

Adorable 481

[Chapter 481 Acciden](#)

The press conference that everyone had been waiting for finally started, and everything went well.

In an elegant tailor-made suit, Maurice took the stage.

In a low, imposing voice, he announced to the media that the Stone family and the Moran family were about to reach close cooperation.

After Maurice's speech, the audience burst into applause.

Even Gerald, who had severed his relationship with Maurice, came on the stage and wanted to take some credits.

As the representative of the Stone family, Harriet stood next to Maurice.

Once Gerald took the stage, he walked over to Maurice with a fake smile and said, "My dear nephew, the two families are so close now. You should cherish Miss Stone."

He then grabbed Harriet's hand to place it on Maurice's.

Of course, Maurice wouldn't let him succeed. He took a step back and warned quietly, "I advise you to hold back. I've already taught you a lesson. Are you sure you want to go down that route again?"

Gerald ignored Maurice's warning and sneered, "How dare you threaten me again? Do you think that your grandfather won't get even with you after you stalled him? You'll be dead meat when he comes!"

Maurice didn't fear Gerald at all. He actually looked at his uncle with pity.

"Gerald, how can a fully grown man like you still be daddy's boy? You are just a good-for-nothing. You can never have the upper hand against me in this life."

It was kind of a sore spot for Gerald, so he was so ashamed that he became furious. However, he did not dare to quarrel with Maurice in front of so many people. He could only swallow the humiliation with a flushed face.

Gerald cursed Maurice in his heart. He looked forward to seeing Earle teach Maurice a lesson.

The press conference soon came to an end. They now had to take the group photo.

"Come on, it's time for you to go on the stage and present the flowers!" Lilian said to Eliana dryly.

The two women had been standing by the stage all the time. Seeing that it was the appointed time,

Lilian immediately pushed Eliana out.

Eliana was unaware she was walking right into a trap. Numbly holding a bouquet of bright roses that Lilian had given her, she took the stage and handed the flowers to Harriet as the crowd watched.

Seeing that, the reporters off the stage went wild. "Mr. Moran, did you prepare the roses for Miss Stone as a surprise?"

"Does this cooperation mean that the Stone family and the Moran family are going to unite by marriage? Mr. Moran, please give us some hints!"

However, Maurice didn't say a word.

With a sweet smile, Harriet took the roses and said gently, "Thank you."

She even leaned over to smell the roses. She seemed to be really happy.

No one noticed the sly smile flashing across her face.

It wasn't until the press conference was over that Earle finally arrived.

He walked towards the stage aggressively. Despite his old age, he was really imposing.

Thinking she had finished what was expected of her, Eliana was about to leave the stage.

She didn't want to stand here and watch how close Maurice and Harriet were. It would only make her feel worse.

However, just as she was about to leave, Maurice stopped her.

"Don't leave now!"

Eliana turned around and looked at Maurice, who held her hand. She questioned coldly, "Mr. Moran, why should I stay? Your grandpa is here now, and I don't think it's appropriate for me to be in the group photo."

After saying that, she tried to shake off Maurice's hand.

However, he wouldn't let her go. He actually held her more tightly.

"Stay here," he said again.

He pulled her closer to him.

"Maurice Moran!" Eliana blurted out in shock.

He had never been so aggressive before. She couldn't help but feel deeply hurt. He asked her to present flowers to Harriet and now he forced her to be in their group photo. It was like stabbing a knife in her heart!

If there hadn't been a lot of reporters, she would have punched him in the face.

Maurice looked at her with a smile and said, "Since you are here, why don't you take a photo with us? The situation can't get any worse."

Eliana was furious. She was about to argue when she heard a loud noise from behind.

She quickly turned to look and found that Harriet had fallen to the floor. Before everyone could realize what was going on, her body began to tumble uncontrollably off the stage...

[Chapter 482 Someone Tried To Murder Miss Stone!](#)

Under the bewildered gaze of the crowd, Harriet fainted and fallen off the stage. Everyone was shocked, wondering what had happened.

It was so unexpected that the journalists even forgot to film. Even those on stage were stunned.

Someone accidentally opened the champagne, and the loud noise rang out like a gunshot through the very quiet room. Champagne was sprayed around the room, followed by colorful ribbons flying everywhere. It looked like the grand finale of a funny play.

It wasn't until a shrill scream rang out that the festive atmosphere in the room was broken.

"Help! Someone tried to murder Miss Stone!"

Looking genuinely scared, Lilian screamed with all her might, pointing at Harriet, who was still lying unconscious on the floor.

At this moment, the crowd burst into a roar.

"It's Miss Stone! What happened to her?"

"Murder? Hurry up and shoot!"

"That's some huge news! It will be on the headlines tomorrow!"

Journalists rushed forward. Fortunately, the bodyguards were quick to react and immediately stopped the crazed journalists.

The conference room suddenly became very chaotic.

Maurice finally came to his senses. He immediately rushed down the stage and picked up the unconscious Harriet.

"Corbin! Call an ambulance! I'll take her out of here. You stay here and handle this chaos," Maurice ordered to Corbin who was standing behind him.

Then surrounded by his bodyguards, he left directly, with Harriet in his arms.

Corbin forced himself to calm down and immediately pulled out his phone to call an ambulance. Once done, he proceeded to shout orders to the bodyguards to control the excited journalists. He had to restore order in the room.

However, the crowd was in complete panic and could not calm down for a while.

The bouquet of roses Eliana had given Harriet had been trampled on by the anxious crowd, and the beautiful petals were scattered on the floor.

While everyone was restless, Eliana stood there, motionless.

She was suddenly jostled by the crazy crowd and fell to the floor.

It was only when she felt a sharp pain in her arm that Eliana came to her senses. Enduring the pain, she tried to stand up. The moment she looked up, she saw Maurice walking away anxiously with Harriet in his arms.

At that moment, she seemed to have lost all her strength and fell back on the floor. She sat there, staring at Maurice's receding figure and feeling a sharp pain in her heart.

It turned out that whenever he had to choose someone, it would never be her.

"Eliana!" Lucia called out when she saw Eliana on the floor. She immediately walked over and helped her up. "How are you? Are you hurt?" Lucia inquired worriedly.

"I'm fine..."

However, Eliana's face was deathly pale. She didn't look fine at all.

Lucia walked her to the lounge.

Eliana sat down on the couch in the lounge. She was still in shock and her hands and feet were cold. In addition, she was shaking all over.

Lucia quickly poured a glass of water and gave it to Eliana. After taking a few sips, Eliana gradually relaxed.

"Thank you," she said sincerely to Lucia.

She felt that she had come back to life.

"Eliana, weren't you supposed to be sorting out the documents in the office? Why were you at the press conference?"

Lucia was confused. Corbin had given Eliana a random task in order to keep her away from the press conference. He did that to protect her. What went wrong?

Eliana smiled bitterly. If it weren't for Lilian, she wouldn't have come to the press conference.

She was about to say something when the lounge door was violently pushed open.

Eliana was so frightened that the glass in her hand almost fell to the floor.

Earle walked over aggressively, accompanied by a group of bodyguards.

[Chapter 483 Being Tricked](#)

The cold look on Earle's face was very ominous. As soon as he walked into the room, he pointed at Eliana and ordered the bodyguards behind him, "Get her!"

"What do you want?"

Lucia stood in front of Eliana to protect her.

"Lucia, get out of my way. This woman tried to murder Harriet. Just now, Harriet was unconscious!" Earle roared.

He seemed to be convinced that Eliana was the one who tried to harm Harriet.

Eliana was shocked by Earle's accusation. "I didn't do anything! I didn't hurt Harriet!" she protested.

Lilian suddenly walked in from behind Earle and pointed angrily at Eliana. "It's you who tried to murder Miss Stone! Miss Stone was fine but after you gave her flowers, she fainted. If you are innocent as you claim, then who did it?"

"Flowers?" Eliana asked confusedly. "How could roses make someone faint?"

"You still want to deny? We found the bouquet of roses you gave to Miss Stone and also compared them with the roses sent by the florist. The color of the roses' petals had changed. You must have poisoned them! What a vicious woman you are!"

Lilian's words strengthened Earle's conviction that Eliana was guilty. He looked at her with disgust.

Eliana was confused and wondered how the roses could have been poisoned.

She quickly thought the matter over.

It was Lilian who had forced her to come to the press conference and it was also her who had asked her to give the roses to Harriet. Moreover, Lilian had personally handed her the roses.

Lilian had always colluded with Harriet. She would never have done such a thing if Harriet hadn't ordered her to.

Eliana suddenly realized that she had fallen into a trap.

Harriet wanted to set her up and she succeeded!

Eliana had figured out the truth, but it was too late.

Seeing that Eliana didn't speak, Earle sneered, "Now you can't deny it anymore, can you? I advise you to tell me what you did, or I'll take you to the police station to be severely punished."

"I didn't do it!" Eliana said firmly.

"You are still so stubborn and unrepentant! I can't understand why Maurice is so obsessed about you."

Earle was extremely disgusted with Eliana.

"I did not do it. I'm ready to swear in the name of the Pierce family that I had nothing to do with Harriet suddenly fainting!"

Eliana was willing to swear in the name of her family to prove her innocence.

"We have proof of your guilt. It's no need for you to swear," Earle said curtly.

He didn't want to believe anything Eliana said.

It seemed that no matter what Eliana said, he had already decided that she was guilty.

Hearing Earle's words, Eliana scoffed, "What is the proof? Do you only rely on the bouquet of roses to say that I am guilty? If that is the case, then you are so stupid that you don't realize that you are fooled

by Harriet."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Earle snapped. He was furious.

"Nonsense? Why would I try to harm Harriet during the press conference when there were so many people around? If anything happened to Harriet, people would quickly notice it and I would definitely be held responsible. Do you think I am stupid enough to do such a thing?"

Earle was stunned and didn't know what to say to that.

"You said I poisoned Harriet. Why did I put the poison on the roses? I could have put it somewhere more discreet, so that it wouldn't be easily discovered. Besides, if I did poison the roses, why would I give the flowers to Harriet in person in front of so many people? It would be stupid to do such a thing!"

Despite his anger, Earle couldn't help but admit that what Eliana was saying made sense.

For a while, he was speechless and thought the matter over.

Earle was not stupid. He actually wasn't very sure that Eliana was the one who harmed Harriet. He just wanted to intimidate her and figured out if she was the culprit.

But he didn't expect that Eliana wasn't someone who could be easily bullied. Moreover, what she said made sense. At this moment, Earle was uncertain about his accusation.

Was Eliana really innocent?

Earle was confused. For a while, everyone in the room was silent.

Seeing the hesitating look on Earle's face, Lilian panicked.

"Mr. Moran, why are you still hesitating? Get Eliana!" Lilian said anxiously.

"Who dares to touch Eliana?"

Maurice's voice suddenly sounded and the next moment, he walked into the room.

[Chapter 484 I Agree](#)

Maurice's sudden appearance caused an audible gasp from everyone.

What was he doing here?

Wasn't he supposed to take Harriet to the hospital?

As Eliana gazed at Maurice, she felt conflicted.

"Grandpa, I can't let you take her away today."

Maurice walked towards Eliana and stood before her to protect her.

His grandson had just come, but he was so concerned for Eliana. Earle's earlier hesitation dissipated, and his dissatisfaction with Eliana grew.

"You've lost your mind! Are you obsessed with her?"

Earle was so angry that he didn't even raise his cane. Instead, he lifted a hand and slapped Maurice hard across the face.

A red fingerprint marked the side of Maurice's face where he was struck.

Maurice chose to stay silent. He would rather bear his grandfather's wrath than watch Eliana get taken away.

Eliana's heart ached when she saw Maurice get hit.

Again, he was hit by his grandfather because of her.

"Are you done taking your anger out on me? I have to take Eliana away."

Maurice stood in front of Eliana like a knight in shining armor.

"No! You cannot take her away!" Earle trembled with fury as he said, "This woman is a plague! I need to take her to the police station, so she can get the punishment that she deserves!"

Earle then ordered his men to seize her.

"Wait a minute!" Maurice immediately put a hand up to stop them. He looked over at Earle and said, "Grandpa, are you sure you want to hand Eliana over to the police?"

"Of course! Are you still insisting on protecting her?" Earle hissed.

Maurice shook his head and replied, "My intention wasn't to protect her. Think about it, Grandpa. If we handed her over to the police, our rivals would use this scandal to damage the reputation of the Moran family. And the cooperation between the Stone family and our family will also be affected. There's nothing we could do to stop them if that happened."

Maurice's words found their mark.

Earle wasn't concerned for Eliana, but he was worried about the Moran family.

Although it angered him to admit, Maurice had a point.

He couldn't bring Eliana to the police, but he couldn't let her go either.

If he allowed Maurice to take Eliana away, that woman would continue brainwashing him.

As the matter was reaching a stalemate, Gerald suddenly appeared.

"Dad, I overheard the conversation. Since you're unsure what to do next, why don't we take Eliana to my place for now? You wouldn't have to worry about the Moran family's reputation or Maurice running off with her. What do you think?"

"I can't let that happen!"

As soon as Gerard finished speaking, Maurice immediately refused his offer.

Gerald had always been unkind to Eliana. If he took Eliana away, she would be in danger!

Earle considered Gerald's offer for a moment before he said, "That seems like a reasonable idea."

"What if I refuse to hand her over to him?" Maurice countered.

Earle was running out of patience. He threatened, "If you refuse one more time, I'll hand her over to the Stone family. I'm sure she will be miserable there!"

"Maurice, please hand her over to me. This is the best solution for everyone. You wouldn't want Miss Pierce to fall into the hands of the Stone family, would you?"

A smug smile appeared on Gerald's face.

Maurice's eyes narrowed at him, and his expression became cold.

When the two men locked eyes, the atmosphere in the room suddenly felt tense.

All of a sudden, Eliana spoke up. She hadn't said a word before that moment.

"I agree!" She stepped out from behind Maurice and said, "I'll go with you!"

[Chapter 485 Thank You](#)

"Eliana, come back! Do you have any idea what you are doing?" Maurice shouted, trying to pull her back.

However, Eliana avoided his hand and looked at him in the eye. She said firmly, "Maurice, I know exactly what I'm doing."

In the past, there had always been a man who came to protect her, whether it was Maurice or Preston.

But this time, Eliana was determined to protect him!

"Gerald, I'll go with you;" she said firmly, taking another step forward.

Seeing that she was serious, Maurice panicked. He shouted again, "Eliana!"

"Maurice, I'm not a child anymore. What happened today all began with me. I have to take the responsibility. Don't worry. I will be fine."

Eliana turned her head to look at Maurice gently. She was determined to face the difficult head-on this time. She was no longer going to hide behind Maurice.

Maurice was stunned. At this moment, he couldn't say anything to protest.

This was a side of Eliana that he had never seen before.

Every time she refused his help before, it was to accept someone else's help. But this time, she refused his help because she wanted to protect him.

Eliana slowly walked up to Gerald and said in a low voice, "Gerald, I am willing to go with you. However, we have to go out together. I want everyone in the company to know that you take me away."

Upon hearing that, Gerald's face froze.

Eliana then looked at Earle and said, "I place my safety in the hands of the Moran family. You are a witness, Mr. Moran. If anything happens to me in Gerald's place, it will destroy the reputation of the Moran family!"

Everyone present was shocked upon hearing what Eliana said.

"Well, do you agree?" Eliana asked calmly.

Eliana had already made up her mind to follow Gerald, on the condition that everyone knew he took her away. In that case, he wouldn't dare to do anything to hurt her. She had to whatever it took to protect herself.

"No way!"

"Sure!"

Gerald and Earle answered at the same time.

Gerald refused Eliana's request while Earle unexpectedly agreed.

"Dad..."

Gerald wanted to say something more, but Earle quickly interrupted him.

"I can give you my word on the condition that you leave with Gerald now. And you must stay away from Maurice in the future!"

Earle was actually a little surprised at the conditions proposed by Eliana.

But he understood that she was just trying her best to protect herself. After all, she was at a disadvantage here.

Earle couldn't help admiring Eliana. Although she looked weak, she was very smart.

No wonder Maurice was so obsessed with her.

Seeing that Earle agreed to her conditions, Eliana breathed a sigh of relief.

Actually, she was worried just now, although she didn't let it show. She was afraid that they wouldn't agree to her terms.

It was therefore a great relief for her that they agreed.

"Mr. Moran, could you please let me have a few words with Maurice? I'll leave right away after that," Eliana said after a few seconds.

Judging from the look on Earle's face, he did not like this additional request. However, he just snorted and did not object.

Eliana walked over to Maurice and suddenly hugged him. She leaned her head against Maurice's chest, listening to his heartbeat. After a few seconds, she said in a strangled voice, "Thank you for believing me..."

Although Maurice had never said so, she knew that he believed in her simply from what he had done for her just now.

He wouldn't have done that if he hadn't trusted her.

It was because he trusted her that she had the courage to face the situation.

Maurice let Eliana hug him without saying anything. His cold heart melted.

He was both moved and worried by what Eliana had just done.

The woman he loved was about to be taken away by his unscrupulous uncle, and there was nothing he could do about it. How could he not be worried?

Maurice lowered his head and whispered in Eliana's ear, "Remember to take the new phone I bought you. I saved my contact as emergency contact. If you are in danger, don't hesitate to use it."

The sad atmosphere suddenly dissipated. With a slight smile on her face, Eliana said, "I wish I would never need to use it."

At last, it was time for Eliana to go. With a sullen face, Maurice handed her to Gerald.

He stared at Gerald and warned seriously, "Gerald, I warn you. If anything happens to Eliana, I will make you pay."

Gerald sneered, "Are you threatening me?"

"Yes, and I am a man of my word..."

There was a cold aura that emanated from Maurice at this moment, which made Gerald shiver.

He could tell that Maurice was serious.

[Chapter 486 Being Taken Away](#)

As was requested by Eliana, she was taken away by Gerald in front of everyone in the Moran Group.

Lucia was among those who witnessed the event. She was saddened by it since she saw Eliana as a friend. There was no chance Lucia would stand and watch her get taken away.

She decided to follow Eliana and leave with her.

"Wait! Take me with Eliana!"

Lucia pushed herself into Gerald's car.

"Who are you? Why did you follow us?"

Gerald had only seen Lucia a few times when she was a child, so he didn't recognize her. Naturally, he

was not nice to her.

"I'm Miss Pierce's assistant. I'm requesting to go with her," Lucia explained in a hurry.

"I don't care who you are! Get out of the car right this second!"

Gerald frowned upon her impertinence and was about to order someone to escort her out of the car.

"You can't kick me out!" Lucia held the door tightly and said, "Mr. Moran sent me to look after Miss Pierce. If you take her away, you have to take me too!"

Assistant? Eliana didn't have a prominent position in the company, so Gerald figured that she was just an ordinary employee.

He scanned her and then finally relented to her request.

"Fine, come along if you choose to do so."

Lucia breathed a sigh of relief and quickly took a seat next to Eliana.

"Eliana, are you alright?"

With a bitter smile, Eliana replied, "You shouldn't have followed me."

"Gerald looks like a dangerous man! I had to come and protect you."

Lucia vigilantly stared at Gerald during the entire car ride. She didn't have many memories of him. All she knew was that he had been living in the shadows Maurice's father and then Maurice these past few years.

Lucia had a feeling that Gerald had other intentions.

Unfortunately, she turned out to be correct.

Gerald seemed like he was sitting indifferently in his seat, but the truth was, he had been staring greedily at Eliana through the rearview mirror inside the car.

He found that she looked so much like another woman.

Gerald saw Ingrid, Eliana's mother, in her daughter.

Even a slight resemblance was enough to stoke his interest.

A hint of madness flashed through his eyes. He finally had Eliana in his grasp!

He had two motivations for catching Eliana.

The first was that he could use her to manipulate Maurice. The second was that the woman looked so much like her mother.

Ever since Gerald was a child, he lived under his brother's shadow. No matter how hard he tried, his accomplished brother outshone him.

Gerald felt like he was a joke. No one took notice of him until a woman appeared and saved him.

With a bitter smile, Eliono replied, "You shouldn't have followed me."

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The woman was Eliana's mother, Ingrid.

During that time, Gerald had no friends. His peers looked down on him and constantly compared him to his brother.

When Ingrid came into his life, she treated him kindly, encouraged him, and cared for him. She became his only friend and companion.

Ever since that moment, he had been in love with her.

In the end, she married Lemuel.

He wouldn't allow anyone to take Ingrid away from him.

There was no chance!

As Gerald got more lost in his memory, the look on his face became more ferocious and determined.

Eliana knew Gerald had other motives for taking her, but she believed she could handle it.

However, Lucia was there, and Eliana was worried that she might get hurt.

She whispered in Lucia's ear, "You better leave now. It might get dangerous."

Lucia didn't seem worried at all. She patted her chest and promised, "Don't worry about it. I'll be fine."

Eliana had no choice but to stifle her hesitations when she saw Lucia's confidence. However, there was one more problem.

"What about your job?"

"Eliana, stop worrying about me." Lucia smiled and said, "I don't like the people in the office anyway. I'd rather stay with you."

She came from a super wealthy family, so her job didn't matter!

[Chapter 487 This Is All Your Plo](#)

After Eliana was taken away, there was also news from the hospital. The doctor said that Harriet's life was out of danger now.

As soon as Maurice and Earle got the news, they immediately rushed to the hospital.

When they got there, a group of people gathered at the bedside of Harriet, who was still unconscious.

Earle approached the doctor with a stern look and asked, "Doctor, how is she?"

"Miss Stone is in a coma because of acute allergy. But she is fine now."

Maurice frowned upon hearing this. He couldn't help asking, "Acute allergy? What is she allergic to?"

"She's allergic to Chinese roses," Kelvin, standing at the side, immediately cut in. "I've already investigated it. There is an unremarkable Chinese rose in the bunch of roses that was given to her. Harriet has been allergic to it since she was a child. Someone must have done this on purpose."

The doctor said solemnly, "If that's the case, I advise you to call the police right away. Allergy can be serious, and it might kill her. This might be attempted murder."

As soon as the word "murder" came out of the doctor's mouth, Maurice and Earle fell silent.

"Yes, we have to call the police. We have to find out who wants to kill Harriet."

At this critical moment, they heard a groan from the bed. Harriet woke up.

"Harriet, you are awake!"

When Kelvin shouted, everyone turned to look at Harriet.

"Miss Stone, how are you feeling now?" Earle asked in a rare soft tone.

"I'm fine, Mr. Moran. Thank you."

Harriet smiled weakly. Her face was still pale.

"Miss Stone, I'm sorry that Maurice failed to protect you. But don't worry, we will investigate this matter thoroughly," Earle said solemnly.

Harriet shook her head weakly. "It's okay, Mr. Moran. You don't need to call the police. It's not Maurice's fault, and I don't want the reputation of the Moran family to be damaged."

Her considerate words, coupled with her pitiful look, made Earle like her even more.

"Good girl, just have a good rest first. The Moran family will definitely give you an explanation for this." Then Earle turned to look at Maurice and said, "Why don't you say something to comfort Miss Stone?"

Maurice listened to Earle. He sat on the edge of the bed and held Harriet's hand. He even bent over to

get closer to her.

As his face got closer and closer, Harriet's heartbeat went wild, and her face flushed.

Her effort to carefully set up a trap was not in vain. This time, she seemed to finally move Maurice.

But unfortunately, Maurice moved his face away at the last moment. He whispered in her ear, "Stop acting. I know this is all your plot."

With these words, the romantic scenes Harriet formed in her mind instantly disappeared.

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"Miss Stone, how are you feeling now?" Earle asked in a rare soft tone.

She was shocked. How did he know?

Her face darkened as she secretly clenched her fists.

It couldn't be.

Maurice couldn't possibly know so fast. He must be testing her.

Harriet suppressed the fear in her heart and pretended to look at him innocently.

Then she said, "Mr. Moran, what do you mean? I don't understand what you're talking about."

Maurice snorted coldly. No matter how good Harriet's acting skills were, he still caught the panic in her eyes just now.

He guessed it right.

"Just stay here while I find out the truth."

Maurice had gotten the answer he wanted, so he let go of Harriet's hand immediately and stood up expressionlessly.

Earle had no idea of what Maurice and Harriet talked about. But he was gratified to see that Maurice began to care about Harriet.

"Miss Stone, we won't bother you anymore," Maurice said to Harriet. Then he turned to Earle and urged, "Grandpa, let's go."

Maurice and Earle then left the ward.

Watching them walk out of the door, a weak but complacent smile appeared on Harriet's face.

Even if Maurice knew about it, she still won today.

She risked her life for this.

Kelvin and Harriet exchanged glances.

Now was the best time for them to pursue victory.

[Chapter 488 Do You Want To Lose Me Too](#)

"Wait! Mr. Moran, please wait a moment!" Kelvin hurried out of the ward, chasing Maurice and Earle before they could go too far.

"Is there something else I can help you with, Mr. Stone?" Maurice asked, a hint of impatience in his tone.

"Are you just going to breeze past that?" Kelvin asked, annoyed.

Maurice gave him a cold stare. "I don't know what you're talking about, Mr. Stone."

"Do you think I don't know? That Eliana girl was the one who sent Harriet those flowers. She probably tried to kill her because of her obsession with you! Do you think you can just brush it off like that without taking any responsibility?"

"What exactly do you want me to take responsibility for?" Maurice's eyes flashed dangerously as he glared at Kelvin. He was furious.

Kelvin didn't sense the danger at all, however, and continued his rant. "Of course, you should hand that woman to us!"

"Can you really prove that Eliana was the one who tried to hurt Harriet?"

"Who else could it be if not her?" Kelvin asked with a look of disdain.

"You can't just go around accusing people. You need evidence for that," Maurice remarked.

He then stretched out his hand and said, "Corbin?"

Corbin quickly took out his phone and handed it to Maurice. The evidence that he had collected was on it.

"From what I know, Eliana wasn't the only one who had touched the flowers. She might not even know that Miss Stone is allergic to Chinese roses."

"What are you trying to say, Mr. Moran?" Kelvin was flustered. He hadn't expected Maurice to come at him with facts like that.

"I'll make a proper investigation. Just give me some time," Maurice said.

"No! I demand you take responsibility today!" Kelvin had no intention of backing off. "I'm not going to let Harriet face such injustice! She might not have a father to protect her, but her mother is on the way here! You can't leave without dealing with this matter properly."

Seeing that Maurice and Kelvin were about to go head-to-head, Earle tried to mediate. "Alright, since you want him to take responsibility, let's do this; I'll announce Harriet and Maurice's engagement so that you can rest easy."

Kelvin's eyes lit up at that.

Maurice shook his head immediately. "Absolutely not!"

Earle had expected Maurice to react like that, so he glared at him. "What do you want to do then? Would you rather hand them the woman you love?"

"Why would I do that? I'm the one who did it," Maurice declared, shocking everyone.

"I asked Corbin to add that Chinese rose to the bouquet because I wanted to avoid the engagement. My plan was for another employee in the Design Department to send the flowers to cover my tracks, but unfortunately, she asked Eliana to do it." Maurice gave them a detailed plan.

Corbin was stunned to hear his name. What in the world was his boss talking about? When did he ever do such a thing?

He turned to Maurice in confusion and shock, but then he realized what his boss was trying to do. Of course, what Maurice said was a lie. He was taking the blame so that he could protect Eliana. Corbin kept his mouth shut and played along.

"You bastard! How could you do such a thing?! You..." Earle was so angry with Maurice that it was hard for him to breathe evenly.

Aleck, who was standing next to him, worriedly took out Earle's pills from his pocket and gave them to him.

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When Earle finally calmed down and thought about it again, it didn't make sense to him.

"Wait, seriously, did you really do that?"

Maurice didn't answer him.

Earle realized that Maurice couldn't do such a foolish thing. Even though he didn't want to marry Harriet, he had many other options to prevent the engagement. Why would he try to kill Harriet? It was clear that he was just trying to protect Eliana.

Maurice's determination to protect Eliana reminded Earle of someone else who had died a long time ago. His son, Blair Moran. He was lost in thought. It was crazy how similar Maurice was to his father. The two were willing to do anything for love, even if it went against what the Moran family wanted.

"I'm not going to let you do that! You can't..." Earle started to say, but then stopped suddenly.

As he was lost in his thought, he had begun to mix up the two, and wasn't sure if he was talking to Maurice or Blair anymore.

Maurice knew that even if the others believed what he said, his grandfather who had watched him grow up certainly wouldn't. Still, he wasn't going to back down. "Grandpa, you've already lost my dad. Do you want to lose me too?"

Earle trembled at his words, unable to say anything in response. It seemed that Maurice was threatening to really do something if he kept forcing him.

If Earle didn't support them, the Stone family's plan would fail. Kelvin was in a rage when he realized that Earle was backing down.

Since the Moran family wasn't pushing the marriage anymore, they couldn't keep forcing Maurice. They had to find a way to milk the Moran family when Harriet was still ill.

[Chapter 489 Find Out The Truth](#)

After dealing with the Stone family in the hospital, Maurice and Corbin immediately rushed to the company for investigation.

The first thing Maurice did was to call Lilian to his office.

Lilian came almost immediately. "Mr. Moran, what can I do for you?"

She walked into the office with undisguised excitement on her face.

She had been working in this company for a long time, and she had never had the opportunity to be so close to Maurice.

Seated behind his desk, Maurice looked calmly at the woman who had just entered the office. The rays of sun that filtered through the glass window and illuminated his face gave him an imposing and majestic look.

"Lilian, I want you to tell me what happened exactly at the press conference today!"

A scary aura emanated from Maurice as he glared at the woman in front of him.

Lilian was stunned for a long while and didn't say a word. Her heart began to pound in her chest for some reason.

"Mr. Moran asked you a question!" Corbin suddenly said in a stern voice.

It wasn't until then that Lilian came back to her senses. She asked tentatively, "Mr. Moran, is it about Eliana?"

"You are not the one asking questions here. Just tell Mr. Moran everything you know," Corbin said again.

Lilian felt her heart clench.

Why did the world revolve around Eliana?

Intense jealousy was burning in Lilian's heart. "There's nothing to say. She has always hated Miss Stone. Moreover, she was the one who put the Chinese rose among the flowers and caused Miss Stone to be sent to the hospital!" she replied coldly, barely concealing her hatred for Eliana.

"Why are you so sure that it was Eliana who did it?" Maurice asked coldly.

He was slowly losing patience.

"Because I have evidence!" At that moment, Lilian proudly took out a flower order receipt, on which there was Eliana's signature. "Mr. Moran, this is proof that she bought the flowers."

"Really?" Maurice sneered. He took the so-called evidence and looked at it carelessly. Then, he looked back at Lilian and said, "I also have a piece of evidence here. Why don't you have a look at it? Corbin!"

Corbin immediately took out a laptop and played a video for Lilian to watch.

On the video, Lilian was seen taking the flowers from the delivery man. Then she disappeared with the flowers for about ten minutes.

The weird thing was that the surveillance video that captured what happened during those ten minutes had disappeared.

Corbin looked at Lilian and asked calmly, "Miss Gentry, can you tell us what you have done during those ten minutes?"

The moment Lilian saw the surveillance video, she broke into a cold sweat and her body stiffened. She was extremely scared. However, when she found that the most important part of the surveillance video had disappeared, she slowly calmed down.

Since there was no footage of what she did during those ten minutes, Maurice couldn't prove anything.

"I... I did nothing! I just took the flowers and put them in the lounge..."

Although Lilian tried her best to sound calm, her nervous tone revealed a sense of guilt.

"You are still lying!"

Corbin sneered and played the next video.

This video had been filmed in Harriet's office. What the two women said could be heard clearly.

"Take care of this and you will be rewarded."

"Alright, Miss Stone. I will do the job well! This time, we will kick that bitch Eliana out of the Moran Group once and for all!"

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In the video, Harriet was sitting on the sofa and calmly told Lilian what to do with the flowers. The video was a bit blurry, but the conversation between the two was very clear.

"I... How could it be?" Lilian stammered in shock, staggering back. Her face suddenly turned pale.

How could this be?

How could there be a surveillance camera in Harriet's office?

Did... Did Maurice put it there?

Lilian looked at Maurice in shock and fear, trembling all over.

Maurice looked at her coldly and said indifferently, "Do you have anything else to explain now? We have called the police to investigate the matter. Harriet has her family to protect her, so she has denied her actions and might easily get out of this mess. The police consider this case as an attempted murder, which is very serious. They asked that we provide them with a list of suspects. Imagine what will happen to you if I hand this video to the police!"

"No! Please, don't do that," Lilian cried in panic.

She broke down completely. She was so scared when she heard the police had been involved and she might be charged with attempted murder.

She begged Maurice earnestly, "It's not my fault! It's all Harriet's plan. She asked me to do it! Mr. Moran, please! Please forgive me. I'm still young and don't want to go to jail!"

Hearing Lilian's confession, Maurice finally smiled. That was what he wanted to hear.

"Did you hear that, Mr. Stone?" Maurice said calmly.

As soon as he finished his words, Kelvin rushed out of the lounge inside the office. His face was dark with rage.

"You idiot!"

He walked up to Lilian and gave her a hard kick.

[Chapter 490 The Trending Topic](#)

Lilian cried buckets while Kelvin was very furious. Before she could react, he had already kicked her to the floor.

Maurice just watched the farce expressionlessly. Then he said calmly, "Now that everything is clear, Corbin, call the police right away."

"No, you can't do that. Mr. Moran, you can't call the police."

Kelvin immediately stopped them.

"Mr. Stone, you were so eager to call the police before, right? Why are you backing down now?"

Maurice looked at Kelvin playfully.

Then he turned to Corbin again and said, "By the way, ask the legal team of Moran Group to prepare a case against Harriet for sabotaging the entire press conference. The Stone family shall bear all the losses caused by this incident."

"Maurice, don't push me too far. If you dare do this, aren't you afraid that the cooperation between the Stone family and the Moran family will fail?" Kelvin threatened aloud. But there was lingering fear in his eyes.

"Oh, the cooperation?" Maurice sneered coldly, "Should I be afraid? If the cooperation between the Stone family and the Moran family won't push through, the Moran Group can go to the Deleon family or the Todd family. Although they are not as powerful as the Stone family, their willingness to cooperate is better than your Stone family."

"That's impossible! Aside from the Stone family, no one else will dare to buy this land with you," Kelvin shouted in shock.

"Why impossible? Not long ago, the Todd family made a few discreet inquiries with me about the land. So once the Stone family leaves, I think the Todd family will be very willing to take over the project."

At this moment, Kelvin was completely flustered.

If he messed up this cooperation because of this incident, the shareholders of Stone Group would not let him go.

"Mr. Moran, don't be too impulsive. We can still discuss it." Kelvin compromised. "Tell me, what are your conditions to pretend that nothing has happened?"

"Okay, let's cut to the chase. I want the Stone family to give us another five percent of the profits in this cooperation."

Maurice was straightforward in putting forward his condition.

"Five percent?" Kelvin blurted out. "You are too greedy."

"That's the new contract. It's up to you if you sign it or not."

Maurice took out the new contract and threw it in front of Kelvin.

Kelvin clenched his fists, and blue veins stood out on his temples.

It seemed that Maurice had designed this trap long ago. Maurice even had the contract prepared.

If he signed this contract, it would greatly damage the interests of the Stone Group. But if he didn't, knowing Maurice's character, Maurice might kick the Stone Group out of the cooperation.

So he had to reassure Maurice first.

After weighing the pros and cons, Kelvin signed the contract, gritting his teeth.

"Mr. Moran, are you satisfied now?"

Maurice took the signed contract and looked at it. He then said indifferently, "It's over now, and I will leave Lilian to you, Mr. Stone."

"Don't worry, Mr. Moran. I will give this culprit the most terrible punishment in the world."

Kelvin stared at Lilian viciously. She ruined the Stone family's business, and he wished he could kill her now.

"Mr. Moran, please don't hand me over to him. It was my fault. I know what I did was wrong."

Lilian felt cold all over. She curled up on the floor in pain and kept shaking her head.

But Maurice didn't even look at her. He stood up and said to Kelvin, "Mr. Stone, take care of yourself. I'm going to hold an emergency press conference to explain the accident today to prevent the Moran Group's stock price from being turbulent."

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Then he turned around and left, followed by Corbin.

On the way to the press conference, Nana called Corbin frantically.

Corbin was in a dilemma, staring at his phone that kept vibrating.

After a while, Maurice got annoyed. "Answer your phone."

It was only then that Corbin turned on the Bluetooth headset and answered his phone.

"Hello?"

"Corbin, you bastard! What took you so long to answer your phone? I've been calling you countless times. Don't you even check your phone?"

Nana's angry voice came from the other end of the line, almost deafening Corbin.

Corbin frowned and asked, "If you have something to say, say it. I have something urgent to do."

"Something urgent? Is Maurice going to be engaged to Harriet, the daughter of the Stone family?" Nana shouted.

Corbin was startled. He glanced at Maurice behind him and quickly turned on the speaker.

"Nana, can you say it again? What do you mean Mr. Moran will be engaged to Harriet?"

"Don't you know? The Internet is going crazy now. Many people are saying that the Stone family and the Moran family will be united by marriage. Maurice and Harriet have been in love for a long time, and they are getting married. Some photos have even spread online."

Upon hearing this, Maurice immediately took out his phone. Sure enough, the news that he and Harriet were in love was the number one trending topic.

He clicked on the news, and the first thing he saw was a photo of him leaving the press conference with the unconscious Harriet in his arms.