

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover by Caesar Erickson

Chapter 1381

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Johnny nonchalantly crossed his arms and raised his chin as he continued speaking. "My grandfather's pack owes a debt to her mother. I feel guilty on behalf of my elders and want her to come take care of me to improve our relationship and make it up to her."

At this point, Johnny glanced at Griffon, whether to hide something or reassure him, he made it clear. "Even though it was later confirmed that her mother is not part of the Carmine pack, she still grew up in the Carmine pack. I still consider ourselves as cousins."

Griffon's cold gaze never left Johnny, as if he could see through him and understand his true intentions. Johnny didn't avoid his gaze, letting him stare openly, even though his heart was racing, he didn't dare to easily look away.

After a while, Griffon withdrew his cold gaze and calmly spoke. "It's best if you have no other intentions, otherwise I'll break your legs!"

Seeing the doubt in Griffon's eyes gradually fade, Johnny felt a slight relief in his heart, but then he wondered why he felt relieved. He didn't like Taya, he just remembered what she looked like, so why did he have this guilty feeling in front of Griffon?

This feeling annoyed Johnny, "Do you think your wife is a fairy? Everyone would be attracted to her like you?"

Griffon extended his hand and flicked his sleeve. "The most beautiful fairy in this world still can't compare to my wife. You just envy me.!"

Upon hearing this, Johnny exploded in anger, "Why would I envy you? I am the rightful heir of the Brook pack, why would I envy you?!"

Griffon didn't pay any attention to him, still nonchalantly, he tugged at the corner of his attractive lips. "Who knows."

Johnny's face turned red with anger, "In terms of pack background, I'm not much different from you, and in terms of looks, I'm not inferior to you. Do I need to envy you?"

Griffon's eyes revealed a hint of amusement, "I have a wife, you

don't."

Johnny, who had been compared to him since pup period, clenched his fist and gritted his teeth. "One day, I will mate a woman better than your wife. Let's see what you have to compare with me then!"

Griffon sneered, not bothering to argue with him. "Let's get back to the topic. It's impossible for my wife to come take care of you. You should consider another condition."

Johnny turned his head away, "Didn't I just tell you? There's no room for negotiation in this matter."

Griffon's icy gaze once again focused on him. "You insist on my wife taking care of you?"

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Johnny raised his eyebrow lightly and said, "Maybe, you can. take care of me."

At the door of the ward, Preston's parents exchanged a worried look, their faces filled with concern.

Griffon lowered his thick eyelashes, paused for two seconds, and then lifted his gaze, scanning Johnny.

"I'll give you the Canada project back, that's my condition. If you can't handle it, then just wait and see."

With these words, the man walked away, his arrogant figure making Johnny's face darken.

"Griffon, you dare to threaten me even when you're the one begging me?!"

Griffon halted, hands in his pockets, turned to the side, and smirked down at him.

"Whether you dare or not, I'm the one in charge. Think it over and remember to call me."

The man left with big strides, and the people in the ward finally withdrew their gaze and looked at Johnny, who was visibly angered.

"Bro, it seems like you really can't beat him..."

As soon as Herb finished speaking, Johnny's palm came whistling towards him, but luckily Herb swiftly dodged it.

"Bro, I'm on your side, why are you hitting me?"

"Because you let others tram ple on our dignity! You deserve it!"

Johnny clenched his fist in anger, especially when he saw Preston's parents outside the door, his expression turned even worse.

"I'm telling you, I won't let Preston go. Let him prepare to rot in jail!"

Preston's parents, seeing that Johnny wasn't reasonable, didn't say much and left with Griffon. After returning home, Preston's mother Kate thought for a moment and decided to call the driver to go to Blue Bay

Island.

At the moment, Griffon was busy with work at the Knight pack, and only Taya was at home. She was working on a design drawing when she heard Frank say that Preston's parents had arrived. She quickly put down her pen.

As she made her way downstairs to the living room, she couldn't help but wonder why Preston's parents, who had no connection with her, suddenly came to find her.

Kate came from a good background which couldn't be underestimated. She was also good-looking, exuding an air of elegance and intelligence. Even though she was getting older, she still had a graceful and sophisticated charm. Her speech was gentle and there was no hint of a domineering upper-class woman.

When she saw Taya, she smiled and praised her for her good looks and tasteful dressing. She even said that the interior design on Blue Bay Island was even better than famous international designers. As she spoke, she even offered Taya a business opportunity, saying that her brother had a mansion that needed to be renovated and asked Taya to design it.

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Taya sensed that Kate had a favor to ask of her, so she responded accordingly: "Well, thank you for the introduction.

I'll take on your brother's estate design project. But I'm guessing you didn't come to me just to introduce the project, right? Is there something else you want to talk to me about?"

"There is indeed something I need your help with."

After chatting for a while and having several cups of coffee, Kate finally mustered up the courage to get to the point: "Taya, how about talking to Johnny for me?"

Upon hearing this request, Taya was taken aback. "I'm not very close with Johnny. It wouldn't be appropriate or effective for me to talk to him."

She instinctively declined, but Kate stood up, sat next to her, and gently held her hand, patting the back of it.

"I know it's not appropriate for you to talk to him, but Johnny wants you to take care of him. He feels guilty that the Carmine pack treated your mother poorly and wants to make it up to you. So, I thought maybe asking you to talk to him could work?"

After finishing her sentence, Kate added, "Of course, if you're not willing, it's okay. We'll think of another solution."

The Knight pack was aware of Taya's true identity, which Johnny had revealed, but they chose to keep silent and not spread it to others.

They did this to protect her, and Taya was grateful for it. Now, Preston's mother was suggesting it in a gentle way, without forcing her.

Since mating into the Knight pack, apart from Dominic initially disagreeing, the rest of the Knight pack has treated her well. With this in mind, she nodded.

"Okay, I'll give it a try, but there's no guarantee it will work."

"It's alright. I'm out of options too."

If Taya could convince Johnny, then there would be no need to return the Canada projects to Griffon.

After agreeing, Taya felt it would be inappropriate for her to go alone, so she called Edith and asked her to accompany her.

Johnny's hospital room was upstairs from Preston's, not too far away. Taya and Edith first went to visit Preston.

Preston was leaning on the hospital bed, holding a laptop and typing away diligently, completely absorbed in his work.

Taya and Edith didn't disturb him much. After leaving some gifts and giving a few instructions, they walked out of the room.

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Edith hooked her arm with Taya's as they entered the elevator.

"These past few days, my brother has been acting like a completely different person, working like crazy," she said.

Taya knew it had to do with Harper, so she didn't say much and simply replied, "Griffon wants him to take over as the President of the European region, so of course he has to work harder!"

Griffon said there were too many affairs in the company and that Vice President Sebastian needed to expand into the Canada market, leaving no one to manage the European region except for Preston, whom they were grooming.

Taya didn't understand why Preston needed to be groomed, but she knew that Griffon had been signing important positions in the company lately.

It was strange because Griffon could handle everything on his own. It felt like he was preparing to step down soon.

Taya couldn't figure it out, and when she asked Griffon, he wouldn't say. So she decided not to ask this and let him be. As long as he was safe and by her side, that was all that mattered.

The two of them walked hand in hand and arrived at Johnny's hospital room. They pushed the door open and saw Johnny standing near the bathroom door, looking ahead with his head held

high. His bodyguard Nick was crouched on the floor, helping him zip up his pants...

Seeing this scene, both of them froze outside the door.

Johnny noticed and glanced at them, realizing they were staring at his lower half in shock. He instinctively lowered his head.

Meanwhile, Nick was still struggling to zip up the pants.

"You should continue wearing the hospital gown. The zipper is stuck, and it's inconvenient for both of us..."

This kind of situation was just not convenient...

Taya and Edith exchanged glances, catching onto the two key words.

So, Johnny had never dated or gotten mated because he was attracted to the same S**...

A strange expression appeared in their eyes, and the more Johnny looked at them, the more he felt that something was off. "What's with those looks?"

Edith pulled Taya and turned to leave. "Sorry for the interruption, you can continue..."

"Hold on!"

Johnny kicked Nick away and caught up to them, blocking their way like a wall.

He raised his hand and pointed to his cast on his right hand, then gestured at the unfinished zipper on his pants.

"My hand is injured, and the zipper on my pants is broken. I can only ask Nick for help. We have no other relationship!"

Taya and Edith exchanged another knowing glance.

"We understand, we both understand."

"What do you understand?"

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Johnny was getting impatient. "I told you, I'm injured and it's inconvenient for me. That's why I asked Nick for help!"

Taya nodded like a pecking chicken. "Then let him help you first, we can come back later."

"No!"

Johnny stepped forward and stopped Taya. "I'm into girls, don't get any ideas."

After saying that, he frowned again. Why did he have to explain so much? His S**ual orientation was none of her business.

Taya thought the same. "Your S**ual orientation has nothing to do with me. I won't get any ideas, so don't worry!"

Johnny decided not to explain further. "Do whatever you want."

Taya didn't reply, she just raised her eyebrows and smiled sweetly. Seeing that smile, Johnny's heart skipped a beat, then started pounding.

He was confused. He raised his hand and pressed it against his chest. After a moment, his heartbeat returned to normal, so he didn't think much of it.

"What do you want from me?"

After asking, Johnny seemed to remember something and quickly walked into the hospital room.

"Wait outside, I'll be right out."

He went to the bathroom to change his pants before coming out. He looked irritated, but not as cold and hostile as before. He seemed easier to get along with.

"Come in."

After sitting down on the couch, he tilted his chin at the two of them. His movements still carried arrogance. Taya didn't pay much attention to it and pulled Edith to stand in front of him.

"Johnny, we came to talk to you about Preston."

As Taya said this, she took a step closer to Johnny. Outside the window, a gentle breeze blew, lifting her waist-length wavy hair. As the strands brushed against Johnny's face, it felt like an itch, scratching his heart and causing him to instinctively tilt his head back.

"Stay away from me!"

Taya was taken aback. She wasn't even standing that close, right?

But Johnny felt like she was too close, close enough to disturb his thoughts.

Seeing his unpleasant expression, Taya assumed he just had a bad temper. She took a few steps back to create more distance.

Even though she was far away, Johnny still felt irritated. It was as if those few strands of hair brushing against his cheek were constantly touching his heart, making him feel annoyed.

But he couldn't just punch her because her hair accidentally brushed against his face, could he?

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Johnny clenched his fists and gritted his teeth, suppressing his anger. "Why does everyone bother me about Preston? So annoying."

"Didn't you say that if I take care of you, you'll leave Preston alone?"

Johnny, visibly annoyed, heard these words and felt his frustration fade away.

"So you agree to take care of me?"

Before Taya could respond, Edith tugged at her sleeve.

"It's not worth sacrificing yourself for my brother."

"It's fine."

Taya patted her hand, reassuring her.

"Your mother is from the Carmine pack, and my mother also grew up in the Carmine pack. You consider us cousins, so I should accept the role of your cousin and take care of you.

However..."

Taya paused for a moment, then raised her eyebrows and showed a gentle smile.

"I am your cousin, and Preston is my brother. So, you are all family. Johnny, can't you let him go for the sake of this relationship?"

Johnny glanced at Taya, standing in the distance with a smile on her lips and a relaxed expression in her eyes.

"According to your logic, Preston can also be considered my brother?"

Indeed.

Your older cousin was Griffon, Preston could also be

considered your brother.

Taya thought this to herself, but on her face, she wore an innocent and clueless smile as she softly nodded at him.

"Can't you just let it go for the sake of this relationship? Please?"

Her words were gentle, her voice flowing like a soothing stream, having a calming effect.

Johnny originally wanted to explode in anger, but upon hearing this sweet and gentle voice, his inner agitation gradually subsided.

He raised his gaze and stared at Taya, as he looked at her, he actually found Griffon's she-wolf quite attractive...

As this thought crossed his mind, Johnny was startled, thinking that he should see a psychiatrist later, because his mind must be messed up.

"You just don't want to take care of me, right? Don't try to sweet talk me and establish a relationship with me."

"It was you who asked me to take care of you, and wanted to use this opportunity to establish a relationship with me."

This response caught Johnny off guard, and he struggled to come up with a counterargument. After a while, he managed to say:

"What I meant was, I don't have a relative like Preston."

"But the fact is, you do..."

"Well, even with this relationship, I can't just let him go!"

This hot-tempered man didn't fall into her trap, miscalculation.

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Taya leaned toward him and nodded after a few seconds of silence.

"Alright, I'll take care of you, but I'm not sure how long you'll need me, cousin."

The word "cousin" felt awkward, just like when Herb called himself that.

Johnny glanced at Taya and said, "Take care of me until I'm discharged."

Nick chimed in, "Johnny, you're being discharged this afternoon..."

Johnny: ...

Before he could speak, Taya quickly interrupted, "Alright, it's settled then, I'll take care of you until you're discharged."

Johnny wanted to change his mind, but she had outsmarted him, covering her mouth and laughing with Edith.

He had been annoyed, but seeing her smile, his agitation subsided a bit. "Fine, take care of me until I'm discharged."

Taya took the opportunity to clarify, "So, if I take care of you until you're discharged, you won't hold it against Preston, right?"

Johnny lazily folded his long legs and replied, "That depends on your performance."

His tone was spoiled, but it hinted at a softened stance. Taya and Edith could tell and were thrilled, while Nick was shocked.

"When did you become so easygoing? Weren't you demanding to send that Preston guy to jail? Didn't you say the fairy couldn't persuade you? Why do you agree as soon as she speaks?"

This change of heart was too sudden!

It didn't make sense, it was highly unreasonable!

Johnny was the one who caused trouble and acted recklessly. This was probably fake!

Johnny shouted, "What does your opinion have to do with my decisions?!"

Nick said sadly, "Your decisions are always right, it has nothing to do with me..."

After glaring at Nick, Johnny turned his attention back to Taya and beckoned her over with his finger. "Come here."

Taya hesitated for a few seconds before walking up to him.

Johnny used his left hand to tap the cast on his right hand. "It's been covered for too long, the skin next to it is a bit itchy. Can you scratch it for me?"

Taya retorted, "Didn't you just tell me to stay away from you?"

Johnny choked again, "That was before, now that I'm asking you to take care of me, how can you stay away?"

Clearly, her intelligence wasn't great. She only had her looks, and Griffon has terrible taste.

Taya couldn't control what Johnny was thinking, but she could see the clear disdain in his eyes.

Edith also noticed it. Initially, she wondered if Johnny had any intentions towards Taya.

But then she thought, if he did have feelings, he wouldn't be so full of contempt towards her.

Having her take care of him was probably just a way to humiliate Griffon through her.

Besides, Johnny's S**ual orientation was still uncertain. Edith relaxed and silently stayed by their side, ensuring nobody gossiped about Taya.

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Taya stared at Johnny for a few seconds, her eyes slightly shifting, before choosing a spot not too far away and sitting down on the couch next to Johnny.

"Give me your right hand."

Seeing Griffon's she-wolf obediently followed his instructions, Johnny felt extremely pleased. He quickly extended his cast-covered arm and handed it to her.

As her warm fingertips touched his sleeve, Johnny's body gradually stiffened, his heart uncontrollably pounding.

Surprised, he raised his deep eyes and looked at Taya...

She had a flawless, pure face, with skin as smooth as milk. Her features were delicately sweet, with beautiful eyes and eyebrows.

Every inch of her face made him instinctively nervous, even to the point where he couldn't breathe.

Especially when the tip of her small finger lightly touched his skin, it felt like an electric current was running through him, causing his tense body to suddenly relax.

He was startled by his own reaction, unsure of what to do. "How did this happen?!"

Taya was about to scratch him when he suddenly jumped. She thought he had noticed, so she quickly hid her sharp nails.

Johnny, filled with anger, glared at Taya. "You...stay away from me!"

Taya was puzzled. "You're the one who told me to get closer."

Johnny was about to argue back at Taya when he happened to meet a pair of clear, sparkling eyes. His heart suddenly trembled.

Johnny suddenly stopped when he saw her face.

Taya tilted her head slightly, she asked him, "Do you still want me to take care of you or not?"

Hearing her voice, Johnny awkwardly looked away. "No need, you can go."

Taya anxiously asked, "What about Preston?"

Johnny impatiently turned his back and waved his hand. "I'll find a chance to run into him next time."

This meant that he had let Preston go. Taya breathed a sigh of relief and sat near Edith, who also relaxed.

Although they didn't know why Johnny suddenly backed down, Taya still thanked him. "Thanks, cousin. Come to my house for dinner sometime."

After saying that, she got up, went to Edith's side, held her hand, and quickly left the hospital room after saying, "We're leaving."

Watching that lovely figure, Johnny revealed a faint smile. But when Nick's face appeared in his line of sight, the smile faded.

"What are you looking at?!"

Nick circled around Johnny.

"Something's not right with you. You seem different with Taya.

Are you...?"

"She's my cousin!"

Nick wanted to argue back but was harshly kicked by Johnny.

"What are you standing there for? Go and handle my discharge procedures!"

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Taya and Edith gossiped about Johnny's sexual orientation and then went back home.

Once Edith got home, she explained the situation to Kate.

To show her gratitude, Kate specially brought a gift and visited Blue Bay Island.

Taya couldn't refuse, so she accepted the gift and sent some gifts to Kate.

As a result, Taya's relationship with Preston's parents also improved a lot.

It's just that Griffon was a bit unhappy and sat on the couch in his study without saying a word for a while.

Taya noticed that he wasn't playing with his phone or reading, but just staring at her, so she

slowly put down the measuring tape in her hand.

“Dear, what’s wrong with you?”

He had been sitting there for almost ten minutes since he came in, and she finally spoke up to show her concern.

Griffon, who was holding in his frustrations, lifted his long legs. and rested them on his knees.

“What do you think?”

Dressed in a suit, with his legs crossed and leaning back against the couch, the man appeared quite dominant.

Taya rested her chin on her hand, admiring her husband, “I think you’re angry about something that happened today.”

Griffon gave her a cold glance and asked, “Did something happen today?”

Taya smirked, “Since you don’t know, let’s just pretend nothing happened.”

Griffon’s handsome expression gradually darkened. After sitting in his original spot for tens of seconds, he couldn’t hold back anymore and stood up, walking towards her.

With his fingers resting on the architectural blueprint, his tall and upright figure pressed down slowly. “Babe, are you trying to infuriate me?”

Taya, still resting her chin on her hand, raised her clear eyes and tilted her head to look at him.

“If you don’t know what happened, how did I infuriate you?”

Griffon couldn’t argue with her. He bypassed the desk and lifted her onto his shoulder. “Looks like I’ll have to teach you a lesson in the bathroom.”

Knowing she couldn’t escape, Taya allowed him to hold her. “Let’s go to the bathroom. We’ll see who will be teaching whom.”

Griffon paused his steps, a hint of a smile appearing in the corners of his eyes. “Are you planning to teach me a lesson?”

Taya, being a bit spoiled, raised her chin proudly. “It depends on my mood.”

Griffon chuckled at her provocation. “Only you dare to act so wild with me.”

After he finished speaking, he carried Taya, kicked open the bathroom door, and placed her on the bathroom sink.

Not long after, sounds of a woman’s moans could be heard from inside, lasting the entire night. It was unclear who was teaching whom.

Only at around ten in the morning, a cold yet lustful male voice suddenly came from the bathroom –

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“After I’m done teaching you a lesson, I’ll go teach Johnny a lesson too.”

“How are you going to teach him?”

“Chop off his hand that touched you.”

"If my fingernail scratched his arm, do I have to chop off a hand too?"

"Yes, chop it off."

After a while, the voice of the woman 'teaching' a man could be heard again—

"Johnny is gay, and his boyfriend is Nick."

"Next time you see your 'cousin', wish him happiness for me."

Griffon sent someone to get close to Jayden and he came back saying, "There are only two possibilities. The first is that Jayden is hiding the patient's condition, a condition that only he knows about and hasn't told the patients yet. The other

possibility is that Jayden bribed the medical examiner to falsify the report. Personally, I think it's a combination of both, otherwise it wouldn't be so seamless and suspicious."

After listening, Stella also agreed with this explanation. "Alpha, should we call the medical examiner in to question him? If we find out he was bribed, we can offer him more money as long as he tells the truth. We'll go easy on him."

Griffon furrowed his brows and pondered for a few seconds before asking Stella, "How far have Miss Duke and Mr. Sherwood progressed?"

Stella was momentarily stunned, but quickly reacted. "I told Harper everything that happened that day. They had a fight afterwards and Harper is leaning towards breaking up. But Mr. Sherwood insists on her meeting his parents first before discussing a breakup, probably because he's afraid Miss Duke will really leave, he invited his parents over in advance, and the meeting is scheduled for the end of this month..."

Griffon nodded. "Let's wait until they meet before making any decisions..."

Upon hearing this, Stella was a bit puzzled, but after thinking about it, she understood. Griffon probably didn't want to handle Jayden at this critical moment because of Harper. They would deal with Jayden and clear Henry's name after Harper meets his parents and depending on the situation. However, she couldn't help but ask, "Alpha, what if Harper is pressured by his parents and agrees to mate Jayden?"

Griffon shook his head confidently. "She won't."

Only when Harper let go first can they deal with Jayden without any concerns and clear Henry's name.

Chapter 1391

The investigation of Jayden's situation was urgent, but Andre and Anna's mating ceremony had to go on as scheduled.

The Alpha's assistant was getting mated, and the ceremony was quite extravagant, with luxury cars filling the hotel entrance.

Not only prominent figures from Arcadia were present, but also people from the capital who had business dealings with the Knight' rushed over.

Andre had booked the entire hotel for the event.

Andre was the son of Eric's stepmother, and people from the Sinclair pack had also come, including Eric herself.

When he entered the hotel, he didn't say much. He only cornered Stella at the end of the corridor when he saw her.

The man was dressed in black, his face expressionless, his thin lips tightly pressed, exuding a hint of cold ruthlessness. "I received the court summons. You have quite the nerve to dare to sue me."

His fair, almost translucent fingers touched Stella's cheek, but she coldly turned her face away. "You're sexually harassing me even when we're going to court. Aren't you afraid of adding another charge?"

Eric laughed, a graceful and confident smile that was dazzling and somewhat piercing. "With our relationship, you won't win this lawsuit. Withdraw your complaint while I'm in a good mood, or else..."

After forcefully pushing Stella against the wall, Eric placed his hand above her head, lowered his head, and deeply kissed her lips. What was supposed to be a fleeting moment became something more when he tasted her. Reluctantly, he reached out and hugged her tightly in his arms.

"Stella, I miss you so much."

Stella pushed him away. "Get lost!"

But Eric grabbed her hand and placed it on his wrist. "Touch it and see how many injuries I've suffered for you."

Stella felt the countless scars, some healed and some not, crisscrossing each other on his veins and arteries. As a doctor, she naturally knew that these wounds were self-inflicted cuts on his wrists. But what did they have to do with her?

With a darkened face and all her strength, she forcefully shook off his grip.

This time, Eric didn't try to grab her hand again. He only raised his own wrist and chuckled softly. "If I knew you would be so heartless, I wouldn't have cut my wrists just to see you."

His smile, usually handsome and radiant, now carried a tinge of bitterness. It seemed that he had suffered a great deal during this period of time.

In fact, he had been locked up by the Sinclair pack. He had no choice but to go on hunger strikes and cut his wrists numerous times before being released.

Just as he was released, he received the court summons. The Stella who used to claim to love him so much was now teaming up with another man to sue him, even wanting to send him to prison.

He never even thought about why Stella, who had claimed to love him, had become so cruel and heartless. Did he deserve to be deceived and harmed by her like this?

Chapter 1392

As Eric thought about it, a trace of anger appeared in her eyes. She gripped Stella's chin with her fingers and lifted it up, forcing her to look directly into his eyes.

"Do you want to send me to jail and be with Henry for the rest of your life?" He lowered his head, and his neatly styled hair fell onto Stella's clean face, like a centipede crawling, sending shivers down her spine.

"Let me tell you, unless I die, you will never be with him. From the moment you deceived me, you were destined to be mine!"

After the man finished speaking, he let go of Stella with a flick of his hand, turned around, and left without any hesitation.

"I will make sure you lose the lawsuit and admit defeat!"

As his proud figure disappeared around the corner, these words reached Stella's ears, causing her to lose her balance and slowly crouch down against the wall.

The case of Henry's medical accident hadn't been solved yet, and now Eric, this venomous snake, had appeared. How could they continue this battle that hadn't even begun?

Taya held Griffon's arm and entered the mating ceremony hall, coincidentally bumping into Eric coming out from inside.

Both sides paused their steps, and Eric looked at the couple in front of him, who seemed like a perfect match, and couldn't help but sneer.

"Taya, long time no see."

He completely ignored Griffon and only greeted Taya, displaying contempt and disdain on his face.

Taya didn't respond and tried to lead Griffon to go around, but as they passed by Eric, he let out a mocking laugh.

"Taya, the last time I saw you, your complexion wasn't as rosy as it is now. It seems like your mated life is quite happy!"

"Whether I'm happy or not has nothing to do with you."

Eric smirked, revealing a scornful smile.

"It has nothing to do with me, but I happen to know that your happiness was obtained at the cost of someone's life."

Taya's grip on Griffon's hand suddenly tightened, and her face became slightly unnatural.

The man being held by her noticed and turned directly towards Eric, staring at him coldly.

"Did Silas send you to say these things?"

Eric sneered.

"He chose to sacrifice himself for you, so why would he ask me to say such things?"

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Dressed in a black suit, Griffon slightly curled his lips, his deep and indifferent eyes exuding an invincible aura.

"Since he didn't ask you to speak, are you defending him or spreading rumors about his character in his name?" Griffon coolly countered.

Eric was taken aback by the indifferent response and seemed to realize that not only was she unable to provoke them, but she was also tarnishing her friend's gentle and refined

reputation.

Eric's face turned cold. "I just think Silas is living a miserable life, so I made sarcastic remarks about all of you. It has nothing to do with Silas."

Griffon raised an eyebrow. "I understand that you're his friend and want to speak up for him. I just hope that next time, you won't use his name to spread nonsense about my wife."

Eric frowned, wanting to say something, but when she saw Taya's guilty eyes, she remembered Silas's warning.

He said that if Eric hurt Taya again by involving his matters, they wouldn't even be friends.

Afraid of losing Silas as a friend, Eric gritted her teeth and held back.

After a cold glance at the two, Eric left.

He came here to see Stella, and now that he had seen her, there was no need to stay.

After Eric left, Griffon grabbed Taya's hand and squeezed it tightly.

"You have nothing to apologize to Silas for. Don't blame yourself."

Over ten years ago, she cried and crawled in the pouring rain to save Silas, seeking help from everyone.

Over ten years later, even though she fell in love with Griffon, Silas still came first, including... now.

Griffon held her hand tightly, as if holding onto his lifelong love, unwilling to let go.

"I know your guilt towards him stems from the legs he lost for you."

He lowered his gaze and looked into Taya's clear eyes.

"Don't worry, I will definitely cure his legs."

He would cure Silas, just like when he kicked the gun out of his hand without hesitation.

Only by curing Silas could the guilt in his wife's heart completely dissipate.

Feeling his determination and firmness, Taya's guilt gradually faded, replaced by gratitude.

"Honey, thank you..."

Thank you

for your magnanimity, and thank you for being willing to do everything to help Silas. Thank you for saving him back then, for protecting him, for reclaiming his property, and for arranging the leg treatment with experts. I will always remember these things.

Seeing tears glistening in her eyes, Griffon slightly curled his lips. "You look just like last night."

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Last night?

Taya blushed. Last night, he pressed her against the French window, and her tears came out, not because she was in pain, but because...

Embarrassed, Taya hammered his arm. "There are so many people in the banquet hall. What nonsense are you talking about?"

Griffon smiled and held her fist. He walked to his seat and

asked for a shawl from a waiter.

“Why do you need a shawl?”,

As he draped it over her, he leaned close to her ear and said,

“Dominic’s doctor told us to keep warm. The air conditioning here is too strong, and I’m afraid you’ll get cold. Also...”

His eyes moved from top to bottom and landed on the V-neck

of her dress. “The doctor said we should exercise more. Since

you want to thank me, how about rewarding me with a few more times every night...”

As he said this, someone happened to pass by, seemingly

hearing what Griffon said. They glanced at the couple

strangely, and Taya’s round face turned red. “Oh my, please shut your mouth...”

She covered his thin lips and shouted, “You used to be so quiet. Why are you so talkative now?”

Griffon opened his thin lips to reply, but she pressed them

shut. “Oh, don’t say another word, just close them!”

While this couple was playfully teasing each other, Andre

arrived at the hotel to welcome the bride. The guests in the banquet hall also took their seats.

The host went on stage and said a bunch of congratulatory

words for the newlyweds before getting to the main point and

asking the two of them to come on stage.

The spotlight shone on the bride, casting a soft light and making Anna look like a beautiful fairy.

She stood at the other end of the red carpet, smiling elegantly,

looking poised and waiting for the handsome groom to come

and meet her...

Andre, holding roses, wore a black tailcoat with his hair

combed back, revealing a clean and full forehead. He walked

towards Anna with vitality.

After generously handing her the flowers, he held her hand and walked step by step on the red

carpet to the soothing and

solemn mating ceremony march.

Countless dazzling lights swept over the guests and landed on the newlyweds as they

exchanged rings, made vows, kissed, and poured champagne.

Following Andre, the groomsmen went on stage one by one, teasing Anna’s bridesmaids.

The most lively among them were Zack and Peter...

They had so much fun that they even tried to pull Griffon on stage for a performance.

With a cold and icy gaze, Griffon swept his eyes over them, and they trembled and dared not continue.

Neil, sitting next to Taya, glanced at the stage and the golden bricks and smiled teasingly, “I want have a try.”

BChapter 1395

Neil had tricked Andre a few times, and Peter knew it. “Aren’t you afraid Andre will punch you off the stage?” Peter asked.

Neil put on a fake friendly smile, “It’s his big day today, he won’t lay a hand on me, don’t worry.”

It’s just a performance of drinking a whole row of champagne, what’s there to be afraid of? As

long as he gave him that little golden brick as a prize...

Once Neil had made up his mind, he ignored Peter and Zack’s

objections and rushed up to the stage.

Originally, there was a group of people making noise on the stage, but after he went up, it

turned into a showdown between him and Andre. They kept drinking one row of champagne after another, and with each row, another little golden brick was added. Neil risked his life, and after drinking Andre under the table, he stumbled off the stage, clutching a pile of little golden bricks...

Andre, on the other hand, simply collapsed. In the end, it was the bride who helped him into the car. It's said that after this incident caused by Neil, Anna would always confront him whenever she saw him, but that was another story...

The mating ceremony was over, the guests had dispersed, and Stella breathed a sigh of relief as she watched the crowd disappear.

She couldn't have a peaceful mating and have pups, but her cousin Andre could, and that was the happiest thing for her.

Stella didn't ask for anything else, she only wanted her cousin Andre to be by Alpha's side forever, always happy and healthy.

Harper was still thinking about what happened at the night club. After saying hello to Taya and Stella, she planned to leave first.

As she got up and walked through the crowd, she happened to see a man sitting in a wheelchair at the other end of the VIP section.

He was wearing a white shirt today, with a big quiff, making his handsome and mature face look even more dignified than usual.

In the past, he would be the most lively at such occasions, but this time he hadn't shown his face once, just sitting quietly under the stage, watching.

He had lost some weight, his tall figure appearing somewhat frail, and although his complexion was much better, it still looked a bit pale.

When most people have left, Preston pushed the wheelchair and turned it around, just in time to see Harper waiting for the front row crowd to leave.

Their eyes met, and it was hard for them to pretend they didn't see each other or avoid each other.

Harper wanted to quickly look away, but Preston was open and friendly, nodding towards her. Compared to their previous entanglements, this time their gaze was clear and bright, as if he had moved on.

After a polite nod, he pushed the wheelchair and headed towards another safe exit, without looking back.

Watching his figure disappear into the crowd, Harper withdrew her gaze and took step by step towards the exit of the mating ceremony hall.

Chapter 1396

After Andre's mating ceremony, Taya was busy with Jocelyn's lawsuit, Stella was busy investigating the truth and clearing Henry's name, and Harper was busy meeting Jayden's parents.

The meeting was set at the most expensive restaurant in Arcadia, and it took a month in advance to secure a reservation.

Mandy said that this meant the Sherwood pack valued her, which was why they chose such a fancy restaurant for the meeting. She was told to dress up nicely and make a good impression on Jayden's parents.

Harper agreed but didn't put much effort into her appearance. She just did her usual light makeup and wore conservative clothes before heading out.

When Harper entered the restaurant, Jayden, sitting at a round table, immediately stood up and waved her over. "Harper, over here."

Seeing his elegant figure, Harper felt a bit intimidated and wanted to back out. But she was already here, so she had to put on a brave face no matter what.

She clenched her hands and walked towards Jayden, finally noticing the middle-aged couple sitting at the innermost part of the table.

The man was dressed in a suit with a black tie, exuding a dignified and handsome aura that resembled Jayden. The woman had a graceful and elegant demeanor, with a charming and gentle appearance.

As soon as they saw Harper, they greeted her with smiles.

"Miss Duke, please come and sit."

They were quite warm and welcoming, asking Harper to order whatever she wanted while Jayden attended to the waiter.

Their friendly attitude made Harper feel nervous at first, but she gradually relaxed.

Jayden's father didn't speak much, leaving most of the questioning to Jayden's mother, Natalie. "Miss Duke, how long have you and Jayden been together?"

Harper glanced at Jayden, who was carefully cutting the steak. "It's been a little over two months since we started dating. It hasn't been that long..."

Natalie's gentle face carried a hint of a smile. "It hasn't been long. Jayden told me he's had a crush on you since high school. Puppy love is quite romantic, isn't it?"

After Jayden finished cutting the steak, he placed it on Harper's plate. Only then did she smile and respond to

Natalie's comment. "I actually found out about this two months ago at a blind date. I had no idea about his feelings. when we were in school together."

Natalie's expression slightly changed, and Jayden quickly chimed in, "That was all one-sided on my part. Harper probably had no clue I existed back then."

Natalie laughed. "So, Miss Duke, were you the school's beauty queen or something?"

BChapter 1397

Harper's hand holding the knife and fork stiffened slightly. She was about to deny it, but Jayden

interrupted, "Mom, let's not talk about the past anymore. It was all my wishful thinking. If you bring it up too much, it'll just be embarra*sing."

Natalie looked at Jayden and smiled affectionately, "Alright, I won't bring it up anymore. I'll give you some face."

Jayden's furrowed brows relaxed and he cut some foie gras for Harper, placing it on her plate with caring gestures.

Harper had intended to just focus on eating, but after only a few bites, she heard Natalie ask, "Miss Duke, you and my son were planning to get mated, right? There are some things I wanted to clarify in advance, I hope you don't mind..."

Harper put down her utensils and looked up at Natalie, "Auntie, you can ask whatever you want, I won't mind."

She was quite polite to her elders, which pleased Natalie. She nodded and said, "I heard that you grew up in an orphanage without parents. How have you been these years?"

Harper didn't hesitate, "When I was young, I relied on the orphanage, and as I grew up, I worked in convenience stores

or small restaurants wherever they needed help."

Natalie's gaze flickered, "That must have been tough. But

just working in a small restaurant, you can barely make ends meet. How did you become the owner of an entertainment venue at such a young age?"

From these two questions in a row, Harper understood that Natalie was questioning where her money came from.

With her background, she would indeed face doubts. Harper didn't blame Natalie and replied honestly, "After graduating from high school, I worked in a bar selling alcohol and saved some money. Later, my two relatives had some trouble and before they left, they left me some property. I took some of the money and bought a bar. After making enough money to pay back my friends, that's how I got my start."

After listening, Natalie seemed thoughtful and nodded, "I see. But as a young girl, you could find a stable job and live a comfortable life. Why did you have to get into this line of work? Is there some special hidden reason?"

Her words were quite cryptic, something other girls wouldn't have picked up on, but Harper was different. "There's no special hidden reason. I just wanted to establish myself in Arcadia. To survive in this expensive place, you need money. I don't engage in illicit activities, so I can only save money by drinking with customers. At first, I thought buying an apartment would be satisfying enough, but then I was bullied by rich and influential people. I realized that a stable job couldn't give me much."

Write your comment

Chapter 1398

Harper's words dispelled Natalie's suspicion that she relied on trading S**. "I understand now. Your experience is a bit similar to mine, except I had better grades and got into a prestigious university, which helped me establish myself. Being a woman is not easy, I can understand you."

Natalie didn't show overt rejection, but her words carried a sense of superiority that made Harper uncomfortable. Harper looked up at Jayden, who seemed oblivious to his mother's implications and didn't speak up for her. Instead, he focused on serving her various foods.

Harper used her fork and knife to move the food on her plate but didn't eat. Jayden noticed and asked with concern, "What's wrong? Is it not to your liking?"

Harper shook her head. Natalie glanced at the two of them and quickly called a waiter. After ordering from the menu, she handed it to Harper. "Miss Duke, if you don't like the food, don't force yourself. Order something more to your taste. My pack has some money, we can afford it, so don't hesitate." Upon hearing this, Harper looked at the wealthy woman, then at the middle-aged man silently sipping his red wine, before finally turning her gaze to Jayden. Seeing his approval, she smiled and said, "Then let's order a few more dishes."

Natalie thought the two moderately priced dishes were too cheap, so she also ordered a few signature dishes and a

bottle of Lafite. As the waiter left with a smile, Natalie adjusted her silk beige dress.

Harper recognized that every stitch of the dress was handcrafted, but she didn't pay much attention to Natalie's constant displays of wealth in front of her.

Noticing that Harper didn't try to flatter or please her, Natalie was also tactful and withdrew her hand from touching the clothes. "Miss Duke, what I'm about to say might offend you, but you know my son. He hasn't had much dating experience or been mated, so I am quite curious about your past. Can you tell us why you unmated your ex-husband?"

Harper turned to Jayden and asked, "Did you not tell your parents about this?"

Before Jayden could respond, Natalie interrupted, "He did tell me. After you two confirmed your relationship, Jayden mentioned it to us, but he didn't go into the details. I thought I would wait until we met in person to have a proper chat."

Since Natalie put it this way, Harper no longer had a reason to question Jayden. After hesitating for a couple of seconds, she uncovered her own scars without any concealment. "I unmated my ex-husband because he cheated on me with his sister. When I found out, their pup was already over nine months old."

BChapter 1399

Natalie gasped as if she had just heard the juiciest gossip. "Wait, his sister?!"

Harper shook her head. "She's not his biological sister!"

Curious, Natalie pressed on. "How did you find out?"

Harper replied, "His sister was staying at my friend's hospital, and I happened to pass by. I accidentally saw them being intimate, and caught them red-handed."

Natalie exclaimed, "That's so bizarre! How could they do that in a hospital?!"

After scolding them, Natalie grabbed Harper's hand and asked, "What happened next?"

Most people would have stopped there, but Natalie clearly wanted to dig up all of her secrets, not caring about Harper's feelings at all.

Harper glanced at Jayden, hoping he would speak up and stop Natalie from prying further, but Jayden was focused on picking out fish bones. Harper had no choice but to explain everything about the lawsuit with Daniel.

After Natalie had thoroughly questioned Harper about her past, she smiled and said, "Miss Duke, that's just how I am. I always care too much about Jayden's affairs, especially because he's a nerd who only knows how to study. He's clueless about social skills or chasing girls. As a mother, I worry more. But all parents are like this, you should

understand, right?"

Harper didn't have parents, so she couldn't really understand. Feeling uneasy, she forced a smile and made up an excuse to leave. "I need to use the restroom. Enjoy your meal."

As soon as Harper left, Natalie's elegant smile crumbled. "Jayden, although what she said was convincing, I don't believe that someone who frolics around in entertainment venues can be clean."

In the neighboring round booth, the man leaning against the Cartier fabric sofa tilted his head slightly, and his black hair fell, revealing sharp eyes. He stared intently at the red wine in his glass, which shimmered under the light.

Anthony, sitting next to him, noticed his interest and quickly took out his phone, placing it above the booth with the speaker facing towards the next table.

Hearing Natalie's words, he remembered that Harper had slept with Preston, and it made him slightly uncomfortable.

But it wasn't enough to hold a grudge. "If she's not clean, she wouldn't have withstood your questioning. Why do you still doubt her?"

Chapter 1400

Natalie frowned and said, "Look at her appearance and figure, even the way she walks exudes a seductive charm. A

woman with such good looks and allure can't be completely innocent. I wouldn't believe it even if you killed me."

Jayden's father, Martin, followed Natalie's gaze and glanced at Harper, who was heading to the restroom. "She does look good. Most men would have some thoughts, especially those who go to entertainment venues. It's easy for someone with power and influence to make her submit.

What she says may be somewhat fake."

Natalie nodded. "Exactly. Your father and I can tell whether a girl is good or not at a glance. If you mate her, she might end up cheating on you..."

Jayden disagreed, "Harper is not that kind of person. She would never cheat on me..."

Natalie responded, "Even if you believe in her character, I still don't approve of her."

Jayden became anxious, "Mom, why don't you approve of her now?"

Natalie patted Jayden's arm. "Son, she's an orphan, only finished high school, and has no background or education. I doubt she even knows French. How can she live with you in France? Just taking her out to meet me and your father's friends would be embarrassing."

Jayden wanted to argue, but he also felt that Natalie was right. Harper really didn't know much French. Would she fit in well living with him in France?

Seeing that Jayden had nothing to say, Natalie continued, "And she's been mated before, and she works in nightclubs all year round. You come from an academic pack, and your relatives are all involved in research and academia. Even without considering her background, let's just talk about you. You've become an outstanding doctor at such a young age, and it won't be long before you win the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Once you achieve that, your status will be sky-high. How can a woman like her match up to you?"

Jayden didn't listen. "No matter how outstanding I am, I only want Harper. I liked her since high school, and I haven't been able to have her. How can I be content?"

Seeing his stubbornness, Natalie sighed, "I know your personality. It's hard for you to let go if you don't get what you want. But mating a woman with her qualifications is really embarrassing. Why don't you choose Jenny instead? She and the pup...

At this point, Martin coughed, and Natalie immediately changed her tone. "She's still waiting for you abroad, enduring hardships..."

Jayden's handsome face gradually darkened. "Mom, Jenny and I are in the past. Don't mention her in front of me anymore."