

## **Chased Her 641**

Chapter 641. The Truth Res

Isabella had followed Benjamin as they visited several other departments until Green bought coffee in the afternoon, signalling the end of their half-day tour.

On the other hand, Cecilia had received a WhatsApp message from her close friend, leaving her completely stunned.

“Cecilia, you know my mom is the Deputy Minister of Procurement at the Mason Family Group, right?”

“This morning, she saw Benjamin and a girl walking hand in hand, making a very public appearance at the Mason Family Group. They even went to the employee cafeteria together for lunch.”

“My mom said the girl was stunningly beautiful, with top-notch looks, even more attractive than us, and around the same age.”

“I heard Benjamin’s mother even arrived at the employee cafeteria and had lunch with them. They laughed and talked intimately during their time together, like a family.”

“Cecilia, wasn’t Benjamin your fiancé? How could he be with another girl and receive the approval of the Mason Family?”

Upon reading these WhatsApp messages, Cecilia’s body had suddenly gone cold, as she had fallen into an icy abyss. Although she had known the truth would eventually come out, she hadn’t expected it to happen so soon.

How had Isabella made Benjamin walk openly with her at the Mason Family Group, taking her to the employee cafeteria, afraid that others wouldn’t know about their relationship?

“I heard that as soon as she arrived at the company, Josephine, the beautiful minister from the Personnel Department, had voluntarily resigned. Snow, who had a good relationship with the Mason

Family, had been fired by Benjamin. Could it be that these two were too attractive and held high positions, threatening that girl's status?"

Cecilia looked at the WhatsApp messages from her friend, feeling complicated and chose not to reply.

"Benjamin was your fiancé, but there were very few pictures of you two together... Had anything happened between you? Was the engagement still valid?"

Upon reading this sentence, Cecilia's mood had grown even more agitated. After much thought, she realised that keeping it a secret was not a solution, so she fabricated a story.

"My dear, Benjamin and I had parted ways a long time ago. We hadn't disclosed it to people yet because our parents hadn't announced it. Now that he had found someone he liked, I blessed him. Don't worry about me; I had a strong support backup."

As soon as Cecilia had sent the message, her friend had bombarded her with seven or eight messages, incredulously asking for more details.

Unable to let it go without an explanation, Cecilia had said, "Wayne's unwavering pursuit and his sincerity had touched me, so I had decided to give up on Benjamin and be with him."

Her words had been deliberately ambiguous, making it seem like she had dumped Benjamin first.

Her friend had been skeptical. Who would give up the handsome and young global tycoon Benjamin and choose someone like Wayne, who fell short in every aspect?

"The higher the public's approval of Benjamin, the pickier they became about the women around him. I didn't want to wear a perfect mask for the rest of my life. Only with Wayne could I be free to be myself."

“What about Benjamin? Did he agree to let go? You grew up together... He didn’t even try to hold on to you and gave you to Wayne?”

Cecilia sighed in response.

“I had been determined to break up, and by threatening him with a lifetime of not seeing each other, maybe he had gotten scared. Or maybe I had hurt his feelings. Perhaps I had turned around and held Wayne’s hand too quickly, so he had quickly found a new love and appeared so openly in front of everyone.”

Her friend suddenly realised, “Oh, I understand now... He wanted to show you that as long as he, Benjamin, wanted, he could have women around him at any given moment. No wonder he, who had always been low-key, was so high-profile this time.”

Cecilia had made a helpless expression. “He had known your mother was the Deputy Minister of Procurement, and he had known about our relationship, yet he still did this on

purpose...”

“Oh my, he was so passionate! How could you bear to hurt him...” Her friend had felt sorry for Benjamin and had regretted the relationship.

Seeing that her friend truly believed her story, Cecilia breathed a sigh of relief. “Benjamin was like a shining star, and being with him brought too much pressure. Every move I made in my life would be scrutinised endlessly. I didn’t want to live with that kind of exhaustion.”

Her friend couldn’t help but say, “But deliberately using a new love to provoke you showed that he still loved you. He was such a great man. Are you really not planning to return to him and become the wife of the global billionaire?”

Cecilia responded with a broader perspective: “The love between him and me had taken a different form. He had transformed from fiancés to good friends. The love and support we gave each other will never change in this lifetime. We weren’t cutting off all ties. In the future, we will continue caring for, supporting, and loving each other even more.”

Seeing that the atmosphere was appropriately set, Cecilia continued, "Wendy, I confided in you about this secret because I considered you a good friend. Please, you must keep it confidential. Don't let it leak until both parents come forward to make the announcement. Then I will personally

address this matter."

"Rest assured, I won't say a word!"

After Wendy had sent that message, she couldn't help but be concerned about Cecilia's mood. Learning that Cecilia had let go and feeling somewhat down and guilty, Wendy had

thought it over and called a few more close friends. They had

planned to surprise Cecilia at the Logan Family's place and show their care and support.

After sending the WhatsApp messages, Cecilia thought she had executed the plan flawlessly. She quickly put her phone aside and prepared to take a nap.

It had been around 4 p.m.

Several beautiful and wealthy girls had arrived at the gate of the Lakeside Villas in their luxury cars. Eloise had just returned from the hospital and was still weary due to Freda's death. Seeing so many girls all at once, she had been momentarily taken aback.

"Auntie, it's me, Wendy! Long time no see. Why do you look so worn out?"

"Is it because you didn't rest well last night? I'm Rita, don't you remember me?"

“Long time no see, Auntie. I’m Rosa.”

“I’m Ella.”

“I’m Sibyl, Auntie. Sorry for bothering you again.”

Eloise had looked closer and had recognised that these girls were Cecilia’s close friends. She quickly invited them inside, saying, “Come in and sit down. I’ve been so busy these days... I haven’t had a moment to myself. It’s been a while, and you all look so beautiful.”

“Thank you for the compliment, Auntie.” The wealthy girls smiled brightly and followed Eloise through the villa’s

entrance.

Their drivers and luxury cars had remained outside the ga

“Are you here to see Cecilia? It’s Sunday today, and if she hasn’t gone out, she should be taking a nap. I can send someone to check.”

“No need, Auntie. Don’t wake her up. We’ll wander around and chat with her when she wakes up.”

“You’ve come all this way. Stay for dinner tonight. Don’t be polite...” Eloise called for the house staff to serve them coffee and cake. She had kindly said, “Auntie will go upstairs to change her clothes and be back soon.”

“It’s okay, Auntie. You go about your business. We’ll stroll around the garden...”

“You have so many new plant varieties in your garden... They look beautiful.”

“We’ll take some pictures here and have fun while we wait... You just leave us here. No need to worry about us.”

#### Chapter 642: Excessive Devotion

After Eloise had gone upstairs, a few girls stayed in the garden enjoying the flowers and capturing several beautiful photos.

“It was no wonder she was the wealthiest person in the country. The place she lived in was magnificent; even the garden was breathtaking.”

“It was stunning every time we came here. It was truly much more beautiful than our own homes.”

“Should we have asked Cecilia to show us her walk-in closet later? Maybe she had some clothes, shoes, or bags with the tags still on that she was willing to give us.”

“That would have been great!”

At that moment, a car pulled up outside the villa.

Benjamin stepped out of the car and opened the door for Isabella. “Did we have guests at home?”

Isabella glanced at the several luxury cars parked at the entrance, with drivers waiting inside. “Seemed like it.”

“In that case, let’s sit in the garden for a while before going in.” Benjamin didn’t want to disturb the crowded main hall but didn’t want to part with Isabella so quickly. Spotting a round white table in the garden with a few chairs around it, he pulled out one chair for Isabella to sit on.

“When would you have time to visit my mother? She mentioned it on WhatsApp earlier and insisted that I invite you over more often, encouraging you to come early.”

“Maybe in a few days,” Isabella smiled. “Mrs Mason also brought it up to me.”

Meanwhile, Eloise changed her clothes and came downstairs. As she reached the final step of the staircase, she suddenly felt dizzy and almost fainted.

“Madam, were you alright?” Myra hurriedly rushed forward to support her.

Eloise took a moment to regain her composure and then recognized the person before her. “I was fine; perhaps I hadn’t rested well these past few days...”

With the significant incident involving the Heilig Family and her constant presence at the hospital with Tel and Silvia, fearing their emotional well-being... That day, Williams had asked her to go home, shower, and rest for a while, but she hadn’t expected to experience a sudden blackout.

“Thank goodness you were here to support me...” Eloise held onto Myra’s hand. “If it hadn’t been for you, I would have collapsed on the floor.”

The consequences would have been unimaginable...

“Madam, you and Mr Mason hadn’t been resting these past few days either. You both looked exhausted. What exactly happened?”

“Ah, fate could be cruel,” Eloise found it challenging to explain then.

Myra, being tactful, didn’t ask further. “Then, should I have assisted you in returning to your room to rest?”

“No, Cecilia was still napping. Her friends had arrived, so I needed to attend to them,” Eloise insisted on enduring a little longer.

“With your current condition, how could you have entertained them?” Myra kindly suggested. “They were all young girls. They might have felt uncomfortable with your presence. Let me serve them some

coffee and cake. Cecilia would wake up soon, and she could keep them company to alleviate their boredom. It would help if you had rested for a while. Your health was of utmost importance.”

“Alright,” Eloise pondered for a moment. If she had stayed, the girls probably wouldn’t have felt at ease to enjoy themselves. Therefore, she had instructed, “Please offer them more coffee and cake. Later, let them have dinner together. They can eat here.”

“Alright, no problem.”

After Myra had escorted Eloise back to the primary bedroom, she had arranged for food and beverages and personally carried them to the garden. Surprisingly, she had seen Benjamin and Isabella from afar and hurriedly walked toward them.

“Mr Mason, Miss Isabella, when did you both return? Please have something to eat first,” she had offered them the tray of goodies before preparing to fetch more to serve the other girls.

“Myra, thank you so much for bringing us all this delicious food! We truly appreciate it.”

“Myra, it had been a while. You seemed to be getting younger.”

“Your grace and poise had improved.”

“Your skin was even more youthful than ours.”

The girls had surrounded Myra, showering her with compliments. With a faint smile, Myra had gracefully accepted their kind words. and had excused herself, leaving them with a few flattering remarks before departing.



The girls had planned to take pictures and post them on social media when suddenly Sibyl suggested, "Cecilia has a corner in the garden where she keeps many rare flowers and plants. There's even a swing and custom-made British furniture. Let's go there for the photos."

That would have made them look sophisticated and upscale.

"That sounds great!" The girls had picked up their food and drinks and headed towards the designated corner. However, from a distance, they had noticed Benjamin and Isabella sitting at a table, engrossed in conversation, appearing very close.

"Who was that girl? How did she end up in Cecilia's garden?"

"Wasn't Benjamin Cecilia's fiancé? Why was he chatting with another girl in the Logan family's garden? What was going on?"

"Can someone please tell me?"

At that moment, Wendy couldn't help but sigh. "Why did Benjamin have to do this? Cecilia was taking a nap and couldn't see anything!"

"Wendy, did you know something about this situation?"

"Your words implied that there was more to the story?"

"Tell us quickly, what happened between Benjamin and Cecilia?"

"Why aren't you speaking? Are we still good friends?"

"Wendy, we've been through thick and thin together all these years. You're not hiding any secrets from us, are you?"

Unable to withstand the pleading of so many people, Wendy finally reveals the whole story.

“What? So Benjamin was sitting with another girl in the Logan family’s garden, trying to make Cecilia see them together to change her mind? That was incredibly devoted...”

The girls couldn’t help but feel touched. Where could they have found such a great man?

Young, handsome, wealthy, and so faithful in matters of the heart...

“Shh, don’t let anyone know I told you... Otherwise, Cecilia will blame me for being nosy. But right now, Cecilia is napping, and she can’t see Benjamin’s efforts. How about I take a video and send it to her?”

“Exactly! You should film it and show her. Who would reject the world’s wealthiest person and choose someone far inferior like Wayne?”

“Wendy, we’ll pretend we’re unaware of this situation. She only told you, so you should try to persuade her more.”

Wendy nodded in agreement, took out her phone, secretly recorded a short video, and sent it to Cecilia before finally turning her attention to the people in the garden.

“Was it tasty?” Benjamin asked, looking at the juice in Isabella’s hand.

Isabella guessed his intention. Wasn’t he trying to get her to feed him?

She sipped the juice and leisurely replied, “It wasn’t good. Don’t bother trying.”

“Well, now I’m even more eager to see how bad it is.” Benjamin, not giving up, took the juice from her and took a sip. “Any juice tastes sweet when it passes through your hands.”

Isabella picked up a piece of cake that Benjamin wanted to eat. This time, she directly brought it to his lips.

“This girl was too forward. She dared to seduce Cecilia’s fiancé right under Cecilia’s roof!”

“How despicable!”

“She didn’t think Benjamin genuinely liked her, did she?”

“Benjamin was just trying to provoke Cecilia and make her change her mind. This girl shouldn’t have thought she had any

extraordinary charm, right?”

“Besides being slightly prettier, she couldn’t compare to Cecilia in any other aspect.”

“That’s right!”

Chapter 643: Standing up for a Friend

“Still thirsty,” Benjamin looked at the juice in Isabella’s hand. “I was a bit parched.”

Isabella raised her gaze, indicating the juice in front of him. “Don’t you already have some?”

“Yours tasted better.”

“Here, take it.” Isabella pushed the juice towards Benjamin and picked a fresh one for herself.

Upon realizing that her plan had failed, Benjamin felt a bit sad.

Isabella smiled at him, a playful glint in her eyes. The interaction between the two caught the young ladies' attention, which irritated them.

After a while, Benjamin got up and went to the main building to wash his hands, as he had gotten a bit of oil on them from the cake.

Meanwhile, Isabella remained in the garden, sipping her juice and casually admiring the beauty of the surroundings.

"I can't stand her smug expression!"

"Cecilia might tolerate it, but I can't."

"Look at her, acting so comfortable as if this place were her home! How dare she!"

"Quick, look at what she's doing!"

They saw Isabella tear open a small package and pour it into Benjamin's cup....

"Did she tamper with Benjamin's cup?"

"How dare she?"

"What does she want to do?"

The girls rushed over, abandoning their coffee and cake, and sternly reprimanded her, "What were you doing?"

Isabella looked at the sudden appearance of these people in confusion and asked, "Is there a problem?"

“How dare you ask us if there’s a problem... What did you put in Benjamin’s cup just now? What were you trying to do?”

“You deceitful woman, taking advantage of your position and still not stopping, thinking you can achieve great things in one step, deluding yourself. Have you ever considered your own identity?”

“We know you’re in a hurry to take Mrs Mason’s position, but you don’t have to be so desperate! Trying to get Benjamin to use such despicable methods in Cecilia’s home. What about your dignity?”

Benjamin had just finished washing his hands and was about to leave the main building when he received a message from Isabella, signalling him not to come over.

Isabella looked at the furious wealthy young ladies standing before her and lazily asked, “Cecilia’s friends?”

“That’s right! We are Cecilia’s close friends!”

The girls stood indignantly before Isabella, ready to demand justice for Cecilia.

Myra heard the commotion and was about to go and see what was happening, but Benjamin gestured for her not to intervene. He wanted to listen to what these girls had in mind.

“You still haven’t said what you put in Benjamin’s cup. He will undoubtedly kick you out without hesitation if he finds out about your sinister intentions.”

“That’s right! Benjamin detested manipulative girls like you!”

“You’re not as noble and pure as Cecilia...”

“It’s just brown sugar.” Isabella raised her gaze, gesturing to the other unopened packets on the table. “He would have been delighted if I had done what you suggested.”

She finished speaking and glanced towards the man in the distance.

Benjamin's lips curled into a wicked smile. This little girl seemed to understand him quite well.

However, in the eyes of the young ladies present, Isabella's smile appeared audacious, shameless, and fearless.

"How dare you say such things..."

What about manners?

Didn't she have any family members to teach her about proper etiquette?

How could she utter such words in public?

"Fine, even if you didn't tamper with the coffee, don't get too

cocky. You're only with Benjamin because Cecilia gave him up for you!"

Friend

"Don't think you're so capable. You should act more humbly and put away that arrogant attitude."

Isabella, puzzled, had several question marks floating in her mind.

Was she acting arrogantly?

Did she give off an air of capability?

Wasn't she usually low-key enough?

"Benjamin was given to me by her?" Isabella looked at the wealthy young ladies before her with curiosity. "Did she say that to you?"

"She didn't say anything. Don't try to manipulate us with your words!"

The wealthy young ladies united against Isabella, chose to remain silent.

Isabella leisurely leaned back, exuding an aura of dominance, and lazily spoke, "Well, you might have misunderstood. Even without me, Benjamin wouldn't be with her."

"You're talking nonsense!" Wendy was the first to step forward and refute.

"I'm talking nonsense?" Isabella raised her languid gaze. "Do you have any evidence?"

"Wendy, at this point, just repeat exactly what Cecilia told you!"

"Let this shameless person see that we've known all along. Don't pretend with us."

"Cecilia asked you to keep it a secret, so let me say it instead. It has nothing to do with you."

"Yes, let Rita speak."

Rita looked at Isabella and bluntly stated the truth.

"The truth is that Wayne persistently pursued Cecilia and won her over with his sincerity. That's why Cecilia gave up Benjamin and chose to be with Wayne. Do you deny what I just said?"

Everyone felt confident that victory was within their grasp as they looked at Isabella.

However, Isabella suddenly smiled. “Did Cecilia say that to you? Would anyone give up a global billionaire to choose another man? Would you? Would any of you?”

Although the young ladies also believed they wouldn’t...

“But Cecilia had said that the higher the public’s approval of Benjamin, the more discerning they would be about the women around him. She didn’t want to wear a perfect mask for the rest of her life. She could only be herself and be free with Wayne.”

“Do you believe those words?” Isabella smirked at them, suddenly feeling sympathetic towards them for being manipulated by Cecilia.

“Cecilia decided to separate from Benjamin and threaten him with a lifetime of not seeing each other. That’s why Benjamin became scared. Benjamin liked her, but he also had his dignity. He felt Cecilia and Wayne were moving too fast, so he reluctantly found you and appeared ostentatiously with you in front of everyone.”

“He wanted to use you as a new lover to provoke Cecilia. He wanted Cecilia to know that as long as he, Benjamin, wanted, there

would always be women around him. That’s why the usually low- key Benjamin appeared so flamboyant with you in the Mason family.”

“In truth, he wanted to show Cecilia. Did you truly captivate Benjamin? Compared to Cecilia, you paled in comparison!”

Isabella didn’t expect Cecilia to concoct such a lie behind her back, and she couldn’t help but laugh even more.

Her laughter was radiant and beautiful, like the warm winter sun. The entire evening, she seemed to warm up in that instant because of her smile.



“What are you laughing at...”

The confidence of the wealthy young ladies wavered.

Isabella’s laughter seemed to treat them as fools.

“Benjamin knew that Wendy’s mother was the Deputy Minister of Procurement. He knew that Wendy was Cecilia’s close friend, yet he intentionally appeared with you in the Mason family...”

“This proves he still loves Cecilia, and you’re just a substitute!”

“If it weren’t for Cecilia’s threat of a lifetime without seeing each other, Benjamin would never have let go of her and settled for you.”

Isabella found their reactions even more amusing. “Why don’t you ask why I appeared in this garden?”

“Oh, right. Why did you appear here?”

Chapter 644: Lisa clarified

“It must have been Benjamin who brought you here to provoke Cecilia. Since the Mason family and the Logan family have a good relationship, the Logan family’s staff wouldn’t have stopped Benjamin, let alone stop you.”

“I didn’t expect you to shamelessly follow along, enjoying the coffee and cake the Logan family’s staff served while flirting with Cecilia’s fiancé! Shameless! Shameless and disgraceful!”

“This is my home, and Benjamin is my fiancé.” Isabella raised her lazy gaze. “Aren’t you Cecilia’s best friends? Didn’t she tell you about this?”

The wealthy young ladies were momentarily stunned and then quickly burst into laughter.

“This is your home? Can you even come up with such a lie? We’ve seen shameless people, but we’ve never seen someone as shameless as you! Your audacity is thicker than the walls of this mansion!”

“It’s widely known that the Logan and Mason families have an engagement. Do you dare to claim that Benjamin is your fiancé here? Are you pretending that the engagement between our families doesn’t exist?”

“The engagement between our families still holds.”

Suddenly, a magnetic voice sounded from nearby.

The wealthy young ladies turned their heads towards the source of the voice and saw Cecilia’s older brother, Lisa Logan!

He appeared dignified and composed, stepping towards them.

“Cecilia, you arrived just in time. There’s someone shamelessly claiming this is her home! Come and settle this.”

“She even claimed that Benjamin is her fiancé!”

“We’ve seen people with thick skin, but never someone as thick-skinned as her. Please have her thrown out!”

“No, she should be taught a lesson to understand the consequences of lying!”

The wealthy young ladies thought Lisa’s arrival would trouble Isabella, and they were eager to witness Isabella’s humiliation...

But the next moment, Lisa usually severe and aloof, unexpectedly called out gently, "Isa."

Before they could react, they saw Isabella obediently respond, "Lisa, why are you here?"

"I heard something happened at home, so I came to check."

The wealthy young ladies were all stunned, completely confused about the situation...

Why was Lisa being so gentle towards her?

"What were you saying about Isa earlier?"

When Lisa looked at the girls, his gaze remained cold and indifferent.

The girls were at a loss for words, unable to respond. "She, she,

she is..."

"Isabella Logan is my blood-related sister."

Upon hearing Isabella's surname and the term "blood-related sister," the wealthy young ladies were dumbfounded.

How could this girl in front of them possibly be Lisa's blood-related sister?

Wasn't there only one daughter, Cecilia, in the Logan family?

When did they have another daughter?

But Lisa's position and status were unquestionable. He couldn't be lying...

Cecilia couldn't be unaware of this girl's existence if what he said was true!

But Cecilia had never mentioned this girl's identity, as if she were a stranger...

What on earth was going on?

"Wendy, did Cecilia ever tell you anything...?"

"Lisa, if this girl was your blood-related sister, then she was Cecilia's..."

"older Sister."

Lisa's words once again left the wealthy young ladies stunned... Wendy unwillingly asked, "Did Cecilia... know about her existence?"

"She knew." Lisa's words shattered their last shred of hope. "They

had been living under the same family, seeing each other daily."

"Then, why did Cecilia say... say..." Wendy's voice faded into silence.

The other friends also panicked, never expecting the truth to be like this.

Nothing was more convincing than having members of the Logan family themselves refuting their claims...

"Isa was separated from us for eighteen years and just returned six months ago. Due to certain reasons, we didn't publicly announce her identity yet."

The bombshell dropped on the wealthy young ladies, leaving them frozen. They had never anticipated this hidden secret.

“Although Cecilia wasn’t our blood-related family member in terms of birth, the Logan family had treated her as one of our own for the past eighteen years. She was already like a family member to us. So, on the day Isa returned, Cecilia was allowed to stay with her consent, and they became like sisters.”

Even if Isabella wasn’t born before Cecilia, her pure Logan family lineage made her the older sister...

The wealthy young ladies raised bewildered eyes.

“Lisa... are you telling the truth? Cecilia wasn’t the true daughter of the Logan family...”

“So, the girl in front of us was?”

“But Cecilia never mentioned...”

“She only said...”

“What did she say?”

Although Lisa had heard most of it earlier, he still wanted to listen to it from them again.

Wendy deflated like a balloon, lifting her eyes after a while. “The Isabella you mentioned was the true daughter of this family. That’s why the engagement partner naturally became Isabella, not Cecilia...”

Cecilia knew about this initially, so why did she say she didn’t want Benjamin first...”

The friends couldn't believe that Cecilia would tell such monumental lie. Could it be to satisfy her vanity?

"She wasn't like this before... she was so pure and kind. How could she lie..."

"I still can't believe it..."

'She said that being with Benjamin would magnify every action

and word she took, and she didn't want to live under such scrutiny..."

"She said that Isabella was a temporary lover brought in by Benjamin just to provoke her, hoping Cecilia would change her mind..."

"It's all fake. It's all fake. Did Cecilia deceive me?"

"She deceived all of us!"

Benjamin knew that Lisa had returned home earlier. He and Lisa observed the confrontation between the girls and Isabella, taking everything in his eyes.

As the situation unfolded, Benjamin approached Isabella and placed his hand on her slender waist.

"There had never been any romantic feelings between Cecilia and me. Even before Isa returned, our meetings could be counted on one hand. Even without Isa, I would never be with Cecilia in this lifetime."

Nothing was more shocking than having Benjamin refuting Cecilia's claim of his unwavering love and unwillingness to break up...

"So, she never threatened you with a lifetime of not seeing each other..." Wendy struggled unwillingly and asked the final question. "Was that true?"

“We had never been in a relationship, so how could there be a breakup?”

With the final blow struck, the wealthy young ladies felt hopeless. They had never expected Cecilia to be this kind of person...

They had known each other for so many years, considering themselves assisters. But Cecilia had lied and deceived them!

When Cecilia woke up, she saw the video Wendy had sent her, filmed in her garden. In the video, Benjamin and Isabella acted intimately, appearing like a couple deeply in love. Cecilia was thunderstruck before she could even finish watching it.

How could Wendy have been in her house? Why was Isabella there? Wasn't she supposed to stay away from home on this day of the week? And why had Benjamin been there too?

After Wendy sent the video, she commented: “Cecilia, you were taking a nap, unaware of how deeply Benjamin loved you. He deliberately brought this girl to your garden and acted intimately with her, hoping to provoke you and make you change your mind... Maybe you should consider going back to him. I could see how upset he was...”

Oh no! If Wendy found out that Isabella was the true socialite of this family and that Benjamin was Isabella's fiancé, Cecilia's status as an adopted daughter would have been exposed!

Wrapped in her blanket and in a rush to get out of bed, Cecilia suddenly tripped and fell to the ground, bruising her knees. Ignoring the pain, she hurriedly ran to the garden.

Not only had Wendy been there, but also Rita, Rosa, Ella, and Sibyl!

Standing face to face with them were Benjamin, Isabella, and Lisa. It had seemed like they had been at odds...

Cecilia's heart had sunk. Could her friends have already discovered her true identity? Why had Lisa been there too? Had Isabella

Chapter 645 Adinting Mistakes

invited them?

Cecilia's mind had gone blank...

At that moment, Myra approached her and said, "Miss Cecilia, Mr Lisa wants you to come over."

When Cecilia had regained her senses, she realized that both groups of people had been looking at her with complex expressions...

Cecilia's body had gone weak, unsure of how she could escape this disaster...

Last time, she had lied to her friend Dot, claiming that Isabella had relied on her looks and good grades to win the favour of William and Eloise, becoming their goddaughter and adopting the Logan

surname.

However, Leah, Nicholas's girlfriend, exposed her lies immediately. That day, Leah had called Nicholas and tricked Cecilia into going to Baylor College of Medicine, saying that Nicholas wanted to have dinner with her...

When she had rushed there in the sweltering heat, she had found Dot, her friends, and Leah...

Cecilia had feigned fainting on the spot.

But Nicholas had seen through her act and even wanted Isabella to show her if she had been fainting...



Later, the truth couldn't have been hidden, and Dot and her friends severed ties with her because of it...

Should she have pretended to faint again this time? But Lisa had been such a sharp person; she would have seen through it...

What should she have done?

What could she have done?

Lisa had been the most difficult person to get along with among other families...

"Miss Cecilia, Mr Lisa, and Mr Mason knew everything. It would have been better for you to confess and stop struggling," Myra had advised kindly. But her words had only made Cecilia clench her fists. How had a servant dared to bully her like this?!

"Cecilia, come here," Lisa called her from a short distance away, her expression cold and indifferent.

Cecilia was caught in a dilemma, knowing that any tricks or schemes would be useless. So she mustered up the courage and walked over, bracing herself.

"Why did you lie?" Wendy was the first to speak as Cecilia approached, her eyes teary with anger. "I always considered you my best friend, sharing all my secrets with you! In my heart, you were always a pure, kind, and innocent girl. How did you become like this?"

Rita expressed her disappointment as well. "We know everything now, Cecilia."

"You completely changed, and we no longer recognize you," Rosa added, deeply disappointed. "When did you start changing? Why didn't we notice..."

"The mistakes from the past were not your fault. Lisa still treated you as Family, and you were still the lady of this house. Your lifestyle and privileges remained the same as before. There was no need to

lie,” Ella spoke up. “You truly lost your way!”

“Yes, we used to envy your status, the limited edition designer clothes filling your closet. We revolved around you like stars around the moon,” Sibyl spoke honestly. “But we weren’t just after the benefits you had. We wouldn’t stop being friends because you didn’t share the Logan family blood...”

Although they did hope to gain some benefits from Cecilia that day because there were limited edition shoes and bags they couldn’t get with their connections, Cecilia had so many of them that she couldn’t possibly wear or use them all. She didn’t even need them...

Cecilia often gave them her old designer items with the tags still on. They were limited edition items, so they happily accepted them...

For them, it was about sharing between friends. They had also given Cecilia luxury items, even if they weren’t as valuable as Cecilia had given them...

Overall, even if Cecilia couldn’t afford to give them anything anymore, the bond they had developed over the years wasn’t fake...

Otherwise, they wouldn’t have stepped forward earlier to expose Isabella...

“I’m sorry.” Cecilia suddenly bowed deeply to them, tears welling when she raised her head.

“When I saw you all standing here from afar, I guessed you knew. Honestly, I feel relieved now, suddenly at peace. I don’t have to lie anymore.”

As Cecilia spoke, she smiled sadly, tears streaming down her face.

“Maybe you can’t understand how someone like me, who had been showered with endless love, might feel when someone suddenly appeared and threatened to take it all away. How lost, uneasy, and afraid

I was..."

Cecilia didn't finish her sentence before Wendy interrupted, crying, "But the life you've been enjoying was originally hers! You should return it to her!"

The other friends nodded, agreeing with Wendy's statement.

"Isabella didn't ask for it back; she allowed you to continue enjoying that life. Shouldn't you be grateful to her? Instead, you've been secretly smearing her behind her back... Honestly, Cecilia, I'm so disappointed in you. We shouldn't be friends anymore. Don't contact me in the future."

Wendy turned to leave but remembered something and stopped in her tracks, looking back at Cecilia.

Cecilia thought she had softened...

But the next moment, Wendy's gaze shifted to Isabella, and she walked over to her with a severe expression, bowing respectfully. "I'm sorry for not understanding the truth earlier and unjustly blaming and scolding you. I handled it poorly."

The other girls also apologized to Isabella, acknowledging their mistakes. They had been taught to admit their faults and apologize for them.

Chapter 646: Punishment

"Someone also misled you. Forget it," Isabella said, dismissing their actions.

Isabella didn't hold a grudge against them; instead, she felt sorry for Cecilia.

Despite having so many friends who cared deeply for her, Cecilia had failed to appreciate them and instead treated them like puppets to manipulate.

Cecilia had trampled upon the genuine sincerity of her friends.

"I'm sorry, Lisa. I offended you today," Wendy took the lead in apologizing to Lisa, then turned to Benjamin. "I apologize, Mr Mason, for misunderstanding your fiancée and you. I offer my sincere apologies here. I'm sorry."

After observing their genuine remorse, Benjamin nodded and chose not to hold it against them.

As Wendy left, she looked at her former close friend with disappointment and finally departed.

Cecilia's face still bore tear stains. She had never imagined ending up in a situation where everyone abandoned her.

Previously, at Baylor College of Medicine, Cecilia's lies had been exposed, causing Dot and Della, among others, to distance themselves from Cecilia...

Even before that, Cecilia had deceived her best friend, Cath...

And now, her five close friends had also left Cecilia, severing ties with her...

Cecilia was left without a single good friend by her side!

"Apologize to Lisa," Lisa suddenly demanded coldly.

Cecilia lifted her eyes in disbelief, looking at Lisa, who had once showered her with love and care. At this moment, Lisa's eyes were filled with deep disappointment and indifference.

"Lisa..." Cecilia's tears streamed down her face. In the past, Lisa would never have asked her to apologize to anyone.

“No need,” Isabella interrupted calmly before Cecilia could apologize. “I don’t believe you truly intend to change.”

She looked at Benjamin. “Let’s go, and I’ll walk you out.”

Cecilia stared in shock as Isabella walked away. When did this girl dare to show such disdain in front of her family?

Was it because Isabella relied on her righteousness and Lisa’s support, making her feel superior?

“Lisa, please listen to me...” Cecilia cried, with tears still flowing, attempting to defend herself.

“Cecilia,” Lisa’s voice carried disappointment, “Until you come to your senses, you don’t need to join us for dinner tonight.”

“Lisa??” Cecilia’s eyes displayed shock and surprise. Lisa had never been like this before. Just because of this minor incident, Lisa wanted to punish her by making her go hungry?!

What era was this? Was this kind of punishment still acceptable?

“Lisa, please listen to me...”

Heches

“You care about your image, and Isa doesn’t need to care about hers,” Lisa said coldly, reassessing Cecilia with unfamiliar eyes. “You’ve tarnished her reputation in front of our friends. I remember warning you about this, but you haven’t changed. I don’t think you’ll need your allowance for this month.”

“Lisa... I truly realize my mistakes. Everyone around me now knows about my sister’s identity! I’m already being punished, left without a single friend...” Cecilia cried, suddenly feeling pitiful.

“That’s your own doing.”

At that moment, Lisa’s phone rang. She glanced at it and saw that it was a call from a top luxury brand, VON.

“Hamilton,” Lisa answered the call, exchanging greetings before listening to the other person mentioning a dozen new designs recently released. They asked if it would be convenient to deliver them that day...

Lisa replied calmly, “No need. Starting today, there’s no need to send sizes that fit Cecilia. It’s not about the style; she doesn’t need them now. I’ll provide you with the measurements of another person later. From now on, please send the new collections for each season according to her size to Hushu Villa. We’ll arrange the specific timing separately. Goodbye.”

Chapter 647: Descending into Darkness

Lisa had even said that whenever Isabella spent all the money, he would deposit more into the account, urging her to buy without any psychological burden.

Lisa had also mentioned that any subsidiary companies under the Dawn Group that Isabella was interested in could be given to her.

Furthermore, Lisa had promised to accompany Isabella wherever she wanted to go or whatever she wanted to do.

It had been from that moment that Lisa had become different!

Because on the same day, Cecilia had asked Lisa to accompany her shopping, Lisa had claimed to be busy but immediately told Isabella these things...

Lisa had given Cecilia mainly amounted to a few hundred thousand, with some small gifts worth a few million only given on her birthday or during New Year.

But Cecilia had never received such an expensive four-leaf clover necklace throughout her life!

Yet Isabella had received this precious necklace and seventeen additional priceless gifts from Lisa!

Lisa had explained that because he had missed out on Isabella's first seventeen years of life, he wanted to make up for it with seventeen gifts, but he would make up for the lost time in the future...

From that moment, Lisa started to change, right?

Cecilia remembered when Lisa had bought Isabella an entire set of limited-edition lipsticks, claiming they were for Isabella to use at work. When Cecilia had playfully complained that Lisa was being partial, Lisa had even told Cecilia that she didn't need those lipsticks.

Those lipsticks would have been perfect for Cecilia when she attended banquets or performed on stage...

But Lisa had shown such blatant favoritism!

There had not just been one or two incidents like this....

In the past, she had been naive and hadn't paid much attention...

But now, looking back, these incidents felt like arrows piercing her heart one after another...

How had she not noticed it? How had she not seen that Lisa had changed?

He had become partial, cold, and indifferent!

A long time ago, when their family had visited their grandparents in the hospital, Lisa had warmly put his arm around Isabella's shoulder and had spoken to her...

When Cecilia had tried to hold Lisa's hand, Lisa had asked her to let go...

The difference in treatment had been so evident!

And at the hospital, Lisa had mentioned that when Isabella got busier with college in the future, Alan would handle the trivial matters of the fashion company, and Isabella could remotely make decisions on important issues. Even if Isabella didn't go to work, she would still receive her monthly salary...

Scarlet had only been able to offer tissues and had waited until Cecilia had cried enough before wiping away her tears.

"Scarlet..." Cecilia had raised her swollen eyes and had asked in a hoarse voice, "Do you remember when Lisa took me to the observation deck for a chat a long time ago..."

"Remember? Of course, I remember," Scarlet said as she wiped away Cecilia's tears. "Mr Lisa said, 'It was normal for everyone to be concerned about Isabella's feelings when she had just returned home. It might have made you think that everyone had changed towards you, but in the eyes of all the family members, you were still a part of this family and had never changed.'"

Cecilia hadn't expected Scarlet to remember so clearly. Her tears fell again, realizing how foolish she had been to believe everything Lisa had said...

Now, it all seemed so naive, too naive!

"At that time, Mr Lisa also asked how the family had treated you all those years. He said everything given to Isabella was what you had owned in the past eighteen years! He said that this was Isabella's home, and she had every right to come back and enjoy the life that belonged to her," Scarlet continued.

After hearing this, Cecilia's tears fell, and she smiled bitterly.

"He also said that Isabella was the biological daughter, so they should treat her well. As an older brother, he should pamper and cherish her, especially considering the hardships she had endured outside for eighteen years. Her future life should be compensated even more... At that time, you had tried to



explain that you had no animosity towards Isabella, but Mr Lisa had bluntly said he could tell if you had hate and how much you hated,” Scarlet continued.

Cecilia’s smile became more bitter and filled with sadness.

Yes, from that moment, Lisa had stopped believing in her, had stopped listening to her explanations, and had only accepted what he saw with his own eyes.

“Mr Lisa had even lied to you, saying that even if Isabella returned to this home, the emotions you had shared for the past eighteen years were not fake. You could still stay and buy whatever you wanted, do

whatever you wanted. Nobody would restrict you or treat you differently,” Scarlet continued.

Cecilia laughed until tears rolled down her cheeks.

“Mr Lisa had also said that Isabella had no animosity towards you. Sometimes you acted unreasonably at first, but Isabella always accommodated you. You should be happy to have Isa... He also said that Isabella had accepted you before other families. Have you ever thought about your fate if she had firmly rejected you from the beginning?” Scarlet added fuel to the fire as she spoke.

Cecilia laughed heartbreakingly before saying, “Scarlet, back then, you had told me that Lisa was indirectly warning me that if I didn’t get along well with Isabella, I would have to leave this home... At that time, I hadn’t believed your words and had even thought Lisa was right... I was being foolish!”

At that time, she had even doubted herself, believing that this home didn’t belong to her. The love from Families, the luxurious life, and the servants attending to her, none of it had belonged to her. She had thought she had taken over Isabella’s life for eighteen years...

But now, thinking about it, Scarlet’s words made sense. Their parents’ confusion led to the mix-up of their identities. How could she have blamed herself? She had also lost the life of being pampered by her biological parents for eighteen years. She had suffered a loss too!

“It’s all my fault. I didn’t listen to your words... I had thought that treating Isabella as my Family would make them treat me the same as before...”

#### Chapter 648 Prepare Both Hands

“Certainly not!” Scarlet exclaimed sympathetically. “Don’t you remember? Last time, you were fooled by Mr Lisa’s words and foolishly believed they would treat everyone equally... If Mr Lisa truly regarded you as his family, he wouldn’t have warned you like that, and he wouldn’t have locked you up here like he did today.”

Cecilia smiled sorrowfully. If anyone knew that she had been locked in her room for self-reflection by Lisa...

It would be so embarrassing if it got out.

“Last time, I advised you to take advantage of their affection towards you and kick Isabella out of the Logan family or secure the greatest benefits for yourself. Alternatively, you could have become the most prominent woman with Mr. Mason. But you didn’t choose any of those paths. Instead, you came up with the most useless one: to get along with Isabella and please everyone in the Logan family...” Scarlet continued.

At this moment, Cecilia realized how foolish she had been to believe that she could genuinely be families with Isabella...

“If only I had listened to you earlier, things wouldn’t have escalated to this point. It was my unwillingness to give up, always holding onto a glimmer of hope and believing that Lisa and the others would truly treat me equally...”

“Ah, if they were fair, why would Mr Lisa have planted the Tibetan snow lotus, Isabella’s favourite flower, on her balcony before he called you to the terrace for a conversation?” Scarlet interrupted.

It didn’t seem like something Mr Lisa would do at all!

If he genuinely treated them equally, why did Isabella have flowers while Cecilia had none?

Wasn't everything he gave to Isabella supposed to be what Cecilia had owned for the past eighteen years, such as planting flowers or giving her the four-leaf clover necklace? Cecilia had never had any of those things.

Cecilia didn't know how long she had been crying. For the first time, she felt that her tears would never stop flowing.

Her heart was truly broken, filled with despair.

"After all, you grew up in a small family, ignorant of the world. Even though you returned to the wealthiest family, your poor taste in preferences hasn't changed! Every time I see the Tibetan snow lotus swaying on her balcony, I feel she lacks taste, is shallow, and cannot meet high standards! Our Logan family's garden is filled with precious flowers and plants, but she has dragged down the classiness!" Cecilia thought the same way. Why would she like something so trashy as the Tibetan snow lotus?

When Cecilia's emotions calmed down, Scarlet gave her an idea.

"Cecilia, there are many online platforms now where people buy luxury items at high prices. Your closet is filled with clothes, shoes, and bags, many of which haven't even had their price tags removed... I've calculated it, and it could be worth at least a billion." Scarlet suggested.

Some dresses cost hundreds of thousands, and Cecilia only wore them once.

Some limited-edition handbags were worth seven to eight hundred thousand, but Cecilia carried them once and left them to collect dust in her closet.

"If you marry Wayne in the future and have a driver for your outings, those luxury cars you own won't be useful. It's better to sell them all..." Scarlet continued.

If she sold everything, she could quickly get one or two billion from luxury cars!

“And the jewellery you’ve received from childhood...”

That would be worth a lot.

Just the pink gemstone necklace she received when she was born was now worth over twenty million...

She could easily make several hundred million if she sold everything except for a few pieces of jewellery for personal use.

“A preliminary estimate suggests that selling everything could bring in around six billion,” Scarlet informed Cecilia, surprising her with her knowledge. Cecilia herself had not paid attention to how much these items were worth.

“Cecilia, it’s not to dampen your spirits, but if Mr Lisa can do something like this, he might even kick you out of the house. Rather than being left with nothing when that happens, it’s better to sell these things now...” Scarlet warned.

With at least six billion in her bank account and properties such as houses and commercial buildings, her personal assets could easily exceed ten billion.

“Of course, that’s the worst-case scenario. If you obtain Mr Lisa’s forgiveness this time and continue to stay in this family until your marriage to Wayne, you can earn another substantial dowry... Lady Logan previously mentioned that your dowry would be more than what Cath, her elder sister, received. If you receive around ten billion, your net worth will exceed twenty billion!” Scarlet continued.

How many wealthy socialites could boast a net worth of over twenty billion?

“And if Wayne also gives you some money and shares as a betrothal gift by then, just think about how high your net worth would be...”

Cecilia couldn’t even imagine!

After hearing Scarlet's words, Cecilia's tears seemed to freeze in her eyes, forgetting to fall. She had never expected her assets to amount to such a large sum...

"So, we needed to find a way to continue staying in the Logan family, make the Old Lady and the others happy, and willingly get them to spend money on buying things for you... Afterwards, we could sell these items and make a profit, even if it was just a penny." Previously, Cecilia had always thought Scarlet's idea was wrong. After all, those were things given to her by her own family from the bottom of their hearts. It had been difficult for her to let go and sell them. However, after Lisa's cold indifference this time, she finally nodded. "Once this storm passes, you can help me handle it. Just be cautious."

"Cecilia, don't worry! Leave everything to me. You can pretend that you know nothing. If by any chance you were discovered, I would take the blame for you," Scarlet said, looking at her with sympathy. "But for now, you have to endure being weak. Sigh, you had never experienced this kind of humiliation before, from childhood to

Cecilia's eyes welled up with tears again, her nose feeling sour. "If they were heartless, don't blame me for being unjust!"

Showing weakness was only temporary...

Even if she had to leave, she would reap all the benefits and ruin Isabella before leaving!

Seeing Cecilia finally change her attitude this time, Scarlet was ecstatic internally but kept her composure on the surface.

"They thought Isabella and her biological daughter were talented, so they treated her like a precious gem... Speaking of which, it was all Isabella's fault. If she could have spoken up for you when Mr Lisa was reprimanding you, things would have been different!"

Cecilia smirked coldly. How will Isabella speak up for her? It would have been lucky if she didn't kick her while she was down!

Scarlet was right. It was all Isabella's fault. If Isabella had been easy to get along with, they could have at least been Families!

Being ordinary families would have been better than being enemies!

“In a couple of days, Mr Lisa would be going abroad. The Heilig Family had a child who died so the Old Lady would visit there frequently. It was the perfect opportunity to deal with Isabella...”

The Logan family members thought Isabella was so capable, right?

As long as they could discover Isabella’s flaws or something that couldn’t be erased...

“But if something happened to Isabella, Lisa would be the first to suspect us...”

What if those luxury items hadn’t been sold yet, and Lisa kicked them out of the house...

“It’s not like we were going to kill her. We just wanted to give her a taste of bitterness. I would find someone to execute it flawlessly. Without evidence, Mr Lisa couldn’t unjustly accuse us, right?”

Chapter 649: Ran a Fever

“Even if Mr Lisa found any evidence, I will insist it was my idea. It wouldn’t involve you,” Scarlet reassured Cecilia.

Scarlet’s unwavering loyalty deeply moved Cecilia. “With you by my side, Scarlet, Isabella would have known the consequences of crossing me!”

At the thought of Isabella, a glint of cruelty flashed in Scarlet’s eyes. “Oh, by the way... In private, when there was no one else around, you didn’t have to be polite to Isabella,” Scarlet advised.

Before, they had been polite to her face, but now they shouldn’t have expected any mercy if they were alone.

“Don’t worry, Scarlet. I wouldn’t be polite to her anymore,” Cecilia declared, a sense of revenge evident in her eyes.

On the other side...

Eloise woke up from a nightmare, startled. She sat up in bed, feeling a lingering fear. Glancing at the time, she realized it had already been evening, so she quickly changed clothes, preparing to go out.

“Madam, where were you going? Dinner was almost ready...” a servant in the living room tried to stop her.

“I’m not eating. Oh, by the way, did Cecilia’s friends stay for dinner?” Eloise asked.

“They had already left.”

“They left?” Eloise was a bit surprised. Why didn’t they stay for a meal? As the servant hesitated to speak further, Eloise’s phone rang.

“Williams, I was just about to leave. What did you say? Silvia fainted? I’m coming right away...”

Seeing Eloise rushing out of the house, the servant said nothing more.

Meanwhile, Lisa was driving back to the company. Memories of a little girl who had fallen in the garden many years ago resurfaced in her mind. At that time, the girl’s knee had been scraped and hurting, tears welling in her eyes, but she had still tried to cheer everyone up, enduring the pain so no one would worry about her.

Cecilia had been so sensible and considerate back then, making everything feel so beautiful. When did she start to change? Was it when Isabella returned to this family? Or was it when Isabella began to shine...

Lisa vividly remembered the first time she saw Isabella. It had been during a design competition when Isabella had been working as Lucy's assistant. Isabella's right hand had been swollen and bruised, indicating a severe injury. However, Isabella used her injured hand to embroider beautiful roses on her dress.

At that moment, the chairman of the Castle Fashion Association, Seb, unintentionally revealed Isabella's true identity as the founder of the Sofia Welch Group...

Despite being in her teens, Isabella had established such a large corporation and had managed the family business. She had achieved so much at such a young age, willingly serving as an assistant to mentor more youthful generations.

Her ambition and vision had surpassed that of many others...

As Lisa spent more time with Isabella, she witnessed her shining in various aspects of life...

Although Lisa hadn't wanted to compare Isabella and Cecilia, their perspectives and ways of handling things had been worlds apart.

On the other side....

As Isabella dropped Benjamin off at the entrance of the villa, Benjamin gently patted her head. "You suffered."

"It was nothing," Isabella replied. Cecilia's schemes couldn't harm her.

"There's something I didn't tell you..." Benjamin looked into

Isabella's eyes before speaking. "On Christmas Eve, Lisa contacted me."

Those words surprised Isabella because Lisa didn't usually reach out to him.



“Within the next month, leading up to New Year’s Eve, the family discussed the plan to announce your identity. So, Mathew and I were working to resolve the external forces as soon as possible. We wanted to ensure everyone knew you were the true daughter of the Logan family before New Year’s Eve.”

Isabella’s eyebrows raised slightly. “So, they had originally planned to surprise me on New Year’s Eve, but you just spoiled it?”

Benjamin chuckled. “Considering the recent events, Lisa should be the one to inform you tonight... Everyone wanted to reveal their identity as soon as possible. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, the villains succeeded for now.”

“It doesn’t matter to me whether it’s announced or not,” Isabella smiled. “Don’t worry about me. You should go back now and take care on your way.”

“If anything happens next, remember to inform me.”

“Don’t worry. Am I not capable enough to handle Cecilia?” Isabella smiled, not taking Cecilia seriously at all.

“Tomorrow, the Heilig family might hold a funeral. I’ll come to pick you up then.”

“Okay.”

After Benjamin left, Isabella returned to her lakeside villa. She decided to eat, drink, and then attend to her work. She needed to attend Freda’s funeral and check her grandfather’s health.

On the other side...

Scarlet received a message and hurriedly ran to Cecilia’s side. “Cecilia, Isa had two rice bowls tonight, enough to feed a pig. She could eat and sleep peacefully while you were starving and suffering here!”

"I already expected this..." Cecilia weakly lay on the bed. "The more wretched I became, the more triumphant she felt..."

She had Lisa's support for now, but what was there to be proud of?

"Cecilia, are you feeling better now?" Scarlet asked, concerned.

Cecilia's face was pale, her lips devoid of colour. To seek Lisa's forgiveness, she had spent an hour soaking in an ice-cold bathtub!

Scarlet heard the beeping sound of the thermometer indicating the end of the measurement and quickly checked it. "Heavens, Cecilia, your temperature was already 39 degrees Celsius! I'll find a fever patch for you..."

"Scarlet..." Cecilia weakly called out, stopping her. "Applying it now would ruin everything. Call Lisa and ask when he'll return..."

"Right, right..." Scarlet didn't expect Cecilia to remain so calm even when sick. It seemed she had indeed changed!

As Scarlet reached for her phone, Cecilia's vision started to blur, and she eventually fainted.

"Hello, Mr. Lisa. When will you be home? It's already 8 o'clock... Cecilia is..." Scarlet didn't even finish her sentence before Lisa coldly interrupted.

"Let her wait."

"Cecilia can't wait any longer. She has a fever now, with a temperature of 102 degrees Fahrenheit! Her face has no colour... She cried the whole afternoon... Maybe she cried too much and got sick..." Scarlet's voice trembled, almost in tears. "Please, Mr Lisa, Pls come back quickly... Cecilia hasn't eaten anything at this hour, and her fever is so severe..."

## Chapter 650: Hidden Words

“Understood,” Lisa replied without indicating whether she would return and hung up the phone just like that.

Scarlet was extremely anxious as she looked at Cecilia, who lay unconscious on the bed. She measured her temperature again, and it had risen to 102.56°F.

She opened the door and immediately called Myra, who stood outside. “Miss Cecilia has a fever. Go get some fever patches and have the kitchen prepare her favorite food to bring up.”

“Are you ordering me around?” Myra questioned.

“What’s wrong?” Scarlet adopted a superior attitude. “Cecilia is sick like this, and as a servant, shouldn’t you be taking care of the sick mistress?”

“Then why didn’t you go?” Myra retorted.

“I wanted to stay here and take care of Miss Cecilia!”

Myra stood her ground and coldly smiled. “Miss Cecilia hadn’t apologized to Miss Isabella today.”

“What were you talking about?”

“Mr Lisa said that until Miss Cecilia showed remorse, she wouldn’t have dinner tonight. If you wanted fever patches, you should have gotten them yourself. My duty was to stay here.”

“Myra, you were pushing it, weren’t you?” Scarlet suddenly became furious. “Who did you think you were?”

“I was just a humble servant.” Myra raised her gaze with dignity. “And so were you.”

“You...” Scarlet was seething with anger. “Just wait!”

Scarlet deliberately bumped into Myra’s shoulder as she left, and Myra, without hesitation, tripped her with her foot.

Scarlet nearly fell. “When Miss Cecilia wakes up, I will tell her everything that happened today!”

“Don’t act like you’re supporting Miss Cecilia as if she were some kind of princess!” Myra showed no fear and snorted before returning to guard the door.

A glimmer of murderous intent flashed in Scarlet’s eyes, but she chose to swallow her anger for the time being.

Time passed, and Scarlet heard footsteps outside before finally placing the fever patch on Cecilia’s forehead.

Upon hearing a knock on the door, Scarlet cried as she ran to open it. “Mr Lisa, you’ve finally come back! Miss Cecilia had the fever patch on for a long time, but her temperature still didn’t drop. I was apprehensive! Before she lost consciousness, she kept apologizing and saying she was wrong...”

Lisa looked at the girl lying unconscious on the bed, her face flushed like a ripe apple, and she didn’t seem to be pretending.

“Did you call a doctor?” Lisa asked.

Scarlet cried, “Myra wouldn’t even give me the fever patch. She gave me a hard time, and in the end, I had to get it myself... Forget about calling a doctor. Having this fever patch was already lucky enough!”

Standing at the door, Myra heard Scarlet distorting the truth and was about to retort.

Scarlet burst into even louder sobs. “Miss Cecilia was so sick, and no doctor cared for her. She hadn’t eaten a single meal since noon and had never suffered like this! Cecilia kept saying she was wrong.

She wanted to wait for you to come back and apologize to you and Miss Isabella... But she didn't make it to this point..."

Before Lisa could say anything, Scarlet suddenly knelt with a thud.

"Mr Lisa, I begged you, for the sake of our many years of relationship, please allow a doctor to come and treat Miss Cecilia. I was terrified for her life... She had been burning with fever for so long! Please let the kitchen make her a bowl of hot porridge. Please, I beg you..."

Lisa saw the person in her fifties kneeling on the ground, continuously kowtowing, tears streaming down her face...

She looked at the girl on the bed and remembered years ago when she had a fever, and the whole family gathered around her, showing concern...

"Go call the doctor."

Upon hearing Lisa's words, Scarlet's kowtowing action froze, and she was overjoyed. "Thank you, Mr. Lisa! Thank you, Mr. Lisa! I called Dr. Garcia right away."

When Dr Garcia arrived, Scarlet, tears in her eyes, exclaimed excitedly, "Miss Cecilia, Dr Garcia is here. You'll be fine... Mr Lisa also came to see you..."

As Dr Garcia examined the girl on the bed, Scarlet feared the doctor would discover that Cecilia's fever was caused by catching a cold. So she came up with another excuse.

"Miss Cecilia was upset about something and cried from afternoon till evening... I didn't know why, but then she developed a fever."

Dr Garcia nodded. "Crying can raise body temperature and make the body feel hot. However, after some time, once emotions stabilize, the temperature will gradually return to normal."

“But Cecilia has been burning with fever for a long time, and her temperature hasn’t shown any signs of decreasing...”

“She’caught a cold.”

Scarlet’s heart skipped a beat when she heard that. She didn’t expect Dr Garcia to figure it out! She pretended not to understand and asked, seeking advice, “Could crying too long also cause a fever?”

“Well...” Dr Garcia paused the examination and looked at her. “Crying for too long can weaken the immune system, making the body susceptible to illness. If, during this time, one is exposed to cold wind or rain, it’s easy to catch a cold.”

“She was wonderful in the afternoon,” Lisa added.

Scarlet feared that someone would guess Cecilia took a cold shower, so she quickly said, “Oh, I remember now. Cecilia cried for a long time in the afternoon, and no matter how we comforted her, it didn’t work. Ultimately, she went to the balcony alone to get some fresh air... Perhaps she caught a chill there...”

Dr Garcia nodded in understanding. “That could be it.”

“While on the balcony, Cecilia also mentioned when we gathered around the stove to make tea last winter and the winter before that...” Scarlet deliberately stopped there, seeing the glimmer of reminiscence in Lisa’s eyes. She felt relieved; she knew playing the emotional card worked!

“Take some medicine. If the temperature goes above 101 °F, the fever patch won’t help.” After finishing the examination, Dr Garcia prescribed medication for Scarlet.

Scarlet expressed her gratitude repeatedly, and after seeing off Dr Garcia, she fed Cecilia the medicine.

“Step outside for a moment,” Lisa said after Scarlet gave the medicine.

Scarlet felt foreboding, but she followed Lisa to the balcony.

Regardless of whom it fell upon, Lisa's gaze carried a sense of oppression. As he looked at Scarlet, he asked directly, "You've been in this household for many years, so I'll ask you straightforwardly."

"Feel free to ask, Mr Lisa," Scarlet respectfully replied. "I will tell you everything I know without holding back."

"Then tell me, what kind of person was Cecilia?"

"The merits of Miss Cecilia were truly countless! She had a kind heart, was pure in nature, graceful in demeanour, cheerful in personality, beautiful and elegant, brave and strong, considerate and respectful. She excelled in music, chess, poetry, calligraphy, and painting.

"Then how could someone like her suddenly become narrow-minded and deceitful, engaging in scheming and power struggles?"

Upon hearing this, Scarlet instantly understood Mr Lisa's meaning and hurriedly explained, "Mr Lisa, I never incited Miss Cecilia to do anything wrong... Please understand!"

"You raised Cecilia, and she made such a mistake today. You also bear some responsibility." Lisa calmly looked at her. "This month's salary and the New Year's bonus will be canceled together."