

# **The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover by Caesar Erickson**

## **Chapter 1601-1610**

### Chapter 1601

“Those people were indeed sent by Eric. He wanted to scare you, but unfortunately your uncle overheard it. He immediately encouraged me to bribe those people and make them act for real. I was confused at the time and thought that if Eric's reputation was ruined, I wouldn't have to endure his insults anymore, so I reluctantly agreed...”

Karen finished speaking with a pitiful expression, gently touching Stella's face.

“I'm really sorry, Stella. I wasn't thinking clearly at the time. Eric deceived me, otherwise I would never have hurt you. After seeing what you went through, I deeply regretted it and felt incredibly guilty...”

Stella remained still, letting Karen's cold fingertips glide across her face. Her blood ran cold, like being trapped in an icy pond, unable to struggle free, only allowing the coldness to envelope her.

She knew that Karen's words were half true and half false, the only thing she believed was that Eric didn't want those people to gang rape her, he just wanted to scare her. So that's why Eric never explained anything?

Suppressing her anger, Stella slowly lifted her vacant gaze and looked into Karen's eyes, void of any cruelty. She asked calmly,

“When you punished him using pack methods, did he explain himself?”

While Stella was in the hospital, she heard that apart from the thugs who fell into the water, the others who were caught and

sent to prison didn't reveal the mastermind behind it. Eric narrowly escaped.

It was after Stella woke up that Karen forced her to accuse Eric. Eric was standing by her hospital bed at the time, wanting to explain something, but Thomas slapped him several times and he chose to remain silent.

Stella knew that after he was taken back by the Sinclair pack, he was severely dealt with. She didn't witness it firsthand, but she saw Eric covered in blood when he came to her hospital room. He wanted to come in, but Karen wouldn't let him get close.

Until Stella recovered and found out she was pregnant, Eric hadn't seen her alone.

Even when she had an abortion, Eric didn't explain anything. If he only wanted to scare

her, why didn't he explain to her?

Karen didn't really want to tell Stella, but seeing that Stella didn't blame her, she reluctantly said,

"When the Sinclair pack punished him, he did explain that it was just a scare, but he didn't expect those people to take it seriously. When I heard him say that, I was afraid the Sinclair pack would

believe him, so I slapped him and angrily accused him of making excuses. I questioned him, even if what you said was true, this whole thing happened because of him. If he hadn't done it, how could you have been gang raped? So whether it was a scare or not, you were hurt because of him. He didn't say anything after I finished speaking, probably thinking that it was indeed his fault and there was no need to explain anymore..."

So that's how it was. Because he also believed that he sent people, whether he explained or not didn't matter. After all, the damage had been done. In Eric's mind, he probably always thought it was his doing, so he never mentioned this incident to her... Even when they met again, Eric treated her the same way as before. He must have believed that their relationship couldn't be reconciled because of this, so he acted like a little boy bullying a little girl, surrounding her.

Stella wanted revenge, so she seduced him and made him fall in love with her, intending to hurt him badly, thinking that this would be a successful revenge. But she didn't expect that the real enemy was sitting in front of her, looking at her with pity.

This person even claimed that Bart instigated her. How could Stella believe that? Bart wasn't even in the country at the time, how would he know that Eric wanted to scare her?

After understanding everything, Stella no longer pretended. She raised her finger, wiping away the tears at the corner of her eyes, and looked at Karen with cold eyes.

"If I'm not mistaken, you had already bribed those people, but Eric accidentally fell into your trap..."

As these words came out, Karen's expression changed drastically. She didn't expect Stella to figure this out, even though she had concealed the truth. How could Stella...

When Karen tried to find an excuse to dispel Stella's suspicions, she saw Stella gripping her skirt tightly, exerting great force as if she wanted to tear it off.

Karen couldn't tell from Stella's actions and expression whether she was shocked by

the truth or suppressing her hatred. She only felt that this pup had also learned how to disguise herself and was ultimately unable to control it...

But regardless of whether she could control it or not, Karen wouldn't admit it and chose to remain silent.

Chapter 1602

But just by looking at Karen's eyes, Stella knew she hadn't guessed wrong. Karen was the one who made the first move.

Realizing this was even worse than knowing Karen had used Eric's men to make things worse for Stella. Because that night, whether Eric had coincidentally come up with this idea or not, her own aunt would have done the same thing in Eric's name.

After all, as long as they bribed the thugs and made them blame Eric as the mastermind, even if Eric had a hundred mouths, he wouldn't be able to explain it clearly.

So at that time, when Stella woke up, Karen didn't care about her well-being first. Instead, she kept pressing her, wanting to know who was behind it all. She claimed it was for revenge, but in reality, she wanted to destroy Eric...

If Stella hadn't been blinded by family ties and hatred for Eric at that time, she should have thought carefully and not become a pawn.

Stella sneered inwardly, but remained calm as she questioned Karen.

"Tell me, when did you start using me? Was it from the moment you brought me to the Sinclair pack, or when you manipulated me to get close to Eric..."

Karen stared at Stella's red eyes and suddenly felt like she had awakened, seeing right through everything. Facing Stella like this, it seemed pointless to hide anymore because she could feel that after today, her niece would never care for her as before.

Thinking this, Karen reached out and grabbed Stella's hand, gently releasing her grip on her dress and placing Stella's hand in her own palm. She then covered it with her other hand.

"Stella, Auntie brought you to the Sinclair pack because I felt sorry for you, losing both your parents. I wanted you to have a good life with me, but I never expected Eric to transfer her hatred towards me and Andre onto you."

If Karen had raised Stella just to use her, she wouldn't have sent Andre away beforehand and kept him by her side while using Stella as a shield. It was because she had no such intention that Karen didn't set any traps in that regard.

Stella could already distinguish between truth and lies, so she didn't question Karen's words but continued to look up at her.

"Then when did you start using me?"

Since when?

Since Eric repeatedly mocked her, insulted her, and hated her with cold words, Karen wished for Eric's death!

But with Eric's grandfather guarding him at that time, she couldn't touch Eric.

Moreover, Eric was clever and quickly sensed something was wrong. Several times, she tried to push Eric into the water from behind, but he cleverly avoided it.

Coincidentally, she saw little Stella chasing after Eric, wanting him

to teach her medical skills. She felt that Eric was much kinder to Stella than to her, so she

thought if she could transfer Eric's hatred for her onto Stella, she would have to suffer less. She then told Thomas how pitiful and helpless Stella was, how she was constantly bullied by Eric. Thomas heard it and saw it, and he started favoring Stella more.

Eric, being young at the time, probably felt that his father's love had been taken away, which made him uncomfortable. The more he saw Stella, the more he disliked her, and Karen wanted to make it worse. She falsely accused him of hitting Stella in front of Thomas to add fuel to the fire.

When Thomas heard about it, he didn't hesitate. As soon as Eric came back from school, he slapped him hard, knocking him to the ground. Eric foamed at the mouth, convulsing, almost unable to handle it.

He grabbed Thomas' leg and asked through gritted teeth why he hit him. Thomas said it was because he had bullied Stella. Eric

him falsely, causing him this

injustice. From then on, Eric completely hated Stella.

Eric did transfer some of his hatred from Karen, but the Sinclair pack still wanted him, the talented one, to be the heir. Despite Eric's misdeeds, those uncles of his liked him, almost unconditionally, without considering Andre, who was far away in Arcadia and under the care of the Knight' butler. Karen believed that only by making Eric commit a major mistake would the Sinclair pack completely abandon him and consider Andre for the inheritance.

She started provoking Eric every now and then, of course, when no one could see or hear.

Whenever Eric got angry, he couldn't control his insults towards her. Karen purposely waited for Thomas to come back and acted as if she had been greatly wronged.

At that time, Thomas would scold and hit Eric, regardless of right or wrong. Every time Eric got angry, he would redirect his hatred towards Stella and find new ways to bully her...

Karen made sure the servants around her knew what Eric had done to Stella, spreading it throughout the Imperial Capital circle. Eric's reputation slowly declined, even within the Sinclair pack. They believed that as Eric grew older, he became more unruly...

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But that's not enough. Eric's mistake wasn't big enough, so Karen had Stella get close to Eric. She wanted Stella to fall in love with Eric first, and then use that love to get Eric's heart in return. She thought that if the two kids had a connection, someone like Eric, who was reckless and free-spirited, wouldn't be able to resist Stella.

But surprisingly, Eric never fell for Stella, even though Karen hinted at him by letting Stella going in and out of his bathroom and room. Karen, who thought her plan was going to fail, happened to see Eric sneaking into Stella's room late at night.

Karen followed him quietly and opened the door a crack. She saw Eric standing by Stella's bed, staring at her for a long time. Then suddenly, he leaned in and lightly kissed Stella's lips. After the kiss, he got startled, as if he had surprised himself.

Seeing Eric's amorous behavior, Karen knew that half of her plan had succeeded. And in the following times, she even witnessed Eric becoming bolder. He would kiss Stella when she was asleep, and each time the kisses lasted longer than the previous ones, but he never went further.

Karen planned to wait for the day when Eric would make a mistake on his own, but she didn't expect that before that happened, Thomas got into an argument with Eric's grandfather because of

Eric's career direction. Karen never imagined that even with Eric's tarnished reputation, Thomas

still hadn't given up on the idea of making him the heir. When she heard Thomas say that if Eric studied finance, he would let him take over the pack business after graduation, she panicked. She had been planning for so many years not to push Eric to be the heir, but for her own son. Otherwise, once Eric gained power, she would be under Eric's feet in the Sinclair pack and her status would be diminished. And who knew, the grown-up Eric, who could manipulate everything, might even try to seek revenge for his mother. To prevent Eric from gaining power, Karen even thought about drugging him and tempting him to rape Stella. Just then, a boy named Mason happened to bring Stella home. She knew it was a great opportunity.

She quickly guided Stella to like Mason and created opportunities for them to be alone together, intentionally making Eric jealous. Karen knew that a young guy like Eric, once he became jealous, would inevitably become agitated and might do something foolish.

But Eric was surprisingly tolerant. He saw Mason coming out of Stella's room several times and chose to turn a blind eye. What could she do? She could only push things further. When they were about to graduate from high school, she started openly and subtly urging Mason to confess his feelings to Stella.

At that time, Mason had a crush on Stella but was afraid that she didn't like him. Karen said that if Stella didn't like him, she would have rejected him long ago. It was just that Stella was shy. In fact, it was Karen who advised Stella not to reject Mason, but Mason didn't know that. He really thought that if Stella didn't reject him, it meant she liked him. He even took Karen's advice and confessed to Stella on a cruise ship.

When Mason took Stella onto the ship, Karen found Eric and told him that Mason was going to confess to Stella. Then they would sail around the world together. Eric was still holding back at that time. To push him further, Karen smiled at Eric and said, "I wonder if Stella will get pregnant after spending two months together. If Stella gets pregnant, she'll mate Mason." This made Eric furious and his face turned pale. He started cursing Stella, calling her shameless, and went crazy looking for someone.

Karen wasn't sure if the infuriated Eric would personally attack Stella or send someone to do it. But based on her understanding of Eric, she knew he would choose the latter. Because Eric had both hatred and some liking for Stella, although he probably wasn't aware of the liking. So the hatred he had for Stella would outweigh.

And she guessed right. That idiot Eric actually thought that Stella was going to be with another man. He believed that a woman like Stella couldn't live without a man, so he sent a group of people to scare her. But because of this, he unintentionally helped Karen.

To make sure those people succeeded, Karen had someone injure the caretaker who had raised Eric and then tricked the caretaker into calling Eric, asking him to come back and save him. The caretaker, holding his head covered in blood, quickly called Eric, who was skilled in medicine...

Eric probably never knew that this was Karen's plan. But whether he knew or not, every time Karen thought about this coincidental event, she couldn't help but laugh. How could someone be so foolish?

#### Chapter 1604

As she reminisced about the past, the smile that she tried to hide was all too visible to Stella. Stella had a vague inkling that whether it was during their pup period when she encouraged her

to get close to Eric, or as they grew older when she manipulated her into falling for Eric, it was all part of Karen's plan. Even the later harm inflicted upon her, which she blamed on Eric, was just because Karen knew that Thomas wanted Eric to be the heir...

She was ultimately just a pawn in Karen's hands...

Yet, the person who treated her as a pawn was still holding her hand and shifting the blame onto others.

"No matter when it started, you have to know that it was Eric who provoked me first. From the moment I stepped into the picture, he constantly insulted me and even called me a homewrecker in private. If you want to blame someone, blame him."

Stella curled her lips in a bitter smile and suddenly burst into laughter.

"Aren't you the homewrecker?"

With tears in her eyes, she stared at her unfamiliar aunt.

"In order to escape the identity of a small-town girl, you climbed into Thomas's bed, knowing full well that he was mated. Eric saw you wearing his mother's clothes, fooling around with his father in his mother's room. He hated you for that. And what's more, you forcefully moved into the Sinclair pack, driving his mother crazy to the point where she jumped off a building. Who else should he blame if not you?"

These things were what Stella had heard from others as she grew older, and even though her worldview had been greatly shaken at the time, she still chose to believe Karen's explanations. After all, Karen's excuse was that she had no power or influence, and she couldn't escape from someone as powerful as Thomas.

But now, Stella realized that Karen was truly talented. She could turn black into white. At that time, she was even grateful to her aunt...

If the harm Eric caused her was a score of ten thousand, then Karen's was a hundred thousand. The gentle and kind aunt that she believed in turned out to be a facade... Even the love she showed her was just a lie...

No wonder Eric treated her like that. How could she not treat Eric well while secretly tormenting him? Karen hadn't read many books, but she had exceptional acting skills...

She pretended to care about Eric on the surface but tortured him behind his back. She deceived Stella from beginning to end, there was nothing truthful about her...

Stella's heart ached so much that it felt like it was bleeding. This truth, presented in front of her, was more painful than death itself because she truly regarded Karen as her mother, a mother who

had redeemed her...

Stella couldn't control herself anymore. She raised her hand and covered her tearful eyes. How could Karen be so cruel? Why did she treat her as a mere pawn, a pawn she had used for over twenty years? How could she hurt her like this...

"As I've told you, Thomas forced me into this. I didn't willingly become the homewrecker..."

Hearing such a deceitful excuse, Stella stopped talking. Arguing with someone of twisted morals would only make her seem foolish.

She wiped away her tears, pushed away the hand that had been covering hers, and slowly stood up, supporting herself against the edge of the sofa...

There was no need to ask anymore. Those people who fell into the water by accident, Eric must have sent someone to get rid of them after he found out about his own gang rape. The others who escaped and were imprisoned, Karen must have bribed them not to speak.

Only Karen knew, but she wouldn't tell Stella. After those thugs were released from prison, Eric sent people to kill them.

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thugs sought refuge with her, threatening

to expose the truth if she didn't give them money to leave the country. In order to keep them under control, Karen used Bart's account to transfer money and help them escape.

Eric never investigated the thugs' accounts at that time; he just sent people to track them down and have them killed. Most of the accidental deaths of those thugs were the result of Eric's actions.

Eric probably never expected that because of his hatred, he not only solved her hidden dangers but also allowed her to reap the benefits.

Karen thought of this and looked up at Stella, who had turned to grab her bag.

"Stella, I've never killed anyone. Even if you know the truth, you can only hate me, but I will never face legal consequences for these old matters."

BChapter 1605

"These old matters?" Stella sneered suddenly.

"Is it just a small matter that you had someone gang rape me?" Karen's face turned cold in response to Stella's attitude.

"I already said, I was confused at the time, it wasn't intentional," Karen tried to justify herself.

What a statement, Karen really thought Stella was a fool?

Stella's tiny bit of affection for Karen turned into nothingness.

She slowly turned her head, her face equally cold, looking down at Karen.

"You say you haven't killed anyone, then how did Bart die?"

Karen's face darkened, and she suddenly glanced at Mike sitting silently beside her. If it weren't for this bastard causing trouble, she wouldn't have let Stella, that little girl, notice what she had done.

"How should I know how he died?" Karen refused to admit it, but Stella didn't care.

"I will find out," Stella declared.

Upon hearing this, Karen stopped pretending and directly laughed coldly.

"What will you do once you find out?"

"Once I find out the truth..."

Stella squinted her reddened eyes, stared at the scorching sun outside the window, and said coldly, "I will personally send your to prison."

Karen didn't believe that Stella had the ability to do such a thing.

"Well, go ahead and investigate then."

Bart had a stroke, she just removed the oxygen tank, no one saw it, and she didn't believe Stella could find out unless a dead person spoke up.

Stella stopped talking to her, picked up her bag and started to leave, but Karen stopped her.

"Stella, since you're back, let's have a meal first. After all, I've been good to you all these years... sincerely."

She was using delaying tactics, trying to keep Stella, even though she knew Stella already hated her and would never forgive her. Karen wanted to take this opportunity to send someone to erase what she had done.

Stella had no intention of staying, clutching her bag, she confronted Karen who stood in her way. "What, do you have more truths to tell me?"

Karen crossed her arms and nodded at her. "Of course I do."

After confidently speaking, Karen raised her chin arrogantly towards Stella. "Do you know why Eric wanted to terminate your pregnancy?"

Stella's body stiffened. Eric said they hated the pup, that's why they wanted to get rid of it. Was there some hidden truth behind this?

Karen said she would tell Stella if she stayed for the meal. Stella compromised for this one truth. When they sat down at the restaurant, Stella noticed Karen sending a servant out to do something. She pretended not to see it, since everything useful was in her own bag.

Seeing Stella sit down, Karen muttered, "When you were pregnant, the doctor said you had a severe infection in your uterus, and it needed to be terminated immediately. I didn't tell you because it was a way to force the Sinclair pack's people to drive Eric away..."

This was probably the most malicious thing Stella had ever heard. Karen knew she had a serious infection, but still planned to use her for her own benefit.

Stella's hands trembled uncontrollably. No wonder Eric immediately took her to have an abortion after the examination. She had already been infected, but she thought Eric hated her, which was why they wanted to get rid of the pup...

Stella lowered her reddened eyes, carefully contemplating. She then remembered what Eric had said at that time. Eric said if she didn't terminate the pregnancy, she would be infected to death. But at that time, Stella was blinded by hatred and didn't investigate the meaning of those words. She only thought Eric was making excuses...

As these details became clearer, she felt her heart being pierced by a thousand arrows. So, it wasn't Eric's deliberate surgery that caused the infection, she had been infected from the beginning...

If an infected uterus wasn't removed, she would surely die. But at that time, how did she not notice these problems...

When Stella raised her eyelashes, tears fell down like raindrops.

"The person who abandoned me in the wilderness, was it you..."

Eric didn't terminate her pregnancy out of hatred, dislike, or revenge, but to save her life. Yet, how could the same person who just performed the surgery abandon her in the wilderness? It definitely wasn't Eric, only Karen would do such a thing...

As expected, while Karen elegantly savored her delicious steak, her expression remained emotionless as she nodded.

"If I didn't do that, how could you hate Eric and wish for his death?"

Stella's hatred towards Eric was the best revenge for him. After all, which man could endure a woman he loved hating him. endlessly?

## Chapter 1606

Karen still remembered when Eric couldn't find Stella and went crazy, interrogating her, asking her where she had sent Stella.

Karen said she didn't know, at that time she really didn't know who had rescued Stella. Eric saw that she didn't look like she was lying, so he thought Stella had left on her own.

After all, Eric had sent thugs to scare Stella, causing her to be gang-raped, pregnant, infected, and have an abortion. Stella didn't want to see him anymore, which made sense. Eric, who knew he was in the wrong, didn't search the world for Stella anymore. He probably thought that after Stella was away from him, she could start a new life.

The two met again ten years later. In those ten years, Eric had grown quite a bit. Probably because of Stella, he didn't speak coldly to Karen anymore.



But at that time, Mike was born, and Karen could only deepen Stella's hatred for Eric through text messages in order to secure Mike's inheritance rights. Stella didn't forget her hatred for Eric and even came up with a scheme to make Eric fall in love with her and seek revenge on Eric... Stella, who had this kind of mindset, would never give Eric a chance to explain. Karen was relieved because she knew that no matter how much Stella and Eric hurt each other, she would benefit from it.

She occasionally instigated their relationship, including the little things between Henry and Stella. She would exaggerate the details for Eric to hear.

At that time, Eric was under pressure from both Stella's provocations and her demands. Despite the pressure, he still insisted on mating Stella. But how could Thomas agree to such a thing?

Without thinking, he locked Eric up...

At that time, Eric was locked in a room, refusing to eat or drink, and had to endure the lies Stella brought. Although he didn't show any reaction on the surface, Karen knew that Eric's heart was bleeding. After all, Stella's words were about the intimate relationship between Stella and Henry...

She even had someone forge photos to give to the servants, enlarging them for him to see. Eric's eyes turned red with anger, and sometimes he even felt nauseous and vomited. Tears uncontrollably streamed down his face...

He probably thought Stella and Henry had done something, which was why he was so angry. In order to see Stella in a hurry, he even cut his wrist. Seeing Eric like this, Karen knew that Eric loved Stella deeply and knew that this kind of Eric would eventually die at Stella's hands...

As expected, not long after, news of Eric's death came. When Karen saw Stella's reaction, she already knew that Stella must have been the one who shot him.

It was because Stella was the one who shot him that she wanted to know the truth from back then so badly.

Karen looked at her and smiled, "Stella, you killed Eric. If you want to blame someone, blame yourself. It has nothing to do with me..."

Stella's blood ran cold.

She raised her tear-filled eyes and stared blankly at Karen...

"You killed Eric, you killed Eric, you killed Eric..."

This sentence kept echoing in her ears, leaving Stella stunned as if she had just realized what she had done. She couldn't even come up with a retort.

Because, indeed, she had killed Eric...

Thinking of this, Stella suddenly grabbed her bag and ran out in a hurry.

Seeing this, Karen gave a signal with her eyes, and someone immediately stepped forward to stop Stella...

Stella, blocked by several servants, tightly held her bag to her chest, feeling dazed, standing still...

Just when she was at a loss about what to do, Andre kicked open the door of the Simpson family's mansion, leading a group of bodyguards rushing in...

Andre, who still cared about Stella's safety despite his wife being pregnant, visited Mia and settled her at home before rushing to the Imperial Capital.

He arrived just in time. Karen hadn't done anything to Stella yet, otherwise Andre would have to tear down the Sinclair pack's mansion.

After Andre rushed in, he quickly walked to Stella and kicked away the servants blocking her, then grabbed her wrist and pulled her out.

During this time, Andre didn't even glance at Karen, which made Karen's face turn pale. Her own son ignored her existence. Was there no more pack affection left?

Karen didn't know where she found the courage and hurriedly stepped forward to stop Andre. "You've only come back twice. The first time, you kidnapped your father, and now you want to take Stella away. You can't act so recklessly..."

Although it didn't matter much if Stella knew the truth, the people she sent out hadn't reported back yet. She had to wait for them to erase any remaining evidence before she could let Stella go. Now she had to stabilize Stella and not let her go with Andre no matter what.

#### Chapter 1607

Andre was not someone to mess with. With a single palm, he pushed Karen, who was in front of him. Andre was strong, while Karen was fragile. As a result, she fell to the ground with a loud thud.

Karen grimaced in pain, trying to get up. Suddenly, Andre's black leather shoe stomped on her fallen dress. Karen looked up and met a fierce face.

From above, Andre coldly stared at Karen. "I'll deal with you when I come back."

After saying this, he left the Sinclair pack, dragging Stella with him. Karen watched them leave, lying on the ground.

After a while, Karen suddenly burst into laughter. This was her son, whom she had struggled so hard for. This was her well-raised niece, treating her like this!

After Andre got Stella in the car, he glanced at her and noticed her pale face, cold sweat on her forehead, and trembling body. He couldn't help but feel sorry for her.

"Stella, what's wrong with you?"

Stella was usually calm and had never been so distraught. Was she being bullied by Karen? hospital for a check-up

when he saw her trembling hands open her bag and take out a recording pen, handing it to him.

"Cousin, please send this recording to the Sinclair pack..."

She wanted to expose Karen's actions, clear Eric's name, and let the Sinclair pack know that Karen had wanted to get rid of him when Eric was very young. Just based on this, Karen would not be able to stay with the Sinclair pack...

She wanted Karen to face the consequences of her actions, to fall from the sky to the bottom of the valley, and also...

"She killed Bart. Please find evidence and hand it over to the police."

As Andre listened to the recording, he froze for a moment when he heard Stella's words. The hatred in his eyes grew deeper.

"She killed her own cousin. She's truly insane..."

Stella turned her head and looked out the rapidly retreating car window. She had also killed someone, the person who loved her the most. She was just as insane...

She curled her lips in a self-mocking smile. She truly lived up to being raised by Karen, with the same treacherous nature...

She could have aimed for his legs or hands, rendering him defenseless. But she deliberately targeted his heart...

She wanted to get rid of him, to permanently escape from Eric. That's why she killed him. She wanted to kill him...

Stella covered her aching heart with her hand, repeatedly asking herself, "Stella, now that you're finally free from Eric, are you happy?"

She would never be happy again. Why? Because only now did she realize she had wrongly

accused Eric. Only now did she know that the smart and rebellious young man had also loved her...

They were supposed to have a mutual love, a noble ideal of healing and saving lives. But all of it was destroyed by her own aunt...

Her own aunt had finally turned Eric into a dead man, turning her into a murderer. Their lives were completely destroyed...

Their love and hatred for each other was a long-planned conspiracy...

Their plans together over the years were a deceitful scheme...

Stella opened her palm, covered in "blood".

She shook her head, trying to shake off the "blood", but it only seemed to increase.

Feeling desperate, she rolled down the car window, letting the hot afternoon wind rush in...

She thought it would blow away the coldness on her skin, but it remained as chilling as ever.

Stella told herself that Eric wasn't that good either. He had always bullied her since pup period, using words and violence to humiliate her. He was not good at all. Let him dic...

But it was all because of Karen that Eric had become like this. It was Karen who made them turn against each other...

Stella broke down, covering her eyes and letting tears flow freely from her fingertips...

After listening to the recording, Andre was furious. He immediately sent it to the Sinclair pack and simultaneously shared it with the media in Imperial Capital to help clear Eric's name and put pressure on the Sinclair pack.

Thomas, who was attending a meeting at the company, heard that the media were clamoring for an interview. Only then did he realize that his pack's scandal had become public knowledge.

His face turned pale with anger. He pushed away the microphone offered by the media, got into his car, and ordered the driver to quickly return home. He confronted Karen, grabbed her collar, and slapped her repeatedly, leaving Karen unable to move.

## Chapter 1608

Karen never expected that Stella would put a recording device in her bag and manipulate her words. She even told the media that Karen used malicious tactics to go against Eric in order to secure her son's inheritance.

This recording completely destroyed the image she had built over the years in the Imperial Capital circle. Everyone, including the high society ladies and the whole internet, was calling her a crazy homewrecker and telling her to die and return Eric. She was so afraid that she didn't dare to leave her house. Thomas didn't even listen to her explanations. He only felt that she had embarrassed him, so he hit her hard when he came back.

Karen was furious, but she knew that Thomas was her husband. If she said a few kind words and apologized, he would forgive her. But who would have thought that Thomas would cry?

"Do you know how well-behaved and intelligent Eric was before I mated you? He not

only had a talent for medicine, but also had an incredible memory. Just by looking at the data on my computer, he could tell where the problem was. Such a good pup, but you ruined him...”

Thomas couldn't continue as he sobbed. "I shouldn't have drunk that glass of wine you handed me back then!"

It was that glass of wine that led to his downfall, causing him to abandon his wife and pack for Karen. Now he faced this kind of ending, and he deserved it!

Thomas raised his hand and slapped himself hard before turning around and leaving. Watching his resolute figure leaving, Karen's heart skipped a beat. She quickly crawled over and grabbed his trouser leg. "Husband, it's not my fault. The one who killed Eric is Stella, not me!"

Thomas paused for a moment, then turned his head back to Karen, deeply disappointed. "Stella is your weapon—"

Karen was kicked away by Thomas. Seeing Thomas blaming Eric's death on her, Karen clenched her fists in anger and her eyes turned malicious as she looked at Mike, who was leaning against the railing, enjoying the show.

She couldn't believe that when she was about to be abandoned by Thomas, this younger son could have such an indifferent attitude.

Karen felt both cold and resentful. "Mike, if it weren't for you blabbing, how could that bitch Stella have gotten hold of my weakness? You're so indifferent, aren't you afraid of losing your inheritance once I'm overthrown?"

Hearing this, little Mike let go of the pendant around his neck and, stepping in his black leather shoes, walked step by step in a gentlemanly manner towards Karen.

After helping her up, he suddenly looked up and revealed a sinister smile. "Even if you're overthrown, it won't affect me because big brother is already dead, and Andre can't come back.

Father won't let the cousin's pup inherit the power, so no matter if you fall or not, father will help me."

Moreover, it was even better if she fell because such a foolish mother would only drag him down in the future.

This sentence completely stunned Karen. She didn't expect Mike, who was so young, to weigh the pros and cons so carefully, to the point of being willing to give up such a

powerful backing like her...

Karen felt a chilling sensation throughout her body.

When Mike let go of her hand, he politely bowed to her and then walked briskly to catch up with Thomas.

Thomas, who was about to get into the car to return to the company and deal with the news, immediately turned cold when he saw Mike following him, thinking that he was going to speak up for his mother. "What are you doing here?"

Mike opened the car door himself, got in, and then showed an innocent expression to comfort Thomas. "Dad, it's my mom's fault for treating big brother like that. I'm here to apologize to you on her behalf. Even though this apology means nothing, I still don't want to see you so sad..."

After saying that, he used his small hand to pat Thomas' aged face...

Seeing the innocence in his youngest son's eyes, Thomas felt somewhat relieved.

Thankfully, this son was not influenced by

Karen, and he also had knowledge of finance at such a young age, comparable to Eric when he was young. It was truly a blessing. Thomas reached out and grabbed Mike's small hand, placing it in his palm, and patted the back of his hand with his large and gentle palm. "Mike, study hard. When you grow up, I will definitely hand over the inheritance to you..."

Mike pretended to be ignorant and blinked at Thomas. "I don't really understand the inheritance, but I only know that as long as Dad is healthy and by my side for the rest of my life, I will be happy..."

These words earned Thomas a hug. "You are truly my good pup."

But as Mike was being embraced, his eyes gradually grew cold, revealing a triumphant smile after his plan succeeded...

BChapter 1609

Thomas saw the escalating public opinion and decided to remove himself from the situation, placing all the blame on Karen...

Karen quickly became the target of public anger, and the Sinclair pack took advantage of the situation to pressure Thomas into kicking Karen out of the house.

Thomas still had some lingering feelings for Karen and didn't kick her out until the police arrived and arrested Karen for killing her own cousin.

As Karen was being taken away, she fell to her knees in front of Thomas, grabbing onto his pants and crying, "Husband, save me! I didn't kill anyone! Please make them let me go..."

After recovering from his shock, Thomas looked down at the woman crying in front of him, her face contorted in pain. He could hardly believe that beneath her gentle exterior was such a wicked and venomous snake. And all of this was for the inheritance that she could have easily obtained. She killed her

own cousin and caused Eric's death...

It was as if Thomas was only just seeing Karen for the first time. He didn't say a word, simply bent down, forcefully

away.

He pulled her grip from his pants, and let the police take her

Karen, seeing that Thomas wouldn't save her, began to curse him. She cursed him for not being able to protect even his own she-wolf, for his ex-wife's suicide, for the death of their son. Her words were as harsh as they could be, even insulting Thomas's parents...

In the end, Karen started implicating others, saying, "Don't just arrest me, arrest Stella too! She's the one who killed Eric, why are you only arresting me?"

The police couldn't be bothered with her and forcefully pushed her into the car, closing the door. The police car sped away from the Simpson family's front gate, and from then on, Karen's scandal would spread to every corner of Imperial Capital, becoming a topic of gossip for people's idle chats...

But whenever people mentioned the Sinclair pack, they would inevitably bring up their eldest son. The jokes would turn into sighs as they remembered Eric, who had such incredible skills in healing and saving lives. It was a pity that he died like this...

Finally, no one would insult Eric for being unfilial. His reputation was cleared, but he could never return...

After Karen was sent to jail, Stella came to Eric's grave...

She leaned against the tombstone, slowly squatting down.

When she saw that the tombstone was empty, without even a picture, Stella's heart ached...

Every other tombstone around had pictures embedded in

them, but not Eric's. The grand funeral turned out to be so cruel and desolate.

She gently touched Eric's name on the tombstone, apologizing in her heart. And...

She held onto the poorly made tombstone and said in a hoarse voice, "I rejected Henry. I won't mate him anymore, don't worry..."

The thing he feared the most when he was alive was her mating Henry. He didn't get his wish when he was alive, and now he had it, even though it didn't mean anything anymore...

Stella opened her lips, wanting to say something, but she didn't know how to start. Did she still love him? If she didn't, why was she so sad? Did she forgive him? But he had been violent towards her. Did she not forgive him? But Eric loved her to the last seconds of his life. Stella's heart was torn apart, and she didn't even know how much she was suffering.

All she knew was that she couldn't sleep day or night and needed medication to forget the image of shooting and killing Eric, watching him bleed to death, and sitting there waiting

5

She suffered, but she also believed that she could get through

1. After all, there was always more hatred than love between them. But...

Stella lowered her gaze, thinking about how Eric had protected her until the end. She felt a pain, like a virus invading her body, making her wish for death....

She clutched her chest, feeling extremely uncomfortable, when Mike walked slowly behind her.

“Cousin.”

Upon hearing this voice, Stella quickly wiped away the tears in her eyes, straightened her back, and turned to face Mike, who had already walked up to her.

Stella didn't speak to him, she just looked at him. He had his

hands in the pockets of his white suit pants, and he turned his head to look at Eric's grave.

“Cousin, you came to the wrong place.”

Stella's heart skipped a beat at his words, and her eyebrows furrowed.

“What do you mean?”

Was Eric also taken away and saved, like Taya?

As soon as this thought crossed her mind, Stella's heart, which had been still as water, began to beat again.

However, Mike curved his lips and smirked, cutting off her wild thoughts.

“His ashes were scattered into the sea by Karen a long time ago. What lies here is just a pile of sand...”

Who would care about Eric? Who would open the urn and see if it really contained his ashes?

Where did Eric's ashes blow? In a foreign land? Or in some nameless deserted sea? Or in a place where there was no trace of human presence...



Karen wanted Eric to become a ghost, a lonely and companionless spirit...

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Chapter 1610

Eric died, leaving no trace behind, like a gust of wind that came and went, taking nothing with it, disappearing without a trace.

Stella didn't ask where his ashes were scattered, or in which country and sea, she just stared at the grave without even a memorial image, motionless for a long time.

It wasn't until the rainwater in the Imperial Capital poured down, sheltered by Andre's umbrella, that she slowly snapped back to reality and said, "Let's go" to Andre...

She returned to Arcadia and resumed her busy life, treating patients, occasionally working in pediatrics, looking after pups, and taking care of Henry...

She seemed the same as usual, except that she needed medication to fall asleep at night and never dreamed of Eric...

Every time she dreamed, she was shooting a gun, and each shot would startle her awake, leaving her staring blankly at her own hands...

After it happened multiple times, she increased her medication to suppress these nightmares.

patient consultation, she saw Eric, elegantly dressed in a white coat, stepping out of an ambulance...

He looked just like he did when he was alive, meticulously combing his long hair back to reveal a smooth forehead. Under his picturesque brow, there were deep blue eyes that hid his emotions...

Looking into those blue eyes, Stella's heart suddenly stopped beating. She took hesitant steps towards the owner of those eyes...

"Eric..."

Eric heard the voice and lowered his gaze to Stella, who was much shorter than him.

"I'm here."

When he said those words, his lips curled up into a gentle smile.

Seeing that smile, Stella's eyes uncontrollably turned sad.

She rushed over and hugged Eric with all her strength, using every ounce of her body's energy to hold onto him.

The doctor being embraced felt a slight stiffness, then awkwardly patted Stella's back.

"I'm Alex."

Those words brought Stella back to reality. She quickly let go of the doctor she had embraced, unable to believe it. She stared at Alex's face and, once she recognized who he was, Stella lowered her head, said "Sorry," and hurriedly ran into the restroom.

She turned on the faucet and desperately splashed water on her face, repeatedly warning herself, "Stella, you don't love Eric anymore. The way you feel now is just guilt after learning the truth. You're hallucinating because you miss Eric..."

She deceived herself like this, but suddenly felt a pair of warm hands wrap around her waist from behind and pull her into an embrace.

Startled, she turned her head and saw Eric with a both domineering and mischievous expression...

He held her tightly and slid his fingers up her waist until his index finger touched her chin. He applied a slight force, then curled it up...

Stella, forced to look up, stared at Eric as he lowered his head. She fixated on his dark red eyes, gazing at his eyelashes, his

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eyes, and his skin, but she didn't dare reach out to touch him, unsure if the person in front of her was real or a figment of her imagination...

She allowed Eric to hold her without resistance, not moving or avoiding him like she used to, just looking up at him.

Seeing her behave so obediently, Eric's mood seemed to improve. He gently touched her face, then grabbed her hand and placed it on his lower back...

He leaned in close to her ear, his voice hoarse as he said, "Stella, do you know that I cut my wrist to come see you? It took a lot of effort to escape. And yet, you are going to mate another man. Is that fair to me?"

His voice sounded so wronged, as if he had been betrayed and had nowhere to vent, so he had to come to her and tell her this.

But at that moment, Stella hated that Eric had kidnapped her. Not only did she not show any concern for him, she even used her fingers to open his wound, allowing the blood to flow freely and him to suffer in pain...

Thinking about what she had done, Stella's heart couldn't bear the pain. She instinctively softened her actions and

touched his wrist, asking, "Does it still hurt?"

Eric's crimson eyes gradually showed surprise, followed by

a sense of grievance. Then, like a pup, he lowered his head again and buried his chin in her neck. "Rub it, and it won't hurt anymore..."

Stella replied, "Okay," but immediately turned around to help him rub it. However, in that split second when she reached out, she saw Eric, who had been holding her, suddenly sitting on the ground...

He was covered in blood, sitting against the floor-to-ceiling window, with his upper body straight and lower body stiff. He held a gun in his hand, aimed at his own chest. The sunlight shone on him, making his skin appear white and translucent, devoid of any signs of life...

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