

## Chapter 231

Leila could only show her white feathers and respond weakly, "Mother, I... I'll go back tonight."

"Go back tonight? Is this a joke?" Madam Vanderbilt saw that Leila was afraid of being rejected by Stephen and glared at Stephen, who had remained silent all this while. "Since you've called your wife back, then live your best life with her. What will the public say if they get to know that your wife comes here during the day and then goes back to her own house at night daily?"

"Mother, don't blame Steph. It's my problem." Leila took all the blame onto herself-the image of a virtuous and sensible wife overflowed.

Stephen put down the teacup. Although he had asked Leila and her daughter to come back to the Vanderbilt manor, Leila's fake pregnancy was quite a nightmare to him.

However, seeing that Leila's attitude had indeed done a one-eighty recently, Stephen said slowly, "Since you've already come back, you can stay here from now on."

After all, the divorce had not been finalized yet, and it would inevitably invite others to gossip if this was the case.

Leila gave off a gentle smile. "Okay, then I'll stay here from now onward."

Stephen suddenly received a call. "Mr. Zidane?"

Madam Vanderbilt remembered that her son was determined to transfer his shares in Vaenna over to Maisie last night as soon as she heard the appellation, so her expression dimmed in an instant.

Stephen said something to Mr. Zidane, got up, and went upstairs.

Madam Vanderbilt gnashed her teeth upon seeing this and said bitterly, "Stephen, this b\*stard, he really plans to give up his equity of Vaenna to Maisie?"

Leila thought of something.

'My only purpose in returning to the Vanderbilt manor this time around is to regain everything for Willow. As for Stephen, he didn't even hesitate before turning his back on me despite the decades' worth of companionship. Thus, he's not in the position to blame me for being merciless. 1

'I deliberately mentioned Vaenna in the hospital so that I could instigate Mother into causing Maisie some troubles. As long as Maisie can't stay idle, she naturally can't deal with my affairs in the Vanderbilts.

'And last night, Mother colluded with Yanis to talk Stephen into transferring his equity to that useless brat Hector. That has already backed Stephen into a corner.

'However, I did also realize that Yorick had a thing for me when I was pouring him tea yesterday. And he really took the bait when I gave him a few signs on the dining table.

'Since Mother and Yanis both want to fight for Vaenna's shares with Maisie, they can have the arena. I'll use Yorick to overtake all of them from the shadows while they're competing with each other in a death match! Anyway, my daughter and I could be the only ones left in the Vanderbilts at the end of time.'

Maisie, who was sitting in her office, saw the text message Mr. Zidane had sent and realized that her father had just handed the contract to him for safekeeping. He had also chosen to convene a meeting among the Board of Directors to announce the heir to his equity the day after tomorrow.

And if her father could do so, it was obvious that he had the same suspicion just like her. Maybe he was trying to use the Board of Directors to shut up Madam Vanderbilt and the others.

If that were the case, she should lend her father another helping hand as a daughter.

Yanis received a photo.

The person in the photo was Stephen, and he was entering a law firm when the photo was captured.

Yanis looked at it and called Madam Vanderbilt immediately.

Madam Vanderbilt knew that Stephen had gone out since long ago. It seemed that he had gone to see the lawyer in order to get the equity transfer contract drafted.

“Mother, if Stephen really gives Vaenna to that sl\*t, then what else can the Vanderbilts rely on in the future?” She then added,

Mother, you have to think about Hector. The Vanderbilts’ business in Coralia is already a gone case. Hector is now old enough. He can only rely on his uncle’s company this time around. The Vanderbilts will be left with a greater capital only if Hector takes over Vaenna.”

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Madam Vanderbilt listened to Yanis’ words. She had always loved her only grandson the most, but her son would only hand Vaenna to Maisie now, so how could she not be anxious?

She snorted. “Since we can’t change his mind, we’ll snatch it from under the table!”

Madam Vanderbilt went to the law firm and requested the transfer contract as Stephen’s mother the next day. Mr. Zidane gave her the contract draft without any hesitation. 1

Mr. Zidane then called Maisie after Madam Vanderbilt left.

“Ms. Vanderbilt, a woman who claimed that she’s Mr. Vanderbilt’s mother came over and asked for the contract. I’ve given it to her,” Mr. Zidane reported.

Maisie had already told him the other day that he should just hand over the final draft of the contract if someone were to ask him for the contract

After all, any ineffective contract would only turn out to be a stack of trash even if it were to fall into the wrong hands. The real contract could only be retrieved by authorized personnel.

Maisie smirked and thanked him. “Thank you for your hard work. Do bring your best acting skills along on the day after tomorrow. I’m relying on you to give everyone the best live show of their lives.”

After ending the call, Maisie’s eyes could not help but turn gloomy.

I’ll make sure that Dad sees all the true colors of his so-called family thoroughly this time around’

Two days later, at Vaenna Jewelry...

The Vanderbilts also summoned Yanis' family to the meeting room. Some of the top management were present in the meeting room as Stephen planned to announce the heir to his shares of Vaenna Jewelry.

No objection came from the top management when Stephen announced that his equity in Vaenna Jewelry would be inherited by his daughter, Maisie Vanderbilt.

Madam Vanderbilt, who was sitting in as one of the guests of honor, snorted and objected, "I beg to differ."

"Mother, you should have witnessed it for yourself. Everyone on the board has accepted Zee because she's able to convince everybody with her capability. What else do you have to complain about?"

Stephen had chosen to hold this meeting because he hoped that his mother, elder brother, and sister-in-law would give up from now on

Madam Vanderbilt slammed the table, stood up, and exclaimed, "Vaenna belongs to the Vanderbilts. And here you are, allowing a woman who will get married to another family and turn her back on the Vanderbilts at any time to inherit the company. Are you planning to hand the company to some random family other than the Vanderbilts?"

Madam Vanderbilt's words made all the top management sitting on the side look at each other. Some of the managers and directors who had daughters were severely offended by her statement.

'A woman who would get married to another family and turn her back on her own family? That's rather controversial, isn't it?'

Stephen gnashed his molars. He could not be more disappointed with his mother's stubborn prejudice.

Yanis smiled and tried to persuade him, "Yes, Stephen, it would be a shame if we were to give out such a huge company. Zee is going to get married to someone else in the future, anyway. Plus, she doesn't need the company at all. I think you should-"

"Even if my daughter doesn't need it, I won't hand it to you for free," Stephen interrupted Yanis sternly, which made Yanis a little embarrassed for a moment.

She could only look at her husband, Yorick.

Yorick smiled. "Steph, Yane isn't always the most sensible person in the room, so don't take her words to heart."

When Yanis saw that her husband was not partial to herself and said that she was not a sensible person, her expression turned gloomy out of wrath.

Compared to Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis' anxiousness, Yorick looked very calm.

'It's not their fault that they only look this far into the future. It's just that I can look beyond that.'

'Zee has gotten together with Mr. Goldmann, so it won't do me any good if I offend my brother now.'

'Mother and Yanis' stubbornness is nothing more than a great example of women's shortsightedness and narrow-mindedness."

All Madam Vanderbilt wanted was to get the equity for her grandson, and she could not care less about the means that she had to use in order to achieve that.

At this time, a person who claimed to be a lawyer walked into the room. After seeing the lawyer, Madam Vanderbilt said proudly to Stephen, "Stephen, don't blame me. Everything I do, I do it for the Vanderbilts."

### **Chapter 233**

"What. What is this?" Stephen did not expect his mother had hired a lawyer as well.

"Hi there, Mr. Vanderbilt. I'm Madam Vanderbilt's lawyer, Mr. Headler. Madam Vanderbilt had entrusted me to come over with Vaenna's equity transfer contract. Please do take a look at this."

Stephen was stunned And his expression could not help but dim when he saw that the official heir mentioned in the share transfer contract changed. It was Hector now.

Anyone who knew a thing or two about any share transfer contract would have recognized that the contract was a fake at first glance, so how could Stephen not be able to do so?

"Son, you should have seen it. Hector's name is clearly mentioned on this equity transfer contract. So, why would Vaenna have anything to do with Maisie?" Madam Vanderbilt snorted disdainfully.

Had it not been for her eldest daughter-in-law, Yanis, who had reminded her about such a method, Maisie would have taken advantage of this loophole to obtain Vaenna's shares.

Anyway, this contract was given out by her son, and she had only hired someone else to make some minor tweaks to its content.

Stephen burst into laughter due to the accumulated wrath. He was furious that his mother had turned to such a method in order to stop him. What he found funny was that she had used such cheap, unjustifiable, and extremely naive means.

The door to the meeting room was pushed open again

Accompanied by Mr. Zidane, Maisie walked into the room in a black dress.

She wore a Gothic snake ring bracelet that was designed by herself. Her earrings were also snake-shaped in order to match the bracelet, while the retro scarlet lipstick made her delicate facial features look more well-defined. In short, she looked stunningly gorgeous

Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis looked down on Maisie, who was dressed like this. She looked exactly like a malicious vixen at first

glance!

Madam Vanderbilt looked a little guilty when she saw Mr. Zidane, but she should not be afraid of anything when she thought that Stephen would still be her son no matter what happened.

“Sorry, Dad, I’m a little late.” Maisie walked up to Stephen’s side, and her gaze landed on the equity transfer contract that was lying on the table at the moment.

She then smiled and asked, “Am I seeing things? Why is there an extra contract?”

Maisie did not look surprised at all but smiled while asking about the extra contract. This caused Madam Vanderbilt’s expression to dim, and she answered somberly, “What do you mean by an extra one? Isn’t everything written in black and white?”

“Really? Maisie raised her gaze and stared at Madam Vanderbilt. “Why don’t I know that my father has transferred his portion of Vaenna’s equity to my cousin?”

“You not knowing about this is none of our business!” Madam Vanderbilt only wanted to announce the heir as soon as possible and did not want to talk about anything else.

Stephen threw the contract on the table. “Mother, do you plan to fool me with this fake contract? Do you really think that I won’t be able to tell the difference?”

“What fake contract? This is clearly yours!” Madam Vanderbilt became anxious.

Yanis had also received a photo yesterday. Although she didn’t know who the sender was, it had definitely been sent to inform them

“Yeah, Stephen, doesn’t this contract belong to you? Look at this —

“Why are you so convinced that this contract is Dad’s contract?” Maisie’s gaze landed on the two women.

Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis looked at each other, and the scene became even tenser for a moment.

“This is the contract that Mr. Headler gave me. Would a lawyer lie to me?” Madam Vanderbilt regained some confidence again.

But who could have foreseen this? Mr. Headler had disappeared from the crowd!

Maisie sneered, “Where’s Mr. Headler? Grandma, you didn’t get deceived, right?”

The people that I hired haven’t let me down.’

Madam Vanderbilt was completely taken aback at this time.

Mr. Zidane took a contract out of his briefcase and handed it to Stephen.

Stephen took the contract from and skimmed through its content before placing it in front of everyone. “This is the one that I’ve drafted.”

## **Chapter 234**

\*How... How is this possible? I clearly saw you yesterday—” Yanis stood up and choked on her own words when she was about to disclose something

Madam Vanderbilt pointed at Mr. Zidane. “You’re the one who handed me the contract the other day!”

Mr. Zidane smiled. “Madam Vanderbilt, I haven’t met you before this.”

“You... How dare you claim that you haven’t met me before!?! You’re the one who gave me the contract when I went to your office the other day. I can totally remember your face!” Madam Vanderbilt panicked and revealed the matter by herself.

“That’s enough!” Stephen reprimanded her angrily, “Mother, I’m disappointed with you. Since you don’t treat me like a son, there’s no need to treat you as my mother anymore. You should just go back to your home in Coralia!”

Madam Vanderbilt’s face looked as pale as death, and her hand was trembling when she pointed at Stephen “I get it now, all... All of you are in collusion. I’ll leave!”

Yanis naturally could not stay here any longer after Madam Vanderbilt had left. On the contrary, Yorick got up without a hassle and slowly caught up to the both of them as if he had nothing to do with this mess.

The farce ended hastily as all the people involved had left at this moment.

Maisie sent Mi. Zidane to the front door of the office building, and Mr. Zidane sighed. “I genuinely didn’t expect Madam Vanderbilt to turn to this method.”

He had been under the impression he would just give out a fake contract. However, he did not expect she would use the fake contract to falsify another contract to seize the shares.

Maisie gave off a faint smile. “After seeing all the faces of that family, we’ll have to take some precautions.”

“Grandma has never come into contact with any form of contract, so it’s only natural that she wouldn’t be able to tell the difference between a genuine and a fake one. Presumably, Dad should look rather helpless when she showed him the contract, shouldn’t he?”

After Mr. Zidane left the building, the legendary “Mi. Headler” appeared. “Ms. Vanderbilt, did I do a good job?”

Maisie nodded and transferred a certain amount of money to his account. “Thank you for the hard work.”

“You’re very welcome. It’s my honor to be able to provide you with my service.” The man smiled, nodded, and bowed. He was happy to be able to earn some quick and easy money.

After the man left, Maisie walked to the car and left.

And Willow, who was hiding in the shadows, filmed this scene. She initially had wanted to come and watch the others put on a show. But she did not expect that she would run into such a scene after missing the climax of the day.

‘With this video on hand, we’ll see how this b\*tch can recover from the upcoming chaos!’

Bassburgh Airport...

Two luxury cars were parked at the exit of the airport. Nolan and his father got out of the car, and Quincy walked toward the exit alongside the father-and-son.

A white-haired old man who was standing just outside the airport exit was wearing a pink vest and looked very fashionable. Because of his long-term fitness training, even though he was already more than 70 years old, he still looked healthy and was not exuding any sign of old age.

The old man took off his sunglasses, revealing a pair of keen amber eyes. His somewhat mixed-race appearance made the old man look younger than other elderly people of the same age group.

“Father, it’s been a long time.” Mr. Goldman Sr. stepped forward and hugged him.

Titus was also very happy. His gaze then landed on Nolan and stared at him. “You rascal, I heard that you have a son now?”

“You now have two great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter,” replied Mr. Goldman Sr.

Titus lived abroad all year round and spoke in an unusually casual manner. “Oh, that’s great. Look at this son that you’ve given birth to. He excels in hitting the jackpot even when compared to you when you were in your prime!”

Mr. Goldman Sr. just smiled.

“Uncle Goldman, Nolan.” A young woman was coming toward them with her luggage while a strong man followed her around. Quincy smiled and walked forward when he saw that man. “Hans, you really did come back?”

## **Chapter 239**

After all, as long as they were Nolan’s children, the kinship would not change.

Colton turned his face away. “No matter what, I don’t like him.”

Waylon did not speak. He only knew that he would never treat anyone who had mistreated his mother well.

“Nolan.” Rowena caught up to them, 1

Nolan turned his head indifferently and held Maisie’s hand. “What’s the matter?”

Maisie also looked back at her.

‘Isn’t it obvious that this woman has feelings for Nolan?’

“Nolan, don’t worry, I’ll help you persuade Grandpa. After all...” She said so and took a glance at Maisie, “After all, it’d be unfair to make Ms. Vanderbilt join the military.” 1

Maisie squinted.

‘Will she help me without asking for anything in return?’

The three ruggats stared at Rowena.

‘How would this woman exude the aura that resembles that of Willow’s? Not to mention that she’s another woman who wants to pester Daddy, just like Willow does.’

Nolan’s eyes dimmed slightly, but he did not utter a word.

Maisie smiled faintly. "Thank you for your kindness, Ms. Summers. But I'm a woman of my words."

The smile on Rowena's face turned a little stiff. "Really? I'm just worried about you, Ms. Vanderbilt. You'll have to endure a lot of hardship when you're in the military."

"I've endured everything one can possibly imagine. Why would I still care about military life?"

After Maisie smiled, she withdrew her hand away from Nolan's and walked toward the car with the kids first.

Rowena was about to say something, but Nolan went after Maisie after seeing her leave.

Looking at the figures of the few people leaving, Rowena could not help but tighten the fists that were resting at the sides of her body. 1

While they were on the way back...

Nolan turned and stared at the young lady who was sitting next to him with her arms crossed. He then leaned over with a smile. "Zee, did you agree to accept Grandpa's challenge because you don't want to get separated from me?"

'Otherwise, why would she agree to the difficult request from the old man? She really doesn't want to leave my side.'

Maisie took a glance at him and responded, "You're overthinking. I just don't like the feeling of being looked down upon."

No matter what her answer was, Nolan was delighted.

But then...

"Actually, I'm starting to regret it already." Maisie sighed and looked him in the eyes. "I acted too impulsively. If I didn't agree with the old man, maybe I could—"

The man's eyes dimmed before she could finish speaking, while his expression turned gloomy as he gnashed his teeth. "Do you wish to piss me off?"

Maisie smiled lightly. "Your grandfather has already chosen a wife for you. I think Ms. Summers does look very pretty. She should live up to your standards."

Vivid expressions started appearing on Nolan's sullen face when he heard those words. He then raised his eyebrows slightly. "Are you acting out just because of this?"

"I'm giving you another chance, ain't I?" Maisie shrugged.

'If the incident from six years ago hadn't taken place and I hadn't gotten pregnant from that event, everything might go back to how it was originally.' 1

Nolan leaned forward, pressed her against the seat, and pinched her chin. "I don't need this opportunity. I'll punish you severely if

you dare push me to another woman once again, so remember that."



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Maisie's cheeks lit up on fire as she looked away. "Your punishment has always been that, that's it!" "It's always been the same old trick!"

"I'm glad that you remember." Nolan sat back into his seat and loosened the collar of his shirt, but the corners of his lips were lifted proudly.

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"Zee, look at this." Kennedy brought a daily newspaper to Maisie's desk and handed it to her.

It was written in capital letters on the front of the newspaper that Maisie was not a filial granddaughter and had framed her relatives in order to gain equity in her family's business.

At first glance, this was clearly Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis's retaliation. It seemed that they were still very persistent, and they were deliberately dragging her through the mud just to discredit her.

### **Chapter 240**

It seemed that there was no need for Maisie to be merciful anymore.

At the Vanderbilt manor...

Stephen saw the headlines on the newspaper and smashed the newspaper on the table out of pure wrath. Leila, who was bringing him fruits, took a glance at the contents of the newspaper and pretended to be shocked. "Steph, why is this news talking about Zee? Is there any misunderstanding?" 1

Stephen knew that this news article must have something to do with his mother and sister-in-law. His expression turned sulky in a n instant, and he did not answer the questions. Willow came downstairs and exclaimed deliberately, "Dad, Maisie deliberately hired a lawyer to deceive Grandma and Aunt Yanis. I just saw it on the papers."

"Willie, don't make such bold claims." Leila pretended to support Maisie.

"How are they bold claims? I've read it with my own eyes. If that's the case, isn't Maisie deceiving Dad too? Dad had already agreed t o transfer his shares to her, but she still colluded with a lawyer to deceive Grandma and Aunt Yanis."

Willow did not pay attention to Stephen's expression while she was blabbering along. She desperately wished that her father would really listen to her and that he would misunderstand Maisie.

However, just when Leila was about to remind her anxiously, Stephen slammed the table, and the atmosphere in the manor froze i n an instant. "You're in no position to comment on what your sister has done!"

"Dad, but I'm your daughter too,"

"Do you still know about the fact that you're my daughter?" Stephen's face was sullen as he snorted "I had been fooled by you once, and you want to make a fool out of me for a second time?"

Willow bit her lip as she felt aggrieved.

When Leila saw Stephen yelling at her daughter for Maisie, it was conceivable that Leila and Willow's status in his heart was already inferior to that of Maisie.

Seeing that Stephen went upstairs with a gloomy expression, Leila could not help but clench her hands.

'He's the one who treated us mother-and-daughter like crap first! 1

In the evening...

Yanis and Madam Vanderbilt were waiting for the emergence of any tiny movement on the Internet in the hotel.

'The news has been exposed for one whole day, so why aren't the netizens attacking Maisie on her social media accounts?

At that moment, Yanis received a call from Linda.

Linda told Yanis something over the phone call. Yanis stood up in fright, and her face paled in an instant. "What? Something happened to Hector?"

Madam Vanderbilt almost lost it when she heard that.

Hector was her only grandchild that could ensure the continuity of the Vanderbilts' family tree. Both Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis would collapse if something catastrophic were to happen to him.

They were no longer in the mood to wait for the results of their actions, so they hurried back to Coralia immediately.

On the other side, Leila, who was rolling around on the bed with Yorick, did not forget to flatter him while badmouthing Stephen. "Yorick, how I wish Stephen could be half as good as you are when it comes to knowing how to appreciate a woman" 1

Yorick cheated on his wife with Leila, and the latter had started to grow on him.

Yorick could not help but feel bored upon thinking of Yanis, who had the mindset of a peasant woman from the rural area and was as conservative as someone from his mother's era.

'How could she be as enchanting and sexy as Leila? Not to mention her moves...

'Stephen is really a lucky b\*stard.'

He lifted Leila's chin. "It's Stephen's loss if he doesn't know how to appreciate you. Don't worry, I'll treat you better than he does."

"You perv, aren't you afraid that Stephen will find out about us?" Leila asked while lying in his arms.

Judging from their physique, Yorick, who worked out often, was indeed a lot stronger than Stephen.

"Since you're not afraid of being found out, what do I have to be afraid of?"

Yorick's mood surged once again. He turned over and pressed her against the mattress.

Leila rejected and tantalized him, and Yorick's cell phone rang at this moment.

Yorick felt exceptionally upset as he was interrupted. He did not even take a look at the caller ID and ignored the call.

The actions continued until the two exited Leila's residence. They were still acting extremely intimately when they parted with each other. However, they did not know that someone was squatting in the shadows and taking photos of them with a cell phone.