My Accidental Husband is a Billionaire !

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Erin cut straight to the point. "Lion knows about the 10 o'clock car crash prediction. He knows I asked about it, so he knows you must be aware too. And given your usual stubbornness, you'd obviously try to stop him from leaving. That's why... Mollie made sure Ellie would be at the door at exactly 10. Because after 10, Ryan would be gone!"

Keira scoffed. "If what you're saying is true, and Lion knew I'd block him from leaving by 10, why not have Ellie leave the house at 9:30 instead?"

Erin gave her a direct look. "Simple. The South family's prediction was that he'd have a car crash at 10 a.m., right?"

Keira didn't quite follow. "What are you getting at?"

Erin grinned. "The South family predicted he'd crash at 10, so there's no way it could happen at 9:59, and definitely not at 10:01. If Ellie showed up at 9:59, something else would've happened to prevent it. Get it now?"

Keira paused, stunned. "So, what you're saying is, if the South family predicted you'd die at dawn, even the Grim Reaper wouldn't show up before then?"

Erin rolled her eyes. "Yeah, that's the gist of it. But why does it have to be me dying?"

Keira raised an eyebrow. "I'm just making a point."

"Well, still. Use Lion as an example instead."

Keira sighed but kept silent.

Erin shot back, "Don't you know about prophecy avoidance? You can't just throw words around like that!"

Keira couldn't help but chuckle. "You're superstitious for someone your age."

"It's not superstition," Erin said seriously, looking her in the eye. "You shouldn't underestimate things like this. Think about it—haven't you ever noticed that the more you fear something, the more likely it is to happen? There's probably a psychology book about that. But have you ever considered that maybe it's not just psychology? Maybe it's some kind of prophecy or curse. Words are powerful! People joke online all the time about bad stuff happening to them, and guess what? It often does. We need to watch what we say."

Keira saw how serious she was and nodded. After all, the weirdness surrounding the South family had been giving her the creeps. "Yeah, I get it."

Erin finally let it go. "Alright then. So now you see why it had to be at 10, right? That's exactly the time she needed to kill him. If it wasn't 10, Ryan wouldn't die."

Keira frowned. "Have you done something like this before?"

Erin scratched her nose. "Well, there was this serial killer once. I wanted to take him out, so I asked the South family for a prediction. They said he'd die by drowning on a certain day. I didn't believe it, so I tried several times to kill him beforehand. Every time, something went wrong. Once, I even had him thrown into a lake. The guy couldn't even swim, yet he didn't drown.

"In the end, I gave up. But when the predicted day came, he went on a cruise and, sure enough, accidentally fell into the ocean and drowned. I investigated everything, but there was no foul play. The South family's prediction was spot on.

"So, for Ryan, the prophecy protects him until 10. That's why Lion wouldn't make a move before then. And once 10 passes, Ryan will be gone, so there's no need to bother. If I were Mollie and I wanted him dead, I'd pick 10 too."

Keira nodded, finally understanding.

Erin glanced at Ryan. "Anyway, stop obsessing over this prophecy stuff. It's not something you can handle right now. We're busting our butts trying to keep him alive while also securing a deal with the Gills! Focus on what's important!"

Keira rolled her eyes. "I know."

Erin raised her eyebrows. "Do you really? You saved Ryan's life yesterday! Now's the perfect time to push for that deal. He won't say no!"

Keira shook her head. "No way."

"Why not?"

"My mentor taught me never to ask for a favor in return for saving someone."

Erin blinked. "Are you serious right now? You're so damn stubborn! If you can't even be a little flexible, how do you plan on saving your mom? Let me tell you—being a goody-

two-shoes won't get you anywhere! Sometimes, you have to make demands when the moment's right!"

Keira just smiled calmly. "I didn't save Ryan for a favor. I just wanted to test the South family's prediction."

"You're impossible! How can you be so dense! I—!"

Erin was fuming. "What century are you even living in? People like you still exist?"

Keira smirked.

Erin paused. "What?"

Keira's eyes flicked over to Ryan and Lewis, who were walking away. They'd clearly overheard the entire conversation.

Keira patted Erin on the shoulder. "Let's head back. The deal's going through."

"What?"

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"Nothing." Keira waved her hand dismissively. She wasn't the type to use a favor as leverage, but she wasn't some saint either. What she wanted was a deep connection with the five major families in Clance. Saving Ryan yesterday wasn't just an act of kindness; it was the best way to ensure their partnership with the Gills would continue.

When Erin started talking earlier, Keira had already heard the faint footsteps—Lewis's signal that the two were approaching. That's why she had timed her remark just right, showcasing her character.

Sometimes, asking for something outright might get you rejected, but an indirect approach like this? It would leave Ryan feeling guilty, and that guilt would push him to continue the partnership with the Gills and her.

Keira knew what she was doing. It might be a bit manipulative, but to get what she needed, she didn't mind bending the rules now and then. After all, she'd grown up working all sorts of jobs—she wasn't new to the hustle.

As expected, things unfolded just as Keira had planned.

When Ryan and Ellie returned to the Cobb family home, Ryan immediately summoned Gavin and Selena. "Miss Olsen saved both mine and Ellie's lives. The partnership with the Gills has to continue," Ryan declared.

Gavin nodded right away. "Understood." Then, scratching his head sheepishly, he added, "You really shouldn't have stopped working with Miss Olsen just because of me."

Ryan looked at him. "Consider this me owing you one. But I didn't have a choice—what she did for me and Ellie is too big to ignore."

Gavin nodded again, but Selena, sitting beside him, clenched her fists.

Her father was dead. Her mother was in jail. And all of it, every single piece of this nightmare, was because of Lewis and "Keera."

And now, Ryan was just going to let it all go with a simple word of thanks? Unbelievable.

She couldn't allow it.

Selena shot a glance at Gavin, lowering her eyes. If Keira had crossed Gavin instead of Ryan, would things be the same? Besides, Gavin wasn't going to live much longer anyway... so maybe...

Her thoughts were interrupted when Ryan turned to her. "Selena, what do you think?"

Selena quickly put on a bright smile. "Of course, I have no issues with it. Honestly, the feud between me and Uncle Lewis isn't that deep anyway. We're family after all."

Ryan studied her, trying to figure out if she was sincere. But Ellie jumped in before he could say more. "I think so too! I haven't spent much time around them, but Miss Olsen? She's awesome! She's the coolest woman I've ever met—like, beautiful and brave at the same time! She's my new role model!" Selena's smile faltered for just a split second.

She looked down, coughed to cover her annoyance, and then said, "Since they saved you and Ellie, I don't think just continuing the partnership is enough. Maybe we should visit them to thank them properly. We could even have a meal together, you know, to deepen the relationship."

Ryan was about to refuse. He knew Ms. Olsen wouldn't be interested in a dinner invite. She didn't even want to use her life-saving favor to ask for anything, so why would she want a party?

But before he could speak, Ellie was already up on her feet, shouting, "That's a great idea!"

She grinned sheepishly, "I was so busy teaching that jerk a lesson that I forgot to grab Ms, Olsen's and Miss South's numbers! We should totally hang out with them!"

Selena turned her gaze back to Ryan.

He hesitated for a moment, then Ellie started tugging on his arm. "Come on, Ryan, don't you want to see Ms. Olsen again?"

Ryan paused before answering, "You can ask her, but don't be surprised if she doesn't want company."

"Got it!"

Ellie grinned at him, then held out her hand. "Now, give me Ms. Olsen's number!"

"What? Why would I have it?" Ryan replied defensively.

Ellie snatched his phone anyway, scrolling through his contacts. "Let's see... Ah! Found it! Ms. Olsen's number!"

Ryan coughed, snatching the phone back, but not before Ellie saw the contact name he had saved for Keira: Fox.

Ellie raised an eyebrow. "Fox? Really, Ryan? You're calling her a fox?" n/ô/vel/b//in dot c//om

Ryan cleared his throat again. "She's cunning, isn't she?"

Did he really think he hadn't noticed how Lewis had purposely led him to overhear "Keera's" little performance? He wasn't that naive. He just didn't want to expose them. "Keera" was like a crafty old fox—and Lewis, a younger one, playing their games.

But Ryan didn't bother explaining all that. He simply said, "If you're not going to call her, give me back the phone."

Ellie immediately backed away with a mischievous grin. "Of course I'm calling her!"

She shot him a wink and strolled off to make the call, leaving Selena watching her with a cold, calculating gaze.

Then she glanced over at Gavin.

Stage-four colon cancer, huh?

Well, when they visited the Hortons, she could always slip something into the food. Something harmless for most people, but lethal for someone in his condition. If Gavin died at the Horton house, let's see how eager Ryan would be to keep working with them.

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Keira was a little startled when she received the call.

The Gill family had already reached out the moment they heard from Ryan about continuing their collaboration, so why was Ryan calling now? Had he figured out she'd manipulated him?

As she wondered about this, she coughed lightly and glanced at Lewis.

Truth be told, it was her first time pulling off a scheme like this, and she felt a little guilty.

Lewis, noticing her hesitation, took the phone from her hand, giving her a side-eye. He didn't say a word, but the look in his eyes was clear: Really? You're nervous over this?

Clearly, Lewis was a seasoned veteran in the business world.

Calm and collected, he put the phone on speaker. Ellie's bright voice came through, "Ms. Olsen, you saved my brother and me! Our family would love to visit you to thank you in person and clear up any misunderstandings. Would that be alright?"

Keira heard every word, as did Lewis, who kept the call on speaker

She raised an eyebrow, about to respond when Erin suddenly appeared behind her and shouted, "No way!"

Ellie responded immediately, "I'm asking Ms. Olsen, not you!"

Erin scoffed, "Really? Since when were you and my cousin so close?"

"Your cousin? You're from the South family. What's that got to do with her?"

Erin sneered, "She and I are related. You tell me, what do you think that means?"

Ellie paused for a second before ignoring Erin altogether and focusing back on Keira, "So, Ms. Olsen, we'll come over tomorrow at noon. Our whole family." Nôv(el)B\\jnn

Before Erin could cut in again, Ellie hung up.

Erin huffed and turned to Keira. "Honestly, how rude is she? I mean, they haven't even gotten our permission, and she's acting like they're already invited over."

Keira gently reminded her, "Technically, this is the Horton residence..."

Erin waved it off, "Well, that's irrelevant. You're married to Lewis now, so what's his is yours, and what's yours is mine, right? By blood, you're still my cousin!"

Keira rubbed her forehead, feeling a little exasperated.

Lewis narrowed his eyes slightly and turned to the butler. "Prepare the house. We'll have guests tomorrow."

At the Cobb residence.

Ellie hung up and turned to Ryan with a big smile. "Done! They're more than happy to have us over."

Ryan raised an eyebrow. "That's not how it sounded from the conversation I just heard."

Ellie shrugged. "Whatever, the point is, are you coming or not?"

Ryan sighed, looking down. "We can't show up empty-handed. After all, they helped us in such a big way. We should bring a gift."

"Got it!"

Ellie handed the phone back to Ryan and headed for the door. She paused midway and turned around. "Hey, why did you save her number as 'Fox'?"

Ryan froze for a second.

There wasn't any particular reason. He hadn't interacted much with Keira before, just a few phone calls here and there, so he'd saved her number like any other. But, for some reason, as he was typing in her name, her face popped into his mind—young, composed, her gaze sharp, carrying a certain shrewdness. She was like a little fox.

Given time, or maybe even already, her achievements would far surpass those of most people.

Of course, Ryan wasn't about to explain all that to Ellie. Instead, he simply deflected, "What gift are you planning to bring?"

Ellie's attention immediately shifted, "Oh! I was thinking of giving her one of my custom pearl necklaces. I ordered two—perfect timing. I'll give her one!"

She grinned and added, "I'll make sure to wear mine whenever she wears hers, just to annoy Erin!"

Ryan remained silent.

Meanwhile, Selena, who had been listening to their conversation from the side, clenched her fists.

In this family, there were only two women who should matter: Ellie and herself.

Yet here was Ellie, preparing an extravagant gift, not for her sister-in-law, but for "Keera?"

How could they be so disrespectful?

Fuming inside, Selena kept her head down, forcing herself to suppress her emotions.

Finally, she looked up with a smile. "Ryan, Ellie, we should also bring a gift tomorrow."

Gavin, standing beside her, nodded immediately, holding her hand. "Of course, we'll get something too. See you tomorrow."

"Great."

After they left, Ellie leaned close to Ryan, whispering, "I don't trust Selena. I don't think she's a good match for Gavin. She's always scheming."

Ryan responded calmly, "Stop meddling in their marriage. That's between them."

Ellie pouted, "You're just going to stand by and do nothing?"

Ryan's voice remained even. "There's no need."

Selena was already suffering from terminal cancer. She didn't have much time left.

The real tragedy was that Gavin was too blinded by love to see her true colors. Losing her at her best might leave a scar on him for life.

Ryan could only hope something would happen to make Gavin open his eyes before it was too late.

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Ryan had no intention of playing any tricks.

After all, what was the point doing anything to a person on the brink of death?

But it was a shame about Gavin.

Though he was a distant cousin, Gavin had been taken in by the family at a young age due to his remarkable talent and the loss of his parents. Ryan genuinely felt a

brotherly bond with him.

If Selena had repaired her relationships with the Horton and Olsen families before her death, it would have been one thing.

But if those ties remained broken when she passed, Gavin would likely be unsettled. Maintaining a close relationship with the Olsons and Hortons wouldn't be suitable anymore, lest he feel neglected.

As these thoughts swirled in his mind, Ryan felt a twinge of regret.

It was almost quite enjoyable to go to that bar with "Keera" and Lewis to find Darien Britt!

That chaotic night had been a rare experience for someone like him, who had a unique position in life and wasn't suited to have too many friends.

Ryan lowered his gaze, gripping the beads on his wrist, and began to rotate them slowly.

The chill of self-restraint was palpable.

A man who had never craved much since childhood found himself oddly eager for the visit the next day.

Meanwhile, Selena walked ahead, clearly in a foul mood.

Gavin noticed and couldn't help but chuckle as he took her hand. "Are you mad? Ellie doesn't mean any harm. She's wanted a sister to play with since she was little, and I bet that Ms. Olsen fits her personality perfectly. Don't overthink it."

Selena yanked her hand away. "I'm her sister-in-law; I shouldn't be treated like an outsider!"

Gavin couldn't help but chuckle softly. "You're overreacting. That's not what she meant."

"How is it not? If your brother marries, does she really have the nerve to say those things to his wife in front of the family? Does she dare to disregard her feelings?"

Gavin fell silent, realizing she had a point.

Ellie wouldn't dare.

Ryan wasn't just the eldest son in the family; he was also the heir of the next generation.

His wife would undoubtedly come from a prestigious background, and anyone entering the family would have to be on their best behavior...

Truthfully, Gavin understood all of this.

He was, after all, just a distant relative. Even if Ellie affectionately called him "big brother," he was always aware of his place.

Ellie was the genuine heir of the family, while he was merely a playmate to her. He certainly appreciated her warmth and knew Ellie held a genuine fondness for him as a brother, but he couldn't forget his position in the grand scheme of things. Thus, Gavin remained unfazed about Ellie not sending Selena a pearl necklace. After hearing Selena's concerns and noticing his lack of reaction, he spoke up, "We're a family. If she looks down on you, she's looking down on me, too. I don't want anyone in this house to think less of you, Gavin. I don't want you to be disrespected."

Gavin laughed. "You're overthinking it. That's not happening."

"How can you say that?" Selena turned her head away, a bit frustrated. "They know perfectly well that I don't get along with the Olsens and Hortons, yet they still insist. on collaborating... Now they want us to go pay a visit? It's like they're trying to make me back down and smooth things over between you and the Hortons."

Selena's eyes reddened slightly. "But why should I? This is all because of Lewis's schemes! My mom is in prison, my dad is dead, and now the Hortons are just following his orders. He's treating our family this way, and I have to show up smiling... Have you thought about how I feel?"

Gavin quickly comforted her, "Don't cry, don't cry. My brother isn't trying to hurt you. He just wants you to mend things with your family. Besides, you still have a younger brother, right?"

Selena retorted immediately, "My brother has been fooled by them. He doesn't even acknowledge Dad anymore. How could he possibly acknowledge me as his sister?" Gavin sighed. "But they are still family."

"They aren't my family; they're my enemies!"

Selena couldn't help but shout.

Gavin paused in surprise, then hesitantly suggested, "What if we don't go tomorrow? Ms. Olsen saved my brother and Ellie's lives; it's only right for them to express their

gratitude. If you don't want to go home, we can skip it...

"That's out of the question."

Selena interjected sharply, "We have to go!"

If they didn't go, how could she slip the poison into Gavin's drink and accelerate his colon cancer? How could she ruin the relationship between the Cobbs and the Hortons?

A flash of resentment crossed Selena's gaze!

She truly hated Lewis and "Keera". If it weren't for them, she and her mother would have long been part of the Horton family, enjoying the status of true heirs instead of being labeled as the illegitimate child!

If her father were still alive, he would have definitely given her Horton shares as part of her dowry...

She wouldn't be looked down upon in the Cobb family!

The more Selena thought about it, the angrier she became. The more intense her expression grew, but she quickly turned her gaze to Gavin. "If we don't go, how will you explain it to your brother? It's fine if I take the hit; at least you'll all be happy,

right?"

After saying this, Selena entered her room, glancing back at Gavin.

Sure enough, she saw a hint of guilt on his face.

That was enough for her.

As long as he felt guilty, when he succumbed to cancer tomorrow, he would help her

say a few good words... Even if he was dead, Ryan would still treat her kindly!