

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 301 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 301

Chapter 301

After leaving her classroom, Hera headed to Pineview Hospital instead of meeting Christopher.

She stopped at a nearby fruit vendor to pick up a basket before continuing to the fifth floor of the inpatient department.

Nathan, clad in a hospital gown, sat up in surprise upon seeing Hera.

"Ms. Youngworth? What brings you here?"

"Just checking in. How's that wound healing?" Hera replied, locking the door behind her and placing the fruit basket on the table.

Nathan lifted his shirt to reveal the bandaged side. "Nothing serious, just a scratch. Any updates on the investigation?"

Hera pulled up a chair and settled in.

"There's a mole in the department," she said in a neutral tone.

Nathan's fists clenched. "Is it really him?"

Hera shook her head. "I'm not sure."

The truth was, Nathan's injury wasn't as severe as Stephen had made it out to be during their phone call.

Hera's suspicions about a mole began to fester ever since the items from the oak forest vanished.

However, the identity of the mole remained a mystery. Later on, Nathan sustained a minor injury while on a mission during the Queenie bribery scandal at Shuttle Ventures.

It was the perfect opportunity, so Hera and Nathan hatched a plan.

Nathan would exaggerate the severity of his injury, claiming it rendered him incapable of handling his current case. This would prompt him to temporarily hand it off, revealing Amelia's location in the process.

Just as expected, the new case officer swiftly apprehended Amelia and closed the case. The swiftness only solidified Hera's suspicions.

The threat wasn't over with the disgraced Brandon.

Queenie's associates, the mole within the department, or even a combination of both, were still at play. The possibility of multiple traitors couldn't be ruled out.

The moment Amelia's arrest

became public knowledge, Queenie's

net

pre-orchestrated media blitz went live, accompanied by a flurry of activity behind the scenes. However, her meticulously crafted plans crumbled spectacularly when Amelia exposed her, leading to Queenie's swift return to prison.

The whirlwind unfolded in a shockingly short timeframe. From her arrest and interrogation to the

desperate attempt at suicide by

net

biting her tongue, Queenie's demise at the hands of a sniper outside the police station all transpired in less than half a day.

The swiftness of the sniper's actions pointed toward a leak within the department—someone had tipped them off, ensuring a clean elimination.

No one could have predicted

Queenie's drastic move. Perhaps even she recognized its inefficiency. Suicide by self-mutilation wouldn't guarantee a quick death. The police

would rush her to the hospital before

blood loss could claim her,

n

potentially offering an opportunity to escape or even visit Zylar.

Whatever her true intentions, they were buried with her.

However, Queenie's death served as a stark confirmation for Hera. The department was riddled with moles, not just in Norburgh but likely in Southburrow as well.

"He" as Nathan referred to Stephen, remained a question mark.

While Hera expressed uncertainty, Nathan saw things differently. He had only shared the screenshot of Isabella's email with Stephen, yet the evidence vanished and Hera herself was abducted.

Stephen's involvement seemed increasingly probable.

A wave of anger washed over Nathan as he contemplated the possibility of his friend's betrayal.

"Stephen has only contacted me once since you were injured. He just mentioned your situation and Amelia's case being closed, nothing more," Hera said.

Nathan remained silent, his face an unreadable mask. However, the clenched fists by his side spoke volumes about the simmering rage within him. Hera reached into her bag and pulled out a small box.

"Here," she said, offering it to him.

"This is an immune booster I made. Get well soon. You're far more experienced at catching moles than I am."

Queenie's death served as a brutal lesson in patience for Hera. She had naively believed that ruthlessness and speed were the keys to uncovering Daphne's true killer. But she had underestimated how cunning the mastermind was.

Chapter 302

Hera knew she had to play it cool. Launching a full-blown investigation for a mole within the department now would only alert the mastermind behind the scenes.

Queenie's brazen elimination sent a chilling message. There was likely nothing beyond the mastermind's reach.

"Understood," Nathan replied.

He grasped Hera's plan. First, expose the mole. Then, follow the trail to the mastermind. Finally, eradicate all internal corruption and restore the department's honor!

Hera's visit was brief. After reminding Nathan to take his medication, she left with a final instruction, "Don't breathe a word of this to Bernard." After all, she was supposed to be taking an exam at school.

As Hera approached the elevator, a voice called out. "Ms. Everett? We've been trying to reach you! Our director has been eager to connect." Hera recognized the approaching figure-Alan, Mildred's former attending physician.

Alan was visibly excited. He had witnessed her display of the 13 Needles of Death, a feat that even the director praised.

However, when they attempted to access the video for further study, the security footage inexplicably vanished, rendering the recording unavailable. Since then, Oscar had been keen to speak with Hera again.

"What can I do for you?" Hera inquired.

"Dr. Bloom has been searching for you for quite some time. Are you available to meet? He's currently in his office, and coincidentally, Dr. Shadow is also present. Would you like to meet them both? Just wait a moment, I'll be right back," Alan stammered with excitement.

He couldn't wait for the elevator and bolted toward the stairs, rushing to the director's office to fetch them.

Inside the director's office, Camille had finally grasped the situation. To solidify her current role, she decided to answer Oscar's previous questions regarding the 13 Needles of Death.

Their conversation was in full swing when Alan burst in.

"Dr. Bloom, it's Ms. Everett! Ms. Everett is here! The Ms. Everett who used the 13 Needles of Death!"

Unaware of Hera's name but knowing she was Mildred's granddaughter, Alan instinctively addressed her as Ms. Everett. Oscar, about to reprimand Alan for his rudeness, froze upon hearing the address "Ms. Everett".

He rose abruptly. "Where is she? Take me to her immediately."

"Ms. Chime, I apologize. I'll be back shortly," Oscar informed Camille before following a hurried Alan out of the office.

Left alone, Camille couldn't help but

feel slighted. Had she come all this way to answer Oscar's questions about the 13 Needles of Death only to be disregarded? Was this MS. Everett they spoke of even more formidable than Dr. Shadow?

Intrigued, then.

201 ille decided to follow

Ms.

was curious about this

the one who

et

led the

13 Needles of Death with

ease.

However, when the three reached the fifth floor of the inpatient department, there was no sign of Hera at the elevator doors.

"Where is she?" Oscar demanded.

"She was just here!" Alan insisted, fearing disbelief. "I'll have someone check the security footage. Ms. Everett really came here." "Forget about that. She probably had something to do and left." Oscar sighed in disappointment.

Even if they reviewed the footage, it wouldn't change the fact that she was gone.

"I have a feeling our paths will cross again someday," Oscar said.

Chapter 303

With 15 minutes left, Hera slipped back into class just before the morning exam ended.

She breezed through the remaining questions, finishing the test in a mere ten minutes right as the dismissal bell rang.

"Boss, where'd you disappear to? You cut it close! Even though you're a genius and these exams are a breeze for you, have some mercy on us ordinary folks, alright? You don't have to show off quite so much," Katie grumbled playfully. She slung her backpack over her shoulder and turned around.

Hera reached into her drawer and pulled out a small gift box.

She offered it to Katie. "I left to snag this for you."

Katie's eyes sparkled as she eagerly unwrapped the package, revealing a delicate pink crystal bracelet.

"Boss, did you really get this especially for me? I love it so much!"

Seeing Katie's genuine joy, Hera couldn't admit the truth. She had spotted the bracelet displayed in a boutique window on her way back and bought it on a whim.

Katie slipped on the bracelet, snapping a few photos to share on social media. "Thanks, boss! My treat for coffee? I made plans to meet Cindy and Christopher at the food street."

The mention of the food street piqued Hera's interest. With the semester almost over, she hadn't even had a chance to visit.

They gathered their things and headed off to meet up with Christopher and Cindy at the food street.

The moment they spotted Christopher, Katie promptly presented him with the "High School Entrance Exam Simulation" textbook she'd brought along. "Christopher, here's a gift from my boss."

Christopher's eyes widened in surprise. "Really?"

His idol was giving him a gift! And such a practical one at that—a classic study guide.

Hera was rendered speechless at his reaction.

"Absolutely! Such a timeless textbook is a perfect match for a top student like you," Katie declared confidently. Of course, she wouldn't say it was actually a cast-off from her own collection!

"Thank you! I'll definitely put it to good use," Christopher beamed, cradling the book protectively.

While he'd already completed the practice problems, the fact that Hera had gifted it to him made it special. He could picture himself framing it as a cherished memento.

Hera was speechless again.

"What about me?" Cindy chimed in, her eyes sparkling with playful expectation as she looked at Hera.

"You got Katie a bracelet and Christopher a study guide. What about me?"

Just then, Katie realized her blunder.

The gift-giving wasn't part of Hera's original plan. It was all Katie's doing, and in her enthusiasm, she'd given the practice book to Christopher while completely forgetting about Cindy. This could easily be

O

misconstrued as favoritism!

"Actually..." Katie began to explain, but Hera cut her off.

Reaching into her bag, she retrieved another small gift box and handed it to Cindy.

Huh? Why did this box look so familiar?

Katie was puzzled upon seeing it.

el

"Thanks a bunch!" Cindy exclaimed, accepting the gift with delight. She hadn't meant anything serious by her comment, just a bit of lighthearted teasing. But Hera's gesture filled her with unexpected warmth.

Cindy opened the box to reveal another pink crystal bracelet that was identical to Katie's.

Hera said, "You're welcome. It was a buy-one-get-one deal."

Cindy and Katie exchanged an unspoken glance, silent embarrassment hanging in the air.

On the other hand, Christopher couldn't help but feel a smug satisfaction. His gift truly was one-of-a-kind.

The awkward moment passed quickly, and Katie led the way to a bustling coffee shop. The line snaked out the door, a mix of students and working professionals. It spoke volumes about the shop's popularity.

"This place has the most amazing coffee, especially their signature coffee. You gotta try it before you leave Cavenridge, boss," Katie said, ushering them toward the back of the line.

"Sounds good," Hera agreed.

However, Christopher couldn't help but feel a pang of sadness at her words.

"Hera, are you not coming back next semester?" he asked.

Hera replied calmly, "No, I won't be."

While Katie had mentioned this earlier that day, hearing it confirmed from Hera hit Christopher differently. In fact, ever since she received early acceptances from both Quantford University and Bradbury University, he'd been itching for an opportunity to talk to her.

He wanted to convince her to reconsider going to a school in Jedburgh. After all, with her exceptional academic achievements, staying in the country seemed like a waste of her potential.

Chapter 304

If Christopher had his way, he wanted Hera to go abroad with him.

Just as he readied himself to speak, a jarring ring shattered the forming silence.

Hera retrieved her phone, a flicker of recognition crossing her face when she saw Bernard's name on the screen. She excused herself and stepped away to answer the call, "Hello?"

"There you are! School's been out for ages. What's keeping you busy?" Bernard's voice washed over the phone, a smooth baritone that could charm the birds from the trees.

"You mean the afternoon dismissal?" Hera clarified, remembering their earlier conversation.

Unlike most schools, Cavenridge functioned primarily as a boarding institution, with few students electing to return home for the midday break. The academy provided a cafeteria and dorms for them to relax during these hours.

There was a beat of surprised silence from Bernard.

"Honestly, I just miss you," he finally admitted.

Hera remained silent, her thoughts churning.

"Where are you? I can swing by, and we can grab lunch together," Bernard said.

Hera recalled Bernard's refined tastes and the bustling food street atmosphere.

She countered, "Actually, I'm waiting in line for coffee with some classmates. Lunch and shopping are on the agenda afterward. Not exactly the ideal place for you. How about dinner instead?"

Bernard asked suddenly, "How many classmates are you with?"

"Three," Hera replied.

"All girls?" His question held a subtle edge.

Suddenly, Hera felt a click in her head. If she made it known that there was a male companion, Bernard might just appear in the next breath.

Hesitation flickered across her face before she answered, "All girls."

"Alright. Have fun, then," Bernard conceded, his tone shifting slightly.

Hera reached for the end call button, but before her finger could tap the screen, his maic voice sounded again.

"Do you miss me?"

The silence stretched, thick with unspoken understanding. Hera knew Bernard well enough to recognize the unspoken pressure.

An answer that didn't appease him would likely keep the call going.

With a resigned sigh, she mumbled, "...I do."

"I feel the same," Bernard replied, finally severing the connection.

Hera stared at the phone, a small, involuntary smile playing on her lips. Perhaps a tiny part of her did miss him.

"Hey, boss. It's our turn!" Katie's voice cut in. The line had finally shuffled forward.

Hera tucked her phone away and rejoined the group. Following Katie's suggestion, she ordered the shop's signature coffee and some local snacks. As she reached for her wallet to pay, a commotion erupted behind her.

"He's so handsome!"

"Hey, he's coming this way! Do you think he's here for coffee too?"

"I'd love to get his contact number!"

"Is there a hottie?" Katie swiveled around, her eyes widening. "Look at him, boss! He seems familiar... isn't that Professor Killian?"

Hera whipped around at the name, her breath catching in her throat.

There, amidst the throng, stood a figure of breathtaking handsomeness. He was tall and impeccably dressed.

Under the winter sun, Bernard

net

radiated an air of nobility as he strode confidently toward them. The crowd parted instinctively before him.

BUMS

Hera found herself mesmerized, his dazzling presence causing her heart to skip a beat.

By the time he reached their spot, she finally managed to stammer out a question, "Bernard? What are you doing here?"

His gaze met hers, a hint of amusement dancing in his eyes.

"Didn't you say you missed me?" His

voice, usually maically

seductive, now held a touch of ner

sweetness as he delivered the playful line.

In essence, it was a playful reminder. She missed him, so here he was.

Chapter 305

Hera suddenly realized that she had been tricked, but for some reason, she felt quite happy about it.

"He's absolutely charming!"

"It's a shame that all the cutest guys are taken."

"Wow, power couple alert! They're both stunning."

"That's our Cavenridge's top student and Belle! I can't believe it!"

"I'm a little jealous, not gonna lie, but they are a gorgeous couple!"

The scene behind them was a whirlwind of emotions. The onlookers were smitten by the attractive couple and felt a pang of envy.

Katie and Cindy exchanged knowing laughs, feeling like they'd stumbled upon a secret romance.

However, Christopher found no humor in the situation. Witnessing Hera with Bernard after seeing their living situation at Bernard's place left him with a bitter chill in his heart.

"I'll have the same as her," Bernard said to the cashier.

"You're joining us?" Hera looked surprised.

Bernard did seem a bit displaced in the casual atmosphere of the food street.

"Yes, I'll join you all," Bernard replied.

After placing and paying for the orders, he turned to Katie and the others. "Would you mind if I sat with you?"

"Of course not!" Katie's vigorous head shake made it clear-who could say no to such a handsome guy?

Bernard raised an eyebrow at Hera. "Aren't you going to introduce your classmates?"

Hera playfully clicked her tongue. "Honestly, Bernard, with that line, you sound more like a wealthy benefactor offering college sponsorships than someone just joining friends for a snack."

Bernard was speechless. Seriously, what was going on in her head?

He reached out, his large hand gently ruffling her hair. "So, future college student, do you need my sponsor?"

Hera was speechless.

The coffee shop suddenly had six seats open up. The staff swiftly cleaned the table and invited them to sit. As the five of them settled, the ambiance of the shop seemed to elevate, reflecting their collective charm. Bernard cast a glance at Christopher and saw the "High School Entrance Exam Simulation" book he held. He then turned to Hera with a playful smile. "All girls, huh?"

Hera was caught off guard and averted her eyes as a blush crept onto her cheeks.

She couldn't lie, not to Bernard.

Observing their exchange, Christopher raised an eyebrow in silent inquiry.

et

On the other hand, Cindy instantly grasped the dynamic between the two. This attractive couple was a fascinating spectacle she couldn't look away from.

Katie was intrigued and leaned forward. She asked, "Professor Killian, you and our boss are...?"

Bernard placed a finger to his lips. "This is our little secret."

His gesture was filled with enigmatic charm that caused Katie's cheeks to flush. She was utterly captivated.

Witnessing her friends' reactions,

Hera jealousy. Bernard's

struggle to help but feel a pang of

Bernard's efforts on

was undeniable,

was

The coffee in her cup suddenly lost its sweetness.

Just then, a warm hand reached out under the table and enveloped hers. Hera looked down to see Bernard's long slender fingers interlacing with her own.

A smile returned to her lips, and the coffee tasted sweet once more.

Chapter 306

Bernard's phone buzzed before he could finish his coffee. He excused himself, but not before beckoning Christopher. "Walk me out. I seem to have forgotten where I parked."

Christopher was confused. Didn't Bernard just park the car himself? How would he know where it is?

But Bernard's tone left no room for argument, and Christopher reluctantly complied.

They didn't walk far before Christopher spotted the Maserati parked by the roadside. He suddenly understood Bernard's intention. It wasn't about finding the car; it was about separating him from Hera.

"You have feelings for Hera, don't you?" Bernard's voice cut through the air.

Christopher hesitated, unsure how to articulate his feelings for Hera. He had never been in love before, and the intensity of his emotions was both exciting and confusing.

He was undeniably drawn to her intelligence, her quiet strength, and her ethereal beauty. His father's not-so-subtle hints about a future together with Hera only fueled his internal conflict.

"You care deeply for Hera but sense it's not reciprocated," Bernard said.

Christopher's heart ached with the truth of Bernard's words.

Bernard asked, "Want to know why?"

Christopher nodded eagerly, desperate for any insight that could bridge the gap between them. If only matters of the heart were as easily solved as a mathematical equation.

"She's into slash fiction," Bernard declared.

"Slash fiction?" Christopher furrowed his brows in confusion.

Bernard clarified, "Yeah. She's into stories and fantasies about romantic relationships between men."

Christopher's eyes widened in disbelief. Hera, his aloof idol, was a fan of such things? The revelation shattered his preconceived notions about her.

Christopher was familiar with the

concept of Boys' Love or BL. Back when he was friends with Zylar, girls often gossiped about them, which made him uncomfortable. The idea of being shipped with another guy was both perplexing and repulsive to him.

"Think back to when you and Hera were closest," Bernard prompted.

A memory flashed in Christopher's mind. Hera had been most attentive during the time he and Zylar were inseparable. Since their friendship dissolved, so did his interactions with Hera.

Could she really be interested in that sort of thing?

"She even mistook me for being into men at one point," Bernard added with a sly grin.

Christopher's eyes widened in disbelief. "Seriously?"

"You're welcome to ask her yourself," Bernard replied, enjoying Christopher's bewildered expression.

Despite his skepticism, Christopher couldn't deny that Hera treated Bernard differently. Perhaps there was truth to Bernard's claim.

Could it be that a misunderstanding about Bernard's preferences had brought them closer?

Bernard said with a touch of camaraderie "We're both vying for her affection, Christopher. But for Aaron's sake, I can only offer you this friendly advice. As for winning Hera's heart, that's entirely

you."

swn

With a knowing smirk, Bernard climbed into his Maserati and drove off. A final thought echoed in his mind, "Hera is mine, and not just anyone can have her."

Christopher watched the sleek car

disappear and felt a newfound

et

determination rising within him. If Bernard was willing to go to such lengths for Hera, then perhaps he should reconsider his own approach.

Could embracing Boy's Love be the key to unlocking Hera's heart?

Chapter 307

Meanwhile, Hera was at the bustling food street and had no idea that the little white lie she told Bernard had almost turned Christopher's life upside down.

Upon leaving the coffee shop with Katie and Cindy, they made their way to a nearby barbecue restaurant. Hera stepped away to use the restroom, only to be drawn toward a commotion at a street corner.

"Oh no, someone's collapsed!"

"Looks like an elderly woman."

"Careful, it might be a scam. They prey on students."

"Don't get involved unless you're loaded."

"Just leave her. It's too risky."

A crowd of students had gathered around an elderly woman lying on the ground, murmuring about potential scams and the risks of helping strangers.

The elderly woman was dressed in rags, looking like a beggar. A kind-hearted student tried to help her but was stopped by a boy nearby.

A clear voice cut through the murmurs. "Move aside!"

Hera stepped forward, her expression impassive.

"Belle, be careful! She might be faking it to get money from you," a boy who recognized Hera cautioned.

Hera bypassed the boy and headed straight for the old woman. The woman's white hair, like her own grandmother's back home, sparked an immediate concern in Hera.

"Belle..."

"Shut up if you don't want to help!"

The boy tried to speak again, but Hera coldly shut him down.

"Ma'am, can you move your legs?" Hera crouched down, supporting the woman's arm and helping her sit up. Then her delicate fingers gently pressed a few acupuncture points on the woman's knee.

"Ouch..." The elderly woman let out a groan of pain.

"Madam! Madam! Wait... Who are you? What have you done to her?"

A woman in her 50s, flanked by two imposing bodyguards, barged through the crowd. Her voice boomed as she pointed accusatorially at Hera.

The crowd's suspicions were confirmed the elderly woman was running a scam. The moment Hera offered aid, the accomplices emerged, feigning concern and demanding compensation.

Pitying glances fell upon Hera, especially from the boy who had warned her earlier. With a smug air, he said to the onlookers, "See told her not to help, and now, she's in trouble..."

But the scene took a sudden turn, leaving everyone bewildered.

As the irate woman continued to berate Hera and barked orders for the bodyguards to apprehend her, Hera remained remarkably composed.

She calmly began checking the old woman's pulse. The two bodyguards, eyes narrowed, advanced toward Hera with menacing intent.

Just then, a blur of motion emerged from the crowd. A tall, muscular man clad in a black tracksuit and mask appeared before them, blocking their path.

In a flash, the masked man was a whirlwind of action. With impressive agility, he disarmed and subdued both bodyguards!

Then, like a phantom, he melted

back into the crowd, leaving

everyone questioning if they'd hallucinated. Only the groaning bodyguards sprawled on the ground attested to his presence. Content

Cheers erupted from the stunned onlookers. Hera's gaze followed the masked figure's vanishing point, a sense of familiarity tugging at her memory.

His swift intervention suggested more than a random act of kindness. It felt like he'd been watching over her all along.

A thought sparked in her mind-could it be Bernard?

Chapter 308

Ever since the kidnapping, Bernard had become Hera's constant shadow, or he'd have Douglas keep an eye out for her safety.

"You! You!" The woman was furious and reached for her phone, but the elderly woman intervened.

"Pansy, don't worry. This young lady isn't a bad person. I fell on my own, and she helped me. My leg feels much better now," the elderly woman reassured the woman named Pansy Harper.

The elderly woman had stopped groaning, and thanks to Hera's massage of a few acupoints, the pain in her leg had subsided significantly. With Hera's support, she was able to stand up again.

Witnessing this, Pansy immediately rushed to her side, and after confirming the elderly woman's story, she quickly apologized to Hera. "I'm so sorry for the misunderstanding. Thank you for helping our madam."

Then, she noticed the elderly woman's tattered clothes and she questioned, "Madam, why are you dressed like this? If the master discovers you've sneaked out, he'll be very upset."

The elderly woman waved her off dismissively, cheerfully holding Hera's hand. "Young lady, thank you for saving me. Your name is Hera, isn't it? I can't repay you for such kindness, but our family, the Luddens, has two very eligible bachelors. Perhaps you might consider one of them for marriage?"

Hera was speechless.

The onlookers were shocked. The Luddens! Could this be Mrs. Ludden Senior herself?

"Grandma, what are you doing here?"

Christopher, who had just returned, spotted Hera in the crowd from afar. As he approached, he was surprised to find his grandmother there as well! The onlookers gasped. They might not have recognized Mrs. Ludden Senior, but they certainly knew the renowned top student, Christopher.

This confirmed their suspicions the elderly woman was indeed Mrs. Ludden Senior herself!

Was this not a scam but rather a test of character orchestrated by a wealthy individual disguised as a pauper?

The crowd quickly scattered, fearing their actions were being observed.

However, Mary remained calm. Upon seeing Christopher, she beckoned him over to Hera and introduced them, "This is my grandson. You two already know each other. What do you think of him?"

Christopher was bewildered, and Hera was speechless. In the 21st century, were there still people arranging marriages on a whim?

Hera hadn't expected to encounter Mary here. During her previous visit to the Ludden residence, she hadn't had the chance to meet her.

She had intended to inquire about Mary's health with Andrew in the coming days, but it seemed Camille's medical skills were lacking.

Judging by Mary's pulse, her rheumatoid arthritis hadn't improved, and Camille had resorted to hormonal medication, which provided temporary relief but posed significant risks.

"You're too kind, but I don't need a husband. If you insist on repaying me, you could pay me instead," Hera replied.

Mary looked disappointed. "Did you save me just for money?"

The previous night, Mary's youngest daughter-in-law had attended the Everetts' annual party and told her about Hera, the Everetts' daughter. She described Hera as beautiful, intelligent, kind, and most

importantly, someone Christopher genuinely liked.

She wanted to gauge Mary's opinion.

Mary's greatest wish was to see her great-grandchild before her time came. Much to her dismay, however, her eldest grandson was devoted to the military and constantly following the Killians' young sir. He seemed to have no interest in women. Content

.

When she heard about her younger grandson's success, she became eager to meet the girl he was involved with.

After discovering Hera was

frequenting this pedestrian street she disguised herself and went to catch a glimpse. Unfortunately, her rheumatoid arthritis flared up, causing her to stumble and fall.

Chapter 309

Mary had snuck out of the Ludden residence unattended, opting for worn clothes to blend in with the crowd. Unfortunately, this disguise backfired. Passersby mistook her for a scammer as she lay on the ground, clutching her aching leg in pain.

Just as hope dwindled, Hera emerged and offered assistance.

Mary's heart swelled with gratitude. She instantly identified Hera as the ideal granddaughter-in-law.

However, her hopes were dashed when Hera bluntly stated that she had only helped Mary out of a desire for money.

Mary's initial delight turned into disappointment. She disliked women who were driven by greed, and she believed there were plenty of such women around.

"I'm a bit short on cash lately. If you insist on repaying me, I'll accept money. And while I'm at it, I can also help you cure your rheumatoid arthritis," Hera explained nonchalantly.

"So, it's all about the money..." Mary realized with a sigh. It seemed that Hera's motivation was purely financial, not a greed for wealth or status. This revelation brought a bitter smile to Mary's face. "Well, the Luddens are very wealthy. Just marry into our family, and you'll have access to all of Christopher's money. And if you give birth to a son, half of the Ludden fortune will be yours."

Hera was rendered speechless, and Christopher was left reeling by her words.

"Grandma, please..."

Christopher attempted to interject, but a flicker of curiosity sparked within him. How would Hera respond?

"He's not exactly my cup of tea, and I'm not interested in any long-term arrangements," Hera replied coolly. Her words struck a chord with Christopher. She hadn't even given him a second glance, leaving him feeling dejected.

Fueled by Bernard's earlier words, a daring thought flickered in Christopher's mind. Maybe showing his interest in slash fiction would pique Hera's interest?

On the other hand, Hera's response left Pansy dumbfounded. A woman unfazed by the Ludden fortune?

Countless women dreamed of marrying into the family, yet Hera declared Christopher wasn't her type!

In contrast, Mary felt a surge of satisfaction. This confirmed her belief that Hera wasn't after money or status. She simply needed some financial help.

"There's no need to rush to a decision. Love can blossom over time..."

Mary's matchmaking attempt was cut short by Christopher's sudden outburst, "Grandma, please! I like men."

His words hung heavy in the air, silencing everyone.

Mary and Pansy gaped at him in disbelief while Hera raised an eyebrow, in surprise. Christopher's heart pounded in his chest. Finally, he had her attention, even if the tactic was unconventional

"Mr. Christopher, what did you just say?" Pansy stammered, her voice laced with disbelief.

Mary, reeling from Christopher's unexpected confession, could only manage a stutter, "You... You shameless boy!" The next moment, she fainted.

"Grandma!"

"Mrs. Ludden Senior!"

Hera quickly checked Mary's pulse.

"Lay her down flat," she instructed calmly.

However, Pansy rejected, "No, the ground is too cold! We need to find Dr. Shadow immediately."

She hurriedly ordered the

bodyguards to fetch the car

and

הגור A

take Mary to the hospital. After all,

Dr.

Madow was their only hope for

Mary's recovery.

Hera's voice turned icy as she delivered a chilling warning. "If you don't want to save her, then take her away."

Chapter 310

Pansy recoiled at the sudden coldness radiating from Hera. The sharp glint in her normally gentle eyes sent a shiver down Pansy's spine. It was a powerful command that left no room for argument.

"Do what she says," Christopher instructed.

Having witnessed his father seek Hera's medical expertise for his grandmother before, Christopher trusted her capabilities.

Unwilling but compliant, Pansy lowered Mary to the ground. Hera swiftly unfurled an acupuncture kit, revealing a row of gleaming gold needles.

With practiced ease, she selected one, located the appropriate pressure point, and expertly inserted it. She inserted more into specific locations on Mary's head and hands.

Moments later, Mary stirred and slowly regained consciousness.

Relief washed over Pansy. "Mrs. Ludden Senior, how are you feeling?"

"Grandma..."

Mary mumbled weakly. Her eyes landed on Christopher, and Mary's blood pressure threatened to spike again. "You shameless boy! Are you trying to kill me from shock?!"

Hera reassured Mary, "There's no need to get upset. While sexual orientation may be unchangeable, your health can certainly be improved." Christopher remained silent.

Mary, on the brink of another outburst, resorted to childish petulance. "What's the point of living this long if I can't hold my great-grandchildren in my arms? I might as well be dead!"

Hera's composure faltered for a moment, leaving her speechless.

Christopher quickly stepped in to console her.

Hera's instruction cut through Mary's outburst, "Stop taking the medication for your rheumatoid arthritis when you return home."

She instructed Pansy while handing

et

her a small, ornate box. "It contains hydrocortisone, which treats the symptoms but not the root cause. After a week off the medication, start giving her these pills—two a day, one small one at a time."

Pansy's brows were furrowed together. "How did you know Mrs. Ludden Senior has rheumatoid arthritis?"

Mary momentarily forgot her tantrum and stared in surprise at the box. Not only had Hera diagnosed her condition, but she also identified the key ingredient in her medication!

The acupuncture treatment had demonstrably improved Mary's condition, a stark contrast to the limited effect of Camille's previous efforts. "We'll assess the results after a week. However, future treatments won't be free," Hera said, packing away her needles.

The moment Hera left, Jane received news from Pansy and rushed to the scene with her entourage.

Disapproving that someone had performed acupuncture on Mary, Jane chastised Christopher and Pansy. Unconvinced of Mary's recovery, she ordered her transfer to Pineview Hospital for a full check-up and contacted Camille.

Camille happened to be at the hospital as she was discussing the 13 Needles of Death with Oscar. She rushed to Mary's ward upon receiving the

news.

A thorough examination by the doctors revealed a surprising turn of events. Not only was Mary in good health overall, but her rheumatoid arthritis had also shown unexpected improvement.

Relieved but mistaking the reason,

Jane attributed this progress to

et

Camille's recent treatment. She ushered Camille to Mary's bedside and said, "Mary, thanks to Camille's excellent care, your rheumatoid arthritis is improving!" Content

Seizing the opportunity to sing Camille's praises, Jane continued, "Camille, you truly embody the title of a miracle doctor. Your medical skills are phenomenal. You practically save people from serious illnesses."

Surprised by the exceptional outcome of her standard medication regimen, Camille could only offer a smile and a modest reply. "You're too kind, Mrs. Ludden."

The head doctor who received Jane was eager to curry favor and chimed in, "Indeed. Ms. Chime is the one and only miracle doctor! She has a cure for all ailments! There's no illness she can't conquer!"

His words further inflated Camille's ego.

Convinced of their dedication, Jane saw Mary's recovery as a testament to her branch's care. It seemed only natural that the position of the head of the Luddens and Mary's shares would rightfully fall to them.

et

However, Mary's voice cut through the air, "Actually, the improvement wasn't thanks to Camille. The medication she gave me did help with the pain, but the real difference came after my

Lov

granddaughter-in-law's acupuncture treatment."

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 311 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 311

Chapter 311

Mary's slow, resolute voice stopped the doctor mid-praise. His words hung heavy in the sudden silence.

Her declaration landed like a silent slap, stinging everyone present.

Camille felt a flush creep up her neck. This public denial was akin to leading the entire ward to question her reputation as a miracle doctor.

With ordinary patients, she might have politely withdrawn her services. However, the Ludden family, particularly the formidable Mrs. Ludden Senior, was a different story.

She was equal to the head of the Chime family, so Camille couldn't simply do that.

"Mary, are you mistaken? You don't have a granddaughter-in-law," Jane interjected, attempting to lighten the mood. "Perhaps you'd like Camille to fill that role? Aaron is certainly of marrying age, and they seem perfectly suited."

Camille's lips pursed as she contemplated a reply. Her heart belonged solely to Bernard, and she wouldn't consider anyone else.

"Absolutely not!" Mary interrupted before Camille could speak.

If Aaron wanted to marry, he had to prioritize Hera. Christopher, that good-for-nothing, would not be able to step up to the plate, so Aaron would have to take his place.

"I've already identified a potential candidate. Once I gather more information, I'll arrange a meeting," Mary declared.

First, Camille's medical expertise was challenged, and now, she was rejected. Her smile faltered.

Despite her unwavering devotion to Bernard, she was the eldest daughter of the prestigious Chime family, one of the four influential families, and Norburgh's premier socialite. Why couldn't she gain Mary's approval?

This realization sparked a flicker of jealousy within Camille.

"Who in Norburgh could possibly be a better match than Camille?" Jane inquired. She genuinely liked Camille. The two families were well-matched, and an alliance with the Chimes would solidify her branch family's position in the family.

However, she still had to respect Mary as long as she remained in the Ludden family.

"Let's keep it under wraps for now," Mary said cryptically.

She knew Jane very well. Any hint of information would inevitably lead to an investigation, followed by disapproval and potential

intimidation. Thus, she shrouded her

plans in secrecy.

Since Mary wouldn't elaborate, Jane couldn't press the issue. She would simply have someone discreetly investigate later.

"I'm feeling much better now. Thank you, Ms. Chime, for your recent treatment and care. But I won't be needing your services any longer," Mary said to Camille.

"Mary, are you sure? You wouldn't want that woman treating you instead, would you? You must be confused! Camille is a renowned miracle doctor!" Jane exclaimed.

"No worries about that. If Mrs.

Ludden Senior has a better option,

won't intrude. Wishing you a full

recovery, Mrs. Ludden Senio

Camille replied with a tight smile.

Without waiting for a response, Camille turned and left. She wanted it to be known that she was upset. After all, she wasn't someone others could push around at will.

Anyway, rheumatoid arthritis was a condition that even a genuine miracle doctor couldn't definitively cure.

Mary's dismissal was a blessing in disguise in a way.

If Mary would rather have her "granddaughter-in-law" treat her, then so be it. That way, Camille wouldn't shoulder the blame if complications arose.

Jane pretended to chase after Camille, but in fact, it was so she could get someone to investigate the person who performed acupuncture on Mary. Mary's health wasn't Jane's primary concern. It was the identity of the woman Mary intended for Aaron.

A wicked thought slithered into

Jane's mind. Perhaps she could manipulate the situation so that woman would inadvertently kill Mary, paving the way for a potential relationship between Aaron and Camille.

Chapter 312

Hera and Katie were just leaving school when a sleek white Maserati pulled up beside them.

The window slid down, revealing the face of a man so handsome it could stop even the prettiest woman in her tracks.

"Professor Killian!" Katie squealed, barely containing herself. Noticing the curious stares from classmates, she quickly clamped a hand over her mouth.

"Well, I won't disturb your date, then. See you, boss," she said with a grin. With a wave goodbye, she walked away.

As she walked, she kept looking back and even took a few sneaky photos with her phone. She then shared them with her various groups of close friends.

News of Bernard's visit to look for Hera instantly became the hottest topic in all the school's gossip groups, completely eclipsing the recent drama surrounding Gaskell Corporation's downfall.

The strange thing was that no photos of Bernard and Hera could be posted on the school forum, and any gossip threads about them were mysteriously blocked. Rumors

swirled that the school's tech department had flagged their names as "sensitive keywords".

Hera couldn't help but chuckle at Katie's excitement.

"Need a ride?" Bernard asked from the driver's seat, a playful smirk on his lips.

Hera hopped into the passenger seat, returning the playful jab, "Mr. Killian, are you working as a driver on the side now?"

Bernard played along. "That's right. The boss pays peanuts, barely enough to raise a college student. Gotta hustle for some extra cash, you know?" "Well, unfortunately, I'm fresh out of cash for a proper fare," Hera teased.

"No problem, there are other ways to pay," Bernard said, leaning closer with a suggestive grin. He pointed to his lips. "Care to recharge your driver?" Hera was unfazed and swatted his face playfully. "Eyes on the road, Mr. Killian."

Chuckling, Bernard took her hand and placed a gentle kiss on the back of it.

"What's for dinner tonight?" he asked.

"Let's go back to the Everett residence to eat," Hera replied as she checked a message from Gideon on her phone.

It was perfect timing as she needed to retrieve Bernard's medicine and administer his final treatment. ~~RêAd late~~St chapters Only

"Sounds good," Bernard said, turning the car around smoothly.

Hera sent a quick reply to Gideon and then noticed they were not headed in the direction of the Everett residence.

"Where are we going?"

"We're picking up a few things first," Bernard explained.

net

An hour later, Hera and Bernard emerged from the mall, followed by Douglas and a bodyguard in a suit and sunglasses. Both men were laden with shopping bags. The haul ranged from supplements for the elderly to children's game consoles. It was enough gifts for the whole family.

"We can't visit empty-handed," Bernard said, noticing Hera's raised eyebrow.

She couldn't help but smile. "It's not exactly your first visit, you know."

"Exactly. Gotta make a good impression on your family this time," Bernard said.

"A good impression, you say? Barging in with a gun the first time and then shamelessly tagging along on a family vacation the second? Sounds like a winning strategy."

"Tsk, no wonder you said my brother keeps his guard up around you, treating you like a wolf. It's because he doesn't like you," Hera gave

another jab as she got into the

passenger seat.

Bernard slid into the driver's seat and reached out to ruffle Hera's hair. "Your brother's opinion doesn't matter. As long as you have mine, that's all that counts."

Chapter 313

"You smooth talker! Does your charm work on all the girls?"

Hera swatted Bernard's hand away from her head. His playful gesture felt condescending, like he was treating her like a kid.

Bernard responded by taking her hand instead. "I'm only like this with you."

Hera recalled how he had coaxed Katie and the others at noon. "What about when you asked me to introduce my classmates to you at noon?"

Her words held a subtle edge.

Bernard could sense the spark of jealousy underneath her tone and explained, "I just wanted to make a good impression on your classmates so that they would approve of my relationship with you."

Honestly, with her personality, anyone who could hang out with her had to be more than just an ordinary classmate.

Hera pulled her hand free.

"We're not in any relationship yet," she corrected him.

Bernard's gaze lingered on her face. "Don't you like me?"

Hera hesitated, the silence stretching between them.

"Hmm?" Bernard leaned closer, tilting her chin up with a gentle touch. His thumb brushed over her lips, and there was a spark of danger in his eyes. Finally, she replied, "Fine, I like you."

A flicker of surprise crossed Bernard's face. His voice dropped, becoming low and seductive. "Suddenly, I don't feel like going to your house anymore."

"Where, then?" Hera asked.

"Somewhere just for us," he replied, a smile playing on his lips.

The air inside the car crackled with ambiguity, their breaths mingling in the intimate space.

Hera's eyelashes fluttered as she agreed, "Fine, but we need to swing by the Everett residence first for your medicine. We can hang out tomorrow." Bernard's gaze intensified. The subtle fragrance of her perfume further fueled his desire. "You agreed so easily. Do you know what that implies?" Hera met his eyes, her expression unwavering. "I do."

Unable to resist, he leaned forward and captured her lips in a fleeting kiss.

The next moment, he produced a heart-shaped necklace from his palm with a magician's flourish.

Hera's heart skipped a beat as she reached for the necklace. Though it was a classic design, the canary diamonds encrusting the hollow heart made it dazzle.

"I saw it at the counter and thought it

would look beautiful on you. Let me put it on," Bernard offered,

jei.

unclasping the necklace and gently fastening it around her neck.

His warm breath tickled her ear, sending a shiver down her spine. Hera's heart pounded in her chest, the anticipation almost unbearable.

After he fastened the necklace on her, her eyes drifted to the canary diamond cufflinks on his shirt.

A sudden realization struck her.

et

Bernard was sly, indeed. Both the necklace and cufflinks featured canary diamonds. Did that make them an unintentional couple's set?

The Everett residence was a whirlwind of activity upon receiving word that Bernard and Hera were returning. Lilith and James bustled about the kitchen while Mildred instructed Judy to tidy Hera's room.

Meanwhile, Gideon and Gino sat in the living room, locked in a silent staring contest.

"We'll have to count on you to make Hera stay," Gideon declared.

"Why me?" Gino retorted.

"You're younger and adorable. Just pretend to be sick or act cute and she'll soften up and stay," Gideon advised.

Imagining Hera's reaction if she discovered his ruse, Gino countered, "Why don't you do it?"

"I need to keep an eye on Bernard. We can't let him stay the night," Gideon explained.

As a fellow male, Gino understood Gideon's ulterior motives.

"Fine," Gino conceded, sharing Gideon's dislike of Bernard for monopolizing Hera's time.

"But for the record, I'm handsome, not cute!" Gino said.

"Sure, you're the most handsome. Our family's genes are impeccable, after all," Gideon replied.

Chapter 314

As Gideon and Gino were talking, they heard a car pull up in the driveway.

Judy, who had just helped Mildred downstairs, went outside and returned with a happy announcement. "Madam, Ms. Hera and Mr. Killian are back."

Just as she finished speaking, Bernard entered with Hera, arms laden with bags.

"Grandma, we're back," he greeted, subtly positioning himself as Mildred's future grandson-in-law.

Hera shot him a warning look, urging him not to speak out of turn.

Mildred beamed. "Wonderful! Welcome back! Why did you buy so many expensive things?"

Her eyes were glued to the bags Bernard carried. She recognized that all of them were from high-end luxury brands.

"It's a small token of appreciation from Hera and me," Bernard replied.

Hera remained silent.

"Bernard certainly isn't being shy." Gideon stepped forward to take the bags from Bernard.

Bernard's constant use of "we" and "Hera and I" firmly linked the two of them together.

"We'll be family soon," Bernard added.

Gideon was speechless. He said that Bernard wasn't being shy, and he really wasn't!

If it weren't for the favor he owed Bernard from the company's annual meeting, he wouldn't want to show him any respect.

He gave Gino a look, signaling him to step in. Gino understood and clutched his stomach, ready to feign illness.

Right then, Bernard said, "The game console is for my little brother."

Gino's eyes lit up at the sight of the game console's packaging. It was the globally limited edition one he had been dreaming of! There were only ten in the world, and they were incredibly hard to find!

"Thank you!" He took the game console and excitedly started unwrapping it. He had completely forgotten about his plan.

Gideon couldn't help but curse inwardly, "How useless!"

"There's a draft investment contract from Shuttle Ventures inside. Gideon, you might want to take a look," Bernard added.

Gideon froze, then quickly found a document among the gifts. He opened it to find two investment contracts.

One was for investing in Sedna, and

the other was for investing in the Everetts' company. The investment amount was a hundred million dollars, aimed at reviving the Everetts. Shuttle Ventures would only take a 30% stake, leaving 70% for the Everetts. They would also send professionals to assist in the initial stages.

It was like a piece of pie falling from the sky.

James came out of the kitchen, saw the investment contracts, and was so moved he almost knelt down to sing Bernard's praises. "Bernard, you're the savior of the Everetts! I'll definitely manage the Everetts well!" he exclaimed.

Gideon didn't immediately agree, but he didn't let go of the contracts either. He couldn't deny that with these two investments from Shuttle Ventures, the Everetts' position in Norburgh would rise, and they would eventually become a prominent family.

Bernard had gone to such lengths that it seemed he was serious about Hera.

Gideon was changing his opinion of Bernard.

Just like that, Bernard secured the Everetts' favor with two investment contracts and a limited edition game console.

After dinner, Mildred insisted, "The forecast says there's a blizzard tonight. You two shouldn't go back. Stay here, the rooms are all ready."

Hera was taken aback while Gideon and Gino exchanged surprised glances. They had anticipated their grandmother's eagerness but not her outright bluntness.

Chapter 315

As Gideon looked out the window, he noticed the unusual stillness of the night. Typically, the wind would be howling, but there wasn't even a snowflake in sight tonight.

Where was this supposed blizzard? Mildred's lie was blatantly obvious.

"Grandma, our humble abode is too lowly for the likes of the noble Mr. Killian. It's best not to insist he stays. It might only put him in an awkward position," Gideon said.

He was willing to reconsider his opinion of Bernard, but letting him spend the night was too soon. At the very least, they should wait until Hera came of age.

Logically, Bernard should have agreed and dropped the idea of staying the night after hearing Gideon's words.

However, he merely offered a sideways glance at Gideon before rising to select a bottle of whisky from the living room's wine rack. He poured himself a glass, taking a sip with an air of quiet refinement.

Mildred, seemingly realizing her faux pas, quickly exclaimed, "You're absolutely right, Gideon! How thoughtless of me. James, please check if there's a presidential suite available at the Imperial Hotel for Mr. Killian."

James immediately made the call and soon confirmed the reservation.

Mildred relayed the room number to Hera and said, "Go and see Mr. Killian off."

"Alright," Hera agreed, heading upstairs to retrieve Bernard's medicine.

She returned downstairs and said, "I won't be staying here tonight."

This was precisely Mildred's intention. She smiled and said, "Of course. Keep Mr. Killian company."

Gideon was internally exasperated

"Hera,

some restraint. What's

the dice between this and him

staying here? Oh, right, now we've lost on both fronts."

With a sly grin, Bernard turned to

whisheve had a bit too much to drive. Would you m

gus a lift, Gideon?" Cop

Gideon was taken aback, suspecting Bernard's intentions.

"Is he always this bold?" he whispered to Hera.

Hera glanced at Bernard and simply replied, "Yes."

Gideon, bound by the lucrative investment deals, reluctantly agreed to chauffeur them to the Imperial Hotel.

En route, he made a quick stop at a pharmacy before dropping them off.

arrived, Gideon pulled

Once

Hera

concern.

his voice filled with

I

"Have you truly thought this

through?"

Hera looked at him, confused.

"You're a grown woman now, and I'll support your choices, but please prioritize your safety."

Gideon then handed her a black plastic bag, which left her even more bewildered.

Chapter 316

Hera took the black plastic bag, and she could feel a square-ish box inside it. Did Gideon specifically go to the drugstore to buy this thing? Hera was speechless.

"Gideon, you must be misunderstanding something. I'm just here to treat his illness." Hera pushed the plastic bag back to him.

"Really?" Gideon was still doubtful. "Then why didn't you say so? You could still treat him at home. There's no need to go to a hotel."

This was just great. Now, they would be together by themselves in one room...

He trusted Hera, but he still had some reservations about Bernard.

Hera repeated what he said, "Our humble abode is too lowly for the likes of the noble Mr. Killian."

Gideon gave her a look. "You're making me look stupid here."

Hera chuckled. "Grandma is being generous for once. We should take advantage of it while we can."

Although she said that, the Everett residence wasn't a good place to treat Bernard's illness. He had always hidden the truth about his illness. Also, he shouldn't be disturbed while he was undergoing treatment.

The best solution was to return to Skyview Heights, but there was a water bed in the presidential suite in the penthouse at the Imperial Hotel. That was good for his treatment.

Gideon was taken aback. Why did he feel as if Hera was being led astray by Bernard?

"About the contracts, you should consider them carefully with Dad before signing them. You don't need to be troubled about it because of me," Hera continued.

She was also quite surprised that Bernard would bring the investment contract papers here tonight. She had skimmed through the contracts before. They were purely

investments. His company would only hold a small stake and wouldn't have any say in the Everetts'

management of Everett Group.

In the past, Hera would have never accepted this lucrative offer. Previously, Andrew had also proposed to invest in Everett Group, but she immediately rejected the offer and never told the Everetts about it.

But now, she would let them make the choice.

"Alright, we will." After saying so, Gideon passed the bag in his hands back to Hera. "You should hold on to this in case anything happens. When you can't resist it, you should protect yourself."

Hera couldn't find the words to reply

to him. She wanted to return it to him, but Gideon wouldn't let her and entered his car. Bernard seemed to have grown impatient as he immediately walked over upon seeing Gideon leave. Content

e

Fearing that Bernard would see it, Hera quickly stuffed the black bag into her jacket.

The two of them walked into the hotel. Knowing that Bernard would be coming back, the hotel manager had been waiting for them at the front desk. As Bernard walked up to him, he handed over the room card reverently.

Bernard took the room card and brought Hera to the presidential suite in the penthouse via a dedicated elevator.

Hera opened the door and took the card from his hands to place it into the card holder. The lights in the room immediately turned on.

The heating system made the room warm immediately. She took off her jacket and hung it on a clothes hanger by the door.

Suddenly, a thud sounded throughout the room. A box fell from her jacket and onto the carpet, landing neatly between the two of them. Hera became flustered. She completely forgot about this thing in her pocket!

Gideon, that bastard!

Chapter 317

"If I said I'm just here to treat you, would you believe me?"

Hera looked at the handsome face that was right in front of her, hearing the sound of a heart thumping loudly. She couldn't tell whether it was coming from her or Bernard.

His hot breath tickled her face as if it would melt her.

"I wouldn't." Bernard's maic voice was a little hoarse, sending shivers up her spine.

Hera was speechless. Gideon really did a number on her this time! She would never be able to explain herself. The more she tried to explain, the more it would look like she was trying to cover up, so she gave up..

Bernard also didn't probe further. He just went to shower.

After 20 minutes, the sound of running water stopped, and the door to the bathroom opened. Bernard was wearing a loose, white bathrobe and came out emanating cold air.

Hera could feel the cool air on him. She realized that he had been showering for 20 minutes with cold water.

She didn't dare to push his limits any further, so she said, "Let's stop messing around. Blow dry your hair and lie on the bed. I'll administer acupuncture on you."

However, he didn't move.

Hera raised an eyebrow. "You don't want the treatment anymore?" She

the

d her set of gold needles

. Content belongs

SW

to

on

"Take this medicine first." Hera handed him a glass of warm water and a black pill.

Bernard didn't ask any questions. He took the pill from her hand and swallowed it.

Hera teased, "Aren't you worried that I'm feeding you poison?"

"No. If I die by your hands, it'll be worth it," Bernard replied.

Hera clicked her tongue and retorted, "How cringe."

Since Bernard didn't ask anything, Hera didn't need to explain either. The pill was made mainly using the Eclipse Stone. If she were to explain further, she would be exposing a lot of information about herself.

After swallowing the pill, Bernard felt a warmth in his belly. Then, he felt a wave of drowsiness crash over him.

"How long will the treatment take?" He lay down on the bed and began sending messages on his phone.

"I'll take half an hour to administer acupuncture. After that, you should fall into a deep sleep. As for when you will wake up, it depends on your body and mind's recovery. I estimate it to be around 12 to 42 hours.

"During this time, you can't be disturbed. I suggest you put your phone on silent mode or turn it off."

Chapter 318

As Hera spoke, she deftly tied up her long hair in a braid that hung down her back.

"Alright," Bernard replied as he finished sending his messages. Then, he switched off his phone and lay down.

Hera rolled up her sleeves, exposing her fair, slender arm. She glanced at Bernard's loose, baggy bathrobe, then went into the bathroom before coming out and tossing him a towel. "Take off your bathrobe."

Hera picked up a gold needle and wiped it with alcohol. Under the light, the needle glinted with a cold flash.

She turned to look at him. "Do you want to know how it feels to be half-paralyzed?"

Bernard just stared at her. He realized that he shouldn't be flirting with a woman who was focused on her work.

He took off his bathrobe and used the towel to cover hiser regions. Like a fair maiden awaiting her prince, he lay on the water bed expectantly.

Hera just rolled her eyes. She fixed the water bed's temperature before starting the acupuncture. She was already familiar with his pressure points, and the way she administered the needles was smooth and practiced.

In a short while, Bernard was covered from head to toe in needles. All 16 of the main gold needles were custom-made by Bernard. The rest were silver needles.

Hera observed Bernard's expression. His expression was relaxed, and his breathing was steady. It seemed like the effects had kicked in, and he had fallen asleep.

Half an hour later, she removed all the needles and stored them. Then, she just lay on the bedside and started admiring his features.

He was probably exposed to the elements daily when he was in the army. How did he manage to have such tender and smooth skin despite being in the army for so long?

Her gaze moved downward and stopped at the heart-wrenching scars on his chest. His face was probably the only intact area on his body. There was no other patch of skin that was unmarred.

She got up and took out two black bottles from her bag. One contained an almond-colored powder, and the other contained a transparent liquid. She mixed them and gently applied the ointment to the scars on his body.

UMS

She treated the scars on his chest and waist. Then, her gaze landed on the towel. Her slender fingers pinched the corner of the towel and tugged it to the side, exposing the scar on his left thigh.

Hera's face started getting hot. She glanced at Bernard furtively to make sure that he was still fast asleep. Then, she knelt on one knee of the side of the bed and bent over him to spread the ointment on his thigh.

She had no idea why she was so nervous. After all, she was just treating his wounds.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

Hera jolted, and the knee that was precariously balanced on the bedside slipped. The water bed was too soft, and she didn't dare to let go of the ointment in her hand. Her other hand couldn't find any support, so her body lost its balance.

Chapter 319

Hera's face flushed red as her heart drummed against her chest.

She scrambled to get up. Looking at Bernard, she made sure that he was still sleeping soundly before breathing a sigh of relief. She quickly placed the towel and blanket on him, ensuring that he was properly covered up.

The doorbell was still ringing. Hera put down the ointment and went to the bathroom to splash some cold water on her face. She wanted to cool down her hot cheeks before opening the door.

When she did open the door, she saw Leon, who was wearing a baseball cap and a face mask. He looked just like a suspicious person. He exclaimed, "Boss!"

He checked to make sure no one was around before slipping into the presidential suite.

"Boss, this is what you asked for. I brought it here." He set down his backpack and took out a laptop. Just now, when Bernard was taking a shower, Hera asked Leon to bring it over.

"Why are you dressed like this?" Hera took the laptop and turned it on after placing it on the table.

Leon took off the cap and face mask while complaining, "You have no idea how exhausting it is to date a superstar! I have to be careful not to be seen by reporters, tabloid journalists, or rabid fans. If I'm caught on camera, I would have to explain to him that you're not my lover!"

"Be quiet," Hera reminded him.

Leon looked around, only to see that the bedroom door was closed. "Is your man in there?"

He looked back at her and noticed the lingering blush on Hera's face. "Why are your cheeks so red?"

Hera was reminded of how awkward it was in the bedroom just now. She cursed Leon in her heart, blaming him for her current situation.

"Surely, you weren't doing the deed?" Leon leaned forward with a sly expression.

"You can scam now," Hera said coldly.

Leon pretended to sob, putting on a pitiful expression. "You're so heartless, asking me to leave after using me. You don't even care about me! I'm getting targeted by them because of you."

Hera glared at him. "Go on, then."

"They couldn't find any information on you, so they started digging on my end. Especially Aries from Astral Nova! Ever since I encountered him, I realized that he has started keeping tabs on my movements in Cyber Web. It's making me so paranoid that I don't dare to go online too often."

Leon was referring to the group that was involved in taking down Raven. In their eyes, Raven was now a walking money bag. Whoever caught Raven first would get the reward.

"I see." Hera hummed lightly as if this matter had nothing to do with her.

When Leon saw how little she cared

saw

about it, he couldn't help but nag,

"You should be more careful! Even Astral Nova's people are involved and those devils can't be

underestimated. Don't go online for a while; wait for things to die down.

"I have a feeling that Astral Nova has hidden motives, so you must not get caught by them!"

"I got it. Now buzz off!" Hera waved her hand impatiently.

Leon pouted and put on his cap and face mask again. When he was about to leave, Hera called out to him, "Wait, take this medicine and use it. It's specially formulated for the heart."

As Hera spoke, she tossed a small vial to him. Leon caught it and read the dosage instructions on the vial. He was a bit surprised.

"How did you know that I wanted you to help treat someone with a heart disease?"

After asking that, Leon realized that it wasn't so surprising for her to know that. It wasn't a secret that his godson had a congenital heart defect. With Hera's capabilities, she could get that information with a snap of her fingers.

All this while, he felt that Hera was a

St

cold, distant person. He even felt that their relationship was a purely transactional one. No matter how warmly he approached her, she would only act coldly. After he

his purpose, she would ask

him to leave.

However, at this moment, Leon was truly touched.

Chapter 320

Leon hadn't even found the right time to ask Hera to help treat his godson, but she already developed a special medicine for him.

She was incredibly considerate! He would never call Hera cold and heartless anymore.

"Boss, thank you so much! I love you!" Leon gripped the vial tightly and rushed back into the living room to hug Hera. However, she shoved him away with one hand.

"One million dollars. Remember to transfer it to me," Hera said.

Leon was speechless. Indeed, the boss was still as authoritative as ever.

After Leon left, Hera deleted the surveillance footage in the hotel. Then, she logged in to an anonymous WhatsApp account and sent Grandmaster of Astral Nova a message.

"There's a batch of special medicine made from leftover material from the Eclipse Stone. It's limited stock. What do you say we put it up for auction in Astral Nova?"

Hera tapped her fingers on the table while waiting for Grandmaster of Astral Nova to reply. She wanted to continue probing into his background. Nevertheless, Grandmaster of Astral Nova had yet to reply after ten minutes.

She looked at the time. It was currently 1:00 am. Was he asleep?

She took out a USB drive from her bag and plugged it into the laptop. Immediately, lines of code appeared on the screen.

If Leon were here, he would have thrown a fit. He just reminded her not to log on, but not a few minutes later, she was online as a hacker again.

On the other end, in the office of the main control tower at Astral Nova, Taurus was holding a big tub of popcorn. When he walked past the main screen, he saw the notifications from the firewall and data interception alert.

Taurus exclaimed, "Someone's attacking the firewall!"

Aries was crouching in his chair while playing a computer game. He drawled with a lollipop between his teeth, "Let them attack. After all, the grandmaster designed this firewall himself. I've never seen anyone hack it successfully in my entire time here."

"That's true." Taurus sat back in his seat and started looking through the data from the intercepted hacking attempts while eating his popcorn. Halfway through his popcorn, Taurus sprang up and shouted, "Fuck!" Even his popcorn spilled over the keyboard.

Aries jumped as well. His cursor went haywire, and his in-game character died. Angrily, he scolded, "What the hell is wrong with you? Why did you do that?"

Taurus quickly unplugged the keyboard, not even bothering to clean up the popcorn. His face was almost pressed against the screen like he wanted to dive into it.

"I think the hacker is Raven!"

Aries immediately logged out of his game and opened up the data from the firewall, The more he analyzed it, the more excited he became. "After all this time chasing after Raven, he's appeared right in front of us! Are we about to get our big break?"

After saying that, he changed his sitting posture, and his fingers flew all over the keyboard as he tried to catch Raven.

"Quick, let's get him!" Taurus changed the keyboard set and joined in the fight.

At the Imperial Hotel, Hera smiled when she saw the notifications on the screen. She connected the laptop to a power source. Then, she flexed her fingers and started typing furiously as well.

This was going to be an extraordinary night.

When dawn broke, Taurus and Aries felt like their fingers were cramping. They could barely lift their fingers! However, they didn't get any useful information from the hacker.

Even until now, the hacker was still attacking their firewall while defending against their attacks simultaneously. Was this a person or a machine?

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 321 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 321

Chapter 321

A red warning flashed on the big screen, indicating that the firewall had been breached.

"Fuck!" Taurus and Aries couldn't help but curse.

For the past six hours or so, they just wanted to try going up against Raven to test their skills, so they didn't report it immediately. Now, they finally realized that they had taken things too far!

"What's wrong? Why is the firewall giving out alerts?" Leo, who had just received the firewall alert, hurried over.

"Raven breached the firewall that the grandmaster created!" Taurus exclaimed.

Leo was astonished. He couldn't believe that there was someone who could get past the grandmaster's firewall system!

Leo barked, "Quickly, report to Samson! Activate the first-grade defense alert! Get the other members ready at their stations as fast as you can!"

It was still early in the morning, but the office in the main control tower of Astral Nova was already in a chaotic mess.

At the Imperial Hotel, Hera drank some water and massaged her tired wrists.

Astral Nova's firewall was much more difficult to prate than she imagined. After more than six hours, she finally breached it. It didn't even take that long when she hacked Miridian's satellite.

Still, she was lucky that the grandmaster wasn't in Astral Nova right now, and only two of his lackeys were holding the fort.

However, according to the last time she went up against the grandmaster, she would not be that lucky.

She stretched her stiff neck to the sides and was about to continue her invasion when suddenly, 12 alerts popped up on her screen. Someone was invading her firewall!

Her eyes narrowed as she muttered, "Are these the 12 zodiac signs of Astral Nova?"

She clicked her tongue in

annoyance. She could overcome two lackeys, and even if there were 12 of them, she could still hold her own. However, it would be a tough fight, and she would have to be in optimal condition. In this situation, she was no match for their

combined assault.

Sometimes, cowardice was the better part of valor. Hera unplugged the USB drive and turned off her laptop.

Over at Astral Nova, red error codes flashed on the 12 computers. Even the breach alert on the big screen disappeared. "Raven got away!" Leo sighed.

"Compile all the useful data for me. I'll show it to the grandmaster when he's back," Samson ordered.

"Yes, sir!" the rest replied.

At the Killian residence in Jedburgh, the aged and haggard Anthony was kneeling in front of Chad, weeping inconsolably. "Chad, you must bring justice. Queenie didn't deserve to die! I know that she made mistakes, but she shouldn't have died for it!" "Anthony, please get up." Chad helped Anthony stand up.

Anthony stood up with Chad's support and continued to lament "only have one daughter, and that's Queenie! She lost her mother when she was young, and we depended on each other ever since. Content

"Yes, I spoiled her, and she could be a little demanding and unreasonable, but she didn't have bad intentions.

"We're all from the Killian family, but

Bernard pushed Queenie to her

death for a woman! Why are we

hurting our own flesh and blood? Chad, you must bring justice for me, or die with regrets!" Content

Queenie had just been buried. Anthony did not even host a memorial service and immediately came to Chad to bemoan his sorrows.

There were widespread reports that the Gaskell family was heading toward their downfall. Naturally, Chad knew something about it, especially when this matter was related to Bernard.

Chapter 322

Bernard was such a troublesome stepbrother, but Chad had no way to get rid of him.

Chad put on a serious expression and said, "I'll investigate this matter thoroughly. If it really is Bernard's fault, I'll ensure that he repays you for his sins."

Anthony wiped his tears and said, "I don't need his repayment. Queenie sacrificed so much for the Killian family, so I just want him to prove her innocence! He can't stain Queenie's legacy by branding her as a murderer!"

Chad's sharp eyebrows furrowed slightly as his expression darkened. "Everything happens for a reason. Surely, Queenie's end shouldn't be a surprise to you."

Anthony almost choked, his lips flapping like he wanted to say more. However, he sensed that Chad's patience was at its limit. Anthony did not want to anger Chad and walk away with nothing, so he could only clench his fists and fight back his stubbornness.

"Chad, please bring justice to Queenie."

"I will get back to you on this after New Year's," Chad replied and waved his hand, dismissing Anthony.

Once Anthony left, Chad rubbed his throbbing temples. Every time Bernard was mentioned, he would have a headache.

"Dad, I made chicken noodle soup for you. The weather is cold, so this will warm you up."

Aurora walked out from behind a room divider with a bowl of soup. Seeing that Chad was rubbing his temples, she knew that he was feeling annoyed with Bernard's issues. She had heard everything that Anthony said from behind the room divider.

Chad hummed and drank the soup.

Aurora offered to help, "Let me settle Queenie's matter. I had a good relationship with her, so I can appease Uncle Anthony."

Chad finished the soup and set down the bowl. Nodding, he said, "I'll leave this up to you."

"Also, Uncle Bernard probably doesn't have bad intentions. He's still young and distracted by temptations. He's just lost his way! After he gets married, he'll be alright," Aurora continued, trying to seem empathetic.

"At his age, it's true that he should get married, or else he won't be able to settle in the future. Are there any suitable women among your circle of socialites? It's better if she's easy to control," Chad said with a serious expression.

If she wasn't, then when they got married and Bernard inherited the shares, it would be difficult to control them.

Aurora said, "I think Camille Chime, the daughter of the Chime family, is quite decent. She's well-educated and attractive too. She's even rumored to be Dr. Shadow."

Chad nodded, "Camille is not bad. Previously, Queenie also introduced her to me. Meave this in your hands. I get Bernard to come over, and you'll arrange for a meeting between them. If there are no major issues, we can settle on her. I'll take Bernard to the Chime family to ask for her hand in marriage."

"Alright." Aurora smiled.

At the Imperial Hotel, Bernard slept for a full 48 hours before waking up.

The moment he opened his eyes, he felt like his mind was fully refreshed and relaxed. He sat up and

figure huddled up on the cold?

His

gaze couldn't help but soften.

et

When he got out of bed, his movements paused. Somehow, his lower body was aching slightly, which made him furrow his brows. But he didn't care too much about it. He put on a bathrobe and walked toward the couch.

Hera's back faced the bed. She was huddled into a ball, and her eyebrows were lightly scrunched up as if her sleep was fitful and uncomfortable.

Bernard gently carried her to the water bed. He had just placed her on the bed when Hera was startled awake.

"Bernard? You're awake!" When she saw his familiar face, her instinctual defensiveness relaxed.

"Yes, it's all thanks to you. I feel much better," Bernard said.

"That's good." Hera got up from the bed. "Let's clean up and go downstairs to eat something. I'm starving!"

"Okay," Bernard replied. He was about to enter the shower when he turned back to look at her. "Sweetie, did you do anything to me when I was asleep?"

Hera stared at him. When she recalled the awkward memory of that night, her cheeks burned. She quickly turned away. "No!"

Hearing her answer, Bernard wondered aloud, "Is it an after-effect, then?"

Chapter 323

Hera continued to stay silent.

Bernard asked again, "Is it really an after-effect?"

Hera picked up the pillow on the bed to throw it at him.

Bernard caught the pillow and chuckled. He decided to stop messing with her and threw the pillow back to the bed. He then got ready to take a shower.

When he took off his clothes, he noticed in the mirror that the scars on his chest seemed to have become lighter.

Bernard looked all over his body and noticed that the grisly scars had really faded. Even the old scar on his waist and the newly acquired one on his thigh were lighter, especially the new scar.

He turned around, his back facing the mirror. The big scars on his back had also faded.

His gaze flickered as his heart warmed and the corners of his lips lifted unconsciously.

He quickly showered and went out. Hera had already worn her jacket and was playing with her phone on the couch.

"Sweetie, did you really not do anything when I was asleep? I noticed that my scars look much lighter," Bernard asked as he got dressed.

Hera didn't even look at him. "They looked really ugly, so I put on some ointment. There's still a bit left. Take it and use it every night consistently for 21 days."

"No one will care about that. You're the only one who can see them," Bernard said.

Hera clicked her tongue. "Won't you feel burdened when you see them yourself?"

Surely he would be reminded of all the times he got injured whenever he saw them. Removing the scars would also help him to forget the unpleasant memories.

"Some scars should be remembered forever."

When Bernard said that, his gaze became cold. Even Hera felt the temperature in the room drop. She watched him, and for a moment, she realized that this was the real Bernard-cold, scheming, and vengeful.

"But if you don't like them, I can remove all of them." Bernard grinned mischievously.

The cold air emanating from him disappeared immediately, as if what happened just now was just her imagination.

Hera was speechless. Until now, she still hadn't seen every side of him.

"Let's go and get food. I'm so hungry." Hera took her phone and walked out.

When they went out, Bernard

glanced at the silver laptop on the couch that was blocked by Hera just Hera. just now. He remembered that when they came, he didn't see her bring a laptop.

They went to a private room on the second floor. At this hour, the chefs at the Imperial Hotel were already off work. However, the manager still called them back.

After Hera and Bernard ordered their food, they sat opposite each other at the long table. Neither of them spoke as they were on their phones.

Bernard had slept for an entire 48 hours. When he turned on his phone, it almost exploded with a flood of notifications.

First, he read Samson's updates on how Raven breached Astral Nova's firewall. His eyes narrowed.

Raven actually broke through his carefully designed firewall system.

In

he even made an appearance to stir trouble when he was the most famous hacker on the capture list. Suddenly, Bernard felt an increasing interest in Raven.

Bernard sent a message to Samson: "There's no need to fix the breached hole."

Samson: "Why? If we don't fix it, we'll be easy prey when Raven attacks again."

Bernard: "We'll be waiting for Raven to fall into our hands."

Samson: "Amazing!"

Bernard logged into another WhatsApp account, which showed Grandmaster of Astral Nova's profile. At the top of his unread contacts was a message from Shadow.

"There's a batch of special medicine made from leftover material from the Eclipse Stone. It's limited stock. What do you say we put it up for auction at Astral Nova?"

Bernard looked up at Hera sitting opposite him. He smiled and replied: "Yes."

Hera was looking through the Divine

Forum. Since she published the research on manufacturing

medicine, many drug-manufacturing companies had contacted her to mass-produce the special drug.

Just then, she received a WhatsApp message.

Chapter 324

Grandmaster of Astral Nova: "Yes."

Hera's gaze flickered when she received another message.

Grandmaster of Astral Nova: "I'm free now, shall we meet up to discuss?"

Suddenly, Hera sensed someone's eyes on her. She looked up and met Bernard's gaze.

"Sweetie, who are you talking to? You look so engrossed," Bernard asked.

"A patient." Hera kept her phone.

Bernard was speechless. Coincidentally, their food was served right then.

They didn't speak anymore. While Hera ate, she thought of how she should approach the grandmaster again.

She could not accept missions on her Raven account anymore. She had to use a different method to earn money. It would be easier to have some pocket money when she went to Jedburgh.

She still had some leftovers from her special medicine. Auctioning it at Astral Nova was the quickest way to earn money.

At the same time, she could try to figure out the grandmaster's background. Was he affiliated with the Killian family? Was he involved in Queenie's death?

All the dishes were served when Bernard's phone rang. He saw that it was from Chad, so he put it on silent mode and continued eating.

When he finished eating, he picked up his phone again. He had two missed calls from Chad and one message. When he read the message, his gaze darkened.

"We're going back to Skyview Heights."

"I'll send you back to the Everett residence."

They spoke at the same time. Hera was surprised and asked, "Where are you going?"

If he wasn't returning to Skyview Heights and wanted to send her back to the Everetts', did that mean that he wouldn't be staying at Skyview Heights for a while?

"It's the end of the year. I need to return to the Killian residence, and I'll only be back after New Year's," Bernard explained.

This meant that they couldn't celebrate New Year's together.

"Oh, then let's go. I'll go back to Skyview Heights first. I want to take Tiramisu back to the Everett residence."

Hera's thick eyelashes fluttered. She felt rather displeased.

Bernard noticed this and patted her head. "Good girl."

Then, they returned to the

presidential suite and packed up et

their belongings. Hera gave Bernard the remaining medicine and gave him dosage instructions.

When they went out of the Imperial Hotel, Douglas was waiting by the entrance in a car. Tiramisu's pet

carrier was placed on the passenger seat.

UMS

Seeing this, Hera became even more annoyed. Was he going to drive back to Jedburgh overnight?

The entire car ride was silent until they stopped outside the Everett residence. Douglas said, "Bernard, Ms. Youngworth, we're here."

Bernard and Hera got out of the car. They stood at the entrance and looked at each other. Overhead, snow started falling from the sky. In the glow of the streetlights, the snow settled on their heads gently.

"I'll miss you." Bernard kissed her forehead.

"Alright," Hera replied.

"Is there anything you want to say to me?"

"Remember to take your medicine." RêAd lateSt chapters Only

Bernard arched an eyebrow. "That's it?"

Hera kept quiet. Seeing this, Bernard could only say, "Then I'll be off."

He had just turned around when he felt something pulling the hem of his shirt.

He paused and turned back, only for a soft and petite figure to leap into his arms. She tightly wrapped her arms around his neck.

Chapter 325

Hera's light fragrance filled Bernard's nose. He couldn't help but laugh and wrap his arms around her.

"After the New Year's, let's make things official." Hera buried her face in his neck.

Her birthday was on the first of January. After New Year's, she would be of age and they could be together.

Bernard's heart melted. "Suddenly, I don't feel like going back."

Hera didn't want him to leave either, but he was from the Killian family, after all.

"Will the Everetts accept me if I marry into your family?" Bernard teased.

Hera let go of him. "Scram."

Bernard looked like a pleading puppy. "I'm really leaving now," he said reluctantly.

"Goodbye." Hera held the pet carrier and entered the house.

The living room lights were still on when Hera entered and saw Gideon. Gideon asked in surprise, "Why are you back so suddenly?"

Hera randomly returned home in the middle of the night while holding a luggage bag... No, was that a pet carrier?

"Did you fight with Bernard?" he asked.

"No. He has to go back to the Killian residence to spend New Year's. I'm just back for a while," Hera replied.

"Oh..." Gideon replied. He looked disappointed, and Hera felt exasperated looking at him.

Bernard stood at the entrance and watched her enter the house before leaving in the car.

"Go back to Skyview Heights," Bernard told Douglas.

Douglas said hesitantly, "But Chad..."

"Ignore him," Bernard said bluntly.

Douglas could only keep his mouth shut and drive toward Skyview Heights.

Upon arriving at Skyview Heights, Bernard took off his jacket and went into the study. In his study were four monitors on the desk. He turned on the computer, and all four monitors lit up.

He opened up the data from Raven's attack on Astral Nova's firewall that was sent from Samson. His fingers typed swiftly on two separate keyboards as rows of code quickly flashed across the four screens.

On the other end, Camille had stayed up for three days and three nights. She followed the dosage and methodology from Dr. Shadow's research paper. Finally, she created a few samples.

She called Florence over and gave her a pill. "Florence, this pill is specially formulated to strengthen the bones. You can try it."

"Thank you, Ms. Camille!" Florence was delighted.

She knew that Camille was Dr. Shadow. Besides that, her recently published research paper on a eT

specially made medicine was rather popular. Netizens shared the

Evele

article's findings like crazy, saying this could completely eradicate the root of the disease. Content belongs

to

Florence had been plagued by bone spurs on her lower back for many years. Hence, she couldn't wait to try this amazing medicine.

She took the pill and immediately poured a glass of water for herself so that she could take the medicine.

Camille stayed in the living room, observing Florence as she did chores. After an hour, she didn't see anything out of the ordinary and asked, "Florence, how do you feel?"

Florence twisted her waist from side

to side. "My waist feels warm. When I mop the floor, my waist would usually be in so much pain. Now, I feel nothing. Ms. Camille, your medicine is amazing!"

Camille was very pleased with the effects. She had succeeded!

Chapter 326

For Camille, making medicine was much easier than acupuncture.

"Here are six more pills. Take one each day, and a full course lasts seven days," she said as she handed Florence a small bottle.

"Thank you so much, Ms. Chime. You're really kind. I'll make sure to take them on time!" Florence exclaimed joyfully.

Camille smiled and said nothing more. After returning to her study, she wrote down the formula and preparation method of the medicine. She also recorded Florence's condition after taking the medication for further observation.

As soon as she was done, her phone rang. She glanced at the caller ID and answered the call.

"Ms. Chime, the patent for your special medication and the marketing authorization have both been approved. When will we begin production?" the person on the other end of the line asked.

That person was Wilson Ziegler, the general manager of a pharmaceutical company under Chime Corporation.

As soon as Dr. Shadow's paper was published, he immediately registered the drug's patent. His efficiency was impressive.

With the patent now approved, they just needed to obtain the formula, begin production, and submit the drug for testing by various departments before it could be marketed.

Camille was somewhat reluctant at first, but after seeing how effective the medicine was on Florence, she was convinced that the formula was reliable.

Given that the formula was developed by Dr. Shadow and contained only beneficial medicinal ingredients, the pills would not be harmful even if they didn't work as a cure.

With that thought in mind, she decided to start small-scale production to gain a foothold in the market.

"I'll send you the formula. Produce a small batch first. Remember, we need to keep it limited. Something rare is always more valuable," Camille explained.

"Understood. This is your patent, Ms. Chime. No one else in the world can develop such a special medication. It'll be an honor that goes down in history for the Chime family," Wilson remarked.

Camille was delighted by his flattering words. Since being mistaken for Dr. Shadow, she had received much more praise and recognition than ever. Moreover, the real Dr. Shadow had not come forward to expose her even after such a long time. That made her increasingly addicted to the feeling of being flattered.

After a few more flattering remarks from Wilson, Camille ended the call with a bright smile. Just then, she received a message from an unknown number. Upon opening it, her smile froze.

The message contained several candid photos of a handsome man and a beautiful woman entering and leaving a hotel. The man was also seen affectionately kissing the woman's forehead under the night sky.

The people in the photos were Bernard and Hera.

Camille's expression turned grim. She had been striving to improve herself and become more outstanding to catch Bernard's attention. Yet, his eyes were only on that seductress!

Another message from the same unfamiliar number came through.

"Ms. Chime, would you like to have a chat about my uncle? -Aurora."

Camille: "Time and location."

...

Hera still didn't know that her formula had been preemptively patented by someone connected to Camille.

Early in the morning, after settling

Tiramisu she changed into a more

neutral outfit, put on a bucket hat and mask, and packed her laptop and the remaining pills. She took a cab to Astral Nova.

Last night, right before going to sleep, she scheduled a meeting with the grandmaster of Astral Nova.

Upon learning that she had an appointment with the grandmaster, the usher directed her to the front desk. The receptionist then led her through a winding path to a building located behind the auction tower named Skyscraper.

"Dr. Shadow?" Samson waited in the main hall. He called out to Hera when he saw her in a different attire.

Upon seeing Samson alone, Hera frowned slightly and said in a low voice, "It has been a while. I hope you're doing well."

She discreetly glanced around her surroundings and spotted a figure seated on a chair behind a folding screen.

Recognizing her voice, Samson couldn't help but take another good look at Hera.

She looked completely different from when she was covered in a cloak before. Her casual outfit distinctly revealed her femininity, and he found her figure somewhat familiar!

He was eager to see the face beneath the mask, but learning from past experiences, he restrained himself and asked, "Did you bring what we need?" Hera retrieved a red velvet box from her bag and tossed it to him.

Samson opened it, took a look, sniffed, and said, "Dr. Shadow, are you sincerely looking to collaborate? As far as I know, your medicine has already gone into production."

Chapter 327

The items auctioned at Astral Nova were all rare treasures. Mass-produced items that could be manufactured on a production line would never appear at the auction.

As soon as Samson finished his words, the figure behind the folding screen stood up, seemingly about to walk away.

Hera calmly remarked, "Does this mean that the items auctioned at Astral Nova lack quality assurance? The Eclipse Stone and century-old gurdyroot used in this pill were both obtained from Astral Nova."

She knew that once her paper was published, someone would try to grab the commercial patent, particularly Camille, who had been using her name to treat patients indiscriminately.

The fraudster would now be anxious.

This was the outcome Hera aimed for, to make her opponent stumble first.

Samson hesitated at Hera's words. He had indeed discovered that the patent was registered by a pharmaceutical company under Chime Corporation. However, he was instructed to say so.

Glancing at the reflection on the screen, he said, "All items auctioned by Astral Nova come with assurances."

Hera glanced at the silhouette on the screen and said, "In that case, this medicine can't be mass-produced unless Astral Nova can provide me with the Eclipse Stone."

Samson found it amusing. The Eclipse Stone was a rare treasure that couldn't be easily obtained. The most recent discovery in nearly a century had already fallen into Hera's hands.

"Since the grandmaster isn't serious about the deal, I'll have to find another buyer," Hera said as she gestured to Samson to return the item. That left Samson thoroughly perplexed.

"Samson, the weather is hot. Get Dr. Shadow some water to cool down." A deep male voice came from behind the screen.

Hera was somewhat speechless.

Hearing that, Samson immediately went to fetch water. Soon after, he brought a glass over. "Dr. Shadow, please have some." Hera was at a loss for words.

She suspected that he was not only mocking her impatience but also wanted her to remove her mask!

"Leave the medicine. I'll only charge you a nominal venue fee, 2% of the final sale price. How does this offer sound?" the man behind the screen offered in a deep voice.

Astral Nova usually took a commission of 5% to 10% of the transaction price. A 2% commission would save her a considerable amount of money.

"What are the terms?" Hera asked.

"Naturally, I want a long-term collaboration. Whenever you have items to auction, Astral Nova must be your first choice," he said.

"Alright!" Hera agreed immediately.

Hera then took out several velvet boxes of different colors from her bag and placed them on the table. "Each color of pill targets a different ailment. The instructions are underneath the boxes," she explained.

Behind the screen, Bernard suddenly clapped his hands. Five neatly dressed appraisers entered the hall with toolboxes.

Once they confirmed that there were no issues with the pills, they handed Hera two copies of the contract. Hera signed the contracts after reading them.

After Hera signed the contracts, someone handed them over to Bernard. He flipped open the settlement terms to check the details Hera had provided.

To his surprise, the payment method she chose was cash on pickup.

Bernard was rendered speechless.

After leaving Astral Nova, Hera didn't rush to leave. Instead, she entered a nearby café.

She found a spot at the corner,

ordered a cup of coffee, and opened

el

her laptop. At this spot, she could still pick up Astral Nova's Wi-Fi, though the signal was weak. However, this weak signal was

adequate for her.

After connecting to the power, she inserted a USB drive, cracked the wireless password, connected to Astral Nova's Wi-Fi, and started hacking.

...

In the control office of Astral Nova, Taurus looked at the firewall alert on the large screen and exclaimed, "Raven is here again!"

Chapter 328

"Take your positions. Raven got away last time, but we must catch him this time," Leo commanded.

With that, all 12 members swiftly got into position.

An intense showdown that was one versus 12 commenced.

Hera's eyes quickly scanned over the stacked windows on the screen where codes flickered rapidly like an emotionless robot. At the same time, her fingers rapidly tapped away on the keyboard.

As time passed, the 12 people in the control office began to sweat nervously.

"This speed is unbelievable! Is he really alone over there?" Aries quipped.

The sound of everyone's voices filled the air.

"My Blue Screen Virus was prated in seconds. Is Raven really human?"

"Crap. We're losing control!"

"Damn it. How careless! He actually used a virus! We've been hit!"

One of their screens suddenly displayed a large red error alert, and the next second, it went blue.

"Aquarius, how did your Blue Screen Special Attack end up on my computer?" Gemini looked up and asked.

Aquarius' screen had also gone blue. She slammed her mouse down hard. "No! Not only was my special attack instantly broken, but the other party also learned it!"

Just as she finished her words, the remaining ten computer screens turned blue and froze one by one, with only the large screen on the wall still functioning.

A message then appeared on it: "This Blue Screen Virus is pretty handy."

Aquarius was so enraged she nearly fainted. Her ultimate skill, which she had perfected over ten years, was one of the best in the hacking world. Not only was it instantly broken but also instantly learned. She felt utterly embarrassed.

The other members were stunned too. Just as they saw the firewall was about to be breached by Raven again, it was suddenly intercepted. "The grandmaster is here!" Aries said excitedly.

At the café, Hera implanted a virus into 12 computers at once, causing the enemy team to be completely wiped out. Just as she was about to continge attacking Astral Nova's firewall, a dialogue box suddenly popped up on the screen. Content

Recognizing the familiar data, she smirked. The grandmaster of Astral Nova had finally appeared.

He had been hiding behind the screen all along, giving her no chance to approach. She had no choice but to use this method.

In the next second, codes flashed rapidly across her screen, and the windows appeared to overlap as if her laptop was freezing. Having learned from last time, Hera's defense was noticeably stronger this time.

She was adept at learning and applying new skills immediately. After confronting the 12 zodiac signs, she turned their ultimate attacks against them. However, being the grandmaster of Astral Nova, Bernard possessed skills far superior to the 12 zodiac signs. He was able to counter Hera's attacks instantly.

...

In the control office, everyone

gathered in front of the large screen to watch this epic battle. The lines of coding raced across the screen. It was so rapid that a blink of an eye would miss crucial data.

"What a display of skill. Just watching it strains my eyes. How are they doing it?"

"Damn, I think I just saw my ultimate attack."

"Me too!"

"Me too!"

"Why do I feel like our ultimate attacks have all been copy-pasted by the other side?"

"Is Raven even human? Are we really not dealing with a machine?"

"I suddenly feel resigned. With this level of skill, it's no wonder we got wiped out."

The two engaged in countless exchanges over tens of thousands of rounds. As time went on, what started as an even match began to show disparities.

Hera realized she wasn't cut out for a prolonged struggle against her opponent. She cleverly exposed a vulnerability to him while gaining access to an icon from the other side.

Swn

Chapter 329

It was a golden bonfire symbol.

Hera was stunned for a moment and murmured, "Vulcan?"

In that moment of distraction, a red alert flashed on her screen, indicating a breach in the firewall.

Hera quickly regained her composure and checked the code alert. She then promptly removed the USB flash drive, kept her laptop, and left ten dollars on the table before leaving.

In Astral Nova's Skyscraper, Bernard successfully pinpointed the opponent's location and swiftly browsed through his files. Just as he was about to copy them, all the stacked windows on the screen suddenly turned gray.

The next second, that person disconnected.

"Next door café," he said to Samson.

Samson promptly brought his people to the café. As expected, they didn't find anyone suspicious.

After Samson reported the situation to Bernard, he planned to find the café manager to check the surveillance.

Just then, Bernard's voice came through the phone. "Don't bother checking. Someone has already tampered with it."

It wasn't just the café's surveillance that had been tampered with. Even the street cameras that had a view of the café had been turned off beforehand.

Bernard's fingers tapped rhythmically on the table. He smiled as his eyes gleamed with excitement.

He had successfully infiltrated Raven's computer, but the other party had clearly anticipated that. Hence, there was no information to be found. He found the whole scenario growing more intriguing.

Raven had been persistently taunting and testing him. However, Bernard didn't want to catch him too soon, or it would ruin the fun.

Meanwhile, Hera had already hopped into a cab. Her gaze was calm, but in her mind, she kept replaying the bonfire symbol she had just seen and the discussion about another person hacking on Cyber Web earlier.

She began to harbor a series of suspicions. Could that person be Vulcan? Was the grandmaster of Astral Nova Vulcan? Was Queenie's death also related to him?

It was no wonder Hera couldn't beat him in both attempts to infiltrate. After all, he was a formidable opponent, just like S.

Just then, her phone screen lit up with a WhatsApp message.

Hera snapped back to reality and clicked on it. She was somewhat surprised to find it was from her mentor, S.

S: "Stop digging deeper into the Killian family's affairs."

Hera slightly squinted her eyes. It was a simple sentence, yet it sent a shiver down her spine.

She wondered how S knew she was investigating the Killian family. She began to suspect that S had been monitoring her all along. Raven: "Why?"

S: "That's not something you should get involved in."

et

Raven: "Why isn't it something I should get involved in? It was my foster mother who died back then..." Just after Hera finished typing those words, she deleted them.

Content

When the clues went cold back then, it was S who sent her Queenie's information.

Now that she was close to uncovering the mastermind behind it all, S suddenly stopped her from investigating further. This left her feeling extremely frustrated. Content

Hera kept typing and deleting repeatedly.

The person on the other end, however, seemed completely indifferent to her current turmoil. He sent her another message.

S: "You've violated the rules. Your account will be suspended for six months."

Hera paused her typing, her gaze

et

flickering as she read the message. She knew he was referring to her hacking of the Miridian satellite, which led to her being wanted.

The punishment might be delayed, but it would never be absent.

Hera felt reluctant, but S was someone she had known for eight years. Although they had never met in person, without S, she wouldn't be who she was today.

With a reluctant heart, she replied: "Okay."

S: "Good."

Hera was at a loss for words.

She navigated back to the message list and found Piglet.

Raven: "Help me get a new account on Cyber Web."

Chapter 330

Piglet: "Why do you need a new account?"

Raven: "To work on an alternate account."

Piglet: "Why are you suddenly working on an alternate account?"

In fact, it was common to work on an alternate account. Many people on the leaderboards had alternate accounts, but Hera had always scorned this practice. Instead, she focused solely on getting Raven to the top of the Cyber Web rankings in the country.

Raven: "My main account got banned by my mentor."

Piglet: "Serves you right!"

Piglet: "Only S can keep you in check."

Piglet: "Don't think I don't know you've logged in behind my back several times."

Raven: " .

Raven: "Can't you comfort me a bit?"

Piglet: "S did it for your own good. He didn't sever your mentorship but just banned your account."

Piglet: "Otherwise, with your attitude, you'll be caught sooner or later."

Piglet: "You have no idea. Every time I see you, it's like looking at a hundred grand. I'm always torn inside. Why should I let others earn this money when I can earn it myself?"

Raven: "Farewell, I'm cutting ties with you."

Piglet: "T.T, my bad."

Piglet: "Don't be too upset. Damian's new movie premieres on New Year's. I'll arrange a private screening for you. You should go on a date with Mr. Killian to cheer up."

Seeing the message, Hera was somewhat speechless.

Bernard had gone back to Jedburgh for the holidays. Instead of feeling comforted, Hera felt even sadder.

The cab finally arrived at the entrance of the Everett residence, and Hera got out of it after paying the fare.

Lilith was in the living room, chatting with Mildred. Seeing Hera walk in looking troubled, she couldn't help but ask, "Hera, are you alright?"

"It's nothing. I'm just a bit tired. I'm going up to take a nap. Don't disturb me," Hera said as she headed upstairs.

Lilith and Mildred exchanged glances.

"Did Hera have another quarrel with Mr. Killian?" Lilith mumbled to herself.

It was the same the last time she quarreled with Bernard, but she didn't look this troubled.

Lilith suddenly thought of something and looked at Mildred. "Mom, could Hera have broken up with Mr. Killian?"

"Don't panic. Let's figure out the situation first," Mildred said with a look of exasperation. "If something really did happen, then..."

Mildred leaned in and whispered something to Lilith.

Lilith exclaimed, "I-I don't think it's appropriate."

Mildred shot her a glance. "Cut the nonsense. Just do as I say when the time comes."

Just as Hera entered her room,

Tiramisu immediately jumped off the bed and rubbed against her legs. Afterward, it stood at the door looking up as if expecting someone else to come in.

Seeing that, Hera felt a twinge of

sadness. She closed the door to

off

her coat, and hung it on the rack. "Stop looking. He didn't come."

Tiramisu let out two soft grumbles as if expressing its dissatisfaction.

Hera threw herself onto the bed, wanting to express her frustration. Just then, her phone rang. She reached for it and saw that it was Bernard calling. She answered the call, absentmindedly saying, "Hello?"

"Sweetie, I miss you." Bernard's deep voice echoed in her ear.

Maybe it was the comforting tone of Bernard's voice or perhaps his words, but Hera's gloomy mood lifted slightly. "Hm," she responded softly.

Bernard noticed her unusual tone. "You don't sound very happy. What's wrong?"

"I miss you," Hera replied.

Bernard was stunned for a moment. "Say that again. I'm going to record it."

Hera was rendered speechless..

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 331 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 331

Chapter 331

"If I say it again, will you appear in front of me right away?" Hera asked. She wished he would show up suddenly like he did last time at the food street.

Bernard listened to her words and wished to rush to the Everett residence immediately. However, before he could say anything, Samson knocked and walked into his room.

"Bernard, there's news from Douglas that the driver your brother sent is nearing Shuttle Ventures," Samson said in a low voice.

Bernard frowned slightly and nodded in acknowledgment.

Chad wanted him back, and since he didn't return, he had sent someone to personally escort him back.

"I wish I could, but I can't leave right now," Bernard told Hera on the phone.

"I see..." Hera responded.

"I have something to deal with. Talk to you later," Bernard said.

"Alright." Hera hung up, lay back on the bed, and looked at the ceiling, feeling a sense of emptiness.

Tiramisu seemed to sense her sadness. It nudged her face with its little head.

Tickled by the nudging, Hera raised her hand to hold its head and began to stroke it. She found it rather stress-relieving.

Just then, a message came in. Hera clicked to view it and found a selfie from Bernard.

Bernard's chiseled, perfectly handsome face was slightly smiling at the screen. His expression was a blend of coldness and seductive charm. The background showed the back seat of a car, suggesting the photo was just taken.

Bernard: "If you miss me, just take a few more looks."

Hera smiled faintly as she saved the photo to her phone. She then took a photo of Tiramisu and sent it to him.

Meanwhile, in the back seat of the Rolls-Royce, Bernard received two messages from Hera.

Hera: "Tiramisu misses you too."

Attached was a photo. Without even opening it, he could see a close-up of a pig's nose.

It was obviously taken with the camera pressed against the snout, devoid of any sense of composition or beauty. Bernard couldn't help but smile.

Indeed, God treated all his creatures equally. He bestowed upon Hera a flawless face and excellent medical skills but also gifted her with hands that were clumsy at taking photos.

Despite all the effort Bernard put into teaching her, she would revert to square one if she didn't take photos for a while.

...

Three days after Mary stopped taking her medication, her knees and legs started hurting. Unable to walk, she could only rely on a wheelchair.

Seeing her condition, Pansy felt

deeply sorry. She called for the

family's doctor, Zaid Gomez,

hoping he could examine Mary. However, Mary refused to see him.

Six days after stopping her medication, Mary's knees swelled up, and she couldn't move. She also had a fever.

Zaid waited outside her room, but

et

Mary still refused to be examined

She intended to hold out until the seventh day and then take the medicine Hera had given her.

Upon learning of Mary's worsening condition and her refusal to see a doctor, Ralph Ludden rushed back to Norburgh from Jedburgh. "What's going on?" he asked when he arrived at Mary's door.

Andrew and his family of three, Jane, and Zaid were all kept outside the room in the hallway, with only Pansy inside taking care of Mary.

Chapter 332

"Mr. Ludden, Mrs. Ludden Senior has been off her medication for six days. Her leg condition is getting worse, but she refuses treatment and medication," Zaid explained.

As the Ludden family's appointed doctor for over ten years, he knew Mary's rheumatoid arthritis very well.

Mary couldn't stop taking her medication. If she did, her leg condition would worsen.

Not long ago, her legs had shown significant improvement under Camille's care. However, six days ago, she suddenly believed someone else's advice and stopped Camille's treatment, discontinuing the medication on her own.

The moment she went off the medication, her condition deteriorated rapidly. If this continued, she would lose her legs as they would require an amputation.

"Who told Mom to stop her medication?" Ralph asked with a stern expression.

Being a few years older than Andrew and the current head of the Ludden family, Ralph's presence was more authoritative and intimidating. His serious demeanor caused the surrounding atmosphere to grow tense.

Christopher remained silent as he feared Hera would be implicated. However, just because he remained silent didn't mean everyone else would. Jane said, "It's that girl the Everett family brought back from the mountains. Andrew even brought her home one time, wanting her to treat Mary, but I stopped him. I didn't expect her to be so persistent. She treated Mary without permission and even persuaded her to stop taking her medication."

She then added, "Mary is really out of her mind. Not only does she believe that girl's words, but she also wants to bring her into the Ludden family. I have no idea who's been brainwashing her."

"Jane, what do you mean by that?" Andrew's wife, Alice York, asked unhappily.

She liked Hera very much, and both she and Andrew hoped Hera would be their future daughter-in-law. It was due to her bringing up the idea of a marriage alliance to Mary that Mary sought out Hera and got in touch with her.

She hadn't anticipated things would turn out like this. However, Jane's remarks clearly sought to put all the blame on Andrew and her.

"I mean exactly what I said," Jane replied.

"Jane, Hera isn't as worthless as you claim. She does know medicine!" Andrew said with a serious expression.

Jane retorted, "Is she a registered doctor? If she really knew medicine, how could Mary's legs be in this condition? And don't forget. The last time you brought her here, she ran off in a panic at the mention of Dr. Shadow."

Hearing that, Andrew was rendered speechless.

He didn't know if Hera was a

registered doctor. However, he had witnessed her administering

acupuncture, and Hera's

I

grandmother was a highly respected

doctor in the mountains, though he

couldn't confirm these details.

"She's incompetent, yet she encouraged Mary to stop her medication and drove Dr. Shadow away. Why did you bring such a girl to Mary? If something happens to Mary, can you bear the consequences?" Jane berated.

"Grandma is not without

discernment. She stopped her

medication because she chose to trust Hera. Hera also gave Grandma some medicine, and she can start taking it tomorrow. Whether it Works or not, we'll find out tomorrow," Christopher couldn't help but speak up. He wouldn't tolerate anyone defaming his idol.

As soon as he finished speaking, the door swung open, and Pansy emerged with a worried expression. "This is bad. Mrs. Ludden Senior has fainted from the pain."

Upon hearing that, everyone's hearts sank.

Jane seized the opportunity she had been waiting for. Raising her voice, she exclaimed, "Now that she has fainted, do you still want her to wait until tomorrow?"

Christopher was taken aback, and his heart raced. He believed in Hera, but with Mary's life at stake, he hesitated.

Ralph said sternly, "Enough! No more arguing. Zaid, go check on my mom immediately."

"Yes," Zaid responded.

As he was about to enter Mary's room, Christopher stopped him. "Let's wait until tomorrow, the seventh day, when Grandma can take the medicine," Christopher said, standing at the door.

He had faith in Hera's ability to cure Mary.

"Mr. Christopher, Mrs. Ludden Senior's legs can't wait any longer. If we don't treat her now, she'll lose her legs, and it could even threaten her life," Zaid urged.

Chapter 333

"Move aside. If anything happens to Mary, that girl from the Everett family won't get away with it! I'll pursue criminal charges against her," Jane said sternly. She perfectly embodied the image of a devoted daughter-in-law of the Ludden family.

Upon hearing that, Christopher froze. However, he still blocked the door with his body and refused to move.

"Get him out of here!" Ralph ordered the butler.

"Sorry, Mr. Christopher, but I have to do this," the butler said as he signaled two bodyguards to drag Christopher away.

At that moment, Andrew suddenly raised his hand to halt them. "Step aside."

Christopher was overjoyed, believing that Andrew was on his side. He thought that if Andrew also trusted Hera, then Mary could hold on until tomorrow to take the medicine.

Ralph furrowed his brows.

Seeing this, Jane asked fearlessly, "Andrew, are you going to interfere too?"

Andrew did believe in Hera, but in such a situation, mere belief wasn't enough.

"I said, step aside. Didn't you hear me?" he said to Christopher.

"Dad?" Christopher was puzzled.

With a serious look, Andrew forcibly pulled him aside.

Just as Christopher was about to protest, he heard Andrew whisper, "Go bring Hera here."

Christopher was momentarily stunned before he finally grasped Andrew's intent.

If Christopher were to be dragged away by the bodyguards, he would have certainly been kept under watch. However, with Andrew intervening, he wouldn't end up detained.

Christopher nodded and took the opportunity to slip away while everyone wasn't paying attention.

Meanwhile, Zaid entered the room to examine Mary. After a while, he shook his head. "It's too late. The fluid has compressed the blood vessels for too long. Many cells in her legs have necrosed, and the only option left is amputation.

"But Mrs. Ludden Senior is too old, and the surgery carries high risks. I suggest bringing Dr. Shadow back to see if there are any other options." Those words were undoubtedly a death sentence for Mary.

Ralph's expression instantly turned grim.

"Camille isn't in Norburgh. Even if she were here, she might not agree to treat Mary again, but I'll do my best to convince her to come." Jane let out a sigh. After a brief pause, d his wife

she reproached Andrew and his with a harsh expression, "Are you happy now?"

Andrew remained silent. Alice's lips quivered, but she couldn't find words to defend herself.

"Let's solve the problem first. It's not the time to point fingers right now," Ralph said grimly.

He always upheld family rules with fairness and justice. Even if it were his son's mistake today, he would still say the same thing.

Upon hearing that, a fleeting look of malice flashed in Jane's eyes. If Andrew's family were blamed for causing Mary's death, they would never rise again. The Ludden residence would then belong to Ralph and her for good.

The medical facilities at the Ludden residence were limited. Zaid contacted hospital personnel to prepare for transporting Mary to the hospital for observation and treatment.

As the medical team arrived and was about to transport Mary, Andrew noticed Christopher was still not back yet. He intervened, "Wait a moment." "What are we waiting for?" Ralph asked.

"Hera is on her way," Andrew said.

"Mary's condition has gotten this bad because of her, and you still trust her? Will you only accept reality when Mary draws her last breath?" Jane questioned harshly.

"I offer all the Ludden family's shares I hold as a guarantee and ask you to grant Hera one more chance. If it doesn't work, my family and I will voluntarily leave the Ludden residence with nothing," Andrew stated solemnly.

Alice was startled and tugged at his sleeve. She liked Hera, but offering such a huge guarantee for her was too much.

Jane had been waiting for this moment. There was a bit of excitement in her heart, but she didn't forget to keep up her facade.

"Do you take Mary's life as a joke?" she questioned.

Ralph was equally puzzled. Andrew

net

was always deliberate in his actions. He couldn't fathom what sort of person could prompt Andrew to wager Mary's life like this. At the same time, he was aware of Mary's current dangerous condition.

et

Zaid had a high reputation in the medical community. His diagnosis was almost always accurate. Sending Mary to the hospital now meant they would wait for Camille to come back and treat her, or perhaps they needed to find a more capable miracle doctor.

Chapter 334

After careful consideration, Ralph said, "If she's not here in half an hour, take her to the hospital and call Ms. Chime."

Hearing that, Zaid and the rest of the medical team also breathed a sigh of relief.

Given Mary's current condition, whether they proceeded with surgery or not, the result would be the same. Her time was running out, and her condition was untreatable.

Sending her to the hospital was just a futile attempt to tidy up after the fact. A slight misstep could also offend the Ludden family, risking their livelihoods.

This mess was created by Hera in the first place, so having her clean it up was probably the best option.

Meanwhile, Jane was eagerly looking forward to Hera coming soon. If she ended up causing Mary to die, Andrew's family would be out for good, leaving Ralph and her with the entire Ludden residence. It was a triple win.

Everyone had their own thoughts as they awaited Hera's arrival.

When Zaid saw Hera, he instantly lost hope. He didn't expect her to be such a young girl. At that moment, he felt it was more practical to ask for Camille's help.

Hera appeared indifferent as she followed Christopher into Mary's room.

After examining Mary's swollen legs, her slender fingers gently rested on Mary's wrist. Her brows furrowed slightly.

Mary's body's response was not what she had anticipated.

"How could this happen?" she asked Pansy.

With that question, despair filled the hearts of all the medical staff.

It seemed everyone had been waiting in vain. She didn't even know how Mary's condition had gotten so bad, so how could they expect her to save Mary? In the end, they would have to handle the aftermath themselves.

"How dare you ask? If it weren't for you persuading Mary to stop her medication, would she be in this situation?" Jane said. "Shut up. I wasn't asking you." Hera shot her a glare.

All the medical staff were taken aback. They hadn't expected Hera to not only fail to cure the patient but also to be so audacious!

Seeing that, Alice couldn't help but silently applaud Hera. In the Ludden family, she had to adhere to the rules and respect her elders, so she always avoided contradicting Jane to prevent any repercussions.

However, Hera wasn't part of the Ludden family, so she didn't have to follow those rules.

"You" Jane tried to retort.

"Jane, can you please quiet down and let Hera do her work?" Andrew interjected before she could continue.

Jane, as the eldest daughter-in-law

of the Ludden family, had never suffered such humiliation. She wanted to confront Hera right then

and there, but with interests at stake, she held her tongue.

"Go on." Hera looked at Pansy beside her.

"Mrs. Ludden Senior stopped taking all medication as you requested, and this is what happened," Pansy recounted the whole incident.

"Are you sure all the medication has been stopped?" Hera asked.

"Yes. Mrs. Ludden Senior has only been taking medication prescribed by Ms. Chime recently. All other medications have been stopped," Pansy affirmed.

Hera nodded and said to Ralph, "You can start investigating who has been poisoning Mrs. Ludden Senior."

Chapter 335

As soon as Hera said that, everyone present was shocked.

The Ludden family was known for their scholarly background, strict rules, and upright family values, setting an example for the other influential families. It was unimaginable that anyone would dare to openly commit such a serious offense as poisoning Mary.

"If you don't know how to diagnose, just say so. Don't try to sow discord here. Just inciting Mary to stop taking her medication is enough to hold you criminally responsible." Jane chuckled.

"Shut up." Ralph glared at Jane.

Jane was taken aback. She didn't think Ralph would actually believe it! However, on second thought, Ralph's deep bond with Mary meant he wouldn't tolerate anyone harming her in the slightest.

Thus, Hera's words instantly captured Ralph's attention.

"What do you mean by that?" Ralph looked at Hera sternly, clearly implying that if she didn't explain herself properly, she wouldn't be leaving the Ludden residence unscathed.

"I had Mrs. Ludden Senior stop her medication for a week to allow her body to metabolize the steroids she had been taking and to reduce the strain on her organs.

"Although the steroid medication has been discontinued, the steroids in her body have increased rather than decreased. This suggests that someone has secretly injected Mrs. Ludden Senior with steroids.

"The overdose of steroids has caused deep vein inflammation in her knees, leading to joint effusion and swelling. This has nothing to do with stopping the medication."

"Is that really the case?" Ralph turned to Zaid.

Zaid found Hera's words somewhat amusing. In his over 30 years of medical practice, he had never encountered a medication for rheumatoid arthritis that didn't contain steroids.

He remarked, "Steroid medication isn't the enemy. The condition of Mrs. Ludden Senior's legs necessitates the use of steroids. If the dosage is properly managed, it won't be harmful to her body. On the contrary, it can control the inflammation from rheumatoid arthritis."

After a brief pause, he added, "Mrs. Ludden Senior has always relied on medication to prevent inflammation. Her current issue is that after stopping the medication, the inflammation returned. It wasn't promptly treated, so it became infected.

"The effusion and swelling compressed the blood vessels, causing necrosis in her leg."

Their diagnoses were completely contradictory, and even their approaches to medication were different.

Ralph's brows furrowed deeply. On

one side was a family doctor he had worked with for over a decade, and on the other, a young girl who was not yet of age. Obviously, Zaid

seemed more credible. Content

Seeing the doubt on Ralph's face, Andrew quickly said, "Ralph, you promised to give Hera a chance."

Hera looked at Andrew in surprise.

His words made her realize that the

situation was more serious than

Qu

what Christopher had told on the way.

Since Andrew and his family placed so much trust in her, she couldn't let them down. Most importantly, she couldn't allow anyone to frame her!

"Mr. Andrew, pardon my bluntness,

but is she even a registered doctor?

Does she have any clinical

experience with rheumatoid

arthritis? You're gambling with Mrs.

Ludden Senior's life! Content

"Mrs. Ludden Senior has already driven Dr. Shadow away because of her. Are you trying to drive me away too?" Zaid brought up the miracle doctor.

In fact, it was a major taboo for a patient to consult two doctors simultaneously.

If they insisted on having Hera treat Mary, he definitely wouldn't clean up the mess!

As expected, as soon as he said so, Ralph made his decision. He turned to Jane and asked, "Haven't you contacted Ms. Chime yet?"

Andrew exclaimed, "Ralph!"

"I'll call her now," Jane said as she turned to leave and make the call.

"Have none of you noticed the needle marks on Mrs. Ludden Senior's arm?" Hera suddenly asked.

"What?" someone blurted out.

Chapter 336

Everyone was shocked when they heard that.

Pansy and the medical staff stepped forward to check and found that there were indeed a few hidden needle marks in Mary's arm joints. Some needle marks had scabbed over, so they were difficult to notice if they didn't look closely.

Pansy exclaimed, "H-How could this happen? Mrs. Ludden Senior hasn't taken any medications or accepted any treatment during this period! Why are there needle marks?"

She was Mary's maid. Except for eating and sleeping, she spent all of her time with Mary. How did the needle marks appear on Mary's arm?

"The injection technique is professional, so they don't leave behind bruises. Without close observation, you wouldn't have noticed it," Hera explained. When the Luddens heard the word "professional", they subconsciously turned to Zaid. Aside from Pansy, he was the second most frequent visitor to Mary's room.

Jane paused just as she was about to leave. She turned her gaze to Hera meaningfully, surprised that this girl truly had medical skills.

Zaid couldn't help but shiver when he noticed everyone staring at him. "I—"

He was going to defend himself when Jane interjected, "Dr. Gomez, we've always been kind to you. How dare you harm Mary!"

Zaid found it difficult to defend himself. "Mrs. Ludden, I didn't—"

"Apart from Pansy, you spent the most time alone with Mary! Only you had the chance to harm her. Get him and investigate it!" Jane commanded. As soon as she said that, the bodyguards immediately captured Zaid.

Jane's change of attitude appeared like she was eager to cover up something. Alice deliberately said, "Jane, why are you in such a hurry? You should let Dr. Gomez finish his words."

Jane acted to be upright. "I won't allow anyone to hurt Mary, even if he has worked with us for over ten years!"

Hera wasn't interested in the

Luddens internal squabbles and interrupted them coldly, "If you still want Mrs. Ludden Senior to stay alive, go argue outside. Don't disturb

me"

"Let's go out," Ralph said to Jane solemnly. He then looked at Hera and asked, "How sure are you of curing my mother?"

Hera was calm in dealing with

issues. Despite her distinct

personality, she looked as if she had

complete control over everything. He thought she had the potential to be a big shot.

No wonder Andrew believed her. Ralph was willing to give Hera a chance too.

He emphasized, "You must think carefully. If something happens to my mother, I won't let you off!"

Hera was speechless at his threat. Did he mean he would kill her?

"I'm always sure of myself when treating patients."

"Alright then." Ralph admired her confidence.

It was best if her abilities could match her arrogance, or she wouldn't be able to leave the Ludden residence safely.

Ralph led everyone out of Mary's

net

room, leaving only Hera and two medical staff. They said they were staying to help her, but Hera could tell they were monitoring her.

She didn't care about being monitored. She soon spread out the acupuncture kit and started treatment on Mary.

Three hours later, Hera packed up the acupuncture kit. Ignoring the two shocked medical staff, she turned and left Mary's room.

As soon as she went out, the butler standing guard outside said, "Thank you for your efforts, Ms. Youngworth. Please stay here tonight."

Chapter 337

Hera glanced at the six bodyguards clad in black who were guarding outside the corridor. She knew her only choice was to agree. The Luddens intended to restrain her before Mary awoke. If something happened to Mary, they would promptly bring her to justice. "Get me clean clothes," she said.

She had just finished surgery and was a little tired. She wanted to take a bath.

"Yes, miss. Please follow me." The butler respectfully led Hera the way.

Ralph and others soon received the news. Aside from Zaid, everyone went to Mary's room.

They then noticed that Mary's swelling knees had receded and her legs were as intact as before. Although she hadn't woken up yet, she looked much better than before. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

Zaid previously stated that nobody could treat Mary's legs.

If he were present, he would claim it a miracle. He would even put aside his arrogance and apologize to Hera before asking how she did it. It was unfortunate that he was locked up currently and unable to do so.

"What did Hera say?" Ralph asked the two medical staff.

"Ms. Youngworth said Mrs. Ludden Senior will wake up tomorrow. Don't disturb her rest tonight," one of the medical staff replied.

Ralph nodded. "Okay, we'll go out. You two stay with Pansy to take care of my mother."

Before leaving, Jane peeked at Mary's sleeping face gloomily. She didn't expect Hera to have such excellent medical skills.

Camille had treated Mary, but her treatment hadn't been particularly effective. Hera, on the other hand, took only three hours to improve Mary's condition.

Alice also didn't expect Hera to know medical skills and was increasingly favoring her.

Andrew was wise to have previously vouched for Hera. She had to find a way to make Hera her daughter-in-law.

At the Everett residence, Judy hung

up the phone and reported to Mildred in the living room, "Madam, it was a call from the Luddens was a

butler. He said Ms. Hera will stay at the Ludden residence tonight."

Mildred couldn't help but frown upon hearing that..

When Christopher came to find Hera in the afternoon, she saw them go out together.

Last time, Hera returned unhappily at midnight. And now, she would stay overnight at the Ludden residence. Did she break up with Bernard to be with Christopher?

Mildred didn't understand. Hera seemed smart, but she was stupid when it came to relationships. Why would she date Christopher rather than Bernard?

Ralph was the current head of the Luddens of she married Andrew's son, she would have to keep a low profile. Christopher was simply incomparable to the Killians future heir, Bernard.

Before Mildred could speak, Gino, who was playing games on the couch, muttered, "Is she unaware of the rumors or something? How could she spend the night at the Ludden residence?"

Judy was rendered speechless. When Hera often stayed at Bernard's house, she never heard Gino complain about anything.

Gino had just lost the game. He angrily threw aside the global limited edition game console while grumbling, "Doesn't she know people on the school forum are gossiping about her marrying Christopher?"

"She shouldn't stay at the Ludden residence. Why isn't Bernard doing anything? Why is he allowing her to hang out with other men?"

Mildred nodded. "You think Mr. Killian is a better match for your sister too, right?"

Chapter 338

"Not at all!" Gino didn't want to admit it. "But Bernard is rich!"

Mildred placed the game console he had thrown aside in front of him. "Look at this first before you say that."

Bernard had previously given him a priceless and unmarketable global limited edition game console.

Gino was at a loss for words. Because he had profited from Bernard, he unwillingly stated, "He's only a little better than that fake academic, Christopher."

He had heard that Christopher was a fake academic, so he had a negative impression of him. If he had to choose between Bernard and Christopher to be his brother-in-law, he would choose Bernard.

At least Bernard was more attractive and wealthy.

Mildred analyzed it for him, "Mr. Killian is far superior to Christopher. He'll be the Killians' heir, but Christopher may not be the Luddens' heir. If Mr. Killian becomes your brother-in-law, he can buy you anything. Everything in the Killians may belong to your sister one day."

Gino thought it made sense. So, he returned to his room to message Bernard.

...

Hera was taking a shower in the guest room's bathroom. Despite her phone continuously ringing outside, she took her time finishing her bath. Then, she wrapped herself in a bath towel and went out.

The incoming call had stopped, indicating ten missed calls from Bernard.

She was about to call back when her phone rang again. She immediately answered the call and asked, "Hello, Bernie. What's the matter?"

The other end of the phone was quiet for a while before he said, "You finally answered my call."

"I just took a shower." When Hera wiped her wet hair with a towel, she didn't hear his response. Glancing at the phone, she saw that the call had been hung up.

Immediately afterward, Bernard sent her a video call invitation.

Hera was rendered speechless.

"Let me see where you are."

et

As soon as she connected the video, she saw Bernard's handsome face. His background was an antique corridor with red lamps. Hera was impressed by the view. That was the promenade in the courtyard of the Kiffian residence.

When she was little, Daphne often took her to the promenade and told her stories about the carved images on the walls.

Hera fell into a daze as she recalled her distant memories.

Bernard saw her unfamiliar background and said, "You don't seem to be at home."

She responded, "Yes, I'm at the

Ludden residence. I just performed minor surgery on Mrs. Ludden Senior. I felt dirty, so I took a shower."

He asked, "Are you going to stay there tonight?"

a

Hera was stunned for a moment before wondering how he guessed it.

But she wasn't going to tell him the whole truth, so she only responded lightly, "Yes, Mrs. Ludden Senior has just come out of danger. I'm going to wait until she wakes up. I'll return after I make sure she's fine"

"Show me the interior of the guest room," Bernard suddenly requested.

Despite her confusion, Hera switched the camera to the rear and showed him the guest room.

He was relieved to find that there was only her in the room with no men.

"I'm ready, Bernie. Let's go."

Suddenly, Hera heard a gentle female voice coming from Bernard's side.

Chapter 339

Seeing Camille approach him, Bernard decisively hung up the video call and put away his phone.

She smiled. "Bernie, who were you video chatting with?"

She wore a Chanel classic black and white tweed suit, with her long hair cascading down her back. At the top of her head was a black beret. She appeared elegant and exuded a gentle and charming temperament.

"It's none of your business," Bernard replied coldly. Then, he turned around and walked in the opposite direction of the corridor.

Sensing his coldness, Camille felt a hint of bitterness.

When he was video chatting just now, his eyes were filled with tenderness. But as soon as she came over, he instantly became indifferent.

She wished Bernard could look at her with such tender eyes as well.

"Wait for me, Bernie." Camille wanted to catch up with Bernard. However, she was wearing high heels and couldn't walk quickly. He had no intention of waiting for her either.

Suddenly, one of her high heels tilted, and she almost fell. She held onto the pillar in time, feeling a stinging pain in her foot.

"Bernie, wait for me! I sprained my ankle!"

She tried to stop Bernard, but he didn't slow down. He soon walked out of the corridor, disappearing behind the rockery.

Camille had no choice but to take some time to massage her foot.

After a while, she heard footsteps from the other end of the corridor. She thought Bernard had returned and looked up excitedly, but it turned out to be Douglas.

Although it wasn't Bernard, Camille was still happy because she assumed Douglas had come to her at Bernard's instruction. It proved that Bernard wasn't so heartless toward her.

"Ms. Chime, Mr. Killian asked you to hurry up and not to waste his time," Douglas said.

Bernard was already dissatisfied when he was asked back for a blind date. He'd be angry if Camille wasted more time.

Frowning, Camille d stated, "I accidentally sprained my foot. It hurts."

"Really?" Douglas asked. He thought it was her trick to attract Bernard.

Camille was speechless for a moment.

"It hurts, and it seems to be swollen," she explained as she took off one of her high heels.

If she were not wearing pantyhose, which made it inconvenient, she would have removed her socks to show him that she wasn't lying.

As Camille appeared to be serious, Douglas nodded and responded, "Got it."

He stroked his chin and thought for a while before saying, "Aren't you a doctor? You can cure it yourself. You can't just sit here and wait for it to recover, right? Everyone is waiting for you."

Camille wondered if Douglas was gay. Or did he say that on purpose? Couldn't he lend her a hand?

Meanwhile, Hera was staring at

Bernard's chat box. She heard the

woman's voice just now. It was get

gentle, ambiguous, and somewhat familiar, like Camille's. Content

Bernard didn't say anything at that time. He directly hung up the video call and texted her: "I have something to do. I'll talk to you later."

Hera pondered for a long time before asking, "Who's that woman?"

Right then, someone knocked on the door.

"Who is it?"

"Hera, it's me." Alice's voice came from outside.

Hera changed into her clothes and went to open the door. "Hello, Alice. What's the matter?"

"Are you hungry? I asked the chef to make you some food," Alice said as she turned sideways.

Christopher was behind her. When

he

he pushed the dining trolley over noticed Hera had just taken a shower. Her hair was wet, and her ears were slightly flushed.

"Hello, Hera," he greeted shyly.

Chapter 340

"Thank you." Hera happened to be hungry, so she stepped back and let Christopher push the dining trolley into the room.

"You're welcome. Please don't take Mary's matter to heart. We didn't mean anything else. Jane has always been snobbish and caused a misunderstanding this afternoon. I apologize for the offense."

Alice stepped into the room and placed the dishes on the table.

Hera didn't mind what she said and casually tied up her wet hair with a towel.

Christopher's cheeks heated up when he saw her slender neck exposed. It was the first time he saw her right after she took a bath. He felt nervous.

"Mom, let's not disturb Hera. Let's go," he said to Alice.

After that, he took the initiative to push the dining trolley out.

Alice noticed his ears had reddened and was pleased. Her bookworm son had finally become interested in love and stopped focusing so much on his studies.

She wanted to stay with Hera, so she asked Christopher to go out first.

Hera had no idea what they were thinking. After washing her hands, she sat down to eat.

She wasn't used to talking while eating, so her manners made her appear elegant. The longer Alice looked at her, the more she liked her.

After Hera finished eating, Alice asked, "Hera, what do you think of Chris?"

Hera wiped her mouth with a napkin and remarked, "He's good, but sexual orientation isn't a disease. I can't cure him."

Alice was confused. She couldn't understand what Hera meant.

Right then, someone knocked on the door again.

Hera went to open the door and saw Jane outside, followed by a maid pushing a dining trolley.

"Ms. Youngworth, I brought you some snacks." Jane smiled.

After witnessing Mary being cured by Hera and realizing she was a capable person, she changed her view of Hera. If she couldn't get rid

of this talent, she could el?

friends and keep a positive relationship with Hera. Content

et

During dinner, Jane heard that Alice had delivered a meal to Hera, so she prepared snacks instead. She wouldn't let Alice win over Hera. "Thanks, but I-"

Hera didn't need snacks. But before

she finished speaking, Jane

he

interjected, "You're welcome. Please don't take Mary's matter to heart. We didn't mean anything else. Alice was to blame for finding the wrong doctor, which caused a

misunderstanding this afternoon. I apologize for the offense." Content

Hera was quite speechless. She wondered what Jane's and Alice's intentions were. Had they discussed things before coming to her?

"Ms. Youngworth, this is my son, Aaron. What do you think of him?"

Jane showed Hera a photo of Aaron on her phone.

Hera didn't answer but completely opened the door, allowing Jane to discover Alice in the room.

"How about you two go out and discuss it first before coming to me?"

Jane and Alice exchanged glances embarrassedly.

After Hera invited them out, the room finally became quiet. Looking at her WhatsApp, she wondered what Bernard was doing because he hadn't answered her message yet.

She felt uncomfortable when she thought he might still be with another woman at this hour.

So, she sent Bernard an emoji of a peeking kitten as a reminder to respond to her message. As a result, he still didn't reply after she dried her hair.

Hera directly called him, and the call

her was a female voice. "Hello,

went through, but what a de

Bernie is taking a shower. Is there anything you need from him?"

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 341 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 341

Chapter 341

Hera was stunned for a moment, but she remained calm. She asked, "Who are you?"

The other end of the phone abruptly went silent. Looking at the screen, she found that the call had been hung up.

She stared at the screen and appeared surprisingly calm, but the atmosphere in the room became frigid.

On the other hand, Camille heard the sound of running water in the bathroom stop, followed by the sound of the door opening. She instantly ended the call.

"How dare you touch my phone!"

Sensing the cold pressure, she turned around to see Bernard in a bathrobe. His hair was wet, and he exuded an appalling chill.

Different from usual, his cheeks and ears were flushed abnormally, indicating that he had been drugged.

"Bernie"

"Get out!" Bernard grabbed the phone back and distanced himself from Camille. He appeared fierce as if he would kill her if she took one step closer. She swallowed involuntarily, glanced at the door, and pretended to be innocent. "Someone has locked the door from outside."

Bernard's expression darkened when he heard that. The atmosphere reached an impasse.

Chad had asked Aurora to organize tonight's dinner. Because Ember was present, he couldn't reject it.

Bernard thought it was only a meal, and he never expected someone to put drugs in his food.

It was obvious that they intended to get the two of them to have sex by locking Camille in his room. If the deed was done, he wouldn't be able to escape from marrying her.

As the top of the four influential families, the Killians were so shameless to use such a despicable method!

"Sorry, I didn't know they would do that."

Camille frowned and continued to act innocent. "Although I like you, I don't want to force you. They've gone too far."

After saying that, she swiftly added, "But please don't blame them. They meant well."

Bernard ignored her words and checked the communication records. The latest call was from "Sweetie". He frowned slightly, appearing gloomier.

Seeing that he was ignoring her, Camille stated, "I can detoxify the drug in your body. Do you need my help?"

As she spoke, she stepped closer to Bernard. She didn't like the idea of forcing him. Her mother had taught her since childhood that girls should be reserved.

But what had she gotten in return after being reserved for six years? Bernard went to a hotel with another woman instead!

Since she had such a wonderful chance right now, she no longer wanted to remain reserved!

Even if Bernard disliked her, she would be the Killians' future heiress if she became pregnant with his child. As long as she became his wife, she was confident to win over him one day.

Camille's scent caused Bernard's heat to surge wildly. He warned her fiercely, "Don't come near me!"

Holding his phone tightly, he turned around and returned to the bathroom, not forgetting to lock the door.

Camille became pale and froze in place as she heard the door being locked.

Bernard would rather take a cold shower than touch her. Did he hate her so much?

In the bathroom, Bernard turned on the shower and poured ice-cold water over himself. It relieved some of his heat, but it couldn't extinguish his desire.

After a half-hour shower, Bernard turned off the shower, took his phone, and opened WhatsApp.

Hera was lying on the bed. She had

been staring at the ceiling in a for half an hour without an

vel

expression on her face. Soom, she received a video call invitation.

She looked at her phone and found that it was Bernard.

While sitting up, she connected the call. His wet and handsome face soon appeared on her screen.

He looked more attractive with his face flushed.

Hera was stunned. But when she thought of what had happened half an hour ago, she returned to coldness.

Looking at the expressionless girl with cold eyes on the screen, Bernard knew that she must have misunderstood. "Sweetie, I was plotted against..."

His voice was hoarse, mixed with a bit of trembling caused by the cold.

Hera raised an eyebrow slightly. She said nothing as she looked at Bernard on the screen.

"Can you help me? That woman is still outside."

She teased, "Wouldn't you be disgracing that woman?"

"It's none of my business!" Bernard said hoarsely.

Camille was simply a woman who wanted to climb into his bed. If his subordinates had been present, she wouldn't be in his room.

Hera finally believed him after hearing his heartless tone.

If she had been there, she might

have

able to help him, but

nearly 180 miles

bet

too late for her to rushe

It

Bernard was silent for a while before saying, "Forget it. I'll figure it out myself."

Early the next morning, Hera awoke when she heard someone knock on the door, only to realize that she had fallen asleep at some point last night. ,

Swn

She had left her phone beside the bed. It had run out of battery and shut down automatically.

She wondered how Bernard got over last night's problem.

The person outside was still knocking on the door, so Hera put aside her emotions and went to open it.

It was Pansy. She said excitedly, "Ms. Youngworth, Mrs. Ludden Senior is awake. Please go over and take a look!"

Hera yawned lazily and glanced outside the door.

The bodyguards who had been guarding her last night had gone. It seemed that the Luddens had released her from house arrest.

"Got it." Hera took her time washing up and changing her clothes before following Pansy to Mary's room.

In the room, Alice and Jane were already serving Mary, competing to be the best daughter-in-law.

As soon as Hera entered, Jane stood up and approached her, greeting her with a smile, "Ms. Youngworth, did you sleep well last night?"

She frowned slightly at Jane's attitude. She could tell Jane was approaching her with intent.

Chapter 342

"Hera, you haven't had breakfast, right?"

Alice also smiled and stepped forward, pushing Jane away and handing Hera a plate of snacks. "I brought you some snacks. You can eat some first to fill your stomach."

"What are you doing, Alice? I was the one who came here first!" Jane grumbled sullenly, pushing Alice away and refusing to be outdone.

Alice refused to give in. Forcing a smile, she gritted her teeth and said, "You're wrong, Jane. Chris and Hera met first."

They were pushing each other as if vying to take Hera as their own.

Ralph had contacted several authoritative foreign rheumatoid arthritis doctors in advance last night. When Mary awoke at 5:00 am, they immediately examined her.

They then found that her original severe rheumatoid arthritis had been relieved and turned into early symptoms. That was simply a miracle.

Only then did everyone confirm that Hera had superb medical skills. She was even better than Camille!

Thus, Jane wanted Hera to be her ally.

Hera didn't know what they were thinking, so she stepped away and walked past them.

Pansy cleared her throat, trying to remind Jane and Alice to pay attention to their images.

"Hello, Hera. Come here. I apologize for their disrespect. They're vying for you to become their daughter-in-law." Mary, who was leaning on the bedside, smiled as she waved to Hera.

Hera was rendered speechless, thinking that they were wasting their efforts.

"Don't be rude here! Get out!" Ralph, who came in from behind, scolded.

Alice glared at Jane and walked out angrily. She felt that Jane was deliberately trying to grab Hera from her.

Jane smiled triumphantly. Indeed, she was hindering Alice on purpose.

el

After Hera took Mary's pulse, she said, "It's no longer a big problem. Take the medicine on time and take good care for three months. Your condition will gradually improve."

"You're more capable than Ms. Chime." Mary smiled as she held Hera's hand. "My legs feel much more comfortable than before."

"Do you still have the medicine Camille prescribed for you?" Hera asked.

"Yes, I do." Mary then ordered Pansy, "Go get it."

Pansy nodded and walked into another room before bringing over a large bag of medicine.

Hera took it and looked through it. They were only regular medicines for rheumatoid arthritis, nothing special.

When she was about to give the bag back, she spotted a white bottle with no label. She took it out, opened it, and poured out a few black pills.

"This is the special medication that

Ms. Chime gave before. She asked Mrs. Ludden Senior to take it for a week. Mrs. Ludden Senior only took it for two days before you advised her to stop, so she didn't take the rest," Pansy explained.

Hera raised an eyebrow. It seemed that Camille had imitated her special medication.

et

She remembered Samson saying that someone had put her special medication on the production line. Before they had time to find out who it was, the culprit showed herself up.

She crushed a pill with her fingertips and sniffed it, frowning slightly.

"The effect of this medicine is incredible. After I took it, the pain in my knees immediately stopped," Mary said.

Hera was speechless.

That was natural. Although most of the medicinal ingredients used in this imitation were the same as those she used, one of the most important ingredients was different.

Camille replaced the Eclipse Stone with poppy juice!

Chapter 343

Poppy fruit could be used as medicine. Its juice had anesthetic, analgesic, hypnotic, and antispasmodic effects, but excessive use could lead to addiction. It was the main element in opium production.

Camille was so bold to use such a harmful substance in such large quantities. She even asked Mary to eat it for a week. She was causing more harm than good to her patient!

Was this how she treated patients under the name Dr. Shadow?

Hera was angry. Her bottom line was to save people and not harm them.

"What's wrong with this medicine?"

Ralph noticed Hera's expression change and focused on the pills in her hand.

She returned to her senses and put the pills back into the bottle. "It's nothing. I'll take this away. Don't take medicine randomly in the future."

Mary also noticed Hera's anger. She realized something but didn't say a word. Instead, she showed a cheerful smile. "I won't take anything else from here on out. I'll only take the medicine you prescribe."

After she finished speaking, she turned to Ralph and said seriously, "I heard that you made things difficult for Hera when I was in a coma. Apologize to her. Also, pay her the medical bills."

Ralph was straightforward and immediately apologized to Hera, "I apologize for the offense, Ms. Youngworth. You're my mother's great savior. If you face any difficulties in the future, you can come to me—"

"Stop talking nonsense and come up with something practical! Just give her a few million!" Mary interrupted him.

Hera had mentioned that she was short of money, so this sum of money should be enough to satisfy her.

Hera and Ralph were quite speechless.

"Mom, don't be so vulgar." After saying that, Ralph took a check from his assistant and handed it to Hera. "Here is our sincerity, Ms. Youngworth. Please accept it."

Hera looked at the check, which was worth 30 million. She felt satisfied and accepted it with ease.

"I'll deliver the rest of the medicine when the time comes," she said.

"Thank you, Ms. Youngworth," Ralph responded.

Afterward, he asked the maid to bring breakfast. Hera stayed in Mary's room, chatting and having breakfast with her.

Mary was kind and reminded Hera of Catherine.

Catherine hadn't taken the initiative to contact Hera since she took Giselle back to the village.

Although Hera occasionally called

her, they never talked much.

Catherine always claimed she

busy and would hang up the call shortly.

After finishing breakfast, Mary sighed heavily.

"What's wrong, Mrs. Ludden Senior?" Hera asked.

Mary looked at Hera and sighed again. "It's a pity that Chris likes men. Otherwise, you might become my granddaughter-in-law." Hera said helplessly, "I already have a boyfriend."

"You have a boyfriend?" Mary was shocked and asked, "Who is he? Is he good to you? Does he have money? If not, break up with him. If Chris is out of the question, you may consider Aaron."

Hera remained silent for a moment before gently stating the name, "It's Bernard Killian."

The sound of a vase falling on the floor behind the screen interrupted their conversation.

Pansy immediately went out. She then saw the person outside the screen and exclaimed in surprise, "Mr. Christopher, Mr. Everett!"

Christopher had brought Gideon in

and they happened to overhear the

conversation. As he was too

vel

stunned, he accidentally knocked over the vase on the side.

Content

Chapter 344

Christopher was surprised to learn that Hera and Bernard were a couple.

His mind went blank. To cover up his panic, he instinctively squatted down to collect the fragments of the vase.

"Oh, Mr. Christopher, don't touch the broken fragments or you may prick your hand! I'll have someone come over and clean the mess up." Pansy immediately stopped him.

Gideon glanced at the flustered Christopher in surprise, thinking that there were quite a few guys who had a crush on Hera!

Mary was a little surprised when she heard Bernard's name, but she instantly responded happily, "Bernard is lucky! He's an excellent man. If he bullies you, you must break up with him. I welcome you to be my family at any time."

Hera was at a loss for words.

At this time, Christopher and Gideon came in.

"Mrs. Ludden Senior, I'm here to take my sister home," Gideon said.

Hera looked at him, a little surprised.

"Going back now? Hera, you can stay for two more days," Mary said reluctantly, holding Hera's hand.

"Mrs. Ludden Senior, it's New Year's Eve the day after tomorrow. Ms. Youngworth has to return to reunite with her family," Pansy reminded. Hearing this, Mary reluctantly let go of Hera's hand. "You must visit me during the holiday season. I'll prepare a big gift for you."

"Sure." Hera stood up.

When she saw Christopher, she remembered something and turned to Mary. "By the way, it's normal for men to like men. Look, I have a friend who also likes men. This is congenital. Sexual orientation isn't a disease. You may let it take its course."

When she comforted Mary, she noticed that her phone had already been charged. So, she searched Instagram for a photo of Leon showing affection and showed it to Mary.

"This is my friend and his boyfriend."

Mary put on her reading glasses and

took a look Immediately, she

snatched the phone and exclaimed,

"Huh, isn't he that biracial star? heard before that he debuted for his boyfriend. Oh, so this is his O boyfriend? He's handsome

Christopher's eyes widened.

He remembered Bernard telling him that

With the scene in front of him, he realized he ein had been duped by Bernard!

Soked slash fiction.

Would it be too late for him to explain now?

"It turns out that love can exist between men!" Mary exclaimed as she accepted Hera's viewpoint.

Christopher didn't know how to explain it. He didn't want that kind of love at all!

...

It was the Killian residence at Jedburgh.

"I heard that Ms. Chime came out of Mr. Killian's room intact this morning."

"I heard about it too. She didn't look good when she came out. When the maids went in to clean the room, Mr. Killian's sheets were neat and clean. It seems like nothing happened to them last night."

"Are you sure? I heard Mr. Killian was drugged last night. Did nothing happen between them? There were only the two of them in the room!" "Mr. Killian is so good at enduring."

As soon as Camille approached Aurora's courtyard, she heard several maids gossiping in the corner of the corridor.

Turning gloomy, she stepped forward and scolded, "How dare you guys openly speak ill of your employer! Do you still remember the rules?"

When the maids saw Camille, they immediately dispersed. Someone then muttered, "But you're not our employer."

Chapter 345

Camille clenched her fists, thinking that the maids only had the audacity to be rude to her because they were working under Aurora. "Good morning, Ms. Chime. It's cold out here. Please come inside." Aurora's maid, Talia Byrd, heard the commotion and came out. Camille took a deep breath to calm herself down. Then, she turned around and smiled. "Good morning. Has Aurora gotten up?"

"She's up and waiting to have breakfast with you." Talia smiled.

When they entered the living room, Roman sneered as he came out from behind the wall.

Was Bernard good at enduring? It was evident that he preferred men. Even when he was drugged, he showed no interest in women.

Roman believed Camille was dumb for having a crush on Bernard.

"Mom, I'm here to have breakfast with you." He turned around and entered the living room.

Aurora was entertaining Camille at the dining table. Seeing Roman's arrival, she greeted happily, "Good morning, Roman."

Then, she asked Talia to prepare a set of cutlery for Roman.

"When I passed by the flower shop, I saw the beautiful carnations in bloom, so I brought you a bouquet."

Roman took out the pink carnations hidden behind his back and gave them to Aurora.

His way of making people happy worked well for her. Carnations were often given as gifts to mothers, and they satisfied Aurora greatly too. "Thank you, my good boy. Go wash your hands before having breakfast." Aurora smiled as she received the flowers and handed them to Talia. Roman went into the kitchen to wash his hands before coming out. He sat next to Aurora, opposite to Camille.

He smiled at Camille and suddenly said, "Ms. Chime, you didn't get along well with Granduncle Bernard last night, right?"

Camille had just pushed this issue out of her thoughts. When Roman brought it up again, she appeared unhappy.

"Don't be rude, Roman." Aurora pretended to be angry with Roman before asking Camille, "Did Uncle Bernard do anything to you?"

When Camille recalled last night's embarrassment, she forced a smile and said, "Mr. Killian is a gentleman. We didn't reach that point. He understands and respects my wishes."

"You don't have to make excuses. Granduncle Bernard doesn't like women at all. He likes men!" Roman said bluntly.

Camille's smile instantly stiffened.

If Bernard really liked men, she wouldn't be so embarrassed. But that wasn't the truth!

As the daughter of the Chime family, she was a genius who had been admired by others since she was little. She had never experienced such humiliation.

"Shut up, Roman. You know nothing!"

Aurora pretended to reprimand

Roman and then told Camille, "Please don't take Roman's

ignorance to heart. If my uncle really

liked men, he wouldn't be having affairs with other women in O Norburgh."

Not only was Camille not comforted, but she was even more distressed.

"We acted a little too hastily last night. I was negligent in that regard. I'll try a different approach next time. Don't worry. My dad, grandmother, and I like you. You'll be Uncle Bernard's wife for sure," Aurora

promised.

e

Camille's complexion improved a little. "I'm aware. Thank you. I'll give you a body examination later."

Aurora was overjoyed. She had gone to great lengths to win Camille over so that she would treat her. That was the most important thing.

She was finally going to have a biological child of her own!

Chapter 346

Meanwhile, Bernard and Chad were in the living room of Chad's main house.

They were facing each other coldly and sullenly. The atmosphere was in a stalemate.

"Don't make such arrangements for me again!" Bernard said coldly.

"What's wrong with Ms. Chime? She's the only marriageable daughter who can match the Killians. She is well-educated and has medical skills. She can help you a lot once you marry her. What else are you dissatisfied with?" Chad said sternly.

"If she's so good, why don't you marry her?" Bernard sneered.

He was half a head taller than Chad, making him appear more frivolous and haughtier as he glanced at Chad.

"Nonsense!" Chad slammed a cup on the ground.

It was one of his favorite antique tea sets. He usually took good care of it, but he smashed it at this moment, showing his anger.

Neil, the butler, was so frightened that he rushed forward to help Chad sit down and coaxed him, "Mr. Chad, please don't get angry."

He then said to Bernard, "Mr. Bernard, Mr. Chad is in poor health. Don't deliberately make him angry."

Of course, Bernard was doing it on purpose. Chad was old enough to be Camille's grandfather, and his wife was still alive.

Bernard's return always irritated Chad. They always concluded their conversations poorly.

"You've gone wild in the last two years! Have you forgotten your upbringing? I should've made you stay in the army for the rest of your life!" Chad slammed the coffee table.

"You should've killed me a long time ago! Isn't it too late to regret it now?" Bernard glared at Chad.

Back then, Chad was the one who caused his mother to die. It was Albert who took him back to the Killians.

After Albert's death, Lucius was imprisoned while Daphne died in a car accident. So, Chad naturally became his guardian.

He had to obey Chad's arrangements because he was young at that time.

Chad's desire to control him now was merely nothing more than a pipe dream.

"You! You..." Chad was so furious that he started coughing violently.

"Mr. Chad, take the medicine!" Neil promptly took out the medicine and poured water for Chad to take it.

After taking the medicine and calming down, Chad looked up, only to find Bernard staring at him indifferently.

His chilly gaze and undisguised hatred made it look as if he were staring at the enemy.

Chad's expression darkened as he

said seriously, "Do you think I can't control you after you've grown up? If you want the two investment

contracts you gave the Everette

be signed smoothly,

me

must obey

UMS

Bernard raised an eyebrow, asking coldly, "What do you want?"

Chad thought Bernard was scared and said sternly, "I don't care how you fool around outside, but your future wife can only be Ms. Chime!"

"I won't marry her. If you like her, you can marry her. My affairs have nothing to do with you! If you arrange such things for me again, I won't hold back anymore."

Following the warning, Bernard turned to leave.

"You presumptuous brat! Do you think I can't control you?" Chad picked up another cup and flung it toward Bernard's back.

The teacup fell and smashed on the threshold, shattering into pieces. The fragments bounced toward the back of Bernard's head from behind. He tilted his head slightly and dodged with ease.

"Calm down, Mr. Chad. Don't let your anger hurt your body. Mr. Bernard is inherently arrogant. The more you force him, the more stubborn he'll be. It be counterproductive Neil hurriedly consoled him.

Chad said sinisterly, "Do you mean I should let him do whatever he wants? I won't let him! Otherwise, he'll believe nobody can control him!"

Neil wanted to persuade Chad more. But in the end, he didn't say anything and only sighed helplessly.

Chapter 347

Outside the yard, Bernard smiled meaningfully.

As he had expected, the Killians had been keeping an eye on him. It was exactly what he wanted.

He took out his phone and made a call. "He has his eyes on the prey. Switch to plan B."

"Yes, sir," Theo responded.

He felt that Bernard was going to great lengths for Hera.

Bernard knew the Killians would eventually target the Everetts, so he planned ahead of time. The two previous Shuttle Ventures investment contracts given to the Everetts were only the start of things.

Next, Theo would put on an act. He would find James and Gideon, provide a big investment, and bring the Everetts under the protection of XS Corporation. That was Bernard's true purpose.

Otherwise, Hera and the Everetts would be suspicious if XS Corporation suddenly offered to invest in the bankrupt Everetts.

He just didn't expect the Killians to notice the Everetts so quickly. Now, the plan would flow more smoothly when they took action.

Theo no longer needed to put on an act. By then, Bernard could invest in the Everetts with the excuse of going against the Killians.

...

In the blink of an eye, it was New Year's Eve.

"Hera, Happy New Year's Eve! Did you mute me on WhatsApp? I keep sending you video invitations, but you never answered me. Let's hop on a video call! I'd like to see if anyone else is on your bed!"

Hera was in a foul mood from being woken up early by Samantha's call. She irritably put the phone away from her ear and turned on the loudspeaker mode. "I want to block you right now."

"Don't do that, my dear. I'm bad at math and miscalculated the time difference. Don't be so angry."

"Go straight to the point."

"Listening to your tone, I can tell your Bernie isn't around-"

"If you keep talking nonsense, I'll hang up."

"I just want to tell you that I sent you a coming-of-age gift. It'll reach your home later. Remember to take it and put it to good use with Bernie!" Hera opened her eyes, her sleepiness disappearing instantly. "What did you send?"

"It's a secret, hehe!"

Hera could tell from her playful laughter that it couldn't be something good.

They chatted a few words. After hanging up, Hera opened WhatsApp. The last chat recorded between her and Bernard was when he wished her a good night after their video call last night.

He had been saying that he was looking forward to her 18th birthday, but he hadn't said anything about her birthday being tomorrow. Could it be that he had forgotten the date?

She put down her phone. Turning around, she hugged Tiramisu, who was sleeping, in her arms. She fell asleep again and didn't get up until 10:30

am.

She reopened WhatsApp and took another look. She received several New Year's Eve wishes, but Bernard still hadn't reached out to her.

Hera put the phone away unhappily. She soon washed up and went downstairs to have breakfast.

Judy had gone home for the holidays. In the living room, Gino was helping Lilith and Mildred decorate the house. The two other men were missing.

After having a simple breakfast, Hera went to offer help. "Where are Gideon and Dad?"

"Something's going on in the

company Mr. Smith, the CEO of XS

Corporation, suddenly extended an invitation to them. It seems that he wants to invest in our company," Lilith explained.

"Oh?" Hera raised an eyebrow.

Chapter 348

Why did XS Corporation suddenly want to invest in Everett Group?

Hera was a little suspicious. However, she could only know the situation after James and Gideon returned.

It took the four of them a long time to decorate their home.

After lunch, Hera went to the mall with Lilith to buy groceries for dinner.

Gino complained, "You can order online and have the groceries delivered to our home. You don't have to run the errands yourself." Despite his complaints, he kept up with them.

"But we can enjoy the lively atmosphere. Am I right, Hera?" Lilith looked at Hera.

Hera nodded in agreement. When she was in the village, Catherine also enjoyed going shopping a few days before New Year's Eve, which was commonly known as stockpiling goods.

On the way there, she checked WhatsApp again and discovered that Bernard still hadn't contacted her. She wondered what he was busy with. She sent him a New Year's Eve wish that she had copied at random from others. Five minutes later, he still didn't reply to her.

When they arrived at the entrance of the mall, Gino confidently said to Hera, "Just pick something you like. It'll be my New Year's gift to you!" She raised an eyebrow. Then, she took out a piece of paper from her pocket and handed it to him.

Gino realized that she had prepared before coming out.

Opening the paper, he found it full of words. "There are so many! Aren't you going too far? You'll break my bank!"

After carefully reading the list, he discovered that there were accessories for a laptop.

Gino exclaimed, "Are you going to assemble a laptop by yourself? That's amazing!"

"Why do you have to assemble it yourself? Wouldn't it be better to buy a ready-made one? I'll buy it for you." Lilith was puzzled.

"You don't understand. There's no ready-made device with such good configurations." Gino shook the list.

Hera could tell he played games a lot because he was familiar with those accessories. She pointed to a computer store across the street.

"Go to that computer store. After you buy them, ask the owner to deliver them to our home. We'll wait for you in front of the supermarket." Gino nodded. "No problem."

Max Thatcher, the owner of the computer store, saw no customers all morning and was about to go home to celebrate New Year's. Right then, someone opened the door of the store. A little boy came in.

Seeing the little boy's expensive clothes, Max believed he might profit from this customer. He immediately smiled and asked, "Welcome! Do you want to buy a computer or a game console?"

Then, he pointed to a game console on the shelf. "This latest game console is popular among elementary school students. Do you want to try it?"

Gino snorted as he looked at it. "That's last year's inventory. I wouldn't want it even if it's free."

He threw the list on the table and said, "Pack up the items on this list and send them to this address."

Max didn't expect this kid to be difficult to decisive. He took up the list and glanced over it. Instantly, his eyes lit up. "Did you make this list?"

"It's none of your business. Just take out the items."

The way Max looked at Gino immediately changed. This wasn't only a knowledgeable kid but also a genius!

He turned around, took out his

phone, and was about to take a photo of the list. Suddenly, a small hand blocked the camera. He raised his eyes and saw Gino looking at him arrogantly.

"Want this list?" Gino asked with a raised eyebrow.

Max nodded instinctively.

"If you give me two sets of the configurations on this list for free, I'll give you this list."

Chapter 349

Ordinary people wouldn't be able to figure out Hera's configuration, but Gino couldn't give the list to Max for free, so he had to at least get an extra set for his use.

"Okay! Just write the address here. I'll send them to you soon," Max agreed immediately.

The equipment on this list cost about 15 grand for one set and about 30 grand for two sets.

But if he posted this list to the Cyber Web forum, his store would experience a significant increase in sales. The profit he could make would considerably outweigh the expenditure of 30 grand.

Gino was pleased with his business acumen at first. However, Max agreed too quickly, making him feel as if he suffered a loss.

He left his address and returned to the mall to find Hera and Lilith.

The three of them returned home after purchasing the groceries. At the same time, Max also delivered the accessories to the Everett residence. Hera verified and discovered that everything was correct and complete but in duplicate.

"Did you make a mistake? There's an extra set," she reminded Max.

"No, I didn't. Thank you for your patronage. Please don't hesitate to call me if you need anything else. Here's my business card. The delivery is free," Max said, handing out his business card.

Hera frowned slightly. Thinking of something, she glanced at Gino.

"Okay, you may leave." Gino accepted the business card haughtily, then turned to Hera with a smile. "The other set is mine. Just treat it as your New Year's gift to me. If you need to run errands again, you can come to me."

Hera was quite speechless. Her younger brother had a talent for making money.

In the evening, when Hera was learning from Lilith how to make ravioli, James and Gideon came back with good news.

"XS Corporation doubled the investment and invested 200 million in Everett Group. The investment terms that Mr. Killian gave us remain unchanged," James said excitedly.

"Why did XS Corporation do that?" Hera felt that things weren't that simple.

Gideon said, "We're also surprised

nét

but Mr. Smith said that he just wants to go against the Killians. This is the first time in my life that I've seen such an eager investor."

That was quite in line with XS Corporation's style. After all, XS Corporation previously seized a significant transaction order from Killian Corporation and ascended to prominence.

Hera asked, "So, did you sign the contract?"

"I did. I asked the attorney to look through the contract. There's nothing disadvantageous to us won't let go of an investment that can benefit us," Gideon remarked.

The most crucial point was that Theo didn't have a crush on Hera, but Bernard's investment was for her.

If they received his help, it would be difficult for them to defend Hera if she had any conflict with Bernard in the future. Hera merely gave a hum in response.

That was quite good since she had been concerned that her revenge against the Killians would involve the Everetts. "What about Mr. Killian?" Mildred suddenly asked.

"He offered less, so we were just choosing the best option," Gideon said bluntly.

After washing his hands, he rolled up his sleeves and joined the ravioli-making. "I'm here to help too. Hera, did you used to make ravioli for New Year's?"

"When I was in the south, the locals didn't eat ravioli but lasagna."

While chatting, they finished making the ravioli. They happily sat around the dining table, set the camera to take a family photo, and started their dinner.

After eating, Mildred, James, and Lilith gave gifts to the children respectively. Then, Mildred said she was going back to her room to rest.

Gideon and James went to the study to discuss the restart of Everett Group while Gino went out with the neighbors to set off fireworks. Lilith went into the kitchen to clean up, leaving Hera alone in the living room.

Chapter 350

Hera had thought everyone would stay up late and gather in the living room to watch TV together on New Year's Eve. After midnight, everyone would bless each other.

That was because Catherine used to do that to her every year.

But now, the living room was empty. Hera checked her WhatsApp and found that Bernard hadn't reached her yet.

She couldn't help but send another peeking emoji. However, he still didn't reply to her.

In her memory, the Killians were always busy on New Year's Eve but not too busy that they didn't have time to check their phones.

Hera was a little unhappy, so she returned to her room and began assembling her laptop.

Three hours later, a brand new high-end laptop was born.

She connected to the internet, hid her IP address, and swiftly entered Jadonia Cyber Web's URL into her browser. After entering, she logged in to the newly registered account Leon had given her.

Username: Not Alternate Account

Level: Newbie

Hera was speechless when she saw that.

Everyone could tell this was her alternate account as soon as they saw her username.

Cyber Web's registered username couldn't be modified. So, Hera had no choice but to browse the forum with that username to see if there were any tasks to take on and raise her level on the website.

There weren't many new posts on the forum, probably because of New Year's Eve. The most popular post was "You Will Want This Ultra-High-End, Portable Laptop".

Hera clicked on it and was curious about the model's configuration.

However, what she saw was a configuration list with elegant handwriting. It was the list she gave Gino.

Hera was at a loss for words.

Just then, Tiramisu jumped onto the table with a mobile phone in its mouth and put it in her hand.

Picking up the phone, Hera noticed a new WhatsApp message displayed on the screen.

Bernard, who had been missing for a day, finally texted her back.

Bernie: "Happy New Year's Eve, sweetie."

The message was followed by a transfer titled "Pocket Money".

Hera squinted at it. When she clicked to receive the transfer, Bernard called her right away.

She answered the phone and said, "You're so busy. Are you finally done?"

Bernard listened to her discontented tone

I

See and said dotingly, "We haven't

other for only 24 hours.

Do you miss me that much

"It's been 24 hours and 59 minutes. It'll be 25 hours soon."

Hera glanced at the time on the computer screen.

Bernard chuckled.

"You even calculated it?"

Hera said nothing.

"Say it."

"Say what?"

"Say that you miss me. I want to hear it."

Hera thought, "Even if I say that, you wouldn't show up. I'd just be torturing myself."

Still, she said, "I miss you, Bernie."

Right then, the time on the computer screen changed to midnight.

Fireworks exploded all over the sky outside the window. They were color

Tand lit up the entire n

sky. It was beautiful.

When Hera stepped out of the balcony,

her view became wider at

Mocking. The sky was filled with dazzling, colorful fireworks. .