

After Death 201

Chapter 201

I was stunned for a moment and quickly sat up. "I... didn't receive any missed calls from you all."

Rachel was a little anxious. "Last night, Yasmin and Michael took it upon themselves to lure the murderer. Yasmin was almost killed, and Michael got stabbed saving her. He's in critical condition and being treated. Did that bitch, Yasmin, call you? It's a good thing you didn't go. Otherwise..."

Rachel didn't finish speaking, but she meant that I could have made the same mistake as Stephanie.

I was shocked. Yasmin and Michael teamed up to plot against Steven last night. Unexpectedly, they encountered an actual murderer, and something happened to Michael.

"I'll be right there." Lois was still in the hospital. Rachel informed me that Lois had just woken up and that something had happened to Michael again....

"Has the murderer been caught?" I asked without thinking.

Last night, I contacted Zion immediately. Even though Michael was a scumbag, he had been consistently

working out throughout the year. It was no simple task for the murderer to inflict serious harm on him.

Zion and the others were at Sunset Alley, close to the orphanage. It was just five minutes away. Hopefully, the murderer wouldn't be able to escape again.

"Yes." Rachel let out a sigh of relief on the other end of the phone. Then, she became a little emotional

and continued speaking with a cry, "Stephie, the murderer has been caught."

I knew she was telling Stephanie, her best friend.

For no apparent reason, my eyes were slightly red. I instinctively raised my hand to cover my mouth.

Had the murderer been caught at last?

I was incredibly shocked, and my fingers were trembling. The situation felt very sudden.

"Although Michael deserves to die, this time, it was his plan to lure out the murderer. Zion said the murderer was clever, left no evidence, and was highly skilled at avoiding detection.

"Yesterday, Michael chose to remain at the orphanage and requested Yasmin to help lure out the murderer. He insisted that she needed to atone for her sins."

The murderer was very good at avoiding being detected. If the police had used Yasmin to try to catch the murderer, the murderer would've quickly realized what was happening. He wouldn't have fallen for it while

under police surveillance.

But it would be a different story if Yasmin escaped on her own and went mad at the orphanage.

The opportunity presented itself, and the murderer would not let this chance go to waste.

“Who is... the murderer?” asked in a hoarse voice.

Rachel took a while to respond. “It was Simon. After we released him, he committed another murder.”

I stood still in shock. Simon?

I had always had my suspicions about Simon. Despite being underage, only 15 or 16 years old, there was something about him that seemed off. His gaze was extremely icy, far beyond what one would expect. from someone his age.

After the call ended, I immediately wanted to go to the hospital and find out the details from the police.

The serial crime and murder case was not the work of a single individual. At least three people were caught on surveillance. Simon had to be one of these three individuals.

Simon was caught and would be interrogated soon. The result would be released eventually.

When I went downstairs, I saw Steven cutting flowers in the yard. He gave me some white roses.

I took the flowers, my eyes teary. I tried to hold back tears and smiled at Steven.

It was a relief that he wasn't the murderer. Even though there was still some suspicion, I started to feel hopeful that he wasn't.

I extended my hand to him. “Come with me, Steven. The murderer has been caught. Michael was injured. Let's go to the hospital.”

Steven's hand froze, and he looked up at me. “Really?”

I nodded, feeling emotional, with my hands still slightly shaking. “Yeah. The police caught him. It was

Simon... He deceived us all.”

I hoped Steven was deceived by him as well.

The police were all aware that Steven had asked Ewan to fund him. I feared that Steven would now come

under suspicion as well. Steven was quiet on the way to the hospital, appearing lost in thought.

As we were about to leave the car, he suddenly shook his head. “Something's wrong...”

I was stunned, fixing my gaze on Steven. “What's wrong?”

“The timing is wrong. He wouldn't allow himself to be caught now.”

Chapter 202

Steven was lost in thought as he whispered to himself.

The timing was not right.

“Did Michael intentionally trick him out?” Michael’s calculation disrupted the murderer’s plan, causing it to go awry at the wrong time.

Steven shook his head. “Michael... is stupid.”

Steven believed that Michael was incapable of doing that.

I disagreed. “Michael is not stupid. When attending classes with Yasmin, he was the top student in his grade.”

He was a finance industry genius and a rising star in the business world. He led the Ford Group to great success after taking over the Ford family.

I was just analyzing it objectively. I didn’t mean to praise Michael, but he did have his good points.

Steven puffed up his cheeks and snorted. “Stupid.”

To someone as brilliant as him, Michael seemed stupid.

Out of 10,000 participants from around the world, only one person won the worldwide knowledge quiz

competition. They faced various tests and challenges at different stages. Each of them stood out as exceptional individuals among the crowd. Everyone was a genius.

Sighing, I held Steven’s hand. “Anyway, if one murderer is caught, the others will also be caught.”

Steven had been lost in his thoughts, and I couldn’t shake the bad feeling that had settled in. It was clear

that they had caught the murderer. However, I still felt conflicted. It seemed too easy.

Michael was skilled, but could he truly outsmart a killer?

Simon was arrested. The police called Ewan for questioning because he had contacted and funded Simon. However, Ewan’s response was flawless, and the murderer did not make any false accusations. As a result, he was promptly released but had to remain available at all times.

“Michael’s condition is not good.” Zion waited outside the emergency room, feeling concerned.

“He claimed that he wanted to make amends, which was why he couldn’t notify the police. That’s just

absurd.

“Stephanie is already dead. What’s the point of his atonement? He said he was sorry to Stephanie. Even if he knew something would happen to him, he still made a deal with Yasmin to lure out the murderer.” Zion’s voice was scratchy, and he complained while waiting.

Yasmin didn't want to go, but Michael forced her, saying she owed Stephanie. The police thought this was

foolish behavior. Luckily, they caught the murderer, but the cost was too high.

"Simon admitted that he commanded the killing and correctly mentioned the timing, but... he simply declines to disclose the other two accomplices." Zion glanced at me and then shifted his gaze to Steven.

I was aware that he had suspicions about Steven.

"Based on the surveillance footage, no one is as tall as Steve. People can hide their height, but they can't

fake being short," I defended Steven without thinking.

Steven was standing behind me, his eyes always on me. He murmured for a moment, then suddenly looked up at Zion. "He wouldn't let you catch him so easily. It's wrong. The timing is wrong."

Zion furrowed his brows, still perplexed by Steven's words.

Steven kept repeating that it was wrong.

"He was wearing a wig. His head and body were severely burned, leaving him with no hair. He suffered severe burns that endangered his internal organs. He didn't have much time left. His lungs were already

struggling to function properly.

"He said he just wanted revenge on the person who set fire to the orphanage, so he planned everything."

Simon had severe burns, resulting in no hair or fingerprints. Without any other traces, he only left footprints when going in and out. Due to severe burns, he had been suffering from excruciating pain for several years.

The hospital permitted him to acquire narcotic painkillers, which explained his possession of the medication.

The police also traced the medicines back to him. The timing of this discovery was just too coincidental.

"He still refuses to reveal his accomplices," Phil told Zion, shaking his head.

Meanwhile, the policewoman received a call. "Officer Landon, Simon said he can name his accomplices, but there are conditions. He wants to meet you!"

Zion stood up and glanced at me. "I'll go back first."

Steven suddenly grabbed Zion. "Wrong... It's wrong."

There was a clue on medicines, and even though it was hard to investigate, it would eventually lead to Simon.

Also, I had already seen him at “Stephanie’s” house. He was the first to be exposed. It was only a matter of time before the police found him.

However, he happened to be the very person who nearly killed Michael and was arrested by police. It was too coincidental.

I whispered, “He doesn’t have a red birthmark on his arm, does he?”

If there wasn’t one on Simon’s, then there had to be someone else involved.

I didn’t trust my memory, but I indeed held onto the arm of the person who killed me before I died. I noticed a red birthmark on his arm. I couldn’t be mistaken.

Zion patted Steven’s shoulder before returning to the interrogation room. He wanted to see what Simon

was up to.

“When did you begin supporting Simon?” I whispered to Steven, holding his hand tightly.

Steven lowered his head. “After suffering severe burns, he began relying on social welfare assistance. The orphanage couldn’t provide sufficient support. They were unable to find adoptive families for these

innocent children who were caught in the fire and suffered burns.

“They could only transfer them to a welfare home and had the welfare agency cover the medical

expenses.

“But the world is complex. Many donations and charity funds can’t reach the victims and solve the

fundamental problems, He was living in pain.” Steven glanced up at me. He wasn’t sure if I could understand.

Indeed, I felt suffocated for a while. Severely burned victims with organ failure due to infection were fighting to stay alive. They were extremely desperate and had to depend on drugs for survival and pain

relief.

“After being rescued from the asylum, I went back to the orphanage and waited...”

Steven continued after

a brief moment of hesitation.

“Simon also returned to the orphanage at the same time. We were both in a similar situation. I would give

him the money I earned from collecting bottles and selling scraps so that he could buy medicine.
Later,

the Lincoln family found me, and I requested them to take care of him.”

I realized that Steven was a kind person as I got to know him better over time. In my current memory, when Steven was little, he used to protect me. He knew he would be severely punished for fighting, but he

still did it.

I leaned on his shoulder and said softly, “As long as it doesn’t involve you, it doesn’t matter.”

Simon could have become an evil person seeking revenge for the fire and use Steven as a cover. This could be a possible explanation for the criminal motive. However, I still felt that something was amiss.

“The police have many ways to investigate and will solve the case soon. And... Zion is capable,” I murmured to reassure Steven, but in fact, I was reassuring myself.

“Zion is kind of smart.” Steven rarely complimented anyone.

Zion was considered an intelligent person among the police. He secretly investigated the orphanage, discovering many secrets and truths that he couldn’t reveal as a policeman.

Zion’s presence likely affected the person behind the scenes. His team was extremely dedicated to finding the real culprit.

This was a case of serial murders. Zion was pressured to close the case as soon as possible. The higher-ups even instructed Zion to arrest Steven and make Steven surrender to close the case. This led to an argument with his superiors. Zion was a responsible person.

Phil’s words that day disclosed this information.

“But not very smart,” added Steven.

I was confused. He praised Zion as smart, but not very smart.

“Now that Simon is arrested, others will be arrested soon too.” I was still hopeful.
Simon didn’t kill me in

the orphanage basement, but the person who did would surely be caught soon.

Zion was a responsible police officer. He would definitely help me solve my case, find the murderer, and

let me rest in peace.

No... It was inappropriate to say I could rest in peace since I had been reincarnated.

“Mike! Mike!” As we waited to see if Michael would pull through, we heard crying in the distance.

I frowned. Wasn’t he still alive? Was she here for a funeral?

Chapter 204

Yasmin cried and seemed very emotional. She held Lois, who looked pale and was crying non-stop. Her tears were even more genuine than those of people who had lost their family members.

I frowned at her. Her behavior was very inappropriate.

“Stop crying! He’s not dead yet,” I said with a frown.

Upon seeing me, Yasmin acted aggressively, eagerly approaching me like a hungry dog ready to attack.

I wanted to slap her till her face was skewed. But before I could do anything, someone pulled me away and held me in his arms.

Steven stared at Yasmin without emotion, giving off a scary vibe.

Yasmin got scared when she saw Steven and decided to give up her unreasonable actions. She backed away in horror. “It’s him, Mrs. Ford... He’s the murderer!”

Lois glared at Steven.

Yasmin seemed to have a way with the elders. Lois quickly assumed that Steven was responsible for the car accident. Without hesitation, she moved forward and slapped him. Although Steven stood his ground when protecting me, he ultimately accepted the slap.

Lois still planned to slap him again, but I stepped forward and held her wrist. “Mrs. Ford, Yasmin is one of

the individuals responsible for Stephanie’s death. Do not trust anything that Yasmin says.”

“I have a strong feeling! I’m sure he’s the murderer!” Lois said angrily, visibly shaken and with red eyes.

“Mike was killed by him, and so was Stephie!” Louis hated Steven and even wished to kill him to avenge Stephanie and Michael.

I protected Steven and prevented Lois from harming him again.

Yasmin kept crying. “Mike was stabbed by the murderer because he was trying to save me. Mrs. Ford, it’s my fault.”

She began acting. She took every opportunity to impress Lois in order to get her approval for marrying

Michael.

Back then, when Yasmin and Michael were madly in love, Lois had no issues with her. Later, Lois discovered that Michael had used the marriage contract as a way to bully me. Due to the marriage contract, she refused to approve his marriage with Yasmin.

Yasmin also knew that Lois was the key to marrying into the Ford family.

“You’re such a jinx. Michael is still alive, but you’re crying as if he’s already dead.” After Rachel sent Zion

into the elevator and returned, she heard Yasmin crying from a distance.

*Mrs. Ford, be alert. She's just a jinx. Michael didn't have to get seriously injured. But she was foolish and Michael was stabbed to protect her." Rachel was furious with Yasmin, wishing to confront her.

Yasmin continued crying. "Mrs. Ford, they're associates of the murderer, They're slandering me."

Lois continued to believe that Steven was the murderer and the lunatic, glaring at him fiercely. If someone hadn't come out of the operating room, it seemed like she would've attacked Steven.

Steven had been warily watching them from behind me.

"Why didn't you dodge?" I questioned softly, studying the redness and swelling on Steven's cheek.

"She provided you with a place to live." Steven was a man who knew right from wrong.

Lois had Indeed been kind to me.

I tightened my grip on Steven's hand. "If someone attacks you in the future, you must dodge..."

The doctor emerged from the emergency room and looked at Lois. "Are you the victim's mother?"

With tears streaming down her face, Lois nodded, her fear palpable.

I wanted to help her, but I couldn't because of my current identity....

"He's losing a lot of blood, and the wounds are deep. We'll try our best to save him, but his survival is uncertain."

Chapter 205

When Lois heard the doctor's words, her vision darkened and she nearly lost her balance. I quickly stepped forward to help her, but she pushed me away. Yasmin then helped Lois to sit down.

"Mrs. Ford, Mike went there to take revenge for Stephie," Yasmin said with tears, putting all the blame on Stephanie.

Even though I was dead, she still took the opportunity to disparage me.

"It's all my fault." Lois looked pale, and her voice was hoarse.

She spoke again just as I was about to move forward, "I shouldn't have brought Stephie home in the first place."

I remained frozen in place, unable to move. Lois regretted bringing me home. If I could choose again, I wouldn't follow her back to the Ford residence. I had already experienced death once, believing that nothing could ever hurt me again. However, I was currently enduring intense pain.

Suddenly, Steven reached out and wrapped his arms around me from behind. He rested his chin on my head and whispered, "Stephie, I'll give you a home."

He was working hard to provide her with a home and rebuild the home she once had.

I froze and looked up at Steven. He mentioned he would give me a home...

"I hurt Mike and also hurt Stephie," Lois said with a trembling voice.

Yasmin wept, tightly gripping Lois' hand. "Mrs. Ford, Mike will wake up. If something really happens to him, I'll die with him. I love him, and I'm willing to risk my life."

Yasmin excelled at flattering herself.

Rachel rolled her eyes. "She's bragging again."

Yasmin shot Rachel an angry glance. "Mrs. Ford, Stephany's husband being a psycho doesn't mean he can avoid legal consequences repeatedly."

I furrowed my brows and glanced at Yasmin, who was clearly a troublemaker. "Do you think that you'll be safe after the murderer is caught? As far as I know, multiple murderers are involved, at least three. If one

has been arrested, there are still a few more out there."

Yasmin quickly turned pale and nervously hid next to Lois. However, Lois was completely focused on Michael. She held her hands together and nervously prayed for him to be safe.

I patted Steven's head gently. "Let's take a seat on the side."

Steven nodded and obediently followed me.

"We can definitely catch all the murderers this time. Zion had a breakthrough, and we also discovered valuable clues on the body," Rachel whispered to me, trying to reassure me.

Capturing Simon this time would surely lead to the successful capture of the others as well.

I nodded and prayed that Zion could find out where the other murderers were from Simon.

Steven sat with his head lowered, eyes fixed on the ground. He was lost in uninterrupted thought. All of a sudden, Steven looked up at me and said anxiously, "Zion... The person behind it will not be caught so easily. Their target this time is Zion."

Zion was clever, and his actions impacted the person involved. This showed that he was getting closer to the truth. Some people would be determined to prevent the truth from coming to light and the murderer from being identified. This would lead them to take extreme measures and eliminate Zion.

Steven suddenly sounded anxious. "The location this time is the police station. Zion... Call Zion!"

Something was going to happen. That lunatic was going to kill someone at the police station.

"He wants to kill someone in the police station? How is this possible? I gazed at Steven in astonishment. Who exactly was the killer?"

“I’ll call Zion now.” Rachel seemed to trust Steven and immediately called Zion.

However, the call was not picked up. He probably didn’t bring his phone to the interrogation room.

“It shouldn’t be an issue, right? This is the police station,” Rachel whispered.

Chapter 206

Steven disagreed, “No, the next murder will occur at the police station.”

His prediction was spot on. “Michael was not involved in the situation. He shouldn’t have gotten hurt. What happened to him was an accident.”

Michael was the so-called innocent person. Simon likely harmed someone innocent in order to protect himself.

*Based on the evidence found at the site of Yasmin’s accident, the next crime scene is the police station.” Steven kept repeating the police station. This suggested that something was going to happen at the police station.

Zion had discovered many clues, and the mastermind felt threatened. Thus, they wanted to eliminate Zion.

Abruptly, I rose to my feet and fixed my gaze upon Rachel. “Let’s go to the police station.”

Waiting for Michael was pointless as the doctor had already indicated that his condition was uncertain. However, they needed to ensure that nothing would happen to Zion.

“Let’s go.” Rachel nodded.

Steven gently tugged at my clothes and whispered, “Stephie, do you believe me?”

I remained silent, opting to believe the worst.

But Rachel nodded firmly. “I do! Steven, you’re a genius! If you hadn’t figured out where Yasmin was kidnapped, she would’ve died!”

Rachel purposely said it loudly so that Yasmin could hear it. “Some people are ungrateful and return kindness with ingratitude. It’s a disgrace! Even animals can be more grateful than some humans.”

Yasmin was angry and wanted to scold Rachel. However, she decided not to because she had always acted like the victim. She wouldn’t be able to win the argument against Rachel,

Steven was overjoyed as he took my hand, and we walked out together. “Stephie, let’s go and rescue Zion.”

I was surprised to see him so active, so I smiled and quickly followed him.

“Drive faster!” Steven kept pushing the driver to hurry as we headed to the police station. He was afraid something would happen if we arrived late.

When we got to the police station, we were stopped outside. Zion was interrogating Simon inside. So, we had to wait outside. Rachel was worried about Zion. Hence, she asked the other police officers to keep an eye on the surveillance footage and enter quickly if they noticed anything suspicious.

Impossible! Simon is restrained in the interrogation chair and unable to carry out murder. Besides, Officer Landon is very skilled. Simon can't hurt him," Phil reassured us.

Upon hearing that, I felt more relieved. Perhaps Steven was wrong?

Rachel also breathed a sigh of relief. "Zion is a tough man. Simon can't hurt him easily. We may have exaggerated the abilities of the murderer. Whenever the murderer kills someone, he first incapacitates them. He probably lacks any fighting skills."

I also believed that all of us were excessively anxious.

Steven stayed quiet and shook his head. "It's wrong..."

It was still wrong. Something was wrong.

"Let Zion come out! Quick!" Suddenly, Steven yelled uncontrollably, urging Zion to exit the interrogation room swiftly.

The police stopped Steven from entering the interrogation area as it was against the rules.

Steven looked at me anxiously. "Stephie... let Zion come out."

I nodded and looked at Rachel. "Rach, find a solution. Let Zion come out first and hear what Steven has to say."

Rachel nodded, looking at Steven with doubt.

Although we didn't know why Steven suddenly reacted that way, we were inexplicably willing to believe him.

Rachel approached Phil to discuss the matter. After their conversation, Phil agreed to call out Zion.

Before they could knock on the door, they heard a noise from the interrogation room. The interrogation room had soundproof walls and doors. Any noise would imply that there was a significant disturbance happening inside. Phil and the others rushed in immediately. However, it was too late...

Chapter 207

Simon was sitting on the interrogation chair. He had blood on his face, and he was laughing with blood dripping from his mouth.

Looking weakly at the ceiling, he smiled and uttered, "Relief... I can finally be free."

Zion stood next to him, overwhelmed with emotions. He had blood on his hands. He attacked Simon.

Simon seemed to know that he would die. Zion only punched him once, and he started vomiting blood. Simon was dead. He passed away before the medical staff arrived.

Zion felt completely numb. At that moment, he suddenly realized that Simon had intentionally provoked him, urging him to hit him. Simon simply wanted to die.

The surveillance camera recorded Zion beating and violently interrogating Simon. Zion would face consequences for his actions. He would be punished and suspended from his job. All his work would be temporarily halted.

Once he left the case, the investigation would stall. This would enable the hidden murderer to continue committing crimes.

Simon was the chosen sacrifice.

Simon was taken to the hospital with the help of the other officers. Zion left the interrogation room and started smoking, his fingers shaking. "He... said he was the next one. That bastard could predict our next move, so he knew Yasmin's location. But it wasn't Yasmin he wanted to kill."

Steven held my hand tighter, looked down, and fell silent. He saw it coming, but it was already too late.

"The one who was going to die was Simon..." Zion found a serious problem. "A murderer is both a murderer and a victim."

I was confused and puzzled by his words.

"Simon mentioned he wasn't asleep back then. He heard a noise and looked out the window. He

saw someone tricking Steven and Simeon into a room, locking them in, and starting a fire. He didn't tell the teacher but hid in bed, shivering."

Simon didn't expect the fire to spread to the entire floor and trap them in the dorm. It caused many deaths.

"He had a phobia and wanted revenge on those who caused the fire. He admitted to sexually assaulting several victims, which made me instantly angry."

Zion lowered his head, his gaze fixated on his bloodied hands. It was as if his mind had completely shut off at that moment.

This isn't your fault, Rachel reassured.

Zion shook his head. "He wouldn't reveal who was behind it or admit that there was someone behind it. But he definitely was not the mastermind."

Steven confirmed in a soft voice, saying, "He wasn't the mastermind. He was just a pawn, and he was always meant to die in the game."

“Could there have been perpetrators hiding among the deceased? Perhaps they blended in with them, just like the movie ‘The Perfect Victim’ we watched before?” I asked softly.

We had been investigating for a long time, as had Zion. We were all moving in the right direction, but why couldn’t we find the murderer? Could the three people seen in the video already be dead and among the deceased?

My words reminded Zion. In an instant, he lifted his head to meet my gaze. “Right... You’re absolutely right!”

Zion abruptly got up, took a drag from his cigarette, and hurried to the archives room. He planned to carry on with the investigation. However, after learning about Simon’s death, the authorities promptly ordered Zion’s temporary suspension.

They also put a halt to the case investigation. Zion and his superior were loudly arguing in the office, and the sound of banging on the table echoed throughout the empty corridor.

I caught a glimpse of Steven, his face burdened with self-blame and guilt. I clasped his hand firmly and uttered, “Steve, this has nothing to do with you.”

Steven cast a glance in my direction before pulling me into a strong embrace.

“Ms. Larson, there’s an update from the hospital that Michael is still in critical condition, but his life

has been temporarily saved. He’s currently being monitored in the intensive care unit, and his life is not in danger.” The person I left at the hospital called.

Michael wasn’t dead, yet he didn’t regain consciousness either. I stood still in the hall, watching Rachel pacing anxiously and worrying about Zion.

Chapter 208

At last, Zion emerged, wearing a somber expression and brimming with fury. He ignored Rachel me, and Steven. Then, he angrily walked past us, got into the car, and slammed the door shut.

Rachel followed him. “How can he possibly be this stubborn?”

Steven put his hand in his pocket and grabbed my collar. He pulled me into his arms to protect me from Zion’s reckless driving that could’ve crushed my toes.

“As stubborn as a mule!” Rachel angrily scolded Zion while also looking at Phil with concern. She said, “Simon’s death isn’t Zion’s problem. He...”

“But Officer Landon’s punch caused his death. If they pursue this case, Officer Landon may lose his job this time,” Phil explained with deep concern.

Rachel was momentarily shocked before speaking in a nervous tone, "Is it really that serious? Simon clearly provoked Zion on purpose. It's obvious..."

"This is part of their plan," Steven whispered to me.

It was unclear what punishment Zion would get. It would be good if he didn't go to jail, but he might lose his job.

I froze in place. At that moment, I felt the sheer horror of the hidden murderer. I constantly felt a chill on my back as if countless eyes were fixated on us and countless forces were controlling us.

Those geniuses viewed ordinary people like us as mere puppets. They could easily manipulate and control us. They could kill people freely. They could make the police lose their jobs and prevent Zion from participating in the murder case.

The mastermind was clever. He manipulated Simon, who was dying, to trick Zion into making a mistake. He successfully got rid of Zion.

The chilling sensation in my fingertips intensified, and the fear of the mysterious and formidable talent reached its peak. Compared to absolute geniuses, I could only be seen as a fool among fools, just as insignificant as ants.

"Steven, he's so scary." The mastermind was truly a terrifying figure.

Steven's hand tightened around mine, and his gaze deepened. "Then let's be scarier than him. Don't be afraid, Stephie. I'll always be here with you."

Upon our return to the hospital, we found that Michael had been transferred to the intensive care unit. Yasmin remained by Lois' side. Both of them were sobbing.

God blesses the good man. Mike will surely wake up. Yasmin wiped her tears,

Mrs. Ford, you've just been discharged. Go back and rest quickly. Don't worry, I'll handle everything Yasmin gently urged Lois to go back.

Lois felt unsteady and wanted to stay, but she couldn't hold on any longer. She nodded and was helped by the nanny to leave.

As Steven and I passed by, Lois glared at us and exclaimed, "You're not welcome here. Get out of here!"

I remained silent, folding my hands in front of me. After Lois left, I frowned at Yasmin.

Yasmin watched Michael through the intensive care unit observation window and asked in a deep tone, "Stephany, don't you want to talk to me?"

At last, she cut to the chase. She wanted to talk about the secret she mentioned on the phone.

"She doesn't want to." Steven stared at Yasmin warily and tightened his grip on me.

Yasmin sneered. "Stephany, you'll be torn to shreds if you stay with wild beasts."

Yasmin's gaze was immediately drawn to Steven. "Steven, what are you afraid of? Are you afraid that she'll learn some secrets about you and Stephanie Carlson? Do you think she's Stephanie?"

She's not! A fraud is always a fraud."

Steven's eyes flashed with anger, and he clenched his fingers until his knuckles were drained of color. I felt like he was ready to attack Yasmin.

Yasmin's gentle and kind nature made men want to protect her. It made people trust her completely. In the past, Michael, Jack, and the others decided to believe in Yasmin instead of me.

Howe her magic seemed to have failed on Steven, Steven saw her as a villain, believing that She was feigning weakness and fragility.

Inexplicably, I felt happy deep down. At last, someone had seen through Yasmin's facade and glimpsed her true nature, even if Steven was considered a lunatic by others.

In this complex world of truth and deception, it was hard to tell who was considered normal and who was abnormal. Who decided what was considered normal for a person?

"You don't need to provoke Steven. Even if he loses control and kills you, you deserve it," I warned Yasmin in a chilling tone.

Yasmin was scared of Steven, so she stepped back to keep her distance. She asked softly, "Stephany, are you sure you don't want to talk to me about Stephanie Carlson?"

I patted Steven's hand. "Wait for me here. Everything will be fine."

Steven hesitated. However, after seeing how determined I was, he finally agreed.

I went up to Yasmin. "Let's go."

Steven furrowed his brows and glanced at the bodyguard standing not far away. "Follow her."

"How about you?" the bodyguard asked softly.

"Don't worry about me," Steven instructed the bodyguard to protect me.

As I prepared to walk through the exit door, I turned around to look at Steven. He sat on a chair patiently as if eagerly waiting for me to bring him home. After going through the exit door, I turned to Yasmin and said, "Speak up if you have something to say, but hurry."

"I didn't say I would tell you for free," said Yasmin in a hoarse voice. She was deeply affected by

Michael's accident.

"What do you want?" I gazed at Yasmin surprisingly.

"Mike is in trouble. I need you to use your influence within the Lincoln family to ensure my safety," Yasmin said thoughtfully.

She truly amused me. "Who do you think you are, asking me to protect you with the influence of the Lincoln family? Do you consider yourself an endangered species or do you think I'm a dog lover?"

Yasmin was furious; Stephany, there's no need for you to be defensive. Despite lacking concrete evidence of your direct connection to the killer, it's clear that you're imitating Stephanie and using her ways to seduce Steven. But remember, the truth can never be hidden forever!"

It's okay. You're so shameless. I have to be more assertive to break through you," I retorted.

Yasmin got really agitated with me and couldn't hold herself back anymore. She lost control and shouted, "Stephanie and Steven were in a relationship, but she lost some of her memory. The person she loved was not Michael but Steven."

I frowned as my heart skipped a beat. I was uncertain if I could trust what Yasmin said. "Why are you telling me this?"

"Since you've chosen to imitate Stephanie, stop pestering and seducing Michael anymore. He belongs to me... You can't be so greedy. You can't have both Steven and Michael," Yasmin said, her jealousy seeping through her words.

She likely didn't anticipate that after getting rid of Stephanie, another woman named Stephany would become involved. Due to the intervention, Michael refused to marry her.

After all, the Bailey family was her adoptive parents' family. While they provided for her upbringing, they were not generous with material possessions and property. She had to carve out her own path and fight for everything.

She tried everything to marry Michael because she wanted to marry into a wealthy family.

"If you have something to say, speak now. If not, let's end the conversation. Psycho!" I reprimanded her and walked away.

Yasmin probably didn't expect me to be firm, so she quickly reached out to hold the exit door.

Stephany!"

Chapter 209

Yasmin's gentle and kind nature made men want to protect her. It made people trust her completely. In the past, Michael, Jack, and the others decided to believe in Yasmin instead of me.

However, her magic seemed to have failed on Steven. Steven saw her as a villain, believing that she was feigning weakness and fragility.

Inexplicably, I felt happy deep down. At last, someone had seen through Yasmin's facade and glimpsed her true nature, even if Steven was considered a lunatic by others.

In this complex world of truth and deception, it was hard to tell who was considered normal and who was abnormal. Who decided what was considered normal for a person?

"You don't need to provoke Steven. Even if he loses control and kills you, you deserve it," I warned Yasmin in a chilling tone.

Yasmin was scared of Steven, so she stepped back to keep her distance. She asked softly, "Stephany, are you sure you don't want to talk to me about Stephanie Carlson?"

I patted Steven's hand. "Wait for me here. Everything will be fine."

Steven hesitated. However, after seeing how determined I was, he finally agreed.

I went up to Yasmin. "Let's go."

Steven furrowed his brows and glanced at the bodyguard standing not far away. "Follow her.

"How about you?" the bodyguard asked softly.

"Don't worry about me," Steven instructed the bodyguard to protect me.

As I prepared to walk through the exit door, I turned around to look at Steven. He sat on a chair patiently as if eagerly waiting for me to bring him home. After going through the exit door, I turned to Yasmin and said, "Speak up if you have something to say, but hurry."

"I didn't say I would tell you for free," said Yasmin in a hoarse voice. She was deeply affected by Michael's accident.

"What do you want?" I gazed at Yasmin surprisingly.

"Mike is in trouble. I need you to use your influence within the Lincoln family to ensure my safety," Yasmin said thoughtfully.

She truly amused me. "Who do you think you are, asking me to protect you with the influence of the Lincoln family? Do you consider yourself an endangered species or do you think I'm a dog lover?"

Yasmin was furious. "Stephany, there's no need for you to be defensive. Despite lacking concrete evidence of your direct connection to the killer, it's clear that you're imitating

Stephanie and using her ways to seduce Steven. But remember, the truth can never be hidden forever!"

"It's okay. You're so shameless. I have to be more assertive to break through you," I retorted. Yasmin got really agitated with me and couldn't hold herself back anymore. She lost control and shouted, "Stephanie and Steven were in a relationship, but she lost some of her memory. The person she loved was not Michael but Steven."

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Yasmin probably didn't expect me to be firm, so she quickly reached out to hold the exit door. "Stephany!"

Chapter 210

Her complexion appeared somewhat pallid.

I could sense her growing anxiety as Michael was still unconscious after the incident. Simon was arrested, but there were still some murderers on the loose. She felt unprotected.

I sneered at Yasmin and leaned against the door. "Yasmin, this is the first time I've seen someone begging with such an attitude. Since you're asking for my protection, it's best to act like you're begging."

Yasmin asked, her voice filled with tension. "What do you want?"

I raised my eyebrow and replied in a low voice, "If you want to beg me, then kneel down." I gazed at Yasmin with indifference.

Before I died, Yasmin accused me of pushing her down the stairs. Michael made me kneel down to Yasmin while many people were watching in the ward.

Yasmin glared at me. "Stephany!"

I scoffed. "If you can't do it, then you'd better start praying harder."

I pushed Yasmin away. I didn't believe a word of her so-called secret. Why would I waste my time with her if I didn't believe it?

She was trapped in a hopeless situation. She would be on her own if anything happened to Michael. "Stephany, I can kneel! But the Lincoln family isn't the only people in Huma who can protect me.

Have you heard of the president of Crowdstar Group in Jacaster? As long as I approach him, he'll help me!"

Yasmin appeared very confident. She was extremely intelligent. Among all the businesses, the only one that could rival the Lincoln family's success was the recently established Crowdstar Group from Jacaster.

Despite the Ford Group's impressive performance under Michael's leadership, his personal wealth still ranked fifth. Nevertheless, Michael's reputation in the business world was remarkable as he was the youngest among the top ten wealthiest individuals.

However, Crowdstar Group surpassed the Lincoln family three years ago, ending their nearly decade-long reign at the top. As a result, Ignatius was forced to settle for second place.

The founder of this growing company was very mysterious. No reports or insiders knew him. Yasmin knew all too well that her ability allowed her to be with no one but Michael. That was the pinnacle of her life.

She saw this as a chance to marry into the Ford family and become the wife of Michael, the

president of the Ford Group. Unfortunately, Stephanie's death made this impossible.

With Michael's Incident, Yasmin recognized that the Lincoln family and the president of Crowdstar Group possessed the ability to ensure her safety. Nevertheless, the president of Crowdstar Group was beyond her reach.

sneered once believed that Yasmin truly loved Michael. However, now I could truly see the truth. "I heard that you've been using Michael's connection to look for the president of Crowdstar Group. I'm also extremely interested in this influential figure.

"Seeking help from a distant source won't alleviate your immediate needs. If you could get help from him, you wouldn't have come to me."

She started using Michael as a stepping stone, aware he might not marry her. Unfortunately, the president of Crowdstar Group was quite secretive. Furthermore, not only was it utterly impossible for Yasmin to reach him, but even Michael was turned away.

When Michael took over the company, Crowdstar Group emerged. It was very supportive of the Ford Group. With the help of the mysterious president of Crowdstar Group, Michael successfully led the Ford Group to its current position.

Everyone speculated that Michael was connected to the president of Crowdstar Group. Many tried to befriend him, hoping to get connected with the president.

But only I knew that the president of Crowdstar Group previously refused to meet Michael. Michael once visited the president in Jacaster but was turned away. He had been upset ever since.

Michael didn't know who the enigmatic president of Crowdstar Group was. He couldn't fathom why this person offered assistance but declined to meet him.

Therefore, whenever anyone deliberately approached Michael to covertly extract information about the president, his mood would sour significantly.

Tused to be very curious about the president of Crowdstar Group. In just three years, he surpassed the Lincoln family and became a leader in the business world. Furthermore, this individual possessed a legendary status and deserved recognition as a business genius..

He was at the forefront of business district development, leading each step forward. He developed a lot of popular software that was widely used. He also owned Sunrise Pharmaceutical Group and Galaxy Media Group.

He acquired the top automobile brand in the country in less than a year. His success in real estate, pharmaceuticals, food, and entertainment industries was unparalleled by anyone else.

Yasmin looked at me, her face pale. "The president of Crowdstar Group is quite mysterious as no one has ever seen him. Do you also w