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When she was about to go out, the ward door opened, and Shane entered the room with a big plastic bag in his hand.

"Mr. Shane." Sharon waved at Shane as she greeted him happily, while Shane nodded with a warm expression.

"Mr. Shane, I thought you left." Natalie looked at Shane, surprised.

When she woke up, she didn't see Shane around, so she thought he had left.

"I didn't. I just went to change my outfit. Take this. It's breakfast." Shane handed the plastic bag to Natalie.

"Great! I was just about to go buy." Natalie took the breakfast over happily and placed them on the table.

It was almost nine in the morning when they finished breakfast.

Shane looked at her and announced, "You're excused from work for two days. Take good care of Connor. I'll fetch Sharon, so don't worry."

"Thank you, Mr. Shane." Natalie gave him a grateful smile.

After that, Shane sent Sharon to the kindergarten.

After Shane and Sharon left, Natalie got a caretaker to look after Connor while she went to pay Connor's hospital bills at the front desk.

When Natalie was taking out her purse from her bag at the front desk, she heard a familiar voice. "Warren, where are you now?"

It's Susan!

Natalie's eyes flickered as she turned to look in the direction of the voice. Susan was holding hands with a child in front of the lift and she sounded impatient while on a phone call with someone.

Who is that child?

Natalie sized up the child with a doubtful expression, all the while furrowing her brows.

That child is almost the same age as Connor, and he looks like Susan. So, he must be Susan's son. But I've never heard of Susan having another child with Dad.

As she was watching Susan closely in confusion, Susan waved and happily called out, "Here, Warren!"

Natalie's eyes darted to the direction where she was waving. A good-looking, middle-aged man walked toward Susan and her child. He planted a kiss on the child's cheeks before spooning the child from Susan's arms while Susan was grinning from beside.

The three of them looked like a family.

Looking at them, Natalie finally realized something outrageous. Her jaw dropped at this discovery as she covered her mouth with her hands. It took her a long time to recover from the shock.

After taking a deep breath, she took out her phone and quickly took a photo of the three of them.

Susan betrayed Dad... She had an affair with another man and gave birth to a child. Wow—Just Wow!

Natalie noticed Susan was approaching her from the side of her vision, and her heart skipped a beat.

Shoot! I've been spotted!

Natalie's heart raced. She shielded her phone from view using the receipt and quickly deleted the photo after saving a copy to cloud.

By the time she deleted the photo, Susan was already standing in front of her, glaring at her maliciously. "What did you see just now?"

"I saw you standing with a father and a son." Natalie said the truth, as lying would only make matters worse.

Hearing her words, panic flashed across Susan's eyes.

Damn it! She saw everything. Now she must suspect me of having an affair.

Luckily, I noticed her here. I must dispel her suspicion. Or else it'll be troublesome if she tells Harrison.

Susan was thinking of a solution to get herself out of this sticky situation, but when she saw Natalie's cell phone in her hands, her expression changed drastically as her voice turned sharp. "Did you take photos of us?"

"I didn't. Why do I need to take a photo of you?" Natalie replied in a calm tone.

Susan didn't believe her words and snatched her cell phone away.

Natalie wore a calm expression as she let Susan do as she pleased.

Susan didn't find any photos of her after checking the photo gallery of Natalie's cell phone, and her expression turned friendly. "Sorry Natalie, looks like it was all just a misunderstanding."

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"Susan, you misunderstand me too often, don't you?" Natalie gave a sarcastic laugh as she took back her phone. "Why are you so nervous? Are you worried I'll misunderstand your relationship with the father and son?"

Susan's heart skipped a beat but she valiantly kept a straight face. "No, I'm not worried, but they are related to me. He is a distant cousin of mine and that is his son. The child is sick so I brought them here for him to seek treatment."

"Oh, I see." Natalie nodded as if she believed what Susan said to her.

Susan narrowed her eyes and stared at her for a long time. After confirming that Natalie was not pretending, she heaved a subtle sigh of relief and then immediately changed the topic. "By the way, Jasmine told me that you're back in the country for good and have brought along two children. When will you bring them over? Your father and I want to see them; I am very curious about the kids."

"That's not necessary!" Natalie refused without hesitation.

On that night five years ago, she had sworn she would never step into the Smith family home ever again.

Susan had expected this reply; therefore, she was unperturbed. She noticed the medical bill in Natalie's hand and asked, "Is your child sick?"

Natalie rolled her eyes, not even bothering to reply.

You are asking the obvious!

I can't be the pediatrician, can I?

"Let me see what's wrong!" Susan quickly grabbed the bill when Natalie wasn't looking.

Seeing the information written on the bill, Susan remarked in a weird tone, "Oh, Nat, why does your child use your surname but not their father's? Don't the kids have a father? Are they illegitimate children born out of wedlock?"

Hearing that, Natalie trembled with anger. She clenched her fists and was about to retort when a cold bone-chilling voice was heard, "Who are you calling illegitimate?"

"S-Shane?" Susan turned around and unexpectedly met Shane's cold, steely eyes. Her face turned pale with fright.

What's he doing here?

Furthermore, what did he mean by his remark? I was talking about Natalie's kids and he suddenly stood up in her defense. Could it be...?

Susan's countenance turned anxious and she had a bad omen.

Her bad omen was proven right too soon.

"Did you just say that my children are illegitimate?" Shane walked right up to Susan and stood there, towering above and looking down on her like a god.

Susan seemed agitated. Her face became distorted and she shouted, "How could her two children be yours?"

Shane put his arms around Natalie's shoulders and declared, "Nothing is impossible!"

Shane's action took Natalie by surprise but she played along naturally.

She fully understood that he was trying to help her out so that Connor and Sharon would not be labeled "illegitimate".

"Susan, do you still dare to say that my kids have no father and are illegitimate?" Natalie leaned against Shane and looked at Susan without a trace of emotion.

Seeing the two of them behaving so intimately, Susan shook her head in disbelief. "You shameless slut! You dare steal my Jas' fiancé! I am going to teach you a lesson!"

With that, Susan pulled Natalie out of Shane's arms.

She then raised her hand to hit Natalie but in that instant, Shane caught Susan by the wrist and exerted a little strength.

"Ouch!" Susan yelled in pain and a cold sweat broke out on her forehead.

Shane let go of her hand and frowned as he asked Natalie, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Natalie rubbed her wrist where Susan had gripped her; she felt a wave of warmth washing over her heart.

No doubt she could have avoided Susan's blow on her own but Shane's stepping in without hesitation touched her deeply.

"It's great that you are unhurt." Shane nodded, after which he glared at Susan with a face as cold as ice. "How dare you hit my woman?"

Susan held her wrist as it was still in pain. Plucking up her courage, she raised her voice. "You are Jasmine's fiancé. It's only right that I hit her for seducing you!"

Shane replied sarcastically, "Well, well, who would have thought that you would speak up for your stepdaughter? Perhaps the news that you are at loggerheads with Jasmine is fake?"

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At the mention of the word "stepdaughter", Natalie noticed a thoughtful look in Susan's eyes.

She knew that to outsiders, Jasmine was Susan's stepdaughter.

What she did not understand was why her father wanted Jasmine to use her identity. What could this reason be?

Susan replied with a flustered look on her face, "I... we are having some disagreements but Jasmine is still a daughter of the Smith family, so it is right for me to be protective of her. Furthermore, it is wrong of you, Shane, to be with this woman and even have kids behind Jasmine's back. Don't you think you have wronged Jasmine and the Smith family as well?"

At these words, Shane started to look even more intimidating and exuded a frigid vibe. "What right has your Smith family to blame me for anything? If you want to speak about being wronged, well, the Smith family has wronged the Thompson family terribly. Do you really think I am not aware of the fiancée incident back then?"

Susan's pupils shrank on the spot. Does he know that Jas is not his real fiancée?

Then he must also know that Natalie's elopement is fake?

No, that's not possible. I've done it so meticulously and bribed every servant in the Smith family at that time. It's impossible for him to find out anything.

Seeing how uneasy Susan was, Shane's lips relaxed a little. "If not for Jasmine saving me five years ago, I would have declared war on the Smith family instead of forgiving the deception done by your family to mine."

Deceiving the Thompson family?

What does he mean?

Natalie listened in confusion.

Meanwhile, Susan felt relieved. Her heart which was in her throat was now back in its rightful place.

She had guessed correctly that he did not know the truth.

If he had known the whole truth, he would not have forgiven the Smith family for their deception, despite Jasmine having saved him five years ago.

While she was thinking about this, Shane spoke again in his icy and steely voice, "Go back and tell Harrison if he's not happy that I've had children out of wedlock, he may cancel the marriage. Get lost now!"

"Cancel the marriage? No way..." Susan was about to protest but seeing his countenance, she was afraid to speak.

She was scared that if she argued, he might really cancel the marriage there and then. So, she hurried away to avoid trouble.

Natalie looked at Susan's retreating figure. She then turned to Shane and expressed her gratitude. "Mr. Shane, thank you."

"Don't mention it." Shane let go of her shoulder. "I do like Connor and Sharon a lot, so naturally I don't want them to be bullied. I'm just wondering why you got into this argument with Susan."

Natalie's eyes flashed as she smiled bitterly. "We just bumped into each other. As you know, I am a daughter of the Smith family. So, seeing me, Susan just won't leave me alone."

Shane nodded in understanding.

"Mr. Shane, by the way, you mentioned that the Smith family deceived the Thompson family. What happened?" Natalie asked out of curiosity. Shane lowered his eyes and looked at her silently with mixed emotions.

Given Shane's reaction, Natalie did not pursue the matter any further.

Suddenly, her cell phone rang.

Natalie brought out her phone, took a look, and answered immediately, "Hello."

"Ms. Smith, Connor is awake!" The caretaker's voice came into her ears.

"What?" Natalie was overjoyed. "I'm coming immediately!"

At that, she hung up in jubilation and looked at Shane who was watching her. She told him with a grin, "Connor is awake!"

Shane's elegant lips curled in a smile. "Then why don't you get going?"

"Yes, I shall!"

Together they went back to the ward.

Connor, with the help of the caretaker, was slowly taking some soup when he saw the two walking in. Joyfully, he waved to them. "Mommy! Mr. Shane!"

"Connor!" Pursing her lips and unable to control herself any longer, Natalie rushed over and hugged Connor tightly in her arms. "You little meanie! Don't you know how scared Mommy was?"

"Sorry, Mommy. I won't do it again." Like a miniature adult, he patted the back of her hand whilst apologizing and coaxing Natalie.

Shane stood by the side, watching the mother-and-son pair with such tenderness in his eyes that even he was unaware of.

After hugging him for a while, Natalie let go of Connor and observed her son carefully. "Do you feel any discomfort anywhere?"

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"Here." Connor touched his own tummy, giving Natalie a pathetic look. "It feels swollen."

Natalie poked his forehead with her fingertip and remarked, "You deserve it. See if you dare to take seafood again in the future!"

"It's Mr. Shane." Connor pointed at Shane. "He's the one who let me eat it."

Shane looked at him with raised eyebrows but in the end, he took the blame. "He's right. It was me."

"That's enough, Mr. Shane. You don't need to cover up for him. Don't I know this rascal enough? He made you bring him to eat that." Natalie pinched Connor's cheeks.

Connor stuck out his tongue.

At exactly this moment, someone knocked on the door.

Before Natalie could give any instructions, the caretaker had already walked over to open the door.

A man in a white coat came in. Upon seeing Shane, the man broke into a wide and infectious grin as he exclaimed, "Shane, you are really here!"

Shane did not even glance at him; the former was quite obviously showing that he was not enthusiastic about this visitor's presence.

It was Natalie who reacted in surprise. "Dr. Baker?"

She recognized him as the doll-faced doctor who had bandaged her at Starlight Restaurant.

"Hi, how are you guys doing?" Jackson took his eyes off Shane and addressed the mother and her son.

Smiling, Natalie replied, "How about you, Dr. Baker? Why are you here?"

"I'm here to see him," Jackson replied, pouting his lips at Shane.

Natalie gave a nod despite feeling puzzled. How does he know that Shane is here?

Jackson seemed to know what she was thinking and explained with a smile, "This is one of the Baker family's hospitals. A doctor spotted Shane and told me about it."

"Oh, I see." Natalie began to understand.

"What do you want from me?" Shane cast a sidelong glance at Jackson.

Jackson's countenance changed and he looked serious. "You asked me to recommend a brain surgeon, and I think I have the right one for you."

Shane's eyes narrowed. "Whom do you recommend?"

"His name is Stanley Quinn!"

It's him?

Shane's gaze turned gloomy and he pursed his lips.

Jackson did not notice the change in Shane's expression and he continued enthusiastically, "This Dr. Quinn is a first-class brain surgeon. He is well-known abroad and has never failed in any operations before. If Jacqueline's operation is performed by him, it will definitely be successful."

Connor whispered, "Mommy, Mr. Shane and Dr. Baker are talking about Uncle Stanley."

Natalie stroked her head. "Yes, they are."

Though they spoke softly, Jackson overheard them.

Surprised, he turned to them. "You know Stanley?"

"Yes, we do." Connor nodded his little head.

Natalie smiled and said, "Yes, he and I are close..."

Suddenly, she seemed to remember something. Giving Shane a subconscious glance, she corrected herself. "He's my husband."

Shane's face fell; he felt rather upset.

Why is she so fond of using such a hypocritical man as Stanley as a shield?

"What? Stanley is your husband? He was the one who e^{--} "

"Shut up!" Before Jackson could finish his sentence, he was interrupted by Shane.

Jackson stopped speaking. It was only then that he realized he had nearly told someone in the face that she had eloped years ago.

"Sorry. I'm so sorry. I was just too surprised; I hope I didn't upset you." Embarrassed, Jackson smiled shyly at Natalie.

Natalie shook her head gently, "No, I'm fine. Didn't you say something about e...?"

"Oh... did I?" Jackson looked at the ceiling, pretending to have forgotten.

"You did!" Connor looked at him with a smile.

Jackson twitched the corner of his lips.

Damn it, how dare you expose me, kid!

Indeed, those who look like Shane are not at all likeable.

"That's enough. You, come with me!" Shane got up and started walking out of the room.

Jackson made some funny faces at Connor and then followed Shane out of the room.

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The two men went to the stairwell.

Jackson brought out a pack of cigarettes from his white coat pocket and offered one to Shane.

Shane took a cigarette and held it between his fingers. "Find another doctor for me. Stanley won't do!"

"Why?" Jackson paused as he was trying to light his cigarette. "I've already contacted him. He will be reporting at the hospital soon. It's too late to get a replacement."

"He's not as simple as he seems. I cannot entrust Jacqueline to him!" Shane caught the lighter Jackson threw to him but had no intention of lighting his cigarette.

"If we do not use Stanley, Jacqueline will not get well. It's not that there are no brain surgeons who are better than Stanley, but these other surgeons are ageing and not suited to perform surgery. Are you certain you want to replace him?" Jackson dragged on his cigarette.

Shane knitted his brows but remained silent.

Puffing out a ring of smoke, Jackson looked at him and asked, "Shane, tell me honestly why you are unwilling to use Stanley. Is it really about Jacqueline's well-being?"

"What do you mean?" The corners of Shane's lips turned downwards.

Jackson flicked the ashes from his cigarette and smiled. "Isn't it clear? Natalie was originally your fiancée but she was unfaithful and eloped with Stanley. It's only natural that you're annoyed."

"You're wrong. I'm not annoyed!" Shane squeezed the lighter and lit his own cigarette. "Stanley is not her husband."

Jackson choked on the smoke and coughed for a while. With bloodshot eyes, he asked, "What are you saying? Natalie's husband is not Stanley? But that was what she just said..."

"A smokescreen," Shane replied nonchalantly.

Jackson ran his fingers through his curly hair. "Who's her husband, then?"

"Who knows?" Lost in thought, Shane shifted his gaze onto the sparks at the tip of his cigarette.

Jackson curled his lips. "Okay, it's irrelevant whether Stanley is her husband or not; this won't affect me when I work with him in the future. However, I heard Silas say that there's something going on between you and Natalie recently. This is very inconsistent with your personality. Don't tell me that you have..."

"Do you think it's possible?" Shane eyed him coldly.

Jackson rubbed the tip of his nose. "Well, I may be thinking too far but I still hope you'll stay away from her. She has a family while you have a fiancée. You shouldn't have any more to do with her other than work; otherwise, it's easy to get carried away."

"You don't have to remind me about such things!" Shane said in a low voice.

"Fine. Good that you are aware. Oh, and with respect to Stanley, you should decide as soon as possible whether or not you want him to perform the surgery. If you delay it any longer, Jacqueline really won't be able to wake up."

After saying that, Jackson patted Shane's shoulder, turned around, and left.

Shane was left alone in the dimly lit stairwell.

Holding the cigarette between his fingers, Shane thought about what Jackson had just said and he realized that it was true. Recently, he had indeed done many things for Natalie and her kids that were totally out of his character.

These things had changed him. If these were to continue, he really did not know how he would turn out. Indeed, he had always hated the feeling of not being in control.

At this point, Shane closed his eyes for a moment. When he opened them again, he seemed to have made a decision. His eyes were cold and distant.

He dropped the cigarette onto the floor and extinguished it with the sole of his shoe.

Two days later, Connor had recovered enough to leave the hospital.

Natalie bought a lot of food and was ready to celebrate the happy occasion that evening.

After she prepared the dishes, she called Shane but he declined the invitation.

While drinking some fruit juice, Connor asked, "Mommy, isn't Mr. Shane coming?"

Natalie put down the phone. "No, he's not."

"Hmph, Mr. Shane isn't keeping his promise." Sharon, too, had a glass of fruit juice in her hand. She did not sound pleased. "He promised to send me to kindergarten these few days but he only did so on the first day."

Natalie chuckled. "Didn't he? Mr. Shane did arrange for a driver to send you, didn't he?"

"That's not the same. I want him to do it personally." Sharon pouted.