Read Novel Boss Your Wife's Asking For A Divorce Again Chapter 1331

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Sonia clasped her hands tightly together, unable to sit still. Meanwhile, Tom already gave up on any pretense of being calm as he stood up and paced around in circles. "Damn it. How long has it been? Why isn't the surgery over yet?"

His mutter storm came to a stop as he glanced at the red light shining above the doors of the operation room. It was all he could do to stop himself from hitting the red light to turn it off. Perhaps Toby's surgery would be over, and he would be out immediately.

Sonia pursed her lips and didn't say a word, but the anxiety in her heart was equal to his—she, too, wished to see the red light turn off.

Of course, it would be best if the outcome was positive after seeing it dim.

Otherwise... No, there is no other outcome! Definitely not! It doesn't matter whether the light goes off or when it does. Only good news awaits.

While she was busy reassuring herself, there was a click, and the red light above the operation room dimmed before turning gray.

The red light was switched off!

Sonia's pupils shrank as she jumped up from the chair, and Tom halted mid-movement before slowly turning toward the direction of the operation door.

They reached the center of the doors at the same time, their hands clasped in a prayer's hold as their anticipatory stares never left those doors.

A few minutes of torment later, the doors of the operation room finally swung open, and Tim walked out with an opened can of energy drink in his hand and an exhausted look on his face.

His surgical mask was off, revealing his handsome, pale face that was covered in a thin sheen of sweat.

Exhaustion and lethargy were written all over his beautiful face, proof of how long and tiring this surgery had been.

"Dr. Lancaster." Sonia and Tom rushed to him as the tense line of their shoulders only got tenser when they hadn't received a clear answer from him.

"Dr. Lancaster, how's President Fuller doing? Is the operation a success?" Tom asked worriedly.

Although Sonia wasn't able to ask the question that was at the tip of her tongue, her anxiety and concern were apparent for all to see from her tightly clasped hands and uneasy expression.

Tim glanced at them and didn't give them an answer immediately. Instead, he threw back his head and finished the canned drink in his hand. After he recovered some of his energy, he said, "They always say the villain never dies. So, how could he die so easily? Alright now, make way, both of you. Let me take a nap, and we'll speak once I'm fully awake."

He shoved them aside and staggered out. However, after a few steps, he came to an abrupt stop and said to Sonia in a gentler voice, "You should hurry and catch some rest as well. Your body won't be able to take it after not resting for a day and a night. Don't fall sick when there's no one to take care of you."

Then, he left with those parting words.

Tom opened his mouth but closed it again as he stared at Tim's retreating silhouette. "Miss Reed, did you understand what he meant? You're thinking what I'm thinking, right?"

"Yes, I do. Toby's surgery is a success!" Sonia's body shook as she broke down in tears as a wave of happiness and relief overwhelmed her. "Toby's surgery is a success. Mr. Brown, the surgery is a success! It's a success!"

Just like her, Tom's eyes were red-rimmed and filled with tears, and he nodded firmly. "That's right. President Fuller's surgery is a success and won't be in danger anymore."

After the words left his lips, he suddenly fell to his knees and started sobbing on the floor.

Honestly, it was a little amusing to see a six-foot-tall man crying without abandon on the floor. Usually, Sonia would be amused by the sight of this happening if it happened on any other day.

Yet, considering the great news, she also wanted to join him on the floor. She was so delighted that she didn't know how else to express the excitement and happiness in her heart.

Tom seemed to be doing better as he got off the floor after a few minutes of crying into his hands. He even managed to clean his glasses as he chuffed in embarrassment, "I'm so sorry you had to see this, Miss Reed."

"It's alright." Sonia wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes as well. "That's a normal reaction to the situation earlier, and I totally understand. Moreover, I'm not doing any better than you."

She kept rubbing away the tears that were flowing down her cheeks as Tom chuckled in response. Then, he quietly put on his glasses and continued waiting at the door for the medical staff to roll Toby out.

About half an hour later, Toby was wheeled out. He was dressed in a typical green operation robe, but coupled with the pallid tone of his skin, and the ventilator covering his face, it made him seem strangely fragile.

Since Toby was just out of surgery, he couldn't be admitted to the general ward and had to be placed in intensive care for seventy-two hours of continuous observation. This arrangement was mainly to observe post-surgery adverse and rejection reactions.

Sonia and Tom didn't exchange a single word as they tagged behind and watched as the nurses gently pushed Toby into the intensive care unit.

"Excuse me," Sonia said, stopping a nurse that was just coming out of the ICU. "Do you know when he'll wake up?"

The nurse pondered over Toby's condition before answering, "Judging from President Fuller's current situation, I reckon he'll wake up within three days."

"Okay, I understand. Thank you." Sonia nodded in thanks as she released the nurse's arm.

Then, the nurse turned to Tom, who was behind Sonia. "Mr. Brown, Dr. Lancaster would like to ask you what to do with President Fuller's old heart. Are you guys going to take care of it, or should the hospital make the necessary arrangements?"

Tom gave it a thought and replied, "We'll take care of it ourselves."

The nurse gave him a professional nod and left as she marked his opinion down.

When all the doctors and nurses had departed from Toby's ICU ward, Sonia turned to Tom and asked, "You guys are probably planning to return Miles that heart, aren't you? I heard that he accepted Toby's invitation and will arrive soon."

"Yes. After all, that heart belongs to President Fuller's younger brother, so we can't simply dispose of it. This was probably on Dr. Lancaster's mind as well, and that's why he instructed the nurse to inquire about it. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered and just took care of it as usual." Tom said.

"Well, that's for the better. You guys have found out the truth behind Miles' death, so you can return it to him."

Tom nodded and turned to look at Toby behind the glass wall. "Miss Reed, President Fuller should be fine now, and you don't have to keep vigil by his side after this. Please get some rest. I know that you haven't gotten a good night's rest. Don't push yourself and become another patient."

"I will rest, but you should take your advice too. Toby and the Fuller Group will need you for some time. Don't take things too far and collapse due to overwork," Sonia advised.

She had a point. Tom was exhausted, and his head was spinning and throbbing. Plus, the bright hospital lights weren't helping at all. "I'll rest in a while, but before that, I have to place some bodyguards here in case some unnecessary people show up. Even though I did my best to suppress any news regarding President Fuller, I won't rest well if I don't make the necessary preparations."

"That's true. I won't bother you, then. I'm going to catch some sleep in the ward." After Sonia finished speaking, she took one more glance at Toby before she spun around with a yawn.

When she returned to her ward, she chatted a little more with the nurse and plopped into the bed. She was out like a light the second her head hit the pillow.

She had gone without rest for a total of 24 hours. It definitely didn't help matters that her nerves were tense and high-strung the entire time. In addition, her mental state couldn't relax until she knew that Toby was safe and sound. So, her body and mind finally settled when Tim informed her that Toby's surgery was a success and there wouldn't be any negative issues cropping up in the future.

The instant all the tension left her body, the exhaustion came rolling like a tidal wave, and she almost passed out and couldn't make it back into the room.

Thus, when she finally managed to drag her weary body onto the bed, she immediately tossed everything else to the back of her mind, and sleep was all she could focus on.

Sonia slept for more than ten hours straight before she woke up again. When she blinked the sleep out of her bleary eyes, she felt her stomach grumbling in complaint due to her skipping her meals for more rest. Still, she disregarded her body's protest and immediately scurried to Toby's ward.

She was rather lucky because she happened to bump into Tim speaking to Tom when she arrived. Since she didn't bother hiding her appearance in her haste to see Toby, her arrival soon attracted their attention.

"Oh, you're awake, Miss Reed," Tom greeted, giving her a polite nod.

She returned his greeting and quickly fixated her eyes on Tim. "Dr. Lancaster, how is Toby?"

More than ten hours had passed, so she was worried that Toby would exhibit adverse reactions from the surgery. That was the piece of information she needed to hear the most right now.

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"He's fine." Tim shut the medical record folder in his hands with a snap. "He has high compatibility with the heart, and there are no adverse effects or signs of rejection after more than ten hours. This is good news, and if things remain the same after seventy-two hours, it means that there will be no rejection in the future. So, he can be transferred to the general ward once he wakes up."

His words lifted a weight off Sonia's heart. "That's great. I had been so worried about that the whole time, so I ran over as quickly as possible. But now, I can finally rest easy," she said, patting her chest.

Tim slid his glasses higher as he continued, "Just as I said before, the good die young. Toby is so far away from the goodness scale. There's no way he'll die just because of this. Since this guy can still survive after two heart transplants, it goes to show that the Gates of Heaven are not ready for him just yet. So, we can safely say he wouldn't experience other health problems, so all of you can relax."

Although his remarks were caustic and hard to swallow, the implication behind them was good news—Toby was fine, and he was merely unconscious due to the drugs in his system.

Once the drugs wear off, he'll wake up. That would mean they wouldn't have to worry about his physical condition any longer. Hence, neither Sonia nor Tom was bothered by Tim's sarcasm.

Nevertheless, Tim didn't intend to stay, so he left after he said his piece. Besides, Toby wasn't his only patient, and his schedule was far from free.

Sonia and Tom didn't insist on making him stay. Toby was out of danger, and there was no point in forcing him to stare at an unconscious patient, so he could leave if he wanted to.

"I'm so glad." A genuine smile spread across Tom's face as he stared at Toby, who was in the ICU ward.

Sonia had a similar smile on her face as she commented, "Yeah. Thank God he's fine."

This was amazing, wasn't it? Toby was alive, and this was fantastic news.

"Now, I can finally stop worrying and place my entire focus on work. I had put off a lot of work for the past few days and wasn't in the mood to deal with them because President Fuller wasn't ready for surgery. Now that he's out of danger, I can finally get back to work. So, Miss Reed, I may not visit as often as I used to. The Fuller Group needs my support, and I'll leave President Fuller in your care. I have to get the work done before President Fuller is ready to return to the company. I can't let him go to work when he desperately needs his rest now, can I?"

Sonia huffed in amusement as she nodded in agreement. "Don't worry. I'll take care of him even without your prompting. Just go to work. I'll take it from here."

"I'm placing my trust in you, Miss Reed. Well, would you look at the time? I'll have to take my leave now. There's an important meeting in the afternoon regarding a project President Fuller has been very concerned about before all this mess. So, I have to take care of it personally." After he said that, he bowed politely to her and left, leaving her alone outside the ward.

Although she couldn't enter, she knew that she could keep Toby company as she stared at his unconscious figure through the glass.

Even though he was still out cold and had no idea that she was outside, she was still gratified that she could see him whenever she wanted.

"Ha's fina." Tim shut tha madical racord foldar in his hands with a snap. "Ha has high compatibility with tha haart, and thara ara no advarsa affacts or signs of rajaction aftar mora than tan hours. This is good naws, and if things ramain tha sama aftar savanty-two hours, it maans that thara will be no rajaction in the future. So, he can be transferred to the general ward once he wakes up."

His words liftad a waight off Sonia's haart. "That's graat. I had baan so worriad about that tha whola tima, so I ran ovar as quickly as possibla. But now, I can finally rast aasy," sha said, patting har chast.

Tim slid his glassas highar as ha continuad, "Just as I said bafora, tha good dia young. Toby is so far away from tha goodnass scala. Thara's no way ha'll dia just bacausa of this. Sinca this guy can still surviva aftar two haart transplants, it goas to show that tha Gatas of Haavan ara not raady for him just yat. So, wa can safaly say ha wouldn't axparianca other haalth problams, so all of you can ralax."

Although his ramarks wara caustic and hard to swallow, tha implication bahind tham was good naws—Toby was fina, and ha was maraly unconscious dua to tha drugs in his systam.

Onca tha drugs waar off, ha'll waka up. That would maan thay wouldn't hava to worry about his physical condition any longar. Hanca, naithar Sonia nor Tom was botharad by Tim's sarcasm.

Navarthalass, Tim didn't intand to stay, so ha laft aftar ha said his piaca. Basidas, Toby wasn't his only patiant, and his schadula was far from fraa.

Sonia and Tom didn't insist on making him stay. Toby was out of dangar, and thara was no point in forcing him to stara at an unconscious patiant, so ha could laava if ha wantad to.

"I'm so glad." A ganuina smila spraad across Tom's faca as ha starad at Toby, who was in tha ICU ward.

Sonia had a similar smila on har faca as sha commantad, "Yaah. Thank God ha's fina."

This was amazing, wasn't it? Toby was aliva, and this was fantastic naws.

"Now, I can finally stop worrying and placa my antira focus on work. I had put off a lot of work for tha past faw days and wasn't in tha mood to daal with tham bacausa Prasidant Fullar wasn't raady for surgary. Now that ha's out of dangar, I can finally gat back to work. So, Miss Raad, I may not visit as oftan as I usad to. Tha Fullar Group naads my support, and I'll laava Prasidant Fullar in your cara. I hava to gat tha work dona bafora Prasidant Fullar is raady to raturn to tha company. I can't lat him go to work whan ha dasparataly naads his rast now, can I?"

Sonia huffad in amusamant as sha noddad in agraamant. "Don't worry. I'll taka cara of him avan without your prompting. Just go to work. I'll taka it from hara."

"I'm placing my trust in you, Miss Raad. Wall, would you look at tha tima? I'll hava to taka my laava now. Thara's an important maating in tha aftarnoon ragarding a projact Prasidant Fullar has baan vary concarnad about bafora all this mass. So, I hava to taka cara of it parsonally." Aftar ha said that, ha bowad politaly to har and laft, laaving har alona outsida tha ward.

Although sha couldn't antar, sha knaw that sha could kaap Toby company as sha starad at his unconscious figura through tha glass.

Evan though ha was still out cold and had no idaa that sha was outsida, sha was still gratifiad that sha could saa him whanavar sha wantad.

Hence, she accompanied him quietly by sitting outside the ward. Sometimes, she would speak to him through the glass despite never receiving a response from the other. At other times, she would read him the news on the Internet on her phone.

She didn't stop even though the person behind the glass couldn't hear her.

On a side note, quite a few things happened during the past few days, and the two biggest news headlines were the Lore and Acree Families declaring bankruptcy one after another.

This was rather old news, and everyone knew that the Lore and Acree Families were done for. After all, Toby had given up on the Lore Family, who had offended so many others in the past while they used Toby as a shield. So, the instant Toby ditched them—setting aside the fact that past enemies of the Lore Family would finally use this golden opportunity to get back at them—just the fact that Lynette was a murderer would cause devastating damage to her family's businesses. Therefore, the bankruptcy of the Lore Family was an event that everyone could foresee. Thus, it wasn't surprising when they were squeezed out of the upper-crust society.

That was also the case for the Acree Family. Judging from the fact that they had the guts to blatantly withhold the employees' compensation and even forced them to go out to sea under such terrible weather conditions without any regard for the law, there was no doubt that they were involved in illegal dealings in the past. Plus, when news broke out about the Acrees' misdemeanor, the furious netizens petitioned the authorities to investigate the Acree Family's businesses thoroughly. To calm the citizens' anger, the authorities did their jobs and left no stone unturned.

Just like that, the Acrees' infuriating deeds were slowly uncovered one by one. Once the authorities had sufficient evidence, they gave the order to freeze the Acree Family's assets, confiscating all of their properties. Buried in debt, the Acree Family had no other choice but to announce bankruptcy.

Another absurd incident happened to them once that matter was settled. Overwhelmed by the staggering debt, Rachel left, abandoning Dylan in his vegetative state and the disabled Annabella. All empires fall, eventually, and it was safe to say that the Acrees had fallen.

As for how Dylan and Annabella were going to continue their lives... It was not anyone's problem, and Sonia couldn't be bothered to follow up on their situation, either.

Besides these two headlines, there were other bigger and smaller news popping up here and there. Sonia would read all the relevant information to Toby during her visit.

For instance, the two families who could be considered Lynette's 'vassals' also had several properties seized by the authorities based on an anonymous tip-off. Nonetheless, Sonia knew that this was actually Toby's doing.

Once their properties were taken away, these two families inevitably fell from upperclass society and into a regular lower middle-class family with almost no probability of ever making a comeback. Suffice it to say, they were wholly removed from the upperclass families of Seafield. Meanwhile, it was rumored that the two girls thrown out by their families went to the police to lodge a report on Lynette. Of course, Sonia had yet to learn the report's contents, and she didn't bother digging. Everything would come to light once Lynette's trial began, so there was no point in wasting her resources on something like that.

During the Lore Femily's fell from grece, Herry finelly ewekened. Regerdless, when he leerned of the Lore Femily's situation end that Lynette was eccused of murder, he once egain pessed out from a stroke.

However, es Tom hed plented someone to keep en eye on him in the derk, he received the best medicel cere efter he collepsed end wes dregged beck into the world of the living to receive his dues.

Although Herry hed difficulty speeking end reduced speed in mobility due to his stroke, he wes no different from other men his ege.

At eny rete, Toby hed mentioned thet before Professor Rendell wes done with his investigetions, Herry wes not ellowed to slip into e perelytic stete, let elone die before his time.

Otherwise, how could he serve his jeil sentence?

At Herry's current ege, he wes still fer off from being perdoned to serve time due to old ege.

Of course, he wes restless under custody, end he kept hurling ebuse et Toby in every possible menner. Even though Sonie didn't bother to visit him, she could imegine such e scene in her mind besed on Tom's deteiled description.

In conclusion, the Herry Lore of todey wes no longer like e wise elder, end it wouldn't be en exeggeretion to compere him to en old shrew.

Sonie went on end on, telking ebout everything end nothing. Finelly, she only left with e heevy heert efter the nurse ceme to remind her thet her visitetion hours were elmost over, end she missed the sight of the men in the ICU werd twitching his finger efter she left. But the finger remeined motionless egein right efter.

The next dey efter breekfest, just es she wes ebout to visit Toby egein, she received e cell from the police out of the blue.

As it turned out, Jessice wes ebout to be releesed from prison.

But it's not even close to her releese dete yet! she thought huffily.

She didn't hide her bewilderment behind this situetion es she inquired the police ebout the reeson behind her eerly releese end found out thet Jessice wes releesed due to

good behevior. To her surprise, the werden told her ebout Jessice's contribution. Although she wes merely indirectly involved, she wes still rewerded for her behevior. Therefore, she would be releesed eerly, end her releese dete wes set for three deys leter.

Sonie sneered es she pleced her phone ewey with e soft thud. Who would heve thought thet Jessice would heve such good luck? But her releese is fer from e terrible thing. It looks like I cen push my plen forwerd.

Just es she wes busy scheming, Tom mede his eppeerence. Although he didn't visit es frequently es he used to, which wes e few times e dey, he would still see Toby et leest once e dev.

"Did something heppen, Miss Reed?" he esked, noticing the cold look on Sonie's fece.

She shook her heed, dismissing his concern, but replied, "Oh, it's nothing. I just leerned thet Jessice will be releesed soon."

"Jessice?" At first, he wes confused es to who this Jessice person wes. Then, es he wrecked his brein, he finelly recelled Jessice end gesped in surprise, "Why is she releesed eheed of time?!"

During the Lore Family's fall from grace, Harry finally awakened. Regardless, when he learned of the Lore Family's situation and that Lynette was accused of murder, he once again passed out from a stroke.

However, as Tom had planted someone to keep an eye on him in the dark, he received the best medical care after he collapsed and was dragged back into the world of the living to receive his dues.

Although Harry had difficulty speaking and reduced speed in mobility due to his stroke, he was no different from other men his age.

At any rate, Toby had mentioned that before Professor Randall was done with his investigations, Harry was not allowed to slip into a paralytic state, let alone die before his time.

Otherwise, how could he serve his jail sentence?

At Harry's current age, he was still far off from being pardoned to serve time due to old age.

Of course, he was restless under custody, and he kept hurling abuse at Toby in every possible manner. Even though Sonia didn't bother to visit him, she could imagine such a scene in her mind based on Tom's detailed description.

In conclusion, the Harry Lore of today was no longer like a wise elder, and it wouldn't be an exaggeration to compare him to an old shrew.

Sonia went on and on, talking about everything and nothing. Finally, she only left with a heavy heart after the nurse came to remind her that her visitation hours were almost over, and she missed the sight of the man in the ICU ward twitching his finger after she left. But the finger remained motionless again right after.

The next day after breakfast, just as she was about to visit Toby again, she received a call from the police out of the blue.

As it turned out, Jessica was about to be released from prison.

But it's not even close to her release date yet! she thought huffily.

She didn't hide her bewilderment behind this situation as she inquired the police about the reason behind her early release and found out that Jessica was released due to good behavior. To her surprise, the warden told her about Jessica's contribution. Although she was merely indirectly involved, she was still rewarded for her behavior. Therefore, she would be released early, and her release date was set for three days later.

Sonia sneered as she placed her phone away with a soft thud. Who would have thought that Jessica would have such good luck? But her release is far from a terrible thing. It looks like I can push my plan forward.

Just as she was busy scheming, Tom made his appearance. Although he didn't visit as frequently as he used to, which was a few times a day, he would still see Toby at least once a day.

"Did something happen, Miss Reed?" he asked, noticing the cold look on Sonia's face.

She shook her head, dismissing his concern, but replied, "Oh, it's nothing. I just learned that Jessica will be released soon."

"Jessica?" At first, he was confused as to who this Jessica person was. Then, as he wracked his brain, he finally recalled Jessica and gasped in surprise, "Why is she released ahead of time?!"

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Sonia shrugged helplessly but didn't plan to hide the truth and explained the situation to him.

Soon, a scowl painted across Tom's face when he understood the reason behind Jessica's early release. "How could she be so lucky? Good behavior? Her?"

"Maybe she's blessed by the heavens." A hint of mockery flashed in Sonia's eyes, but it quickly disappeared. "Alright, let's set this aside. It's a good thing that she'll be released from prison. We can ask Tim to give her a check-up to see if her body could conceive a child."

I still need her to bear an heir for the Reed Family, she thought.

"Miss Reed, do you need me to send someone to keep an eye out so she will be sent here once she's released? That way, we can prevent her from giving us the slip," he suggested.

She nodded in agreement. "Oh, that's a good idea. Please do that. I'll have to trouble you with this, Mr. Brown."

"This is nothing. All I have to do is make a phone call. Don't worry. I'll let you know the moment she steps one foot out of prison," he answered with cold eyes hiding behind his glasses.

"Great. Thank you for your help," she said. Then, he glanced at Toby with undisguised concern and gave her a once-over before he left.

He had arrived at the hospital early in the morning and only paid her visit after visiting Toby.

Now that he had visited both of them, he didn't hang around any longer because he had to rush back to the company for a meeting.

When Toby was still hale and hearty, his workload wasn't this heavy. However, since Toby was indisposed in the near future, it meant that he had to take care of Toby's work in addition to his own. Back then, he still had to observe other departments and ask for updates from the branch offices. Now, it was worse. Swamped with work, he could barely squeeze out time for a visit to the hospital.

After Tom departed in a hurry, Sonia went to Toby's ward to talk to him as she had been doing for the past couple of days.

Even though he still couldn't hear her, it didn't diminish her enthusiasm.

This time, when she was chattering away, she lifted her head to look at the man in the ICU ward and caught sight of his finger moving.

She was stunned into silence as she thought that her eyes were playing tricks on her and hastily rubbed her eyes before taking a good look. Sure enough, the man's finger was twitching.

Her jaw dropped as she stared at the sight in delight. She couldn't control the excitement rushing through her veins as she trembled, and far drops of tears fell from her eyes like broken pearls. "Someone, please... He's awake. He's awake!"

She entirely forgot about the nurse call button as she dashed for the nurse station, shouting that Toby was awake. Soon, the medical staff who heard her rushed to her side, with Tim taking the lead.

The instant Sonia laid her eyes on Tim, she hurriedly grabbed his arm in excitement. "Dr. Lancaster, Toby moved his finger! Does this mean that he's waking up? Is he waking up soon?"

Tim patted her on the shoulder to calm her. "If everything goes well, he'll be up and about soon enough."

"Oh, God! This is amazing!" She released him and clasped her hands together, utterly over the moon. Her joy was evident for all to see.

"Alright. Wait here while I give him a check-up," Tim said, striding straight into the ICU ward.

Sonia nodded at him eagerly. "Yes, you're right. Hurry!" she urged, and he went in with his medical team while she anxiously watched on, her eyes never leaving Toby's figure.

Sonia shruggad halplassly but didn't plan to hida tha truth and axplainad tha situation to him.

Soon, a scowl paintad across Tom's faca whan ha undarstood tha raason bahind Jassica's aarly ralaasa. "How could sha ba so lucky? Good bahavior? Har?"

"Mayba sha's blassad by tha haavans." A hint of mockary flashad in Sonia's ayas, but it quickly disappaarad. "Alright, lat's sat this asida. It's a good thing that sha'll ba ralaasad from prison. Wa can ask Tim to giva har a chack-up to saa if har body could concaiva a child."

I still naad har to baar an hair for tha Raad Family, sha thought.

"Miss Raad, do you naad ma to sand somaona to kaap an aya out so sha will ba sant hara onca sha's ralaasad? That way, wa can pravant har from giving us tha slip," ha suggastad.

Sha noddad in agraamant. "Oh, that's a good idaa. Plaasa do that. I'll hava to troubla you with this, Mr. Brown."

"This is nothing. All I hava to do is maka a phona call. Don't worry. I'll lat you know tha momant sha staps ona foot out of prison," ha answarad with cold ayas hiding bahind his glassas.

"Graat. Thank you for your halp," sha said. Than, ha glancad at Toby with undisguisad concarn and gava har a onca-ovar bafora ha laft.

Ha had arrivad at tha hospital aarly in tha morning and only paid har visit aftar visiting Toby.

Now that ha had visited both of tham, ha didn't hang around any longar bacausa ha had to rush back to the company for a meating.

Whan Toby was still hala and haarty, his workload wasn't this haavy. Howavar, sinca Toby was indisposad in tha naar futura, it maant that ha had to taka cara of Toby's work in addition to his own. Back than, ha still had to obsarva other dapartments and ask for updatas from the branch officas. Now, it was worse. Swampad with work, he could baraly squaeze out time for a visit to the hospital.

Aftar Tom dapartad in a hurry, Sonia want to Toby's ward to talk to him as sha had baan doing for tha past coupla of days.

Evan though ha still couldn't haar har, it didn't diminish har anthusiasm.

This tima, whan sha was chattaring away, sha lifted har haad to look at the man in the ICU ward and caught sight of his fingar moving.

Sha was stunnad into silanca as sha thought that har ayas wara playing tricks on har and hastily rubbad har ayas bafora taking a good look. Sura anough, tha man's fingar was twitching.

Har jaw droppad as sha starad at the sight in dalight. Sha couldn't control the axcitament rushing through har vains as sha tramblad, and far drops of tears fall from har ayas like broken pearls. "Someone, please... Ha's awaka. Ha's awaka!"

Sha antiraly forgot about tha nursa call button as sha dashad for tha nursa station, shouting that Toby was awaka. Soon, tha madical staff who haard har rushad to har sida, with Tim taking tha laad.

Tha instant Sonia laid har ayas on Tim, sha hurriadly grabbad his arm in axcitamant. "Dr. Lancastar, Toby movad his fingar! Doas this maan that ha's waking up? Is ha waking up soon?"

Tim pattad har on tha shouldar to calm har. "If avarything goas wall, ha'll ba up and about soon anough."

"Oh, God! This is amazing!" Sha ralaasad him and claspad har hands togathar, uttarly ovar tha moon. Har joy was avidant for all to saa.

"Alright. Wait hara whila I giva him a chack-up," Tim said, striding straight into tha ICU ward.

Sonia noddad at him aagarly. "Yas, you'ra right. Hurry!" sha urgad, and ha want in with his madical taam whila sha anxiously watchad on, har ayas navar laaving Toby's figura.

After a while, she saw the man on the bed slowly opening his eyes.

Right at that moment, she could feel hot tears rolling down her cheeks. Nevertheless, she quickly covered her mouth with her palms so she wouldn't make a sound, worried that she would distract the medical staff from doing their work.

He's awake, she thought. He's finally awake! Thank God he's awake!

Naturally, Tim immediately caught sight of Toby's eyes blearily blinking open. Still, although his eyes were open, nothing happened after that. His eyes didn't even rove around in confusion, and it was obvious that his pupils weren't focused as he simply stared at the ceiling dazedly.

A confused nurse gave voice to her puzzlement, "What's going on? Why does he look like he has lost his soul?"

Tim chortled and replied, "He didn't lose his soul, but his brain is simply rebooting like an old computer. Some people may show one of a few situations when they wake up from a long coma. Some will open their eyes before their brains regain consciousness. For others, their brains will regain consciousness before their body does. Then, we have the lucky ones who would feel like they'd just woken up after a long dream."

"So, President Fuller's is the first case scenario, then?" the nurse pointed out.

Sonia couldn't hear their conversation as she was outside the ward, but when she noticed that nothing else had happened after Toby opened his eyes, the excitement and delight froze on her face. Her brain started running wild as she had no experience with coma patients, and the uneasiness in her heart grew.

What's going on? Isn't he awake? Why are his eyes open but not reacting to other stimuli? What the hell is going on?

Despite the anxiety building up inside her, she restrained herself from barging in and demanding answers. Instead, she remained outside the ward as the panic within her gave way to distressing thoughts.

Meanwhile, Tim threw a nasty look at Toby. "He really looks like an idiot like this. It's truly a shame that I can't take a picture of this as blackmail."

How amazing it would be if I could! It'll be worth a pretty penny!

The other medical staff couldn't help but roll their eyes at Tim's terrible bedside manner.

Dr. Lancaster, even if you're not afraid of President Fuller, we are! they complained inwardly.

But, of course, none of them had the nerve to say this out loud because Tim was notorious for his eccentricities.

If he knew what they were secretly thinking, he would definitely take it as a challenge and do exactly what they feared he would. Therefore, it was better to pretend that they hadn't heard anything as they continued checking on Toby's vitals.

Soon, Toby's eyes slowly blinked, and they started showing signs of awareness. He no longer looked like a soulless doll.

As his dazed eyes started to focus on the people moving around him, there was a gleam of cognizance as time passed. Soon, his eyes no longer remained blank as he groggily tried to understand what was going on.

Tim naturally had a front-row seat of his slow but steady rise to consciousness as he raised his brows and drawled, "Oh, would you look at that? This old robot is done rebooting itself."

That was the first thing Toby heard after waking up.

He had no clue what a robot was doing around here and why it was rebooting. He only knew that his body felt like lead, and it was so stiff that he could barely move even if he wanted to. Furthermore, he felt disconnected from his body as he couldn't control it at all.

Regerdless, he squeshed down the rising penic end forced himself to look cerefully eround his surroundings. When he stered et the whiteweshed ceiling, en idee sterted forming in his mind. Still, he wented to clerify his guess es his lips moved, end he spoke in en elmost ineudible voice, "Where em I?"

"The hospitel," Tim seid while his eyes never left the petient's clipboerd.

Only then did Toby reelize thet there were others eround him, end it hit him thet he wes indeed in the hospitel the moment his eyes lended on Tim's epethetic fece.

Heng on. Whet on Eerth em I doing in the hospitel egein?

He closed his eyes in confusion es he tried to recell the events that lended him in the hospitel bed. Almost immediately, e huge emount of memories creshed into his mind like e tidel weve.

After thet, he remembered thet he end Sonie were in trouble; someone hed locked them up in e werehouse end even set fire to the building with the full intention of burning them elive like they were witches on e steke.

During thet time, he inheled e considereble emount of smoke, which ceused his heert to feil. He elso remembered pessing out efter throwing up e mouthful of blood end hed no recollection of whetever heppened efterwerd.

But now, he wes lying in the hospitel. So, he wesn't deed end wes definitely elive end well, which meent thet someone hed rescued them.

But where's Little Leef?

His eyes snepped open in worry, end e trece of enxiety eppeered on his fece es he lifted his neck, trying to get up through sheer willpower elone.

Tim instently noticed Toby's egitetion end mercilessly poked his neck. As e result, he fell beck onto the pillow with e thump. Toby glered et Tim engrily end hissed in e breethy tone, "Whet ere you doing?!"

"I should be the one esking you thet," Tim snepped, giving him e cold stere.

"I went to look for Little Leef," Toby enswered solemnly.

He couldn't rest eesy until he sew her beceuse he wented to know whet hed heppened to her. Wes she elright? Did she get hurt?

Tim sighed when he observed the growing penic in Toby's eyes. "You're such en effectionete men, eren't you? You're so concerned ebout her thet you forgot to even consider your heelth! Well, I suppose you're good enough for her, then."

After he seid thet, he pointed to the gless well right beyond them. Toby's eyes followed his ections but couldn't comprehend whet Tim wes trying to convey. So, he geve Tim e herd stere through nerrowed eyes.

"Whet ere you telking ebout?"

"Just teke e closer look, end you'll understend."

Thus, he suspiciously turned his heed beck to the gless well, end his eyes immediately widened in shock end relief. Thet's... Little Leef!

On the other side of the gless well, Sonie wesn't expecting him to turn to her so suddenly. Hence, she begen weving like en excited fool, using her body lenguege to tell him thet she wes fine end well.

When the men sew her elive end kicking end, most importently, not weering e hospitel gown, it instently dewned on him that she wesn't hurt.

The vice grip eround his heert loosened, end he finelly felt et eese. Ales, when he wented to weve beck in response, he reelized that he still couldn't move e muscle.

Regardless, he squashed down the rising panic and forced himself to look carefully around his surroundings. When he stared at the whitewashed ceiling, an idea started forming in his mind. Still, he wanted to clarify his guess as his lips moved, and he spoke in an almost inaudible voice, "Where am I?"

"The hospital," Tim said while his eyes never left the patient's clipboard.

Only then did Toby realize that there were others around him, and it hit him that he was indeed in the hospital the moment his eyes landed on Tim's apathetic face.

Hang on. What on Earth am I doing in the hospital again?

He closed his eyes in confusion as he tried to recall the events that landed him in the hospital bed. Almost immediately, a huge amount of memories crashed into his mind like a tidal wave.

After that, he remembered that he and Sonia were in trouble; someone had locked them up in a warehouse and even set fire to the building with the full intention of burning them alive like they were witches on a stake.

During that time, he inhaled a considerable amount of smoke, which caused his heart to fail. He also remembered passing out after throwing up a mouthful of blood and had no recollection of whatever happened afterward.

But now, he was lying in the hospital. So, he wasn't dead and was definitely alive and well, which meant that someone had rescued them.

But where's Little Leaf?

His eyes snapped open in worry, and a trace of anxiety appeared on his face as he lifted his neck, trying to get up through sheer willpower alone.

Tim instantly noticed Toby's agitation and mercilessly poked his neck. As a result, he fell back onto the pillow with a thump. Toby glared at Tim angrily and hissed in a breathy tone, "What are you doing?!"

"I should be the one asking you that," Tim snapped, giving him a cold stare.

"I want to look for Little Leaf," Toby answered solemnly.

He couldn't rest easy until he saw her because he wanted to know what had happened to her. Was she alright? Did she get hurt?

Tim sighed when he observed the growing panic in Toby's eyes. "You're such an affectionate man, aren't you? You're so concerned about her that you forgot to even consider your health! Well, I suppose you're good enough for her, then."

After he said that, he pointed to the glass wall right beyond them. Toby's eyes followed his actions but couldn't comprehend what Tim was trying to convey. So, he gave Tim a hard stare through narrowed eyes.

"What are you talking about?"

"Just take a closer look, and you'll understand."

Thus, he suspiciously turned his head back to the glass wall, and his eyes immediately widened in shock and relief. That's... Little Leaf!

On the other side of the glass wall, Sonia wasn't expecting him to turn to her so suddenly. Hence, she began waving like an excited fool, using her body language to tell him that she was fine and well.

When the man saw her alive and kicking and, most importantly, not wearing a hospital gown, it instantly dawned on him that she wasn't hurt.

The vice grip around his heart loosened, and he finally felt at ease. Alas, when he wanted to wave back in response, he realized that he still couldn't move a muscle.

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Boss Your Wife's Asking for A Divorce Again Chapter 1334

The color drained from his face as dread and panic rose in his heart.

Could it be that he had become paralyzed?

He wasn't worried about being unable to move his body earlier as he had just woken up from what seemed to be a coma. So, he thought he just needed some time to regain complete control of his body.

However, now that he had been awake for some time, he could only move his head. So, he couldn't help but fear that he was paralyzed.

Toby immediately twisted his head and stared at Tim with bloodshot eyes. "Tell me. What's wrong with me? Why can't I move?"

On the other hand, Tim wasn't fazed by the panic in Toby's eyes as he languidly readjusted his glasses before calmly answering, "You just had a heart transplant. So, I gave you a lidocaine injection so you wouldn't be able to move from the neck down for the time being. I did that to prevent you from moving unnecessarily to avoid complications like pulling your stitches. Don't worry. The injection isn't an anesthetic. So, you don't need to worry about any possible side effects."

"So, I'm not paralyzed?" Toby's eyes never left Tim's face as he desperately asked the question that needed answering.

Tim snickered, "Why would you be? It's not like you got into an accident or fell off a building."

Toby let out a sigh of relief after hearing Tim's affirmation. Thank God I'm not crippled. My heart nearly jumped out of my chest.

He had always been a prideful man, and he wouldn't be able to accept that he had become paraplegic or worse. How could he continue to love his partner properly if that ever came to pass?

Toby turned back to look at Sonia standing on the other side of the window. Confusion was written all over her face as she didn't understand what was up with him.

Toby blinked at her, using his expression and gaze to assure her that he was fine and that she didn't need to worry. Then, he directed his attention to Tim and said, "You said I just had a heart transplant?"

"Yes." Tim nodded impassively.

Toby pursed his lips before cautiously inquiring. "My previous heart couldn't be used anymore?"

"It's practically riddled with holes. How could you ask me that? It could barely sustain you being rescued from the fire until you were sent here. It was already at its last legs by the time you arrived So, you needed to undergo a heart transplant effectively immediately. If you hadn't had a heart ready, your life expectancy was a week at most.

So, be grateful to your assistant. He decided to end the carrier's life before his time. Otherwise, you'd be looking at your body from the heavens right now." Tim told him.

Toby's eyes dilated at that shocking news as he murmured in disbelief, "The carrier... is dead?"

"Of course. How else would you have a heart just in time for the surgery?" Tim flipped open the medical record folder and scribbled on it as he replied dispassionately.

Toby's already pallid complexion turned a shade of gray after learning about the carrier's demise.

On the other hand, Tim shut the medical record folder and returned to business. "Alright. The examination shows no signs of rejection, and it doesn't look like you'll be showing any symptoms of adverse reactions. Still, keep a look out for the possibility for these few days. You should be able to transfer the patient to the general ward after a few days of observation."

The doctors and nurses standing behind him all nodded obediently as they mentally noted down Tim's orders.

"Prescribe his medicine," Tim instructed. "Since he's awake, he'll need to take his medicine. Don't forget his immunosuppressive drug. Even though there doesn't seem to be a problem now, it might show up later. So, you can't omit the immunosuppressive drug until he's out of observation."

"Yes, Director Lancaster," a doctor replied professionally.

Tim hummed in reply and thought of something as he glanced at Sonia, who was standing outside and staring at Toby. "Another thing. Open up the ICU ward for visitors."

Only two visitors per day, each of them only gets 10 minutes."

"Yes, sir." Another nurse nodded in response.

Tim glanced at Toby and said, "Sonia will be able to come in to see you in a bit. You can talk to her, but you only have 10 minutes. So, use it wisely and don't waste your time. Also, avoid emotional triggers during your chat... That is unless you want to tour the operating room one more time. Have I made myself clear?"

Toby looked at him as if he was a moron. Who wouldn't be able to remember something so obvious?

Tim acted like he didn't see the ridicule in Toby's gaze and flounced out of the room. Soon, the other doctors and nurses also exited the room after completing their tasks.

Meanwhile, Tim took the opportunity to speak to Sonia. She was elated and utterly gratified to learn that she could enter Toby's ward daily for 10 minutes.

Tim snapped his fingers and got the attention of one of the nurses who had just left Toby's ward. Then, he instructed the nurse on the terms the ICU patient's visitors had to obey before directing Sonia to follow her to change into a sterile gown before even thinking about going anywhere near Toby. She was also sternly warned that she could only enter the ICU ward if she had that on. Else, she was not allowed in as Toby's health was still rather fragile at the moment.

So, Sonia obediently followed the nurse and didn't push the nurse to go faster despite her impatience. After she was done, she rushed to open the ward's door and dashed in. As she neared Toby, her eyes felt hot, and her cheeks were soon wet with tears.

Toby's heart constricted as he watched her cry without a sound. He yearned to lift his hands and wipe away her tears, but he couldn't. Due to the injection that Tim had given him, he couldn't move a single muscle from the neck down.

"Don't cry," Toby gently comforted her. "My heart aches whenever you cry. I just had surgery. This wouldn't help me recover, wouldn't it?"

Only then did Sonia realize that her reactions would easily influence his emotions. Thus, she quickly took a deep breath and roughly rubbed her eyes to stop herself from crying.

After some time, she finally managed to calm herself down and stopped crying. Then, she forced a smile on her face. "Sorry. I forgot."

"Sit." He gestured to her with his eyes toward the hospital bed.

She hastily followed his request as she sat on the bed sideways as it was easier to see him like that.

"How long have I been unconscious?" Toby asked.

Sonia tilted her head as she counted the days. "Six days."

He was surprised. "I was out that long?"

"It's far from long." She shook her head and soothed him, "As soon as you were unconscious, Tom arrived at the factory and saved the day. Then, he sent you to the hospital without wasting a single second. Dr. Lancaster was already waiting for us then, and he immediately diagnosed you and said something was wrong with your heart. If we didn't do a heart transplant... So, we waited for almost three days before the heart was finally delivered from abroad. Your surgery lasted a day and a night. Then, you slept for two days, and here we are now."

"So, that's what happened." Toby nodded as he finally understood he had lost six days' worth of time.

Sonia grabbed his hand and pressed her damp cheeks against his palm. "You have no idea how terrified I was these few days. I was so afraid that you would leave me."

Toby wanted to hug her, but he couldn't. So, he could only smile at her helplessly. "I'm sorry for making you worry."

"That's right. You should apologize to me. If it weren't for this accident, I wouldn't even know that your heart..." She bit the bottom of her lip as she glared at him. "Toby. How could you?! How could you hide this from me? And for so long?!"

"I'm sorry. I just didn't want you to feel guilty about this. I was planning to get the surgery done secretly under the guise of going on a business trip for a few days. Who knew that things didn't go the way I planned?"

"Do you think you're God? And that things would just go the way you wished them to be?" Sonia rolled her eyes at him in exasperation and frustration.

Toby kept quiet, knowing that he was in hot water for lying to her.

Sonia didn't have the heart to continue being angry at the poor man stuck in the hospital bed. Thus, she softened her tone and sighed, "Don't hide anything from me in the future. Also, I hope this is the last and only time such a thing has happened. It's too scary and exhausting. I don't know if I would have the strength to persist if you land yourself in this situation again."

"Okay," Toby promised her.

It was his oversight this time for neglecting his safety and forgetting about his bodyguards. The masterminds behind this plot wouldn't have been successful if it weren't for his lapse in judgment.

"Oh, right. Have you the person who started the fire?" he asked.

Sonia nodded. "Yes. It was Asher. You got hurt all because of me."

"It's him?!" Toby was a little stunned that Asher was the one behind this.

He hadn't expected it to be Asher. He had plenty of suspects, but he never thought it would be him. He clicked his tongue in irritation as he figured Asher had managed to take advantage of his miscalculation.

"Yes, it's him. He's currently in police custody, and we have enough evidence to put him away for a long, long time. The trial is set for three months. I've been worried about you.

So, I haven't been to the detention center to see him. He wanted to see me, but I didn't agree to it. Besides, why would I want to see him?"

"It's okay. There's no need to bother. What are your plans for him?" Toby asked curiously as his solemn gaze never left her face.

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Based on my nature, there's absolutely no way that I will let Asher off the hook. I would have ordered Asher to be disposed of if it weren't for Sonia. Yet, Asher just had to be acquainted with her. He's not just a mere acquaintance either. In fact, he just had to be the senior member of Paradigm, which has brought significant contributions to the company. Moreover, not only was he her father's business partner, but also his good friend.

Even though their friendship crumbled to dust afterward due to conflicts caused by Asher's inferiority complex, we still can't deny that Asher had been a decent friend in the past. Coupled with her soft-hearted nature, it's very likely that she won't mete out a heavy punishment toward Asher out of respect for his contributions to Paradigm. Although I can't deny that my wishes are the exact opposite of her possible decision, I would still respect her choice. That's why I decided to ask her about what she will do with Asher.

That was what Toby thought.

On the contrary, Sonia didn't know what he was thinking. Even so, a hint of hatred immediately appeared on her face when she heard him asking about Asher. "Of course, I will make him pay a heavy price. He nearly killed the two of us, so we should not handle his case lightly."

She balled her fists tighter as her anger grew, so she added, "Nevertheless, I have inquired about Asher's case. According to the police, the most severe punishment he will receive is life without parole. Still, nothing is set in stone. It's also very likely that he may just be sentenced to more than ten years in prison. That's why I'm mad. I would be fine if he receives life without parole, but I would be utterly disgusted if he only gets sentenced to more than ten years in prison."

Toby stared at her with slight shock in his eyes and asked, "So, you want Asher to receive life without parole?"

Sonia nodded resolutely. "Yes. The only problem is that life without parole in Caruna doesn't mean the individual convicted in court will spend the rest of their natural life in

prison. They will still be released after spending 20 or 30 years, at most, in prison. Oh, how I wish for Asher to spend the rest of his life in prison so that he will never taste freedom. Just imagining him being released and tainting the cityscape 20 or 30 years later makes me want to shudder."

Life without parole, huh? That's a rather vague sentence in Caruna. Here, getting sentenced for up to 20 or 30 years is defined as life without parole. Therefore, there's no such thing as truly locking the individual up for the rest of their life. However... There are such criminal sentences abroad, though.

As Toby thought of that, he curled his lips into a faint smile. He couldn't deny feeling relieved after truly understanding her sentiments regarding Asher.

I was truly afraid that Sonia would go soft on Asher. Nonetheless, I'm also surprised that her hatred for Asher has peaked to such an extent. Is it because of my near death?

No words could describe how triumphant Toby felt at that very moment. He would probably be wagging his tail so hard he might strain it if he were a puppy.

"I can make it work if you want Asher to receive a genuine life sentence or even the death penalty," Toby answered nonchalantly with narrowed eyes.

As Sonia never doubted his words, she was overjoyed when she heard his words before she shook her head in resignation. "There's no need for Asher to receive the death penalty. After all, Paradigm is indebted to him. Besides, his crime doesn't warrant the death penalty. In fact, imprisoning him for the rest of his natural life and taking away his freedom forever is far more tormenting to him than receiving the death penalty. Since death can be considered a way out for him instead, I think he should receive a life sentence. But I have to ask, what do you intend to do with him?"

"There's no actual life without parole in Caruna, but there is such a sentence abroad. Therefore, I will change Asher's nationality and send him to a country where he will be forced to spend the rest of his days behind bars. I assure you that he will spend the next few decades of his life in a small prison in a foreign country."

"That's good." She nodded agreeably.

After he received her agreement, he spoke once more, "Call Tom and inform him of this decision. He'll know what to do."

"Okay," she immediately agreed. Then, she thought of something and smiled. "Speaking of which, Mr. Brown still doesn't know you're awake yet. We really should call him and inform him of this good news. He will be thrilled. He had transformed into a busy bee these past few days, moving back and forth between Fuller Group and the hospital. He even had to make a trip to the airport to pick up the predetermined heart from the carrier for the heart transplant procedure. His dark circles had gotten almost as dark as a

panda's eyes. I was so worried that he wouldn't be able to hold on and collapse when I saw him working himself to the bone. Now that you're awake, he can finally breathe a sigh of relief. Make sure to reward him well once you have recovered and are discharged from the hospital. But don't you dare try to leave the hospital without the doctor's green light."

"I will." Toby nodded, for he knew very well all the pressure would be on Tom alone when he collapsed.

Since he was never a stingy boss who liked to be indebted to his subordinates, he surely would compensate for Tom's sacrifices twofold.

"Alright, then. I'll be making that phone call in a bit. Besides, my 10-minute visit is almost up. We can talk through the glass if there's anything else you want to discuss," Sonia said as she gestured to the glass wall.

As Toby, too, knew very well that he wasn't in a general ward, he instantly pouted and complained, "But the glass wall is both bulletproof and soundproof. You can't hear me."

"It's okay. I'll write what I want to say on a clipboard and stick it on the glass," she said with a smile, utterly dismissing his complaint.

He frowned upon hearing her remarks. "But I can't write."

She tilted her head as she tried to think of a solution before musing, "It's okay. I'll make sure to write things that wouldn't require you to overexert yourself. Then, you only need to nod or shake your head in response. That way, I'll know what you want to say."

With that, Sonia slowly rose to her feet and intended to leave the ward when suddenly, Toby called out to her, "Wait!"

"What's wrong?" She stopped in her tracks to glance at him.

Toby rested his worried gaze on her face and asked something that had been bothering him for a while now, "I forgot to ask you about this earlier. Why are you suddenly wearing glasses?"

The instant she heard his question, she silently thought, I knew he would eventually ask me about this matter. As she never thought of hiding the truth from him, she lightly touched her glasses before she frankly replied, "My eyes were hurt rather severely from the smoke that day. As a result, my eyesight has weakened, and I need glasses to see clearly."

"What?" Toby's pupils shrank. "Was it because of me?"

He figured it out right away. It's definitely because of me! She was probably worried sick after I passed out and entirely forgot to take care of herself. There's no doubt that she had placed her entire focus on my condition. It even caused her to injure her eyes to such an extent.

Sonia lowered her head and gently kissed Toby's scrunched-up forehead. "Now, now. It's just a trivial matter. Don't take it to heart. Tim said that there's still hope for my eyes to achieve full recovery, so don't worry about me. You can ask Tim and Mr. Brown if you don't believe me. They are aware of my condition. In short, don't overthink things and just focus on getting better. What you have to do now is to have proper rest, receive your treatment, and try to get discharged from the hospital as soon as possible. Alright, I'll be leaving now."

Then, she waved at him and left the ICU ward.

After Sonia left, she deliberately went to the glass wall and flashed Toby a smile, who had a sullen look on his face. Finally, she whisked out her phone and dialed Tom's number.

Tom was delighted when he heard that Toby had gained consciousness. He immediately threw his work out the metaphorical window and rushed to the hospital. Work isn't my priority right now. I'll just do overtime in the office later tonight.

By the time Tom arrived at the hospital, she had already returned to her ward to rest.

Actually, even though her condition wasn't serious, her body still suffered from some sequelae after being rescued.

The pace of her breathing would become very short and rapid if she stood for too long. It felt as though she could hardly breathe.

According to Tim, she suffered from shortness of breath because she inhaled a lot of smoke and dust, which damaged her lungs. In addition, medical care procedures such as bronchoalveolar lavage were also detrimental to her lungs. Therefore, it was inevitable that she would face some difficulty breathing.

Of course, such a condition wasn't permanent, and she would be healed with time as long as she took good care of her health. Regardless, Tim also warned her that it would very likely develop into asthma or lung cancer if she didn't.

Given that there were currently enough matters troubling everyone, Sonia didn't want her loved ones to worry about her, especially Toby. Hence, she forbade Tim to inform Toby and Tom of her actual condition.

This was followed by her getting threatened by Tim to take good care of herself. Otherwise, he would inform the others no matter what.

Tim told her that he would be supervising her throughout her stay. He also created a daily schedule for her and ordered her to follow it to the letter. He also made it explicitly clear that he would inform Toby of her condition the minute she refused to listen to his advice.

Due to Tim's very effective threat, Sonia would obediently return to her ward when it was time for her to rest.

Even if Toby looked at her with such reluctance when she left the ward, she still heartlessly turned around and left.

Although she was also equally reluctant to part with Toby, she had no choice in this matter. She didn't dare to confront a devilish figure such as Tim.

Tom arrived not long after Sonia departed for her ward. After he hastily changed into a sterile gown, he entered Toby's ward with undisguised concern painted across his face.

When he saw Toby, Tom clasped his hands in excitement as he exclaimed in sheer relief, "President Fuller! You're finally awake! You have no idea how worried we all were these past few days."

Toby wearily opened his eyes upon hearing the warble in Tom's voice. He couldn't help but feel speechless at the sight of Tom's teary eyes.

Good God, I'm just injured, not dead!

Even so, Toby didn't lecture Tom this time. He knew full well that Tom had gone above and beyond for him when he was temporarily indisposed.

So, Toby parted his lips tiredly and sincerely thanked Tom in a hoarse voice, "Thank you for your hard work."

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Tom hastily waved his hand in the face of Toby's gratitude as he said, "No, President Fuller. This is my job, but I have to say that I'm very glad that you're fine now."

"Take a seat." Toby motioned for him to sit on the sterile stool beside his bed with a tilt of his chin.

Tom nodded, walked over, and took a seat. "President Fuller, do you feel any discomfort?"

Toby shook his head and replied, "Except for being unable to move, I'm feeling just fine."

Tom finally felt the rest of his worry wash away upon hearing those words and answered, "That's good. Dr. Lancaster gave you a lidocaine injection to prevent you from jerking awake and aggravating your stitches."

Toby instantly thought of his wound after he heard Tom's words. Then, he narrowed his eyes as he asked, "Tim said you ended the carrier's life without being requested. Is that true?"

Tom lowered his head and explained his actions, "Yes, it's true. I'm sorry, President Fuller. I apologize for doing things my way and for tossing ethics out the window, but I really had no choice. You were in critical condition, and if you didn't receive a heart transplant within a few days, you might... Therefore, I had no choice but to end the carrier's life and obtain his heart. President Fuller, I'm sure you don't wish to die and leave Old Mrs. Fuller and Miss Reed behind to mourn your death, right? Old Mrs. Fuller is already getting on in her years. She probably will follow you to the afterlife as soon as you die if she learns that she has outlived her grandson. Plus, what about Miss Reed? She has always harbored the thought that she was the cause of everything that happened to you. She will definitely feel that she was the cause of your death the moment you breathe your last breath. Self-blame and guilt will eventually overwhelm her, and there might be a possibility that she may not be able to hold on and choose to follow you to the afterlife as well. Regardless, you won't be willing to see any of the situations I mentioned happen, right? Those are the reasons behind my actions. Although I do regret ending someone's life prematurely, I do not regret saving you."

Toby looked at him for a long, long time before he sighed, "Does Little Leaf know about this?"

Tom frantically shook his head. "No, I didn't say a word to Miss Reed. I know she would feel even more guilty if she found out. She would feel that not only did she inflict harm on you, but she would think she also inflicted harm on the carrier. So, I chose to tell her nothing. I also did the same with Old Mrs. Fuller. I did not inform her of my plans, including the mishap you and Miss Reed are involved in. I also took the liberty to immediately suppress any news regarding this incident, so aside from the ones involved, no one else is in the know."

"That's good. Just leave it as it is," Toby hummed.

"President Fuller, you don't blame me?" Tom sneaked a few glances at him cautiously.

Toby closed his eyes rather wearily and murmured, "You brought up the reaction my Grandma and Little Leaf might have and the actions they would take if I died. How can I allow such a thing to come to pass? So, how can I blame you for hiding the truth from them?"

Who would want to die so soon?

This is simply the way of the world. My actions had already predetermined the carrier's heart long ago.

Since I had no intention of dying, then the one who has to die can only be the carrier.

After all, humans are selfish creatures. Even if Tom didn't do the deed, I might have done so myself if I was still conscious at that time.

That's just how human nature works.

As he thought of that, Toby suddenly opened his eyes and inquired, "Have you compensated the carrier's family?"

Tom nodded. "Of course. The carrier wishes his wife and children won't have monetary worries for the rest of their lives. I agreed to his terms. Not only that, I even gave them a house."

With that, Toby made a noise of agreement, but he continued, "You did a fairly good job, but it's still not enough. Provide his children with the best education this country has to offer. In fact, in the future, as long as they aren't over-demanding, try your best to agree to whatever they want."

"Yes, President Fuller." Tom nodded.

Shortly after, Toby went to the heart of the matter, intoning deeply, "Why don't you tell me about what happened these days?"

Tom immediately began reporting all the incidents that had occurred during his absence.

Unfortunately, Tom couldn't go into detail due to time constraints. Hence, he basically just highlighted the key points in his report.

Tom's visiting hours were almost up as soon as his last word fell from his lips.

Afterward, Tom departed the hospital with Toby's orders and immediately started making the necessary arrangements.

As for Toby, he couldn't hold on to consciousness any longer and fell into a deep slumber.

Since his current health wasn't the best, he couldn't stay up very long every day. As a result, he mostly spent half of his day asleep.

Even so, this was a good thing for Toby, for adequate sleep allowed easier recovery.

Three days passed in a blink of an eye.

The iron gate of the women's prison located in the northern part of Seafield opened. Then, out came a short-haired Jessica in loose clothing.

After she was released, she saw a vehicle that was exclusively designed to pick up prisoners who were released from prison parked outside. Her face twisted in anger as she hissed through her teeth, "Guess what, Sonia? I'm finally out of prison. Since you dared to send me to prison and cause me to live a miserable life in that wretched cell, I will never spare you! Just you wait! I will repay you with the same amount of pain that you inflicted on me until you're begging on your knees for mercy!"

As soon as she vowed vengeance, two people dressed in bodyguard uniforms rushed out from her blind spots. They skillfully covered Jessica's mouth as they took her down and dragged her to a private car parked not far away.

Jessica's eyes widened in shock as she struggled against their grasp. She was extremely terrified by this sudden turn of events.

She didn't know where these two people came from and what they wanted with her. In fact, she didn't even know where they were going to take her.

At this juncture, she was petrified. Nevertheless, she kept fighting against them as she screamed against the gag in order to get the prison guards' attention.

Save me, please! Save me! I've been kidnapped!

Alas, the guards didn't even show the slightest reaction. So, it was evident that they weren't going to help her.

Why?! They clearly saw me being taken away unwillingly. Yet, they acted as if they saw nothing and disregarded my distressed cries for help.

Jessica felt a violent wave of hopelessness crashing into her like a meteorite. Tears began streaming down her cheeks as the fight within her left her body. In the end, the two bodyguards forced her into the car and took her away.

Two hours later, Jessica was lying unconscious on a clean and white operating table. Right next to the table were none other than Tim and Sonia.

Tim was wearing a white doctor's coat, and he had both hands shoved into the coat's pockets as though he was hiding his clenched fists at the sight of the horrid woman. His eyes were icy cold as he stared at Jessica's unconscious form like she was nothing. "The medical staff from the OB-GYN had examined her earlier. They said her body is

now ready for the IVF process. It seems that the prison staff had strictly followed Toby's orders and regularly supervised Jessica taking her medicine."

"How could they not strictly follow Toby's orders when they had received benefits from him?" Sonia adjusted her glasses as she smiled.

"So, are we performing the in vitro procedure for her today?" Tim asked with a tilt of his chin toward Jessica.

Sonia nodded. "Of course. The sooner, the better."

Tim slowly took out his phone, made a call, and said, "Alright, then. I'll ask the medical staff from the OB-GYN to come over and perform the procedure. Come. Let's clear out and not get in their way."

Soon, the medical staff from the OB-GYN received Tim's instructions and hurried over to perform the in vitro procedure for Jessica.

As for Sonia, she waited outside for the results and only left after the doctor from the OB-GYN informed her that the embryo implantation was successful.

Jessica was then sent away to a secluded villa on the very same night. She would stay here and care for the fetus for the next ten months. She could only leave the estate after she gave birth to the baby.

Jessica gained consciousness not long after she was sent to the villa. Yet, she kept kicking up a fuss as soon as she realized she was in an unfamiliar place.

Sonia only went to see Jessica when she had the time. Because Sonia had quite a lot to do, including following Tim's orders to rest, it was much later that she finally went to pay Jessica a little visit.

The moment Jessica's eyes laid on Sonia, hatred bloomed on her face. "I get it now! It was you! You were the one who ordered those two people to kidnap me at the prison gate, weren't you?!" she shrieked while pointing rudely at Sonia.

Sonia merely quirked a brow and replied blandly, "Yes, it was me."

"What do you want from me?!" Jessica struggled against her restraints.

Alas, her limbs were firmly tied down to the bed, so she could only wriggle in fury.

Although she was outwardly hissing and spitting insults, that was a mask to hide her genuine fear about her situation.

Sonia kidnapped me to this place and even tied me up in such a manner. Don't tell me that she intends to ask someone to rape me, and then take a picture of it, and threaten me with it in the future.

After all, that's what they usually do on TV.

As Jessica thought of this, her body trembled violently, and her eyes were full of terror.

Sonia stood by the bed and curved her rosy lips upward into a playful smirk when she saw Jessica's sorry state. "This current side of you looks a lot more pleasing to my eyes. You were always oh-so arrogant in the past, and it seemed as though you weren't afraid of anything. So, you have no idea how thrilled I am to see just how scared you are now. But don't worry. I won't do anything to you. I just want you to obediently stay here for ten months and give birth to the baby."

Jessica was perplexed by the situation that was entirely different from her speculations. "Baby? What baby?"

Sonia didn't utter a word and simply looked at her stomach with a mirthless smile.

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Jessica tried her best to follow Sonia's line of sight, which inadvertently fell on her stomach. An abyss of terror hit her so hard that her face drained of all color. She stared at Sonia in disbelief and questioned, "What are you trying to do? Did you do something untoward to me?!"

Sonia merely rolled her eyes upon hearing her piercing shrieks. "Why'd you think so?"

"Don't try to deny it! How could I be pregnant if it weren't for you?!" Jessica finally lost it and yelled in horror, "Sonia, you broke the law! You broke the law!" She was genuinely afraid of what was about to happen to her. She should have never returned; Sonia was a lunatic who was capable of doing anything to achieve her goals.

The thought of the fate she might be facing flashed across her mind, and she began sobbing uncontrollably.

Sonia looked away in disgust when she saw her stepsister's snot and tears mixing together into a repulsive clump. There was no way she could stand that scene—it was just such an eyesore.

"Well, contrary to your certainty, I didn't do what you thought I did," she pursed her red lips and intoned coldly.

Just as she expected, Jessica paused mid-wail, and a gleam of hope arose in her heart when she heard Sonia's explanation. Nonetheless, after she experienced such a rollercoaster of emotions in such a short time, she could not believe what she had heard and wanted to make sure. "What are you talking about? You didn't make me..."

"I can't do such vicious things." Sonia rolled her eyes at the pathetic sight of her stepsister. "I despise you, and there's no point in hiding that I utterly loathe you with my entire being. But as a woman, I will never do things that will harm another woman. After all, I'm not like you. You would definitely seize the chance to do such a thing, aren't I right, my dearest sister?" She stared at Jessica coldly and huffed scornfully.

Jessica's eyes flickered, and finally, she tilted her head to the side guiltily to avoid Sonia's piercing gaze. She could not deny what Sonia had said because she was indeed the kind of person who would do anything to reach her goals, even though it was illegal. Indeed, she had never been a good person. She could not care less if the other person was a woman or man; she would employ the most painful way to get her revenge on the other person if they offended her. So, as long as the end justifies the means, she wouldn't hesitate to hire someone to rape the other.

"Hah. You are truly the worst humanity has to offer," Sonia regarded her step-sister, knowing that she had guessed correctly, and snorted coldly. "Although I won't kill you, you're naïve to think that you can only conceive after sleeping with another man. Have you not heard about test tube babies?"

Jessica's expression changed drastically. "Test tube?"

However, Sonia merely gave her a cool stare, and Jessica finally realized what she meant. Her heart started pumping harshly against her chest, and her back was drenched in a cold sweat. "You're trying to make me conceive via test tube?"

Honestly, Sonia loved what she saw, and she milked it for its worth as she gave Jessica a sweet smile that didn't even hide the malicious intent behind it. "That's right, my foolish sister. We have completed the process, and the embryo has been planted in your uterus."

"What?!" Jessica well and truly lost it when she heard Sonia's words. She parted her lips to hurl abuse at Sonia on autopilot as her mind went blank. Her panic was so apparent that it was evident that she was unable to accept reality for what it was.

It was not until a while later that she suddenly regained her senses and glared ferociously at Sonia. She looked like she wanted to tear Sonia from limb to limb and eat her alive. Her body shook violently, and there was undisguised hatred in her voice as she roared, "Sonia! How dare you treat me like cattle? How dare you?! I'm going to kill

you! Let me go, you b*tch! I'm going to kill you! How dare you dare to make me conceive an unknown man's bastard! I'm going to f*cking kill you!"

Sonia quickly took a step back and distanced herself from Jessica as Jessica tried to lunge at her in a fit of madness. She did not want to get too close to Jessica, even if she knew that Jessica could not break free from the rope tying her down to the bed.

Tim looked at Jessica in disgust and asked Sonia, "Should we sedate her?"

"Nah." She shook her head and dismissed his suggestion. "She's already with child, so taking any medicine is not good for the embryo. Anyway, she's basically shackled down to the bed. So, I'm not the least bit concerned that she would be able to hurt herself and harm the fetus in the process."

"Aaaaahhhhhhh!" Jessica howled as she overheard their conversation. Never in a million years would she have thought that Sonia would be so despicable and shameless that she would make her conceive a child just like that.

"Why?! Why are you doing this to me?!" Jessica glared daggers at Sonia. "Is it because you're infertile? Is that why you got me pregnant in your place?"

Jessica paused suddenly as if she thought of something and slightly calmed down. Wait... that's right. Sonia can't conceive. So naturally, she needs a surrogate mother. The child is definitely not hers because only a male could provide sperm.

It was self-evident who this man was. In other words, she was bearing Toby's child! Jessica's eyes gleamed with greed and excitement as she imagined Toby's handsome face and wealth. She even started snickering when she arrived at that conclusion.

Tim raised his eyebrows slightly, confused by her sudden change in demeanor. "What's wrong with her?"

Nonetheless, Sonia knew Jessica very well. She knew precisely what Jessica was thinking based on what Jessica had said just now. Thus, Sonia sneered as she answered, "She probably thinks that the child in her belongs to Toby."

Tim couldn't help the sudden twitch at the corner of his lips as he shuddered in distaste. He did not expect Jessica's imagination to run this wild. "Why would she even think such a thing?"

Sonia merely shrugged her shoulders as she responded nonchalantly, "Well, she thinks that I can't conceive, and because I want her to get pregnant, she instinctively thought that she is bearing Toby and my child."

He finally understood what was going on in Jessica's head. So, he didn't hide his contempt for Jessica and stopped talking.

"It's just such a pity, though. She is only pregnant with an ordinary man's child." Sonia looked at her stepsister with a sinister smile, and her voice grew louder.

Of course, Jessica heard her crystal clear and was absolutely stunned by this turn of events. She could no longer laugh as she stammered, "W-What did you just say? Did you just say that this child does not belong to you and Toby?"

"Uh... yeah? Isn't that obvious?" Sonia gave her a mocking smile and crossed her arms across her chest. "I have never said that I can't have a baby. Besides, even if I can't, I would never allow another woman to be the mother of my child. So, I can only say that you're truly an idiot to ever expect such a thing. I can tell just by looking at your greedy little rat face that you plan to use your status as that child's biological mother to trap Toby. You want to use this opportunity to beg us to pay for your daily expenses. Oh wait, how could I forget about that interesting little possibility of you planning to replace me?"

Jessica's expression froze as Sonia exposed her schemes in an instant. She looked at Sonia as if she was looking at a monster and stumbled over her words, "Y—you—" It was evident that she didn't expect Sonia to catch on.

Sonia had a disdainful smile on her face as she continued twisting the knife further, "Unfortunately for you, your idea is doomed to fail. The child's father is just an ordinary man with a clean family background and a likable personality. Only the genes of such a man may prevent your child from becoming as atrocious as you. Speaking of which, you should thank me. After all, I helped you improve your future generations' genes in one fell stroke. Well? I'm waiting."

"Thank you? Thank you?! You motherf*cker." Jessica swore at Sonia as she shattered her wishful thinking into pieces. "What do you want? Why do I need to be pregnant?" She could not understand Sonia's actions.

"Let's take a quick trip down memory lane, hm? I am not the Reed Family's biological daughter and need a Reed heir to inherit Paradigm Co. That is the reason behind your forced pregnancy. After all, you are the only biological daughter of the Reeds."

So, that's why. That's why she needs me.

"So, that's your plan! Let me tell you, Sonia. Your goal will never come true! I will kill this thing and never give birth to it! You hear me! Never!" As Jessica was screeching at Sonia, she struggled harshly against her restraints as if trying to abort the child with her rough movements.

Regardless, Sonia remained as cool as a cucumber as she looked at Jessica like she was a fool. "Now, now. Why are you so excited? Have you forgotten about your basic education? We just planted the embryo, which means it hasn't started to develop in your body. So, you can't even claim that you are pregnant now. So, you'll only be hurting

yourself, foolish sister. Eventually, you'll just tire yourself out, and the embryo will grow within you with or without your say."

As soon as Jessica heard Sonia's remarks, she was instantly dumbfounded.

Sonia played up her kind sister persona by saying, "And don't you worry. I will have someone look after you 24 hours a day. When the embryo develops, it will grow into a healthy child. Suffice it to say, your dream of aborting the baby through various means will never succeed. Oh, by the way, you will remain in this villa for a year until the baby is born."

After she finished speaking, she turned and left without hesitation. Naturally, Tim followed her, seeing no point in lingering.

Jessica looked at their backs. If looks could kill, they'd be lying dead at her feet. Her eyes were bloodshot from all her caterwauling. The veins in her neck bulged as she screamed for Sonia. Alas, Sonia turned a deaf ear to her enraged screams and left the villa with a car.

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This was the last time Sonia came to see Jessica. In the future, she would never come again.

After Jessica gave birth to the child, someone would take the child away from her, and she would be sent to prison again once she was out of confinement.

After all, Sonia hadn't settled accounts with Jessica yet for poisoning her father.

By the time she returned to the hospital, it was already afternoon.

She didn't visit Toby today, so when she arrived at the ward, he didn't seem so happy as he pulled a long face.

Sonia coaxed the sulky man for a long time before he finally gave in.

Somehow, Sonia found the situation amusing. Ever since Toby got sick, he started acting like a child. He behaved like a sulky child just because she didn't visit him for a day.

Sonia then took a seat beside Toby's hospital bed and told him what happened when she went to see Jessica.

At the mention of Jessica mistaking herself pregnant with his child, he felt so sick that he almost puked.

How could someone make up scenarios like that in her head?

"Anyway, Miles will be coming to Seafield tonight." Toby wanted to avoid the topic of that disgusting woman, so he changed the subject.

Sonia froze for a moment before asking, "So soon?"

"Tom told him about my heart condition, so he came early."

She nodded. "Sounds good. Mr. Lore should spill the matter as soon as possible."

"Tom has already gone to the airport to wait for him," Toby continued. "He will meet Mr. Lore and settle the task I gave him before coming over."

Sonia's eyes lit up at that. "Does that mean we will be able to find out the truth of Mr. Lore and Professor Randall's doings?"

Toby's tone was noncommittal as he explained, "I've instructed Tom to install a surveillance camera at Mr. Lore's place so that we, as well as the police, can watch their interaction in real-time from here."

"That sounds perfect!" Sonia clapped her hands in excitement.

All of a sudden, she frowned upon the idea that suddenly popped up in her mind.

"Mr. Lore and his wife have been making a fuss at Paradigm Co. and Fuller Group in the past few days. They demanded to see us, and if not for the security guards at the entrance, they would have broken into the building right away. I also heard that they are planning to harass Grandma at Fuller Residence. Still, thank goodness Tom was tentative enough to send some guards to patrol outside the residence to prevent the couple from harassing Grandma."

"Tom told me about this matter too. Don't worry, those two are just clowns. They won't be able to cause trouble for long. I'm certain that Mr. Lore and his wife are both guilty. We have yet to find the evidence, but I swear Mr. Lore knows it all and will spill the beans tonight. Once he does that, their family will be reunited in jail," Toby uttered calmly with narrowed eyes.

Sonia smiled before picking up a glass of water and dipping a cotton swab in it. Thereafter, she dabbed it on his lips to moisten them. "Okay, time's up. Stop talking. Your lips are very dry."

He pouted and uttered in a displeased tone, "Time is up already?"

She chuckled. "Of course. We only have 10 minutes, remember? I gotta go now."

After saying that, she tucked him in and walked toward the door under the man's unhappy gaze.

Once she was out of the door, she turned around to look at him, and as expected, she met his dark orbs.

It turned out that he had been watching her without looking away for a second.

Seeing the reluctance in his eyes, Sonia felt somewhat distressed, especially when she noticed the grievance and desire written in the man's eyes.

Once Toby watched her leave reluctantly, he would have to remain alone in that cold ward without anyone to talk to. If he couldn't fall asleep, he could only stare at the ceiling in a daze, unable to do anything.

However, what he longed for was freedom. He wanted to leave the hospital bed and the ward with his lover.

Someone as boisterous as him didn't belong in the hospital bed. He should be running the business industry and staying by Sonia's side to protect her.

Nonetheless, there was no use in immersing oneself in imagination anymore. His current state only allowed him to lie in a cold hospital bed. He was unable to move an inch.

Sigh. Sonia picked up the clipboard and wrote a few words on it before holding it up for the man to read. Don't be sad. I'll stop by whenever I'm free.

Even though she couldn't go in, she could still accompany him outside.

Sure enough, Toby felt lighter after reading her message.

Sonia smiled, lowered her head, and continued writing, Tim told me to get my eyes checked. I will come back after that.

Toby nodded in acknowledgment.

She waved at him, put away the board, and left.

She thought the eye checkup wouldn't take too long, so she didn't expect to come out after two hours and figured that Toby was probably going to sulk again.

Perhaps, he might even wonder whether she had broken her promise to him again.

With a sigh, Sonia rubbed her temples and went to Toby's ward.

Regardless of whether that b*stard had already fallen asleep, she should still keep her promise and accompany him in the ward. She would have a great excuse if he decided to ask her about it when he woke up tomorrow.

"What am I going to do? What am I going to do..."

Just as Sonia walked toward the elevator after leaving the ophthalmology department, she suddenly heard a sad and desperate cry coming from her right.

A desperate cry wasn't uncommon to hear in a hospital. Thus, it was none of her business. At most, she would just sympathize with that person and walk past them.

However, the cry sounded very familiar to Sonia.

The voice belonged to Titus' wife, Julia Ramsay. If Julia was crying in such a heartbroken tone, she had encountered something terrible.

Moreover, they were currently in the hospital. Sonia heard from Toby some time ago that Titus was hospitalized due to his health deterioration.

Could that mean Julia was crying for Titus?

Could Titus be dead?

Sonia's eyes lit up as she hurried toward the direction of the cry.

Sure enough, on a bench outside a consultation room, she saw Julia sitting there, covering her face as she cried uncontrollably.

Sonia stopped opposite Julia, leaned against the cold wall with her arms folded, and questioned indifferently, "What's wrong? Why are you crying like that, Mrs. Gray? Is it because President Gray has passed away? If so, it would be a miracle."

Hearing that, Julia choked and quickly put down her hands before raising her head and glaring at Sonia. "It's you! How dare you curse my husband?"

Sonia blinked her eyes, expressing her innocence. "No. I didn't curse President Gray. I just made a bold guess after watching you bawl. Your desperate cries make me imagine the worst."

"You—" Julia trembled due to anger. She pointed at Sonia but was speechless due to rage.

Brushing her long hair, Sonia beamed. "What? President Gray isn't dead yet, I suppose. What a pity. It would be great if he died. It'll save me from getting my revenge."

Julia's eyes were scarlet as she cursed, "You evil brat!"

"Are you calling me evil?" Sonia covered her lips and laughed until tears streamed down her cheeks. "Mrs. Gray, if I am evil, what about your husband and your adopted daughter? Your husband was jealous of my father back then, so he stole Paradigm Co.'s confidential data 20 years ago, causing an employee of Paradigm to commit suicide by jumping off the building. My father had no choice but to risk taking your child away for revenge, but your family refused to stop your vicious acts. Seven years ago, you almost made Paradigm Co. bankrupt and forced my father to commit suicide by jumping off a building. Are those acts not considered evil?"

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Faced with Sonia's interrogation, Julia parted her lips, but nothing slipped out of her tongue.

Nonetheless, Sonia didn't let her go just like that. Instead, she approached her step by step and questioned, "Your adopted daughter, on the other hand, deliberately pretended to be me, made me suffer six years of humiliation, and then repeatedly threatened to kill me. I would consider myself fortunate to survive after all that, or I would have died long ago. Mrs. Gray, please answer me. Isn't your family being too cruel to me and my family?"

"I... I..." Julia's face turned pale as she stuttered, unable to form a coherent sentence.

Truth was, she was not someone who had no morals.

In fact, she did.

She was well aware that in comparison, the Grays committed the biggest fault. It was their family who wronged the Reeds in the first place. She knew how merciless her husband and adopted daughter were.

Nevertheless, she was a member of the Grays, so despite knowing that her husband and adopted daughter were wrong, she could only stand by their side.

As she was currently faced with Sonia's interrogation, she couldn't bring herself to defend her family. Moreover, she felt inexplicably ashamed in her heart.

That realization shocked her.

She was surprised that she would feel guilty toward the brat standing before her.

Julia figured that she might have gone insane.

Just then, the sound of heels stepping on the ground echoed through the hall.

"Mom!" Seeing her mom sitting on the bench, Tina called out to her.

Soon, she noticed Sonia standing opposite her mother, and her expression instantly darkened.

Why were they together?

What were they talking about?

Afraid that her secret might be exposed, she hurriedly went over. "Mom."

"Hey, Tina." Noticing her daughter, Julia quickly wiped off her tears and forced a smile. "Why did you arrive so late?"

"There was a traffic jam on the road, so I came late," Tina said and handed over the bag in her hand. "I brought you some food. Have some."

"Okay." Julia took the bag.

Then, Tina glanced at Sonia.

She deliberately walked in front of Sonia. Since her heels made her appear taller than the latter, she completely blocked Sonia's line of sight. Since Sonia was not facing Julia directly anymore, Tina felt relieved.

"Hello, Miss Reed." Looking at Sonia, Tina forced a smile and greeted her.

Sonia glanced at her indifferently. "You don't have to smile if you don't want to. No one is forcing you."

Being unceremoniously exposed by Sonia, Tina instantly pulled an embarrassed expression.

Nevertheless, growing up with the Grays taught her many things, one was being good at controlling her expressions.

Soon, Tina collected herself and presented her usual expression while brushing her hair behind her ear before apologizing, "I'm sorry for making you feel uneasy due to my expression earlier, Miss Reed."

Sonia rolled her eyes and didn't bother to pay her any attention. With that, she turned around to leave.

However, Tina stopped her. "Why are you in the hospital? I heard that you went abroad with President Fuller."

A dark light flashed in Sonia's eyes as she stopped, turned her head, and countered, "Can't I come back after leaving the country? Something came up, so I came back first. Besides, I'm not used to the food abroad, so I haven't been feeling so well. I stopped by the hospital to get checked. Is there something wrong with that?"

"Of course not." Tina smiled. "But you're in the nephrology department. You shouldn't be here if you're getting a checkup."

Sonia narrowed her eyes. "What exactly are you trying to say?"

Tina smiled, walked to her side, and lowered her voice, "I don't care why you're here, but I only have one request, and that is for you to not appear in front of my parents. I hope you can grant me my request."

"Oh?" Sonia raised her eyebrows, feeling intrigued. "Why is that? I just realized you seem quite intimidated by the fact that I would show up in front of your parents. Is there some sort of reason for your request?"

Tina's eyes flickered as if not daring to meet Sonia's eyes.

"You're funny, Miss Reed. I'm not scared that you might appear in front of my parents. I just worry that my parents will get overly emotional when they see you. Nothing else."

"Really?" Sonia raised her eyebrows again. "I find it hard to believe, though. Why are you avoiding my gaze if you're not lying?"

Sonia squinted her eyes and stared at Tina suspiciously.

Tina was already feeling guilty, and when she saw Sonia scrutinizing her, she became even more flustered before turning around abruptly. "You're overthinking, Miss Reed. I'm not lying. Anyway, I hope you will agree to my request. You don't want to get hurt here, do you? I know you and my parents have a grudge against each other, so I can't guarantee that they won't hurt you if they see you, especially when my father's life is at its end now. If you don't want my father to kill you, please promise me not to show up in front of my parents again."

After leaving her with those words, Tina ignored Sonia and supported Julia. "Mom, let's go in and see Dad."

"Sure." Julia didn't hear what Tina said to Sonia earlier. She assumed that her daughter thought Sonia had bullied her earlier, so she was confronting her.

Julia got up slowly with the help of Tina and went in the direction of the ward.

For some reason, Julia turned around abruptly after taking a few steps to glance at Sonia.

Sensing her mother's movements, Tina also turned to look. Jealousy, hatred, and anxiety instantly filled up her heart when she noticed how Julia was looking at Sonia.

"What are you looking at, Mom?" Tina stared at Julia.

Looking away guiltily, Julia shook her head. "N-Nothing..."

Tina snorted softly without prodding.

Sonia naturally caught all of Julia's actions and expressions earlier, which made her feel an indescribable feeling in her heart.

However, she didn't think too much about it and instead entered an office.

The doctor in the office happened to be the director of the nephrology department and also Titus' doctor, so Sonia entered the room and inquired about Titus' current condition.

She was informed that Titus' bodily functions were deteriorating, and even if he found a suitable kidney, his physical condition would not support a kidney transplant, and he could only resign himself to accepting death soon. Hearing that, Sonia finally understood why Julia cried in a heartbroken manner.

After bidding farewell to the doctor, she headed to Toby's ward.

Along the way, she was a little absent-minded. Her mind was filled with the fact that Titus was close to his end and he would not be able to live long.

Logically speaking, she should be happy to find out that Titus was really going to die. She should even leap up in joy and exclaim that he deserved the punishment!

But for some reason, she couldn't cheer herself up. Instead, she felt extremely frustrated and distressed to the point where tears started pooling in her eyes.

When she touched her face, she realized tears had fallen. She didn't feel good at all.

Am I crying for Titus right now? I must be out of my mind!

Sonia quickly wiped off the tears on her hands and her eyes, refusing to accept that she had just cried for Titus.

In her opinion, shedding tears for an enemy was shameful.

She was probably the only person who would cry for her enemy's imminent death in this world!

If her father knew about it, he would probably be pissed at her.

Taking a deep breath, Sonia wiped her face and calmed the complicated emotions in her heart before returning to Toby's ward.

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After arriving at the ward, Sonia noticed someone inside. It was Tim in a white coat.

Noticing Tim, she was first taken aback but soon felt nervous.

I thought he clocked out already.

After her eye examination, he told her he was going to head home.

At that time, he even took off his white coat, clocked out, and left the office.

Why did he come back? And what was he doing in Toby's room?!

Did something happen to Toby?

Thinking of that, Sonia felt her heart skip a beat. She quickly placed her hands on the glass window and frowned while looking inside worriedly.

Toby was still lying on the hospital bed with his eyes closed.

Tim stood beside the hospital bed, flipped open the medical record folder in his hand, glanced at Toby, and wrote something down.

After repeating his action a few times, he finally closed the folder and kept his ballpen before glancing in Sonia's direction.

Meeting Tim's gaze, Sonia quickly mouthed at him to ask about Toby's situation.

Tim couldn't hear her, so he walked out and asked, "Where have you been?"

Without bothering to answer his question, she grabbed his arm with anxiety painted across her face. "What's wrong with Toby, Dr. Lancaster? Haven't you already left work? Did you come back because something happened to him? Are you the only one who can stabilize his condition?"

Seeing how worked up she was, Tim pulled his arm out and replied casually, "Don't worry. Nothing is wrong with him. He just wanted to wait for you to come back, so he refused to close his eyes and sleep, which caused his heart rate to increase. I'm his doctor, and I haven't left the hospital yet, so someone called me over. I just injected him with a sedative so that he can fall asleep. His heart rate is back to normal too, so don't worry."

Hearing that Toby was fine, Sonia breathed a sigh of relief. "Phew. That's good to hear. I was nearly scared to death." She patted her chest as she muttered to herself.

After that, she suddenly felt upset. "Why was he waiting for me? I told him that I was going to get my eyes checked and will come back to accompany him. Why didn't he listen to me?"

This man is seriously getting on my nerves.

His behavior didn't just make others worry; it was also an irresponsible act to his own life.

"He said that he didn't expect your examination to take so long. He was afraid that you would be bored outside alone if you saw him asleep after you came back, so he tried to stay conscious." Tim relayed Toby's words and told her the truth.

Sonia squeezed her palms. "Why would he be concerned if I'm bored? I just want him to take good care of his body. He's just making me worry even more by doing this. He's seriously pissing me off."

She stomped her feet and frowned.

Tim pushed his glasses upward and explained, "Based on my previous studies on psychology, Toby shows symptoms of a typical patient who is insecure. Rather than him being worried that you might get bored, he is probably afraid that you will forget him and not come back."

"Huh?" Sonia was taken aback by his statement. "Why would he think that way?"

"It's normal." Tim shrugged. "These kinds of thoughts usually happen to people who are on the verge of death or have survived a catastrophe. Toby is one of the latter. Since he almost lost his life but managed to escape death, he is now desperate for attention and concern from the people he loves. It's because he is afraid of losing them all of a sudden, but his condition will improve as he recovers. Don't worry."

After Sonia listened to his explanation, the anger in her heart dissipated instantly.

She was initially upset that the man behaved unlike himself and didn't care about his health. Was he trying to make everyone worry about him?

Now, however, she no longer thought that way.

In the eyes of a person who had no sense of security but was very dependent on others, he prioritized her over his health and life.

He is driving me crazy...

Sonia sighed and smiled embarrassedly at Tim. "I see. Thank you for your enlightenment and thank you for checking on him even after getting off work. I'm really sorry that you still have to look after us after working hours."

She bowed to Tim in shame.

In fact, she only saved Tim once by pulling him out of the water when they were both young.

On the contrary, he repeatedly saved her and Toby's lives. By right, he already repaid the kindness he owed her back when they were kids. Now, it was her turn to repay his kindness.

"Nah. It's nothing. Don't sweat it." Tim shoved his hands into the pockets of his white coat. "Speaking of which, didn't we come out of my office together? What took you so long to come and see him? I even left the hospital gate and made a U-turn back to give Toby a sedative. Where have you been?"

Sonia told him truthfully that she bumped into Julia after leaving the ward.

Tim raised his chin all of a sudden. "Titus won't be able to live long. He probably only has about two months left, and his wife bawls every day at the nephrology department, pleading for someone to save Titus. She even came to me, but I didn't entertain her. The nephrology doctor patiently explained to her that Titus was incurable, and even if they find a suitable kidney, his condition will not help him last until the operation is over, so he will risk dying on the operating table. He persuaded Julia to bring Titus home since there is no point in staying in the hospital, but she refused to do so and instead

bawled her eyes out every day. It makes sense that you bump into her since you came out of the ophthalmology department."

"Yeah, I heard about it from the doctors there," Sonia replied. "Mrs. Gray insists on not running the discharge procedures for Titus and cries at the ward every day instead. Seems like she hasn't given up on hope yet."

"Do you think she'd give up? Once Titus dies, the Grays will collapse and Triforce Enterprise will be divided by the shareholders. How could a widow and her daughter possibly go against the cunning old men in the industry? They'd be defeated right away. Mrs. Gray is trying to save Titus not just because they are husband and wife, but also to secure her future," Tim explained nonchalantly.

Since he had studied psychology, he knew what Julia was planning in her head.

"If you have no important business, try not to visit that department. Seeing them will only make your mood worse," Tim reminded her as his glasses shone a little under the lights.

He remembered that Toby once told him that Sonia was the real Tina Gray, the daughter of Titus and his wife.

Bloodline was an interesting thing. Even if the children were separated from their parents and did not recognize each other, the universe seemed to create opportunities for them to meet. Once they encountered each other, they would be subconsciously attracted to the other party and allow an idea to arise. They would start wondering if they were related to each other.

Hence, he thought it wasn't a good idea for Sonia to meet the Grays too often, or some strange emotions might occur to her and lead her to her identity discovery.

Toby was right when he claimed that she and the Grays were not destined to become a family in this lifetime.

That being the case, it was better for both parties to stay clueless about their relationship from the get-go.

The secret should be buried for eternity.

Sonia didn't know what Tim was thinking, but when she heard how Tim described them as bad luck, she felt amused. "Yeah. I just happened to bump into them today, but I won't purposely meet them again. You can rest assured."

"Alright, then. Stay here with Toby. Judging from your character and Toby's waywardness, I'm afraid you won't feel easy to leave him just like that. I won't make you go home and rest, but I hope you'll listen to the nurses when they tell you to leave."

With that, Tim walked past her and left the hospital.