

Deadly 361

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"You got caught stealing, and you still have the nerve to blame Yvonne?" Harold yelled.

"Dad, Mom, I didn't frame Yolanda," Yvonne muttered with tears rolling down her cheeks. She looked utterly aggrieved.

"Although Yolanda and I may have had some misunderstandings recently. I admired her a lot when I was younger. How could I have possibly framed her? Back then... At that time, many people saw it when she was caught..."

Yvonne didn't know why Yolanda suddenly brought up what happened three years ago, but it had been so long that no evidence was left to prove Yolanda's innocence. So, she wasn't worried at all.

Diana got up, walked over to Yvonne's side, and gently patted her head. "Stop crying, Yvonne. You're our daughter. Why wouldn't we believe you? Wipe away your tears and go upstairs to sleep."

"Do you really believe me, Mom?" Yvonne looked up at Diana pitifully, her eyes filled with anticipation.

"Of course. You've been sensible and obedient since you were little. I believe you." Diana forced a smile and helped Yvonne up from the couch. She urged, "You should go sleep now."

Dad and Mom." Yvonne wiped

and asked, "Honey, Yolanda won't listen to us. How are we going to explain this to the

always been dissatisfied with Yolanda and keeps making sarcastic remarks whenever she sees me

If this keeps

and replied, "If even you can't control our daughter, what am I supposed to do? For now, we have to appease Mrs. Savage.

Yolanda refusing to listen to them, Harold and Diana didn't dare to approach Gavin and get him to follow their arrangements either. All they could do was

the engagement banquet couldn't be held yet. For the Hendersons, the best they could do was try to

Yvonne to the Savage residence more often. But since the issue with Yolanda hasn't been resolved, I'm worried Mrs. Savage might be annoyed..." "You're so short-sighted!" Harold snorted coldly. "The Savage family only met Yvonne once at a banquet before. They don't know her

everyone in that circle acknowledges Yvonne as the Savage

sudden realization, "That makes sense! Why didn't I think of that before? From now on, I'll

what she said before she left?" Harold

care much about Yolanda. But if she had really been wrongfully

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Just now, Yolanda once again mentioned that she was framed back then. She even indicated that the person who set her up was Yvonne.

This made Harold feel uneasy.

It wasn't that he felt sympathy for Yolanda for suffering in vain. After what happened when Harold had alcohol poisoning, he no longer believed that Yvonne was as innocent as she looked.

Yvonne stealing Yolanda's credit was just a trivial matter. It wasn't exactly something worth mulling over. But if she had framed Yolanda, her own sister, that would be a different matter altogether.

People in positions of power tend to be suspicious by nature. Although Harold hadn't reached that status level, he was always worried about being manipulated.

If Yvonne could be ruthless to her own sister, then when real conflicts of interest arose, would she also betray and abandon them? Even though Yolanda's words were unsubstantiated, they planted a seed of doubt in Harold's mind, significantly shaking his trust and affection for Yvonne.

"I think Yolanda is just spouting nonsense due to resentment. After all, Yvonne is better than her in every way-why would she need to purposely harm her?" Diana, however, didn't take it seriously.

Yvonne was just a middle schooler at the time. How could she have had the ability to set her

little, and I know their personalities well. Yvonne might have been upset lately

but... I just feel that Yvonne's behavior has changed a lot recently. Maybe I've been too busy with the company lately and haven't been paying enough attention to her," Harold said with a

some of Harold's suspicion, but he still had lingering

Yolanda, but Yolanda's resentment is too deep. That's not

Savage family only has one son, and we all want

"Alright," Diana replied.

how to do that, considering that Yolanda lacked for nothing

she came up with a brilliant

last day of the First Academy's Art Festival, the school's top management invited prominent figures from Riverdale City as well as some distinguished

from Creybia showing up. This added to the

to meet

wants to join us. Let's wait for her at the gate," Yolanda said as she greeted

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The girls continued to gossip, "She stole her sister's boyfriend and still dares to flaunt it around the academy!"

"People like her are ruining the reputation of our school!"

"How can someone with any sense of decency do something like that? Look at her! She's so ugly and always clinging to a man like she can't live without one. It's disgusting..."

When Gavin heard those girls' malicious remarks, he frowned in displeasure, and a cold glint appeared in his eyes. No one was allowed to speak ill of Yolanda in front of him!

Gavin took out his phone, intending to contact the board of directors to have the two girls expelled. However, Yolanda stopped him by placing her hand over his.

She reasoned, "Forget it. They don't affect me in any way. They can only say some nasty things to make themselves feel better. Who do you think is really more upset?"

Yolanda wasn't exactly a saintly person who would forgive everything. But if someone didn't cross her bottom line, she couldn't be bothered to pay attention to them. Some so many people disliked her if she sought revenge on each one, she'd have no time left for anything else.

having such trash lingering

it go.

the first time she had made such an intimate gesture in front of others since he

me that much? You're

immediately denied it loudly and intentionally kept his distance from her. Yolanda was well aware of his somewhat bashful nature. Thus, she enjoyed

was out of the ordinary. Instead of pulling

seriously, even adding emphasis to his tone.

caught Yolanda off guard. She coughed lightly and said, "Don't I call you every day? I've been a bit

Yolanda suddenly realized something felt off. Her tone sounded exactly like a scummy boyfriend trying to brush off his girlfriend with perfunctory

this thought crossed Yolanda's mind, she couldn't help but burst into laughter. She swung their intertwined hands and pulled Gavin a

and slightly confused expression. It seemed as if he couldn't understand why

and ignored the contemptuous and envious gazes from those

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"Yeah," Gavin replied, nodding with a sullen expression. The icy air he was giving off made it clear that he was unhappy.

Yolanda sensed that Gavin was a little upset. So, she gently shook his wrist and explained, "Sharon said she's never attended an art festival held by a school, so I invited her to come."

After all, it was only for half a day. Yolanda didn't think it would make much of a difference. Besides, once Sharon went into the campus, she wouldn't hang around with them the entire time.

Gavin didn't say anything, but his expression softened slightly, which was a sign of reluctant acceptance.

"Yolanda, does your academy have any good food?" Sharon looked around and had already spotted many food stalls.

"Snacks? There's a whole street dedicated to them near the gymnasium," Yolanda replied, recalling the layout map of the art festival.

"I want to go there!" Sharon's eyes lit up, and she seemed eager to head to the gymnasium immediately. She looked around and asked, "Which way is the gymnasium?"

walking along that road ahead. When you reach the intersection, turn right. You'll see the sign for

you at the art exhibit later," Sharon said. She didn't forget that Yolanda planned to visit

see you later," Yolanda said, waving

Gavin went to the art gallery. Since today was the last day of the exhibition, there were quite a

holistic education of its students. In addition to the main curriculum, the school encouraged students

days, the visitors that day were primarily people from outside the school. Aside from art teachers and critics, some

at the entrance. Unfortunately, after viewing most of the exhibited works, Yolanda

overestimated the standards here," Yolanda

She had no interest

First Academy was considered the best school here, it couldn't

stroll where they sell the snacks?" Gavin suggested, aware that

her know it's not worth her time visiting the exhibit," Yolanda

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Even though Gavin disliked crowded places, he was willing to endure an environment that normally irritated him just to accompany Yolanda.

Just as they reached the edge of the crowd, two people in front left. Yolanda took the opportunity to pull Gavin along and squeeze them in. They saw a familiar face when they got inside the throng of onlookers.

"You flatter me. This is just something I casually drew during my break time one day. I didn't expect it to be selected for the exhibit." Rachel stood beside the drawing, explaining modestly to the surrounding audience.

"But I really enjoy drawing. I'll work harder to do better in the future!" Rachel added proudly.

"Rachel could paint-and she could paint well?" Yolanda thought incredulously, wondering if she had misheard. She instinctively looked up at the display wall behind her, and what she saw made her freeze in shock.

The drawing on display was a sketch she casually did when she was bored. Since she had only drawn it absentmindedly and hadn't even planned to color it, she hadn't noticed when the drawing went missing.

Who would have thought that Rachel had taken it and shamelessly passed it off as her own work?

humble at such a young age. She's bound to achieve great

you have a solid foundation. With skills like these, you're more than qualified to apply to the Art Department of Creybia

such a talented artist in Riverdale

from a big city couldn't stop praising Rachel. "Do you have any other

any pictures of my other pieces," Rachel replied with a polite smile after hesitating for

"Ah, what a pity..."

of other students couldn't help

if my child had half

money on art classes since he was young, but it's

would be visiting the exhibition, so she had dressed up

the painting was her own creation, rather than something she

voice from the crowd snapped Rachel back to reality. "This drawing is indeed well done, but I'd like to hear you talk about its content and

that froze Rachel from head to toe. However, she quickly recovered from the

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Rachel's classmate had nothing but disdain for Yolanda. And because she spoke so loudly, the people around them started pointing at Yolanda and gossiping about her.

"Isn't First Academy known for its outstanding students?"

"How could they have taken in someone like her?"

"Haven't you heard? She got in through connections..."

"She must have a strong background. After all, First Academy is the best school in Riverdale City. Ordinary rich kids couldn't get in even with connections."

"But look at her plain outfit. She doesn't look like she has any backing."

"How strange. It seems anyone can get into First Academy these days. This is terrible!"

those harsh comments, his entire body radiated

that the drawing on display was Yolanda's work at first glance. Yolanda was probably going to personally

I think you should stay around," Rachel

crowd was criticizing Yolanda, she finally felt a bit more

that Simon was coming to view the exhibition today. If Yolanda started

classmate, who had spoken up for her

incapable of appreciating art as you should get lost immediately! If Mr. Carter arrives and sees someone like you, he

hearing the name "Mr. Carter". A faint smile played on her lips. It seemed that she wouldn't even need to expose Rachel

Rachel started to grow anxious when she realized that Yolanda wasn't leaving. Even if

Why do you have to stand

Can't I stay a bit longer to admire it?" Yolanda responded calmly, smiling slightly. Then, she added meaningfully, "Are

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Most of the people gathered in front of the drawing were waiting for Simon. As a renowned traditional painter in Havaria, he only had limited time to spend there. Even if the academy managed to invite him over, he would only choose to view the highlight pieces.

The onlookers all wanted to meet Simon and were afraid of missing the opportunity, so they stayed in place, not daring to wander around.

A thin layer of sweat formed on Rachel's forehead as time passed. She exclaimed, "I've never seen someone as shameless as you, Yolanda. I'll have to be frank-someone like you doesn't deserve to appreciate my painting!"

Simon might arrive at any moment. If Yolanda started making accusations and claimed that this drawing was hers in front of Simon, it would certainly damage Rachel's reputation.

Rachel planned to apply to the Art Department of Creybia University in the future, so she couldn't afford to leave a bad impression on Simon.

"You being here is undermining other people who truly understand art! If you have even a shred of decency, leave now!" Rachel was too anxious and ended up speaking rather harshly.

Even so, Yolanda's reputation at First Academy was terrible. Although Rachel's words were blatant personal attacks, the surrounding students only felt a sense of satisfaction. No one cared why Rachel was being so aggressive that day.

know the full story, they

got into the academy through her family's influence. Everyone automatically had

Rachel's remarks, they

guess being shameless makes one impervious to criticism. If it were

Why isn't she

here. So, she's

tsk. I really pity Prince Gavin. How

surrounding students indulged in a one-sided frenzy

academy with her powerful backing, and even the student council president dared not show her the slightest disrespect. All

lack of talent and capabilities. But in fact, they were all jealous of her. They felt resentful that the good fortune Yolanda

Xenith Order. If a few rumors and insults were enough to unnerve her, she wouldn't have

wouldn't waste time on jealousy and suspicion. Yolanda knew very well that those hurling insults at her

happen would be far

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Simon had arrived!

The crowd stood on alert upon hearing Marcus' words, and they all turned their attention toward the elderly man.

"I heard that First Academy has a student with exceptional artistic talent, so I wanted to come and take a look for myself."

Simon had a kind and approachable temperament, with none of the arrogance often seen in renowned experts. His status as a legend in Havaria's traditional painting world was not just due to his superb painting skills but also closely tied to his humble and noble character.

"Mr. Carter, you flatter us. Please, take a closer look," Marcus gushed. He smiled and glanced at Rachel as he introduced her. "This young lady is the one who drew this piece. This is Rachel Smith, a freshman at our academy."

"I've long admired your work. It's an honor to have the opportunity to meet you today. I'm still lacking in skills. I still have much to learn from senior artists like you." Rachel held her breath, trying hard to maintain a proud smile as she bowed slightly to Simon.

Simon laughed and glanced at Rachel. With a light smile on his face, he praised, "You're talented but modest. Very good!"

he laid eyes on the drawing, his eyes widened in surprise. "This sketch...

I did!" Rachel raised her voice and replied diffidently

a young age. If I'm not mistaken, you were imitating the technique of

Simon was referring

your work... has a

to say that this drawing was even better than Jess' work. That was the most astonishing part. For a young girl not

was an exceptionally talented painter in Havaria's traditional art world, saying that openly would be

like Rachel, the future of Havaria's traditional painting scene would be vibrant

she's incredible! Even Simon

"She's truly remarkable!"

my child

crowd was filled with admiration upon hearing Simon's praise. They marveled at how First Academy continued to produce such outstanding talent. Meanwhile,

as everyone's praises got to her head. She noticed that Yolanda, standing amidst the crowd, still hadn't made any move to expose

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"What do you mean by someone else's name?" Rachel felt a surge of panic. A sense of unease arose within her, but she still tried her best to remain calm.

She blurted, "I didn't sign any name on the drawing, Mr. Carter..."

"You didn't?" Simon's expression turned icy as he questioned her sharply. "Since you know Ms. Harrington, you should be aware that she has a habit of signing her name on his artworks, right? Although it's subtle, anyone who has seen a few of her works and looked closely will be able to find it!"

At first, Simon had been impressed by Rachel's artistic skill and hadn't looked for the signature. But when he later noticed the hidden signature in the corner of the painting, he realized it wasn't Rachel's name at all.

The bewildered expression that Rachel showed when the signature was mentioned made it clear that she knew nothing about Jess. How could she have imitated Jess' work so perfectly if she didn't know Jess at all?

"Then whose name is signed on the drawing?" Rachel muttered.

Simon stepped closer to the artwork and pointed to the corner. "Take a look for yourself!"

eyes and

wave of

did you steal this painting from this student named Yolanda and pass it off

anxiety. She had no idea how to explain

sign her name even on

do it on purpose, I..." Rachel pleaded

people more than anything else. How can someone like you produce

his voice, asking,

found it quite a coincidence that this talented painter named Yolanda shared the same name as the person who had previously treated his illness. He thought he had a special connection with this name to

"Yolanda... Henderson?"

crowd turned in shock to look in Yolanda's direction

emerged from the crowd. "Mr. Carter,

really you?"

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Rachel's eyes were red. A mix of embarrassment and fear surged within her, making her almost burst into tears.

"Stop making a fool of yourself here! Go back and reflect on your actions. You'll hear from the academy soon!" Marcus scolded.

"I understand... I'm really sorry..." Rachel, disheartened and despondent, walked away from the crowd. She disappeared amidst murmurs of disapproval and whispers from others.

"Isn't Yolanda supposed to be a worthless student who got into the academy through connections? How could she possibly have such exceptional art skills?"

"Could Mr. Carter be mistaken? I refuse to believe that someone like Yolanda can produce such an outstanding work!"

No matter if it was outsiders or students from the academy, none could accept that the drawing-which had received high praise from Simon-was created by the same "worthless" Yolanda they had been mocking just moments before.

"Maybe it's just someone with the same name? Are there any other students named Yolanda in our academy?"

The students who had been the most vocal in mocking Yolanda racked their brains, trying to recall any other student with the same surname in the academy. However, they couldn't think of another Yolanda.

it really have been her who drew

truth. If Yolanda was just someone with a strong background but no

had recognized Yolanda's talent, she still had a bright future ahead of

who had always belittled Yolanda to

produced such an excellent piece!" The

don't you take

students looked expectantly at Simon, hoping to witness some twist

you questioning my judgment?" Simon's expression

to Marcus and criticized, "What is this attitude displayed by the students of the top academy in Riverdale City? They slander and defame their peers. Even after realizing their mistake, they refuse to

this art exhibition

usually the worst performers in the academy. Please don't take them seriously," Marcus replied, sweating

furiously at the unruly students and scolded, "What were you all thinking? Who gave you the nerve to question Simon? Go home and write a 10,000-word self-reflection essay.

by Marcus' reaction that they didn't dare make a sound. Yet, their eyes were still filled with reluctance and

exceptional artistic talent. Even if it was her name on this piece of drawing,

Go home