

## Chapter 131

"You're talking about the de Armas, right?"

Seeing that Maisie already knew about it, Erwin nodded and continued without hesitation. "I want to wait until you've attained certain achievements in life before I tell you more about her.

"Zee, even if you were to know something about her in the future, don't blame your mother. In fact, your mother loved you very much. She knew that the Vanderbilts would mistreat you after her death, so that's why I showed up." Erwin sent Maisie to the door.

Maisie got in the car and left after bidding goodbye.

Not far away, Willow, who had been following Maisie around the city, was sitting in the car at the moment. She was grasping the steering wheel tightly with both hands and took out her cell phone as soon as she saw Maisie coming out of the strange man's house. 3

Looking at the photos on her phone, she gave off a wicked expression and smirked.

'B\*tch, I finally have something on you!'

At the Vanderbilt manor...

Leila walked out of the bathroom wearing a sexy nightdress, but she was extremely aggrieved to see Stephen falling asleep so early.

'He hasn't touched me since last night just because Mother mentioned that b\*tch, Marina Gonzales.

"But I can't give up.

She crawled to Stephen's side, hugged him, and kissed him. "Dear..."

Stephen sat up abruptly and pushed her away. "How can you still be so shameless at such an age? I'll sleep in the study."

Leila watched as Stephen left her behind so mercilessly. She was so ferocious that her cheeks were flushed.

'How am I, a living woman, not comparable to that dead b\*tch!?'

'But if Stephen really loved Marina, why would he give me a chance back then? Or, are men all unfaithful beasts? Is he starting to think about his ex-wife now that he's grown tired of me?'

Seeing that nothing had really happened these days, she could not stand not doing anything and waiting for her demise. She then thought of something, and a glimmer of viciousness flashed across her eyes.

Stephen Vanderbilt, since you don't want to touch me, then don't blame me for this.'

Willow came to the Blackgold Group to find Maisie. She had come to the 16th floor, and Kennedy's expression dimmed slightly when he saw her. "Ms. Vanderbilt, why are you here?"

"Am I not allowed to come to visit my sister?" Willow crossed her arms and gave off an arrogant attitude.

Kennedy chuckled and said, "You're not welcome here. You should go back."

"Aren't you just Maisie's lackey? What rights do you have to drive me away? Get Maisie to come out here to see me!" Willow's attitude worsened. 1

Maisie walked out of the elevator and happened to hear what Willow said. Her eyes turned gloomy instantly. "Why aren't you staying at home to avoid the limelight? You actually have the guts to come here and create a stir?"

After seeing her, Willow gave off a cold smirk and was about to say something, but she then saw Nolan coming out of the elevator.

She was delighted. "Nolan..."

Nolan's eyes looked nonchalant. "What are you doing here?"

Seeing Nolan's indifferent attitude toward her, Willow bit her lip and explained, "Nolan, I'm here to give you the truth. Don't be deceived anymore. You don't know what Maisie has done behind your back!"

Nolan took a glance at Maisie and squinted. "Oh? Then tell me, what did she do?"

Willow glared at Maisie furiously. "Nolan, you might not know about this, but Maisie came out of another man's house last night. She actually stayed at that man's house for more or less an hour!"

Maisie frowned slightly.

'I came out of another man's house last night? Isn't that Uncle Erwin's house? Is she stalking me?

'And this is the reason she has come all the way here with such an aggressive attitude?'

Seeing Nolan's eyes were fixed on Maisie, Willow felt that he should have taken her words to heart. Thus, she gave off an innocent look. "Nolan, ... I just can't bear to see her deceiving you and toying with your feelings, so I've come to tell you this."

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Willow did not forget to add a sentence. "Don't be captivated by her lies anymore!"

Captivated?

Indeed, in her opinion, Nolan had been captivated by Maisie. And Maisie was the seductive vixen who had hooked up with her man and stolen his heart.

Maisie crossed her arms, her expression looking indifferent as if the person Willow was talking about was not her.

Nolan raised his hand and lifted Maisie's chin as the corners of his lips twitched slightly. "Is that real?"

Maisie did not respond.

But in the eyes of all the bystanders, Mr. Goldmann was nowhere near being angry!

Maisie sighed. "Yes, I stayed at that man's place for an hour last night."

Willow did not expect that she would admit it, so she tried to add fuel to the fire. "Nolan, did you hear that? I didn't lie to you. She's-"

"What did you do in that hour?"

"I did everything that was supposed to be done." Maisie smiled.

Everyone present gasped.

'Is she asking for an ugly death!?'

Nolan pressed his thin lips together tightly and lifted her all of a sudden.

"Aah! What are you doing? Nolan Goldmann, let me down, you dbag!" Maisie was exasperated.

'He actually carried me in front of other people.'

Nolan carried her to her office.

Willow, who was left in place, was stunned as her expression gradually became embarrassed.

'Why did it turn out so? Nolan doesn't believe in me?'

"It really doesn't look like Mr. Goldmann is angry at Ms. Zora. for more visit :- [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com)"

"He looks jealous at first glance instead of angry. It seems that somebody has failed to sow discord."

"Shut up! What do you know!?" Willow yelled at those people.

The staff members ignored her and departed one after another, leaving Willow alone at the scene. She was trembling due to pure wrath.

'D\*mn it! I don't believe that the Goldmanns would still accept such a misbehaving and shameless woman after the photo has been exposed!'

In the office...

Nolan put Maisie on the desk, and Maisie was so angry that she punched him. "Nolan, have you lost your mind? You know very clearly where I went last night. If you believe in what she said, then you should just-Umm!"

Nolan sealed her chattering mouth and bit her lips. "Then why did you answer my questions with such ambiguous answers on purpose?"

He obviously knew that she had been to Erwin's house last night, so he would definitely not believe in Willow's words.

'It's just that this woman wants to piss me off.'

"Let me go!"

"No."

Maisie lifted her leg in an attempt to kick him, but he grabbed her calf, causing her to not be able to sit still and fall backward, bringing him along as she fell.

Maisie was dumbfounded.

Seeing her messy hair scattered on the table, she looked very lovely. Nolan's Adam's apple rolled, and a flame was ignited within him.

"Do you know what I want to do now?" He lowered his hoarse voice.

Maisie trembled from head to toe as she noticed something and tried to push his body away from her. "You said that you wouldn't force me!"

"But I've regretted saying so."

Nolan's gaze was getting fierier the more he looked at her. He stared at her as if he was an apex predator and she was his prey.

Maisie knew that this man had already lost all his rationality, for more visit :- [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com) and she was the one to blame. She should not have said such things! 1

"Zee..." He lowered his head and kissed her.

Maisie trembled slightly.

'I'm done if this continues!'

"Nol... Nolan, wait a second, I can help you..." It took Maisie a lot of courage to utter those words, and her cheeks blushed as she said so.

She was afraid and still could not imagine the both of them hitting the home run, so she could only escape such situations whenever a chance was presented to her.

Nolan smiled softly. "Are you sure?"

Maisie did not look at him and only nodded.

Maybe the people outside of the room could not think of what was happening inside, Maisie felt that it was a torment, and it was a very shameful one.

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'I've actually fallen to this point!'

Maisie returned to her office calmly.

"Thank God, the dbag has left.'

"Zee!" As soon as Maisie turned around, she was sturdily bear-hugged by Ryleigh. "Hey, how can you not tell me that you're no longer working in Vaenna?!"

Ryleigh was dumbfounded for a split second, let go of Maisie abruptly, and sniffed her body. "Why do you smell of men's perfume?"

Maisie's heart trembled, and she looked away calmly. "Really?" "Yes!" Ryleigh sniffed again and frowned slightly. "It's one of the Gucci colognes, and this fragrance is rather familiar. Ah, isn't it from Mr. Goldmann?"

Maisie pushed her head away. "Are you a dog? Why are you looking for me?"

"We haven't seen each other in quite a while, and you don't even miss me? Hmph, you really are the type of woman who places her boyfriend before her best friend." Ryleigh snorted with her arms crossed in front of her chest.

Maisie walked to her desk and sat down. "Hehe, aren't you dating a man too?"

"That's not a date. My dad insisted on dragging me out to eat with that man. You should know that my dad nags about my marriage all day long. He can't wait to marry me off at this instant!"

Ryleigh walked to the desk and said coquettishly, "Zee, you have to help me."

"How can I help you?"

"I don't want to go home nowadays. By the way, have you sold the beachfront villa that you stayed in before this? If you haven't sold it, can I go there to hide from my dad for a while?" Ryleigh grabbed her hand with a pitiful expression.

"You can live there. I haven't sold that villa yet."

Ryleigh was so touched that she teared up. "Zee, you're the best. You're really my saving grace!"

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She even kissed her hand excitedly after saying so. 1

Maisie felt helpless.

Within a few days, a photo that appeared on the Internet aroused plenty of heated discussions.

The rumors of #Erwin Lincoln Seeing A Mysterious Woman# had created huge waves on the Internet. Some netizens even tagged #Erwin Lincoln# in all the posts.

Just when the netizens were all engaged in the discussions, #Erwin Lincoln# posted a post through his Twitter account.

#Erwin Lincoln#: What's wrong with me playing a game of chess with my niece for an hour?

Maisie laughed when she saw this comment, and she even retweeted and commented on the post.

#Maisie Vanderbilt#: Uncle @Erwin Lincoln, should we extend it to a two-hour game in the future?"

#Nolan Goldmann#: ???

#MelonLover# @Nolan Goldmann, Sir, do you have a lot of questions?

#Under The Lemon Tree#: I smell jealousy.

#LilFish xoxo BigFish#: Mr. Goldman is getting anxious. He's anxious, and he's come with a lot of questions in mind!

#Helios Boucher#: @Nolan Goldman, even an old man like you is on Twitter now?

The Internet exploded as soon as Helios appeared on Twitter.

One of them was a bigshot in the entertainment industry, while the other was a big deal in the business circle. The first interaction between the two big guns almost paralyzed Twitter's server.

At this time, they even made it up to the No. 1 spot in the Google Trends abruptly, winning one billion clicks in less than an hour. This piece of news was so popular that it kicked Erwin and Maisie off the top spot and even buried the rumor six feet under almost instantly.

Willow had originally wanted to see Maisie being assaulted by the netizens, but she almost cried when she realized that most of the comments were causing havoc but creating a harmonious atmosphere.

Seeing that her daughter was feeling more and more aggrieved, Leila felt downcast. "Willie, don't be angry. It's not good for your health."

"Mom, why can that b\*tch escape every time? No matter what I do to deal with her, it's always useless!" 1

Willow was not reconciled with her defeat.

Leila also pondered. "I'm surprised too. That b\*tch has been doing so well ever since returning to Zlokova. I wonder if someone is helping her from behind the curtains!"

Leila really could not understand how that wh\*re not only had become a world-renowned jewelry designer after leaving the country but also had been doing so well after returning to her homeland with those three b\*stards.

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'Even Mr. Goldman was enchanted by her, while Willie has suffered a lot after trying to deal with that b\*tch several times!'

She thought about it carefully and had the hunch that someone was helping Maisie behind the scenes. Otherwise, how could she be so confident!?

'Even Mr. Goldman has been deceived.'

What surprised her even more was that Erwin, who was quite powerful in the upper-class circle, actually addressed Maisie as his niece!

'Could it be that Erwin is the one who has been helping her from behind the curtains? But Erwin is also in his 40s. He's about the same age as me. If he's saying that Maisie is his niece, could it be... That woman, Marina Gonzales!'

Leila could not help but fall into deep thought. Having said that, although she had never seen Marina, she had heard about her.

'Marina helped Stephen to establish a foothold in Bassburgh by starting Vaenna Jewelry. It's conceivable that she was a capable woman.'

Unfortunately, Leila really did not know much about her identity.

'Marina didn't live long and died of illness right after Maisie celebrated her seventh birthday. If she hadn't died at such a young age, how could Willie and I be brought back to the Vanderbilts?

'It seems that I'll have to investigate Marina's identity. It'll be even more difficult for us to deal with Maisie in the future if she's really related to Erwin.'

At the Royal Academy of Music...

Colton performed a piano duet with another classmate of his in an academy ranking selection in the golden hall and played the song "Bohemian Rhapsody". The lecturers in the audience were all surprised by Colton, who was very young but performed extraordinarily.

His performance was even more brilliant and smooth than the classmate who was playing beside him.

Sure enough, Colton was given an S-grade and entered the finale of the ranking selection.

When Colton went backstage, he was stopped by a few older classmates. "Hey, I heard that you're a b\*stard who doesn't have a father. Were you cheating?"

Colton's expression turned sulky when he heard the words "a b\*stard who doesn't have a father".

"Since when did you assume that I don't have a father?"

The boy who led the group of bullies said while pushing Colton repetitively, "We heard people talking. You're just a kid who doesn't have a father!"

Colton's small hands were clenched. He then saw someone all of a sudden and fell to the floor abruptly.

It just so happened that the boy's hand had been stretched out, and Colton was sitting on the floor as if he had just been pushed.

"Hey, you little b\*stard, am I so scary that you've peed in your pants?" The boy started showing off when he saw him fall like this.

"What are all of you doing?"

The little boys trembled when they heard the voice. They slowly turned their heads, and their little faces changed in an instant.

They might have been able to get by this incident unnoticed if it were to be anyone from the academy, but the person that they ran into was Professor Lucas, who had the most vicious mouth and the worst temper!

"We..."

Louis took a glance at Colton, who was sitting on the floor, and then glanced at the boys with his arms crossed in front of him. "Have you become addicted to bullying your classmates?"

The boys lowered their heads one after another. "Professor Lucas, we're sorry."

After saying so, Louis helped Colton up.

Louis was worthy of being the walking signboard of the Royal Academy of Music. Colton had looked into him beforehand—he was a violin major, and his father was a famous violinist in Zlokova. Although he was from a family full of musicians, his background was not to be trifled with.

He may not be very old, but the students in the academy were very afraid of him because he was notoriously bad-tempered.

"Go back to what you were doing!" The little rascals disappeared in an instant as soon as Louis said so. Only Colton stayed on the spot and patted his pants calmly.

Louis looked at him a few times, "You actually know how to put up a show under my nose. That's rather smart."

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Colton raised his head, looked at him, and said with his childish voice, "Then why did you still choose to help me?"

"Did someone help you?" Louis frowned. "You're just a little kid, and you dare to talk to a professor like this?"

"I'm not just a little kid." Colton was enraged.

Louis moved his hand and gestured to Colton's height. "You're only this tall, aren't you a little kid?"

Colton refuted confidently, "It's not that I can't grow up anymore!"

"Pfft, but you're just a little kid now." Louis looked at this kid.

'He's not only a little smart but also not afraid of me. Not to mention the good results that he obtained in the academy's rating selection just now. He's one of a kind.

'But why does his face look so familiar?'

"I'm going to practice the piano already. See you around, Professor Lucas." Colton propped his little arms on his waist and left the scene in tiny steps.

Louis watched as the little rugrat walked away.

'I wonder which family this brat is from. He actually piqued my interest.'

After school, Waylon and Daisy were sitting in a minivan and came to pick Colton up from home.

"Is the boss of the Royal Academy of Music terrible? I heard that he has a bad temper and loves to scold others. Uncle Helios has a much better temper than him." Daisy's face was full of curiosity.

Colton opened up his arms. "It's just a rumor. I don't think he's that terrible. He's at most a sharp and vicious speaker."

Waylon added, "I heard that the Lucases aren't a family that ordinary people should trifle with."

The man's mother is a noblewoman from Stoslo."

Daisie's eyes lit up. "Noblewoman? Does she look like one of those women who appear on television in beautiful gowns and sit in a gorgeous carriage!?"

Waylon saw the two siblings looking at him with their sparkly eyes and answered in embarrassment, "Uh, she should be."

Angela, who was driving, looked helpless.

Whenever the three rugrats gathered together, it always felt like they were premeditating something malicious.

At the Goldmann mansion...

The three rugrats looked at their parents from time to time when they were eating as they felt the atmosphere between the two adults was a bit strange.

Due to some temporary businesses, Mr. Goldmann Sr. had to return to the Goldmann family estate, so they were the only ones left in the mansion apart from the servants and butlers.

"Mommy!"

"Yes?" Maisie raised her head and glanced at Colton.

Colton tilted his head. "Have you quarreled with Daddy?"

Maisie's hand trembled, and she took a glance at Nolan.

Nolan was picking fishbones for Daisie carefully and earnestly. He did not even lift his eyelids when he heard Colton's question. "Why would I argue with your mommy? I can't even love her enough."

Maisie was rendered speechless.

Daisie looked at him with her big and moist eyes. "Daddy, then are we about to have younger brothers and sisters?"

Nolan stopped what he was doing and looked sideways at the precious little doll who was sitting next to him. "Do you want younger brothers and sisters?"

"Yes!"

"Yes your bottom! No way!" Maisie picked up her silverware and glared at the three of them disgustingly. "Aren't the three of you a big enough pain in my backside?"

"Then Mommy, just give birth to another baby sister. Waylon is always taking care of Daisie, so I want a sister too." Colton felt that he was always going against the world alone, and it had always been very lonely.

Maisie scoffed out of wrath and was about to say something when she exchanged glances with Nolan again.

Nolan raised his eyebrows differently and gave off a faint smirk. "You can give birth to as many as you want. Our family has the budget to afford as many as you want."

Maisie smiled and responded, "I'll say yes to this plan if you're the one who's going to give birth to the babies."

With that being said, Maisie put down her silverware and went upstairs.

Colton whispered, "Is Mommy angry?"

"It's okay, eat your dinner." Nolan fed Daisie, and the corners of his lips were raised slightly. "I'll coax her later."

Maisie had just witnessed how the three tiny rascals that she had given birth to betrayed her, thinking that she would have crumbled if there were a few more.

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Why would she want to have more children with a horrible man like this? No way! 1

"Shameless man who could only think about sleeping with me. Dream on!" she mumbled while she was folding up some clothes, planning to go sleep with Daisie instead.

Maisie didn't notice that the man who was leaning against the door with his hands crossed was squinting at her.

Nolan wasn't angry hearing her mumble insults about him because it was true that he did want to sleep with her.

When Maisie turned around with the clothes in her arms, her body jolted, and her expression froze.

No, she had been too careless!

"Done with the scolding?" Nolan's eyes stared straight at her. She was pretty energetic when she was angry at him. That was quite adorable.

Maisie didn't say anything. She carried the clothes out calmly and said, "I'm going to sleep with Daisie tonight."

Nolan didn't stop her but smiled helplessly when he watched her walk away.

Maisie was worried that the man was going to stick to her like glue, but it turned out that she was wrong.

She had been under the impression she was going to have a good night's sleep in Daisie's room, but she was awoken in the middle of the night because Daisie was sleeping in all sorts of weird positions.

Maisie sat up with messy hair and looked at Daisie's legs on her torso.

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'Such a small frame, but it takes up half the bed. Who did she inherit this from?' 1

After moving Daisy back to a normal sleeping position, Maisie laid back down and closed her eyes, but the little girl's leg very quickly kicked over.

Maisie was rendered speechless.

She rubbed her slightly bruised forehead while she walked back to Nolan's room. She laid down on a small part of the bed and slept, glad that the man was still asleep. 1

The next morning...

Maisie went downstairs after changing. Nolan and the three children were already having breakfast.

She averted her eyes. She had gone back because of Daisy's sleeping positions and didn't expect this man to get up so early.

"Mommy, did you sneak back to sleep with Daddy last night? I didn't see you when I woke up!"

Daisy complained.

Her mother had said she was going to sleep with her, but she left in the middle of the night.

Maisie didn't say anything.

After seeing her sit down, Nolan's lips curled. "Your mommy probably needs to sleep in a familiar bed."

Colton said, "Oh, Mommy is only familiar with Daddy's bed. I get it now."

Maisie wished that the floor would open up and swallow her whole.

Leila had someone quietly look into Marina's background but unfortunately did not find anything.

Stephen had been sleeping in the study for three nights already, and Leila didn't care. She just prayed that she could get pregnant before Stephen changed his mind. After making breakfast and seeing Stephen planning to leave, Leila asked where he was going but didn't get a reply, so Leila gave up.

Willow got downstairs, not looking too happy, "What's wrong with Dad? Why is he ignoring us?"

"Who knows." Leila was even more concerned. Even since Marina had been mentioned, Stephen's attitude changed. He never seemed to have such a huge reaction when she mentioned her previously

"Mom, I saw Dad tidying up the study this morning. I don't know what he was clearing, but it took him half a day." "Tidying?" Leila's alarms went off. Was Stephen that old fool hiding something from her?

"Yes. The things looked quite old. I don't know what they are." Willow wouldn't dare ask. They had not spoken ever since he hit her mother and questioned Maisie.

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Her father would do anything if she threw a tantrum in the past, but now he was ignoring her.

It was all because of Maisie!

Laila didn't say anything, but she was thinking.

After Willow finished breakfast, Leila went to Stephen's study.

She wanted to find out what that old man was doing.

She didn't know what to expect before she started prying, but when she found out, she was shocked. It was all things that Marina had left behind!

Leila's eyes turned red. He had been hiding in the study all these days to tidy up the items Marina had left behind!

That old man really still missed that dead woman!

Leila looked at those items. What surprised her was that there was not a single picture of Marina. They were all random, worthless objects. She had no idea why he wanted to keep them.

Suddenly, she found a red wooden box at the bottom of the box.

Leila held the box and opened it. There was a very delicate vintage bracelet made with blue agate with a gold rim.

The bracelet didn't look very valuable. It was just a worthless bracelet.

"Mom, what are you looking at?"

Willow's sudden presence made Leila jump. She put the bracelet aside and said, "What else? Your dad was keeping Marina's items."

Willow's eyes went straight to the bracelet.

"That's such a beautiful bracelet." She wanted to put it on.

Leila stopped her. "You dare put on something that screams bad luck?"

"Mom, it's just a bracelet. There's nothing scary about it. I just think that it's pretty." Willow put it o

Leila didn't do anything since Willow liked it. She could just take it since it belonged to that wretched woman. 2

At the Blackgold Group, on the 16th floor....

"Vaenna has started selling their jewelry at a low price. It seems to be a decision after being cornered by the Santiagos."

After hearing what Kennedy said, Maisie frowned.

Vaenna had indeed been forced into desperation. She knew that the Vanderbilts would not have that much money to fill up the hole.

Soul Studio was going to be listed in a week. She wanted to let Willow's designs pave the way and later on give her a terrible lesson, but Willow was destroyed before that time even came.

That was all because of the incident with Pearl.

However, she would still attend the auction hosted by Summerton Jewelry.

She had promised Madam Nera and couldn't just turn away.

Someone suddenly appeared at the door. When Maisie saw that it was her father, her eyes turned dark. She hadn't seen him since he came to question her.

"Why are you here, Father?"

It was no longer 'Dad', but 'Father'. It sounded a little distant.

Stephen remembered what Leila had said and realized that he had wrongfully accused her. After a few days of reflecting, he had decided to come and see her.

"Talk to me."

Maisie was stunned. He came, not to question her, but just to talk?

Kennedy looked at Maisie and naturally left to give them some space. Seeing her keeping quiet, Stephen gave out a deep sigh. "Didn't you want to know about your mother's past?"

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Maisie paused, her eyes looking down.

"Why did you suddenly decide to tell me now?"

Stephen never wanted to talk about her mother, and Maisie always thought that he had forgotten about her. She would feel sad whenever she saw Willow and Leila.

Stephen saw the dismay in her eyes, and his heart was heavy. "I didn't talk about it because I didn't want to get into it."

"I always wanted to know, did you really hate my mother that much?"

She had given him a daughter but wasn't better than Leila?

Stephen gnashed his teeth. "You don't know what happened between your mother and me, and you think that I hate her?"

Maisie looked away without saying a word.

"Zee, you probably didn't know that when your mother married me, she came to me. We didn't get married for love at first."

Not for love?

Maisie was stumped with surprise.

Stephen looked sad. "I was young and ambitious, wanting to build a career in Bassburgh after leaving Coralia. But I kept getting stonewalled until I met your mother.

"Your mother suddenly said something that shocked me. She said we should get married, and she would help me build my empire in Bassburgh. All I needed to do was give her a place to settle down."

Stephen had been under the impression that Marina was joking at that time since they had just met for a few days. He could tell that the girl sitting in front of him was an elegant and bright woman-any man would be tempted.

He did need to settle down and build a name for himself in Bassburgh, so he agreed, but under the condition that they would not interfere with each others' life after the wedding, just like a contract. She had said that if he found a woman that he fell in love with, he would be able to ask for a divorce at any time. 1

They then registered for marriage and didn't even have a wedding ceremony. It was a simple process that made them husband and wife only at face value.

Marina was indeed impressive and capable. She built Vaenna Jewelry up within two years, with every single item designed by her.

And just like that, they spent two years together, day and night. Marina's outstanding capability matched her charm. He couldn't deny that he had developed feelings for her and even wished that they would become more than just a face-value couple.

Stephen took a deep breath, his heart a little bitter. "Your mother might have never fallen for me. I never knew why she picked me, and I knew that there was someone else in her heart."

Maisie's face gradually turned pale.

It seemed to be the truth, and that was hard for her to swallow.

"She was always cold to me. Even when I tried to cross that line, she wouldn't agree. I really did think of being with her. I would do anything just as long as she would accept my love.

"But she kept rejecting me, and I ran out of ideas. I got together with Leila just to make her jealous. I told your mother, and I hoped that she would give me a firm answer.

"She still stood her ground." Stephen's eyes were empty. "Later on, I cut ties with Leila and stayed with your mother until two years after that when she agreed to have you. It was the happiest time of my life."

He had been happy because Marina had finally accepted him and would spend her life with him, even giving him Zee. She had been less frigid, but he knew that he hadn't fully captured her heart.

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Stephen had spent two years in hopes that he would move her one day, but other than giving him a child, she never showed any love for him.

When Maisie had started growing up, and Marina's health started deteriorating, he realized that she had chosen to have a child because she knew that she wasn't going to live for much longer.

This was her way of making up to him-such an absurd way. She had tricked him and made him fall head over heels. He resented her even after her death!

She never said anything until her death.

All these years, his pain would worsen as Maisie grew up, resembling Marina more and more.

Although Stephen had brought Leila and Willow back and started focusing on Willow, he still cared about Maisie. He just didn't want to be reminded of Marina.

Maisie buried her face in her hands while seated on the couch. Her face was pale as paper.

All these years, she had been under the impression that her father cheated on their marriage. Since her mother had been treating her so nicely, she couldn't tell why her mother wasn't happy.

She always thought that her mother fell sick because of her father's infidelity and later on passed away because of that.

But why... Why were they together when there wasn't love?

She wasn't supposed to be in a happy family. If Leila and Willow didn't exist, if Marina hadn't passed away from her sickness, she would be able to live happily with the protection of both parents.

Why was the family broken?

"Zee, even if one day you learn about the past, you shouldn't resent your mother. She loved you dearly."

Erwin's words lingered in her mind, but she was spiraling down into a black hole. What she thought was a happy family that was broken up was just an illusion.

Ryleigh brought Daisy and Waylon, who were nicely wrapped up, to a Michelin restaurant. She wanted to treat them to a great meal before their schedule started filling up.

"Make sure you keep a low profile. You're celebrities now." Ryleigh was very nervous the entire time, worrying that someone would recognize them.

The two kiddos wore cool sunglasses that covered almost half their faces.

"Don't worry, we'll just dine quietly." Daisy was happily chowing down on what she wanted to have.

Waylon drank juice through a straw, but his eyes were suddenly fixed on a woman walking toward them from the side.

Waylon's eyes were filled with gloom when he recognized the woman.

Willow hadn't been feeling great when she got to the Michelin restaurant, but it took a turn for the worse when she saw the two rascals.

She could recognize them even if they were wearing those sunglasses. The two rascals were the reason Nolan had kicked her out of the Goldmann mansion.

She was going to get her chance for revenge.

"These rascals. You're going to cheapen this place by coming here."

Ryleigh snapped her head around when she heard that voice.

Seeing Willow walk over, she stood up and said with a big smile, "Oh, the less-impressive child of the Vanderbilts."

That statement made Willow snap. "Who did you just call a less-impressive?" "Whoever replied would be that person." Ryleigh shrugged.

## **Chapter 140**

Daisie laughed.

"You little rascal! What are you laughing about!?" Willow's face turned green after hearing her laughter. She hadn't even started with them yet.

Ryleigh stood in front of Willow. "What are you trying to do, Willow? This is a restaurant. If you want to go crazy, please do that in the streets, don't disturb the patrons here."

A man with headphones sitting at the front just wanted to have some lunch but frowned when he heard the commotion.

This had nothing to do with him, so he wasn't going to step in.

The other patrons looked toward them, seemingly unhappy.

The server went up to try and stop them but was chewed up by Willow. No one could have predicted that Willow was going to throw a cup of coffee at Ryleigh.

Everyone around them stood up, startled.

"Godmother!" Waylon stood up, took off his sunglasses, and threw a glass of water at Willow.

Willow's makeup started melting because of the water. "You horrible rascals, how dare you"

Willow angrily raised her hand to give Waylon a slap, but right when Ryleigh was going to stop her, another person stepped in and grabbed her wrist.

The man removed his headphones, his cool face looking annoyed. "Are you crazy? Why are you, an adult, arguing with a child?"

Willow was stunned. Seeing that everyone around was talking about her, she bit her lip hard. She was too impulsive and forgot that they were in public.

Waylon looked at the man, who looked back at him. The man suddenly turned to Ryleigh, who was drying herself with tissues. "Why would a mother let her child skip school?"

Waylon paused, frowning.

Skip school? Was he talking about Colton? Did this man think he was Colton?

Ryleigh stopped what she was doing and looked up at Louis Lucas. The man with dreamy eyes was breathtakingly good-looking. He had pale skin, and his elongated, dreamy eyes went well with his high nose bridge and full lips. He looked as though he had walked out of a romance novel!

“You, Were you talking to me?” Ryleigh pointed at herself.

Louis looked at her. “Are your ears not working? Isn’t it obvious?”

Ryleigh’s hand jolted. She had just been splashed with coffee, and now she was being called deaf?

“You’re the one who’s sick.”

Daisie tugged on her shirt. “Don’t be angry. We don’t feel like eating here anymore. Let’s go home.”

“Let’s go,” Waylon held Daisie’s hand, giving Willow a sharp stare while on the way out. “This isn’t over yet.”

Willow felt chills down her spine.

No way. That look the rascal gave her looked exactly like Nolan when he was angry. It scared her.

Louis was rooted to the spot while looking at Waylon walk away.

What was wrong with this child? Didn’t he recognize him?

No, not only did the child not recognize him, but he also looked like a different person from the kid in school.

“Mr. Lucas, sorry for the wait.” The waiter had the food packed and brought to him. Louis picked it up and was going to leave when Willow spoke to him.

“Are you Mr. Lucas?”

Was it really Mr. Lucas?

Everyone in Bassburgh knew about Mr. Lucas, the musical genius. The Lucas family was one of the richest families in Bassburgh!