

Chapter 12 Leaving Forden Forever

In the garden, Lucinda stood by the fountain with her arms crossed, taking deep breaths of fresh air.

If she didn't come out to get some fresh air, she would probably pass out because she felt disgusted and suffocated by the mere presence of Nathaniel and Eleanor.

"Lucinda!"

Just as she started to relax, a sharp voice interrupted her peace.

She turned around to see Vivien striding towards her with her chin raised.

Lucinda felt a pang of annoyance but kept her cool. "What? Was one slap not enough? Do you come back for more?" Lucinda said, avoiding Vivien's gaze.

Vivien's rage boiled at Lucinda's cold tone. She longed to scratch Lucinda's face, but she held back when she thought of her plan.

She pulled out a bank card from her Louis Vuitton handbag instead.

"Take this. There're 300 thousand dollars on it. Just promise me that you'll never show up in front of my brother again, and you'll leave Forden and never come back. Then the money will be all yours."

Lucinda furrowed her brow, examining the bank card in Vivien's hand.

Was Vivien serious? 300 thousand dollars was a paltry sum compared to the cost of the shoes Lucinda had on. Why would

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she leave town forever for such a small amount?

Vivien noticed the look on Lucinda's face and thought she was tempted. This made her even more confident in her plan.

"You grew up in an orphanage. I bet you have never seen this much money in your life. For me, it's just pocket change for a week. So I think you need it more than I do."

I recall that you used to beg mom to borrow you money but she turned you down back then. But now, with this money, you can buy whatever you want.

What do you think? Isn't this a juicy offer?"

There was a hint of excitement in Vivien's eyes. She continued to pray in her heart that Lucinda took the money.

Vivien was certain that her plan would work. When Lucinda lived with the Roberts family, Amanda cut off all her allowance, and therefore she couldn't afford nice clothes for so many years.

Vivien knew Lucinda wouldn't refuse the offer, given her financial situation.

Once Lucinda took the money, Vivien planned to call the police and report it stolen. Then Lucinda would be arrested.

Vivien would then bribe the prison guards to ensure Lucinda suffered there. She would learnt her lesson the hard way. And as a thief, Lucinda wouldn't be able to turn things around for the rest of her life!

Thinking of the payoff, Vivien's excitement was almost too much to contain.

Vivien tried to backtrack. "Sorry, I shouldn't have said that. I already apologized. Look, since you're in need of money, just take it."

Lucinda tilted her head, eyeing Vivien up and down. She saw Vivien's expression and shook her head sarcastically.

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She then took out her phone and sent a text to Malcolm.

"The credit card's inside my bag in the car. Withdraw one million from the bank for me. I'm in the garden. Hurry!"

Malcolm responded immediately.

"Understood! Give me a few minutes!"

Feeling confident, Lucinda sat down by the fountain and waited.

Vivien was getting a bit angry as Lucinda gave her no attention. "Hello? Are you listening to me?"

Lucinda simply rubbed her shoulders and replied, "Hold on a sec."

"What?"

Why are you wasting my time? I know you've found a new man. But let's be real—he's not serious about you. Do you honestly think a handsome and wealthy man like Cyrus Simmons will actually marry you?"

Vivien continued to persuade Lucinda, who seemed uninterested. While this continued, Malcolm arrived and handed Lucinda a black briefcase with a bow, which she accepted with a smile.

"This is what you requested."

Vivien was surprised by the sudden appearance of this unfamiliar man.

Lucinda stood up and took the briefcase from Malcolm. As she looked at Vivien, her eyes turned cold and her lips curled into a smile.

"You had a lot to say earlier. Now, it's my turn to speak, isn't it?"