

My Accidental Husband is a Billionaire !

Chapter 874: Chapter 873

Scarlet stared at Keira like she couldn't believe what she was hearing, brows scrunching up. "Is love really that important? Girl, wake up. Men are the last thing you should count on!"

Keira didn't even flinch. "Solomon's different."

Scarlet shot her a look like she'd completely lost it. "I swear, I'm this close to tossing you into the ocean and letting the sharks handle it."

Keira raised a brow but didn't respond. Before she could, Scarlet's assistant jumped in.

"Hey, do you even know who Miss South is around here? Lemme give you a little crash course."

Keira had been dying to know more about the South family, and now someone had just offered it up on a silver platter. She nodded right away. "Please, go ahead."

The assistant puffed up proudly. "This whole island—our home base—has over twenty million people. We're more than just a family; we're a sovereign state. The South family? We're the uncrowned rulers of South Country."

Keira nodded. That part she already knew. She turned to Scarlet, eyeing her curiously. "So... you're a South too?"

Scarlet tilted her chin up, like it should've been obvious.

Keira added, "Direct bloodline?"

Scarlet coughed. "Not exactly."

The assistant scoffed. "Do you think you can just bump into a direct descendant on the street? Get real. But don't get it twisted—Miss South might not be one of the nine heiresses, but among the extended family? She's top-tier. Her dad's a South through and through. Practically siblings with the mothers of those nine heirs. Got it now?"

Keira nodded slowly. "Got it."

In this country, women held the highest power. The current leader and all nine official heirs were women. But of course, that didn't mean men didn't exist—they just didn't hold succession rights. When the sons married out, they kept the South name, but their kids? Not considered part of the core bloodline.

Keira hesitated. "So... who exactly is Miss South's father related to?"

The South family didn't pass power down to sons, but that didn't mean men weren't involved. A man could father dozens of children, but a woman? She only had so many chances. So in the end, "direct line" just meant daughters.

Even the mothers of the nine heirs—Keira was sure—they couldn't all be sisters by blood.

Her question clearly hit a nerve.

Scarlet's face turned red, and she snapped, "You wouldn't know her. Her name's Jodie South... she's not one of the nine heiresses' moms. She—she lost out in the last round of succession. But don't look down on her! She was amazing! If she hadn't disappeared, her daughter would've been a top contender this round, no question. I mean, my aunt was this close to becoming the last family head."

The assistant nodded firmly. "That's right. Over twenty years ago, she was leading the race. Then something happened, and—well, let's just say it didn't end how we thought it would."

Scarlet pouted, clearly annoyed.

But Keira? She froze.

Wait—what?

Her mom wasn't her grandmother's only child?

Her grandmother had a son?

Just as she was trying to wrap her head around it, a sharp, mocking voice cut through.

"Bragging about the past now? Girl, give it a rest."

The voice came from behind her. Keira turned to see a girl walking over, her face sharp, her tone even sharper.

She had that smug, mean-girl smirk. "Your aunt might've had her moment back then, but my aunt is the one running the show now. Scarlet, seriously, flexing in front of some drifter? Aren't you embarrassed?"

Scarlet's expression stiffened. "Lena, what are you even doing here?"

Lena grinned. "What am I doing? Oh, I heard you had your eye on some cute little boy toy, so I came to see the drama unfold. But what do I walk into? You, blowing smoke."

Then she turned to Keira, her smile turning syrupy and cruel. "Don't believe a word she says. Her aunt's a traitor. She just got dragged back recently and now spends her days livestreaming public apologies."

Keira's fists clenched.

Lena kept going. "Honestly, Scarlet, have you no shame? With an aunt like that? She ditched the South family during the last succession battle and never came back. What's there to be proud of? My aunt won. And her daughter? She's gonna win this time too. But your aunt, Jodie South? Doesn't even have a daughter. Oh wait—rumor has it she did, but the kid's dead, right? Which means your whole branch? Officially out of the running forever."

Scarlet snapped. "Shut your mouth! Don't you dare talk about my aunt like that!"

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Keira looked at Scarlet in astonishment.

She hadn't expected Scarlet to defend her mother.

While she was still thinking, Lena spoke again. "Why should I shut up? What I'm saying isn't the truth? Oh, I see, it's fine for your aunt to do what she does, but we can't talk about it?"

Scarlet's face flushed red.

Lena continued. "Your aunt is nothing but a coward, a traitor! Over all these years, why do I have male companions one after another, while you can't find even one man willing to stay with you? Isn't that proof enough? Your father only ever had your mother, but with you, you can't even find a single male companion!"

Scarlet immediately shouted, "Who says I don't have any? What nonsense are you talking about? I have plenty of men chasing after me. It's just that I haven't found one I like. I'm not like you. My parents were loyal to each other their whole lives, and I, too, prefer loyalty and love between one man and one woman for a lifetime. And you think any woman would want to be like you, reducing herself to nothing more than a breeding tool? Hmph!"

Lena sneered. "You might want to do that, but without a man, how could you? Actually, I've got an idea. There are plenty of excellent sperm donors in the sperm bank. If you really can't find a man, why don't you just go for artificial insemination?"

Scarlet's eyes reddened. "You...!"

She was too angry to get any words out. She pointed at Lena, her eyes welling up as tears threatened to spill.

Lena immediately looked smug and turned to Keira. "See that? All the things she said earlier—actually, her family has no real influence here. Are you a wanderer? If you're willing to leave her and hang out with me, I can introduce you to more South Family members. And I wouldn't even fight over men with you! After all, I have so many of them around me, I've never been so deprived, unlike in her situation!"

Scarlet instantly turned to Keira, looking aggrieved.

Keira pressed her lips together and said nothing.

Lena laughed. "See that, Scarlet? No one here is willing to hang out with you, let alone be your friend! Including even these newcomers who just landed—literal bottom-tier wanderers!"

Scarlet lowered her head, glancing at Keira.

Suddenly, Keira smiled.

Lena quickly said, "Why are you smiling? Are you laughing at Scarlet South?"

She smirked smugly, "You don't need to hold back. Say whatever you want in front of me. She wouldn't dare do anything to you!"

Scarlet lowered her head sadly.

Jodie South was the disgrace of the entire nation, constantly berated in live broadcasts. Each time she was flogged, her father would clench his fists tightly, stare at the screen, and brood for the entire day with a darkened face.

Her father had once said, they must not resent her aunt.

And so, Scarlet never dared to hold resentment toward Jodie South.

Because her father and their family held such significant power in the nation, allowed to live so comfortably, all thanks to the battles her aunt had fought for them.

If her aunt hadn't been the heir, hadn't participated in the previous round of the heir selection, they wouldn't have their current status as one of South Country's secondary powers.

But by the same token, their immense power and poor reputation were all because of her aunt.

Scarlet South took a deep breath.

Her gaze shifted to the wanderer. That girl had come all this way with Solomon just to survive. Now, she would probably align herself with Lena, wouldn't she?

It would be hard to say she wasn't upset, but thinking of how she had just threatened her earlier...

Scarlet realized she didn't stand a chance anymore.

She looked to Keira and said, "You should choose her. I won't fight for your fiancé."

Having said that, Scarlet turned to leave, only to hear Keira's voice suddenly behind her.

"I'm laughing at you."

Scarlet froze and turned back, only to see Keira directing her words not at her but at Lena.

Scarlet was stunned.

Lena, even more taken aback, asked, "What did you say?"

Keira met her gaze directly. "I said, I'm laughing at you. It's said the South Family is matriarchal, but I don't see that reflected in you at all. You're making comparisons using men, competing over reproductive roles... Isn't this something any woman can do? What's the point of comparing? You want to reduce yourself to a breeding tool, but how dare you apply that definition to Miss Scarlet South?"

She stepped forward, forcing Lena to take a step back. "To preserve so-called genes, every heir is crazed about having children. But only Jodie South resisted, only she sought her true self! That's why I laugh at you—and why I look down on you."

After Keira finished her sentence, Lena staggered slightly, her expression shifting dramatically. "Oh, so a wanderer like you dares mock me? Do you even realize, barring the nine heirs, I'm the most powerful person on this island?"

Keira let out a faint snicker but didn't reply.

Seeing this, Lena grew even more furious. She shouted aloud. "How dare you laugh at me? Look down on me? You must have a death wish! Throw her into the ocean! Don't let her set foot on South Family land ever again!"

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Keira frowned. As soon as Lena finished speaking, a few people behind her stepped forward. Keira's mind kicked into overdrive, scrambling for a way to deal with Lena.

Going head-to-head was out of the question. She didn't have a single weapon on her, and she'd never take down the South family's people on her own. Not to mention, if she so much as raised a hand, the soldiers stationed nearby would probably swarm her in a heartbeat.

But what, she was just supposed to let them toss her into the ocean?

No way.

She looked straight at Scarlet.

Sure enough, Scarlet stepped forward and blocked Lena's path. "You're not doing this."

Lena let out a cold laugh. "And who are you to stop me? Since when did you get a say in what I decide?"

"She's my friend," Scarlet said firmly. "We're of the same rank. Why can't I have a say?"

"Same rank?" Lena sneered. "You really believe that? The whole 'second-tier branch' label might be the official line, but you seriously think you measure up?"

Scarlet's expression darkened. "Whether I do or not isn't for you to decide. I still hold the title, and it counts. If you're so determined to kick her out, go talk to your aunt and have the family head bring it up with my dad."

Lena's eyes turned cold. "No need to bother my aunt over something so minor."

Scarlet snorted. "Oh, is that what it is? You're not 'bothering' her, or are you just scared? The family head has always been fair—never played favorites. You don't dare take this to her, do you?"

Lena clenched her fists. "Don't flatter yourself. She's my aunt—do you really think she'd side with you if it came down to it? But fine. I'm not wasting my time on this."

She turned her glare to Keira. "I'll let you go today. But don't get too comfortable. Scarlet, you'd better keep your little friend glued to your side, or next time? She's gone."

With that, Lena turned and strutted off like she owned the place.

Scarlet immediately let out a breath of relief.

Keira looked at her and couldn't help but ask, "Didn't you just say your family head plays fair? What are you so afraid of?"

Scarlet shot her a look. "You clearly haven't met her. Nobody walks in there 'just to talk.' She gives you one look and it chills you to your bones."

Keira blinked. She'd thought Scarlet was fearless just a moment ago, but clearly, even she was intimidated by the current head of the family.

Then again, it made sense. Anyone who could win the last inheritance battle... definitely wasn't ordinary.

She suddenly found herself intrigued.

As Keira was mulling this over, Scarlet sighed and gave her a look. "Seriously, what were you thinking? You're new here, don't know how anything works, and you go and make enemies already? Weren't you even a little worried she might actually toss you into the sea?"

Keira didn't say anything.

The truth was, it hadn't been a rash move.

From their conversation, she'd drawn a few conclusions. Scarlet was straightforward and kind—someone who'd stand her ground. As long as Scarlet was around, Lena wouldn't dare go too far.

And clearly, Scarlet and Lena were natural enemies. Even though Jodie South was in prison, and the whole family's reputation had taken a hit, Lena's aunt was the family head and still didn't dare go after Scarlet too hard. That said a lot about Scarlet's family's standing.

As she was piecing it all together, Scarlet spoke again. "Our branch of the family... we're a little different from the rest."

Keira tilted her head. "Different how?"

"We're the main line. Direct blood."

Keira blinked. "You mean... like, true heirs?"

Scarlet nodded. "Our ancestors were the first in the family with prophetic abilities. Back in the early days, every family head came from our line. The other branches? They were just raising children to compete, like a selection process. But then, in the 134th generation, our heir lost the match, and someone from a side branch took the lead. Even so, our line has always held a special place in the family."

Keira was starting to get it now.

Bloodlines and legacy mattered—a lot—in the South family.

But... why?

Scarlet answered before she even asked. "They say our family's prophetic ability is tied to our blood. The old heads used to be able to predict anything, with no time limits. But ever since the side branch took over, the current head can only make one prophecy every seven days. The power's weakening, and not because of anything else—it's the bloodline. It's diluted. That's why everyone's waiting. Waiting for someone from the direct line to take back the title."

Keira sat there, stunned.

Wait... this whole family really did have blood-based prophetic powers?