. "It was nothing, really. Just a helping hand."

Ellie blinked in surprise at Keira's nonchalance.

Ryan gestured to the couch. "Ms. Olsen, please have a seat."

After that, he remembered Lewis was also there, so he added, "Mr. Horton, please have a seat, too."

Keira and Lewis settled on the couch opposite Ryan while Erin plopped herself onto the armrest next to Keira, perching half her body on it. With her big, bright eyes darting around, she seemed to put the pieces together, grinning mischievously as if she understood everything.

Her antics were infuriating; Keira felt an urge to smack her.

Fighting the impulse, Keira turned to Ryan. "You mentioned you found out the truth behind the accident. What exactly happened?"

Everyone instinctively shifted their gaze to Ellie.

They pretended not to notice her unease.

Everyone was smart enough to recognize that Ellie's expression hinted she had some involvement in this.

Ellie's heart sank. Maybe she shouldn't be here.

She stood up and cleared her throat. "Uh, why don't you all continue the conversation without me?"

Ryan responded coolly, "You should sit down."

Ellie hesitated before slowly sitting back down, her head bowed.

Ryan took a breath. "This situation originated with Ellie. She..."

He paused as if weighing his words, then continued, "She had a boyfriend who bribed a housekeeper to tamper with the brakes, intending to kill her and seize her inheritance."

Keira raised an eyebrow at this revelation.

Lewis's face remained impassive.

But Erin's eyes lit up. "Whoa, spill the details!"

She plopped down on the couch and pulled out a handful of pistachios, ready to dig in.

Keira and Lewis had grown accustomed to Erin's behavior, but the other two looked utterly bewildered.

Ellie was speechless.

Ryan, equally baffled, wondered what was wrong with Erin. Why did she always go off-script?

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"Come on, just say it! We're all hanging here waiting for you."

Erin prodded impatiently when no one spoke up.

Ryan stayed silent.

Erin turned her attention to Ellie instead. "Oh, for crying out loud, if he won't talk, you spill the beans! What's the deal? Did you run into some jerk? Are there any messy love triangles going on? We're all friends here, nothing to hide, right?"

Ryan and Lewis exchanged confused glances, clearly ignored.

Oddly enough, Erin's directness made Ellie feel a bit lighter. She realized, why was she the one feeling bad? She wasn't the one who messed up.

She began, "I had a boyfriend... well, not really a boyfriend. More like someone I was interested in. He paid off my housekeeper to try and kill me because I've got a life insurance policy, and he's the beneficiary."

Erin bit into a pistachio. "Wait, hold on. This guy you're just into... and you made him the beneficiary of your life insurance? Girl, you're acting like a total simp."

Ellie blinked, taken aback. That word stung more than she expected.

She wanted to argue, but the words didn't come. And the more she thought about it, the more she realized Erin was right.

She looked down at her hands.

"No, seriously, what's going on with you? You're young and gorgeous, and you come from a great family. Why are you throwing yourself at some guy like this?"

Erin pressed on.

Ellie's voice dropped. "Because... he saved my life once."

"Oh, I get it. A classic trauma bond. PTSD, right? Someone saves you, and now he's your hero, and you're head over heels."

Erin turned to Keira. "She saved your life yesterday. You're not about to fall in love with her, are you? I mean, love knows no bounds, right?"

Keira shot her an exasperated look. "Would you stop talking nonsense?"

"I'm not talking nonsense! I actually feel bad for Lewis over here. He's got to watch out for both you Cobb siblings. Not only the brother but the sister, too? Wow, Lewis, you've got your hands full!"

Lewis smirked. "Seems like the person I need to worry about... is you."

Erin grinned, cradling her face with her hands. "Oh no, no need! I'm into clean-cut boys like Charles, not girls."

Ellie cleared her throat. "I don't like girls either."

"Oh, well, that's a shame. If you did, maybe you'd finally give up on that jerk. But alright, let's get back to the story."

Erin turned back to Ellie. "So you've been simping for this guy, and he turned around and paid your housekeeper to kill you for insurance money?"

Ellie nodded.

Keira quickly asked, "Did your car break down yesterday?"

Erin nodded. "Yeah, it's the one I drive every day."

Keira kept pressing, "What time did you leave the house?"

Ellie paused. "I was supposed to leave around 9:30, but someone told me the gate was blocked. I ended up leaving a little later, around 9:55, to check what was going on."

"Who told you the gate was blocked?"

"The butler."

Keira looked over at Ryan.

Ryan caught her meaning and quickly said, "The butler's clean."

Keira's expression darkened.

If this accident was planned, it had to happen right at 10:00. If Ellie had gone downstairs even a minute earlier or later, Ryan wouldn't have gotten into that car, and the crash wouldn't have happened.

The timing was too perfect to be a coincidence.

Keira asked, "When you went downstairs, did someone prompt you?"

"No," Ellie said quietly. "I was supposed to meet a friend. I was running late, and they called, so I got impatient and went downstairs."

"Which friend?"

Ellie hesitated, then answered, "Darien Britt."

Keira stood up immediately. "Where is he now?"

Ellie's expression hardened, her fists clenched. "I haven't seen him yet."

"I need to talk to him," Keira said. "Either he's being controlled, or there's something seriously wrong. Why did he call exactly at 9:55? And why was your car tampered with? If you ask me, Ryan's crash at 10:00? That's on him."

Ellie's face tightened with a mix of anger and despair.

Keira looked at Ryan, who added, "I wanted to call the cops yesterday and deal with him, but Ellie... she couldn't let go."

Erin stared at Ellie in disbelief. "Are you serious? You're still hung up on this guy? What do you even see in him? That he doesn't love you? Wake up!"

Ellie bit her lip, hating how much Erin's words stung. But the truth of it hit hard.

Taking a deep breath, Ellie said, "Alright. I'll take you to him. Let's find out why he did this to me."

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The group headed straight for the bar, a whole crowd of them.

Yes, in the middle of the morning, they went to a bar.

That man Ellie had been chasing was there, sitting in a corner booth with a girl in his arms when Keira walked in.

She and Erin exchanged a glance before looking at Ellie.

They both figured that after seeing this, Ellie would finally be able to let go of this loser, right?

The guy was already playing around with other women... openly.

But Ellie, surprisingly unfazed, said flatly, "The girl he's holding is his girlfriend, Mollie."

Keira blinked. Erin just gawked. "Wait, what? He has a girlfriend, and you're still chasing after him?"

Ellie looked down. "He told me he has feelings for me, too. Just because he has a girlfriend doesn't mean he's married. He said he can't leave her right now because he feels responsible. But he promised me... he said he's going to marry me eventually."

Keira's jaw dropped. "Are you serious right now?"

Erin was stunned. "So, you're the other woman? The famous Ellie Cobb is okay with being the side chick?"

Ellie quickly responded, "I'm not— It's not like that..."

But she couldn't even finish her sentence.

She knew, deep down, how wrong all of this was.

Still, every time she thought she should walk away from Darien, he'd come back, venting about how hard things were for him.

He'd go on about how much Mollie had sacrificed for him, how much she had given up for him.

He'd claim he didn't love her anymore, that what he felt for her was just a sense of duty, but he couldn't abandon her. He'd apologize, say he felt bad for dragging Ellie into this mess, and assure her that he didn't want her to be seen as a homewrecker.

And every single time, Ellie would feel a surge of sympathy and tell him not to worry, that she understood, that she'd wait.

Meanwhile, Ellie was the one giving him money, cars, and even a place to live.

Listening to this, Erin couldn't take it anymore. She rolled her eyes dramatically. "Ellie, he's manipulating you! You don't see it? This is classic gaslighting."

Ellie shook her head. "No, Darien's not like that. He wouldn't do that to me."

Erin was at a loss for words. She stared at Ellie, then started marching straight toward Darien.

Just as they got close, Ellie held them back. "Let me talk to him first. There has to be a reason behind all this... He wouldn't hurt me without a reason."

The others stood there, speechless.

Keira sighed and glanced over at Ryan, who shrugged but nodded. "Fine, go ahead."

Ellie approached Darien, who was casually drinking with Mollie in his arms. When he saw Ellie, he seemed surprised. "What are you doing here?"

Mollie narrowed her eyes, standing up, and she looked Ellie up and down with disdain. "What do you want now? Haven't I told you to stop bothering Darien? What part of that don't you get? Get a grip!"

Ellie bit her lip, her gaze shifting from Mollie to Darien. "Did you mess with my car yesterday?"

Darien's face twisted in confusion. "What the hell are you talking about?"

Ellie let out a bitter laugh. "I know, Darien. I found out everything. Stop pretending. Why are you doing this to me?"

Before Darien could respond, Mollie crossed her arms and sneered, "Oh please, Ellie. It wasn't Darien. It was me! I had your car messed with. I wanted to teach you a lesson."

Ellie froze. "What?"

Mollie smirked. "That's right. I wanted to remind you to stay in your lane. Darien's a wealthy, powerful guy. You? You're nothing. You'll never be more than a nuisance. Get it through your thick skull—Darien's mine."

Ellie was too stunned to speak. "I'm nothing?"

Mollie continued, "Exactly. You're the maid's daughter, aren't you? Darien's family has been funding your education all this time. Now that you've graduated and can't find a job, you think you can just latch onto him. Dream on. I'm his girlfriend. Stop trying to take what's mine."

Keira and Erin exchanged shocked glances, then turned to Ryan, completely bewildered.

Ellie's voice trembled as she asked the question everyone had on their mind. "Who told you I'm the maid's daughter? Was it Darien?"

At this, Darien's expression immediately shifted to one of panic.

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Keira instantly pieced things together.

From the story Ellie had shared and the bits of conversation they overheard, it became obvious—Darien had been putting on this whole "rich playboy" act all along. But the truth was, all of Darien's money came from Ellie.

And that so-called commoner girlfriend of his? She had no clue about any of it and actually believed Darien had made it big on his own.

Why was Ellie always around Darien? Well, Darien had told his girlfriend that Ellie was just the daughter of one of his family's servants.

Keira let out a sarcastic laugh, realizing just how brazen this man was. She had never seen anyone with skin this thick in her life.

The rest of the group, each sharp in their own way, caught on as well when Keira scoffed, finally grasping what was going on.

Erin's eyes went wide in disbelief.

Ryan furrowed his brows and looked at Ellie, stunned at how thoroughly his sister had been taken advantage of.

His lips tightened as he stayed quiet.

Ellie, still in shock, turned to Darien and asked, "Did you really tell her that? I mean, I thought—"

Before she could finish, Darien shot up and cut her off, "Why are you here, Ellie? Whatever it is, let's talk outside."

He casually patted Mollie on the shoulder to calm her down before walking over to Ellie, his eyes darting to the people behind her.

He could tell right away that they all came from money. Just like Ellie, they were probably clueless, privileged, rich kids who spent their time goofing off. Without missing

a beat, Darien grabbed Ellie's arm and pulled her to the side, lowering his voice. "Why did you come here? And what were you about to say?"

Tears welled up in Ellie's eyes. "Why did you tell your girlfriend I'm the daughter of one of your servants?"

Darien sighed. "I didn't want her to find out about us. If she knew, she'd call you a homewrecker. Ellie, I'm sorry. I know it's not fair to you, but I didn't want people bad-mouthing you."

Ellie dropped her gaze to the floor, her mind racing.

On the way over, Erin hadn't stopped talking in the car, saying things like, "Darien's manipulating you, Ellie. He's playing mind games."

Was this one of those moments? Was this what everyone was trying to warn her about?

Somehow, no matter what Darien did, he always had a way of twisting things to make it impossible for her to blame him.

After all, Mollie was his girlfriend and Ellie... well, she was just there.

Her fists clenched at her sides. "Fine, I won't ask about that anymore. I just want to know—was the accident your idea?"

Darien raised an eyebrow. "What? Where's this coming from? The accident? Why would I set that up? Mollie already told you she was behind it. Did something happen to you? Ellie, I'm sorry if Mollie's actions hurt you. She's from a small town; she doesn't always think things through. Please, forgive her."

Ellie stared at him, stunned. Her lips quivered as she quietly said, "Do you even know what she did?"

"What could she have done? Bribe your maid to slip something into your food. What else?"

Darien acted like it was no big deal.

Ellie whispered, "She tampered with my brakes. I almost died in a car accident!"

That got Darien's attention. His expression turned to shock as he grabbed her arm tighter. "Are you serious? You're okay, right? Ellie, you didn't get hurt, did you?"

Seeing his concern for her, Ellie felt a surge of emotion, and her eyes reddened. "I'm fine, someone saved me, but Mollie—"

Darien sighed in relief. "Thank God you're okay. If something had happened to you, I'd never forgive her."

Ellie's heart softened. "I knew you didn't plan this... I knew you wouldn't let something like that happen to me."

"Of course not. I love you, Ellie. You have to know that. Remember when you were in that accident years ago? I risked everything to save you."

His voice was smooth and hypnotic, and Ellie couldn't help but believe him.

Her head dropped, and tears filled her eyes. "I knew you'd never hurt me, Darien."

Thank goodness it wasn't him.

Thank goodness it wasn't his doing.

Darien's eyes glinted with satisfaction. It was always so easy to manipulate girls like Ellie. These rich, sheltered girls had no clue how the real world worked. All it took were a few sweet words, and they'd believe anything.

Honestly, how had she survived the crash? If she had died, the insurance payout would have set him for life.

Then he wouldn't have to pretend to be a trust-fund kid anymore. He'd actually be one.

No more maxing out Ellie's credit cards, pretending to be wealthy while secretly relying on her.

Darien lowered his eyes, then casually asked, "Ellie, do you have any money on you? Mollie's been acting out lately, and I think a designer bag might calm her down."

Ellie shook her head. "My brother took all my money to invest for me. I only have my credit cards left. You can use those, though."

Darien's face darkened. Every time he had to use her credit cards, it felt like a leash around his neck, constantly reminding him he wasn't really in control.

It made him feel like Ellie didn't truly love him, that she was just pretending.

His mood soured. "Fine. Is there anything else? If not, I should get back to Mollie. She keeps staring over here."

Ellie lowered her head. As the other woman, she always felt guilt gnawing at her. "Okay... go back to her."

Darien turned on his heel and made his way back to Mollie.

Once he was gone, Keira and the others finally approached Ellie.

Keira brushed past Darien as he walked by, their shoulders almost touching.

Ellie turned to Ryan. "Did you hear him? That wasn't Darien's fault. He didn't set that up."

Erin rolled her eyes. "Are you kidding me, Ellie? You seriously fell for that?"

Ellie dropped her head in silence.

Erin continued, frustrated. "You're seriously okay with being his side chick?"

Ellie's hands balled into fists.

Ryan cut in, "She didn't choose to be the other woman."

Everyone looked at him.

Ryan explained, "When Ellie first got involved with Darien, he lied and said he didn't have a girlfriend. It wasn't until later that she found out about Mollie. By that point, she already trusted him, so she never doubted him."

The air grew tense as everyone absorbed his words.

Erin's frustration boiled over. "Ellie, he's a complete jerk!"