

Warning: My Mommy is A Savage! by Seeking A Peaceful Chapter 138-169

Chapter 138 The man seemed terrifying, and there was a long scar on his face. Although he seemed fearless, he still fell victim to Kay.

He was afraid of Kay after just one glimpse of him. Feeling helpless, he looked down and revealed, "I... I'm Bob, a drug dealer. The person who bought Halophilic bacteria from me wasn't Charmaine, it was Tiffany!",

Tiffany's face went pale.

Everyone at the scene looked over to her in shock.

"Tiffany Jordan? It can't be! She's always believed in Charmaine and is so kind..."

"I've never met anyone nicer than Tiffany. How could she have bought the drugs?"

"This man's obviously a gang member. He could have been bought over, couldn't he?"

"It's possible! It's probably Charmaine! She wants to clear her name so she's framing Tiffany!"

Being protective of Tiffany, Joey yelled at the man and said, "Did someone pay you to frame Tiffany? My daughter would never do something like this!"

Tiffany snapped out of it, put a pitiful face on, and said to the scar-faced man, "Brother, are you mistaken? You should

know that giving false testimony is a jailable offense. Are you troubled? Are you facing hardships? Let us know how much money you need and I can give you more. I can help you solve everything but please, don't frame me..."

Her voice was soft and gentle but what she really meant was that she could give him more money to solve his problems but was begging him to not expose her.

Bob wanted to protect the beautiful girl but the moment he thought about how Kay dragged him here, he trembled. He said, "I'm not in trouble, I'm not facing hardships, and I'm not lying! I have proof!"

He pulled out his phone and raised it while saying, "This is my CCTV footage! Everyone, watch closely!"

Everyone looked in his direction. It was clear CCTV footage!

The footage clearly showed that in a basement, Veronica was clad in black while wearing a mask, handing money to the scar-faced man. He also handed a small medicine bottle to Veronica!

It was obviously Veronica because she was of the same height and her hair was also simply tied up. Plus, half of her face could still be clearly seen! (This Novel daily new chapters provide it www.InfoBagh.Com)

Soon after that, the second video showed Veronica walking toward the backstage of the Mercedes Auto show with a box of water bottles before handing them out one by one. 1

Everyone thanked her. She was also kind enough to help with placing the strawberries, but while everyone was not paying attention, she poured the liquid in the medicine bottle onto the strawberry tower!

The footage was clear.

The crowd became agitated.

“It was Veronica! It was done by Tiffany’s people!”

“My god! Unbelievable! Tiffany got someone to buy drugs and framed Charmaine for it!”

“She claimed to have Charmaine’s back. She pretended to be genuine and nice but is actually someone this evil!”

“She’s way too good at her facade! She made a fool out of us all!”

“We should’ve known. This drug can only be kept as a liquid, so it means the video shown by Veronica just now was fake! It was made up!”

“Not only did they frame Charmaine, but they were also vicious enough to fabricate evidence to convict her!” (This Novel daily new chapters provide it www.InfoBagh.Com)

Verbal abuse and accusations were heard from the crowd. They gazed at Tiffany with disdain.

Reporters took photos with their cameras, and influencers were also broadcasting live while aiming their phones at Tiffany.

Even Joey, who had been protective of Tiffany, looked at her in disbelief and asked, “Tiffany, what’s going on?”

This was the daughter she trusted and cared about the most. Could she actually have done such a thing?

Tiffany's face turned pale, and her body froze.

How could this be... How could this be...

Veronica claimed that it was all handled. How could there still be such damning evidence!

Chapter 139 She was more anxious than ever, but she still maintained a pitiful face and explained, "It's fake... This video must be fake ... Someone made this up to frame me... I would never do this to my sister..."

"Yes, if Veronica's video was made up then this one could be too!" said one of Tiffany's close friends.

Joey snapped out of it, shielding Tiffany behind her as she stared right at Bob and interrogated him, "Who paid you to make this up? Why are you framing Tiffany! I raised Tiffany myself, she would never do something like this!"

Joey's words sounded incredibly protective of Tiffany.

Charmaine, who had been silent, smiled sinisterly.

If the same had happened to Charmaine, Joey would have slapped her by now. However, when it came to Tiffany, she became protective...

Joey was about to learn the truth about her precious daughter!

Charmaine stared at Bob and said, "Someone's suspecting that your video is fake. Submitting fabricated evidence to the court could land you in jail for up to three years!"

Three years!

Bob felt weak in his legs. He was already a fugitive and only

here with Kay for a chance to have his sentence shortened.

He looked over to the officer in charge of the case and said, "I swear this video is real! If it's even remotely fake, I'll be sentenced to death! If you don't believe me, go down to the black market and retrieve the secret CCTV footage. You can definitely see Veronica in there!"

He glared at Tiffany and Veronica before continuing, "Only people of the black market would know about the secret CCTV camera, No one gets to destroy it! It's impossible to hide from it as well!"

Veronica's face was pale. She did avoid all cameras back then. However, she did not expect that there would be a secret CCTV camera in the black market!

She could be finished!

The officer in charge got one of his men to investigate the claim right away. Bob was forced to lead the way.

If the claim was proven true, she would be finished!

Tiffany's eyes sparkled. All of a sudden,

Slap!

She slapped Veronica's face hard before saying with an agonized voice, "Veronica, how could you! Why did you frame my sister! I've always been nice to you and treated you like my best friend. How could you do this to my sister... How could you do such an evil thing!"

Veronica fell onto the ground from being slapped. There was blood oozing from the corner of her lips.

She was stunned. It took her a while to realize what was going

1. on.

Tiffany wanted to pin the blame on her...

Yes, Tiffany had to live on. She was a top model, she could not be ruined...

Veronica sat on the ground and sobbed.

—

"It's my fault, I was blinded by anger. I couldn't stand Charmaine stealing your spotlight time after time. You've always been so nice to Charmaine but she's been working against you. I just wanted to take revenge on your behalf!"

"Unbelievable! Unbelievable!"

Tiffany got down on the floor, grabbed Veronica by her collar, and shook her vigorously while saying in pain, "I've told you this before, Charmaine had nothing to do with the

Guci editorial showdown. I'm the one who wasn't good enough. I don't hate her so how could you do this! I've always treated you like my own aunt, my own elder sister. I've always been so good to you so how could you do such a vicious thing behind my back. How could you..."

Chapter 140 Tiffany's voice turned hoarse from crying. Tears were rapidly rolling down her face. •

Her frail body made her seem like she was about to pass out from crying

The crowd continued watching the drama unfold. Some felt that the event was indescribable, some felt doubtful, while others were thoroughly convinced by Tiffany's speech. Their hearts were aching for her.

Joey felt the same as well. She helped Tiffany up and comforted her by saying, "Tiffany, stop crying. It's Veronica's fault, not yours. You were wrong about her and treated her as a n A-list agent. She's inhumane! I'll find you the best agent tomorrow so stop crying."

"No, it's my fault. I didn't look after my agent so that's why she could do something like this. It's my fault..."

Tiffany pushed Joey aside and apologized to the 11 models. "Sorry, I'm so sorry. It's my agent who poisoned you all. I'm the one who caused you all pain..."

She was bowing 90 degrees while apologizing. Her voice was remorseful and hoarse.

Soon after that, she turned toward Charmaine, bowed, and said, "Sister, I'm sorry, I'm really sorry about you being

locked up for so long. I'm heartbroken... It's my fault that I didn't realize this earlier and let you suffer for so long... I'll apologize to you and on Veronica's behalf as well. You can beat or kick me if you want to..."

Tiffany cried even harder as she spoke. Tears were streaming down her face, and she was very humble about it.

She even grabbed Charmaine's hand to hit herself with it.

A hint of cynicism flashed through Charmaine's eyes. This woman was playing the victim in front of Charmaine again. Did she not learn that Charmaine liked exposing victim playing women?

Charmaine lifted her hand and slapped Tiffany hard on her face.

Tiffany was hit so hard that she fell onto the ground. 1

Joey went over to help Tiffany up immediately. She screamed at Charmaine in anger, "Charmaine, how could you be so vicious! Veronica's the one who framed you, Tiffany's your sister and has been defending you. She apologized to you as well so how could you hit her!"

"Mom... It's fine... It's really fine, I'm not hurt..." Tiffany held her own face while crying. "It's my fault, I didn't realize this earlier, I didn't look after Veronica. I'm at fault as well. If she wants to hit me, she can. I want to feel less guilty about this..."

Her distressed and guilty gesture immediately attracted the sympathy of many.

People began talking.

"Poor Tiffany, she was implicated by her own agent."

"Charmaine is too cruel. Look, Tiffany's mouth is bleeding. Look at the fingerprints on her face, tsk tsk..."

"She was only locked up for a few days and did not suffer much, Tiffany has apologized to her as well. Why did she hit her so hard..."

Hah.

Charmaine's gaze was icy. Kids who cry would usually get the candy they want. However, Charmaine was not one to cry. Was she meant to just become the devil because of this?

No! While she had no power to combat the evil, she could still handle the victim-playing women.

She looked at Tiffany cynically and sneered, "Okay, stop pretending. My friend still has a record of your chat with Veronica. If you keep up your act, you better believe that I'll put you in jail with her."

Tiffany's face froze immediately. The tears that were hanging from her eyes stopped falling down her face as well.

Charmaine had a copy of her chat with Veronica! This! This was going to ruin her!

Chapter 141

Tiffany's stiffness was followed by silence in the air...

People began whispering to each other.

Why did Tiffany stop crying? Was she not crying hard just now? Was she feeling guilty now?

Seeing that things had now taken a turn, Veronica told the officers, "It's my fault. This has nothing to do with Tiffany. She's been teaching me to be a better person and told me multiple times to not hurt Charmaine. However, you've all seen how vicious Charmaine is. She's never treated Tiffany like her sister. She would either hit or scold her. I only did what I did out of momentary anger. There's no point in explaining myself anymore. Arrest and charge me. I know it's my fault..."

Veronica seemed genuine and honest.

Nonetheless, everyone saw what had happened with Tiffany. Now that she was radio silent, did it not mean that she was guilty as well?

Veronica was clearly taking the fall for her!

One officer spoke up, "Okay, Charmaine can leave. Tiffany and Veronica, you have to stay to have your statements taken."

Charmaine was then uncuffed while another officer approached Tiffany.

Tiffany's face was a little pale. It was obvious that people were suspecting her. However, she did not dare to play victim after hearing Charmaine's words. She had no choice but to leave with the officers.

"Wait," said a cold voice.

Charmaine stared right at Tiffany and continued, "There was a signed agreement that the culprit would have to pay each model ten million bucks. Tiffany, since you've admitted your fault, shouldn't you be the one paying this sum on your agent's behalf?" ,

Tiffany's body froze. There were 11 models, so the sum would be 110 million bucks in total! There was no way Veronica could afford this!

Veronica was closest to Tiffany and took the fall for her too. Tiffany had no choice but to pay the models on Veronica's behalf, regardless of it being for their friendship or to shut Veronica up...

However, Tiffany did not have a diamond mine like Charmaine. The money she had been earning from being a model all these years w

as spent on maintaining herself and her ties with each and every person in the Jordan family.

Although she had shares in the family, it was impossible to sell those off.

Making her come up with 110 million bucks meant that she would have to empty her savings! She would become nothing!

The 11 affected models began speaking up as well.

“Yes, there were signatures. We have to be paid!”

“I can’t believe we were being played for this long. It’s nauseating! It’s as disgusting as s wallowing a fly!”

“Quick, pay up! If you’re not paying, Veronica is! The agreement states that we have to be paid today! I don’t want to have anything to do with you all anymore!”

Everyone was urging Tiffany for the same thing.

Influencers were broadcasting live on their respective channels while reporters snapped photos of Tiffany

Tiffany felt somewhat awkward. She wanted nothing more than ending this and leaving the place.

She had no choice but to pull out her phone and compensate every model in front of the crowd.

Joey went over to stop her while saying, “Tiffany, you’re too dumb! Although Veronica is your agent, it’s her fault. You can’t be the one paying for it! A hundred and ten million bucks is a huge sum of money, I can’t let you do this!”

Tiffany wanted to strangle her.

Was Joey stupid? Did she not realize what situation Tiffany

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Chapter 142

"You also wanted me to hand over my fifteen percent of shares because I harmed others, so shouldn't you give me at least ten percent of yours for letting your own agent do this to others?"

10% of her shares!

Tiffany nearly growled in anger.

Not only did Charmaine want her to pay the models 110 million bucks, she was also eyeing her 10% shares! It was worth at least 20 billion bucks!

How could Charmaine be this vicious!

Joey could not stand what she was seeing anymore. She screamed at Charmaine, "Charmaine, enough! Why are you pushing your own sister to the brink like everyone else is! It's already sad enough for her to be implicated in this. Can you be human for once?"

“Huh, you want me to be human? When they framed me for harming the models, why weren’t they showing me a shred of compassion? Why weren’t they being human when they forced me to apologize for things I didn’t do? Why didn’t they do so when they wanted me to hand over my fifteen percent of shares? You’ve been defending and believing Tiffany the entire time, but have you ever believed or defended me once since all this has happened?” Charmaine said coldly and fiercely while staring right at Joey.

Joey was at a loss for words. She actually felt a little heartbroken while looking into Charmaine’s cold eyes.

Just as she was about to say something, Charmaine looked away and continued, “Forget it, I’ll ask grandpa about the equity transfer. Let’s see if a person who allows her own agent to poison and frame others is fitting to own twenty percent of the shares!”

She immediately called Senior Jordan on her phone.

James Jordan’s voice was heard saying, “Charmaine, I saw the broadcast. I know you’re innocent so Tiffany has to bear the responsibility this time. Where’s Nate? Tell him to transfer Tiffany’s ten percent to you!”

Since Charmaine’s phone was on speaker, everyone heard James loud and clear.

Nate was a lawyer himself; he understood that this case was filled with unexplained occurrences. It was possible that Tiffany had done this herself. Senior Jordan was being nice when he only made Tiffany hand over 10% of her shares!

He walked toward Tiffany with the equity transfer agreement and said, “Ms. Tiffany, please fill this line with what the Director asked for.”

Tiffany was so angry, her body was trembling and her face was pale.

20 billion bucks! Her 20 billion bucks was gone just like that!

She was here to get Charmaine’s 15% but instead, she was losing 10% of her own right now!

She was on the brink of breaking down and losing it. However, there were plenty of people pointing their cameras at her. Things had taken a turn for the worse, so what could she do... How else could she say no... ”

She had no choice but to say through gritted teeth, "Of course ... I should do this after causing so much pain to Charmaine... I'll treat her better and make it up to her from now on!"

Shivering, she signed her name on the agreement while speaking

Nate walked toward Charmaine with the agreement to let her sign her part as well.

10% of shares worth 200 billion bucks in market value was now Charmaine's.

Tiffany's body trembled so much that she nearly lost her balance.

Joey held her up and said with concern, "Tiffany, let's go. We'll get your statement done, go home and talk to grandpa about this! Charmaine, you went overboard today. You've disappointed me and broke my heart!"

After saying that, Joey left the scene with Tiffany in tow.

Charmaine's gaze turned cold as she watched them leave. –

Disappointed? Brokenhearted?

Charmaine felt the same too.

She made her way through the crowd, got on the Kawasaki that Kay had brought over for her, and rode off.

Chapter 143

It took less than an hour for the incident to trend all over Twitter.

#CharmaineIsInnocent, #VeronicaGets3Years, #TiffanyPays110Billion, and #TiffanyIsRottenInside were amongst some others that made it to the trending list.

With ample witnesses and evidence, Veronica pleaded guilty. Charmaine had made the perfect comeback.

Netizens were flocking to criticize Veronica and Tiffany.

Although many believed that Tiffany was innocent, others analyzed the situation intelligently and pointed out plot holes.

For example, how could Veronica have that much courage to do what she did as an agent? How was it possible that Tiffany did not know anything since she was always spending time with Veronica?

If Tiffany was innocent, why did she become silent the moment she was interrogated by Charmaine? Why did she pay 110 billion bucks just like that?

That was no small sum of money. No matter how close one was to a friend, it would be impossible to go to that extent just for a friendship. ‘

Tiffany was obviously the mastermind! This was all about sacrificing a pawn to save the queen!

Tiffany’s previous attempts at defending Charmaine were also republished online. Netizens noted that she seemed disingenuous through it all.

Charmaine had won this battle beautifully.

However, she was speeding aimlessly on the road at the moment. All she could think about was what Joey had said to her.

Although Charmaine was used to not having affection from her family, watching Joey believe and defend Tiffany through heightened tensions made her feel uncontrollably sour about the whole ordeal. 2

Charmaine had never been defended this way growing up.

No matter how hard she worked, she would never be shielded unconditionally by others like Tiffany was...

Charmaine parked the bike near the sea and felt the sea breeze against her skin.

Under the scorching sun, the sea breeze felt dry and cold on her face.

All of a sudden, an umbrella appeared over her head, blocking the blinding sunlight from her eyes.

Charmaine turned around to find Anthony next to her.

He was a lot taller than her, her head only up to his shoulders.

He seemed astonishingly gorgeous from a low angle. He had a magnificent aura about him.

He had the ability to steal hearts no matter how familiar his face was to the public.

Charmaine retracted her gaze and looked back at the sea. “ Why are you here?”

Her voice was indifferent and emotionless. It was as if she was her ruthless self again.

Her lonely appearance from moments ago was still on Anthony's mind. He said solemnly, "Ms. Jordan, didn't you say that you want to come to the Baileys' to see Momo? Are you trying to go back on your words?"

Charmaine came to a realization. She had agreed to this at the time. However, she did not expect Anthony to come and pick her up in person.

After all, she was free today...

"Don't worry. Since I've promised you that, I'll do it. Let's go."

She tucked away her emotions, put on her helmet, and got on the Kawasaki.

Anthony wanted to stop her but knowing her character, he decided to tail her with his car instead.

Although Charmaine was wearing light-colored clothes, a woman racing on the road still attracted tons of attention.

A group of street racers whistled at her while turning toward her. They wanted to ride side by side with her.

Anthony turned his steering wheel, catching up with Charmaine in an instant as he blocked the street racers behind him.

The man who was leading the racers yelled, "F*ck! Who's this bastard getting in my way? Hit him!"

The man twisted the accelerator to catch up with Anthony, but a subordinate reminded him by saying, "Calm down! Look at the license plate number and see whose car that is!"

The man's face turned pale the moment he read the license plate number.

It was Mr. Bailey! The same Mr. Bailey who could do anything he wanted in Shelburne! The racer switched lanes right away and rode off.

Chapter 144

Charmaine witnessed it all through her rearview mirror. She felt a little something in her heart.

This was how it felt like to be taken care of...

The vehicles arrived at The Palace Heart about 30 minutes later.

The Palace

Heart was a gated area of villas. Each villa had 19 floors in them, and these floors included pastures, swimming pools, golf courses, man-made gardens, and so on. The price of one villa was about 10 digits.

Only the richest could afford to stay here.

Charmaine parked her Kawasaki outside villa No. 9 under Anthony's lead.

Two rows of servants stood at the door. They bowed and said respectfully, "Hello, Mr. Bailey. Hello, Ms. Jordan."

They were so synchronized and respectful, it was as if they were facing an emperor from ancient times.

This scene was not new to Charmaine. She did not think much of it and continued walking into the villa with Anthony.

Servants pushed the heavy doors open for the duo. A magnificent and grand hall appeared before them.

The hall was covered with pink roses. The entire villa seemed like it was completely invaded by flowers. There were also balloons flying in the air. It was as if they were living in a dreamy fairy tale.

Charmaine was shocked by the decorations.

Anthony said respectfully, "Please, Ms. Jordan."

He was leading the way, but he suddenly decided to walk behind her instead. Charmaine had no choice but to walk ahead.

Just as they arrived at the center of the hall, a loud 'bang!' was heard. A huge balloon over their heads exploded as flower petals fell down from it.

Chris appeared from a bunch of flowers nearby and said happily, "Mom! Happy Independence Day!"

As his childish voice spoke, he tugged at the fireworks in his hands.

Colored ribbons and gold flakes suddenly fell on Charmaine.

As she stood in the middle of it all, Charmaine felt like it was all as grand as a wedding ceremony.

She had never been treated this well since she was a child...

Chris stepped forward, grabbed Charmaine's hand, and said, "Mommy, I want to hug you. I missed you so much!"

"It was only a few days," Charmaine smiled. She bent over and carried the chubby boy.

For some reason, although it was not her own child, she felt maternal love and fulfillment while holding him in her arms. 2

Chris melted into her embrace, hugging her neck with his small hand as he said, "I'll miss you even if we're apart for just a second! I don't want to be separated from you, ever!"

Forever...

Charmaine's gaze darkened the moment she thought about it.

Could there be a 'forever' with Anthony and Chris?

Probably never. They were already doomed after that incident five years ago...

Seeing her mood change, Anthony changed the subject and asked, "Momo, where's the gift you prepared for mommy?"

"Oh! That's right! Here!"

Chris slipped through Charmaine's arms to pull out a white gift box from the bunch of flowers nearby. He handed it to Charmaine.

"Mommy, here's a gift I prepared for you. I spent three days and three nights designing it and made people come up with it just in time for this. Let's see if you like it or not."

There was a gift for her? A customized one?

Charmaine thought that the decorations were already the grandest gifts for her. Feeling moved, she took the box and opened it.

Butterflies instantly flew out of the box. It looked extremely dreamy. Furthermore, the contents of the box turned out to be!

Chapter 145

Charmaine had assumed that Chris prepared something adorable for her and did not expect a dress...

The dress looked unique. It was a tube dress with an A-line hem, and the fabric was decorated with ink to form a landscape painting. Meanwhile, the hem was painted with a dark red gradient.

On the top, there was a small, black 3D phoenix on it.

The dress's design made it seem like it was in flames with a heavy haze, the phoenix the cherry on top of it all. It was stunning!

Charmaine had never seen such a dress in her life. No brand had launched this dress either, so...

"Momo, did you really make this for me?"

Chris hesitated for a moment before nodding. "Yeah! It's a gift from me to you. I wanted to wish you a good independence day and that you fly higher after this incident!"

Charmaine could not help but rub his head. His acting skills were decent, but how could a child design such a dress?

She already knew the answer to her doubts the moment Chris hesitated to respond.

It was probably designed by Anthony and tailored for her.

However, he assumed that Charmaine would not accept and wear it if she knew he sent it to her, so he decided to let Chris do it instead.

Charmaine could not describe what she was feeling at the moment. After some thought, she decided not to expose Anthony for it.

She said, "Since I just got out, I want to take a bath and change my clothes anyway. This is a good gift."

A hint of happiness flashed through Anthony's eyes. He was happy as long as she did not reject the gift.

"Come with me. I'll show you to the bathroom," Anthony said as he walked toward the corridor on the right.

Charmaine had no choice but to follow him through the long and splendid corridor before reaching the bathroom.

The giant bathtub in the bathroom was already filled with water, and there were rose petals floating in it.

Did Anthony prepare her bath as well?

“Anthony, actually...”

“Take a shower. I’ll wait for you in the dining hall.”

Anthony’s voice was as gentle and steady as ever. He turned to leave.

Charmaine’s words did not find their way out of her mouth.

She relented and entered the bathroom.

After closing the door, she soaked herself in the bathtub. Her brows furrowed slightly.

Anthony was obviously into her. She might have actually considered him if not for what happened back then. However... –

No man would accept a woman who was once raped, impregnated, and had been through an abortion, especially a rich and powerful man like Anthony. *

She was already ready to spend the rest of her life alone.

It was probably a good idea to tell Anthony the truth after her bath and let him give up on her. He should not be wasting his time on her...

There were towels, underwear, and other necessities prepared for her after her bath.

Charmaine dried her hair, changed into her new dress, and walked out of the bathroom.

A servant led the way and said, “Ms. Jordan, please follow me.”

The servant’s respectfulness made her feel as if she was the most powerful person in the house.

Charmaine was led to the dining hall.

She expected a violinist or a pianist, and a candlelit dinner with steaks. However, the dining hall was quiet. Although luxurious, the atmosphere was very comfortable, accompanied by soft lights.

On the table were ordinary home-cooked dishes, including stewed chicken, braised duck, braised pork knuckles, seasonal vegetables, steamed eggs, and so on. The man and child were already seated at the table.

Chris had changed into a t-shirt and shorts. His t-shirt had cute animated cats on it, making him look more adorable than ever.

Meanwhile, Anthony was dressed in loungewear. His slacks were paired with a light gray shirt. It made him look simple yet elegant.

Chapter 146

At first glance, the view seemed warm and friendly, giving Charmaine a sense of home.

Chris saw her coming and immediately got up to pull her over. "Mommy, come and sit down. Sit down and let's have dinner.",

Charmaine snapped out of it. She walked with Chris to the left side of the rectangular dinner table and took a seat.

Anthony sat across them. He said, "Here are a few simple dishes, hopefully they're up to your taste."

Luke who had been standing outside could not help but feel frustrated. How were these dishes simple? Everyone in the villa was overworked to the core!

Anthony had arranged the menu two days ago. It contained ingredients and was Western cuisine that was only available in three-star Michelin restaurants. The list was classy.

For this purpose, the chef from a Michelin restaurant was flown in to prepare the meal.

However, Anthony called home an hour ago and demanded the chef to prepare home-cooked dishes! All musicians were also dismissed...

When Anthony saw Charmaine looking lonely, he knew that what she needed most was the feeling of home. That was why he did what he did.

However, this was his first and only time treating a woman to home-cooked dishes. He was a little anxious about it.

If Charmaine did not like it...

Charmaine glanced at the dishes on the table and said, "I love it, thank you for working all day for this. Come, Momo, have this drumstick!"

She served Chris food as she spoke. The atmosphere was relaxed.

Chris was incredibly happy. "Thank you, Mommy. Here, have some too. Pig trotters can replenish your collagen for you."

"You lost weight in the past few days, so you have to make up for it," Anthony said while serving a piece of stewed chicken to Charmaine.

Chris seemed like he remembered something. He served Charmaine some vegetables and said, "Mommy, you have to replenish your vitamins. You have to eat your vegetables and have balanced nutrition!"

Charmaine's bowl was filled to the brim within moments.

She replied, "Okay, that's enough. Momo, eat."

"Hehe, okay." Chris began eating.

The atmosphere was peaceful, and the air felt warm. Although they were people from two completely different worlds, they seemed like a family at this moment."

While Charmaine enjoyed the delicious food as she stared at Chris' chubby little face, she felt like all her worries had disappeared.

Who cared about Joey, Tiffany, or the rest of her own family? Nothing could beat Momo being by her side right now!

Charmaine unconsciously finished two servings of food.

She had been busy working and plotting her revenge for the past few years, so she barely had any expectations for her food. She had always been eating just to survive. It had been quite some time since she felt this way.

After finishing his meal, Chris burped and said, "Hm, I'm feeling sleepy after eating. I'll go and take a nap."

Before Charmaine could reply to him, Chris ran off.

It was obvious to Charmaine that Chris was intentionally letting her spend some alone time with Anthony. What a cheeky child

The dining hall became quiet. Anthony said, "There's an open air garden on the top floor overlooking the city. Are you interested in checking it out?"

Charmaine remembered that she wanted to speak to him anyway. She nodded and said, "Let's go."

She followed Anthony into the elevator, and they arrived on the 19th-floor moments later.

The 500-square-meter open-air platform was turned into a pond with lotuses planted in it.

The lotus leaves were greener than ever, and the flowers were blooming beautifully in the midsummer season.

Charmaine tucked her hair behind her ear and began organizing her speech in her heart.

It was a simple thing to do. She was not someone who would drag this longer than she should. However, she did not know why she found it difficult to speak up at the moment...

All of a sudden, Anthony reached out to her and grabbed her by her hand.

Chapter 147

Charmaine wanted to move away out of reflex but Anthony said, "Don't worry, I'm bringing you to the veranda."

He walked ahead while holding her hand.

Due to the pond's design, all stone piers placed between the lotuses were above water.

Charmaine did not dare to struggle in fear of accidentally dragging Anthony into the water with her. She let him pull her toward the edge of the garden.

The duo stood before the fence, the evening breeze blowing on them. They overlooked the lights from thousands of houses, and the sky was full of stars. Everything was astonishingly beautiful, and the air was also filled with a comfortable warmth coupled with romantic undertones.

For some reason, Charmaine was more immersed in this than she imagined she would be. Unfortunately, the beauty of it all was about to come to its end...

She retracted her gaze and began making up her speech in her mind.

During that very moment, Anthony turned around out of the blue, looked right at her, and said, "Charmaine, I can give you a home."

His deep voice reached her ears through the night breeze. Charmaine's heart skipped a beat again.

Give her a home...

Was he proposing to her?

It was not the first time he was expressing his feelings to her throughout the time Charmaine knew him. To let this go on would be a bad idea.

Charmaine pushed his hand off her and asked solemnly, "Mr. Bailey, do you not investigate someone's past before falling for her?" Although her pregnancy was well concealed by the Jordans back then-her trip to Africa was announced as her recuperation from an illness-given Anthony's ability, he would definitely be able to find out about it if he wanted to. Anthony replied, "I like you for who you are. That has nothing to do with your past."

"What if I killed someone, was once pregnant, or had given birth to a child?" Charmaine asked.

Anthony's brows were twisted for a moment. He seemed deep in thought. Charmaine noticed that his expression darkened. She knew that he would feel disdainful toward her. After all, he was a powerful man. However, to Charmaine's surprise, Anthony replied, "If you killed someone, it means you were bullied. I can help you stab the person as well. If you did give birth to a child, wouldn't that mean I gained a child out of the blue? Momo would have a playmate too." Charmaine was left speechless. Did this man think she was kidding?

"I'm serious, Anthony."

"I'm serious too," Anthony replied with a straight face. Charmaine was a little stunned looking at his face.

Was he serious? Did he really mean that he did not mind even if she did kill someone or gave birth to a baby?

How was that possible... Maybe he thought she was testing him. She took a deep breath, started thinking up her speech again, and finally said with a serious face,

“Anthony, I’ve been wanting to tell you something. I think this is the right time. It’s impossible for us to get together because five years ago…”

“Mr. Bailey! Mr. Bailey! Something’s wrong!”

Luke ran over and yelled nervously, “Momo’s in trouble!” “What happened?” Anthony’s brows became twisted.

Luke replied, “Momo’s having convulsions! They’re pretty bad!”

“Where’s Nial?” Anthony asked while walking back with Charmaine’s hand in his.

Charmaine did not care what she wanted to talk about anymore. The moment she heard that Chris was in trouble, she felt like her brain had exploded. She wanted nothing more than to see Chris right then. Luke replied, “He’s been contacted. It’ll take at least twenty minutes for him to get here.”

Chapter 148

“Prepare hot water, a towel, and a biting stick.”

Anthony ordered solemnly as he pulled Charmaine into the elevator to go downstairs.

Charmaine was focused on how Momo was at the moment. She did not notice that her hand was still being held tightly by Anthony.

As the duo arrived at the children’s room on the second floor, they found Chris convulsing on his bed, and veins all over his body were popping out.

This was several times worse than what Charmaine saw the last time!

Anthony said, “Wait outside.”

Momo’s condition was definitely going to scare her.

Charmaine replied to his surprise, “No, I’ll stay with Momo.”

As she spoke, she walked quickly to the bed and held Chris’s hand, saying, “Momo, I’m Aunt Charmaine. I’m right here and haven’t left yet.”

However, Chris could not hear her at all. His body was still cramping.

His eyes rolled backward, and huge beads of sweat rolled off his forehead.

Charmaine could tell that Chris was not messing around this time. It was really serious.

She looked at Anthony and asked worriedly, "Why's this happening? Why's he in this condition? Is there any way we can help him?"

"Don't worry, it'll be fine," Anthony comforted her calmly. With the hot towel in his hand, he wiped Chris' face and body.

After that, Anthony stuck the biting stick into Chris's mouth to prevent him from biting his own tongue.

Charmaine had always been the calm and decisive one. However, at this moment, she was of no help at all.

She could only watch Anthony do everything. At the same time, she held Chris's hand and comforted him by saying, "Momo, get well soon. Didn't you promise me that you'd be brave? I'm right here by your side, so don't feel sad." Chris was still having convulsions. It was as if he had no consciousness whatsoever.

Anthony comforted Charmaine and said, "It'll happen a few times every year. When Nial comes over and gives him his shot, he'll be fine." "But there are still over ten minutes to go..."

A tiny child had to endure over ten more minutes of convulsions...

Charmaine's heart was broken beyond words. She asked, "Does he go through it like this every time it happens? Are there no other ways to cure him?"

Anthony retracted his gaze and became silent. There were no other ways. Chris could only go through it like this every time it happened. The next 10 minutes felt undoubtedly long.

The duo could only watch Chris going through his convulsions, they could not do anything other than preventing him from biting his own tongue.

Thankfully, Nial arrived quickly. It took only 15 minutes for him to do so. He swiftly gave Chris his shot.

Chris, who had been convulsing non-stop, gradually calmed down. However, his eyes were still not open.

Nial said, "Let's get out of here and let him rest."

As Charmaine looked at Chris's pale face, she was more worried than ever. Nonetheless, she still followed the men out of the room. After the door was closed, she asked Nial, "What does Momo actually have? Is there no way to cure it?"

Nial sighed and replied, "It's affective psychosis. Momo never had a mother growing up and although the Baileys could provide him with the best quality of life, it would be hard to compensate him in terms of affection. Momo really wants a mom as well. As long as this wish of his isn't fulfilled, it'll always be the cause of these convulsions."

"But I've been spending time with him today, so shouldn't he be happy? According to your logic, it shouldn't have happened today." Charmaine was confused.

Nial explained, "Before he met you, Momo would experience this four to six times a year. This should've happened already, so it's pretty amazing that it took this long for Momo to go through this again. Maybe he was too happy and realized that this might not last forever." Charmaine's brows became twisted. Her heart was broken. Four to six times? A five-year-old child had to go through that much pain every year...

Moreover, Chris seemed really happy today, he gave her presents and served her food. She assumed that he was feeling happy. She did not expect that he felt this might not last forever. Anthony looked at Charmaine all of a sudden and said, "Ms. Jordan, I have a request." Charmaine looked over at him in confusion.

Chapter 149

Anthony stared at her with a serious look and said, "I hope you can be my girlfriend for six months."

Six months! Girlfriend!

Charmaine's brows were twisted as she was displeased. "Anthony, why are you thinking about such things during times like these!"

"Ms. Jordan, I'm thinking about this for Momo. Momo's always wanted a mom, and the only person he really likes after all these years is you. If you consent to this, I believe he can be cured within the next six months. I'll let you go after that," Anthony said. Charmaine frowned. Half a year? She had to pretend to be Anthony's girlfriend for the next six months and spend time with Chris as his mommy?

"It's not nice to lie to kids. I'll leave one day anyway, and he'll be more hurt then."

"It's a white lie. Can you actually bear to see Momo like this?" Anthony asked.

Thinking about how Chris looked just now, Charmaine felt like her heart was being torn apart by a cat's jaw.

Why did such a cute child have to go through such pain?

She really hoped that it was the last time Chris had to go through that. She did not want to see him in excruciating pain ever again.

Nial realized she was hesitating about it. He said, "Ms. Jordan, Momo's case is a little unique. God would not blame you for a white lie. Moreover, I realized that Momo's situation might take a turn for the worse after doing checks on him just now. If he's left like that, it might end up hurting his brain and causing retardation. Every time he has convulsions, he's on the brink of death. If his willpower or physical strength was a little weaker, he might never wake up again."

Never wake up again...

Charmaine knew that Nial was not overexaggerating Momo's situation after seeing how he was just now.

Whenever Momo felt pissed or pretended to be sick, he would still be able to hear anything she said. However, he seemed like he could die today.

She was moved... She was moved because of Momo...

However, was this enough reason for her to spend time with Anthony for the next six months? Did she really have to act as his girlfriend?

Anthony said to her, "Ms. Jordan, don't you worry. If you don't want me to, I won't announce my relationship with you for the next six months. I'll not affect any plans you have as well. Moreover, I can pay you handsomely. You can tell me anything you want. I won't do anything you don't consent to as well." His speech was serious yet respectful. Charmaine frowned and became deep in thought.

Anthony was basically begging her, and Momo was in such a situation...

It seemed like she had no other choice.

After a brief silence, she said, "Fine, I'll do it. However, I don't want to be paid. I want a contract."

"No worries." Anthony glanced at Luke.

Luke grabbed a laptop and opened up a Word Document. He said respectfully, "Ms. Jordan, you may begin."

Charmaine thought about it for a moment and said, "First, you must try your best to find ways to cure Momo in the next six months. Try your very best! Secondly, our relationship isn't real, so no one can butt into another's personal life. Thirdly, both parties must keep this private and confidential and tell no one! The fourth condition, there should be no overly flirtatious actions done to one another. Lastly, regardless of Momo being cured or not, I will leave after six months. Anthony cannot use any excuse to make me stay. Both parties are to agree to the terms above, and any party that violates them will be fined a hundred billion USD!

100 billion! Dollars!

Even a powerful family like the Bailey family was only worth 150 billion dollars. They were at the top of Forbes' richest person list.

Asking for 100 billion dollars would mean giving out two-thirds of the Baileys' net worth!

Furthermore, other than the first term, everything else on the contract was filled with Charmaine's rejection of Anthony.

Men were usually the ones signing contracts with women in fear of being entangled with them. However, Charmaine seemed to be the one being afraid of Anthony doing just that?

Chapter 150

Both a billionaire and a powerful man, Anthony was being despised so much by Charmaine?

Nial looked over at Anthony with pity.

However, Anthony kept a straight face. He seemed calmer than ever.

"I agree to all of it."

He reached his hand out to Luke, and Luke passed him the printed contract.

Anthony signed his name without a second thought. He even added a thumbprint on it as well.

Charmaine signed the contract too. Seeing the red thumbprints of hers and Anthony's, Charmaine felt a little dumbfounded.

Was she now Anthony's contract girlfriend? Just like that?

She had planned to tell Anthony about what happened five years ago, but this had happened instead. It would be meaningless to tell him now..Moreover, if Chris knew about her past, wouldn't that hurt his treatment?

Charmaine thought about it and finally decided not to tell Anthony anything. 2

After all, she was just a contract girlfriend. They had to split up eventually.

She looked over at Anthony and reminded him by saying, "Mr. Bailey, you have to be mindful o not fall for me in the next six months. I'm leaving then no matter what."

Anthony's expression darkened for a moment before returning to normal. "Sure."

They had plenty of time anyway.

Nial secretly gave Anthony a thumbs up. This progress was amazing!

Momo's condition was not good news, but Anthony had managed to turn it around.

It looked like there would be a wedding six months from now!

Nial did not believe that anyone would not fall in love with Anthony after spending six months with him.

Charmaine was still worried about Chris that night. She decided to stay back and sleep with Chris.

Anthony ordered the servants to change the sheets to new ones. They were dark blue and decorated with stars and the moon. It all looked heartwarming.

Charmaine hugged Chris to sleep. She caressed his face.

His cheeks were pale after the episode. He seemed as pale as a porcelain doll.

She could not help but whisper, "Momo, you have to get well soon. Your aunt."

She thought about her contract at this moment. She said, "Your mommy will be right here with you."

For some reason, she felt something unfamiliar the moment she uttered the word 'mommy'. She did not despise it. Instead, she felt rather warm and sweet.

Chris was still asleep, but his brows were more relaxed. It seemed like he was sleeping better than ever in Charmaine's arms.

Charmaine wanted to sleep earlier but the phone next to her pillow buzzed all of a sudden.

She grabbed it and took a look. It was a text from Eric. "Are you not staying at the Violet Villa tonight?"

Charmaine replied, "Nope, something happened to Momo. I'll stay here with him for the night."

She thought Eric would oppose the idea but to her surprise, he replied, "Okay, Anthony is a decent guy."

A decent guy?

Charmaine's brows became twisted. Did she read this text right?

Since her return, Eric had always reminded her to not date anyone. All men were trash, including himself.

However, at this moment, Eric actually said Anthony was a decent guy?

How was he decent? Charmaine felt like she had yet to feel the same...

There were soft knocks on the room's door all of a sudden.

"It's me," a deep, magnetic voice said. It was Anthony.

Chapter 151

Charmine frowned; confusion was written all over her face. What was he doing here at this hour?

Since this was his property, she could only concede as she muttered a soft, "Come in." Anthony walked in soon after with maids in tow with blankets and a mattress in their hands. They swiftly went into action.

In a blink of an eye, a grey mattress was laid prepared on the floor; simple yet elegant altogether. The maids then left and shut the door behind them.

Charmine frowned. "Mr. Bailey, what's the meaning of this?"

"Momo might get ill anytime tonight, and for that, I'll have to be here all night." Anthony deadpanned as he sat down on the mattress, already dressed in pure black silk pajamas.

A meter away from the mattress, Charmine was left speechless.

Did he have to? Of course, he was not completely unreasonable; it would be best if he was here if anything happened to Momo.

As she did not want to comment any further, Charmine shut her eyes to get some rest. Anthony, on the other hand, laid on the mattress and turned off the lights with his phone.

The house fell dark in an instant, though the soft moonlight seeped through the window. The room then glowed with the faint silver-like light.

Anthony turned to his side and faced Charmine's back, his lips curled up slightly as he watched her figure.

Their distance was getting closer; the day was finally coming.

That night was the most peaceful night Charmine had in five years. She had no nightmares and even slept until ten o'clock in the morning.

Blurrily, she felt something soft yet cuddly pressed against her. She opened her eyes to see doe-eyed Chris looking at her and sweetly chirped, "Good morning, Mommy!"

The boy's voice was sugary sweet, and he had the sweetest grin cupped by his small puffy cheeks.

Charmine's heart instantly turned soft by this sweetness as she sat up in surprise. "Momo, are you feeling better now?"

"Yes! Thank you for asking, Mommy. I'm much better now!"

Chris' jelly-like arms wrapped around her neck, his eyes sparkling as he asked, "Did Mommy hug Momo to sleep? Did Momo sleep in Mommy's arms?"

"Mm-hm. Mommy will be with you, so Momo has to be good and get better, alright?" said Charmine as she fixed his hair.

Chris' eyes widened at Charmine's words. "Does that mean Mommy will never leave Momo? Daddy was telling the truth when he said you'll be my Mommy forever, right? Is that true?"

Charmine was caught off-guard, but she nodded gently. All she could think of was to make sure Momo got better in the next few months.

Overwhelmed with joy, Chris jumped on the bed in circles as he cheerfully exclaimed, "Momo has Mommy now! Mommy will never leave Momo again!" His adorable face had the most charming smile on.

Charmine wanted to spend more time with him, but her phone rang not long after. It was from Grandpa. The moment she answered the phone, she heard Drake speaking, "Charmine? Are you busy now? Could you come to the mansion now? They're all making a scene and pressuring me into changing the decision!"

Charmine frowned. Pressuring? It had to do with the ten percent-share, and Tiffany must have been pulling the strings. If Tiffany wanted to play, Charmine was more than ready to do the same. "Alright, I'll come right away," she answered. The moment she hung up, she saw Chris pouting and eyeing her with glossy eyes. "Mommy is leaving... Mommy doesn't want Momo anymore." "Of course not! Please never think that."

Chapter 152

Afraid that Chris would fall ill again, Charmine ruffled his hair as she explained, "Mommy's going to sort out some family issues. After sorting them out, I'll come right home to you, alright?"

"Pinky promise! You have to keep your word!" Chris pointed out his pinky finger and eyed her warily.

Charmine locked her pinky with his and assured, "Mommy will be home soon."

"Yay! I'll walk you to the door!" Chris smiled and led her down the stairs.

In the living room, Anthony was reclining on the sofa with a document at hand. He exuded an air of poise as though he was posing for the cover of a magazine.

Charmine almost got lost in the view of him-a little too long before she snapped back to reality. "I'll have to go to the family mansion for a while," she spoke, "so take care of Momo."

"I'll send you there." Anthony instantly put down the document and picked up the car key.

Before Charmine could turn down, Chris piped up, "Me too!"

Charmine had no choice but to get in the car with the soft and cuddly Momo in her arms. Once she got in the car, a maid handed her breakfast. "This is what Mr. Bailey asked us to prepare for you. Please enjoy it."

"Thank you..." Charmine accepted the fresh milk and ham sandwich, and her ice-cold heart melted a little at the gesture. Nobody had prepared her breakfast for a very long time...

Anthony was quite a considerate man after all.

She handed a sandwich to Chris. "Let's have breakfast together."

"Yay!" Chris chirped as he accepted the sandwich in one hand and fresh milk with the other.

Both Charmine and Chris chatted away happily. It did not take long before the Jordan family's mansion came into view.

"Just pull over here," said Charmine, "I'll walk over."

Anthony knew she did not want them to know about him, so he did not fight back and did as she told him to; he pulled over.

Chris, who was very happy just a second ago, held onto Charmine tightly and prodded, “Mommy, you have to come back! Please don’t forget about me!”

“Don’t worry. Didn’t we pinky-promise? Once everything is done, I’ll come and find you.” Charmine ruffled his hair before getting out of the car.

As she walked past the front door of the car, Anthony rolled down the window and looked at her. “Call me if you need anything,” he spoke, tone deep and reassuring.

Somehow, Charmine’s cold heart would thrum so heavily whenever she looked at Anthony these days. She snapped back from the thought and said, “Don’t worry. While I might not be able to solve bigger things, I’m pretty good with the smaller problems” With that, she marched into the mansion confidently.

As Anthony watched her walking away, he frowned a little. Sometimes, he wished Charmine was an ordinary woman... At the living hall of the Jordans’ mansion, all the family members were present.

Joey caterwauled, “Dad, this really wasn’t Tiffany’s fault! Veronica had been sentenced to jail! How could you give away ten percent of Tiffany’s share to the adopted Charmine? She’s an outsider!”

“I disagree, too! Now that Charmine holds twenty-five percent of the share, she has more share than my wife and me. This is unfair!” Jeremy protested.

The rest of them fell into an uproar. They did not care if Tiffany did it or not; all they cared for was the shares landing on an outsider’s hands.

Drake merely rested with eyes closed, but after listening to their protests for a while, he opened his eyes. “Are you all done? Are you all trying to rebel against me now?” Even though he was getting older, his maturity gave him such authority that even his soft tone sounded powerful and demanding.

Chapter 153

Caught off-guard, Lily tried to double back. “Dad, why would we fight you? We just want the best for the family. Having most of our family share given to an outsider doesn’t seem right.”

“Exactly. Okay, let’s say Tiffany ends up being involved... It’s alright to confiscate her shares, but you could give it to me instead. Why give it to the outsider Charmine?” Felix grumbled.

Drake glared at him. "As I've said many times, Charmine grew up with our family. She doesn't have her parents; we're her family. She's not an outsider!

"Also, has she brought shame to the family since her return from Africa? On the other hand, look at what Tiffany had done! Anyone with a brain can see clearly what's happening!"

Tiffany's face turned pale; this old man obviously did not believe in her. She quickly put on her pitiful front and feebly walked toward him. "Grandpa, I know you're suspecting me, but I'm really innocent. There's no way I'd harm my sister. Veronica did everything, I swear it to God. I'd never-

"Cut it out. You might fool a three-year-old with your act, but stop trying to trick an old man like me. I'm not a fool, and I'm no idiot!" Drake thumped his walking stick heavily against the floor, unbothered to listen to her explanation.

Tiffany's face turned paler. She gathered so many people here today with the intention of getting back her ten percent share, but this old man was being so stubborn!

Charmine was an adopted child. Why was he so kind to her? In the past five years, Tiffany contributed quite a lot to the family. She brought glory to the family and bought gifts for the family members. Ten percent of the share was a lot of money... How could this end up with Charmine?

Whatever it took, she would do anything to get them back. Her eyes burned with determination and calculation, though she hid them with a pitiful look.

"Since Grandpa doesn't believe me, and everyone here doesn't either, then just assume I did it. Just assume I did all these things, and I'll give up my life to compensate for this! Dad, Mom, thank you for raising me. I'll pay you all back in my next life." With that, she smashed her head against the wall beside her.

Everyone screamed in shock, especially Joey. She instinctively rushed for Tiffany and pulled her back. "Tiffany, how could you be so dumb?! Stop it! I can't do without you!"

"Just let me smash into the wall and die, Mom! Now that everyone suspects me, my fans are scolding me, and even my family is treating me with such... "I'm heartbroken. So, so heartbroken. It's my fault for not teaching Veronica well, and this is the price I should pay for. ! I deserve this. !" cried Tiffany with convincingly real tears, her voice became hoarse from all the screaming. Joey felt as if her heart was broken into pieces, but just as she was about to speak...

"Let her ram against the wall all she wants. Let's see if she'd do it," came a cold and crisp voice that resonated in the hall.

Everyone turned to see Charmine marching toward them. Her smoke-grey gradient tube top contrasted with her fiery burgundy flower patterns on her dress, while the flying phoenix embroidered on her chest emanated class and regality.

Tiffany's eyes narrowed instinctively at the sight. 'Why is this b*tch here?' she inwardly cursed. Why was Charmine dressed so boldly while Tiffany was at her lowest? It does not help that Charmine might make her genuinely smash her skull against the wall! Joey was livid. "What are you saying, Charmine?! Tiffany is your sister! She treated you so kindly from a young age and has always protected you from harm, yet you treat her with such cruelty? Are you even a human?"

Chapter 154

"Huh?"

Care? Protect?

Tiffany had told her to laze around and not work hard since they were kids, so Charmine would turn out useless in the future. Tiffany had told her to dress uniquely, to stand up bravely from the rest and encouraged her to dress cheaply and inelegantly since they were kids. Tiffany gradually shaped her into a disturbing figure in the family since they were kids. Was this the care and protection Joey was talking about?

Unbothered to even entertain, Charmine level-headedly spoke, "Who's the inhuman one here? Who harmed so many people in order to harm me and acted innocent in front of everyone? Tiffany Jordan, why don't you become an actress instead of a model?"

"Your crying is so good. Why don't I film a video of you and post it on Twitter to get you more popular out there?"

Tiffany's face stiffened. Charmine was obviously pushing her! How could she be so evil?

Tiffany concealed her fury with a pathetic expression. "Charmine, what do I say to make you believe me? If Mom hadn't stopped me, I would've died from ramming against the wall, but Mom was right. What'll happen to her if I die? She had raised me for so many years; I don't want my mom to go through the pain of losing a daughter.

"I'll swear to God, alright? I swear to God: If I'm involved in this incident in any way, my parents will leave me and despise me, turning me into an abandoned orphan and die alone!" swore Tiffany, as sincere as she could, all while she sobbed painfully.

Everyone stared in shock; the vow was cruel. They pitied Tiffany for going through such pain, and even Drake's eyes softened a little. Had he misjudged Tiffany?

Charmine scoffed to herself watching her imposing act. A cruel vow it was, but was she not already an orphan unwanted by her actual parents?

Tiffany continued to hold her act as she lamented her terrible fate of being misunderstood and unloved by her loved ones.

'Since she's so into her act, why not make it happen for her?' Charmine mused to herself as her lips curled into a smirk. "I would've fallen for your act, but sadly, I have evidence here." With that, she tossed a stack of photos toward Tiffany.

The photos were taken backstage of the Mercedes Auto Show: A photo captured the exchange of looks between Tiffany and Veronica, another photo captured the evil look on Tiffany's eyes watching Veronica, and one was showing Tiffany transferring the money to Veronica!

The transaction amount was 19,500 bucks, and that was the exact price for the halophilic bacteria, the price admitted by Bob the dealer! The transaction date was also the date admitted by Veronica during the trial!

Everyone stared at these photos with looks of disbelief.

"Dear me! How can Tiffany be so evil?"

"The evidence makes sense. It's obvious Tiffany was part of this."

"What did Charmine do to her that made Tiffany hate her so much? She looked like she'd kill her!"

"Heavens! And she acted so convincingly earlier, even going as far as smashing her head against the wall and making a cruel vow..! I can't believe she can be so evil!"

"This is terrifying! I always thought she was kind and gentle, but look at her in this photo... She looks terrifying!"

Everyone was in turmoil about the photos, and even Joey-who was holding onto Tiffany slowly removed her hand. "Tiffany..." Joey quavered. "What are these?"

Chapter 155

Tiffany's face lost all color and life. She never thought that Charmine would get the backstage

closed-circuit television footage and printed the photos. She knew it would be over for her once the family lost faith in her.

Hastily, she rambled, "Mom, you have to trust me... Please trust me! I was just practicing the pose and looks for the show! As you know, they needed cool poses for the exhibition, so I was just practicing and getting in the mood!

"As for the transaction record, Veronica told me she needed the money, so I paid her without knowing what she was using the money for!"

Who would believe what she said? They sounded absurd!

Even if Veronica wanted to borrow some money, she would have asked for a whole number something like 20,000 bucks-instead of the exact 19,500 bucks, which just so happened to be the price for the halophilic bacteria! 1

Joey's train of thoughts was all over the place. This was the first time she doubted Tiffany; the first time she had doubts about her judgment. Could it be that the daughter she trusted the most had a personality she never knew of? Did she even know this woman standing in front of her?

Drake glared at the photos and barked, "Someone, come and lock Tiffany into the prayer hall. She'll be kneeling there to self-reflect for three days and nights. Nobody is allowed to send her food!"

'Locked in the prayer hall for three days and nights', kneeling consecutively'? 'No food and drinks'?

Tiffany's legs turned jelly instantly, and without Joey holding onto her, she collapsed onto the floor. She had never been punished before!

People would eventually find out if she got locked up in the prayer hall, and it would make her the laughingstock of the masses! How would she be looked at for the rest of her life? Terrified, she pulled on Joey's arm and begged, "Mom, you have to help me! Please help me!

"I'm telling the truth! This isn't who I am, and you know it! You raised me! You know I wouldn't do such a thing to my sister, right?"

"It was Charmine! She must be jealous of me getting all of your attention, so she captured these photos at special angles and used them to destroy me!"

Joey's frown never left her face. She took a closer look at the photos and felt a chill when she looked at Tiffany in the photos. How were these taken at a special angle? Even if it was the angle, the fact that Tiffany could make such an evil look was downright terrifying!

Joey had always thought Tiffany was the sweetest and kindest girl ever since she was a child, yet she had such an evil side of her look...

Appalled, Joey sighed helplessly. "Tiffany, perhaps it's best for you to have some alone time in there," she muttered. "I need some, too."

Tiffany's grip on Joey's arm instantly loosened, and she collapsed onto the ground once again in despair. It was over. Even Joey lost faith in her.

Some maids came forward, ready to carry her away as no one intervened for her. Even Drake who had always been fond of her-had a serious face on as though in deep thought.

Tiffany knew it was over. This time, nobody was on her side.

"I'll go if this is the case; I'll be fine kneeling for three days. Grandpa, Dad, Mom, please take care for the next three days. Don't be sad because of me, it's my fault for worrying you..."

Tiffany knelt on the floor and slammed her head heavily against the floor, and the impact caused a dent to appear on her forehead. She did not seem to mind the pain as she sobbed quietly while being carried away by the maids. The silhouette of her weak and shaking body was painful to watch.

It was the hardest for Joey, she wallowed in misery as tears rolled down her cheeks. Tiffany was her favorite daughter! She had never punished her before yet had become so cruel, though it was not too late to correct her. As a mother, she could not do anything. She had to fix this.

Drake let out a long sigh. "Alright, you're all dismissed. Nobody is allowed to talk about what happened today."

The crowd was gathered today to get back the ten percent share, but now it seemed unlikely to get it back. They went away in disappointment.

As Joey walked toward the door and passed Charmine, she could not help recalling what Charmine said to her yesterday: 'You're always defending Tiffany and supporting Tiffany, but have you ever asked or listened to a word that I said?'

Chapter 156

As Joey recalled Charmine's words from yesterday, she remembered how lonely and desolate Charmine's gaze was.

She stopped in her tracks and turned to Charmine. "Why don't you stay for lunch today?"

Stay for lunch today...

This was the first time Joey had spoken to her with such a gentle tone since her return from Africa. Thinking of her plan, she answered, "Sure."

Joey then turned and called out, "Aunt Judy, please prepare lunch."

"Yes." Aunt Judy left swiftly.

All the staff and helpers sprang into action once they heard Charmine was having lunch at home for the first time in five years, though people like Jeremy seemed unperturbed. Although Tiffany made a mistake, it did not imply Charmine was innocent. To them, Charmine was the outsider who stole away twenty-five percent of the family share. They disbanded to mind their own business and ignored Charmine altogether.

Charmine did not seem to mind either. She spent some time talking with Senior Jordan for a good while before he had to attend to other matters, so Charmine left for the prayer hall.

How could she miss the sight of Tiffany being punished?

As she walked along the hallway, a figure appeared in front of her.

It was Julian.

Like always, Julian was dressed in a black suit, just like any successful and handsome man. Charmine frowned. Why was he in the mansion?

A glint of shock appeared in Julian's eyes. He thought Charmine's reputation was over, but little did he expect that she was not the murderer and had nothing to do with this. All the netizens apologized and flattered her, and it further increased her fame and popularity.

This woman was completely different from the woman he knew five years ago. This woman was stunning and had been stealing his attention for quite some time.

Charmine did not even bother looking at him; she merely turned away and left.

Julian frowned and strode forward to block her way. "Charmine, why don't you want to see me now? You weren't like this five years ago!"

Charmine scoffed, "You weren't like this either, five years ago. Do you need me to remind you?" As she spoke, she kicked a pebble at her feet.

Bam!

The pebble flew in the sky and smashed against a plant vase, and it instantly broke into halves.

Julian's face darkened. "Charmine, I was doing what was best for you. The child belonged to the rapist anyway. Did you really want to give birth to him? Think about it: Now that nobody knew what happened, although you're not as chaste as Tiffany, having a child would ruin your reputation."

"Wow. Does that mean I'd have to thank you for that?" Charmine laughed.

Julian continued, "You don't have to thank me, but you could consider getting back with me again. Don't you fall for Anthony; someone like him is just playing with you."

"You sound as if you really like me, but aren't you more interested in my assets?" sneered Charmine. "Also, being played by a man like Anthony is alright. What do you have in you to compete with him?" With that, she flipped her hair and left. Livid, Julian grabbed her wrist. "You're testing my patience, Charmine!"

Chapter 157

As Julian spoke, there was an obvious threat underlying in his words.

Still, Charmine was unperturbed. "Testing patience? So are you. I've restrained myself from punching you for the last sixty seconds. Are you sure you want to keep talking to me?" With that, she swung his hand away and cracked her knuckles impatiently.

She then warned, "Instead of yapping nonsense here, why don't you go and visit your Tiffany? She's kneeling in the prayer hall now. Do you think a weak and useless body like hers can endure it?"

Julian's eyes narrowed. The reason he came here was that Tiffany texted him. Tiffany wrote him words that depicted heartache and pain, so Julian came to speak up for her. At first, he thought the family liked her very much and would never punish her, but he did not expect them to deliver such harshness...

"Of course I'll visit her later, but you have to reconsider being with Anthony. It won't end well." With that, he turned and left.

Charmine merely scoffed, but there was a twinkle in her eye as she watched his retreating form. Since she had already made Tiffany lose most of her patience, why not push it further and make her pay harder?

As Julian walked away, he sent a text to Tiffany out of concern.

[What happened? Why did they punish you to kneel at the prayer hall? Was it because of Veronica? You have to tell me everything so I can help you out.

Tiffany replied instantly.

[Yes. Charmine used some cleverly twisted photos to defame me. She successfully convinced everyone! Julian darling, you have to help me! You know me well, and you know that other than the incident five years ago, I've never hurt her before. All these times, I've been helping you while trying to rebuild my relationship with Charmine. I always looked forward to Charmine getting back with you, and we'd then discuss what to do after you got hold of the share and diamond mine. Why would I do such a thing to ruin our plan?

Julian recalled how Tiffany invited Charmine to the Guci shooting with her and how she was willing to become a prop for her, so it was no surprise when Julian believed Tiffany's every word.

He tried to comfort her as he replied, Don't overthink it. I'll speak to Grandpa, then I'll come find you.

Tiffany was kneeling on the floor in the prayer hall as she read Julian's text. Her lips curled slightly. Under Julian's influence, the old man would give in soon enough since Julian was no run-off-the-mill man. She would be able to get out of this stupid prayer hall in no time. She did not feel well kneeling here. Although there was a cushion below her knees, they still hurt! Whenever someone would pass, she could clearly hear them saying, "Shush, be quiet! Tiffany is kneeling inside."

'I can't believe she's so evil and cruel! This is so unbelievable!'

'You can't judge a book by its cover.'

She clenched her fists tightly. What a bunch of useless maids! Why did they have to mock her? Once she was out, she would make sure they get taught respect.

Unexpectedly, the door opened. As she thought it was Julian who finally came for her, she turned around excitedly... Only to be met with disappointment when it was Charmine instead.

Chapter 158

"Why are you here, Charmine? Do you think this is funny?"

"So what if I think this is funny? You've done crueler things to me. Why can't I laugh at this?" sneered Charmine as she looked down on the kneeling Tiffany.

Tiffany gritted her teeth. "Charmine, you're such an evil woman! You went to prison for three days to turn this into big news so you can ruin my reputation at the very last moment, am I right? You even deliberately induced me to sign the compensation letter, right? This was your plan all along!" roared Tiffany.

“Wow, you’re not too dumb after all! Still, you missed out on one thing. I don’t have the recording of you talking to Veronica; I made that up to scare you. Also, I’ve got these photos way before yesterday. Do you know why I didn’t show them yesterday? That’s because if I did, you wouldn’t be acting as good as you did in front of the family today. Would they find out your true colors then?” Charmine explained patiently with a bold and oppressing tone.

Tiffany’s face reddened in anger. “Charmine, you evil b*tch! I want to kill you! I want to kill you!” she yelled as she tried to strangle Charmine.

Charmine caught her wrists and matched Tiffany’s glare. “If I’m evil, then what are you? If I’m not careful, I’d have ended in jail now! You were the one who tried to defame me, and all I did was to return the favor! Have you not done enough harm to me five years ago? Now, you still want to ruin me. Do you think I’m here for you to walk all over?”

“Get off me!” snapped Tiffany. “Who are you to tell me off? You were the one who forced me to take the nude photo that went viral! You also calculated and tricked me into the Guci shooting! You always ruin my reputation! I hate you! I hate you so much that I wish I can eat your flesh and drink your blood! You evil b*tch... I won’t let this past!”

“You’re right, I’m evil,” sneered Charmine, “but I didn’t just do these. I did something worse. Look, who’s standing by the door?”

Tiffany turned to see Julian staring at her with a face of disbelief. Her face turned pale instantly, her lips shivered. “Ju... Julian darling.”

Julian could not believe what he just heard and saw. He could not imagine the gentle and kind Tiffany that he knew could be so evil and cruel. Moments ago, she convinced him that she was defamed, and he met up with Drake to have a long discussion. Drake did not agree, and Julian was still trying so hard to come up with ways to save her. Alas, the truth unraveled before his eyes when he came here.

He looked at Tiffany with doubt. “What do you mean by Charmine forcing you to take the nude photo? Didn’t you say you don’t care about winning or losing the Guci showdown? Yet you caused harm to so many supermodels and defamed Charmine because of that?”

Julian could not believe the truth. After his last meeting with Tiffany, he gave her some time to rest while he kept trying to get on with Charmine. If Charmine still did not let up, he would unravel more secrets about her...

All this while... Tiffany had her own plan behind his back?

Tiffany jumped up hastily and grabbed his arm. "Julian darling, I was just really pissed off just now. Charmine made me say that! As you heard, she was being so mean to me, and I made those things up to agitate her,"

"No, you answer me first. What's the deal about the nude photo? What do you mean by her forcing you to take it? Didn't you say she Photoshopped it?"

If Tiffany was forced by Charmine to take the nude, this implied that the nude photo was real and not photoshopped. In other words, she had been lying to him since then! Tiffany's face turned pale while her brain raced at such a speed to come up with excuses, yet ... What else was there to say?

Chapter 159

Charmine took Tiffany's silence as she coldly explained, "Mr. Cabell, there's no need to be so furious. It's no big deal. She merely tried to kill me in a staged car accident, but I got the evidence and used it against her to send me a scandalous photo. Looking at that sexy look of hers, you must be a lucky man, eh?"

"Shut up! Shut up! Stop talking!" Tiffany was screaming by then.

Charmine ran out of patience to wait for their fight; she had better things to do anyway. Her plan was to expose Tiffany's true color to Julian, and since she had accomplished that... "Take all the time you need, but don't fight." Charmine smirked as she turned and sashayed in her heels. Before she left, she added, "Oh, right. Mom asked me to stay for lunch today. She said she owed me an apology."

Tiffany clenched her fists tightly. That was her mother! Hers! Did Charmine have to steal everything from her? Still, she dared not say a word.

Tiffany had lost everyone's trust; she could not afford to lose Julian's heart!

Tiffany latched onto Julian's arm as she pleaded, "Julian darling, please hear me out. I did all this for you... I did these just to be with you! You know Charmine wanted me dead since the day she came back to Burlington. She was the one who swapped my Meteorite Jade Buddha, and she even told me she wants to steal everything from me, to get back at us for what we did to her five years ago.

"I was terrified, and that's why I wanted to end it for once and for all, but I didn't succeed. She even threatened me with the evidence to make me send her a nude! She forced me to! She did all these to me! How can I not hate her?"

"I've done all these to ruin her reputation, that Anthony will be disgusted by her so that you can be with her! This is my plan all along: to help you get her share and assets as soon as possible so that we can live happily ever after! You have to understand me!" her voice was hoarse and anxious as she begged.

Julian stared at her doubtfully, his gaze not as warm as it once was. "I understand what you're saying, but why didn't you tell me earlier? Why did you have to lie to me all along? I've never lied to you before!"

"I... Julian darling, I was terrified. Terrified that you'd hate me, will be disgusted by me... I just want to support you from the sidelines, to please you with the best side of me..." Tiffany begged him as she pulled and shook on his arm. "Julian darling, please don't hate me. Please don't hate me..."

Julian let out a sigh and gently patted her shoulder. "Tiffany, you need some rest. I'll visit you another day." With that, he loosened his arm from her grip and strode away.

Tiffany reeled in shock a few steps backward, a gasp escaping her lips.

'Did Julian fall out of love with me? Does he hate me now? How... Why!? Everyone should be hating Charmine! Why do they hate me? It's Charmine...it's all her fault! I'll make her pay for this! As she knelt in the prayer hall, her mind raced with evil plans...

Chapter 160

Julian could not shake off the memory of Tiffany's malicious look even after he left the prayer hall. Although Charmine was cruel, Julian knew that streak of hers from the beginning; she never hid it from him either. Tiffany, on the other hand, had always acted innocent and pitiful to cover up her true colors. Cruel and evil was she. 1

He could not believe Tiffany had attempted to kill Charmine in an accident and caused harm to the other supermodels. She even let her favorite Veronica take on all the blame...

His scalp was itching with disgust thinking of that. From today onward, his impression of the kind and sweet Tiffany was forever ruined.

It was then when the Jordan family's butler approached him. "Mr. Cabell," he greeted, "why don't you stay for lunch today?"

Julian looked over to see a few people sitting in the dining hall. Somehow, the first person that caught his eyes was Charmine, who was sitting beside Drake. Her dress was not too eye catching today, yet the bold and stunning aura she exuded was hard to miss. This was the first time he looked at her with less disgust, that he almost found her attractive...

He buttoned his suit and approached them.

The maid brought him the cutlery in an instant. Joey saw him and in a concerned voice asked, "You came, Julian? I assumed you've heard of what happened?"

Julian nodded as he sat down. The family members exchanged worried looks with one another. Julian was known as the 'National Husband' by almost everyone in Burlington, and he was the most popular and desired man in town...after the Bailey family's men.

He was incomparable to the Baileys. This family had been a wealthy family for over a hundred years now. Even if they retired from real estate or trades, their assets could still crash all wealthy families in Burlington. When everyone else was struggling for resources, the Bailey family never had to break a sweat. After all, many sought to work together with them.

Therefore, the Baileys were the wealthiest of the wealthiest; beyond the reach of a family like the Jordan family. Because of this, Julian was the best son-in-law the Jordan family could ever ask for. The marriage between the two would bring profits and benefits to both families.

Joey sighed and explained, "Julian, please don't take it by heart. I know Tiffany made a mistake this time, but who hasn't? This is only the first mistake she has ever made since young. I'm sure she'll learn from her mistake."

"Yeah. Tiffany is a good kid, and she's always been chaste and kind-hearted. Perhaps she just slipped up this time... I hope you don't mind." Lily sided with Joey. Now that her daughter, Amelia was confined in the mansion and that her husband was useless, she had to side with Joey. If Tiffany's marriage with Julian was canceled, their lives would be even tougher.

Julian wanted to forget about everything, but once this matter was brought up, he could not help recalling the evil look on Tiffany's face. That look was way too different from the Tiffany he thought he knew.

He took a sip of the soup and said, "Don't worry. I grew up with Tiffany, and I've always seen her as my little sister. Why would I look down at her?"

Everyone's face shifted a little. Even Drake frowned and asked, "Sister? Julian, are you joking with us?"

After what happened to Charmine, Julian had spent most of his time with Tiffany. He even proposed to her more than once, yet he called her his 'little sister'?

Charmine reclined onto her seat languidly. 'This douche is about to spice things up again. Where's my popcorn?'

Chapter 161

As expected, Julian glanced at Charmine before saying to everyone, "I'm sure everyone is aware that the woman I was engaged to was Charmine, and I've

liked her since ten years ago. If it wasn't because of the incident, we would've gotten married already.

"I've suffered a lot after the incident, and Tiffany was there to accompany me and comfort me, which I misunderstood as love. Recently, after seeing Charmine again, I realized I've loved her all this while..." With that, his gentle gaze landed on Charmine. "Please don't get confused. I didn't say all these because of what happened today. Actually, I've even confessed to Tiffany about my real feelings for Charmine some time ago..."

What Julian was saying was that Tiffany could prove he had always loved Charmine.

'Ha— ha!' Charmine almost laughed out loud. This douchebag did not even flinch as he spewed lies. What a disgusting jerk!

Before she could speak, Drake said, "But you proposed to Tiffany before! You keep switching between the two sisters. This is disrespectful!" "Grandpa Jordan, you watched me growing up. You know me well enough to know that I didn't mean that, right?" Julian continued explaining with a solemn expression, "I don't mean

to play with their feelings... It's just that Charmine and I were once engaged, and we even exchanged the engagement token! We've loved each other for fifteen years, from when Charmine was three till she was eighteen, while Charmine and I had only been together for five years. How can these two compare to each other?" He spoke with such a convincing passion and pain that was hard to dismiss.

Even Drake—who was furious at his suggestion—softened after hearing his speech. "With what you just said, does that mean you don't mind about what happened to Charmine five years ago?" he gently asked.

Like a noble gentleman, Julian answered, "Not at all. Auntie Joey has said it herself: who hasn't made a mistake before? Charmine was young back then. It was normal to make a mistake, and I was immature back then, too."

Drake let out a sigh and looked at Charmine. "Charmine, what do you say?"

Charmine had loved Julian for fifteen years. He had to consider her feelings, too.

Joey had mixed feelings. Both of them were her daughters, and although she preferred Tiffany out of the two, she knew better than anyone that if Julian did not love her truly, there was no point to force them to be together. "If Charmine could get over with what had happened, then it would be a good thing," came Joey's reply. "After all, if the

incident five years ago was exposed, others would look down on her anyway.” She then turned and looked at Charmine. “Charmine, what do you think? You were engaged with Julian before. If you’re willing to, the two of you could pick a date and prepare for the wedding right away.”

“Thank you for being so considerate, but...” Charmine’s eyebrows twitched slightly, and she looked at Julian blankly. “Sorry, but a good horse will never turn round to graze on an old pasture. I’d never turn and pick up something I dropped on the floor.”

Julian’s face stiffened. She was not making it easy for him in front of so many people! He did not degrade her in any way possible; how could she have had the heart to do that to him? Now that she was Anthony’s mistress, did she think she could do anything as she pleased?

Everyone else’s faces stiffened.

They did not expect Charmine to be so rude and blunt. Was she not hopelessly in love with Julian a few years ago?

Recalling that her daughter was still in confinement because of Charmine, Lily mocked, “That’s right. Our Charmine is now the Diamond Boss with so much assets. Why would she settle with anyone? She even has some attitude now!”

“Attitude? Tiffany did me so much wrong, and I could’ve handed the evidence to the police and media. Why did I have to spare her?” came Charmine’s fiery counter. She then clarified, “The reason I rejected Julian was all because of Tiffany. I have to consider her feelings too. After all, she’s still my sister. If I’m to be with Julian, what would she think?”

Chapter 162

“Tiffany had been by your side for a whole five years. She spent her precious youth on you! And just because of her poor choice of action, you want to get back with me. How would she feel?” Charmine spoke passionately, as though she meant every word.

‘Hah! I can be just as fake as Tiffany,’ Charmine mused to herself. With Tiffany’s reputation ruined, she was ready to take away everything from her.

As expected, the looks on Drake, Jeremy and Joey changed in an instant. They had always thought Charmine to be unreasonable and cold-hearted; they never imagined her to have a kind side.

Julian was agitated by what she said. How could she suggest such things about him? He could not stand it!

"I've spoken to Tiffany about this before, and she said it herself that she'd want us to be happy. After all, we were in a relationship before, so she's very understanding. I know you still keep our engagement ring, and you haven't even given it back even after your return. You must've missed our past too, right?"

"Oh, the engagement ring? I would've forgotten about that had you not mentioned it. I tossed it into a rubbish bin somewhere in Africa, but if you really need it to get engaged again, I'll send some people to go search for it," came Charmine's nonchalant reply. "I'll make sure you and Tiffany can be together."

Charmine's tone then changed, more into that of a warning as she spoke, "Also, even if Tiffany tells you she can understand you, it doesn't mean she's not internally suffering. She had always been so kind and understanding, withstanding the pain all by herself. The fact that she's willing to let you go makes me even sure of the decision that I never want to be with you!"

Julian was speechless. How could she turn the tables with such ease?

Joey was touched by Charmine's words; she never thought Charmine could be so understanding. Even Jeremy sided with Charmine for once as he turned to Julian and said, "Yeah, Tiffany hasn't been at her best lately. How would she feel about you leaving her for Charmine?"

"Julian, since you've already been with Tiffany for five years and that Charmine doesn't like you, you better make up your mind and treat Tiffany nicer. If you ever hurt her, I won't forgive you."

Due to the shift of situation, Julian had no choice but to answer, "Of course."

He still had time to work on his plan anyway.

Charmine had other things to attend to after lunch, so she bade the family farewell and left the mansion.

Julian was hot on her trails as he ran up to her and grabbed her arm. "Charmine, there's no one here. You can drop the act. Have you thought of what I've said to you earlier? Do you really think Anthony is in love with you?"

"Huh? Is there a dog barking? Why do I hear a dog yapping so much? It's so annoying!" Charmine sneered as though she was talking to a particular. She pulled her arm away from his grip and walked away.

Julian's face darkened as he glared at her retreating form with tightly clenched fists.

'Charmine, don't make me release the things...!' he stormed quietly.

Charmine

walked out of the gate and walked toward the main road. She was about to phone a taxi driver when she noticed a black private car parked by the side. Isn't this Anthony's car? Why is he still here?' Charmine thought to herself as she walked over with a frown.

Chapter 163

As Charmine got closer to the car, she saw Chris napping on the backseat while Anthony sat on the driver's seat with his eyes shut. The sunlight filtered by the tree leaves danced on his features, and it made him look more handsome and regal in his white shirt.

A strange feeling surged within her. Were they here all this while? Did they wait for her that long? She had been in the mansion for four hours, at least. "Anthony..." Charmine called out gently.

Anthony slowly opened his eyes. Noticing it was Charmine, he shifted in his seat and asked, "Ready to go?"

Charmine nodded in reply, though the gaze in her eyes held her suspicion. "Have you been waiting here? Have you not eaten?"

"Momo insisted that we wait for you. Since I have a free day today, I decided to go along," came Anthony's casual reply. He got down from the car, intending to open the door for her.

The moment his feet touched the ground, however, his leg turned numb and he staggered toward Charmine. Instinctively, she reached over to catch him, but Anthony's heavy figure fell still and pressed against hers. Just like that, her head was pressed against his chest while his body faced hers. Her hands were holding onto his waist.

An awkward silence hung in the air, and it was only after two seconds passed before Charmine snapped back to reality and balanced him. "What happened?"

"Pins and needles." Anthony forced himself to stand upright, his gaze cold and stern as he tried to remain his cool. Of course his legs would go numb after sitting for so long.

"Go and sit at the back with Momo. I'll drive," Charmine offered as she opened the backseat door for Anthony.

Anthony looked at her startled, before he turned toward the opened door.

What was this for?

Since he did not move, Charmine repeated herself, "Go on. I won't let someone with numb legs drive. This is for my safety and Momo's."

Anthony had no choice but to sit in the backseat as he let Chris sleep in his lap. This was his first time being driven by a woman, and luckily, her driving skill was good. Charmine was thoughtful of the sleeping Chris at the backseat, so she drove slowly and steadily. Anthony felt a serene peace sitting at the backseat as he looked at Charmine's figure, a small smile on his face as he did.

Instead of driving straight for the Bailey family's mansion, she drove to a restaurant. Charmine got out of the car and opened the door for them both. "Let's go get some food."

Anthony never thought she could be so considerate. He got out of the car with Chris in his arms, and the boy eventually opened his bleary eyes. Upon seeing Charmine in front of him, however, his grogginess disappeared in his happiness. "Mommy! Mommy!" he chirped as he reached out his jiggly arms toward her.

Charmine took him from Anthony's and pinched the boy's face gently. "Momo's awake now? Why did you wait for Mommy? Promise me you'd wait for me at home next time, alright?"

"Huh? I said I wanted to go home and wait, but Daddy was worried that Mommy would have no one to send you home, so "Ahem!" Anthony coughed dryly and tried to change the subject. "Momo, are you hungry?"

"Huh?" Chris then realized what was going, and his eyes twinkled in delight. "Oh, yeah. I was the one begging Daddy to wait for you! I was worried Mommy would forget about me afterward." He grinned at Anthony. "Yes, yes, I'm so hungry. Let's go eat, Mommy!"

"Hmph." Charmine smiled faintly, deciding she would keep it a secret that she knew their lie. They walked into the

restaurant with Chris in Charmine's arms.

Chapter 164

Chris sighed in relief. 'Phew! Daddy made me promise to maintain his image in front of Mommy. If Mommy finds out Daddy was waiting for her outside like a fool, it won't look good...

This was a famous restaurant in Burlington known for its top notch privacy management with many private rooms. Their service was just as excellent, seeing as they had served all kinds of famous people, so they were not frantic when they saw Anthony and Charmine. The doorman greeted them calmly.

“Welcome.”

The manager recognized Anthony right away and quickly went toward them. “Mr. Bailey, this way please.”

Anthony had his own private room in this restaurant. Even if he made no reservation, the space would remain empty.

As the three of them settled in the private room, Anthony turned and looked at Charmine. “What would you like? Your order,” Anthony asked, voice sweetly laced lovingly and gently. The manager was startled to hear such a tone from Anthony

Anthony had never brought a woman here before. The manager could hardly believe his eyes that Anthony was with

Charmine at this moment.

Charmine placed Momo on the chair and said, “Nah, I’ve eaten. Just order for yourself and Momo. Momo, what would you like?” she asked as she handed the menu to Chris.

“Hmm...” Chris trailed off before he piped up, “I want the pork chop, chicken wings, and the family set!”

“Of course.” The manager typed in the order onto his device.

Anthony ordered another dish and flipped to the dessert section. “Could we have the cake as well?”

“Of course.” The manager answered before leaving the private room with their order.

Charmine eyed him suspiciously. “You like to eat cake?”

Was this not what girls would prefer to eat?

Anthony looked at her and commented, “I ordered it for you. You might be bored when we’re eating later.”

Once again, Charmine’s heart began beating wildly against her ribcage. Why did he have to be so caring?

"I'm going to the restroom. Look after Momo."

Anthony nodded. "Be careful," he reminded.

Charmine stood up and left the room, her mind stirred in confusion as she did. It had only been two days, but she somehow felt their relationship had reached a more intimate level. If this went on, she feared she would fall for him.

In the restroom, she gently slapped her face as she eyed herself in the mirror. 'Charmine Jordan, you can't fall in love with Anthony! You're leaving in half a year, and you can't be with Anthony...!

It was at that moment that the door to the restroom opened, and a woman walked in.

It was Claire Eastly

When Claire saw that it was Charmine, her eyes sparkled. "Charmine?" she called out.

After what happened the other day, she left the scene right away. She could not afford to let anyone know she was the one who sent the video to Veronica. She knew Charmine was way ahead, unbeatable. Claire could not afford to be her enemy.

In the past few days, Claire had tried all kinds of ways to get in touch with Charmine with no luck. The last thing she expected was to meet her in the restroom!

Charmine glanced at her and clearly did not want to speak to her. She walked toward the door instead.

Claire ran up to her and said, "Charmine, HollyOak Entertainment is serious about signing you. What's holding you back? We have the best resources with handsome funding. Have you heard of the Milan family from America? The family is an oil tycoon, and their resources are way better than your

1

diamond mine. HollyOak has many resources. All you have to do is to sign with us, and we can promise to bring the best out of

you."

Charmine stopped in her tracks. The Milan family? Kelly Milan's family? She never knew the Milan family invested in HollyOak Entertainment.

"Does Kelly Milan know about you trying to sign me? Did she even agree to this?".

“Of course. When she heard about it, she even specifically made me promise her that I’ll sign you under any condition.” Claire reassured. Charmine’s eyes narrowed. What was her intention?

Chapter 165

Under the impression that Charmine was convinced, Claire then added, “You might be wealthy, Charmine, but you know that it’s all about connections and resources in this modeling industry. It involves proper planning such as organizing resources, fan management, marketing, photoshop, copyright, and so on.

“A top supermodel needs at least a team of twenty supporting her. How could you manage it all by yourself? Don’t you think it’ll be tiring? Once you sign with HollyOak Entertainment, we’ll sort them all out for you.”

Of course, Charmine knew these things; she was merely wondering about Kelly Milan’s intentions. If memory served right, Kelly Milan was trying to sign her to freeze her fame. Why else would someone as bitter as Kelly want to be nice to her?

“I’m sorry, but someone’s managing them for me,” she deadpanned before marching out of the restroom.

Claire wanted to run after her, but Charmine was taking the VIP aisle which was only allowed for people of high status. Claire yelled at Charmine’s retreating form, “Charmine Jordan, a wise person knows when to accept a good offer! I’ve approached you so many times because I see potential in you. Don’t be so shameless!”

Charmine scoffed. Disinterested in even entertaining a delusional woman, she continued to walk toward her table when she crossed paths with a rotund man.

The man looked at her as if he struck gold. “Charmine Jordan! You’re here? I’ve been trying to reach out to you. Nice to meet you.” He handed his name card to her, and Charmine merely eyed the item carefully. Stated on the card was his status: Chief Executive Officer of Fortune Entertainment, Hubert Zane.

Was this another entertainment company?

Instead of accepting the card, Charmine merely asked, “What?”

“Here’s the thing. Didn’t you enter the entertainment industry recently? We’d like to sign you. I think we met for a reason! You’re a diamond boss, right? I made my fortune with a mine too, but it was a coal mine.”

Hubert then continued, rather proudly as he said, “My net worth is around fifty billion at the moment. I invested and established Fortune Entertainment, a leading entertainment company in the country. Do you know the famous singer from last year, Xander... something? And the famous singer, Nevil something...? They’re all signed by my company!”

The name of the company seemed to ring a bell. She remembered Eric mentioning it to him, something along the lines of HollyOak Entertainment ranking the first and Fortune Entertainment ranking the second. HollyOak was good at packaging the image of the celebrity, while Fortune was good at throwing money to make the celebrity famous.” Of course, by giving out money, they expected the celebrities to bring back handsome profits. They would arrange many private activities for their celebrities, and rumor had it that some female actresses earned eight figures in a night. Lesser known rumors included Hubert’s main goal in establishing this company was to pick up girls...

Hubert took Charmine’s silence as a non-verbal consideration. He patted her shoulder with smiling eyes. “Charmine, if you sign with us, I’ll give you all of the best resources in the company. You’ll be able to pick any resource that you fancy, and we can also negotiate the dividends. Just give me a number!”

Charmine spared a disinterested glance at the hand on her shoulder. Unfazed, she said calmly, “Mr. Zane is very convincing, but what can I do? I bumped into Claire Eastly earlier, the manager of public relations at HollyOak Entertainment. She wanted to sign me and said what you’ve said too. I’m now in a difficult situation.”

“What? Claire Eastly is here? Where’s she?” Hubert scowled instantly. Fortune and HollyOak were enemies who competed fiercely for resources and prizes. HollyOak signed someone Fortune wanted to have under them, and now it was Charmine?

Charmine pointed toward the restroom. “There. She even said her company is the best in the industry, that Fortune was nowhere close to them, things like that.”

“Damn it! Wait for me here, I need to sort this out.” Hubert strode toward the direction she pointed at. Claire was still standing at the same spot sending a message to Kelly Milan. Suddenly, she heard someone yelling, “Claire Eastly, what’s wrong with you?!”

Chapter 166

Claire turned to look at the person yelling her name and saw Hubert walking up to her. She then sneered, "Mr. Zane, as a chief executive officer, you certainly don't have a spark of decency in you. Are you one those nouveau riches?"

"What's wrong with that? Don't think you can, can you? Ha! A nobody like you dares to challenge me. You obviously have your head too far up your *ss. Let me tell you now: I'll be signing Charmine Jordan. You try anything funny and you're dead meat, you hear me?" sneered Hubert in an attempt to steer Claire away from his plan.

She frowned. "Charmine? She's not signing with my company."

"Stop your shenanigans! You've been trying to compete with us since day one... I think you need to be taught a lesson. Do you want me to expose the fact that your artists are nothing but a bunch of phonies?" Hubert threatened.

Unexpectedly, Claire began to laugh at this. "Go ahead! Let's do this little dance. You expose my phony talents, and I'll expose your pimped-out artists. Hmph! Earning filthy money through filthy deeds."

"You... You b*tch! How dare you? I'll slap you!" Hubert held his hand up high in an attempt to scare Claire once more.

All of a sudden, something hit the back of his knee, and Hubert involuntarily lunged forward in pain.

Smack!

His palm harshly struck Claire's cheek in the process.

Claire had never been hit since the day she got famous. Even her bosses had to let her have her way most of the time. She definitely did not expect Hubert would go so far as to hit her.

Needless to say, Claire saw red in an instant. "You arrogant upstart! How dare you hit me? I'm not letting this go so easily!"

Without hesitating even for a second, she raised her hand up high and swung it with all the force she could muster. A stinging pain spread through her palm as Hubert's head snapped to the side.

Every part of Hubert's body jiggled from that impact, and a bright red mark-in the shape of a palm-quickly formed on his face with faint scratch marks from Claire's nails.

Antagonized, Hubert lunged toward Claire. All hell broke loose.

A punch from Hubert was met with Claire's scratching. A kick from Hubert earned him hits with Claire's heels. It was pandemonium!

On the side of the aisle, Charmine was all too pleased with how the events unfolded. A satisfactory grin spread across her face as she turned around and walked away. '

These two had to pay for scheming against her.

The two-Hubert and Claire-fought like cats and dogs, and it was only after hotel staff intervened did they stop.

Even the police had to help and separate them.

"Say what? Charmine didn't want to sign your company?" Hubert asked in astonishment.

"Yes! I told you, haven't I? I went to her several times, and she shut me down every single time. If she wanted to sign with us, she could've done it a long time ago. You wouldn't stand a chance," Claire snapped back.

Confused, Hubert mumbled, "Why would she tell me—".

At that moment, their eyes widened in realization; they had been fooled.

"That b*tch set us up!" growled Hubert. "She pitted us against one another! Damn it... I'll kill that wicked witch!" He stood up and slammed his fists on the table.

"No! Killing her would be too easy," came Claire's quick reply. "Let's work together and ostracise her from the industry!" Hubert took in the idea, and his eyes twinkled. He liked it.

Both Hollyoak and Fortune Entertainment were giants of the industry. They practically controlled the industry. '

If they worked together, they could surely crush a newcomer like Charmine.

Charmine would definitely suffer the consequences for messing with them!

Chapter 167

Due to the commotion and aftermath of Hubert and Claire's showdown, Anthony's VIP room was flooded with clamor the moment Charmine opened the door to enter.

Chris—who feasted on fried chicken wings—was blatantly startled at the noise. “Mommy, what’s happening outside? Why so noisy?”

“Nothing, just two dogs fighting.” She closed the door and shut out the hubbub.

Charmine then sat down beside Chris and gently wiped his mouth with a napkin. “You should eat more,” she spoke, “ your body needs more energy.”

“Okay! Mommy should have some too. This cake is yummy!”

Chris forked a piece from the cake and tried to feed her. Charmine obediently opened her mouth, and his chubby hand carefully fed it to her.

The boy’s act warmed her heart. She never knew happiness could be so simple.

Anthony dined gracefully as he watched the two interact with one another, and a smile slowly made its way to his face.

It was a lovely dinner.

Anthony finished his meal about twenty minutes later. On the other hand, Chris was still chomping on fried chickens while Charmine would interact with Chris occasionally. Anthony took out his phone to check for any important work matters.

It was then when he saw Luke’s text message.

(Boss! Bad news! HollyOak and Fortune are working together t o boycott Charmine! Nobody can sign her or even work with her, or they’ll get boycotted too!]

HollyOak and Fortune Entertainment owned the best artists in the industry. Any other entertainment companies that wanted to go against them meant they would only work with small time artists from there onward. They could not afford such a loss.

In less than an hour, word of Charmine’s ban spread like wildfire, and everyone chose to take the winning side. Even paparazzi deleted every online post related to Charmine.

After last night’s incident, Charmine should have been the biggest, hottest artist in town. Her news was all over the internet; she was even trending first on all social media! It was only after Hollyoak and Fortune Entertainment announced her ban did she disappear from the internet.

As though that was not enough, her name was taken down from hot searches and trending issues. It was like she got wiped out of existence.

Anthony's eyes narrowed. 'Hmph. Trying to take down my woman, are they?'

Anthony kept this news from Charmine and sent a text to Luke.

(Get her photos on every single LED screen in the country!)

Luke frowned when he received that text.

(But most of the LED slots are sold out...]

[Delay all of them. Pay all liquidated damages!] Anthony replied.

[Yes boss.) Luke immediately made the arrangements as told.

Mr. Bailey was going to give everything he had for the woman he loved. As his assistant, Luke decided he would fight for them as well.

Still, Anthony was on edge even after all that. Bailey Corporation had financial investments in almost every industry except for the entertainment field. To them, any business venture that yielded the most profits would instantly receive their investment. While Bailey Corporation would not have to worry about a single thing, Charmine had no support from any agency due to not signing with any. That meant she was left with RisingHawk Entertainment on her own.

Her company—RisingHawk Entertainment—had just signed three artists, and other departments in the company were still in its infancy stages.

He drew his gaze to Charmine and asked, "How's RisingHawk recently? Do you need any help?"

"Everything is going pretty well. We did sign three artists in such a short time. Other departments are still under development at the moment," Charmine replied nonchalantly. "Don't sweat yourself over it."

Chapter 168

Anthony's brows furrowed. "I can help your company grow faster."

"Ah?" It was only then that Charmine felt something was amiss. "Is there a problem?"

Why was he, oh—
so suddenly, talking about helping her company grow faster? He never brought this up before.

Anthony's expression hardened, but just as he was about to speak, Charmine's phone rang.

She picked up her phone. "Charmine," came Eric's stern voice from the other side, "what the hell have you done? Why is the whole internet banning you?"

Big brands had fought each other to work with Charmine after last night, but they all put the brakes on their invites.

Charmine frowned. "Ban? Today? I didn't do anything..." Charmine trailed off as she remembered the incident with Hubert and Claire. "In less than an hour? Man, the y're efficient," she mumbled, somewhat surprised.

"Okay, so you did do something. How did you manage to get the whole internet to boycott you in one day?" Eric asked in confusion.

Anthony had his piercing eyes fixated on Charmine with brows

furrowed. He wanted to know, too.

Charmine toyed with her hair and let out a dry laugh. "It was nothing," she reasoned, "though I kinda stirred up something between Hubert and Claire and made them fight..."

Eric was dumbfounded; those two people were famous for being difficult. Eric remembered warning Charmine about these two, but she defied his reminder and made them fight?

Goodness.

"You gotta lay low for a few days. I'll figure something out." Eric then hung up right after.

Charmine put away her phone and noticed Chris staring at her with an amused expression. She gently stroked his head. "My sweet Momo, eat well and grow well. If anyone dares to bully you in the future, you can let them be for the first two times, but never the third. You gotta fight back like Mommy."

"Okay!" Chris nodded his head vigorously. He fantasized of growing up right then and there and show up to the bad guys like his Mommy.

Charmine then turned her gaze to Anthony. “You were saying? You wanted to help me so that RisingHawk can grow faster?”

Anthony did not want to beat around the bush, so he nodded. “This is the best solution for now.”

“But Eric and Rio are still interviewing people. They want to assemble their own team with the best people: People whom we get along with, have good team spirit and are loyal. Only with the best team can we be unstoppable, and that takes time,” Charmine answered.

It was like building a house; one needed to get the foundation down before the house could be built. They could not afford to have any bad seeds in the company, as it would destroy them in the blink of an eye.

Anthony always thought that she was all about grandiosity. He was impressed that in critical moments like this, she showed a more mature side of herself. “I agree with you. A good company requires a strong team.

They can take their time in choosing their team, but leave the rest to me,” he assured.

With just a notice issued by the Baileys, no one would dare boycott Charmine.

Even without a notice, the masses would automatically change sides by just hanging her pictures on their buildings.

“No rush,” came Charmine’s reply. “There’s no need to kill a fly with an elephant gun. I’ve got this. You don’t have to intervene.”

“Enlighten me.” Anthony had his cold gaze fixed on her as though he was going to read her mind.

“Yeah, Mommy! Tell us, tell us! Daddy will worry over you non – stop if you don’t,” came Chris’ enthusiastic support. He decided to speak up for Anthony as he added, “When you were locked up, Daddy couldn’t sleep through the nights at all!”

For some inexplicable reason, the air in the room shifted for both Anthony and Charmine.

Chapter 169

Charmine remembered she had assured Anthony that the situation was under control, yet he was still worried about her to the point he could not sleep!

She instantly broke off their eye contact and changed the subject. "Everybody is following these two entertainment giants because they're using their Artists as bargaining chips," Charmine explained. "What if we recruit their artists instead? Make them lose their leverage."

"Recruit them?" Anthony raised his eyebrows.

"Yes. I know RisingHawk isn't mature yet, but we're not short of money either. If you can fix a problem with money, it isn't a problem at all."

It was only then when Charmine turned to look at him again. "Guess how many people would flock to us if I announced whoever signs with us will get a hundred percent of their endorsement fee."

"A whole hundred percent?" Anthony placed his hand on her forehead and said, "Charmine, you'd earn nothing."

"I've earned enough over the past five years. I just want to have some fun now," she spoke as a matter of fact, without even the intention to brag.

After a moment of contemplation, Anthony eventually relented. "Fine," he murmured. "If you lose everything, I can support you."

Charmine's face flushed at his reply, and her heart thrummed heavily against her ribcage. She internally blamed her situation before she spoke, "Ah, Momo finished his meal. Let's go home. We'll talk about other stuff later."

"Okay!" Chris went to wash his hand before he reached for Charmine's hand.

Once they exited the restaurant, Chris turned to look up at Charmine. "Will you come home with us, Mommy?" he pleaded. "I want to sleep with you."

Charmine intended to turn him down, that she had to go back to her own home, but Anthony then chimed in, "Every time he has an episode, he might relapse within ten days."

They had to keep Chris happy to avoid worsening his condition.

Charmine had no other choice but to stay with them. "Okay, Mommy will sleep with you."

Charmine knew she would no longer have the time to be with him once her career took off.

Besides, staying in the Baileys' residence and sleeping with Chris every night should be fine. Nothing else would happen, would it?

She mentally prepared herself for the possibility of staying there longer than necessary.

Kelly Milan sat quietly in HollyOak Entertainment's chairman's office.

Pleased that Charmine was practically freeze-out from the internet, the corners of her mouth quirked up in satisfaction. She glanced over to Claire and said, "Keep a close eye on Charmine, and make sure she doesn't stand a fighting chance. Let her suffer being a nobody for a while before giving her another offer."

"What? Like, signing her? Miss Milan, she crossed the line. I refuse to take her as my client!" Claire protested.

Kelly smirked. "Who said we need to get her jobs or make her popular again? We'll sign her in and keep her under the radar. I guarantee you: everyone will forget her in less than six months."

Kelly had a point. Why had she not thought of that? 'Hmph! Charmine will pay for stealing Anthony and my best artists from me!' Claire straightened her body, and her eyes gleamed with excitement.

Charmine would beg them to sign her by then.

Blinded by the need for a contract, Charmine would never cause another trouble with her hands tied.

Even if she was filthy rich, she would never be in front of the cameras again without any resources or opportunities.

Just as they were feeling complacent with their plan, an assistant rushed into the office. Frantic, the assistant blurted, "Miss Milan, bad news! Most of our artists are on their way to the office to terminate their contracts." "What? Why?!" Kelly's blood ran cold.