

## The Enigmatic Return (Neera and Jean)

### Chapter 1001-1025

Later on, Adriana and Chad finally returned from the countryside.

Seeing that Neera was not at home, Adriana gave her a call.

Upon asking, she found out that another tricky situation had arisen there, which made her sigh involuntarily. "What's been going on lately? There's no peace at all. I planned to come back and rest, to enjoy some leisure time, but now it seems I'm even busier..."

Meanwhile, at Starlight Club,

Alvin and Harris sat face to face at the dinner table, sharing their evening meal.

Both of them had the same satisfied smiles on their faces as they cheerfully clinked their wine glasses together.

"Uncle Harris, it's a pleasure working with you."

"Indeed." With a sly grin, Harris said, "I didn't expect things to go so smoothly. We easily kicked that girl, Isabella, out of the hospital."

Alvin raised an eyebrow. His mood was incredibly good, yet he didn't let his guard down. "Even though she was kicked out, it's only temporary. After all, she hasn't been completely expelled from Grace Hospital. Isabella still hasn't come to her senses. Once she does, she definitely won't let it go. Her temperament is even tougher than a man's."

Harris nodded. "You're right. Our current victory is only temporary. It seems we need to step up our efforts! As long as we can pin this crime on her, she can forget about ever setting foot in Grace Hospital again!" At that point, he gave a sinister laugh. "Back then, Dad went against everyone's advice and insisted on giving her the Grace Hospital. But things are different now. Without Dad's protection, it would be impossible for her to turn things around!"

Alvin stared into Harris' eyes. Seeing the hint of gloom within, he flattered the latter in a calm and unhurried manner.

"Yes, you're right. Grandpa is now in your hands. No one else can help Isabella. Uncle Harris, you really have foresight, knowing to start with the most important person-"

The two were in the midst of their conversation when suddenly, Harris' assistant rushed in. "This is bad. The old man is missing!"

As soon as they heard that, the smiles on their faces vanished in an instant. Both stood up, their expressions filled with shock and disbelief.

"How could he have disappeared? Wasn't someone guarding him? How did he vanish?"

The assistant braced himself and replied, "I'm not sure either. All I know is that everyone in the research center has fainted. The surveillance inside has also been destroyed, leaving no clues whatsoever..."

Alvin was startled to his core, losing all appetite for food. He hurriedly joined Harris, rushing toward the research center. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

As soon as they walked in, sure enough, they saw all the staff members scattered haphazardly on the ground, not a single one conscious.

Alvin quickly crouched down, pushed aside a person, and examined his condition. "They were knocked out cold. Whoever took Grandpa away seems to have exceptional fighting skills!"

Harris never expected that to happen. He exclaimed in disbelief, "It must be that wretched girl, Isabella, who sent someone to take Dad away!"

"I don't think so." Alvin, however, dismissed this idea. "How could she possibly have the means to send such a formidable person?"

"What do we do now? It doesn't matter who did it. Dad has been taken away, and we've lost our bargaining chip!" Harris was somewhat flustered.

In contrast, Alvin had already calmed down. Far from panicking, he even chuckled. "What's there to fear? Even if they get Grandpa, so what? Don't forget that we still have the antidote. They can't possibly wake Grandpa up! As long as he remains unconscious, he's still our bargaining chip!"

Yet, Harris remained uneasy. "But what if Isabella's friend, Nancy, manages to develop the antidote?"

"Is it that simple? We spent a fortune on this ancient prescription. No matter how capable that woman is, she's just a young doctor. How could she possibly know about these things?"

Hearing him say this, Harris finally breathed a sigh of relief. "You're right. As long as we keep the antidote hidden, there should be no issues..."

Eleven o'clock at night, at the research center, as promised, Jean came to pick her up.

As Neera got into the car, she felt the gloominess within the vehicle. She blinked her eyes and quickly started to soothe him, "Don't be mad anymore. Haven't I already agreed to your terms and obediently followed them? I'm coming home with you right now, and I promise I won't push myself this hard in the future, okay?"

Seeing that Jean remained indifferent, his face still stern, she had no choice but to appeal to his emotions. "I didn't mean to work myself this hard. The main thing is, when I was abroad before, Bell helped me a lot! There were some things that I couldn't have gotten through without her. Now that she's in such big trouble, how could I, her best friend, just stand by and do nothing?"

Upon hearing her speak of the past, Jean found it quite easy to be soft-hearted toward her.

He looked over helplessly and sighed. "I know. That's why I've already sent someone to investigate her uncle Harris and Alvin. Tonight, my men will sneak into their residences to see if they can find the medicine you mentioned or an antidote. The triplets are also helping at home, assisting in taking down the other party's security system."

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## Chapter 1002

Neera was somewhat touched to hear that they had done so much.

She knew that he was being so considerate because he wanted her to rest more.

At that moment, she didn't care about Ian in the front row. Following her heart, she moved closer and embraced him. "Jean, you're truly wonderful. Having you in my life is the greatest fortune I've ever had."

After whispering sweet nothings, she planted a kiss on his lips, acting just like an endearing little kitten.

Jean was completely disarmed by her coquettish charm, leaving him utterly helpless against her.

Ian, in the driver's seat, heard the noises from behind and couldn't help but sigh inwardly. Mr. Beauvort is thoroughly subdued by Mrs. Beauvort. Nowhere is the commanding presence he usually displays in front of others... Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Upon arriving home, Neera saw both Adriana and Chad were already there.

"Aunt Adriana, Uncle Chad, you're still awake! I thought you would stay there for a few more days!" With joy, Neera stepped forward and affectionately held Adriana's hand.

Adriana chuckled. "There's not much to talk about with them anyway. It's enough just to visit them. Besides, I'm worried you might not be able to handle things on your end."

As she spoke, she let out a long sigh. "I really didn't want to burden you with so much work, but it seems you can't escape it even after returning. When will you be able to take a proper break? I feel exhausted just seeing you so worn out. The busier you get, the thinner you become, and it's always unsettling for me."

Neera felt warm in her heart, her eyes curved as she laughed. "It's no big deal, I'll just eat an extra bowl of rice usually!"

Adriana and Chad both burst into laughter. "You little rascal..."

It was getting late, and Adriana wasn't much of a night owl. After sharing a few laughs, she retired to her room with Chad.

Jean urged Neera to go upstairs and rest.

Neera was still concerned about the triplets. "Where are the children? Are they in the study? I'll go check on them."

Jean had no choice but to follow her upstairs.

Upon her arrival, the triplets immediately gathered around her, greeting her in an adorable and well-behaved manner, "Mommy, you're back!"

Neera gently patted their little heads, smiling as she said, "I heard you guys are up to something big tonight. I came over to see you and cheer you on."

The triplets were immediately inspired, each of them straightening their backs, standing tall. "Mommy, rest assured. We will definitely complete the task well!"

Next, Penny urged considerately, "You should go back and rest first. Don't you have to go to the research center tomorrow? You need to get a good night's sleep and recharge your energy to keep going!"

Neera blinked her eyes and said, "Yes, you're right. I'll have to trouble you guys tonight, then. Good night."

She gave each of the triplets a kiss, then returned to her bedroom.

Once she had gone to bed, Jean and his three children gathered in the study. Harvey and Sammy, each with a computer in their arms, hacked into the security system of Alvin's residence.

The process went smoothly, taking less than three minutes from start to finish.

Penny's eyes sparkled. "Harvey, Sammy, you guys are so amazing!"

Seeing the adoration in their little sister's eyes, a touch of pride surfaced on the handsome and youthful faces of the two brothers.

A playful smile surfaced in Jean's eyes as he raised his eyebrows. He affectionately ruffled the heads of the two boys. "Well done. You're truly worthy of being my son."

Upon hearing that, the two boys became even more excited, their little faces glowing with anticipation.

Meanwhile, two figures clad in black stealthily infiltrated Alvin's mansion, beginning their search in the darkness.

The next day, as soon as Neera woke up, she rushed to find Jean, eager to know the outcome of last night's events.

Jean shook his head regretfully. "We haven't found anything useful. It seems we need to change our investigation approach. We should look into where Alvin might have bought his medicine."

Neera analyzed, "These harmful drugs couldn't have been acquired through legitimate channels unless they got the ancient prescriptions from a genuine ancient medical family..."

However, she knew very little about the ancient medical families within the country.

After a moment of thought, Jean said, "Investigating these two channels wouldn't be a difficult task."

At that moment, he called for Ian and instructed, "Go find out about the ancient medical families in our country and also the special channels for trading medicines and prescriptions."

Ian nodded in acceptance of the order.

Once back in their home country, Beauvort Group's influence could be greatly exerted. They could do anything they wanted effortlessly.

Neera felt for a moment that having help with everything was perhaps a bit too convenient. Now that I think about it, Jean has helped me resolve quite a few troubles recently. He's taken care of many important and trivial matters for me.

At that thought, she felt a bit guilty.

In reality, she knew that he was already very busy, and yet she had added such a big trouble to his plate.

"Jean, thank you for the hard work. With all the things you have on your plate, you still found time to help me so much. I'm so sorry."

Upon hearing her words, Jean lightly tapped her forehead in disagreement. "How many times have I told you? There's no need to be so formal with me. When will you ever get over your habit of being overly polite? Besides, I do all these things because I want to make things easier for you. I can't bear to see you so tired. Do you understand?"

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## Chapter 1003

Neera felt as if she had been immersed in a jar of honey, where all her bitterness and fatigue were enveloped by the sweetness of the honey, transforming into delight. "I get it. With you by my side, I feel at ease. I always feel like I have endless energy. You are my greatest motivation!"

Jean raised an eyebrow, suddenly leaned in, and whispered in her ear, "If you have energy to spare, feel free to share some with me. I'd be more than happy to do something meaningful with you."

Grasping what he was implying, Neera blushed instantly, pushing him away. "Y-You're acting like a hooligan under broad daylight!"

He gracefully reclined, lounging lazily against the couch, his eyes brimming with laughter. "This is the first time someone's called me a hooligan, but rest assured. I only behave like this around you." Neera simply couldn't bear to listen any longer, so she covered his mouth with her hand. "Would you just shut up!"

Her cheeks, as fair as snow, were tinged with rosy blushes. Her starry eyes sparkled with a hint of annoyance, shimmering like ripples on water, giving her an appearance that was both adorable and alluring.

Jean couldn't help but feel a stir in his heart as he watched, and he couldn't resist giving her palm a gentle kiss.

Neera, as if scalded, quickly withdrew her hand.

Jean wouldn't let her run away. He grabbed her hand and laughed, saying, "Where do you think you're going? What I mean is, as long as I'm with you, everything we do becomes meaningful." [SEARCH THE WEBSITE](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After he finished speaking, he knew when to stop. He took her hand and helped her to her feet. "Let's go. It's time to eat. Don't we still have a lot of work to do? We should make the most of the daytime. Remember, no working past eleven at night."

Neera pouted. "Understood."

After having breakfast, she headed straight to the research center.

The condition of Franklin remained the same as yesterday. He still hadn't woken up.

After reminding the medical staff to take extra care of him, she went into the office and began to sift through a vast amount of information, trying to glean useful insights.

Isabella also made a visit.

Seeing her grandfather's condition, she couldn't help but shed tears. Sorrow and resentment churned within her. "Grandpa used to be so full of life, but now he's been reduced to this state by those scumbags... They truly have no conscience! If only I could have been more vigilant, maybe this wouldn't have happened."

Neera handed her a tissue. "This isn't your fault. Don't blame yourself. They've had ill intentions for a long time, and they'll stop at nothing for their own gain. Even if you were on guard, you couldn't have stopped them."

"I know, but seeing Grandpa like this is heartbreaking..."

Understanding her state, Neera poured her a cup of warm water. She waited for her emotions to settle before asking, "How's your progress? Have you found anything?"

Isabella sniffed, speaking in a muffled voice. "There's been some progress. Apart from my uncle Harris's assistant, we've also identified two additional suspects. You're right. One of them is the person you mentioned before, the one from the pharmacy. The other one is Alvin's assistant."

Whenever Alvin was mentioned, Isabella's tone would be tinged with anger. "These past few years, Alvin has been constantly scheming behind my back. The management team has been infiltrated to some extent. Out of familial consideration, I've turned a blind eye. Little did I know, I was actually fostering evil!"

Neera had known from the start that Alvin was not one to stay put, so this situation did not surprise her.

"When can we secure the evidence?"

"It's unclear. It could take a few days at the earliest. They are very cautious in their actions. Waiting for them to slip up is not an easy task."

Seeing her in low spirits, Neera took her hand, comforting her with a gentle voice, "No worries. We'll take it slow. No matter what, we won't let them succeed."

Isabella felt somewhat touched. "Okay."

At two in the afternoon, Isabella left.

Neera was about to continue her research when she suddenly received a call from an unknown number.

She picked up the phone with a puzzled expression. "Hello, may I ask who's calling?"

A somewhat familiar voice came through. "Baby girl, is that you? Why haven't you come home yet? Are you still working overtime?"

Neera immediately recalled the old lady she met a few days ago. The caller was Mariah. I didn't expect this old lady to still be thinking about me.

She was a bit surprised, but she still patiently coaxed her, "Yes. I'm still busy, you-"

Upon hearing those words, Mariah suddenly became emotional. "No, baby girl. You're lying to me! You haven't come home for so many days. You never planned to return, did you? You don't want to see me. You're still blaming me."

Taken aback, Neera quickly denied, "No, I'm not lying to you. I swear. If you don't believe me, we can video call."

As she spoke, she faintly heard the angry cursing of an unfamiliar man on the other end of the line. "Are you blind? You old hag! You bumped into someone and can't even apologize... Such bad luck!"

Not only that, but she also heard the sound of cars passing by.

Neera sensed something was amiss, a bad premonition rising in her heart. "Aren't you at home? Where are you now? Who's with you?"



Mariah was already sobbing uncontrollably. "I'm alone. I want to find you. You haven't come back. It's been so long, so I want to bring you home."

Neera's heart sank. Why is she running around on her own?

She quickly asked, "How long have you been out?"

Mariah continued to cry like a helpless child. "So, so long. Once lunch was over, I noticed that you still hadn't returned, so I decided to look for you... to bring you home for a meal together, but I've walked so far and still can't find you. Baby girl, where are you? Please, come home with me. I miss you so much..."

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## Chapter 1004

Come out after lunch? This old woman has been out for about two hours!

Neera realized that things were not looking good. Her heart filled with apprehension.

"Please don't go any further, Ma'am. Stay where you are."

The old woman's voice was thick with tears. "But... if I don't leave," she sobbed mournfully, "I won't be able to see you."

Neera felt an inexplicable sourness in her heart at those words. It pained her.

At the same time, she could not help wondering what exactly happened with Mariah's daughter.

Has she gone missing, or has she passed away? How could one bear to let their own mother worry like this without even seeing her?

Finding it impossible to sit by and watch, she could no longer bear it.

"I can see you. Please stay where you are. Don't go anywhere, and I'll be right there to meet you, okay?"

Filled with tears, Mariah's eyes radiated with joy. Her voice was laced with caution as she ascertained, "Really, baby girl? You're not lying to me, are you?"

"Really. I'm on my way now, but you have to tell me where exactly are you and what buildings are around you."

As she was speaking, Neera had already left the institute and hailed a taxi.

She knew very well that her presence would not make a difference; she was not the root cause of the old woman's heartache. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Given the current situation, however, she was genuinely worried about something unforeseen happening.

Fortunately, upon obtaining the confirmation that Neera would come to her, Mariah calmed down obediently.

She glanced around, murmuring, "There's a lake in front of me. The scenery here is quite lovely, and not far away there's a stunningly beautiful tower..."

Based on what she was told, Neera began researching.

Finally, she determined the location to be Grandview Park. After informing the driver, the taxi sped off.

Along the journey, Neera took the initiative to contact Edward.

He was quite surprised to receive her call. "What is it, Ms. Garcia?"

Neera did not have time for small talk, so she quickly explained that Mariah was asking to see her.

Edward was greatly startled by the news. "How could this be? Shouldn't Grandma be taking her nap at this time?"

Neera kept her eyes fixed outside of the window. She was looking anxious.

"She must have slipped out after lunch when your family wasn't paying attention. She misses your aunt a lot, so she came looking for her. I know where she is. I just instructed her over the phone to stay put, and I'm on my way to her now."

After ascertaining the location, Edward set off at once.

"All right. I'm on my way too!"

Neera arrived at her destination fifteen minutes later.

Grandview Park was vast, and locating an individual was a challenge.

Seeing the bustling crowd, the only thing Neera could do was to call the old woman to ask for more specific directions.

However, the call went unanswered.

Neera tried calling several more times in a row, but none of them went through.

Just then, Edward, along with Jeremiah and his wife, arrived in quick succession.

Nadine froze the moment she saw Neera. Her gaze locked onto the latter's face, and her eyes welled up with sudden tears.

"You look just like her..."

Neera gaped at her, puzzled.

Edward walked over, steadied his mother's shoulders, and gave her a meaningful look.

"Let's locate Grandma first, Mom. We can talk about this later."

Regaining her composure with a start, Nadine nodded. "Right. We need to find your grandmother quickly. There are so many people here. It would be troublesome if she gets lost."

Neera told them she had made several phone calls earlier, but none had gotten through.

Then, she regarded them with a hint of disapproval.

"You should be more careful with an elderly woman in your house. You should consider getting her a watch with a location tracker or installing a tracking device on her phone if she continues to wander off like this, at the very least. That way, it would be easier to find her if anything happens."

"It's true," Nadine said quickly. "She has a pocket watch that she is fond of. She wears it all the time, only taking it off when she sleeps. She snuck out of the house when she was supposed to be taking a nap the last two times. It's my fault, really. I didn't check to see if she was actually asleep before I returned to my room. If I had, none of this would have happened..."

She felt quite guilty, so Neera did not say anything more.

After a quick glance around, she made a quick decision instead of wasting any more time.

"This park is huge, and we don't know exactly where she is. All we can do is split up and search. If anyone hears any information about her, give me a call. Sounds good?"

The three members of the Park family agreed at once. After each taking charge of one direction, they went their separate ways to commence their search.

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## Chapter 1005

Despite searching for over half an hour, Neera could not locate the old woman. She also had not received any word from the Park family.

Throughout the entire time, she had also not stopped calling Mariah, but she still could not get through.

As each second ticked by, Neera's anxiety grew. She feared something might have happened to the old woman.

Just then, a cry of surprise came from up ahead.

"Oh, my goodness! Someone, help! An old woman has fallen into the water! Come quickly!"

Old woman?

With a start, Neera whipped around and ran over.

A crowd had already gathered by the lake, huddled along the shore and discussing animatedly. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Is this old woman mad? I saw her walking into the water as if she was trying to pick up something when I passed by earlier."

"I saw her, too. What could possibly be more important than her life to the extent of diving into the lake to retrieve it? She would have died if it weren't for the kind passerby who rescued her, yet she's still trying to go back in. I wonder what she's thinking."

"This old woman seems mentally unstable. I wonder whose family she belongs to. No one seems to be looking after her."

"Could she have gotten lost? Maybe we should call the police."

The longer Neera listened the crowd's remarks, the more anxious she felt.

Shoving her way through, she arrived at the shore and immediately saw the old woman desperately trying to head into the water.

Two kind-hearted individuals, one on each side, were holding her back as they kept trying to dissuade her.

However, Mariah refused to listen. Completely drenched, she was struggling incessantly.

"Let me go! Let me get it. My baby girl is waiting for me. She said she would come and see me....."

However, she was frail, and the two strangers would not slacken their grip no matter what she said, which made her so anxious that she started to cry.

Neera felt an inexplicable discomfort in her heart at the sight. "Ma'am!" she called out.

Everybody's gaze was drawn to her at her cry, including Mariah's.

The old woman froze when she saw Neera. Then, a joyful light blossomed in her eyes, and a radiant smile spread across her lips. No longer attempting to head toward the water, she reached out to the latter instead.

"You're here, baby girl. You've come to see me! I've been waiting for you for so long..."

Neera quickly grabbed her hand. Her anxious heart finally settling down, she nodded helplessly.

"Yes, I'm here. Didn't I tell you to wait for me right where you were? Why did you go into the water? That's so dangerous."

As she spoke, she took out a tissue, gently wiped her face, then smoothed her hair.

The moment the subject was brought up, Mariah began to cry again.

"M-My phone fell into the water, so I couldn't contact you. I was afraid you wouldn't be able to find me, so I wanted to get it."

So that's why I couldn't get through on the phone. Thankfully, she wasn't hurt.

The passerby who had just helped to intervene approached. "Do you know this old lady? Are you her daughter?" he asked.

"Given their age gap, it doesn't look that way," someone muttered. "It would be more likely if you said she was his granddaughter instead."

Neera turned away. Not wanting to upset Mariah, she lowered her voice slightly.

"Thank you for saving her. My grandmother is a bit ill, and sometimes her mind wanders. I'm grateful for your intervention and assistance."

"I see. No worries at all. We noticed the old lady running toward the water alone. It was dangerous, so the least we could do was help. Please, take good care of her. We can't have such an incident happening again, or it'll be too late for regrets."

"All right. I understand, Thank you."

Not long after, the crowd dispersed.

Neera helped Mariah to a nearby bench. Noticing how weak she looked with her clothes all wet and her face deathly pale, Neera quickly took off her jacket and draped it over the old woman.

"Please wait a moment, Ma'am. Your family will be here soon."

As she spoke, she called Edward and informed him of her exact location.

Upon receiving the news, all of them hurried over at once.

"Are you okay, Grandma?" Edward asked breathlessly, his eyes filled with concern.

"Hello, Edward."

Mariah gave him a warm smile when she saw him. "I'm fine. I finally found your aunt."

All of them breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing that the old woman was fine.

Nadine stepped forward and squatted in front of her, looking upset.

"Why did you have to endanger yourself like that, Mom? What would we do if something were to happen to you?"

Jeremiah was both distressed and anxious. "Didn't we tell you not to wander off? Come home with us at once and change your clothes, or you'll catch a cold."

The old woman was not pleased. She gripped Neera's hand tightly.

"I'm not going back. I want to be with my baby girl. If she doesn't come home, neither will I."

No matter how much the Park family tried to persuade her, she adamantly refused to go with them, choosing instead to remain with Neera.

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## Chapter 1006

Neera thought Mariah did not look too good. She needs to change her clothes, and it would be best to go to the hospital for a check-up.

Upon arriving at that thought, she decided to see her good deed through to the end.

"All right. I'll come with you, but your clothes are all wet, and you'll be bound to catch a cold. Let's go to the hospital for a check-up first before going home, okay?"

"Home?"

Mariah was overjoyed. Her eyes were brimming with tears as she regarded Neera. "Will you come home with me, baby girl?"

Neera smiled. "Mmm. Come on."

Only then did the old woman rise to her feet. Still tightly holding Neera's hand, she followed closely behind.

The three members of the Park family heaved a sigh of relief, yet they could not help feeling a pang of sadness.

Before long, the group left Grandview Park and arrived at the hospital.

Throughout the entire check-up, the old woman refused to let go of Neera's hand no matter how the doctor implored her, not even when she was changing out of her wet clothes.

Helpless, Neera had no choice but to wait along patiently.

Moreover, for reasons she could not explain, she could not bear to cause Mariah any more sorrow upon seeing her this way.

Fortunately, Mariah was not seriously ill; she only needed to stay in the hospital for a couple of days to recuperate.

Despite being clearly exhausted, she refused to go to sleep.

Neera sat by the bed. "Get some sleep if you're feeling tired," she coaxed gently. "The doctor said you need plenty of rest to get better."

However, Mariah merely shook her head. Her gaze, fixed on Neera, did not waver for even a moment.

"I won't. If I fall asleep, I'm afraid I'll wake up and find you gone again. I dare not sleep."

Neera felt a pang of heartache. Patiently, she coaxed the old woman for a long time.

"No, I won't! I'll be right here with you. Don't worry, and get some sleep. I'm not going anywhere."

After a good while, Mariah, much like a child, succumbed to sleep after multiple requests for reassurance.

The three members of the Park family watched the whole process from the corner.

Nobody spoke. They were unsure of what to say.

Nadine's eyes reddened. Feeling the twinge in her nose, she barely managed to keep her tears from falling.

The scene brought back memories of Stacy as if she had returned to the past.

If Stacy were here, the old lady would not behave like that.

When Mariah had fallen asleep, Neera lifted the quilt gently to cover her.

When she turned around, she saw Nadine's eyes moist with tears. "Are you all right?" she asked, surprised.

Nadine quickly lowered her eyes, took a deep breath, and composed herself. "I-I'm fine."

Neera nodded before rising to her feet. "Now that Mrs. Park is safe and sound, I'd better get going, as I have matters to attend to."

Then, she reminded them, "She seems rather unstable. I was only able to come today because I happened to be free, otherwise, something worse would have happened. I often don't carry my phone with me when I'm busy in the lab, so you should be careful not to let her wander off again." [SEAR\\*ch the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

After her speech, she turned to leave.

In a panic, Edward stood up at once and blocked her way.

"Don't leave just yet. Let's have a talk."



Neera paused, looking puzzled. "What would you like to talk about?"

Edward glanced at his parents and, upon seeing no objection from them, took a deep breath.

"Aren't you curious as to why my grandmother always mistakes you for my aunt? We would like to tell you about her."

Neera felt a strange sense of unease in her heart; she found them rather peculiar.

"Is it appropriate for me, an outsider, to discuss matters regarding your family?"

Edward seemed on the verge of blurting out the truth, but he managed to hold back.

"Apologies, but this won't take up much of your time. You'll understand once we explain things."

Seeing his serious expression, Neera hesitated for a moment. She was left with no choice but to agree.

Then, the group left the ward, intending to find a place to sit down and talk.

Suddenly, Elmer arrived in a hurry, with his butler following closely by his side.

"Where's your mother, Jeremiah? How is she doing?"

No sooner had he asked than he saw the face that strikingly resembled his daughter's. Completely stunned, he stared at her unblinkingly, a myriad of emotions swirling in his eyes.

Neera felt a little uncomfortable being subjected to his scorching gaze. She had always found the old man's gaze somewhat strange.

However, before she could ponder any further, Edward broke the silence to explain the situation.

Then, he made the introductions. "This is Neera, Grandpa."

The way she was being introduced made Neera feel that something was off, though she could not quite put her finger on it at the moment.

"Neera..."

Elmer was still somewhat dazed. He was wearing a complicated expression.

A moment later, he regained his composure, and his face hardened again. "Let's go," he said solemnly. "We'll talk someplace else."

After instructing the butler to stay and keep an eye on Mariah, the group headed to the café across the hospital.

Not long after, all of them took their seats.

Neera felt a strange tension in the atmosphere, which made her feel even more nonplussed.

Not one to beat around the bush, she said promptly, "If you have something to say, just say it."

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## Chapter 1007

Edward looked toward his parents and the old man as if waiting for them to speak.

Elmer exhaled slowly, his voice barely above a whisper. "Edward, why don't you explain."

Edward nodded before looking at Neera with a solemn expression.

"Ms. Garcia, even though we've met before, allow me to reintroduce you. This is my grandfather, Elmer Park. The lady next to him is my mother, Nadine Little, and this is my father, Jeremiah Park."

At that point, Edward paused, his expression complex.

"In our family, I actually have an aunt. However... she ran away from home when she was young."

Neera's heart skipped a beat, and deep within her eyes, it seemed as if something was surging forth.

Jeremiah Park... Stacy Park... The old lady who always mistook me for her own daughter? Her appearance also bears a striking resemblance to my mother, with about a fifty to sixty percent similarity.

In just a few short seconds, several thoughts raced through her mind, and she seemingly realized something.

Her face was tense, her hand clenched under the table. She looked straight at them, her gaze slightly cold.

"So... what are you trying to say?" Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Edward pursed his lips. "My aunt. Her name is Stacy."

When she heard the name that was etched in her roll off Edward's tongue, Neera felt surprised but also seemed to have expected it.

After she was momentarily stunned, the tension within her quickly eased.

No wonder I have always felt an inexplicable sense of closeness to that old lady. Watching her tirelessly searching for her daughter has also tugged at my heartstrings. It turns out that she's actually my maternal grandmother. Does this mean that the people in front of me now are my relatives?

She couldn't help but feel that the situation was surreal.

She had always thought that she would never have any contact with her mother's family in her lifetime.

Unexpectedly, both parties ended up meeting in such a manner.

Edward looked at the surprise and realization in her eyes and gave a bitter smile.

"Hard to believe, isn't it? But it's true. You are my aunt's daughter, my cousin."

Neera was somewhat at a loss for words, trying to process the unexpected piece of information.

After a long silence, she took a deep breath. "Words don't mean a thing. Do you have any proof?"

"Yes."

Edward anticipated her question and took out his phone, tapping on it a few times. "Look, this is a family photo of the Park family. This woman here is my aunt, your mother."

Neera turned to look at the woman he was pointing at, and she caught her breath.

That's what Mom looked like when she was young! It's true, all of this is indeed true. In the photograph, Mom looks so beautiful with her warm and gentle smile. Her eyes are brimming with joy and contentment.

As Neera stared at it, she felt her heartstrings being tugged.

She averted her gaze before she finally spoke, "My mother ran away from home over twenty years ago. Why have you suddenly thought to look for her now? She... she's no longer with us..."

"We already know."

Edward spoke in a strained voice. "You must hold some resentment towards us in your heart, thinking that we've been heartless all these years for not searching for your mother. But that's not the case."

"Let me do the talking."

At that moment, Jeremiah suddenly took over the conversation with a hoarse voice.

"Your mother was pampered and protected from a young age. She was naturally innocent and kind, unaware of the wickedness in people's hearts. During her university years, she fell in love with Alfonso under his persistent pursuit. However, we all felt that he was not a good man and did not approve of their relationship. Yet your mother was determined to marry him. This caused a huge uproar in the family. Later, no one knew what Alfonso promised your mother, but she believed him and even eloped with him. That was the first and only time she ever rebelled in her life. Your grandfather was quite upset about it. Your grandmother, who was already in poor health, became even more despondent because of this incident. I initially wanted to find her, but your grandfather was stubborn and refused to allow it. Later, as your grandmother's illness worsened, we had no choice but to take her abroad for treatment. Before we left, I sent a message to your mother, but I wasn't sure if she saw it. Truth be told, we've gotten over our anger, and we've forgiven her in our hearts. We missed her dearly. If only she had come back and apologized. Even if we still don't like Alfonso, we would've accepted him. But who would have thought, once we parted, it would be for so many years..."

He spoke at length with an increasingly sorrowful tone before heaving a deep sigh.

"All these years, your mother never returned. We thought she was still holding a grudge against the family. We missed her and felt sad. It wasn't until last year that your grandmother started to become like this, always talking about your mother. So, we began to look for your mother, but who would have known..."

Before he could finish speaking, Neera suddenly broke into a sarcastic smile.

"Who would have known that the consequences of her going all out would be so terrible? The man she had set her heart on turned out to be useless and worse than an animal!"

As soon as the words were spoken, members of the Park family were taken aback as they looked at her with eyes full of sympathy.

Unable to bear it any longer, Nadine got up and moved to her side, clutching the latter's hand with teary eyes.

"We only learned about your situation and heard about all the injustices you've endured after we returned. Over the years... you've really suffered. If only we had known earlier about what happened to you and your mother, we would have definitely found you earlier. It's our fault. We came too late..."

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## Chapter 1008

Watching her, Neera recalled in her mind the scene at the hospital where she was holding back her tears while looking at herself. At that moment, her heart suddenly softened.

She is my aunt, for goodness sake.

Glancing at the hand holding onto hers, Neera felt an exceptional sense of warmth.

"I'm fine, really. Even though I've had some tough times in the past, it's all behind me now. I've been doing quite well in recent years. You're right. When my mother was young, she didn't judge people well. Alfonso is indeed a worthless man, and I've never considered him as my father.

Besides, the Garcia family is no more. He has gotten what he deserved for his actions. If you... still want revenge, I'm afraid it might already be too late."

Upon hearing those words, Elmer finally spoke, his voice extremely serious.

"What do you mean? Are you suggesting we should let him off the hook? He ruined my daughter's life, causing her to lose her life at such a young age. It serves him right to end up like this, and it doesn't conflict with our desire for revenge! Even if he has fled overseas, I will find someone to drag him back!"

Elmer spoke with a forceful voice, his words resonating throughout the room.

Neera looked into Elmer's angry eyes and calmly said, "Indeed, there is no conflict, and he is indeed abroad. However, he has been imprisoned. By the time he gets out, I'm afraid he'll be an old man."

"What?"

Everyone was taken aback, not expecting such a turn of events. They were all astonished, asking, "What happened? What has he done?"

Neera chose not to elaborate on the malicious deeds done by Alfonso. Instead, she explained them in a concise and straightforward manner.

"I personally made sure he went to prison. When we were overseas, he tried to take my life. Naturally, I returned the favor."

Although she didn't go into detail, the Park family was outraged.

"I can't believe how despicable he is!"

"He deserves to be locked up!"

The heartbroken Nadine couldn't resist embracing Neera. "My child, you've been through so much..."

Listening to Nadine's choking sobs, Neera was momentarily stunned, but soon, her eyes gradually glistened.

Over the years, there was no other relative who had given her such a hug apart from her aunt.

A warm sensation swelled in her heart as she lightly bit the corner of her lip. "Thank you. I'm really fine."

Her word of thanks seemed to have stretched the distance between the two, making their interaction somewhat formal.

Upon hearing it, Nadine felt a faint bitterness welled up in her heart, accompanied by a sense of loss.

The atmosphere fell silent once again. After a brief moment, Jeremiah cleared his throat lightly and began to speak once more.

"Neera, we wanted to clarify this matter with you today mainly because we want to officially acknowledge you. We've already lost your mother, so we don't want to lose contact with her only legacy. Would you... be willing to accept it?"

Neera was momentarily at a loss for how to respond.

Suddenly, she had this whole new family to get used to, and she hadn't fully processed it yet.

Even though she didn't mind, becoming close with them right now seemed... a little challenging.

After a few seconds of hesitation, she could only respond with a question, "Has the Park family always been in Kingsview?"

The Park family members felt somewhat disappointed, as they didn't hear the response they were hoping for.

However, they also understood that expecting Neera to accept them immediately was somewhat demanding.

After all, she hadn't lived with them since she was a child. During times of hardship and suffering, they weren't by her side.

With a silent sigh in his heart, Edward responded to her.

"No, we've always lived in the south. The Park family has been there for generations. We're known as a family of scholars, but we also run businesses, so we do have some wealth to our name."

Neera nodded in understanding. "I have heard my aunt mention this before."

Afterward, in an attempt to bridge the gap, the Park family asked her about her life in recent years. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

Although they had already learned some of it during the investigation, they still wanted to hear her tell it in her own words.

Neera didn't hide anything and answered all the questions one by one.

"I got lost when I was young and was taken in by foster parents. It wasn't until I turned eighteen that I was reunited with the Garcia family. However, I wasn't welcomed there. My stepmother and stepsister schemed to drive me out. It was my aunt who kindly took me in and brought me abroad to groom me. I owe who I am today to her. Now, I live with my aunt, and I'm very happy and content about it."

Upon hearing that Neera had been doing well the past few years, the Park family finally felt a sense of relief.

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## **Chapter 1009**

"Your aunt is a kind person. We are truly grateful for how well she treats you."

Nadine gently brushed away the stray hairs from her temples while speaking in a tender tone.

At the mention of Adriana, a faint smile surfaced in Neera's eyes.

"Yes, Aunt Adriana is the person I'm closest to in this world."

When she said that, she didn't give it much thought, nor did she have any other intentions.

However, as soon as the words left her mouth, she could feel the atmosphere around her becoming somewhat tense.

Despite their attempts at concealing their emotions, the Park family members were visibly hurt and disappointed.

Neera suddenly realized that what he just said might have led to some misunderstandings. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She opened her mouth, wanting to make amends, but at that moment, her phone rang. It was a call from Isabella's assistant.

"Ms. Garcia, something terrible has happened! It's really bad."

On the phone, the girl's voice was filled with anxiety, as if she was on the verge of tears.

Neera's heart tightened, while her expression changed instantly. "What's going on? Calm down and tell me about it."

"Director Lopez is missing! After she came to the hospital this afternoon, she went looking for the pharmacist. But that person didn't come to work today, so she went to the latter's home. I tried to dissuade her, telling her it wasn't safe to go alone, but she insisted that the best approach was to confront that person, just in case he was planning to flee. And then... she left for a long time and didn't come back! I waited and waited, but there was no sign of her. When I tried to call her, I just couldn't get through..."

Neera frowned. "Where does that person live?"

"I went there... Since Director Lopez didn't return and wasn't answering her phone, I began to worry that something had happened to her. So, I went to the pharmacist's house immediately. But that person, no matter what, wouldn't admit that the director had been to see him. Instead, he insisted that he hadn't seen Director Lopez today. At first, I



didn't suspect him, thinking that Director Lopez must have had some urgent matter to attend to, and that was why she didn't return. But just as I was about to leave, I spotted Director Lopez's mobile phone under his coffee table. After I exposed him, I threatened to call the police. Only then did he tell the truth, saying that Director Lopez was taken away by Alvin's assistant!"

The young girl spoke frantically in between sobs. It was clear that she was filled with worry and fear.

"Ms. Garcia, Director Lopez has been taken away for such a long time, and there's been no news. Could something have happened to her? What are we going to do..."

Neera's heart pounded in her chest as she listened.

Alvin is ruthless enough to even harm his own grandfather. I can't bear to imagine what would happen to Bell now that she has fallen into his hands!

Neera couldn't sit still any longer. With a swift motion, she stood up and apologized to the Park family.

"Excuse me, I have an urgent matter to attend to and must leave now. We can discuss any issues later."

The Park family members noticed her complexion was off, guessing that something must have happened.

Edward immediately asked, "Do you need any help?"

Neera shook her head. "No need. I can handle it."

After she finished speaking, she nodded in acknowledgment, circled around Nadine, and headed toward the door.

However, she had only taken two steps before she instructed, "If Granny wakes up and wants to see me, you can take her to Imperial Gardens No. 1. That is where I live."

The group was initially a bit disheartened, but upon hearing her words, their eyes lit up.

Does her saying this mean she agrees to acknowledge us?

"Alright... Alright!"

Jeremiah was overjoyed, nodding repeatedly.

Tears of joy streamed down Nadine's face as words of concern slipped out effortlessly.

"We understand, you should get back to whatever you're doing. Be careful..."

Neera nodded. "Goodbye then, Granddad, Uncle Jeremiah, Aunt Nadine."

Just now, I inadvertently hurt them with my thoughtless remark. This way, I can cheer them up a little.

After greeting them accordingly, she didn't waste any more time and turned to leave.

The Park family members stood frozen in place. It took them quite a while to regain their senses.

Nadine was so overjoyed that she could hardly stand. Tears welled up in her eyes, yet a smile lingered on her lips.

"Did you all hear that? Neera just called me Aunt Nadine!"

Jeremiah also laughed and said, "I heard it. She called me Uncle Jeremiah too. It truly was music to my ears!"

He looked at Elmer with a cheerful smile. "Dad, you must be happy now, right?"

Elmer was clearly very happy, but being egoistic, he deliberately put on a stern face and snorted.

"It's just an address. What's there to be so happy about?"

Despite his words, the grin on his face gave away his true feelings.

Everyone knew how prideful Elmer was, but they chose not to appoint it out.

Only Edward had a look of disappointment on his face. "She greeted everyone, but not me..."

The delighted Nadine comforted her son, "Don't worry. There are plenty of opportunities to do that in the future!"

After Neera came out, he contacted Jean and told him about Isabella's situation.

"Where are you now?"

Jean understood the seriousness of the situation and immediately asked for details.

Neera quickly gave the address.

Jean immediately knew what to do. "I'm at the office, quite close to you. Can you come here by yourself, or should I come pick you up? Even if you want to find Isabella, you need a lead. Don't take any unnecessary risks."

Neera understood and hung up the phone, quickly heading to Beauvort Group.

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## Chapter 1010

Fifteen minutes later, Neera arrived at Jean's office.

The concern on her face was impossible to hide. Her delicate eyebrows were tightly furrowed, and her face was clearly gloomy.

Jean pulled her to his side and got her to sit down beside him.

"Don't worry for now. I've already sent Ian to track Isabella's whereabouts. She hasn't been gone for long, so she should be fine."

Neera nodded, took a sip of water, and set it down, her mind completely focused on the matter at hand.

"I hope Bell is safe and sound..."

In the evening, Ian returned.

"Mr. Beauvort, Mrs. Beauvort, we have made progress in the matter concerning Ms. Lopez."

Unable to contain herself, Neera leaned forward and asked, "What have you found?"

"Ms. Lopez has been confined by Alvin's assistant. So far, nothing has happened, and the location has been identified. She's in the basement of an abandoned building in Oldale District."

After hearing the report, Neera was ready to stand up. "What are we waiting for? Let's go get her now..."

Jean quickly stopped her, coaxing her in a gentle voice. "Calm down. I'll go with you in a bit. Let's first understand the situation over there. Alvin's assistant definitely wouldn't have just one person watching her!"

Anxious from being overly worried, Neera saw the logic in Jean's words. Hence, she gritted her teeth and sat back down.

Ian continued to report, "The source of Alvin's prescription has been identified. It came from the black market. Currently, that prescription should be in Alvin's possession."

"Black market?"

Neera frowned deeply. "The black market again! How come they're everywhere!"

Jean held her hand gently, giving it a light squeeze. "Don't be upset. The most important thing right now is to rescue Isabella. But before that, we need to gather some evidence to deal with Alvin properly. Otherwise, we won't be able to completely resolve this matter."

Neera's mind was filled with images of her best friend being held captive. Thus, she was so overwhelmed that she could hardly think. She asked frantically, "What should we do?"

After a moment of contemplation, Jean came up with an idea.

"Go find Isabella's assistant and have her spread the news that Isabella has a recommendation letter for a spot in the World Medical Alliance. It was personally given to you by the President of the Alliance. Once one fills in one's name, one can become an official member of the World Medical Alliance!"

You should know that for those in the medical field, this is an enormous temptation. Someone as rapacious as Alvin won't be able to resist. When the time comes, he will definitely go to see Isabella, and that will be our best opportunity to act." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera's spirits were lifted. "That's a good idea. There's no way Alvin would just stand by and let this opportunity fall into Bell's hands.'

So, she quickly called Isabella's assistant and gave the task to her.

Upon learning of it, the assistant agreed, "Ms. Garcia, you can rest assured and leave it to me. I will certainly not let you down and will handle the matter well!"

In the hospital, the assistant carefully chose her words and composed his emotions after hanging up the phone. With a decisive pull, she opened the door and stormed into Alvin's office.

"Mr. Lopez, where have your people taken Director Lopez? Do you realize this is kidnapping? Release Director Lopez immediately!"

Upon seeing her, a mere assistant, daring to demand Isabella's release in his office, Alvin squinted his eyes, his face full of disdain.

"Who do you think you are to dare act so insolently in front of me?"

The assistant sneered, "I might be a nobody, but I'm certainly better than those who are less than human. How can you actually kidnap your own cousin? I'm telling you, if anything happens to Director Lopez, I will definitely call the police on you!"

Naturally, Alvin was not afraid. While playing dumb, he didn't forget to warn her.

"I have no idea what you're talking about! What does it have to do with me if anything happens to her? You're making baseless accusations. Be careful or I'll sue you for defamation!"

"Also, Isabella is no longer the director. Aren't you afraid that I'll kick you out of the hospital for defending her like this?"

The assistant lifted her chin, retorting defiantly, "I'm not scared at all! To tell you the truth, I was ready to leave the hospital even before I arrived! Alvin, you had better not go too far. Otherwise, you'll face retribution sooner or later. Also, no matter how hard you try, it's all in vain. You... you will never surpass Director Lopez in this lifetime. Her character is superior to yours, while her medical skills are better than yours. It's just that you refused to admit it!"

After Alvin was berated by the junior assistant, his face drastically darkened.

Her words had hit him where it hurt the most.

The assistant kept staring at his expression, then suddenly broke into a triumphant smile.

"Do you think that by removing her from the hospital, you'll somehow be superior? But I'm sure you're unaware that even without her position as the hospital director, she has still one-up you.

This time, the miracle doctor, Nancy, has returned with a recommendation form from the World Medical Alliance. She has already given the recommendation letter to Director Lopez. Once Director Lopez becomes a member of the alliance, she will be the most accomplished among all of you in the Lopez family, unmatched by anyone!"

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## **Chapter 1011**

As soon as the words were spoken, the color drained from Alvin's face. He was clearly in disbelief.

"How could this be? How could the World Medical Alliance possibly take interest in someone like Isabella?"

The assistant responded smugly, "Why not? Whether one can enter or not is up to Nancy. After all, this spot was personally handed over to Nancy by the president of the World Medical Alliance. Besides, Director Lopez's medical skills may not surpass those of Nancy, but she is still among the best. Why wouldn't she qualify for the World Medical Alliance?"

After she finished speaking, she suddenly tossed out a photo.

"I know you might not believe me just based on my words, but I have a photo... It's a picture I took when Nancy was handing her recommendation letter to the director. I originally planned to put it on the photo wall in the director's office! You've never received this, but you must have seen it before, haven't you? You can even see the red seal in the photo. This is an undeniable fact. It seems to me, all you can do is be jealous!"

The assistant spoke as if it was the real deal.

Truth be told, the photo was edited by Sammy at Neera's request.

An ordinary person would never be able to tell it was fake.

"If the Lopez family finds out about this, I'd like to see how you'll explain yourself! If you don't want to stir up trouble, you'd better release Director Lopez immediately. If I don't see her by tomorrow morning, I'm calling the police!"

Having said what needed to be said and performed the necessary tasks, the assistant left promptly.

In the office, Alvin was left alone.

He wore an unpleasant expression, with jealousy and anger brewing within him.

He never imagined that Isabella could be this lucky.

The World Medical Alliance was a place where countless people could never get in no matter how hard they tried.

Being a member of the alliance was an honor of the highest order.

Why does Isabella deserve something so prestigious?

He couldn't accept it.

I must get my hands on that recommendation letter!

He absolutely refused to stand by and watch Isabella step all over him again.

If he could secure the recommendation letter and successfully enter the World Medical Alliance, his position in the Lopez family would be secured, and no one could ever shake it.

When the time comes, all the Lopez family assets will be mine and mine alone.

With that thought, he couldn't restrain himself. He rushed into Isabella's office in a flurry, scouring the place from top to bottom like a thief.

When he didn't find anything after rummaging through it, he had no choice but to head to Isabella's house.

Meanwhile, the assistant, who had been closely observing Alvin's every move in the shadows, didn't waste a second to call Neera.

"Ms. Garcia, it seems like we've succeeded! Alvin went to the director's office and then stormed out looking frustrated. He just left the hospital."

Neera nodded, expressed her thanks, and relayed the message to Jean.

An hour later, the furious Alvin violently kicked over the coffee table in Isabella's house.

He rummaged through boxes and drawers for a long time but didn't even see the recommendation letter anywhere.

"D\*mn it! Where on earth is it hidden!"

He rubbed his face in exasperation, urgently reaching out to his assistant.

At that moment, the sky had just turned dark. [Search The website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Upon learning the location where Isabella was detained, he immediately drove there.

All the way, he ran several red lights, fearing that he wouldn't be able to join the World Medical Alliance if he was late.

The suburbs were desolate and uninhabited. Without any street lights, the surroundings were eerily quiet.

Upon his arrival, Alvin slammed the car door shut with a loud bang, proceeding toward the dilapidated building shrouded in darkness.

His assistant, hearing some noise, immediately came out to greet him, "You've arrived."

"Where is she?" Alvin asked coldly.

"Down in the cellar. She's still doing fine."

Without wasting any more words, Alvin took the flashlight from his assistant and strode downstairs.

Inside the cellar, there was a rudimentary lamp hanging from the ceiling that emitted a yellow light.

Isabella was trussed up and thrown on the ground. She was not hurt, just a bit disheveled.

The moment she saw Alvin, she raged and cursed loudly.

"Alvin, you despicable ass\*le! How dare you show your face in front of me! Aren't you afraid that your misdeeds will catch up to you, and you'll get hit by a car the moment you step outside?!"

Seeing her in this state, Alvin smiled in satisfaction.

"What's there to be afraid of? Isn't this predicament of your own making? If you had been willing to step aside peacefully in the first place, would we be in this mess now?"

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## Chapter 1012

Isabella was getting frustrated. "Have you no shame? It was you who lost to me in the first place. I earned this position through my abilities. Why should I give it up for you?"

Alvin strolled up to her and looked down at her condescendingly, his face full of disdain.

"Your ability? How dare you even mention that? You only got that position because of Nancy. Now that she's no longer at Grace Hospital, what abilities do you have left?"

"So what? Networking is also a skill. Besides, even if my medical skills are not as good as Neera's, they are more than enough compared to yours! If I'm incompetent, then



what does that make you? A piece of trash?" Isabella had been tolerant toward him since they were family.

However, she realized she had nothing to gain by being kind to him. Hence, she thought she might as well bare her fangs.

"Alvin, you are the most useless one! You're incompetent, only capable of shamelessly scheming against your own family. You've violated our ancestral rules, exploited the sick to plot against me, and even heartlessly harmed Grandpa. Aren't you afraid of divine retribution?"

She cursed at him as she struggled, wishing she could rush over and give him a few tight slaps.

Alvin took a step back, a hint of anger flashed in his eyes as he chuckled coldly.

"I have defeated you. What right do you have to bluster? Calling me useless? Grace Hospital and the entire Lopez family business will soon fall into my hands. All you can do is look on with envy. You'll never have a chance to turn the tables in this lifetime! As for scheming, it's merely a means to an end, a trade-off. Once everything is settled, I will certainly rescue Grandpa. As long as he acknowledges me, I will ensure he lives out his days in comfort and peace. As for you, stay put right here until I've achieved my goals!"

Isabella's eyes turned red with fury as she cursed through gritted teeth.

"You're absolutely despicable! Grandpa has treated you well, yet you repay his kindness with treachery. Your actions are utterly shameless. You have no sense of decency!"

Alvin laughed. "This is considered shameless? I can be even more shameless, my dear cousin. I heard that Nancy is recommending you for the World Medical Alliance?"

What?

Isabella was taken aback, not quite understanding how the conversation had suddenly shifted to this topic.

She had no idea about it.

Her ever-changing expressions, as seen through Alvin's eyes, were taken as confirmation of the matter.

"It seems this matter is indeed true."

He crouched down, a playful smirk on his face. "How about this?" He proposed, "Let's make a deal. You give me the recommendation letter, okay? As long as you hand over this opportunity to me, I can let you go without a scratch right now."

It wasn't a discussion, it was a threat.

Although Isabella was unsure of what was going on, she still sneered and laughed, showing her disdain for him.

"Alvin, what kind of grandiose dreams are you having? Even if I had a spot to give, would you dare to take it? Do you think you're worthy? The World Medical Alliance has standards, you know. Someone of your caliber, I'm afraid they wouldn't even let you through the door!"

This remark instantly made Alvin's face turn cold, looking extremely terrifying.

He said in a chilly voice, "Isabella, are you choosing to do this the hard way?"

Isabella was not scared at all. She stood her ground and confronted him.

"So what? If you have the guts, you can kill me right now! Let me tell you, even if I die here today, I won't fulfill your wish!"

Fury blazed in Alvin's eyes as he roughly grabbed her hair, yanking it back. "Isabella, do you really think I wouldn't dare to harm you?" he threatened. "I'm giving you one last chance. Where exactly is the recommendation letter? Speak up! Or else you'll regret it!"

In pain, Isabella had no choice but to tilt her head back and meet his gaze. Yet, she resolutely refused to speak, even going so far as to spit at him.

"Tsk! Dream on, there's no chance!"

Alvin wiped the spit off his face, his frustration evident. A fierce anger flickered in his eyes, momentarily tempting him to resort to physical violence.

However, just as he raised his hand to potentially strike her, a sudden idea crossed his mind, causing him to abruptly change his course.

"Isabella, you constantly accuse me of being heartless. Now, let's see how compassionate you really are. After all, Grandpa has always been kindest to you, and you wouldn't want to see him die, would you? If you hand over the recommendation letter, I promise I can help Grandpa recover. But if you still refuse, then prepare yourself for the news of Grandpa's death!"

Isabella's pupils constricted, her face turning green with anger.

This shameless individual, he's not even human. How can he use Grandpa's life as a means of coercion and temptation?

Seeing her expression, Alvin knew his words had hit the mark. He felt a surge of satisfaction as if everything was going according to plan.

"The choice is yours. Think carefully about what you should do. If you want Grandpa to live, then you must follow my instructions!"

Isabella gritted her teeth in resentment. "You..."

However, before she could speak, a sneer sounded from the entrance of the room.

"Wow, I'm truly enlightened today. To achieve your own goals, you could even disregard the life of your own grandfather, treating it as a bargaining chip. I've truly seen it all now."

Upon hearing the voice, Alvin and his assistant were startled, quickly turning their heads to look behind them.

Bang-

The door was suddenly kicked open, and Neera and Jean strolled in leisurely.

Upon seeing her savior, Isabella could hardly contain her excitement. "Neera! You're here!"

Neera first checked on Isabella, relieved to find her unharmed. She exchanged a reassuring glance with Isabella before redirecting her attention to Alvin.

"H-How did you find this place?"

Alvin's expression underwent a dramatic transformation, clearly reflecting his own surprise and disbelief.

Neera scoffed, "Of course, you gave yourself away. I didn't expect you to take the bait so quickly." [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Alvin's face darkened. He questioned her, "What do you mean?"

After asking, a thought immediately hit him.

Could it be...

Neera's eyes were filled with mockery as she delivered her cutting remarks. "Just a recommendation letter and you're already busted. Someone like you will never accomplish anything noteworthy. Your only skill appears to be those unconventional methods. You've gone as far as persecuting your own grandfather and even kidnapping your own cousin to achieve your goals, Alvin. You're still so young. Why be so reckless, speeding toward a prison sentence?"

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## Chapter 1013

Alvin's face darkened. "What are you talking about? I don't understand! I warn you, even if you are a miracle doctor, you can't make slanderous accusations against others!"

With a scoff, Neera took out her phone and pointed the screen toward him.

"Isn't it clear to you whether I'm spouting malicious lies? Bet you didn't expect this, but I recorded every single word you just said to Bell. This is your own admission, and it will be the most compelling evidence to the police when they arrive."

While she was speaking, she pressed the play button. The recording was indeed the conversation he just had with Isabella!

The color drained from Alvin's face. He was clearly panicking now.

If this matter were to be exposed, there was no doubt that he would be done for in his lifetime.

How could he willingly surrender without a fight?

After assessing the situation, even though he was somewhat wary of Jean, he still considered him to be a frail and sickly individual, not worth fearing.

And so, he gave his assistant a look, signaling him to attack.

Neera had been keeping an eye on him all this while. She couldn't help but laugh when she saw his signal.

"What's this? Now that your misdeeds are exposed and you can't argue your way out, you're resorting to violence?"

Alvin's face was cold and stern, much like a venomous snake.

"Mr. Beauvort, Ms. Garcia, I had no intention of offending you both. It was you who pushed me first. But rest assured, I won't lay a hand on you. However, I'm afraid I can't let you keep this phone anymore, Ms. Garcia."

As soon as he finished speaking, his assistant rushed forward in an attempt to snatch the phone away.

However, before he could even get close to Neera, a forceful kick sent him hurtling through the air.

Jean swiftly positioned himself protectively in front of Neera, retracting his long legs. His eyes turned icy and menacing, exuding a palpable sense of malice.

Despite his body not having fully recovered, handling this opponent was still well within his capability.

The sudden, powerful kick left the assistant utterly bewildered. He sprawled on the ground, disoriented and his face drained of color. It took him quite a while to gather his wits.

Alvin hadn't anticipated such a swift and domineering response. His expression darkened, and he clenched his fingers until his knuckles cracked ominously.

Startled by the turn of events, Isabella urgently called out, "Be careful! He's trained in karate!"

At her warning, Jean's expression remained impassive as he continued to shield Neera.

Out of nowhere, Ian swiftly materialized and acted decisively. He seized Alvin's wrist and forcefully twisted it backward.

The sound of a bone breaking echoed immediately in the cramped basement, exceptionally loud.

Accompanying this was Alvin's heart-wrenching scream.

He didn't even have time to resist before his arm was broken.

Alvin slumped to the ground, his body as lifeless as a discarded rag.

Ian, with an air of disdain, didn't even exert a fraction of his strength as he nonchalantly clapped his hands together and sneered, "You're unbelievably weak. With such meager abilities, you dared to cross paths with Mr. Beauvort? Audacious!"

In the next cruel twist, Ian shifted his weight and forcefully stepped on Alvin's other hand, grinding it beneath the sole of his foot.

Alvin's response was another harrowing scream, the pain so excruciating that the veins on his neck and forehead bulged. His face contorted, taking on a sickly hue, and he appeared utterly defeated.

Jean, unfazed by the scene, casually brushed away nonexistent dust from his sleeve and issued a cold, decisive command, "Tie him up."

Having dealt with the threat, Neera quickly went over to untie Isabella.

Isabella was still in shock, her eyes filled with tears as she called out to Neera in a choked voice, "Neera..."

Neera's heart ached as she watched Isabella, gently hugging her and offering reassurance. "Don't be scared. It's okay now. Everything has been resolved."

After a moment, Isabella broke into tears, finally finding some solace.

"Thank you, Neera. If it weren't for you coming to save me, I..."

Her voice wavered with the remnants of her emotions, and Neera wiped away her tears. "Why are you still being so polite with me?"

Beside them, Ian pulled out his phone and dialed the police.

Upon hearing this, Alvin's face twisted with fear. Despite the intense pain he was enduring, he began to plead with Isabella.

"Please, don't call the police! Isabella, for the sake of our sibling-like bond, don't let them call the police. Let me go, all right? I'm begging you!"

Isabella regarded him with contempt.

"You really are shameless! When you were coercing and enticing me just now, where was your sibling love then?"

"I was wrong. I've realized my mistake now, Isabella. We are family, after all! Please, don't be so harsh."

Isabella remained completely unmoved.

Alvin's heart sank. He knew he had to change his strategy.

"Don't you care about Grandpa anymore? If you agree to let me go, I'll give you his antidote!"

Isabella hesitated at the mention of her grandfather.

However, Jean didn't give him the chance. He immediately ordered Ian, "Search him!"

Before he came, he had already sent people to Alvin's residence and conducted a thorough search. Yet, they couldn't find the prescription. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

There was none in the hospital office either.

Hence, he suspected that Alvin must be carrying it with him. After all, it was such an important item.

Just as he had anticipated, Ian found the prescription on Alvin.

With his last bargaining chip gone, Alvin's face turned pale.

Isabella's face lit up with joy. She eagerly grabbed the prescription and examined it as if she had just found a lifeline.

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## Chapter 1014

However, Isabella's initial excitement quickly gave way to a determined calm.

Her most pressing need was the antidote.

"Why is there only a prescription? Where's the antidote? Hurry up and bring it out!" She demanded, her face now wearing a stern expression.

Alvin, on the other hand, underwent a stark transformation in his attitude, as if he had nothing left to lose.

"Whether I give it to you or not, you're going to turn me over to the police anyway. Since you're not making things easy for me, why should I make things easy for you?"

He continued to chuckle coldly, despite his pale and pained appearance.

"Isabella, you want to save that old man, don't you? Well, I won't let you succeed. You can just watch helplessly as he takes his last breath!"

In the end, he even started to laugh.

Isabella was a mixture of anxiety and anger, her frustration mounting to the point where she wished she could deliver a few well-deserved slaps to Alvin.

However, before she could act on her impulses, Ian took the initiative, and his actions were far more severe.

He started with two fierce kicks to Alvin's chest, followed by brutally stepping on his face and grinding down hard. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Then, with an unsettling smirk, Ian produced a small knife from somewhere, twirling it menacingly in his hand while sizing up Alvin.

"In my hands, there's no mouth that can't be pried open. Since you don't want to cooperate, I'll indulge you. Tell me, where should I begin? Your fingers? Well, your arm's already broken, so let's consider the next option. How about ruining your legs too? In a moment, I'll slice them, one cut at a time, letting you savor the agony of teetering on the brink of death. How does that sound?"

Amidst their conversation, he tugged at Alvin's pants.

Alvin, enduring the pain of being stepped on and kicked, was already in excruciating agony. Recognizing that Ian was becoming increasingly serious, he promptly begged for mercy.

"No, no, no! Please, don't do this. I beg you. I-I'll tell you everything!"

Isabella watched with great satisfaction. She urged impatiently, "Well, don't just stand there, spill!"

Alvin glanced at Jean, then at Ian, before he reluctantly admitted, "Actually... there is no antidote."

Upon hearing those words, all the blood in Isabella's body surged to her head, nearly causing her to faint.

She stormed up to him in anger and gave him a tight slap.

"B\*stard! Are you even human?!"

How can I save Grandpa without an antidote?

Nonetheless, her anger wasn't going to change anything.

Half an hour later, the police arrived, and Alvin and his assistant were taken away.

"Mr. Beauvort, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Lopez, rest assured, we now have irrefutable evidence. These two individuals will not escape and will face legal punishment."



After hearing what the police had to say, Neera gave a nod of satisfaction.

After the police left, the group also left.

Neera was too worried about Isabella to let her go home alone seeing that she was in such disarray. Hence, she took her back to her place.

By the time they arrived home, it was already late in the evening.

Upon seeing Isabella's appearance, Adriana was taken aback.

"Isabella, how did you end up like this? Are you hurt? Come here, let me take a look."

The triplets were also worried as they gathered around.

Isabella answered in a hoarse voice, "I'm fine, I'm not hurt, don't worry..."

Neera explained the situation on her behalf.

Upon hearing about such a terrifying incident, Adriana's heart pounded with fear.

"You poor girl, you've had a tough time. But thankfully, you're all right."

The triplets also comforted her.

"Godmother, it's all right now, the bad guys have been caught by the police. They will get what they deserve!"

"Indeed, please stay here tonight and have a good rest. Everything will be better tomorrow."

Isabella, having just experienced the betrayal of a loved one, felt a warmth in her heart upon seeing everyone's concern for her.

She nodded in agreement. After exchanging a few words with the group, she checked the time and said, "It's getting late. I need to call my family. Otherwise, my parents will be worried sick."

Neera nodded, then turned to look at Jean.

"You should also rest up. You've been a great help tonight. Without you, I definitely wouldn't have been able to save Bell."

Jean gently ruffled her hair, his gaze soft and warm.

"She's your friend. How could I possibly stand by and do nothing? Don't overthink it. Spend some time with her tonight. I won't intrude on you two. Remember to rest early."

"All right, got it."

Later that night, Jean retired to the adjacent room.

Neera took Isabella to the guest room to freshen up. Afterward, Neera brought her a comforting cup of warm milk.

The two best friends sat side by side at the head of the bed, finally in the mood for a heartfelt conversation.

"So this is what it feels like to be plotted against and persecuted by your own family. I guess today I truly understand what you've been through before," Isabella said in a subdued voice, her heart heavy with empathy. Neera bumped her shoulder lightly. "Don't overthink it. Sometimes, people with no blood relation can be more like family than actual relatives. There's no need to be hung up on such things."

Isabella sighed. "You're right, there's no need to be upset over a scumbag like Alvin. He's not worth it."

Then, she swiftly changed the subject to the one that worried her the most.

"Neera, what should I do now? Can Grandpa recover without the antidote? Can that prescription be of any use?"

Neera reassured her friend, "Don't worry, even though there's no antidote, having the prescription makes things much easier. Get a good night's rest, try not to dwell on anything, and recharge your spirit. You still have to return to the hospital tomorrow; there's still a lot to handle, and you can't afford to waver now. Regarding your grandfather, don't fret. Tomorrow morning, I'll go directly to the research institute and give it my all to develop a cure. There's hope."

Moved, Isabella held her hand tightly and nodded.

Early the next morning, after breakfast, Isabella went back to the hospital to take care of things; while Neera headed to the research institute.

Jean personally sent her to the research institute. Upon their arrival, he asked, "What time are you getting off tonight?"

Neera unbuckled her seatbelt and vaguely replied, "I don't know."

Jean couldn't help but feel a sense of helplessness.

"So you're saying, you're definitely going to pull an all-nighter again, right?"

Neera turned to look at him, her eyes curving into a smile. She leaned in and kissed him.

"Can't you be a bit more flexible? It's just for a couple of days... After all, a human life is at stake. I believe my handsome fiancé will be understanding, right?"

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## Chapter 1015

Jean found himself coaxed by her charm and had no choice but to compromise, allowing her to have her way.

"You're just taking advantage of the fact that I like you, knowing I can't resist!"

"Hehe, this is what you call 'being spoiled'," Neera responded with a cheerful smile, bidding him farewell before heading into the research institute.

Once there, she immediately immersed herself in the busy work of drug development, dedicating herself entirely to the task.

She worked tirelessly throughout the day, not even taking a moment to rest except for a brief lunch break.

In the afternoon, Edward suddenly called, "Sorry to bother you, but Grandma is insisting on seeing you. Is it convenient for you right now? If it's okay, can I bring her over to Imperial Gardens now?"

Upon hearing this, Neera apologized, "I'm not at home right now, I'm sorry. Let's do it another time. I'll call you when I'm done with work."

"I see..."

Edward said helplessly, "All right then, you go ahead with your work. Remember to rest."

Neera had initially wanted to hang up but heard Mariah making a fuss on the other end.

"I want to see my baby girl, why won't you let me..."

She furrowed her brow, recalling the last time Mariah had ventured out on her own, and couldn't help but feel uneasy.

In the end, she simply changed her mind and gave them her address. "Forget it, it's hard for you guys to appease Granny with all her fussing. I'm at the research institute now, just bring her here." Edward broke into a smile. "All right, I'll send her over right away!"

Half an hour later, Edward arrived with Elmer and Mariah.

Katy helped with the reception, welcoming them in.

"Neera is working in the lab. It might take a while. Perhaps you could wait in the reception room?"

"Baby girl, where is my baby girl...'

Marnie was eager to see Neera as soon as she stepped in.

Upon seeing the situation, Edward gave Katy a polite smile and said, "Thank you, but that won't be necessary. We'll just wait outside Neera's lab."

Katy didn't ask any further. She simply nodded and led them over.

The laboratory was made entirely of transparent glass. When the three of them arrived, they could clearly see Neera busy at work.

Mariah approached the glass door as she called out, "Baby girl, baby girl..."

Edward comforted, "Grandma, she's working. Look, she's busy right now, isn't she? I didn't lie to you. Let's not disturb her for now, we can wait here."

Upon seeing Neera, Mariah nodded contentedly, no longer causing a fuss. She patiently waited outside, her gaze unwaveringly fixed on Neera's figure.

They spent two long hours waiting before Neera eventually emerged.

She rubbed her tired neck and, as she turned around, noticed three people standing outside the glass door.

It was then that she recalled their planned visit.

"Why are you waiting here?"

Neera removed her mask and lab coat and then walked out. "There are sofas in the reception room. It's more comfortable to sit there."

Edward chuckled. "It's fine, I quite enjoy watching you bustling about."

Neera apologized, "I'm sorry, I was so engrossed in an important experiment that I completely forgot."

Just as Edward was about to tell her it was okay, Mariah stepped forward and took her hand. "Baby girl, are you tired? It must be hard, isn't it?"

Neera smiled, gently gripping Mariah's hand in return. "I'm fine, I'm not tired."

At this moment, Edward spoke up again. "You left in such a hurry yesterday, and you didn't look well. I didn't get a chance to ask you, did something happen?"

Neera shook her head. "It's nothing, just a friend who was in a bit of trouble, but it's all sorted out now."

Neera graciously led them to the reception room and personally served coffee to entertain her guests.

"Grandpa, this is top-grade coffee. Give it a taste and see how you like it. If it's to your liking, I'll get you a couple of boxes."

Her casual use of the term "Grandpa" warmed Elmer's heart.

However, true to his reputation for maintaining a proud and stern demeanor, he remained composed and didn't show much emotion.

"The coffee is excellent, and your coffee-brewing skills are impressive," he calmly complimented after savoring the coffee.

Then, he returned to the topic at hand. "Do you typically spend most of your time at the research center?"

"No, sometimes I also handle the affairs of the company."

"Isn't that very tiring?"

Elmer wasn't too pleased with her working on both sides.

Neera chuckled. "It's not tiring at all. I'm already used to it, this is nothing."

The family engaged in conversation for a while, but then a colleague arrived to summon Neera, indicating an issue in research and development that required her attention. [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Recognizing the situation, Elmer rose from his seat and stated, "You go ahead with your work. We can meet another day."

At this, Mariah's smile instantly faded, and she clung to Neera's hand, clearly reluctant to see her go.

"Baby girl, can you come home tonight? I'll be waiting for you at home."

Neera hesitated for a moment and said apologetically, "I might have to work late these next few days, so I won't be able to return home for a while."

Mariah's disappointment was clearly visible. It was as if she was a wronged child.

Neera quickly comforted, "If you miss me, just video call me. When I have some free time, I'll come and join you for a meal."

Mariah's mood immediately brightened up again.

"All right, I'll make your favorite dish for you. Baby girl, you must come back..."

After that, the three of them left.

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## Chapter 1016

After seeing the Park family off, Neera returned to the laboratory and continued working.

At ten o'clock at night, Jean arrived to take her home.

"I'm to go home so early?"

Neera glanced at the time, her expression somewhat pitiful.

Jean hardened his heart and reprimanded with a stony look, "It's already ten o'clock, and you still think it's early? Are you planning to pull an all-nighter? Don't even think about it. Only with good rest will you be able to achieve better research results. Do you even care about your health that you're always neglecting sleep and meals like this?"

Neera pouted, knowing she couldn't win the argument. She had no choice but to relent and go home with him obediently.

Right then, Adriana was still awake. Seeing that she had returned, she immediately ordered Auntie Zuniga to fetch a bowl of soup.

"This is especially for you. It's nourishing for the body. Have some to warm your stomach."

"Okay."

Neera took it with both hands and sipped it slowly.

Suddenly, she remembered that she hadn't told her family about the matter with her maternal grandparents yet.

After finishing the soup, she handed the bowl back to Auntie Zuniga. Then, she sat down cross-legged across from Adriana.

"Did you ever meet my maternal grandparents back in the day, Aunt Adriana?"

Adriana was stunned, very much puzzled. "Why are you asking about this all of a sudden? I've never heard you mention them before."

"A few days ago, the Park family found me," Neera answered truthfully.

Adriana was immediately taken aback. Jean, who was listening at the side, was also rather surprised.

"When did this happen? Why have you never mentioned it before?"

Neera bashfully stuck out her tongue, "I was so busy that I forgot. They came to visit me at the research center today, so it reminded me about it."

Adriana's expression was somewhat complex.

After a moment, she asked, "Are they... doing well?"

At that, Neera spoke about the Park family's situation.

"Granddad looks quite robust, and he's clearly a stubborn old man. Uncle Jeremiah and Aunt Nadine are also pretty good. It's just Granny who isn't doing all that well."

"What's wrong with her?"

"The fact that my mother ran away from home hit her hard. After falling ill two years ago, she became delirious. I was only reconciled with them because she mistook me for my mother at the entrance of Garcia Group. Even now, she doesn't know that my mother has passed away."

Upon hearing Mariah's condition, Adriana felt utterly guilty.

A long moment passed before she said, "Since they want to acknowledge you, don't turn them down. They've lost their daughter, which is already very unfortunate. You are your mother's only daughter, so you're incredibly precious to them."

Neera nodded slightly. "Okay, got it. I will gradually draw closer to them."

Later on, Neera retired for the night.

However, Adriana just couldn't sleep.

If it weren't for me at that time, Stacy would never have known Alfonso. Worse still, I played matchmaker for the two of them. When it comes down to it, I'm the one responsible for all this tragedy.

Following those thoughts, she was consumed by guilt, making it impossible for her to sleep.

Seeing her like that, Chad felt a pang of distress. "You're still thinking about the Park family?"

Adriana sat up and nodded.

Chad immediately hugged her, consoling softly, "It wasn't your fault, so you don't need to blame yourself so much. Everything is a matter of personal choice. If anyone was to be blamed, it'd be Alfonso. He was the one who was heartless and unfaithful. What does it have to do with you?"

Indeed, that was the truth. Still, Adriana just couldn't get over it deep within.

"I think... I want to visit the Park family tomorrow and meet them."

Chad understood what she wanted to do, and he didn't try to dissuade her. In a gentle voice, he said, "Okay, I'll go with you."

The next day, Neera went to the research center early in the morning.

Adriana and Chad left the house as well.

They had investigated where the Park family was staying in Kingsview in advance and went to seek them out. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Half an hour later, the butler of the Park family, Marcus Levy, said to Elmer, "Ms. Garcia's aunt is here."

He had been with the Park family for decades and was exceedingly familiar with the matter with Stacy. Also, he was aware of them finding Neera.

Upon hearing that, Elmer was somewhat surprised. Nonetheless, he quickly agreed to meet her and allowed her in.



Seeing the Park family again after so many years, Adriana found her emotions incredibly complex.

"It's been a long time, Mr. Park," she greeted formally after taking a seat.

Elmer nodded, treating her with much politeness.

"I've heard about you from Neera. You've been taking care of her all these years. What brings you here today all of a sudden?"

Adriana's hands that rested on her leg fisted. Gathering her courage, she suddenly stood up and bowed solemnly.

"I'm sorry. I was also at fault for what happened to Stacy back then. I came today specifically to apologize to you and Mrs. Park."

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## Chapter 1017

Elmer was taken aback, never having expected her to suddenly pull such a stunt.

"What are you doing? How are you at fault?"

Adriana pursed her lips bitterly, her voice somewhat heavy.

"As you know, Stacy only got to know Alfonso indirectly through me back then. I... I didn't know that Alfonso was such a despicable person, so I once played matchmaker for them. I thought Stacy was wonderful, and it would be great if we could be a family. I never imagined that I was actually pushing her into hell. Now that things ended tragically for her, I can't shirk responsibility for all the hurts and hardships she suffered."

Following her words, Elmer was silent for a long time.

Finally, he let out a long sigh and waved a dismissive hand at her.

"All right, there's no need for this."

Adriana thought he was unwilling to forgive her, and her entire body stiffened.

Seeing her reaction, Elmer knew she had misunderstood and immediately clarified, "How could this be your fault? Back then, no one could've forced her if she hadn't willingly chosen to be with Alfonso. At the end of the day, it was her own misfortune for choosing the wrong person and failing to see his true nature. She willingly jumped into

hell herself. She might appear gentle and docile, but in reality, she was as stubborn as me. Otherwise, she wouldn't have ignored our advice, sticking to her own way and eloping with him."

Despite his words, but deep down, Elmer was truly heartbroken.

Stacy was the daughter he and his wife had when they were almost forty years old. She was the apple of their eye, and the whole family doted on her.

As such, he was inevitably devastated that his only daughter was gone just like that. Worse still, her life before death was beyond miserable.

But even with his resentment toward the Garcia family, he was clear-headed. He only despised those who had harmed his daughter.

Alfonso, Susan, and Roxanne... They all deserve to die! But this matter can't be blamed on Adriana. What did she do wrong? She merely befriended Stacy. In the end, it was Stacy herself who made the decision. Moreover, she has also taken care of Neera over the years. Without her, Neera wouldn't be where she is today.

At that thought, he sighed once more. "Please take a seat. Let's not bring this up again in the future. We've never blamed you. You are Neera's aunt, and you treated her very well. We are very comforted and grateful."

Adriana's nose stung. She nodded firmly, forcibly holding back the tears that threatened to fall.

Nadine, who had been watching at the side, came over at that moment and took her hand.

"Since you're already here, why not stay for a meal before you leave? You can also tell us about Neera's life all these years."

Naturally, Adriana accepted the invitation without hesitation. Sitting down with her, she began to share stories about Neera's life, from her childhood to the present.

In particular, she detailed the latter's transformation in the past few years to grow stronger gradually.

"She has endured a lot of hardships. Yet, she never complained to me about anything, regardless of whether it was emotionally, in life, at work, or in her studies. She's always well-behaved, never causing me the slightest trouble. She's also very talented and quick to learn anything, with a special interest in medicine. For that reason, she majored in both medicine and business studies. During the few years she was abroad, she had her plate full. It was with much difficulty that she slowly grew to become who she is today."

At that, anguish swamped Nadine. An emotional person, she swiftly burst into tears.

In the end, she gratefully patted the back of Adriana's hand.

"Thank you for treating her as your own child all these years. Our whole family is grateful to you. She's lucky to have an aunt like you."

Likewise, Elmer felt very much discomfited deep within.

For lunch, Adriana stayed and ate with them. She also sincerely invited them to Imperial Gardens.

"You haven't met Neera's three children yet, have you? When you're free, come and meet them. They are all very adorable."

Upon hearing that Neera had three more children, the Park family was extremely surprised. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

"She has children? When did this happen? Isn't she still single?"

Speaking of that, Adriana felt a wave of guilt washing over her. "Back then, her stepmother and stepsister set her up and destroyed her innocence. Then, she found herself pregnant."

The Park family knew about that matter, but they didn't expect Neera to have actually given birth to the children.

Jeremiah murmured, "When we saw her previously, she didn't look like she had had children, so we didn't dare to ask about it. We thought she might have terminated the pregnancy."

With a bitter smile, Adriana admitted, "I initially advised her to terminate the pregnancy since the father's identity was unknown. My biggest fear was that she would regret it. But she couldn't bear to do so, saying that it was her own flesh and blood. In the end, she decided to carry the pregnancy to term. Thanks to her persistence, the three children became her warmest bonds and her greatest motivation."

Once more, the Park family's heart broke.

They found it hard to imagine how a young girl could have faced all that and become a single mother.

She must have been through so much hardships and difficulties along this journey!

After a long silence, Elmer finally spoke. "Okay, we'll arrange a time to visit."

Subsequently, Nadine asked, "What about Stacy? Where... is she buried?"

"At South Mountain Cemetery. After she passed away, I laid her to rest there. The scenery is beautiful, and it's peaceful. No one will disturb her there," Adriana said apologetically.

The Park family was in great distress, yet they still thanked her fervently.

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## Chapter 1018

On the way back, when Adriana thought of Stacy, her eyes were still filled with tears, but she felt much more relaxed.

At the very least, she had received forgiveness from the Park family.

Seeing her silently shedding tears, Chad's heart ached unbearably, and he pulled her into his embrace. "Don't be sad and don't blame yourself. It's not your fault. The Park family thinks the same, don't they? You shouldn't shoulder all the responsibilities. If Stacy is watching from above, she wouldn't want to see you like this either."

Adriana leaned her cheek against his chest, nodding slightly. "I know that..."

Neera didn't know about that matter.

The past few days, the progress of Franklin's antidote research had been extremely slow.

That inevitably made her anxious, especially since the development of one of the components had failed many times, and no solution could be found.

What was worse was that, during dinner, her colleagues noticed that Franklin's breathing was noticeably weakening, and his pulse was so faint it was almost undetectable.

Upon receiving the news, Neera hurried over and found it to be true indeed.

Her expression was serious as she first administered acupuncture to Franklin, temporarily alleviating his condition.

Next, she gathered the entire team to accelerate the development process.

When it was ten o'clock, Jean came to pick her up, but she shook her head with a heavy expression. "You should go back first. I can't leave tonight. Mr. Lopez's condition is very bad today. His breathing is weak, and his pulse is faint and unstable. He could be in danger at any moment. Right now, I'm in a race against the disease. Every second counts, so I can't afford any delay."

Jean's heart sank slightly when he heard that.

He never expected things to get that serious.

That was a matter of life and death. He naturally couldn't ask her to stand by and refuse to help. Instead of forcibly bringing her back, he sighed helplessly and said, "All right, then. Make sure you rest properly. You can't push yourself too hard."

Neera nodded slightly. "Yes. Got it."

After returning to the lab, she rallied her spirits, instructing her team to reassemble the data and comb through it from the beginning to see where exactly the error had occurred.

Everyone dared not slack off, so they quickly busied themselves again.

With all the hustle and bustle, it was suddenly three in the morning, and some people just couldn't stay awake any longer.

Neera saw them looking tired, and she couldn't bear it. "You guys should go and rest first."

Everyone was truly exhausted. Upon hearing that, they all left one after another.

Neera yawned, covering her mouth, feeling a faint throbbing in her temples.

She rubbed her eyes and also planned to take a short rest.

Unexpectedly, when she came out, she saw Jean in the corridor.

She paused for two seconds, then walked over in a state of both surprise and delight. "Didn't you go back? Why are you here again?"

Jean rose from his chair. Having changed his clothes, it was clear that he had returned home and went back there again. "I was worried about you, afraid you might get hungry at night. After coaxing the triplets to sleep, I brought you some soup."

Neera looked at the thermos next to him and felt touched. "Let's go, then. I could use a break. Let's head back to the office."

Jean smiled. "All right."

After downing a bowl of hot mushroom soup, Neera felt much better, and she felt as if she had returned to life.

Jean gently wiped her mouth for her, asking softly, "Would you like to take a nap?"

"No." Neera shook her head. "The progress of the research and development is still not promising."

After she finished speaking, she turned to him and advised, "You should go to sleep. It's already very late."

Even though she had taken care of his health during that one month in Essley, in reality, his condition was still far from good. Coupled with Thora's ruthless move, it completely negated all her previous efforts.

During this period, she had been very busy and tired. However, so was Jean.

In fact, he had always been there for her.

"Looking back, it's been quite a while since your last episode. While that's a good thing, it could also mean that you might have another episode soon. I'm worried about what I would do if I can't take care of you when that happens. So, you need to rest well. You can't afford to fall ill at this time. Once I've dealt with all the matters at hand, I'll find a way to develop a therapy plan for you. This will help you recover as soon as possible," she said.

Looking into her worried eyes, Jean sighed, having no choice but to agree. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE](#) TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

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## **Chapter 1019**

After Jean had gone to sleep, Neera washed his face, changed his clothes, and returned to the laboratory to immerse herself in her research.

The dark sky gradually brightened as the sun began to rise.

By the time the day was fully bright, the data was finally sorted out again.

The ingredients for the formula had finally been successfully developed.

At that point, the team members had all returned to their posts. Together, they weathered the storm and overcame the difficulties. Their hearts were filled with joy, and they couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

In no time, Isabella arrived, bringing with her a heap of breakfast.

Neera chuckled, helping her to set it down. "You look like a food delivery girl."

Isabella was displeased. "Have you ever seen such a beautiful food delivery girl? I am clearly a fairy!"

While Isabella was speaking, she called everyone from the team over. "Thank you, everyone. This breakfast is a small token of my appreciation. It seems like you've been busy all night. Please eat and take some time to rest. I can't thank you enough for all the effort you've put in for my grandfather."

Everyone received their breakfast, all smiling as they said, "No worries."

Afterward, Isabella and Neera went to the office.

Upon hearing about the incident from the day before, Isabella wore an expression of apology. "I feel really bad for making things so hard for you. You came back to the country to rest, and yet here you are, worrying because of me staying up all night for my sake. I feel quite guilty about it, and I'm not even sure how to properly thank you..."

"There's no need for you to be so formal. If you keep on like this, I'm going to get upset." Neera took a bite of the mini croissant and handed one to Isabella.

Isabella laughed helplessly.

"By the way, how are things going at the hospital? Have you managed to handle everything?" Neera asked.

"It's all good now. Although it was a bit tricky at the start, it's mostly taken care of now." Isabella was a decisive and efficient person. After Alvin was caught, she returned to the hospital the very next day, immediately exposing the crimes of her uncle, Harris, and Alvin.

At first, Harris tried to use his seniority to his advantage, biting back at her and accusing her of deliberate defamation.

However, what he didn't know was that Isabella had evidence in her hands. With a few swift moves, she presented it, leaving him speechless.

"This incident caused quite a stir within our family, as the evidence was irrefutable. The family elders directly dismissed my third uncle and Alvin from their positions, even

reclaiming their shares, and entrusted me with the management of the hospital again. As for the previous damage to my reputation, I've explained it to the patient. Fortunately, although the family was quite upset before, they were reasonable people. After viewing the surveillance footage and evidence, they didn't say anything more. They forgave me, even apologized to me, saying that they had misunderstood me before and caused me harm," Isabella answered.

It was truly a happy ending.

Neera was quite happy for Isabella. "Well done, Director Lopez, you've managed to sort things out so quickly. You're quite impressive."

Isabella smiled faintly. "Stop praising me. I owe it all to you. Without your help, I would have nothing. So, thank you." [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

After she finished speaking, she hugged Neera and playfully mumbled, "Neera, how can you be so wonderful? You're beautiful, kind-hearted, and capable. If I were a man, I would definitely do everything in my power to marry you!"

Coincidentally, Jean overheard the conversation as he came out of the lounge. Someone is trying to undermine me so early in the morning! Even if it's a woman, it doesn't make me feel any better.

Immediately, he strode over in a few large steps, pulling Neera into his arms as if declaring his territory. He looked at Isabella with a half-smile and said, "Ms. Lopez, don't you think your words were a bit inappropriate just now? Neera is already my fiancée, in this life and the next. I'm afraid you might not have a chance anymore."

Isabella was speechless. What? Is he serious? Does he get jealous so easily?

"Um... I'm a girl. Are you jealous?" Isabella queried.

Jean raised an eyebrow. "Yes. So, Ms. Lopez, please be mindful of your words in the future."

Isabella was left speechless.

Neera couldn't help but chuckle. "He's just joking with you. Don't mind him."

"Sure. I don't mind..." Isabella pouted and grumbled inwardly. I doubt he was joking!

Neera glanced at the time and smiled. "Let's have breakfast first. Otherwise, it'll get cold."

Jean nodded, sat down, and asked, "How is the progress?"



When Neera heard that, her eyes lit up. "There's been a breakthrough. Staying up all night was worth it!"

Jean was happy for her. "That's good. Go rest after you finish eating."

"Well..." Neera hesitated, not giving a response, wanting to continue her research.

The frown on Jean's face was already evident, his eyes clearly harboring a layer of displeasure.

Neera had no choice but to compromise. "All right. Understood. I'll take a short nap."

After she finished speaking, she coaxed with a playful smile, "All right, I've agreed, so don't be angry anymore. I don't like it when you're upset. I prefer it when you smile."

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## Chapter 1020

With a poker face, Jean feigned indifference. "Sorry, but I can't muster a smile."

Neera blinked. "Really? How about this, then?"

She leaned in, planting a kiss on Jean's face, then pulled back to observe his reaction.

Seeing that he was still frowning, she gave him another kiss.

Unexpectedly, Jean was unusually difficult to appease this time around, still maintaining a stern face, not indulging in casual talk or laughter.

Neera's face fell at once, deciding to simply play dirty. "If you keep that stern face, I'm going to cry for you to see....."

Isabella was rendered speechless. Can I just disappear right now? Can someone just knock me out? Why do I have to see them acting so lively so early in the morning?

Isabella glanced at Neera. "You two enjoy your time. I'm leaving now."

After she finished speaking, she left quite consciously.

Neera wanted to send her off, but Isabella turned her down. Jean is waiting for someone to coax him. I don't want to end up offending him!

Once there was no one else around, Neera had no more reservations, fully indulging in acting spoiled and willful.

"Come on! Why are you ignoring me? Didn't I tell you I was just going to take a short nap? If you keep being mad, I'm really going to cry. And then, even your comforting won't help," Neera complained.

A crack appeared in Jean's cold expression, and within a mere two seconds, it crumbled completely, transforming into utter helplessness.

"So, you've decided to provoke me, haven't you? Do you think I won't dare to do anything to you?" He pinched her face, shaking it slightly, his tone dangerous.

Neera was not afraid at all. She dodged his hand with a smile and nestled into his arms. "Yes. That's because I know you spoil me."

That was why she was so fearless and confident.

Jean sighed deeply in response. It seems she has total control over me.

After breakfast, he watched Neera fall asleep.

In less than three hours, Neera woke up.

Jean was standing off to the side. Seeing her get up, a slight frown creased his brow. "You've only been asleep for a while. Sleep a bit longer."

Neera shook her head and straightened her clothes. "No. I just can't sleep well. All my dreams are filled with research and development matters."

"Isn't it time for the medical team to change shifts?"

"Even so, I'm still not at ease. I've had a bit of sleep, and I'm not tired anymore. Let's speed up the process. The sooner we develop it, the sooner we can relax."

Jean knew he couldn't stop her. Feeling quite helpless, he could only let her go.

In the afternoon, Neera was bustling about in the lab.

Jean didn't feel at ease, so he didn't leave. He stayed in her office, reading emails.

It was a little past three when Ian came over, reporting on the situation in Essley. "Nightshade, in collaboration with Prince Gale, dismantled a crucial stronghold in the black market of Essley. They also managed to seize evidence of the transactions. However, the trouble is that the name of the trader is not Alex himself but a man named Kaiden Norton. Later, Prince Gale sent people to investigate Jones Group. Alex's

explanation was that Kaiden was an important senior member of the group, always in charge of market transactions. Alex claimed he was unaware, and now this person named Kaiden has already disappeared...

That was not good news.

Jean's brows slightly furrowed when he asked, "Does this Kaiden really exist?"

Ian nodded. "At first, Nightshade was also suspicious, but after a thorough investigation, it was indeed found that this person exists. However, this is just Alex's side of the story. It's hard to say who is manipulating Kaiden behind the scenes. The current situation is such that Jones Group has shifted all responsibilities onto Kaiden, who has now disappeared. Consequently, Prince Gale can only issue arrest warrants for others, but he can't touch Alex, as Alex is an unaware party and can completely evade responsibility."

Jean wore his dissatisfaction on his face.

They were fully prepared for the matter, aiming to bring down Alex Jones. However, they did not achieve the most satisfactory outcome.

Alex Jones could almost say that he had completely evaded everything.

He remained silent, leaving Ian feeling uneasy and apprehensive. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Mr. Beauvort, in all fairness, our people are not to blame for this. Alex Jones clearly made thorough considerations a long time ago to prevent this matter from being exposed. Although our sudden onslaught initially had some impact on him, he's certainly no pushover after all. Moreover, he had a dedicated person handling his dealings with the black market. On the surface, it had nothing to do with him, and it wasn't through the official accounts of Jones Group but through Kaiden's personal account. This led to the unfortunate situation where Prince Gale could not hold Jones Group accountable. He became an innocent party kept in the dark..." Ian uttered.

Jean remained silent for quite a while, feeling unhappy within. Ever since I took power, I had been a commanding presence everywhere, masterfully orchestrating strategies behind the scenes. Well, I didn't expect to be outsmarted by someone else!

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## Chapter 1021

Seeing that Jean's complexion wasn't good, Ian hurriedly sought a remedy by saying, "However, Alex Jones is not entirely off the hook with this matter. Although he has temporarily evaded legal punishment, the business troubles are enough to give him a hard time. Jones Group's industries are spread all over the world, and currently, due to the negative impact of this issue, several countries have already withdrawn the drugs produced by their company. At present, Jones Group has suffered heavy losses. If things don't improve, there's a high chance of an economic crisis. If we still want to make a move, we can put pressure on them from this angle."

A flicker crossed Jean's eyebrows, his fingers rhythmically tapping on the table.

After a moment, he said flatly, "That's a good idea."

As for where to start, he already had an idea.

In no time, Eugene of the World Medical Alliance received a call from Jean.

When the old man received Jean's call, he thought something had happened to Neera again, his tone unconsciously tinged with anxiety. "Why is it you calling me? Where's Neera?"

Jean casually said, "She's been busy saving lives recently, constantly conducting research in the lab."

Upon hearing that, the old man let out a sigh and hummed in a tsundere manner. "So, she's fine, but you're the one in trouble. Young man, the first time you called, you needed a favor. Now, what is it?"

Jean's lips curled up slightly. "There is something I need your help with. Don't worry, though. It won't be for nothing. Consider it a trade."

"A trade? What trade?" The old man was taken aback.

Jean said leisurely, "I hope..."

Half an hour later, both parties had reached an agreement.

"What you've asked for, I will fulfill, and I hope you can keep your promise as well."

In a calm and composed manner, Eugene replied, "This time, I'm doing you this favor solely because of Neera. Don't think I'll agree to just any deal that comes my way."

Jean chuckled. "Of course. I'll have to trouble you with this matter."

Before hanging up the phone, Eugene couldn't help but ask one more question.

"You're quite the character, aren't you? Going through all this trouble just for Neera?" Eugene asked.

Jean calmly replied, "Yes. It's all for her."

"Is she that important to you?"

"In this world, no one is more important than her. She is the one I cherish most, held close to my heart. No one has the right to harm her."

Upon hearing those words, Eugene laughed in satisfaction. "Considering your deep affection for Neera, rest assured, the ban on Jones Group's drug exports will be implemented as planned."

Listening to the overseas call, Ian couldn't help but feel amazed. Mr. Beauvort is ruthless! He's leveraging the World Medical Alliance to block and ban the drug exports of Jones Group. This is quite terrifying. Once the World Medical Alliance issues a notice, medical groups and hospitals around the world will blacklist Jones Group, no longer accepting their pharmaceuticals. When the time comes, the pharmaceuticals of Jones Group will rot in their own hands! That Alex Jones is doomed! However, he brought this upon himself. Who asked him to overestimate his abilities? All for the sake of Kyra, he provoked Mr. Beauvort.

When he thought of Kyra, Ian remembered something else and said, "Mr. Beauvort, the Marks family has also suffered heavy losses recently, with their stock prices plummeting drastically. It seems they are on the verge of hitting rock bottom. Their domestic industries have significantly shrunk, and it appears they can no longer maintain their position in Kingsview. Kyra has also been completely banned online. Currently, she is being widely criticized on the internet. Her private Twitter account has been deactivated, and she has not appeared in public since. I have sent people to keep an eye on the Marks family's movements. It seems like they are planning to move abroad. So far, their overseas businesses have not suffered any significant setbacks."

Jean sneered in response, and he didn't care at all. "Let them go. It's better if they leave the country. I don't want to see them again. If they dare to show up, I won't hesitate to wipe out the Marks family, both at home and abroad!"

Ian was so stunned by the domineering presence of Jean that he saw stars. Kyra really is the first one to court death.

At the Marks family's mansion, the atmosphere in the lobby had become rather gloomy.

The three members of the Marks family all looked haggard, their faces growing increasingly grim.

Especially Kyra, who recently paid a hefty penalty for breach of contract and was blacklisted by the entire industry. Both her fame and reputation had plummeted to an all-time low.

All the films and TV shows she had starred in, and the advertisements she had endorsed, had been removed and banned across all platforms.

And as for the Marks family, their recent situation was also too dreadful to behold.

The stock price plummeted relentlessly, one project after another came to a close, and the company plunged into an unprecedented crisis.

The vast majority of shareholders, fearing their investments would go down the drain with the Marks family, hastily sold their stocks at a low price.

The company was in utter chaos. Investors were pulling out, partners were fleeing, and many shareholders and employees had left. It was simply impossible to continue operations.

Stetson had been sleepless for two nights, turning things over in his mind. In the end, he could only think of one solution, and that was to sacrifice a pawn to save the king. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

He planned to transfer all of the remaining assets of the Marks family abroad and take the entire family overseas to grow and prosper.

Dandy felt a deep sense of injustice, and her heart filled with resentment toward the Beauvort family. "Who would have thought that our family would end up like this one day? What a fine mess we've become!"

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## **Chapter 1022**

Upon hearing those words, Stetson's face turned as black as the bottom of a pot.

Once upon a time, the Marks family was also among the top echelons in Kingsview, a renowned and prestigious household.

He even once thought that the Marks family could almost stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Beauvort family.

But it was only after that devastating blow that he truly realized the vast difference between the Marks family and the Beauvort family.

The foundation of the Beauvort family was far more substantial than he could ever have imagined.

The Beauvort family could effortlessly bring the Marks family to its knees with just the flick of a finger. While doing that, the Beauvort family's loss was merely a drop in the bucket. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

The more Stetson thought about it, the more stifled he felt. In the end, he could only take it out on his family.

He glared at Kyra with a stern look, launching into a tirade of harsh words. "Wicked girl! I warned you not to cause trouble, but you insisted. Now look at the state of the Marks family. Are you satisfied now? I've told you long ago to give up on him, to stop provoking him. But you just wouldn't listen. It's because of you that our family has ended up in this state. You truly are a jinx!"

Normally, Stetson never spoke harshly to her, but his words were unusually unpleasant that day.

Even Dandy, who usually indulged Kyra, didn't speak up for the latter that day, remaining silent.

Kyra's cheeks flushed red. She lowered her head and clenched her teeth, not uttering a single word.

She was unable to defend herself because she was fully aware that it was indeed because of her that things had turned out that way.

Yet, Kyra didn't feel a shred of guilt, and her heart was filled with nothing but hatred.

No one knew why she wanted to marry that man so badly.

While Kyra despised herself, what she hated even more were Neera and Jean. They are nothing more than a lowlife and a heartless being! I won't let them off the hook so easily! Even if I have no choice but to leave in disgrace today, I will seize an opportunity in the future to step hard on Neera's face and trample that wretch deep into the mud! I want to make Neera suffer unbearably and to make Jean regret deeply! As long as I can still breathe, neither of them will ever find peace and happiness!

Neera was completely oblivious to everything in the outside world.

For the sake of Franklin's illness, she had been spending consecutive days at the research center, constantly pushing the progress of the research.

Early in the morning, Neera, who had only gone to bed in the wee hours and slept for two hours, was woken up by Katy.

"What's wrong?" Neera had a restless sleep and woke up clear-headed. Seeing Katy's anxious expression, she had a bad feeling.

Katy was in a state of frantic desperation. "Mr. Lopez's heartbeat suddenly stopped just now. He's currently being resuscitated..."

Neera was taken aback, abruptly got out of bed, and rushed into the emergency room to carry out the rescue.

After much ado, they finally managed to pull Franklin back from the jaws of death.

Watching the heartbeat monitor return to its normal rhythm, she let out a long sigh, but her expression remained far from optimistic.

An hour later, she stepped out of the treatment room. Suddenly, her vision went black. She leaned against the wall, taking a moment to steady herself. "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?" A familiar voice sounded beside her.

Neera closed her eyes briefly, then opened them again. The darkness had vanished, replaced by the worried face of Jean appearing before her.

She shook her head, responding wearily, "I'm fine. I just didn't get a good sleep, so I'm feeling a bit dazed."

Jean's eyebrows furrowed deeply. "You're as pale as a ghost, and yet you say you're fine?"

Neera didn't feel like arguing with him at that moment, so she said gravely, "If we can't develop an antidote within a day, I'm afraid Mr. Lopez may not make it."

She was consumed by anxiety, fearing that she might not be able to save Franklin's life, and even more terrified of disappointing Isabella.

Jean's heart ached terribly as he held her to comfort her by saying, "You've already done very well. As long as you've tried your best, no matter what happens, both Mr. Lopez and Isabella won't blame you for anything. Besides, isn't there still one day left? As long as it's not the last second, there's still hope. I believe in you. Don't give up."

Neera leaned on his chest. Initially, she felt exhausted, as if she was about to lose all her strength. But upon hearing his encouragement and comfort, she found herself filled



with boundless courage and confidence again. "You're right, I can't give up. As long as there's a second left, there's still a chance!"

Stepping back from Jean's embrace, she took a couple of deep breaths to regain her composure, then dove back into the lab.

As time ticked away, there was a sense of torment.

In the blink of an eye, night had fallen, and Neera was still not out.

She hadn't eaten for a whole day, not even having the time to drink water. Jean was deeply concerned about her health.

However, he also knew that she was racing against time, racing against life itself. He couldn't disturb her, he could only wait patiently outside.

And in the final half hour, the antidote was finally developed.

Neera was so excited while looking at the final experiment results that she almost shouted out loud.

Her spirit was taut with tension, and under the strain of anxiety and nervousness, her forehead was covered in a fine sheen of sweat.

Without even having time to wipe it off, she handed over the final product to Katy at the earliest opportunity. "Go! Quickly administer the medicine to Mr. Lopez!"

Katy was overjoyed as well. However, to her surprise, the moment she took the medicine, she watched in shock as Neera suddenly collapsed.

She was simply too exhausted. The moment she relaxed, her vision instantly darkened, and she completely lost consciousness.

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## **Chapter 1023**

Everyone was astonished.

It was Jean who came in to check on the situation. In that critical moment, he held her in his arms, exclaiming, "Neera! Neera!"

Seeing her face as pale as paper, Jean felt as if something was gripping his heart. His heart skipped a beat as he called her name aloud.

Yet, the person lying on his chest did not react at all.

The crowd, who had just regained their senses, were terrified and rushed forward to check.

They were relieved to learn that it was not a grave situation. "Mr. Beauvort, don't worry. Nancy is likely just overly exhausted and temporarily unconscious. She should be fine once we give her some fluids and let her rest well."

Jean's facial features were taut, his chin slightly pulled in, and he nodded a bit stiffly.

Despite that, Neera developed a high fever and fell seriously ill in the middle of the night.

She had truly been too exhausted these past two months.

After a long period of research and treatment, coupled with a hectic work routine, she had been working nonstop. In the end, her body just could not keep up with it anymore.

Jean stayed by her side and refused to leave even for a moment.

His heart ached as if it were being torn apart when he watched her cheeks flush an unnatural red and her lips turn pale.

Her fragility rendered him powerless, with nothing but a heart heavy with anguish.

Neera did not wake up all night, and her fever showed no signs of subsiding.

As dawn broke, Jean's anxiety intensified. He had no option but to summon the medical team. "Why hasn't her fever subsided after an entire night?"

His face was stern and cold, his voice harsh, even carrying a hint of malice.

The staff member was so terrified that he was at a loss for words, trembling uncontrollably.

Although he understood that Jean's behavior stemmed from concern for Neera's condition rather than genuine hostility toward him, he was still so terrified that his heart trembled.

The man's expression was just too terrifying.

Fortunately, at that moment, Isabella received the news and hurried to the scene. She intervened with the medical staff, extricating him from the situation and allowing him to leave first.

Next, she stepped forward to check on Neera.

"She currently has a high fever. Let's employ a physiological method to lower her temperature for the time being. We also need to cleanse certain parts of her body with alcohol." After explaining, she turned to Jean and asked, "Would you like to do it, or should I?"

Jean was taken aback.

It would not be appropriate for him to administer the cooling treatment by wiping her body.

With that thought in mind, he spoke in a deep voice. "It's better if you do it. I'll step out and wait."

Isabelle hummed in response.

Without much hesitation, Isabella said, "Please arrange for a basin of warm water, alcohol, and a towel."

In no time, the staff brought in the items needed for the job and then stepped out.

Isabella's heart ached when she saw Neera in such a state. She gently undid Neera's clothes and carefully wiped her down.

Given Neera's unconscious state and her weakened, limp body, Isabella could not handle it alone. She had no option but to step outside and call for Jean. "Could you come in and give me a hand, please? I can't turn her over by myself."

Jean, who was waiting in the hallway, hesitated when he heard that. He stood still, unsure whether to go in or not.

At that moment, realization dawned on Isabella that the two of them had not advanced their relationship to the next level.

However, given the current unique circumstances, it was not the right time to have so many reservations.

Isabella immediately inquired, "You've proposed to her, haven't you? You do plan to marry her eventually, don't you? What's your hesitation? Or you just don't want to take responsibility?"

Jean immediately denied it. "Of course not."

Having said that, he pursed his lips and strode in. [Search The website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

The two of them quickly sprang into action. Jean helped Neera sit up where Isabella took off her clothes and helped her wipe her body.

During the process, Jean subconsciously shifted his gaze elsewhere.

Isabella noticed, thinking to herself that this man was quite the gentleman.

As for Jean, he seemed remarkably composed on the surface, not uttering a word, but his heart was racing at an alarmingly fast pace.

The most intimate moments he had shared with Neera were nothing more than her helping him satisfy his sexual needs with her hands.

In reality, he hardly barely touched her.

Firstly, he refrained from touching her, fearing that he might not be able to control himself.

Secondly, he held deep affection for her, and as a result, he treated her with the utmost respect in every way.

If she were shy and could not overcome that obstacle, he would never overstep his boundaries, not until she willingly allowed him to take the next step.

That was why he was in extreme agony at this moment.

Although he was concerned about her and tried not to let those feelings consume him, witnessing the woman he loved enduring it all right before his eyes made it difficult to suppress those thoughts, just like any other man.

Fortunately, Isabella was swift. It did not take her long to finish the wiping process, after which she assisted Neera in getting dressed once more.

Neera was oblivious, leaning gently against Jean, her body burning hot as if it were a furnace.

Due to her fever, she was in agony all over her body. Even in her delirium, she remained restless, occasionally letting out soft moans.

Jean could not help but feel profound sympathy for Neera as he observed her suffering. He wished he could swap places with her and bear the illness in her stead.

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## Chapter 1024

Upon hearing the news of Neera's illness, Adriana and the triplets, who were at home, became extremely concerned. They decided to rush over to visit Neera.

The whole family's hearts sank when they saw how exhausted Neera appeared.

The little ones even started to cry directly, quietly calling her while clinging to the edge of the bed. "Mommy, we're here to see you. Please get well soon, okay?"

"This girl..." Adriana's eyes also welled up with tears as she muttered, "She's really risking her life."

Isabella was filled with remorse. "It's all my fault. I've caused such significant trouble for Neera, leaving her so exhausted. I'm to blame, and I'm sorry."

Adriana wiped the corner of her eyes, then gently patted her hand. "Don't overthink it, silly. How could this be your fault? You and Neera are as close as real sisters. During her years abroad, it was your companionship and support that helped her grow positively and shine. Now that you're facing difficulties, she naturally wants to go to great lengths to assist you. It's entirely her choice, so there's no need for you to apologize. Don't blame yourself."

Isabella's heart was filled with warmth and a touch of sadness when she heard those words. She was instantly overwhelmed by a flood of emotions.

Fortunately, Neera's fever had finally subsided by noon.

Adriana let out a sigh of relief. "It's good that the fever has subsided. I'll go back first to ask the housekeepers to prepare some nutritious and light meals. I'll bring them over for Neera to eat later."

The triplets didn't want to leave. They simply wanted to stay with Neera, so they chose not to follow.

Meanwhile, Franklin had finally regained consciousness.

Although he was still somewhat weak, there were no abnormalities evident on his body.

Overjoyed, Isabella hurried to the treatment room to see him.

Upon noticing her, Franklin, in a hoarse voice, asked, "Bell, where am I? What's happened to me?"

He had just woken up but was utterly bewildered, still attempting to comprehend the situation.

After some hesitation, Isabella decided to spill the beans, telling everything about the mess Alvin had made.

Upon hearing that his grandson had nearly killed him and had resorted to any means necessary for personal gain, Franklin was utterly shocked.

Shock, anger, disappointment—a myriad of emotions intertwined, leaving him momentarily at a loss for words. [Search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In all honesty, Isabella stated, "I've handed Alvin over to the police and informed the shareholders about the deeds he and Uncle Harris were involved in. Uncle Harris has also been dismissed from his position. There's another thing you should know. The reason you were able to wake up is because Neera saved you. Alvin didn't have the antidote, so Neera tirelessly developed one to cure you. After finally succeeding, she fell ill and has fallen unconscious."

It took Franklin a while to process all the news he had just received. Although he was furious, what he felt more profoundly was disappointment and sadness.

Alvin was his grandson, yet he turned out to be an ungrateful wretch.

A moment later, he said with a hint of reluctance, "Once Neera is awake, I need to thank her in person. As for Alvin's fate, I don't blame you. You've done more than enough. He has finally reaped what he sowed."

Meanwhile, Neera finally woke up in the evening after sleeping for a whole day and night.

Her eyelashes fluttered a few times as she struggled to open her eyes, immediately noticing the people gathered around her hospital bed.

Beneath Jean's eyes were traces of bloodshot veins, and a stubble was emerging on his chin. It was clear that he had not rested all night.

The triplets were overjoyed, their eyes brightened up.

Adriana and Clad looked at her with faces filled with concern.

Looking at those faces, Neera was momentarily dazed, taking a while to react.

She felt completely drained, desiring to sit up, but her body was so weak and feeble that she could not summon the strength to do so.

Upon noticing her intention to sit up, Jean helped her, placed a pillow behind her, and assisted her in getting comfortable.

Her lips were parched, and in a hoarse voice, she inquired, "What's happening to me? Why are you all here..."

Jean quickly offered her a few sips of water and briefed her on the situation.

Only then did she recall that she had fainted, her face filled with regret. "I'm sorry for causing you all to worry."

The triplets seized the opportunity to give her a lecture. "Mommy, you can't push yourself like this anymore. You need to take care of your health!"

"All right, I'll remember that. I won't make you worry again." Neera responded with a grin.

After speaking, she stroked her stomach. "I'm so hungry now."

Chad hurriedly helped her set up the small table. Adriana brought over the thermos, opening it layer by layer. "I prepared some food for you a while ago, worried you might be hungry. This is a soup that Auntie Zuniga has been stewing for a long time, and it's still warm. Come and have some."

Penny added from the side, "This soup can help Mommy recover quickly. It's good for you!"

Neera asked with a smile, "Did you prepare the Medicated Diets?"

Penny hummed in response and nodded proudly. "Yes! I want Mommy to get better soon, so you have to drink more!"

Neera praised with a cheerful smile. "You're truly amazing, Penny. I'll surely feel better once I drink it."

Jean blew on the hot soup, spoon-feeding her, ensuring each spoonful was cooled down before she consumed it.

After savoring that bowl of soup, Neera felt somewhat rejuvenated and inquired about Franklin's condition.

Isabella replied, "He's already awake. I've checked on him, and he's in good condition. He's just a bit weak, but a couple of days of rest should do the trick."

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Glad to hear that, Neera replied, "Really? That's great. All the hard work we put into research wasn't in vain. At least, we have gotten a good outcome."

Isabella leaned forward and hugged her gratefully.

"Neera, thank you so much. I don't even know how to express my gratitude, you're just too kind..."

Neera gave a slight smile and patted Isabella's back as she said teasingly, "Don't mention it. If you keep this up, I'm gonna get angry. You know how scary I can get when I lose my temper."

Isabella couldn't help but burst into hearty laughter when she heard that.

That night, Neera fell asleep soon after having dinner as she was still quite tired.

Jean knew that she was probably exhausted from her busy schedule recently, in addition to the fact that she had just recovered from her fever, and needed rest. As such, he told Adriana and the kids to head home first.

The little ones were somewhat reluctant. [SEARCH THE website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

However, there wasn't enough space for them there, and they might affect their mother's sleep. As such, they had no choice but to obediently comply and go home with Adriana.

Later into the night, Jean lay down on the bed after taking a shower. He turned to the side and held Neera in his arms.

Even though Neera was sleeping soundly, she managed to catch his scent and instinctively leaned in, snuggling against his chest.

The next morning, Neera was finally well-rested after a good night's sleep, and her body had recovered considerably. Her fever had not returned, and she was also feeling more energetic. Upon opening her eyes, she looked up and saw Jean's handsome face.

The sunlight streamed in through the window, casting a shadow beneath his long and thick eyelashes.

Engrossed in staring at the man, Neera's lips unconsciously curled into a smile, her heart bubbling with sweetness.



She had no doubt that she would be happy every morning if she could wake up in his arms.

As Jean was still asleep after a while, Neera started feeling bored. Suddenly, a playful thought crossed her mind, and she reached out to touch his eyelashes.

Jean woke up the moment her fingers made contact with his eyelashes.

He had slept deeper than usual. When he woke up, he was still feeling somewhat groggy.

As soon as he opened his eyes, he heard a lazy and playful voice saying, "Good morning."

His mind cleared up a little.

Seeing that the woman in his arms had returned to her usual bubbly self, he could not help but pull her tighter into his embrace.

Neera noticed that the man seemed a bit emotional and asked in confusion, "What's the matter?"

Jean rested his chin on top of her head and rubbed against it gently. In a low voice, he said, "Promise me, don't fall sick again. Do you know how worried I've been these past few days... I thought I was going crazy..."

Neera froze for a moment and felt as if her heart was on the verge of melting.

"I'm sorry for causing you so much worry. From now on, I'll take better care of myself and ensure that something like this doesn't happen again," she obediently agreed and hugged him back just as tightly.

The two of them leaned on each other for a long time before they finally let go.

After washing up and having breakfast, Neera headed to the treatment room to visit Franklin.

As Franklin had all along been healthy, he was recovering very well.

When he saw Neera, he repeatedly expressed his gratitude, "I've heard everything from Bell. If it weren't for you, my life would have been over. I will remember your kindness in my heart. If there's anything you need in the future, just say the word, and the Lopez family will definitely do everything we can to help."

Neera chuckled and replied, "Mr. Lopez, please don't be so formal. You're Bell's grandfather, and I treat Bell like my own sister. It's only natural that I would do everything in my power to help you. There's no need to thank me."

Next, she showed the old man his health indicators and said, "If all goes well, you should be able to go home tomorrow. It's important to rest well in the next few days and eat some light food. You should be fully recovered in a few days."

As she had nothing else to attend to after that, Neera returned to Imperial Gardens with Jean.

Adriana sized her up the moment she saw her and said, "Are you sure you're all right? Do you need to rest for a couple more days?"

Neera laughed and replied, "I can't just keep lying around. It's not a big deal, I'm fine now. Don't worry."

"... Okay, that's good."

The three little ones were overjoyed. They gathered around their mother, clapping their hands in celebration.

"Mommy has finally recovered, yay!"

As Neera had been missing them for a while now, she immediately hugged them and smothered them with kisses.

After falling ill, she had become lazy and stopped going to the research institute, choosing to stay at home and rest instead.

Jean did not go to the office either; he worked from home to keep her company.

Around noon, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Adriana went to open the door.

A short while later, Neera saw her grandparents, uncle and aunt, as well as Edward, walking in.

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