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"All right." Joyce smiled understandingly.

She had heard Natalie's phone conversation and knew that Natalie did not like seeing Harrison, her scumbag father.

However, something had happened to him, so she had no choice but to go and check on him.

Thus, Natalie left the office and headed toward the hospital.

When Natalie arrived, Harrison remained unconscious, but he was not in danger anymore.

Natalie stood beside Harrison's bed and looked at him. "What did the doctor say?"

"The doctor said that he fainted from anger. Other than that, he's fine," Jared answered.

Natalie nodded. "I understand."

Suddenly, the door opened and Shane walked in.

"Shane," Jared greeted upon seeing him.

Shane gave a slight nod in acknowledgment and turned to Natalie. "I've caught Warren."

"Why did you go after him all of a sudden?" Natalie asked.

"The person following Warren sent news saying that he began packing his bags after receiving a call and bought a flight ticket to leave the city. I suspected that he was trying to escape, so I immediately gave an order to capture him," Shane said and took a glance at Harrison.

Natalie narrowed her eyes. "I think I know why Harrison fainted. Susan must have been contacting Warren in this room. Then, Harrison heard it and became so furious that he fainted."

After pausing for a moment, she continued, "Susan did not dare to kill Harrison in the hospital, so she escaped in a panic. At the same time, she contacted Warren to escape with her. They knew that once Harrison woke up, he would not spare them."

"That makes sense." Jared came to a sudden realization. "When I went out to buy something for Harrison, he was still asleep. Susan must have come in while I was away and thought it was fine to call Warren. Unfortunately for her, Harrison woke up and discovered her affair with Warren."

"That must be what happened." Natalie nodded.

Shane turned to Natalie and said, "Since Harrison now knows about Susan and Warren's affair, you don't have to hide the matter from him anymore."

Natalie tousled her hair. Then, she looked at the gradually awakening Harrison and said, "Yes, it's time to tell him."

Harrison opened his eyes and immediately saw Natalie, Jared, and Shane.

"Oh... It's you three." Harrison pushed against the bed to get up.

At the moment, he was even weaker than yesterday. His voice sounded tired.

Furthermore, he nearly did not have the strength to sit up.

However, Natalie, Jared, and Shane only watched him quietly. None of them volunteered to help him.

Harrison could also sense their coldness and was angry. After all, they were his children and son-in-law. He could not help but feel angry to see them treating him so coldly. Unfortunately, there was no point in him being angry. He had brought this on himself.

"Where is Susan?" Harrison took a few breaths and looked around but did not see her.

Natalie's eyes glowed, and she asked deliberately, "She left. Why are you looking for her?"

"That woman... That woman cheated on me behind my back!" Harrison shouted furiously.

He remembered Susan speaking to her lover on the phone. She even said that she was waiting for Harrison to die. Then, she could be with her lover openly.

Harrison was so furious that he wanted to kill Susan and her lover!

"Oh, so that's what happened." Natalie nodded to indicate that she understood.

However, Harrison discovered that while Natalie voiced her surprise, her expression remained calm. He began to realize that something was not right.

Then, he looked at Jared and Shane who stood near her.

Their expressions were also calm. There was not a hint of shock.

It meant that Natalie, Jared, and Shane knew about Susan's affair.

"You... Have all of you known about it for a long time?" Harrison looked at Natalie agitatedly.

Natalie smiled and said, "Yes, I knew it long ago. I found out about it the first month I returned to this country."

Harrison was stunned to hear her answer. He looked at Natalie in disbelief. After a long while, he said, "Since you've known it for so long, why didn't you tell me?"

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"Why should I tell you? As if I wouldn't love to see you being kept in the dark and continue getting cheated on!" Natalie spat out coldly.

Harrison almost coughed up blood in shock and clutched his hospital gown-clad chest as he stammered, "Why would you do that? I'm your father! You—"

"Shane?" Natalie turned to look at him.

"Yes?" he replied.

"Could you bring Jared out for a moment? There's something I need to tell Harrison in private," Natalie said as she pointed at her father.

"I wanna listen too!" Jared protested.

Upon that, Natalie's attitude immediately hardened. "Not right now. Go outside."

Jared could only nod at his sister's command. "Okay."

"Let's go."

Shane walked toward the ward door, and Jared just followed with his head hanging low in defeat.

Now, only Natalie and Harrison were left in the room, with the latter shaking in anger.

Natalie looked at him coldly. "Sure, you're my father. Maybe I should have told you when you were getting cheated on. But why

would I do that? You never wanted me as a daughter anyway. Besides, if I did, I don't think that would be fair to Mom."

She paused and took a breath before continuing, "Do you know how devastated my mom was seven years ago when she found out that you had been cheating on her for over two decades? You don't, but I do, and that's why I wanted you to feel the same way she did."

Before her mom had even been pregnant with her, Harrison had been cheating with Susan. Natalie's mother hadn't even known until seven years ago when he brought Susan and Jasmine home.

When that happened, it wasn't just their mother who was affected. Both Natalie and Jared felt like their whole world was crumbling around them.

Getting chased out of the Smith Residence was a painful memory that Natalie would never be able to forget.

Harrison looked at Natalie, whose eyes were burning with rage. In a trembling voice, he choked out, "So you're getting your revenge?"

"That's exactly what I'm doing." Natalie felt zero regrets for what she was doing.

She then closed her eyes and scoffed coldly. "Still, apart from hiding the fact that Susan was cheating on you, I didn't do anything else. I knew you'll get what you deserve eventually. I just had to wait and see what life has in store for you, and I was right! Look at you now. I bet you have no idea that Susan wasn't just cheating on you."

As soon as Harrison heard that, he went pale with uneasiness. "W-what do you mean?"

"What I mean is that Donald, who you so kindly allowed to stay in the Smith Residence, isn't her so-called distant nephew. He's her child – the child that she had with Warren Litch," Natalie said, savoring every word.

At that moment, Harrison felt as if someone had knocked him upside the head.

Donald has been that woman's bastard child all along? He's only six years old! That means she's been messing around with Warren for at least six years!

When Susan had joined a "world tour" six years ago and had been gone for a whole year, he hadn't thought anything of it.

Now it all dawned upon him. She wasn't traveling the world, she was preparing to give birth to that bastard child.

When he thought about how Susan constantly tried to convince him to adopt Donald and put him in his will so that Donald could take care of him in the future, Harrison felt like murdering someone.

Susan had betrayed him six years ago. She had slept with that disgusting man and even had a kid with him, and was clearly still in contact with him too. Obviously, she loved him way more than she loved Harrison. If not, she wouldn't have tried so hard to raise that bastard child.

Take care of me? Hah! She just wanted my money!

Harrison was already breathing heavily in anger right at that time.

Meanwhile, Natalie just smirked at the sight. "I'm not even finished yet, and yet you already look like you're about to get a stroke. I don't know if you're ready for the next two things I'm about to tell you."

There's more?

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Harrison's head shot up, and he stared at Natalie. He looked as if he was about to pop a vein, and his eyes were wide and bloodshot from agitation.

"What else did that b*tch do?" he hissed, his voice full of rage.

Natalie pulled over a stool and sat down. "Well, I'm sure you know about Jasmine! She is your own daughter, after all... Except, wait, sorry, she's not! Surprise!"

With that, Harrison spat out a thick spray of blood across his sheets and collapsed onto the bed.

Natalie jumped at the sight and quickly raised her hand to call for a doctor.

However, Harrison quickly pulled at her wrist to stop her as he croaked, "D-did you just say that Jasmine isn't my daughter?"

Natalie looked down and responded, "You'd better calm down. I'll get a doctor to check on you first before saying anything else."

"No! You're going to tell me exactly what's going on right now!" Harrison barked.

Right then, Natalie's wrist was already hurting under his death grip, but she didn't pull away. She just stared at him calmly. "She's not your daughter. She's also Warren's child, not yours. She's a hundred percent related to Donald."

Harrison, strangely enough, didn't seem as agitated as before at this news.

He just widened his eyes and let go of Natalie before staring at the ceiling blankly. It was as if he had aged ten years in the blink of an eye. After a long time, he finally croaked again, "You're not lying to me, are you?"

"Why would I lie to a dying man?" Natalie chuckled softly.

At that, Harrison pressed a hand over his worn-out eyes and sighed. "When did you hear about this?"

"I knew that a long, long time ago, but I only got the full confirmation recently. Before marrying Shane, I met Warren and Susan at the television station and heard them talking about Jasmine being their daughter. At the time, I thought they were just kidding, but I recently caught sight of Jasmine's blood type. That's when I did a paternity test between her and Warren."

Natalie stopped there as she knew there was no need to say anything else.

Just as she finished her sentence, Harrison suddenly started laughing, his chuckles full of self-deprecation. "This is hilarious. Hilarious! I never thought that I would have fallen for something like this and even raised a bastard child under my roof for more than twenty years."

He hadn't actually loved Jasmine in the beginning. After all, she was an only child, and she was a girl. A patriarchist like himself never took her seriously, even though back then, he thought she was his own.

But she had a sweet tongue and knew the right things to say to move him, unlike Natalie or Jared. Natalie had been brought up by Yulia as a little lady and had never stuck around her dad like Jasmine had. Natalie had also never ever sucked up to her dad or acted coquettishly like Jasmine had. Jared, on the other hand, had been sickly from a young age and was always going in and out of the hospital. Naturally, Harrison distanced himself even more.

That's why he eventually grew to favor Jasmine above the others. Compared to Natalie and Jared, who were both mommy's kids, he had always been biased toward his little daddy's girl.

Until now, that is, when he finally found out that she wasn't even his own.

He had raised a bastard child for more than two decades. He had even chased his biological children out of their house for this bastard child.

Is there anything more ironic and hilarious than this?

"I'm an idiot. An idiot!" Harrison roared.

At that, Natalie chuckled in response. "Yeah, you are an idiot. You thought you could get away with cheating on Mom for more than twenty years, but you didn't even know that someone else was doing the same to you. When you chased us out of our home for them, maybe Susan and Warren were laughing at you behind your back. Who else would that happen to, if not an idiot?"

Harrison didn't reply.

After all, there was nothing else to say.

She was right. He had been an idiot for chasing his own kids out from their home and completely detaching himself from them. To put it simply, he had burned all his bridges.

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"Oh, right. One last thing," Natalie piped up, seeing as he hadn't gone insane yet. She decided to tell him everything since it looked as if he could still take it.

"You actually had anywhere from one to two decades to live," she said as she looked straight at him.

Harrison could guess what she was about to say and he began to tremble. "Y-you..."

As if she knew what he was going to say, Natalie smirked. "Susan was sick of you, and together with Warren, they plotted to poison you. She wanted you to die seemingly of natural causes. That way, everything in your will would go to her, your partner. Do you finally understand why you suddenly collapsed?"

Harrison stared at the ceiling with wide eyes as if Susan was hovering there.

"B*tch. That wh*re!"

It turned out he had never been sick, just poisoned.

Poisoned by Susan.

That woman hadn't just cheated on him for more than twenty years, she had also led him to blindly love and raise a bastard child for that same amount of time. Now, she was actively trying to kill him.

Harrison felt both angry and sad, but above all, he felt fear.

Yes, fear.

The woman whom he shared a bed with had been a toxic, venomous person all along, and yet, he had slept in the same bed with this snake of a person for so long with absolutely no idea.

He didn't love her, but after so long, he had naturally come to see her as his family.

He had even thought about how Susan, being younger than him, would die after him. He had been planning to prepare her retirement home, so she would be in good hands after he passed.

But she—

Harrison pounded his own chest. "I see. It's karma. All karma! Hahaha!"

He laughed through the streams of tears coming down his cheeks and finally laid still.

Natalie froze.

Crap. Has he actually kicked the bucket?

She reached out to check if he was still breathing and heaved a sigh of relief when she felt a faint exhale on her finger. Then, she turned to press the emergency button.

Soon enough, the doctors rushed in and began saving him.

On the other hand, Natalie just walked out without watching.

The moment she stepped out, she saw Jared sobbing in the corridor, and Shane, who was standing next to him, with an impatient look on his face.

"Jared," Natalie called gently.

Jared looked at her through his tears. "Nat?"

"He heard everything," Shane told Natalie.

She chewed her lip. "Everything?"

"Yeah." Shane nodded.

Natalie sighed. "I'm sorry you had to find out this way, Jared. I bet you think I'm sick for telling him all this even on his deathbed."

"No! Even if he doesn't die right now, he'll die soon enough. He had to know eventually. I'm not crying because of him, anyway; I'm crying because Mom had to live with a man like that for more than twenty years," Jared said as he shook his head.

As a matter of fact, he wasn't sad about Harrison at all. He was crying because of his mom.

Natalie smiled. "Yeah. Mom went through a lot, didn't she? I don't know why she even fell for Harrison. He's a misogynist and besides, Smith Group only thrived because Mom was managing it. He was completely useless and even blamed Mom for being too overbearing."

"Yeah! And he cheated, too. Luckily, he ended up getting a taste of his own medicine," Jared said with a nod.

Natalie then reached out and ruffled his hair. "For someone like Harrison, you can never share weal with him, only woe. He's only like this now because he's getting what he deserved."

"Shane?" Jared suddenly looked up at Shane.

"What?" Shane looked at him.

"Are you going to cheat on my sister like Harrison did and then chase her and your children out of your home?" Jared asked seriously.

Natalie hadn't expected him to ask such a strange and admittedly rude question, but she had to admit that she was curious about Shane's answer as well.

Right away, Shane looked right past Jared and at Natalie. "No. I won't cheat, and I'll never even dream about chasing your sister or our kids out."

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Jared nodded his head. "That's good, Shane. I hope you can keep your words. Otherwise, I will not let you off, even at the cost of my own life."

Upon that, Shane lifted a brow and scrutinized him with an inscrutable look. It was as if he was questioning what Jared could ever do to him.

Yet, the latter could understand him. His face flushed beet red. Letting out a snort, he quickly turned his head away.

His reaction amused Natalie, who couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Do you trust me?" Shane's eyes fell on the woman again.

She nodded in response. "I trust you. Since we're talking about it, I might as well go into the details. What if you cheat on me one day? You—"

"You can kill me straight away then." Shane held her hand up and placed it on his chest.

Feeling his heart pounding, she shook her head gently. "If you cheat on me, I won't kill you, but I'll leave you and never see you again."

"I will never make you even think of leaving me," he said as he embraced her.

I love her so deeply that she's etched on my heart. How can I do such a repulsive thing? She's the only one I want in my life.

A smile broke across Natalie's face as she stared into his resolute gaze. "Remember what you've just said."

"I will." Shane then tightened his arms around her.

The woman stretched her arms and wrapped them around his waist as well.

Looking at the lovey-dovey couple, Jared pursed his lips.

How can they ostracize a single man like me?

Soon, the doctor came out of Harrison's ward.

Immediately, Natalie let go of Shane and asked, "Doctor, how is he?"

"The patient has been triggered, so he is now in a critical condition. After the examination, I found out that he doesn't have the will to live anymore, so he might breathe his last anytime soon." The doctor sighed.

Nonetheless, his words did not surprise Natalie.

It would be a miracle if Harrison still wanted to live after she told him those things.

Thus, it was only fair that he had lost hope in life.

Harrison now realized he was such a loser. As an egoistic man, he was certainly overwhelmed with shame.

"I got it. Thank you, doctor," Natalie thanked him politely.

The doctor waved his hand and left.

Shane gazed at her. "Since the doctor has said that Harrison could be gone anytime soon, do you want to stay in the country for some time? If you would like to return only after Harrison passes away, I can discuss with the organizer to pause the competition first."

"Can I do that?" Natalie asked expectantly.

She had said before that Harrison was the man who gave lives to her and Jared. As his children, they wanted to be by his side when he was about to leave this world.

After all, he was their father, and she did not want to break her promise.

"Sure. The annual fashion week is going to start soon. I believe many designers would want to take part in it, so they're most probably willing to pause the competition for the fashion week," Shane said while nodding his head.

Hearing that, Natalie gave him a faint smile. "Okay, thank you, Shane."

"You're welcome." He then turned to look at Jared and asked, "How about you?"

Jared smiled. "I'm planning to stay here to keep Harrison company as well. I'll apply for leaves later."

Shane hummed in response and asked no further.

Afterward, the trio left the hospital back to Thompson villa.

After dinner that night, Natalie received a call from the hospital.

Harrison was the one who called her.

When he woke up in the afternoon, he got a stroke and was completely paralyzed. His entire body was immobile.

That was why Harrison asked a nurse on duty to help him call Natalie.

"Natalie..." Harrison's voice came on the other side of the phone. He sounded even more frail than he was in the morning, panting heavily after saying only one word.

At that moment, it hit Natalie that her father was now old and at death's door.

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Ignoring the lump forming in her throat, Natalie tried to keep her voice as aloof as possible. "What's the matter?"

Harrison shut his eyes. "I only want to tell you and Jared that I'm sorry."

"What for?" Natalie narrowed her eyes.

Harrison breathed a sigh. "Yes. I'm sorry for not being a good father. I have wronged you, Jared, and your mom."

"Are you calling only to admit your faults and apologize to us? Well, it's too late! My mom is already dead, and she can never hear your apology!" she scoffed.

The man fell silent for two seconds. "No, I'm calling not only to apologize but to tell you something."

"What is it?" Natalie's brows drew together.

On the other end of the phone, Harrison gave the nurse a look to gesture her to leave his ward.

After the nurse had gone out, he said in a solemn tone, "It's the truth about your mom's death."

At his words, Natalie's face contorted with rage. Jumping out of bed to her feet, she yelled, "What did you just say?"

The truth about my mom's death? My assumption is right. My mom's passing was not accidental. Something must have gone wrong somewhere!

"Spill it! Did you murder my mom?" Clutching the phone with both hands, she bellowed at her father.

Meanwhile, Shane had just finished showering and was coming out of the bathroom in a bathrobe. The first thing he saw was her getting all worked up.

"What's wrong?" he asked with his brows knitted together.

With red-rimmed eyes, she looked at him. "Shane, my mom really didn't slip and fell accidentally."

His gaze landed on the phone in her hand. "Is that Harrison?"

"Yeah." Natalie nodded her head.

"Put him on speaker." Shane flung his bath towel aside and marched toward her.

Natalie then turned on the speaker obediently, and Harrison's voice echoed in the room. "Yes, your mom died in my and Susan's hands, but I'm not the main culprit. At most, I'm only an accomplice."

"I knew it was the both of you..." Her body trembled all over when she heard that.

Worried that her emotional outburst would affect the baby in her belly, Shane squeezed her hands, signaling her to calm down before questioning indifferently, "Do you mean Susan is the culprit?"

Harrison wasn't surprised to hear Shane speaking on the other side of the phone. He hummed in agreement. "Yes, she is. The day Yulia died, she looked for me at the Smith Residence. After she went out, she bumped into Susan. I don't know what they talked about. All I saw was Susan sitting on the floor with a terrified look on her face, while Yulia had already fallen and was lying downstairs."

"Didn't you see Susan pushing my mom off the stairs?" Natalie asked through gritted teeth.

Harrison sighed in exasperation. "No. I only went out of my room after hearing a loud thud."

"How are you so sure that Susan is the culprit then?" Shane's eyes narrowed.

"Because Susan was petrified at that time, mumbling that she did not push Yulia on purpose. That's why I'm sure Susan was the one who did it," Harrison answered.

Natalie bit her lower lip hard. At that moment, her eyes were brimming with tears.

Shane patted her back to console her before asking again, "How about you? What did you do afterward?"

Harrison smiled wryly. "You might not believe it, but I wanted to call the police on the spot, yet Susan stopped me. She even threatened me to help her clean the mess and destroy the evidence, making it look as though Yulia slipped and fell off the stairs herself by accident."

With that, he was no longer an innocent witness but an accomplice of Susan's crime.

"You two are just pure evil!" Natalie could not hold back any longer. Grabbing the phone, she shouted at the top of her lungs at it. "Harrison, you're inhumane! Susan is your wife, but my mom is your wife too! She had been with you for twenty long years! Why did you mistreat her this way! Why?"

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Natalie was crying her heart out at that moment.

When Shane saw her in that state, his heart ached for her even more as he hugged her tight in his embrace.

Listening to her sobs and interrogation, Harrison was filled with sorrow and remorse.

"I'm very sorry..."

Despite knowing that his sin was unpardonable, he could do nothing other than to apologize to her.

As expected, Natalie ignored him. Grasping the lapel of Shane's bathrobe, she could barely stop crying.

Patting her back gently with one hand, Shane took the phone with the other. "You said Susan threatened you to help her destroy the evidence. What did she use to threaten you?"

"My past tax evasion," Harrison replied.

Now that he had told them about the truth about Yulia's death, it was pointless to hide this from them. After all, he had not much time left anyway.

"Tax evasion?" Shane pressed his lips into a hard line. Harrison shut his eyes. "Yes, I've done it several times, but thanks to the flawless false accounts, I have only been caught once."

According to the law, a first offender of tax evasion could get away as long as the person repaid it at least twofold.

However, he had evaded tax a few times. If the government found out about it, he would be imprisoned.

Not wanting to be in jail, he gave in and obeyed Susan.

As his wife, Susan, no doubt, knew his every secret.

"How shameless are you!" Natalie roared at him again.

A rueful smile appeared on Harrison's face.

Yes, she's right. I'm indeed shameless. Back then, Yulia was a credit to the development of Smith Group. In the end, I kicked her out mercilessly. I'm nothing if not shameless. I've brought this upon myself.

"Why are you telling us the truth at such a time as this? You must have done this with a motive. Otherwise, why didn't you tell us before?" Looking down, Shane asked coldly.

Harrison let out a self-deprecating laugh. "You got it right. I've told you these things with an agenda. My goal is simple. I want you to take revenge on my behalf. I can't live for much longer, so I can only hope that you will help me and make sure Susan pays for what she has done!"

"What do you think?" Shane turned to glance at the woman next to him.

Taking a deep breath, Natalie stifle the raging emotions within her and agreed, "Alright, you have my word."

When she decided to tell Harrison about Susan's secrets, she already expected him to reveal the truth about her mother's passing.

Sure enough, she guessed it right.

He had indeed spilled the beans.

However, the truth turned out to be so intolerable.

Shane was not surprised that she agreed to it.

Even if she disagreed, she would not let Susan off the hook.

A genuine and joyful smile broke across Harrison's face that instance. "Thank you, Nat. By the way, I have proof of Susan pushing your mom off the stairs. It's a security footage that I've kept in a safe in the bank. The password is my birthday. You may get it from the bank."

"I see. You still have an ace up your sleeve," Natalie snickered.

But the man was not provoked. "It's purely coincidental. I did not do it intentionally. At that time, I realized some valuables in my study had gone missing and suspected that the housekeeper had stolen them, but I had no proof, so I installed the spy cameras around the house. That's how I managed to record Susan pushing Yulia off the stairs."

"Does that mean Susan does not know you have some dirt on her as well?" Natalie pursed her lips.

"Yes. She wasn't around when I installed the spy cameras. After I helped her destroy the evidence, I secretly uninstalled the cameras and stored the footage in the bank's safe."

He did this to protect himself since Susan had the proof of his tax evasion and threatened him with it. So why shouldn't he dig up dirt on her?

If Susan ever threatened and forced him to do anything again, he could use this against her.

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Unfortunately, before Harrison could threaten Susan, she and that disgusting man of hers poisoned him. Thus, Harrison was rendered powerless.

Harrison was no match for Susan in terms of cruelty.

"I see. Well then, there's something you should know. The housekeeper didn't steal the valuable items in your study. It was Susan. Think about it. Warren's monthly salary is only a few thousand. There's no way he could afford a luxury car and an apartment, so how do you think he got them?" With that, Natalie hung up promptly and sank into Shane's embrace, exhausted. "I miss my mom."

Shane kissed the top of her head. "If you miss her, then go and see her tomorrow."

"Yeah," Natalie murmured while nodding. Then, she fell silent.

Shane did not say anything either, knowing that Natalie needed some quiet time to think and calm down. After all, what Harrison just told her must have come as a heavy blow.

Eventually, Natalie drifted off to sleep in Shane's arms with her eyes still wet with tears.

Shane lowered his head to kiss away the tears from the corners of her eyes, then laid her on the bed and tucked her in. Tiptoeing across the room, he slipped out quietly and went to the study.

When Natalie awoke the next day, Shane was already gone.

She washed up quickly and went downstairs, only to find that Shane had gone to Thompson Group. He had an important meeting and had left early that morning.

The only people in the dining room were Jared, Connor, and Sharon.

As Natalie walked over to the dining table listlessly, Jared pulled out a chair for her and asked, "Didn't you sleep well, Nat?"

Connor and Sharon were also looking at her.

Natalie tried to force a smile onto her face but failed. In the end, she merely grunted in acknowledgment and mumbled, "I had nightmares the whole night."

"What kind of nightmares?" Jared asked curiously.

Natalie shook her head. "I don't remember."

"Since you don't remember, then forget about it and have some breakfast. Oh, I'm dropping by the hospital later," said Jared as he passed her a spoon.

Natalie took the spoon and started eating.

However, she did not end up eating much. The events of the previous night had robbed her of her appetite.

Natalie watched as Jared prepared to leave after breakfast, deep in thought. Finally, she called out, "Jared, wait. There's something I have to tell you."

Jared stopped in his tracks and turned around, asking, "What's up, Nat?"

Natalie glanced at Connor and Sharon. "Mrs. Wilson, could you take the children outside to play?"

Mrs. Wilson knew at once that Natalie wanted to talk to Jared in private. Thus, she nodded and replied, "Okay. I'll take them outside."

However, Connor and Sharon were reluctant to go.

"Mommy, can't we stay and listen?" Connor asked, gazing at Natalie with a pleading look in his eyes.

Natalie ruffled his hair gently. "You may stay, of course. But if you stay behind, Sharon won't dare to go out on her own. That's why you have to accompany her. Don't worry. You'll find out what we talked about two days later."

Connor was clever, and he would not be affected by what they were about to discuss. But Sharon was different. She was so innocent, and Natalie did not want her to listen to such despicable events. It would only do more harm than good for her development.

With that, Connor gave an understanding nod. "All right, I get it. Take your time. I'll go out and play with Sharon." Then, he grabbed Sharon's hand, and the two children ran off to the backyard with Mrs. Wilson following behind them.

After they left, Natalie and Jared were the only people left in the living room.

Natalie took a deep breath, then said slowly, "Jared, Mom's death wasn't an accident. He killed her."

"What!" Jared exclaimed, his face frozen in blank shock.

"Last night, Harrison called..." Natalie continued, her eyes fixed on Jared.

Then, she proceeded to recount her conversation with Harrison.

Jared usually looked gentle and polite. However, after hearing what Natalie had to say, an intense look of hatred appeared on his face for the first time ever.

"That b*stard should rot in hell!" Jared slammed his fist into the couch.

Natalie nodded. "I agree. When I think about the miserable state he's in now, I can't help thinking that he deserves it."

Initially, Natalie had not wanted to tell Jared.

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But he's all grown up now. He's not a kid anymore. Besides, as Mom's son, he has the right to know how she died.

Hence, Natalie stopped him from leaving and told him everything.

Taking a deep breath to compose himself, Jared wiped away his tears fiercely and asked with reddened eyes, "Are you going to retrieve the security footage Harrison kept in the bank?" Natalie nodded. "Yeah. If we have that, Susan will have to suffer an even worse fate."

"I'll go with you," Jared declared with a determined expression.

However, Natalie shook her head. "No, I'll go myself. You should go to the hospital to visit Harrison."

"Well, all right then." Jared always listened to what Natalie said, and that time was no exception.

After that, the sibling went their separate ways.

Natalie headed for the bank while Jared went to the hospital.

Two hours later, Natalie successfully retrieved the security footage and drove straight to Thompson Group, intending to check whether the contents were just as what Harrison had told her.

Soon, she arrived at Thompson Group and entered the lobby. Since she had shown up without making an appointment, she thought to call Shane and have him send someone down to get her.

To Natalie's surprise, the receptionist's eyes lit up, and she walked up to greet Natalie immediately. "Madam."

Natalie looked around in confusion, thinking that the receptionist was talking to someone else. Seeing that she was the only other person there, Natalie pointed to herself and asked hesitantly, "Are you talking to me?"

"Yes, of course." The receptionist nodded as she looked straight at Natalie, her gaze exceptionally bright and inquisitive.

So, the gorgeous lady I saw the last time is the CEO's wife!

Natalie smiled. "Why are you calling me 'madam'?"

"Well, that's because you're our CEO's wife," the receptionist answered.

Ah, so she's not calling me "madam" because I look like a married woman, but because she knows Shane and I are husband and wife.

As the thought crossed Natalie's mind, she asked curiously, "How did you know that I'm his wife?"

The receptionist smiled and replied, "Everyone found out after what Mr. Shane posted on his social media account."

Realization then dawned on Natalie.

Ah, so that's it. But, when did Shane do that? Why don't I know anything about it? I'll have to go online and take a look later.

"Are you here to see Mr. Shane?" the receptionist asked, interrupting Natalie's thoughts.

"Yes. May I go up?" Natalie asked as she pointed toward the elevator.

The receptionist nodded quickly. "Of course. You're the CEO's wife, so you can go up whenever you like. Right this way, please."

She led Natalie over to the elevator and even helped her press the button for the top floor.

Natalie entered the elevator after thanking the receptionist.

As soon as the elevator doors closed, the receptionist dashed back to her seat excitedly and sent a text in the group chat to tell everyone about Natalie's arrival.

In an instant, the group chat was buzzing with messages, especially from those in the design department.

Since they used to work with Natalie in the same department, naturally, they were more excited and had plenty to say.

But there was one person who was not the least bit excited at the news, and that was Isabelle.

While the others chattered away about how great Natalie and Shane looked together, Isabelle flung her computer mouse aside and stormed out of the design department.

"What's up with her?" one of them asked, staring after Isabelle incredulously.

The person beside her pursed her lips disdainfully and said, "What else? She's jealous, of course. Don't forget, the reason she's working here is only because of the CEO. Now that his wife is here, she must be green with envy."

The first person chuckled. "That sounds about right."

"All right, let's forget about her and get back to work."

With that, the design department dove back into their work.

Meanwhile, Natalie had arrived in front of Shane's office. She lifted her hand and knocked on the door.

A man's clear, crisp voice called out, "Come in."

Smiling, Natalie opened the door.

Shane was at his desk going through some documents. Hearing footsteps, he assumed one of his subordinates had come to pass him some information. Without even looking up, he gestured at a clear space on his desk and said, "Just leave it there."

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Leave it there?

Natalie looked down at her hands, then placed her bag on his desk.

Sensing some movement, Shane said dismissively, "You may go out now. I'll get Silas to send the information down later." The smile on Natalie's face widened, and she made no move to leave. Instead, she stood there and watched him quietly.

She wanted to see how long it would take for him to realize that she was in his office.

Although Shane did not look up, he was listening.

When he did not hear any footsteps walking away, he frowned.

What's wrong with this person? Didn't I tell him to go out? Why isn't he leaving?

"Is there anything else?" Shane asked, raising his head.

He expected to see the unfamiliar face of one of his subordinates. However, he was greeted with Natalie's beautiful face beaming down at him. Momentarily stunned, he massaged his temples and smiled. "It's you. Why didn't you say anything?"

"That's because I wanted to see how long it'd take you to realize it was me," Natalie replied with a grin.

"You cheeky girl! Come here," said Shane, holding out his hand.

As soon as she walked over to him, he grabbed her wrist and pulled her onto his lap. "What brings you here?"

"I was just at the bank to retrieve the security footage. Your office was nearer than mine, so I came here to check the footage," Natalie replied.

"Well, where is it?" he asked.

Natalie reached into her bag and took out a flash drive. "Here it is."

Shane took the flash drive and plugged it into his computer.

It contained a video.

Natalie's expression turned grave, and her hands balled into fists.

Shane hovered the cursor over the video, but he did not immediately click on it. Tilting his head to look at Natalie, he asked, "Should I play the footage?"

She knew that he was asking her for confirmation because he was worried it would be too much for her. After a while, she nodded. "Play it."

"Okay," Shane answered, clicking the computer mouse.

The video started playing, and the image that filled the screen was the Smith residence's third-floor corridor.

Then, Susan walked into frame.

She lingered at the corridor as if she was waiting for something.

Soon, another figure appeared. It was Yulia.

Natalie's eyes reddened at once. "Mom..."

Although she could not touch Yulia, just seeing her mother alive and well on the screen was enough to trigger a wave of emotions.

Yulia spotted Susan and stopped in front of her.

Susan opened her mouth to speak, but they could not hear what she said because the security footage had no audio. Nonetheless, they guessed from the arrogant look on Susan's face that she was not saying anything pleasant.

After Susan finished speaking, Yulia said something in response.

Once again, Natalie had no idea what Yulia said, but she could tell that Susan was furious.

After conversing for a while, the two women got into a tussle.

Yulia slapped Susan, who stomped her foot in anger and retaliated by shoving Yulia against the railing so that the top half of Yulia's body was hanging over it. Suddenly, Susan bent down and grabbed Yulia's legs, then threw her over the railing.

Immediately after that, Susan stumbled backward in horror, realizing what she had just done. She fell onto the floor, staring at her hands while shaking her head vehemently.

Not long after that, Harrison appeared on the screen.

Susan sprang to her feet and clutched Harrison's sleeve desperately, her face contorting as she seemed to yell something. Meanwhile, Harrison looked horrified and reluctant. Finally, he sighed and nodded.

The footage ended there.

Everything had happened just as Harrison had described it. Susan had pushed Yulia over the railing, then pressured Harrison to be an accomplice.

As for Yulia, she was an innocent victim.

Natalie's head was lowered, hiding her expression from view. She did not utter a single word.

Shane watched her with a concerned look. "Nat, are you okay?"