

Dumping My Billionaire Ex

Chapter 21

Fred dared not explain. He si

simply tapped his phone and said. "Check the news. With that, he quickly walked away. "News?" Sharon hurriedly took out her phone and started scrolling. The news that day was mostly about Tilda's computer being hacked, detailing several exposed fake contracts. Then, another headline popped up, quickly taking the main spot. When Sharon saw the words "Bisney Entertainment, she read on and inhaled sharply

The news, also originating from Tilda's hacked email, revealed that Bisney Entertainment's mysterious owner had been in a low-profile marriage for four years and was recently exposed for having an affair with a divorced woman. While there were no photos of Bisney Entertainment's boss, Sharon's picture was distinctly clear.

"So, Edwin took Irene away because he saw this news! Sharon pondered.

The boss of Bisney Entertainment was always a bit of a mystery, and now, with the sudden cheating scandal making the rounds, the buzz just shot up. It even overshadowed the news about Tikla's fake contracts.

When Sharon figured out what was going on, she was speechless. I have an affair with myself, huh? Is there anything more ridiculous in the world? she thought

Then, Tina's sharp voice cut through "Who's this standing at my doorstep?" Arriving in a revealing outfit, she approached with feigned surprise.

Ignoring Tina, Sharon put back her phone and walked away.

Tina, however, laughed. "Sharon, your scandal's flying high. Why such pretense? Do you think I don't know what you're here for? Edwin brought that bastard back, and you want her back, right?"

"Bastard Sharon echoed, turning sharply toward Tina. She couldn't believe that Irene's aunt would call her such.

"Yes, bastard. Anyone that comes from you is a bastard. Tina retorted, cowering slightly under Sharon's gaze but quickly recovered. "I know that you've been trying to use the bastard to remarry Edwin. And last night, Edwin did propose remarrying you But this scandal of yours must've turned all your plans to dust, huh? Do you know why Edwin

believes it so? Because I told him about the Bisney Entertainment boss setting up a fund for the bastard with 40 million dollars. That's proof of your shady relationship.

Sharon finally understood. Edwin wouldn't have blindly trusted an email's contents. Tina had been meddling behind the scenes.

"Oh, and also your embarrassing secrets. I was the one who had them sent to Tilda's email. I just wanted Tilda to show them to Edwin, but a hacker made everything public. Quite satisfying." Tina added.

The scheme was Clara's idea, but at the moment, Tina took all the credit in order to provoke Sharon further. Pity though, even with 40 million dollars, you don't even think about getting the bastard back, she gloated.

"Oh, and since the Bisney Entertainment boss is married. Sharon, how do you think his wife would react What do you think she'll do to you when she finds out her husband cheated?" Tina sneered.

She had no idea that Sharon was the boss of Nisney Entertainment. All she could think about was getting back at Sharon, and it made her ecstatic. Everything she did was all for that. I'm so looking forward to it," she added.

To Sharon, Tina was just a joke, not even worth the effort of revealing the truth. She simply replied, "Well then, keep looking forward to it" With that, she walked away without any intent of staying longer.

Behind her, Tina paused. She dares to retort even now, huh? Could she have a way out? That's impossible. The gossip's all over town, and the Bisney Entertainment boss's wife is thoroughly humiliated. How could she lei Sharon off the hook? Sharon must be bluffing. With that thought, a new wave of excitement washed over Tina, and she left humming a tune, pleased with herself,

Troubled by the email leak all day, Tilda finally decided to speak up that evening. She sat under the spotlight, her smile radiant and confident "Regarding the Trigued contracts for tax evasion, in fact, the company did consider them. However, we didn't go ahead with those and used all legir contracts instead. For this, you can verify it with our legal department. As for the lucking of my computer, I've reported it to the cops, I believe they'll handle it properly."

Right after Tilda's statement, a reporter chimed in, "What about the affair scandal with the boss of Bisney Entertainment? How do you explain that,

This time, Tilda didn't respond. Instead, her manager stepped up, defending her, "As everyone can see, that email was sent to Tibda by someone che. She's got a lot on her plate and had no idea that such an email was even in her inbox. The hacking of her computer wasn't something she wanted, and she was a victim of the email leak."

“Though it was against my wishes, the fact remains that it came from my inbox. I would still like to apologize to the involved parties. On television, Tilda bowed respectfully toward the camera,

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‘s quite the actress, isn’t she?” Alanna was infuriated. “Someone sends her your scandal and then her email just happens to get hacked! I’ll never — believe that. She cleared herself while leaving you in the lurch. She’s quite cunning” With her years in the industry, Alanna saw right through Tilla’s scheme

Meanwhile, Sharon stayed silent throughout, lost in thought.

“If push comes to shove, we could just spill that you’re the boss of Bisney Entertainment,” Alanna added. She’d wanted to do that for a while.

“No,” Sharon finally said, stopping her.

“What do you mean? You’re not planning on giving up on bringing Irene hack, are you?” Alanna was confused.

“Of cou

course not.” Sharon wasn’t concerned about embarrassing others but didn’t want to hurt Edwin. His reasons for taking Irene away weren’t wrong. Moreover, Sharon had truly loved him once. She couldn’t bring herself to act vengefully post-breakup. She wanted a softer resolution.

As they talked, the camera suddenly shifted, landing on a group approaching from the main entrance. The spotlight focused on the man leading them. It was Edwin.

Edwin had his time with Tilda. Although they broke up and moved on, Tilda’s return and proximity to him piqued everyone’s curiosity.

Unable to contain themselves, reporters started questioning, “Mr. Stanley, do you believe Ms. Gill is innocent? Are you here to show your support and cheer her on

Edwin wasn’t actually there for Tilda. It was just that the venue for her press conference was where he had his business meeting. He didn’t answer right away but looked over at Tilda across the way.

she’d been there for Edwin during his hardest

Tilda’s face was composed, but her eyes pleaded with him. Despite her foolish actions in the past, si times, pulling him from despair..

bitch!”

“Yes,” he finally said, pressing his lips together. Tilda is someone I must protect. Nobody can hurt her.”

Alanna snorted sarcastically upon seeing Edwin’s stance. “What’s there to protect with such an angelic

Just then a tear fell unexpectedly from Sharon’s eyes, landing on the back of her hand. The promises Edwin should’ve kept for her were now

were now given to Tilda

Even post-divorce, the sweetness of their young love lingered in the depths of her heart. In the end, Edwin had torn it apart with chilling indifference. And it seemed even that wasn’t enough

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The reporter’s voice carried through once again. “Ms. Gill just apologized to Disney Entertainment’s owner due to the email leak incident. Do you think she should have done that? Will you make a visit to apologize!”

“No,” Edwin answered bluntly. “It’s not Tilda’s fault.” He slowly turned to the camera. Instead, I’d like to advise that lady that there are many ways to make a living when you’re young and healthy. Being the other woman is the dumbest and most self-destructive path you can take. It’d be best not

to do so.

It seemed as if he knew Sharon would be watching. His g

gaze was icy, his tone stern, as if he was hinting at her.

Despite Sharon’s frequent appearances on camera, she always managed to shield her face, and even four years ago, nobody had captured her full appearance. Therefore, reporters did not connect that Disney Entertainment’s owner’s rumored mistress was Edwin’s ex-wife. They just found his warning to an unnamed woman in the scandal rather odd.

In front of the TV, Alanna was fuming, hurling a slipper at Edwin’s face on the screen. She was about to confront Edwin herself when Sharon stopped her.

‘Don’t g

It’s unnecessary.” Sharon uttered, pressing down the pain in her heart

Alanna, usually quick-tempered, seemed ready to explode. "I have to go. I can't just let him bully

ly and slander you like that.

"I won't let him bully me." Sharon said. Edwin hadn't given her any respect, and she wouldn't offer any in return.

"That's right," Alanna said, relieved to hear Sharon stand up for herself. "Let's issue a statement right now and tell them you are the owner of Bisney Entertainment"

"We'll issue a statement, but not about that," Sharon replied.

After the press conference, Tilda's manager, Polly Manwaring, accompanied her into the nanny van. Tilda, you did a great job today, even getting Mr. Stanley to speak for you. Now that he's defended you, no one will dare gossip."

Polly was praising Tilda's successful manipulation of the situation without realizing the whole email leak was a stunt pulled by Tilda herself. She was relieved about how things turned out "That's great. With Mr. Stanley's support, your work's bound to go much smoother from now on, she added, patting Tilda's hand soothingly.

Tilda hummed in acknowledgment, her thoughts returning to Edwin's promise to protect her. An unexpected delight sparkled within as she pondered the surprise gain of the evening

The sun rose as usual that day, and when Sharon got out of the car, it was clear she had red eyes and heavy dark circles from lack of sleep. Without Irene by her side, the insomnia was taking its toll

The Stanley family had Myra, and Sharon knew Myra was always kind to Irene, so she wasn't worried about her daughter suffering there. She just feared Irene might miss her. However, it was okay, Irene would be back with her soon,

Today was the final interview for new hires, and Alanna insisted that Sharon oversee it personally. Staying at home would only lead to overthinking, so Sharon decided to come..

Due to her low spirits, Sharon didn't drive and instead took a taxi. As the taxi hadn't yet pulled away after she got out, a bright red BMW cut across the road. Out stepped Tina, dressed in a fishy outfit, makeup impeccable, heels clicking with every determined step as she entered the Bisney Entertainment building

Sharon's brow furrowed slightly as she followed Tina inside. Seeing Tina heading toward the interview area, she then made her way into Alanna's office and asked straight away, "Tina made it to the final round?"

Dressed in a chic yet non–designer brand, Alanna looked especially sharp and sophisticated. Checking the final interview list at Sharon’s query, she indred spotted Tina’s name. “I can’t believe this shameless woman dares to interview at Bisney Entertainment. Don’t worry. I’ll send her packing

right now.

“No need.” Sharon stopped Alanna, “Qualified or not, keep her

“What do you mean? Alanna didn’t understand. “You still hung up on Edwin that you want to give his sister a chance?”

Hisney Entertainment hud a diverse business model, ranging from live commerce to perimal accounts, popular short dramas, and pure live streaming.

g in the market that celebrities under Himney Entertainment were even more valuable and well–known than SE

There was a saying

10:50 AM

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Once, everyone wanted to be a star, but now, even stars wanted to be Internet influencers. Tina probably saw an opportunity in this trend.

“Of course not,” Sharon denied firmly. She didn’t want to dwell on Tina’s past actions, but calling Irene a bastard was something she couldn’t bear She would have to step in if Jasmine failed to educate her daughter properly.

Sharon took the contract Alanna had prepared and made a few adjustments to the text. “Give Tina this one when it’s time

Although Tina made it to the final round, her performance was plain and awkward. The judges shook their heads and scored her poorly.

Even

so, when the final list was read. Tina heard her name. Unaware of her poor performance, she was overjoyed,

thinking she had excelled.

The person in charge soon handed out the contracts, and “Tina quickly signed hers. She walked out, head held high, seemingly with the air of a

famous actress.

Just then, Sharon walked out of the judging room. Tina saw Sharon and wasn't surprised, nor did she think Sharon was there as a judge. In Tina's eyes, Sharon was good for nothing besides attracting men with her face.

She must've come here because the wife of Disney Entertainment's boss found out her secret, so she's come to the boss for help, Tina thought to herself. She had heard rumors that the owner of Disney Entertainment would be present that day. And when she saw Sharon's dark circles, she was even more convinced of her guess

Watching Sharon head toward the elevator, Tina guessed her plea for help must have been unsuccessful and felt a surge of joy. She quickly entered the elevator, leaned back against the wall with arms crossed, and assumed a superior stance. "Why not take a good look around before you leave" After all, Disney Entertainment has strict security. You might not have another chance if you miss it today," she said with a mocking tone and a disdainful expression,

For once. Sharon changed her cold attitude and responded to Tina with a nod, "Yeah, I'm actually planning to visit the cleaning department,"

Upon hearing this, Tina let out a loud snort. "Just like I thought. But at least you have the sense to acknowledge you only belong in Disney Entertainment's cleaning department"

Sharon didn't reply and stepped out on the second floor, which housed the cleaning department.

Tina, not yet satisfied with mocking Sharon, followed her out of the elevator and continued snugly, "But I'm different. I just signed a contract with Disney Entertainment; I'm part of it here now. Soon, they'll package me as an internet celebrity, just like Alanna and Rocky. Oh, and I'll be colleagues with Randall,"

Sharon almost laughed. Tina is delusional. Does she think becoming an internet celebrity is that easy! With no outstanding qualities and questionable behavior, even if Disney Entertainment decided to invest in packaging her, success as an influencer is unlikely, she thought.

But Tina was clueless about Sharon's thoughts, mistaking Sharon's silence as being hurt by what she had said. The more she belittled Sharon, the better she felt, and thus she wanted to hurt Sharon even more. She moved to block Sharon's path

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Propping up her chin with her hand, Tina looked mockingly at Sharon, a smirk full of scorn

spreading across

ass her lips.

“Sharon, you and I are worlds apart. Look at me. I’m top–drawer material in both the Stanley family and Bisney Entertainment, I’m surrounded by the best of everything. And you? Even if you racked your brain and tried every trick in the book, you’d only manage to scrape by at the bottom. You may have lasted four years in my house, but you won’t last a few hours even in the cleaning department here. So, cherish it,” said Tina. Actually, Sharon never had a deep grudge against Tina, even letting Tina walk all over her. But Tina just couldn’t stand her. After her divorce, Sharon rubbed elbows with some very impressive people, which was a slap in Tina’s face. She used to disregard Sharon as nothing, but now Sharon was stealing the limelight with her unique talents. It was an insult to Tina, and she wouldn’t allow it. She aimed to knock Sharon back down, making her life even more miserable than before.

Across the room, the cleaning supervisor noticed the two standing there and called out. “What’s the hold–up? Get over here!”

Smugly, Tina said, “Look at you, mistaken for a janitor without even needing confirmation. Good luck with that she wanted to belittle Sharon further, but since the supervisor had said new hires had to go to their departments for orientation, she had to wave and leave.

As Tina turned to go, Sharon suddenly reached out and grabbed her wrist. “This is your workspace,” she said, emphasizing the word “your”

Tina’s brow twisted in disbelief as she was shocked that Sharon could take such a low blow. She couldn’t care less about that she was the new employee and raised her hand to slap Sharon,

The new janitorial employee, Tina Stanley, stay behind, and everybody else, please don’t interfere with the work, the supervisor interjected, eyeing the two “Who’s Tina!

Tina looked in disbelief at the supervisor, her hand freezing in mid–air. “You’ve got it wrong, I’m here to be a live streamer.

The supervisor raised the roster. “Tina Stanley, cleaning department.”

“This is a mistake. Tina blurted out, brushing past Sharon in a buff to find the manager upstairs “What are you trying to pull? Sending me to the cleaning department? I’ll sue you if you don’t fix this, she shouted angrily.

What are

are you planning on suing us for? Before the manager could reply, Alanna walked in leisurely

When Tina caught sight of Alanna, it clicked. "You're in cahoots with Sharon just to make a fool out of me, aren't you?"

Alanna curled her lips in disdain. Think you can play the boss with those smarts! If Sharon hadn't been so patient, you'd have bitten the dust a long time ago, she thought to herself

This is just a normal work arrangement. How could it be what you said?" Alanna wouldn't admit it out loud, but her expression clearly showed she meant to embarrass Tina.

Tina saw through her immediately and was fuming. You just wait. I'll get Edwin on you?"

"Well, we're in a society governed by the rule of law. Even Edwin can't just do anything as he pleases, Alanna snapped, tossing the contract in Tina's face. "Besides, you agreed to go to the cleaning department and signed the contract yourself. So, why are you getting all up in arms and playing the victim now? Who do you think the judge would believe?"

Tina took the contract and saw the word "janitor" written in the position field. "How did this happen?"

"We have a recording Alanna sneered. "When the legal team came over to walk you through the signing, they were super clear—told you to read the contract carefully. The terms are so plain and obvious that a toddler could get it. What's the matter, Ms. Stanley, too complex for you?"

Tina could understand the contract, of course, but she just hadn't given it a close read. She was dead set on being a live streamer and was sure that was what the contract was for.

However, she ended up being a janitor. Just minutes before, she had been dissing Sharon, saying that was all Sharon was good for, and now, she was the one wearing the cleaning gloves. Buming with embarrassment, Tina's face twisted in anger. "I quit" She tossed the contract aside and stormed

"Better think it through, Ms. Stanley. If you throw away your contract with Hisney Entertainment, other companies might not be so interested in you later," Alanna said lazily while sipping her coffee. "But then again, with someone to take care of you, you're not afraid of starvation. Or, you could always marry some man and live as a parasite. Though, such women are oben looked down upon for being worthless, aren't they?"

The word “worthless” hit a nerve with Tina. She often used it to humiliate Sharon. “Am I on the same level as Sharon now! Sharon is really worthless. I can’t possibly be on her level,” she cursed inwardly.

Brimming with anger and frustrations, Tina slammed the door on her way out.

“Ms. Jensen, this doesn’t seem right. After all, ‘Tina is the linde sister of the boss of Genesis Group... Aren’t we sort of offending Edwin here?’” The manager came over uncauly,

11:00 AM

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Alanna’s lips curled into a disdainful sneer. “As if he hasn’t crossed us before!” She wasn’t at all afraid of offending that jerk.

the thought of that jerk Edwin getting a taste of his own medicine brightened Alanna’s mood a bit.

After bolting out of the Bisney Entertainment building, Tina jumped into her car. Thinking about the humiliation she just endured, she started hitting and screaming in her car in frustration. But no amount of venting could diminish the hatred simmering in her heart. She clutched the steering wheel tightly. “Sharon, you dare humiliate me? Just you wait.”

After her venting, she pulled out her phone and dialed Clara’s number. “Clara, find me the number of the wife of Disney Entertainment’s boss, and make it quick.”

“Why do you want her number?” Clara asked on the other end.

“Do I even need to explain? I want Sharon dead!” Tina screamed into the phone, unable to control her rage

“If it’s for that... I’m afraid it’s pointless,” Clara said.

Tina was eagerly waiting for the boss’s wife from Disney Entertainment to retaliate against Sharon on her behalf, and Clara’s words left her both puzzled and angry.

Just as she was about to lose it, Clara sent her a piece of news. It was an announcement issued under the name of the boss of Disney Entertainment. Seeing the announcement, Tina gasped in shock “How could this be? She hadn’t even got her revenge for the earlier humiliation, and now she was stunned again.

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At the Stanley Manor, the atmosphere was rather tense.

Jasmine held out her phone to Edwin “What’s going on here? Sharon didn’t wreck anybody’s home! She’s openly in a relationship with the boss of Bisney Entertainment?”

Edwin frowned deeply, his expression equally grim. Irene had been causing a fuss at home all night, and he had spent the whole evening trying to calm her down, utterly exhausting him. And just when he thought he could catch a breath, Jaumine brought him this troubling news.

The boss of Bisney Entertainment had been silent for a full day and night, only to release an announcement in the early hours stating he was divorced. He even posted his divorce decree, showing the divorce date was the same as his and Sharon’s. This meant the boss of Bisney Entertainment was now free to date whoever he wished. It was his right.

On the flip side, this also confirmed that Edwin’s words from yesterday were seen as meddling. And to add insult to injury, the TV was replaying his warning of Sharon to the cameras the day before

“No. It’s not Tilda’s fault. Instead, I’d like to advise that lady that there are many ways to make a living when you’re young and healthy. Being the other woman is the dumbest and most self–destructive path you can take. It’d be best not to do so. These words felt like slaps to his face. Edwin pressed his lips and couldn’t utter a word.

But his silence only fueled Jasmine’s anxiety. “If the boss of Bisney Entertainment really wanted to clarify things, he would have spoken out when the news first broke yesterday. But he chose to wait a night, specifically after you made your comments. What does that mean if not to take sides with Sharon and embarrass us Sharon is more scheming than I thought. The divorce was her idea, and now she’s causing this scene to humiliate us. Edwin, you mustn’t show her any mercy. Go find the boss of Bisney Entertainment and expose her true colors”

Jasmine always presented herself with elegance and dignity. However, deep down, she was very petty and intolerant of any sight.

Edwin massaged his throbbing forehead, stood up, and responded irritably, “They’re openly dating. What’s there to expose!” With that, he turned and stormed off, his steps filled with frustration.

“Edwin,” Jasmine angrily called after him following him for a couple of steps. But she didn’t dare to pull him back. Since the incident ten years ago, Edwin had completely lost any affection for her. Though they lived under the same roof, their relationship was extremely cold.

Edwin stormed outside, not stopping until the iron gate closed behind him with a clang. He was filled with frustration. Taking out a cigarette, he lit it and started smoking. After a few puffs, he noticed the woman standing across the road. It was Sharon.

Dressed in a plain top with a long white skirt, she gracefully stood by the roadside

Her aura

had completely transformed just a few days post-divorce, a stark contrast from her subservient demeanor during her time with the Stanley family.

Is it because of the love of the boss of Bisney Entertainment that she's like this? Edwin wondered, his mood growing even gloomier.

Sharon also took a moment to observe Edwin. With just one glance, she could tell his mood was foul.

Typically, Edwin wasn't the kind to wear his heart on his sleeve, but Sharon knew him too well. In the past, knowing he was upset would have distressed her, made her anxious, and left her reules when she tried to comfort him without being accepted.

But now,

those days were gone. She approached calmly. "Now that it's proven I didn't misbehave, can I have Irene back?" Her gaze was as detached as if she were looking at a stranger, her lips curved in a slight, polite smile that emphasized the distance between them.

Edwin felt tight in his heart again, struggling for a while before responding, "Trene is also my daughter."

Sharon didn't answer, maintaining her smile while a trace of irony curled the comers of her lips. It wasn't obvious, but enough for Edwin to recall her previous questions and his neglect of Irene. Her silence was more painful than a slop.

He swallowed hard. There are some matters that need to be investigated. We'll discuss taking Irene back after that," he said before opening the car door

Sharon quickly reached out, stopping the door from closing. "Investigate what?"

Edwin just looked at her, offering no reply.

Sharon knew whatever he was investigating had to do with her. She thought about suggesting everything could be discussed face to face, but finally, she only smiled and said nothing. She knew even if she was completely open, Edwin wouldn't believe her.

Lips pursed, Sharon let go with a hint of resignation. Til give you two hours. I must take Trene back in two hours," It wasn't a plea or a discussion; it

was a decision.

Sharon had changed so much in just a few days. So much that it was like she'd become a completely different person. This new aura was something Edwin had never seen in her before. Without responding, Bilwin stepped on the gas and drove away.

"Mr. Stanley." May approached Edwin as he entered the company. Tilda's been catching a lot of heat because of the email leak incident. Should I arrange a lunch meeting for you two

Edwin didn't react to her suggestion. Instead, he instructed, "Find out who the real owner of Bisney Entertainment is.

The boss of Bisney Entertainment!" May was taken aback, but she quickly realized that Edwin was troubled by his ex-wife's swift connection to the boss of Bisney Entertainment post-divorce. 'Why is Edwin suddenly so concerned about Sharon? I thought he didn't care about her, she wondered.

"Mr. Stanley, I think you should focus on Tilda and spend more time with her right now," advised May, as she was friends with Tilda and couldn't help but speak up for her.

With a tone of warning. Edwin retorted, "May, i
you

don't think you can perform your duties as an assistant well, feel free to resign now."

May's face turned pale in embarrassment since Edwin had never warned her like this. Finally, she could only nod in agreement. "Yes, Mr. Stanley" "Don't bother with anything else. Just check the divorce records for April 22nd," Edwin said, his voice softening-

After May left, he irritably loosened his tie. He couldn't understand his own insistence on investigating the owner of Bisney Entertainment

Is it just because I want to know what kind of man could love Sharon so much that he would abandon his own family for her? They divorced on the same day. Clearly, he's been waiting for Sharon. But why do I care? She's a shameless woman who used to manipulate me into marrying her, all the while claiming it was for my good. Such a woman should be thrown far away, never to cross paths again, he thought angrily.

Suddenly finding the whole matter pointless, he reached for the phone and dialed home. "Myra pack Irene's things in two hours and let Sharon take her

"All you do is cry! That's all you know!" Tina scolded Irene as soon as she got home. After being humiliated by Sharon and left with no way to retaliate, her mood was worse than ever.

Jasmine sat by the coffee table, leisurely brewing her coffee.

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Tina was berating Irene loudly, but Jasmine acted as though she couldn't hear. She believed Irene had already been spoiled by Sharon and deserved to be put in her place at the Stanley family home. Since the balcony was fitted with soundproof glass and the neighbors were far away, no matter how loud Tina yelled, outsiders couldn't hear it..

Having found a target for her anger. Tina didn't hold back. She even poaked Irene on the forehead. "You're as utterly useless as your mother

Irene glared back at her with red and reary eyes

"Look at that. You're totally spoiled by that wretched woman, Sharon, Tina snapped.

The Irene of the past was timid and would never dare to glare back at her.

Tina pinched Irene's ear and then pushed her against the wall. Stand there and don't move, or else you'll go hungry."

Myra watched and sighed at the sight of Irene being mistreated from outside the door, shaking her head. As a servant, she couldn't intervene. As soon as the clock struck eleven, she approached and said, "Irene, it's time to go"

"Go! Where to?" Tina, having felt a bit better after her venting wasn't pleased with the interruption.

"Mr. Stanley called earlier and instructed me to take Irene out to the gate at this time. Ms. Cress is waiting" Myra quickly mentioned Edwin's orders. Tina didn't actually like children and would be glad to see Irene gone. But an evil plan sprouted in her mind. Sharon had humiliated her, and she craved revenge. The best way to hurt someone was to target what they cared about most. And for Sharon, that was Irene,

With this in mind. Tina dashed to Jasmine, tugging at her sleeve. "Mom, what's this about? Irene is the child of the Stanley family; how can we let Sharon take her away!"

Jasmine's expression soured as well. "I don't know what's gotten into Edwin's head. What's this about sending his own daughter away? Isn't he afraid of being criticized

Even though Jasmine didn't like Irene, maintaining dignity was of utmost importance. "Myra, Irene isn't going anywhere; she stays here," she commanded.

Myra paused and looked at Irene hesitantly. I don't think it's a good idea. Ms. Cress is waiting outside. What if she makes a scene?"

"Let her in; I'll speak to her myself, Jasmine replied indifferently, leaning back against the sofa.

Myra had no choice but to walk out alone to find Sharon

When Sharon followed Myra inside, Jasmine was lazily lounging on the sofa with an air of nobility. Tina and Irene were nowhere to be seen.

“Mrs. Stanley, Ms. Cress is here, Myra said.

Jasmine waved her hand, signaling Myra to leave.

Myra glanced at

Sharon worriedly. Sharon nodded gently in her direction, mouthing a reassuring I'm fine before Myra reluctantly left the room.

Jasmine finally straightened up but didn't so much as glance directly at Sharon, continuing to sip her coffee.

“Where's Irene?” Sharon wasn't in the mood for pleasantries.

Jasmine frowned disapprovingly at Sharon's direct approach. “It's basic manners to greet when you enter a room™

Sharon let out a cold laugh, finding it ridiculous for someone with no manners to lecture her about etiquette. But she wasn't inclined to create a scene with Jasmine. There was no need.

Indulging her, Sharon greeted politely, “Good day, Mrs. Stanley. May I ask where Irene is?”

Jasmine swirled her coffee cup, blowing away the steam before replying, “I think it would be best for Irene to stay here. You're involved with the boss of Hisney Entertainment now, and having Irene with you would be inconvenient. Moreover, Irene is a child of the Stanley family. We can afford to take care of her without any outsider's interference.

Realizing Jasmine intended to snatch away her daughter, Sharon instantly changed her attitude and frowned deeply. “Mrs. Stanley, I am not an outsider. Fin Irene's biological mother. Raising her is my duty. Besides, isn't Mr. Stanley planning to marry Mc Gill! How could I leave Irene to possibly impact their relationship? Sharon swiftly retorted. Every word was a challenge to Jasmine,

Jasmine instantly frowned. Star was clearly displeased with Sharon's shooting back.

Sharon had been with the Stanley family long enough to learn how to read people. She could tell Jasmine was unhappy, but Jasmine's feelings vree no longer her contem

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“Besides, when Irene was living here, you never showed her much affection. Perhaps because of my status? Well, now that Tilda is back. Her background is surely matched to Mr. Stanley’s. Mrs. Stanley, you might as well have her bear a few more children for the Stanley family.”

Sharon’s blunt words triggered Jasmine. With a slap on the table that caused it to tremble, she retorted, “Sharon, don’t act as if I don’t know everything. You and the boss of Bisney Entertainment divorced on the same day; it’s obvious it was prearranged. You were unfaithful during your marriage, and Irene would only learn bad behavior from you. I won’t allow my granddaughter to be raised by someone with such an indecent personal life. It would be best if you give up custody now, or you’ll only embarrass yourself in court

Sharon sneered. Alanna only showed off the divorce decree to prove Sharon was already divorced. She never expected Jasmine to twist it like that. “Are you sure you’ve thought this through?” she asked

Jasmine picked up her coffee cup again, reclaiming her dignified poise. “You can leave.

Fred approached Sharon, his eyes showing sympathy as he gestured for her to leave. “Ms. Gress, please.”

Sharon nodded gently to Fred and said indifferently to Jasmine, devoid of any desperation or anger, “You might regret this.

Jasmine was mu

was momentarily stunned and watched Sharon leave in surprise.

“Mom, how could she just give up on her child like that? So abruptly? Tina emerged from her hiding spot, puzzled. She had wanted to use this custody battle to humiliate Sharon thoroughly.

Jasmine was also at a loss to explain Sharon’s behavior, wondering if she had never really planned to take Irene back after all.

While they were trying to make sense of the situation, a loud crash echoed from inside the house. A pale-faced Myra rushed out. “It’s terrible Irene heard that you wouldn’t let Ms. Cress take her away and she’s thrown a tantrum. She she... You should see for yourselves”

Without a thought for manners, Jasmine and Tina rushed into the room to find Irene had shattered one vase and was holding another.

That vase was an antique acquired at a hefty price from an auction. A single vase was worth over two million dollars, now destroyed in an instant.

Jaunine gasped for air, her body swaying violently with shock. Her finger trembled as she pointed at Irene, cursing. "You... you bastard"

Chapter 26

Irene's face showed no fear. Sharon had told her not to be scared when facing difficulties but to think of solutions. The previous night, she had made a fool of herself. Although Edwin was annoyed, he had still soothed her, so she had not escalated the situation.

But today was different. Not only had Tina been rough with her, but Jasmine was trying to stop Sharon from taking her away, and Irene couldn't stand it anymore.

"If you don't let me go, I'll smash everything in this room," she declared and shattered the vase she was holding without hesitation.

The sound of breaking glass seemed to shatter Jasmine's heart as well. "This is outrageous!" she cried out, clutching her chest. "Quick, someone! Catch her and hold her down."

Myra tried to grab Irene, but Irene struggled free.

Angered by Irene's act, Tina gritted her teeth and lunged at

Irene coughed hard, unable to catch her breath.

Tina raised her hand and was about to hit Irene.

"Everybody, see this? I'm being abused, Irene suddenly yelled out

little brat, I'll teach you a good lesson she said, pinning Irene against the wall

Tina froze at her words, and upon looking up, she saw herself reflected in Irene's phone screen, a twisted, angry expression painted across her face. She couldn't believe that the fierce image in the phone was her own.

"Oh my, she's hitting the little girl"

"Call the cops, now!"

"You bitch, let her go?"

"Irene, tell us the address. We're coming to save you."

Tina's vision blurred as she read the comments streaming across the phone's screen. She finally realized the gravity of the situation. You... you're live streaming?“.

She thought Irene had only activated the camera feature and planned to take the phone away, but now she felt all energy drain from her, her head buzzing. 'So the outsiders saw my twisted expression just now as well? she thought with horror.

Taking advantage of Tina's shock, Irene managed to break free and started crying into the camera, "Mommy! I want my mommy. Please, someone, help me. I'm being kept at home by my grandma and my aunt. The address is...

While Jasmine didn't understand live streaming, she knew something was off and quickly snatched the phone from Irene, ending the broadcast. She fought to catch her breath. Sharon is so malicious. She's taught Irene to be so wicked in just a few days, she cursed inwardly.

this had nothing to do with Sharon. The live streaming account had been set up for Irene by Rocky. Irene often sang and danced on it, her intelligence and cuteness earning her a big following

"At least they don't have our home address from that bastard Tina said with relief. Even though she looked downright terrifying just now, she couldn't even recognize herself, so she figured no one else could either.

Then, Tina rushed at Irene with a regained malice. "How dare you bastard play these tricks? I will not let you get away with this?"

As she raised her hand, Fred burst into the room. "Bad news..." But before he could finish officers in uniform swiftly entered and restrained Tina

Jasmine and Tina were shocked, their eyes wide with surprise.

"What do you mean?" Jasmine gasped after a moment. "That's my daughter, and the child is my granddaughter. We were merely disciplining the

child"

"Disciplining? Three thousand people just saw Irene being abused. Sharon stepped from behind, holding up her phone.

Her eyes were red, brimming with tears. Having witnessed Tina harming Irene live on the stream, she looked both furious and heartbroken. She moved closer step by step, her gaze dark and cold.

Feeling guilty, Tina wanted to back away, but with her hands cuffed behind her, she was powerless

Sharon couldn't control her emotions and grabbed Tina by the collar, holding on tight. "Had it been me slapping you twice, would that be considered disciplining my former sister-in-law? Abuse is abuse, regardless of the intent, it's illegal" || Myra hadn't been holding her back, she might have hit Tina.

difficult, Myra tried to calm her. "Ms. Cress, you should check on the child first."

Only then did Sharon release Tina.

"Mommy" Irene ran into her arms, unsettled by the fierce way Sharon had looked at Tina. But she knew Sharon did it to protect her.

Sharon hugged Irene tightly. Seeing the bruises on her little face made Sharon heartbroken. She silently swore never to let Irene have any contact with the Stanley family again.

As Sharon made to leave with Irene. Jasmine quickly blocked her path. "Officer, this is really a family matter. Although the child's aunt may have been a bit impulsive, it's only because the child was being unreasonable, breaking two vases worth 4 million dollars on a whim. We can handle this

ourselves."

The officers looked back and forth between Jasmine and Sharon. Technically, it was a family matter. But without Sharon's consent, they couldn't

just leave.

Sensing their hesitation, Jasmine approached Sharon. "Let's talk"

Sharon was reluctant to let go of Irene.

Seeing this, Myra came forward. "Til hold Irene for you. You should talk to Mrs. Stanley."

While rumors said Sharon was close to the Disney Entertainment boss these days, no one could predict the future. She figured it would be wiser for Sharon not to provoke the Stanley family at this juncture.

Sharon saw through Myra's mind and walked with Jasmine to the side hall

"We'll cover the damages in full," Sharon said as they entered the side hall.

Jasmine let out a snort, her eyes full of reproach when she looked at Sharon. "Is this how you reach your child? Smashing things worth millions of

dollars without a second thought? We are her grandmother and aunt, yet she broadcasts it without a care. A child raised like that won't become decent in society Sharon, this proves you can't teach her. With you. Irene will only get worse. Better to make the right plan for her now than to regret it later."

"You mean to keep her with the Stanley family, don't you?" Sharon cut straight to the point...

Jasmine's silence affirmed her stance.

Sharon sneered. "Yeah, Irene's behavior was wrong, but why did she act out? She arrived yesterday. Why no fuss then, only today? The bruises I saw on her are from being hit, right? What did you expect? Do you think she should just accept it and stay silent

Jasmine was at a loss for words. She frowned and finally decided to look Sharon in the eye. She's changed so much since the divorce. What's going on?" Jasmine thought

"What do you mean being hit? Tina is her aunt; she must educate Irene for any wrongdoing," Jasmine retorted. "This wouldn't have escalated without your drama. Don't think that using a live stream to pressure me will make me give up custody. That's impossible. Listen, Sharon, if you insist on taking Irene, I won't hold back about how you're leading her astray. The boss of Disney Entertainment isn't just anyone; he values education more than most. Do you think he'd want a woman who teaches her child extreme measures to be his wife?"

Sharon couldn't deny that Jasmine had a way of twisting facts and threatening. If Sharon was really attached to some man, she would certainly be afraid.

"Grandma, please don't blame Mommy. The livestream was all my idea; Mommy had nothing to do with it Irene suddenly ran in, standing protectively in front of Sharon. "Our teacher says we must resist when something is unfair, even if an adult does it. It's not right for you and Aunt Tina to lock me up and keep me from seeing Mommy"

Sharon felt a surge of warmth at Irene's show of support, and she crouched down to pat Irene's shoulder. "Irene, don't worry. I'll take you home once I finish talking with your grandma. Wait with Myra for a little bit, okay?"

Irene seemed worried but obediently left the room.

"How much money will it take for you to give up Irene?" Jasmine tried the same tactic again.

Chapter 27

Jasmine's face flushed beet red with anger. "You shameless

She hadn't finished speaking when Sharon cut her off. "But even even so, I'm not handing Trene over to you guys."

Jasmine's fingers, hidden in her sleeve, clenched tighter. She hadn't recorded anything useful and had to s

to stop her phone's recording.

Sharon noticed her subtle movement but chose not to confront her about it. Instead, she sneered and held up her own phone. "Mrs. Stanley, you said Tina only hit Irene to discipline her. But, what about this?"

Immediately, a voice came from the phone. "Do you think I don't know what you're here for? Edwin brought that bastard back, and you want her back, right?"

"Bastard!"

Anyone that comes from you is a bastard."

"Yes, bastard. Anyone

Jasmine's confident expression suddenly froze when she heard this conversation.

Sharon chuckled lightly. "How about that? If I hand this over to the press or the cops, it could serve as evidence of Tina mistreating Irene, right?" She was smiling, but inside, she felt bitter. She couldn't understand what Trene had done wrong to deserve such humiliation from her own family.

As Sharon walked out, a faint smile played on her lips. She put a piece of paper into her bag, crouched down, and picked up Irene. "Let's home

Watching Sharon take Trene away, Tina was filled with anxiety. She rushed to Jasmine. "Mom, why did you let her take Trene away? We can't let the lule bastard leave! If she goes. I...

Before Tina could finish, Jasmine slapped her across her face,

"Mom, what's the meaning of this?" Tina cried out in shock and hurt

Jasmine's face was rigid with anger as she shot a fierce look at Tina. "This is all because of you. I was forced by Sharon to sign the surrender of custody. Tina, look what you've done."

Jasmine was not only angry about losing her granddaughter but also that her prestigious standing had been challenged. She was forced to give in to Sharon because

of Tina's recklessness. To Jasmine, admitting defeat to someone she always looked down on was the ultimate humiliation,

Feeling both hurt and unjust, Tina held her face and stormed back to her room. Getting more irritated by the second, she stomped around and hit her pillow. But no matter what she did, the anger in her heart didn't subside. "That damn bastard! You bitch, Sharon!"

Thinking of Irene and Sharon's scheme, she felt a fire building up in her chest. Having suffered such a defeat, she couldn't just let things slide. After releasing her anger, she dialed Clara's number. "Clara, help me out!" She spilled her grievances to Clara. "I'll buy you your favorite limited edition bag if you can help me punish those two."

Clara loved money and smiled in satisfaction. "That's simple. The best way to punish them is to separate them. Nothing scares a child more than being forcibly separated from their mother. As for Sharon, the pain of losing her daughter will be unbearable."

"I know that, but that's the issue. She forced my mom to sign the agreement. Even my mom doesn't dare to do anything now." Tina started to hit her pillow again out of frustration.

"Send me the agreement. Maybe I can think of a way to help," Clara said.

Sensing hope from Clara's words, Tina immediately rushed out,

Just then, Jasmine stepped out of the house. Tina rushed into Jasmine's room, took several photos of the agreement on the table, and sent them to

Although the limited edition bag was costly, the thought of Clara helping her punish Sharon and Irene brought a smile to Tina's face.

On the other side, Clara handed her phone over to a man after ending the call. The room was dimly lit, making it hard to see the man's face, but his aura was cold and gloomy.

"Wow, you are so ruthless, darling," Clara said, her voice dripping with sweetness. All the twisted ideas were not from her but from the man beside her. The last time when she exposed the married but cheating boss of Disney Entertainment to 'Tikla, that was also the man's idea.

The man grinned, radiating an air of sinister allure. "Do as the last time," he said. His

deep voice was layered

was layered with both charm and disdain.

Clara understood that he wanted her to send the agreement to Tilda's mailbox. She sent it as directed and then pouted. "Darling, why are you so concerned about Turu's affairs? Do you like her!"

Chapter 27

Like her? A cold, glowing gaze shimmered in the dark room. "She's just a side character.

side a private room at Nexus. Ray and Edwin sat across from each other, Ray asked, "Edwin, are you really giving up on Irene?"

may had only just been to the Stanley family and learned from Fred that Edwin had taken Irene and then given her back to Sharon

Edwin held his drink, eyes downeast as he took a sip. his expression cool and detached. "It's not giving up. I'm just letting her stay with Sharon for

ow, Irene is part of the Stanley family That last bit said it all—he would never just abandon Irene.

Edric, who was sitting to Ray's left, looked unhappy. "Why didn't you just keep the kid with the Stanley family! You're just

i getting more entangled with Sharon by doing that. He poured himself another drink, the fancy watch on his wrist glinting. He then continued, his displeasure clear, "It slays right into Sharon's hands, doesn't it! All she wants is to stay connected to you. You're gonna get married again someday, and all this mess with her, it's totally unfair to your future wife. With that, he glanced at Tilda sitting next to Edwin.

Tilda, playing with her phone and seemingly deep in thought, suddenly shook her head as she caught his eye. "Don't talk about Ms. Cress that way. sn't she with the boss of Bisney Entertainment now? He's head over heels. She didn't finish her sentence, but everyone got the hint. Bisney Intertainment's big boss was so into Sharon that he'd ditch his wife for her.

Edwin's face suddenly tightened, his expression turning sour at the words

Edric let out a scornful laugh. "That kind of woman, she just loves having men wrapped around her finger, right? She probably wishes every guy would drop everything for her."

I think you've got Ms. Cress all wrong, Tilda said, disagreeing with Edric "When it comes to divorcing Edwin, she was actually pretty decisive. I heard from Tina that Ms. Cress had Mrs. Stanley sign an agreement to permanently give up custody when she took the kid."

Of course, Tilda hadn't really heard it from Tina—someone had just emailed her about it. But she said it to make Edwin think she was tight with the Stanley family.

Not missing a beat, she showed the screenshot of the agreement. Tina just sent this to me.

As soon as she finished, Edwin snatched the phone from her hand. His long fingers swiped quickly across the screen, and his already dark mood deepened. In the next moment, he stood up abruptly and left in a hurry.

“Edwin!” Edric called out as he started to get up, trying to stop him. But it was no use—Edwin was already too far away.

Edric turned to Tilda with a look of frustrated concern. “What’s up with you, Tilda? Why are you standing up for Sharon!”

Just telling it like it is, Tilda said, with a perfectly timed look of innocent hurt.

“What am I going to do with you.” Edric sighed and couldn't say a word of reproach. His anger was melted by Tilda's wronged expression

All the while, Ray looked at them indifferently.

Chapter 28

Kay sneered. “Don't think you're so clever. It could easily backfire.” He pursed his lips, suggesting something deeper.

Only a fool like Edric would think Tilda was just trying to help Sharon. She intended to encourage Edwin to snatch the child and sever Sharon's relationship with her daughter completely. She's truly shameless and malicious, he thought.

Sharon carried Irene to the car in silence. Even after se

settling into the car, she hadn't spoken a word

Irene, who always cared deeply about Sharon's attitude towards her, couldn't help but tug at her sleeve. “Mommy, I'm sorry.”

“Sorry for what?” Sharon asked, her tone light but her expression serious

Irene dropped her head. I shouldn't have broken their antique” She bit her lip, blinking guiltily as tears started to fill her eyes.

Seeing Irene like that pierced Sharon's heart. She pulled Irene into her arms. "What you really did wrong was not taking care of yourself" Confused, Irene looked at Sharon with wide eyes,

Sharon gently explained, "When you broke the antique vase, did you think about your safety? What if you got hurt by the shards? We can always buy another vase, but if you get hurt, that scar could last forever. Remember, no matter what happens, you must always protect yourself first and foremost

sunderstand, Irene said. Her heart warmed as she realized Sharon's anger sprung from concern for her well-being.

Observing Irene's sincerity, Sharon lovingly stroked her head. "It's also my fault for not protecting you"

"Mommy, don't blame yourself. You've been wonderful to me already, Irene said. "But I really don't like Grandma's place. Aunt Tina is mean, and Grandma is so cold.

Just the mention of the Stanley family sent chills through Irene's spine.

Watching Irene's scared expression, Sharon was reminded of the scene during the livestream. Tina seemed to harbor no affection toward her niece

-she treated Irene like an enemy.

"Don't worry, Irene. I won't let you far situations like that again, Sharon promised, stroking Irene's head.

Irene hadn't been sleeping well at the Stanley family's place. On returning to Sharon's side, she immediately felt more relaxed. Before long, her eyelids were heavy, and she fell asleep.

Sharon held Irene close, her eyes full of concern as she saw how tired Irene was.

Along the drive, both Alanna and Rocky called to check on Irene. Even Randall sent a message out of concern. They all had seen Irene's plea for help while live streaming.

"Irene is okay now. She's with me in the car," Sharon said

"Everyone in the Stanley family is downright heartless, Alanna snapped. She was the most hot-tempered among them and reacted the most fiercely. "I can't believe they'd treat Irene like that. It hurt just watching it in the live stream, let alone. Sharon, you can't just let them off easy. If they dare to hurt Irene, we should make them pay for it."

Sharon massaged her throbbing temples. "Right now, I only want to secure Irene's custody. True, Irene was hurt, but it pushed Jasmine to give up her custody rights, so

let's just leave it at that for now. It wasn't that she didn't care for Irene. But sometimes, she had to swallow her anger for the sake of making the best decision for Irene's future.

Alanna's anger finally subsided a little when she heard that Jasinine had signed away custody. "Sharon, you did the right thing. We can't let Irene suffer more pain just because we're angry. You two hurry back. I'll make something tasty for you."

"Thank you Sharon said and hung up the phone. Warmth filled her heart. Despite losing her marriage, she still had so many friends who cared about her and Irene.

When Sharon's car pulled up to their place, Alanna was already downstairs, wrapped up in a scarf,

Trete had just woken up, still groggy.

Alanna scooped her up in a hug, showering her with kisses. "Irene, are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Irene nodded semibly, returning the kisses. "Mominy saved me" She looked at Sharon. "Good girl, let's head upstairs, Alana said, carrying Irene toward the door.

Chapter 28

Sharon, however, was frozen in place, her gaze fixed on a figure standing there. The man was tall and lean, with a stern watching her.

face and deep-set eyes,

Realizing Sharon hadn't followed, Alanna looked back and saw the man as well. A flash of disgust crossed her face. In the next moment, she approached. "Edwin, this is Sharon's home. You're not welcome here.

Edwin met Alanna's fury with a cool gaze, his attention quickly shifting to Irene

Irene shrank away, showing no desire to interact with him.

Without wasting another word, Alanna, with Irene in her arms, nudged Sharon. "Let's go. She wanted nothing to do with Edwin.

"I need to talk to you, Edwin finally said, his gaze locked on Sharon.

"There's nothing to discuss. You're divorced: Alanna stood in front of Sharon, protective.

Edwin stared at Sharon, and his lips tightened, clearly not ready to back down.

Feeling the tension rising, the nearby crowd started to look over

Sharon didn't want Irene to become the center of attention, so she nudged Alanna.
Take Irene inside first

"But you." Alanna hesitated.

"I'll be up after we talk, Sharon said, her gaze calming Alanna's fears.

Sensing Irene's discomfort around Edwin, Alanna didn't argue further but added before leaving, "Call me if he tries anything" She shot Edwin a warning look.

With Alanna and Irene gone, Sharon turned to Edwin "What do you want to say?"

Edwin looked unwell, especially after accusing Irene of avoiding him "Did you force my mom to sign a custody waiver for Irene?" He didn't beat around the bush

Sharon nodded. Edwin was bound to find out anyway. "It's better for you and Tilda this way," she said.

"Whether it's good for me or not but for you to decide, Edwin interjected sharply.

Sharon met his sharpness with her own. Then let's discuss what's good for Irene. As her mother, that's my call to make

"I've let you raise Irene, yet you overstep and even stop her from recognizing her family. Is that for her good Edwin's tone was aggressive.

Throughout their marriage, he had never spoken to her so much at once. Now, post-divorce, his words were plentiful, but they cut deep. In Edwin's eyes, Sharon was always the troublemaker,

Hearing his accusation, Sharon sneered. "Stop her from recognizing your Mr. Stanley, that's too ridiculous. Are you painting yourselves as victims? Before you accuse me, maybe you should ask your mother and sister why I did it. They're not fools. Do you think they could allow me to do this

without reason

"No matter the reason, the child can't be cut off from the Stanley family Edwin was determined, not bothering to understand the situation.

He had intended for Sharon to temporarily take care of Irene. But Sharon crossed a line, and he wouldn't hold back.

Chapter 29

“I’m giving you one night.” Edwin glanced at his watch. Tomorrow at nine, you’ll bring Trene to the Stanley family personally

He didn’t spell out what would happen if she didn’t, but Sharon knew his ways all too well from their four years of marriage. He was merciless with his enemies.

Edwin left immediately after speaking, his departing figure rigid and cold.

Sharon watched him disappear with a trace of a bitter smile on her face. “He’s so stubborn, cold-blooded, and conceited. What was it that attracted me to him in the first place” she wondered

“He wanted to discuss Irene’s custody with you, didn’t he?” After dinner, once Irene had returned to her room. Alanna brought up the subject.

Sharon nodded, her heart heavy. She told Alanna Edwin’s parting words.

Hearing about Edwin’s threat, Alanna exploded with a curse. “Damn it. To Edwin, the whole world’s full of saints except for you—you’re the unforgivable sinner. Angrily, she started clawing at the table as if it were Edwin himself.

“A little digging would show who’s right or wrong, but Edwin seems blind. If I knew it would come to this, I wish he remained blind. After all, it’s better to be blind in the eyes than blind at heart, Alanna continued and looked at Sharon, her eyes full of concern.

Few knew that Sharon had very poor vision in one eye. She had made unimaginable sacrifices for Edwin once upon a time.

Not wanting to bring up Sharon’s painful memories, Alanna held back her emotions and took Sharon’s hand. “What are your plans now? Got anything figured out?”

In a legal battle, the agreement Sharon had wouldn’t amount to much.

Sharon had Jasmine sign the agreement because she knew Jasmine valued her reputation—once signed, she wouldn’t go back on her word. But what Sharon hadn’t anticipated was Edwin agreeing to let her take the child only to backtrack now

Sharon remained silent, and Alanna didn’t know what she was thinking.

“As I see it, if he wants to go to court, we’ll face him in court. We have evidence. How can we lose?” Alanna said decisively, reaching for her phone to call a lawyer.

“Don’t” Sharon suddenly grabbed her hand. “No lawsuits”

“Sharon, it’s not about whether we sue or not. Edwin will definitely sue us Alanna looked worried, then added gently, “I know you don’t want to settle your love in court, to let what you had with him end like this.”

Sharon gave so much at the beginning, and to end up like this would be hard for anyone to bear.

“I don’t care how my love ends, but Irene shouldn’t be stuck in the middle of a tug-of-war. We can’t go to court over Irene.” Sharon said, her voice exceptionally calm. She had made up her mind.

“But if things go like this, we’ll just be handing over Irene, Alanna said.

“Don’t worry.” Sharon combed through her hair, pulled Alanna closer, and started whispering...

At Stanley Manor, Tina had just learned of this news and hurriedly sought Edwin for confirmation. “Edwin, is it true what you’re saying? Sharon’s really giving Irene back today?”

Jasmine’s gloomy face finally brightened after a whole night, and she shot a glance at Tina. “Edwin hasn’t gone to work yet because he’s waiting for Irene. Could this possibly still be fake news?”

“That’s great!” Having received a positive answer, Tina was thrilled, almost jumping for joy. She thought her plotted scheme finally showed its magic, and she was impressed by the idea Clara laid out for her,

Tina had already decided that she was going to use Irene as a pawn to doubly punish Sharon, making her life a living hell that she would cry and beg for mercy.

Jasmine glanced at her watch. “It’s about time, isn’t it?” she didn’t dwell on punishing Sharon, but she was obviously having a hard time digesting how Sharon made her sign the agreement yesterday. Moreover, Irene was part of the Stanley family, and it was totally unacceptable for her to live

Just as they were talking. Fred walked in. “Ms. Ciris lus anived

Chapter 29

Hearing that Sharon had arrived, they stood up in unison and walked out of the house. Outside, Sharon was indeed standing there. Today, she was dressed in a white dress, her skin flawless, her features radiant. This brilliant Sharon was a stark contrast to the always silent, old-fashioned dressed Sharon from the Stanley family days,

Edwin stared at her for a moment, admittedly astonished by the transformation Sharon had undergone after their divorce.

From behind. Tina snorted, "Having a man take care of you makes the difference, right? Look at you now. You're totally changed"

Sharon didn't react, but Edwin's brow furrowed deeply, his face a picture of gloom.

Jasmine pinched Tina's arm slightly. "Enough"

Tina's words were like an admission that the Stanley family had mistreated Sharon before. It not only demeaned the Stanley family but Edwin as well.

Tina then realized sh

she had said something she wasn't supposed in and quickly shut her mouth

Sharon then sneered. So they knew all along that they had mistreated me before, she thought.

"Where's Irene Edwin asked impatiently, looking around without spotting Irene.

Irene's not coming. Sharon replied calmly.

Edwin's face darkened at her words, and he stared back at Sharon with a familiar look of disgust. "You think I can't do anything if you hide Irene! Childish.

Sharon only chuckled. "What are you going to do?" She originally intended to say something else,

e, but Edwin's words now intrigued her.

"Of course, we'll sue you and make it so you'll never see Irene again. Tina snapped, wanting to see Sharon miserable.

Sharon's smile widened, but her eyes radiated deep sadness. Finally, she looked at Edwin "Is that so!" Her gaze was firm as she demanded a final

Edwin looked at her, clearly seeing the tears in her eyes. His heart throbbed unknowingly for a moment. But just a second He figured this was the perfect punishment for a scheming woman like Sharon

"You're really cruel, Sharon murmured, the disappointment and helplessness evident in her voice.

Edwin sneered. "Considering that scheme you pulled four years ago, I've been more than generous."

later, he nodded. "Yes"

That scheme four years ago Sharon retorted, surprised that he would bring this up. Her eyes gradually turned cold. "Edwin, why do you keep casting yourself as the victim even now!"

Chapter 30

"If I hadn't spoken up back then, what would've become of the Stanley family?" Sharon asked with a half-smile, staring at Edwin's face with a tilt of her head.

Back then, the Genesis Group was about to go public, and preparations had been underway for two years. Eighty percent of Genesis Group's products were endorsed by Tilda. If Tilda's cheating turned into a public scandal, the Stanley family would be the ones to suffer losses.

If the company failed to go public, Edwin's two years of hard work would go down the drain. Sales would plummet plunging Genesis Group into an unprecedented financial crisis, and Edwin would become the laughingstock of the city for being cheated on.

Sharon's impulsive decision back then was solely because of her love for Edwin.

Edwin locked eyes with her for a few seconds, and Sharon's heart felt a touch of warmth. So, he knew he benefited from it, she thought.

Afraid that Edwin would be persuaded by Sharon not to fight for Irene's custody, Tina quickly chimed in. "Enough with the distractions. Where's

Then, she tugged on Edwin. "Edwin, this woman's cunning. Don't be fooled by her

"Right, Edwin." Jasmine also approached. "No matter what happened before, you're divorced now, and the child's custody needs to be settled."

Edwin's gaze shifted as Jasmine spoke. He said, "Sharon, let's stick in the point. If you want a share of the profit or whatever, get a lawyer and talk to me. Right now. I want Irene He believed that even if the Stanley family did benefit, it was merely a byproduct of Sharon's schemes.

Sharon laughed coldly, feeling her heart freezing over once again. Am I expecting any kindness from this heartless family? It's laughable that I'm even considering one last try for Irene's sake, just to keep the peace. Edwin's got it in his head that I'm a gold-digger. If he's dead set on that idea, why should I bother? she thought.

Gathering her emotions, Sharon looked up again with a blank expression on her face. "Do you really want Trene?"

Edwin, whose patience was already wearing thin, frowned even deeper,

Jasmine let out a cold snort as a silent faunt

Tina pursed her lips. "What a lot of nonsense.

"Don't rush to answer, look at something first. With that, Sharon made a phone call. You can come over

Within two minutes, a car pulled up, and Alanna stepped out of it,

"What are you trying to do with Alanna here, Sharon!" Tina was on guard seeing Alanna. "You're not planning on broadcasting this mess online again, are you?"

Sharon

didn't utter a

word, simply ignoring her.

This left Tina fuming, her words becoming sharper. "Let me tell you, even if you broadcast this to the whole work, it wouldn't matter. Irene is part of the Stanley family, and nobody can change that. I advise you not to play tricks and hand over the child. Maybe Edwin will consider the fact that you gave birth to her and compensate you."

Alanna laughed coldly. Short-sighted woman, you think the Stanley family is the only one with money? Sharon has more money than she could ever spend, she doesn't need your meager offerings, she thought.

But Tina continued with even more distasteful comments, "Is 400 thousand dollars enough for you? The boss of Bisney Entertainment has money. but it's all his. You can't just keep begging him for more. With those 400 thousand dollars, at least you can maintain some dignity. The Stanley family wouldn't owe you anything then.

Once Tina stopped, Alanna finally said, "Don't worry. We don't plan on bothering you about Sharon and Irene." She showed a piece of paper to everyone. "This is a power of attorney, and this is the test report my boss asked me to get done. Take a look for yourselves."

"What test report?" All three of them were taken aback. Edwin looked at Sharon, puzzled.

Tina snatched the report to read first. "DNA match 99.99% A biological parent-child relationship? Subject Irene Cress?"

"Yes, Trene now carries my last name." Sharon replied calmly.

Originally, her name was Irene Stanley; it had been changed to Irene Cress not too long ago,

"So this parentage test is between the boss of Disney Entertainment and Irene Jasmine finally got it, her voice sharp as if she'd been hit by a hammer,

Edwin widened his eyes suddenly, his gaze changing from confusion to anger as he stared at Sharon

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"Yes." Sharon nodded calmly, ignoring his glare. The parentage test is between the boss of Disney Entertainment and Irene She'd taken her and Irene's hair for the test

"So, you made us raise su

us raise someone else's child for four years?" Jasmine could hardly contain such humiliation, her lips quivering from anger.

"Mrs. Stanley, get it straight. Irene's been sleeping in your house but never spent a dime of your money, Alanna chimed in. She knew very well that Sharon took care of all Irene's expenses herself

Sull, this revelation deeply angered the Stanley family.

"Sharon, you bitch. How dare you make Edwin raise someone else's child? And you had the nerve to say you married into the Stanley family for our sake. Livid, Tina advanced toward Sharon, intending to grab her hair.

Alanna blocked her path with one hand. Ms. Stanley, you're supposed to be a lady of high society. Where are your manners?

"You" Tina trembled with rage but had to hold back. After all, Alanna was bold and might just broadcast her making a scene to the nation.

Jasmine approached, her breath uneven and her heart racing with pain. She struggled to retain some composure and looked at Alanna. "Isn't the boss of Disney Entertainment going too far?"

"Some things are like this, you know. If you're gonna pick on someone, you better be ready to face the consequences," Alanna said meaningfully. "To any case, Irene has nothing to do with the Stanley family anymore, so don't bother her for no reason" With that, she grabbed Sharon's hand. "Let's

“Okay Sharon followed her to the car.

As they opened the car door, Alanna intentionally looked back at Edwin “Mr. Stanley, rest assured, Disney Entertainment will all belong to Irene and Sharon one day. Your little money isn’t even enough to fill her purse. It would be better spent on Tina for a couple of decent outfits.”

“You bitch! How dare you!” Tina realized Alanna was indirectly mocking her clothes and twisted her face with rage.

Behind them, Jasmine nudged Edwin, ‘Edwin, are we just going to let Sharon off like that? And what about the boss of Disney Entertainment? We’ve done nothing to him: why should he humiliate us?

you, didn’t

Just then, Alanna’s voice sounded again. “Oh night, don’t feel so wronged, When Sharon married into your family, she solved a crisis for you she? We don’t need Mr. Sunley’s offer of compensation, let’s just call it even. With that, she turned and got into the car.

The car drove away. Through the rearview mirror, Alanna could still see Tina’s fury, Jasmine’s lost composure, and Edwin clenching his fists with a dark expression

Alanna looked at Sharon with concern. “Making this decision means you’ll be definitively cutting ties with the Stanley family. Are you sure you have no regrets?”.