

Go After 621

Chapter 621

“Belle could understand the situation roughly up till then. She thought for a while before saying, ““Rosa, is that what you really want? Everything is possible in the name of love. Martin did hurt you before, and I’d support you if you really have no feelings for him anymore, but if you still have feelings, then I’d advise you to just look past that. He has turned over a new leaf, and I can tell that he’s serious about you and that he loves you. No one is flawless, and I believe if one was determined to turn over a new leaf, then they’d only be a better person. If your only concern is with your father, that shouldn’t be your concern at all. Trust me, Martin will become more mature in time, and your father will have second thoughts about him.”””

“Belle said that after much consideration. Martin was a much better candidate than Calvin to be in the business sector with his calculating and shady tactics. Belle believed that Martin was guaranteed to achieve success after a while, especially with the Harvey Group backing him up.”

“The N&S Group was already growing steadily under Martin’s lead. If he was hardworking and earnest enough, then he would eventually stand out.”

“It was understandable that General Perry couldn’t notice how much Martin had changed, but not Rosa. She saw that he had changed. She knew he had changed. If she gave him more time, then things between them could still work.”

Rosa looked a little lost.

“Rosa, just wait for a little longer. Perhaps it will take him less than a year to be a successful businessman. By then, your father will definitely see him in a new light. However, the only condition for this to work is that you have to be there for Martin within this year. You have to support him and believe in him. You have to encourage him, and you can’t break his heart. Can you do that? Belle held her hand in hers as she persuaded with a firm tone.”

Tears welled up in Rosa’s eyes as she stared at Belle.

“Belle smiled at her and said, ““Don’t worry, General Perry is not an unreasonable person. He has already agreed for you to marry Martin from the beginning. So, he won’t be against it all the time. All it takes is for Martin to be dedicated to turning over a new leaf, making himself a successful person. By that time, there’s no longer any reason for General Perry to oppose your marriage. You and Martin have to stay in love and be strong together. I believe everything is possible as long as you two are in love.”” ”

“The Harvey family was a noble family, to begin with. If General Perry approved of the Harvey family in the first place, it just meant that he acknowledged the Harvey family more than the Xanthe family. Assuming that he had no choice but to choose the latter, the Harvey family might still have a shot at that. All they had to do was to put themselves back in an advantageous position. Belle was confident that General Perry would definitely think twice before finalizing his decision, especially when Martin and Rosa were in love with each other. ”

“Belle, will this work? Rosa asked weakly.”

“Of course. Belle put an arm around her shoulders and said sweetly, ““Did you forget who I am? I’m now the head of the household of the Harvey family, and Calvin is the head of the family. We will visit General Perry when the time is right and propose the idea to him. We will give you and Martin a grand wedding that will satisfy the Perry family. Trust me.”””

“Rosa’s eyes lit up with a bright glint, but it dimmed again. The light in her eyes was shining with uncertainty, insecurity, and hesitation.”

“Belle, Yadiel is still too powerful, especially now when he’s still posing a threat to the Harvey Group with the accusations. I don’t know about this. Also, the Newton family visited today with the wedding in mind. Things are more serious than we think. I don’t want the Harvey family to be making enemies because of me. I will feel terrible if that happens. Rosa shook her head in concern after she was reminded of their current situation. She was not foolish to oversee that.”

Belle’s heart skipped a beat.

“Rosa, you’re so kind. Martin and the Harvey family will be lucky to have you. I’m willing to defend Harvey Manor’s honor alongside you. Let’s work harder and not give up easily, shall we? I believe we can still turn the tables around. With Calvin being in Capital City now, it seems like we are already making progress. Things will be better, Belle said emotionally with a determined expression, as she held onto Rosa’s hand.”

“Rosa squeezed her hand and smiled. She might be affected by Belle’s emotions, but understanding their current situation, she said nothing more.”

“Rosa, I want you to be my family more than anyone else does. So, I’ll try my best to help you, Belle said firmly while holding Rosa’s hand, which was getting slightly colder.”

“Belle, that’s what I want too, but things won’t happen the way we want them to. In fact, Carmella seems like a great woman, and the Newton family is a prestigious family too. She’s smart, she has a career, and she has feelings for Martin. She’s willing to marry him. It will be great if Martin marries her, Rosa said with her head lowered. She was having mixed feelings about that.”

“Rosa, don’t be silly. Do you think Martin will be happy if that happens? He loves you. So, how can he marry Carmella? He will never do that, and I know him that well to say it, Belle said with a sigh.”

Rosa lowered her head and twisted the sheets in her hand. She didn’t speak for a long time.

“Belle could see her previous self in Rosa. She wrapped her arms around Rosa as she muttered, ““Rosa, trust me. I will do everything I can to help you two.”””

Rosa looked a little lost as she fell silent.

“Mom, were you looking for me? Martin asked as he slowly walked into another room. He looked a little exhausted. MLexie was sitting on the couch with a fashion magazine in hand.”

“Martin, you’re here. MLexie looked up and said in a loving tone upon hearing her son’s voice.”

“Mom, what’s wrong? Martin asked with a faint smile.”

“My child, I just want to talk about the next big thing in your life with you, MLexie said as she pulled Martin’s arm and let him sit down beside her.”

“Martin felt a slight headache as he heard that. He knew what MLexie was about to tell him. So, he replied in an annoyed tone, ““Mum, this is about me. So, you don’t have to worry much. You should just focus on enjoying your life. I still have things to attend to. I’ll get going,”” Martin stammered as he stood up to leave.”

Come back. MLexie frowned and shouted at him. She was not pleased with his superficial attitude.

Martin had no choice but to turn around to face her.

“Martin, you should be more concerned about this. You’re not young anymore, don’t you know? MLexie was no longer smiling as she said with a stern tone, ““Let me tell you this. Carmella has extended her stay in the manor for the next few days. You’d better start building a romance with her during her stay. We can’t miss out on such a good opportunity. You can’t take this lightly.””

It sounded almost like an order to Martin.

“The headache Martin had grew worse. He started raising his voice. ““Mom, are you serious? How can you allow that without even asking for my opinion first? How can you rush things like this?””

“Me? Rushing things? If I don’t do this for you, then just how long are you planning to stay single? You’re already in your thirties, yet you’re still looking all gloomy around a girl, as if every woman out there annoys you. If you continue to be like this, then can I even live to see my grandchild? MLexie berated with a pained expression.”

“Martin was greatly irritated. For the past year, MLexie had been nagging about that every time they met. He was annoyed to the extent that he no longer wanted to see her.”

“Mom, marriage is a huge life event. I can’t find myself a random woman off the streets just because I’m at the right age to get married, can I? If I do that, then I will not only be irresponsible to the woman, but also to my life. Don’t you understand? Martin hurriedly protested.”

“Stop telling me all that nonsense. I’ve been through this. You can always fall in love after getting married. What matters is whether she suits you or not. As long as you find yourself a decent woman, then it’s fine for me, but you keep making excuses, and it’s as if you don’t want to settle down. I’ve had enough of this. I won’t allow you to be stubborn anymore, MLexie said with a determined tone, putting on a straight face. ”

Martin was anxious and annoyed upon hearing that.

“Mom, Carmella doesn’t suit me at all. I will not do this with her. You’d better get rid of this thought and be clear with her. Stop giving her false hope. We can’t afford to offend the Newton family. Listen to me. Don’t bring this upon yourself and the Harvey family. After all, my marriage should be my concern, not yours. I will have to agree to it no matter what. Don’t blame me for anything if you insist on making this decision for me. Martin rejected in a firm tone.”

“MLexie’s expression darkened, and she immediately stood up.”

“Martin, don’t think that I don’t know what’s on your mind. I know it well. You’re in love with Rosa, aren’t you? General Perry had already broken off your engagement with Rosa. So, how will he allow you to marry her again? On top of that, he has been looking down on you ever since your incident. Even if Rosa agrees to be with you, even if you two really get married, have you ever wondered how the Perry family will take this? They will only give you a hard time. You won’t be respected over there. So, how will you be happy in your marriage? MLexie lectured. She saw him carefully holding Rosa in his arms earlier that day. She learnt about his feelings right at that moment. It wasn’t that he had no interest in women, but he was already in love with Rosa. This made MLexie anxious, and she immediately called him over to teach him a lesson.”

“Martin, I know that you love her, but it doesn’t seem to me that she’d reciprocate your feelings. As your Mom, I hope that you can stop this one-sided love, and spend some time with Carmella. For their family to visit us today, it shows how much they like and appreciate you. I can tell that you will be highly respected in their family. Moreover, Carmella is amazing too. She’s smart, intelligent, sophisticated, and she can be a great partner in your career. If you marry her, then she will help boost your career, and you will be outstanding. I’m even confident that you’ll be doing much better than Calvin. I will be able to hold my head up high by then as well. Take a look at the crisis the Harvey Group has now. We don’t even know if we can go through this. So, please stop living in your fantasies and be more realistic. Rosa is great, but she’s just a girl. She’s immature and not ambitious at all. She follows Belle everywhere she goes. She may be a good girlfriend, but definitely not a great wife. She won’t be able to aid you in any aspect. People of my age can easily tell who’s the better wife between Carmella and Rosa. Trust me. I only have your best interests in mind. You can’t miss out on this opportunity, or you will regret this for your whole life, MLexie said sternly.”

“She then grabbed the fashion magazine and waved it in front of him as she said, ““Martin, look at this. These famous brands, they’re all designed by Carmella herself. She’s such a smart woman with an amazing career. How can you miss out on her? Martin, think about it. I will never harm you.”””

“Martin stood there solemnly. He was reminded of Rosa’s cold expression and her telling him, ““Martin, things will never work out between us. Please just give up.”””

“His headache worsened, and his chest felt stuffy. He stood there for a while. His head was rumbling loudly. He didn’t know if he had heard everything MLexie had said. He didn’t even know how he left MLexie’s room.”

He only remembered walking out blankly in a daze.

Chapter 622

“At noon, Lomen rushed back from outside. He pulled Belle to a quiet corner and said in a low voice, ““Madam, I’ve asked around. The villa by the sea is indeed Liya’s. The luxury car as well.”””

“I see. Belle frowned and then asked in confusion, ““Where did she get the money to buy all these?”””

Belle was shocked to hear that. She didn’t believe Liya could afford those things.

“Madam, they were all bought by Oscar Jones. From what I’ve gathered, she’s his mistress, and Mr. Jones has spent tens of millions of dollars on her, Lomen said with a pained expression.”

Ah! Belle was shocked upon hearing that fact. Her mouth agape for a long time.

“Madam, this woman is just disgusting and horrible. She does things that are too shameful. You can already kick her out based on this fact alone. You don’t have to be kind to her anymore, Lomen said. There was a hint of disgust flashing across his eyes. He almost threw up when he found out those facts.”

Belle pondered.

“Lomen, isn’t Oscar engaged to Zoella? How is it possible that Liya is his mistress then? Belle asked in confusion.”

“I also find this strange. I can’t get a clearer picture of this for now, but I guess that Zoella isn’t engaged to him of her own accord. She made use of their relationship to frame the Harvey Group, and she managed to pull off this by kidnapping Matteo. I don’t think she’s interested in Oscar. Lomen analyzed.”

Belle narrowed her eyes with a thoughtful look.

“Lomen, Liya and Zoella, they must be working together on this. Liya was involved in framing the Harvey Group back then. Even so, she can only be considered as a witness. We don’t have solid evidence against her. Furthermore, she won’t tell us the truth either. Now that we’ve figured out the situation, we shouldn’t be in a hurry to kick her out. Continue to keep an eye on her, and I’ll think of a way, Belle said to Lomen as she continued to process her thoughts.”

“After thinking for some time, Lomen nodded and analyzed, ““Madam, it’s likely that Liya was only involved with Oscar for the past few months. She knows she can’t live a mediocre life anymore, and she has no choice but to resort to such cheap tactics. She’s a terrible woman. She is pestering Mr. Harvey now, but I doubt she has feelings for him. She’s just trying to milk something out of this or get herself the Mrs. Harvey title, so that she can continue her lavish lifestyle. I don’t think she’ll be used to living in the Ink Garden. She will stir up something sooner or later. Madam, you have to be careful and don’t let her take anything away from Harvey Manor.”””

“The light in Belle’s eyes dimmed as she said slowly, ““Her behaviour is horrifying, but we can’t drive her away for now. Zoella is the one who framed Harvey Group, and Liya is definitely still in contact with her. Zoella is no longer in A City. So, we have to keep Liya with us. At least she’s still within our control. It’s better than her hiding out there and making moves on us. Also, we still have to figure things out about the will. We have no choice but to keep her with us. We can slowly figure out what to do with her by then.”””

“Lomen was silent for a while before saying, ““Madam, that works too, but you have to be careful. A woman like Liya is capable of doing anything. If you don’t bring her to justice, we can never stop her. We have to get evidence against her, so that she’ll stop trying to get something out of Harvey Manor. This time, we will get rid of the malignant tumors like them.”””

“Belle smiled and said confidently, ““Don’t worry, I’ll be extra careful. She’s holding herself back during her stay in Harvey Manor because of me. She won’t try anything if we don’t make a move on her.”””

Lomen could only nod in agreement. He was also hoping that Calvin would return soon.

“After Lomen left, Belle then headed to her office with a heavy heart.”

She could finally understand what was different with Liya at that time. It turned out that Liya was already with Oscar.

“Upon arriving in the Ink Garden’s hall, Belle spotted a figure creeping inside. Belle’s heart trembled a little, and she blinked. After taking a careful look, it was none other than Liya.”

“Liya was holding a bag, leaning against the doorframe as she peeked into Sophia’s bedroom.”

Belle frowned. What was Liya planning to do? Was she trying to sneak into Sophia’s bedroom again?

What in the world was Liya planning to do!

“Belle walked over and stood behind her quietly, without saying a thing.”

“Liya peeked into the room for a while. Then, she withdrew her gaze and turned around.”

“Ah, She screamed out, and then she quickly covered her mouth.”

“Belle was standing right behind her, looking at her with an icy expression.”

“Belle, what are you doing? Are you trying to scare me to death? Liya was startled and asked in surprise.”

“What am I doing? Belle frowned and asked in a cold voice, ““I would like to ask you the same thing. What are you planning to do by sneaking around here?”””

“Liya regained her composure. She looked up and down at Belle before snorting. ““Belle, what else can I do here besides visiting Grandma? Since you don’t allow me to enter her bedroom, the only thing I can do is to peek from outside.”””

Her words sounded reasonable.

“It took Belle only one glance at her to tell that she just came back from outside. Belle then asked lightly, ““Liya, where did you go today?”””

“Liya put her handbag strap around her shoulder as she said casually, ““I went out for a walk. I wanted to take care of Grandma, but you don’t allow me to do so, and I was bored being here. So, I headed out. Look at what I’m wearing. I look so simple and plain. No one can tell that I’m from the Harvey family at all. What choice do I have when the Harvey family is so tight on your budget?”””

She sounded like she had been wronged.

A smile appeared at the corner of Belle’s lips.

“Liya, are you short on money now? Belle asked in a calm and gentle tone.”

“Of course. Belle, look at me. I don’t even look like I’m from a noble family, and I even had fast food earlier. You know that I haven’t been paid for months, Liya said as she blinked her eyes, looking pitiful.”

“I see. Belle deliberately let out a sigh of relief. ““That’s quite miserable. Here in Harvey Manor, we pay everyone according to their work category. But you just joined us, and with your identity still unclear, it will be hard for me to pay you.”””

Liya's face fell as she heard that. It was clear that Belle would not allow Liya to milk anything from the family. Belle was just toying around with her.

"However, that doesn't mean I can't make some considerations for your situation. Belle said after a brief pause, ""Your situation is unique, and I can make an exception by paying you a sum of money in advance.""

"Upon hearing that, Liya's expression brightened up as she stared at Belle with her clear bright eyes."

"How about this? There will be something coming up with the Harvey Group, and Mr. Xanthe will send his team over for the next couple of days. I'll be occupied by then too. You can help me attend to Mr. Xanthe's team and be a good host to them. I can pay you monthly. This is an easy job, but I will still pay you ten thousand dollars a month. If you agree, then I can pay you your first ten thousand in advance right now. What do you think? Belle said after much pondering. Her tone sounded like she finally made a huge decision."

"Ten thousand dollars? That was too little for Liya! However, she thought about it for a while. If Belle was offering to pay her in advance, she would be paid for doing nothing. Moreover, she might even get to know more information about the 'Ocean Heart' while attending to Sergio's team."

"Thinking of that, a smile emerged on her face. Liya lifted her eyebrows and said, ""Belle, this job sounds great, but isn't the pay too little? If I'm in charge of the reception, shouldn't you pay me for the extra charges too?""

"About that, you can always claim it with me with the receipts. I won't take advantage of that, Belle replied lightly."

"Liya was delighted to hear that, but she kept a neutral expression. She could definitely get way more than her basic pay through those extra charges."

"Deal. Thanks for taking care of me. Liya thought for a while before answering. She sounded reluctant, although she thought otherwise."

I will pay you accordingly as long as you do your job well. Belle turned around and said as soon as she saw Liya agreeing to it. "Come with me to get your advance payment."

"Sure, sure. Liya immediately followed behind Belle to her office upon hearing that."

"Here, write an IOU first. Belle took a piece of paper and a pen for her. ""I'll read it while you write it down.""

"Belle, isn't it only ten thousand dollars? Do you need an IOU for that? Liya was not happy. She was a lazy person, and it didn't occur to her that an IOU was required for merely ten thousand dollars."

"Liya, this is the rule. We have always been transparent in handling Harvey Manor's finances. It's like a miniature company here. We have transactions and all the details recorded. You've worked in a huge company before. You should understand this, right? Belle asked with a frown."

"Fine, then. Liya was left with no choice but to say, ""Let's settle this quickly.""

Okay. Belle cleared her throat. "Listen carefully."

“Due to some unfortunate events recently, I was in a tight situation after arriving in Harvey Manor. I can’t find a stable income. So, I’m asking for my first month’s salary in advance. I will return it by next month, Belle said out slowly and clearly, word for word, while Liya wrote them down.”

“Belle, take a look. Is this okay? Liya handed the paper over after she was done with the writing. Belle took it and read it carefully. With an imperceptible smile, she nodded. Belle then opened the drawer at the bottom and took out a stack of money for Liya.”

“Liya stared at the money for a while before putting them away in her handbag. She then yawned and mumbled, “”Alright, then. The deal is on. I’ll go back to sleep.”””

“Without bothering Belle any further, Liya walked out the office looking tired, and headed to her room in the Ink Garden.”

“Recently, Liya was always sleepy, and she didn’t have much energy. She would go shopping during the day, and sleep soundly at night.”

Chapter 623

Belle read Liya’s IOU over and over again before putting it away in her pocket. She then headed to the Fragrance Garden.

“Hudson gave her a call that morning, asking her to meet him in the study at Fragrance Garden later at noon. He told her to be secretive and not let anyone see her.”

“Belle was a little sleepy at noon, but knowing Hudson, he must have intended their meeting to be in secret, hence arranging it at noon. She got on the electric vehicle and headed towards the Fragrance Garden.”

“It was quiet in the Fragrance Garden. Some of the maids were transferred to the Ink Garden, whereas some of them were still taking their nap. Belle headed upstairs to take a look at Jerry. Aunt Ella was keeping him company in his room. Jerry was sleeping soundly. Belle kissed his cheeks and stayed there for a short while.”

“Ever since he knew that she was pregnant again, Jerry no longer stuck to her like glue. Belle was also occupied with a lot of other matters. She was exhausted at most times. Aunt Ella and Larry were basically taking care of Jerry on her behalf. Jerry was busy with his own stuff too. His home tutor would teach him new things each day, and he would spend everyday with meaningful activities.”

“After learning of Jerry’s situation that day, Belle then headed upstairs.”

The atmosphere was slightly heavy in the study. Belle walked in to find Hudson and Lomen waiting for her.

“She greeted them both. Hudson then gestured to her to sit on the couch before saying, “”Belle, I have something to tell you today. It’s about Liya.”” Hudson paused for a while before asking with concern, “”Belle, you must be tired at this hour. It won’t take long.”” ”

“The reason Hudson had Belle over was that he was worried she would be emotionally burdened with Liya’s presence and be in low spirits. He didn’t want her to worry much, especially when she was pregnant.”

“He didn’t have a choice but to keep Liya in Harvey Manor, despite knowing that this decision would hurt Belle the most.”

“Dad, it’s okay. I’m getting enough sleep and nutrition everyday. So, I don’t feel that tired. Belle smiled and shook her head. She could roughly figure out what that meeting was about upon hearing the mention of Liya’s name.”

“Great, you definitely need to make sure you get enough rest. Hudson felt more at ease. He then turned to Lomen and said, ““Lomen, you can start telling us the results now.”””

“Sure, Mr. Hudson, Lomen replied. He then took out a stack of documents from the folder in hand and said, ““I took Old Madam’s will for authentication a couple of days ago, and the result is out now.”””

“Speaking of that, Lomen paused for a brief moment as he flipped through the documents.”

“Belle, we never once believed that Grandma would revise her will to be like this, but we need solid evidence to prove it. Therefore, I discussed with Calvin, and we decided to send the will for authentication. Now that the result is out, we want you to join us, Hudson explained to Belle with a pleased tone.”

“Belle listened calmly, as if she already knew about Hudson’s intention.”

“Mr. Hudson, Madam, the result is like this. Lomen cleared his throat before continuing to say, ““The handwriting on the revised notes matches that of Old Madam’s, but the results show that there’s something odd in the ink of this word. It seemed like it wasn’t written at the same time. You can refer to it here,”” Lomen said as he pointed to the word ‘must’ on the will.”

Belle squinted and looked at the word. The ink on the word ‘must’ was indeed fresh and slightly different from the rest.

“Then someone must have amended one word, Hudson said with a thoughtful look after taking a look at it.”

“Yes, Mr. Hudson. The results state that the curves in this word are highly suspicious. Lomen said in a pertinent manner, ““It also states that we should send this to the judicial authority for inspection at a higher level.”””

“That confirmed Hudson’s speculation. However, he was still in deep thought.”

“Dad, what can we do when we prove that someone had amended the will? Belle asked calmly.”

“We’re already halfway close to our success to prove that this word, ‘must’, was amended. Even a slight difference like this can further strengthen our argument. Belle, you do believe that Grandma wouldn’t revise her will to be like this, don’t you? Sophia has always loved you, and it wouldn’t make sense for her to revise her will in a way that would hurt you. Therefore, there’s no suspense in saying that someone else fabricated the will, Hudson said genuinely and gently to Belle.”

“Belle nodded. ““That’s true. I don’t believe Grandma would revise her will this way too. I’ve been reading through the sentence over and over again for the past few days, and I do agree that this ‘must’ word is suspicious.”””

She answered Hudson's question with certainty.

"Since it is now proven that the will has been fabricated, then it shouldn't be a problem for us to declare that the will is invalid. Hudson continued to say in a pertinent manner."

"Belle looked down, and the light in her eyes dimmed."

"Dad, have you thought about who's behind this? Who would be that fTristaness to fabricate Grandma's will? Belle asked faintly."

Hudson nodded in admiration.

"Belle, you are indeed a meticulous child. That's exactly what I'm about to tell you. The reason someone fabricated the will is that it'd benefit her. As for who's behind this, I'm sure you already know. Hudson fixed her gaze on Belle with a faint smile."

"Belle nodded knowingly. ""I do know, but I won't advise you to declare this so soon. We have to defeat her completely, so that she can stop thinking about the 'what ifs'. We have to make sure she'll never set foot in Harvey Manor ever again. Therefore, we have to calm down and investigate this thoroughly before sending it to the authorities.""

"Sure, that is what I intended to do too. I was afraid you might have a second opinion on this. It's good to know we're on the same page. Belle, don't worry. We will get through this, and we will not only kick her out by then, we will let the authorities take care of her, Hudson said determinedly as he suppressed his urge to kick Liya out."

Lomen was standing at the side with a frown. His expression was not at ease.

"Mr. Hudson, if we want to accuse her of fabrication, the minimum requirement is at least ten words, but so far we only have one word. It won't be easy for us to ask for high-level authentication based on that word alone, Lomen suggested with a concerned expression."

Hudson was startled upon hearing that. His expression grew complicated.

"Don't worry, Dad. I have her handwriting with me, Belle said calmly after taking in Lomen's words and Hudson's expression."

They turned around to look at her.

"With a light smile, Belle took out a piece of paper from her pocket and placed it on the desk. She then said calmly, ""Dad, why don't you take this and see if it's helpful for the authentication process? If we can prove that the handwriting on the will is the same as this handwriting, then this will be a piece of solid evidence from our end.""

"Hudson picked up the paper and looked at it carefully. He brightened up and said, ""Belle, this is fantastic. We can use the same alphabets in this to further validate if the handwriting is from the same person.""

Lomen was also delighted to hear that. He took over the paper from Hudson and glanced at it. He was impressed by Belle.

“Lomen, take this with you and send it over to the most authoritative authentication agency. Once we get the result, we will have the most solid evidence against her. By then, we can carry out our plan smoothly, Hudson ordered Lomen in an excited manner.”

Lomen then left with the material in hand.

“Belle, you’re such a great child. I feel like we’ve wronged you by keeping you in our Harvey family. I’m ashamed to say this as your elder. Hudson said to Belle, ““I believe your future will only be bright because of how kind you’ve been to us. We’ll definitely bring you justice. Calvin is lucky to have you. The Harvey family is even luckier to have you. I feel so sorry to put you through all this.”””

“Hudson’s heart ached, and he felt helpless at the same time as he said that to Belle. He felt sorry to let Belle handle so many things with Harvey Manor. He felt like he had not protected Belle better.”

“It’s alright, Dad. I’m thankful to be treated so well by your family. I’m content this way, Belle replied genuinely. In Harvey Manor, everyone from Sophia herself, to the helpers respected and adored her. She meant what she had said.”

“Belle, thank you for being this thoughtful. With Calvin in Capital City now, he might not be able to take good care of you. So, you have to be extra careful in keeping yourself safe. Hudson stood up and said, ““Alright, Belle. You should get some rest. I didn’t want to disturb your nap, but I had no choice since this is the best time to avoid people eavesdropping on us.”””

“Dad, I understand. Alright, then. I’ll take my leave, Belle replied considerately. She also stood up and left the study.”

“In a European-style villa near the sea, the natural light was seeping through the many windows of the villa.”

Lilian was seen sitting on a luxurious French-style couch. She was watching a video with her glasses on.

Quina walked in quietly.

“Ma’am, you were right. The gang smuggling weapons in the war-torn country must have heard about the news. They’re now staying put, Quina said.”

“Quina’s voice was low, but Lilian could listen to it very clearly.”

Chapter 624

“Madam Lilian smiled. She said in a peaceful tone, ““Don’t rush things. They will become impatient soon.”””

“Ma’am, what do you mean? Quina was a little puzzled.”

“Madam Lilian smiled again. She didn’t respond to that question. However, instead, she asked, ““Quina, how are things going in A City?”””

“Upon hearing that, Quina exclaimed, ““Ma’am, you’re right about that again! The Harvey family is indeed about to face another crisis.”””

“Quina was emotional about that. She was impressed that Madam Lilian could leave A City without a trace back then. She couldn’t imagine how heartbroken Madam Lilian must be for not being able to reunite with her daughter. However, after the peaceful visit to the Harvey family, Madam Lilian left A City without anyone knowing. That might put some people at ease, but what was Madam Lilian planning to do next?”

Quina couldn’t read through Madam Lilian’s mind.

Her tactics were always beyond her expectations.

“Madam Lilian breathed a sigh of relief and said calmly, ““Quina, the world will never be at ease if the arms-trafficking still persists. We have to punish all of them according to the law.”””

“Quina was dumbfounded. They were talking about the Harvey family just then. Yet, the topic had now shifted to the war-torn country again, but earlier when Quina was talking about the war-torn country, Madam Lilian was the one who brought up the Harvey family.”

Could it be that there was some connection between those two?

“Ma’am, they’re only in this for their personal gain. They’re terrible people. All countries should work together in tackling this, Quina replied softly as she poured a cup of Green Mountain Lake tea for Madam Lilian.”

“Madam Lilian took a sip of the tea. She nodded and narrowed her eyes as she said, ““I wonder how my dear granddaughter is doing now. She must be troubled, isn’t she?”””

Quina smiled upon hearing that. She knew who Madam Lilian was referring to as her dear granddaughter.

Of course it was Belle!

“Ma’am, I have to congratulate you on this. You are once again a great-grandmother. Belle is pregnant again.”

“Pregnant again? Lilian was all smiles to hear that, but there was something doubtful in her gaze. It was something deep and unreadable.”

“Yes, ma’am. Quina nodded. ““It’s getting a little cold. I’d better put on a coat for you. Otherwise, it will trigger your gout problem again, and it won’t be convenient for you to visit your granddaughter.”””

Quina then grabbed a coat and covered Madam Lilian.

Madam Lilian smiled and nodded.

“Ma’am, I’ve always been curious to know why it is so hard for you to reunite with your daughter. Quina said with a sigh, ““Kate resembles you no matter how I look at it. How is it that she’s not your daughter? This is just too weird.”””

“If it wasn’t for the DNA report, she could never believe that Kate and Lilian were not related at all, but with a piece of evidence like that, there wasn’t anything they could do despite being doubtful about the result.”

“Meanwhile, Madam Lilian smiled, but her expression was imperceptible. ”

There were some unknown forces against her in A City!

“She had already felt that during her stay in A City. Even when she was in A City, someone dared to scramble the DNA samples. What did that mean? It meant that they didn’t want them to identify each other, and that must have been planned in advance. If that was true, then the DNA result should be invalid.”

“Someone clearly didn’t want her to meet her daughter in A City, nor did they want her to stay any longer in A City. Perhaps they were afraid of her power and influence!”

“However, she remained calm with the unexpected DNA result. Perhaps she was rushing too soon into that!”

“After being in politics for so long, Madam Lilian could tell that there must be some underlying factor in that.”

“She decided to leave A City, not only to avoid alerting the enemy but also because the situation back then required her to do so.”

“Quina, has Sophia passed on? she asked with a sorrowful tone.”

“Ma’am, she’s still alive, but I think her time will soon be up, Quina said with a soft voice.”

Madam Lilian’s cheeks twitched as pain and sorrow flashed across her eyes.

“Sophia, you lied to me! She thought.”

How should I thank you? How should I thank you for your selfless help!

Madam Lilian placed the tablet away as she stood up and slowly walked towards the window. She stared out at the clear blue sky with a heavy heart.

She wasn’t that close with Sophia. They met by chance and at most were acquaintances with one another.

“Back then, Sophia was a madam from a noble family, whereas Madam Lilian was just a movie star. The difference between their social status was too obvious not to notice. Although she got married to Flavian, she still couldn’t elevate her social status. Otherwise, Brooklyn wouldn’t be that stubborn not to acknowledge her identity.”

“Fifty years ago, she had no choice but to approach Sophia before leaving A City, so that Sophia could help take in her daughter. Although Sophia had agreed to it, Madam Lilian never expected her to do so, and Sophia didn’t have the right to take care of her daughter either.”

“They were neither related, nor were they very close. It could be said that they were from two different worlds. No one was required to fulfil a request like that. She didn’t expect much from Sophia.”

“Such a promise wasn’t made for just the next couple of years. It was a long-term commitment! Not everyone, not even the kindest soul, had the right to fulfil it. Even if they were willing to, they might not be able to carry it out wholeheartedly.”

“That year, during the coup, when Madam Lilian led her team in carrying out charity events on the streets, they were attacked by her political enemies. She was seriously injured. Right after waking up on the hospital bed, the first thing that came into her mind was her daughter, Emily Cole. She wanted to look at her daughter, even if it was just to hear her voice. What made her heart ache was she didn’t know if her daughter was still alive. After a lot of internal conflict, she dialled Sophia’s number.”

“Madam Lilian neither received updates from Flavian back then, nor did she have contact with the others. She could only think of Harvey Manor that would never collapse.”

“However, as soon as the phone was connected across the globe and finally reached Sophia in Harvey Manor, the only thing Sophia told her faintly was, ““I don’t know.”””

Sophia then hung up the phone resolutely.

Those three words made Madam Lilian fall into desperation. She could only force herself to give up on thinking about it.

“That was right. Sophia was just an acquaintance of hers among the nobility. She was neither entitled to take care of her daughter on her behalf, nor to know everything about her daughter.”

“After recovering from her injuries, Madam Lilian made up her mind and never once called up Sophia’s number again.”

“She was in an even tighter and more difficult position after her recovery. Her political enemies were targeting her at all costs. She had no choice but to focus on overcoming every obstacle. That was how she let go of looking for her daughter. It wasn’t until she achieved the peak of her political career by becoming a dignitary in Europe that she thought of searching for her daughter again. She was already getting older, and she wasn’t that busy anymore in managing her career by then.”

“Since there wasn’t any information she knew about her daughter, Madam Lilian then decided to visit A City herself!”

“However, from that visit to A City, she learnt that things weren’t as simple as she had expected.”

“Through the secret investigations about the Harvey Group and A City, Madam Lilian realized that Sophia might have lied to her!”

“If Kate really was her daughter, then Sophia was only trying to protect Kate by lying to her!”

“Madam Lilian had to admit that she was indeed targeted by all of her political enemies back then, and they were all ruthless and cruel!”

“Sophia was wise enough to make that decision. She wasn’t swayed by Madam Lilian’s concerns and emotions in that phone call, and that protected Kate in return, so that Kate got to grow up safely and happily. ”

Sophia was really wise. She took care of Kate on Madam Lilian’s behalf and never once told anyone else about Kate’s whereabouts. She protected Kate from every possible danger.

Madam Lilian had mad respect for Sophia for that alone!

“Mercy often coexisted with danger. She finally got to see what kind of person Sophia was. Indeed, it was most important for Kate to grow up without learning anything about her true identity. She grew up in a peaceful and safe environment, and that was everything Madam Lilian could ask for. Although she grew up in an ordinary environment, at least she was kept safe.”

“As a matter of fact, the DNA results were no longer needed. Madam Lilian could tell that Kate was indeed her daughter!”

“Although she grew up without a mother, Kate grew up in a peaceful environment! It was all a result of Sophia’s hard work!”

“Ma’am, do you think the Harvey Group will be able to get through this crisis? Should we help them? Quina asked in a low voice. She wasn’t quite sure about Madam Lilian’s plan.”

“Don’t worry. I would like to see if he’ll help them. At times like this, I wonder if he can still remain unperturbed. Madam Lilian said calmly, ““If a huge company like them can’t even get through a minor crisis like this, then how can they prosper? We should focus more on the war-torn country. This arms trafficking deal is a lucrative and terrible deal. If the deal goes through, then another bout of war will take place in the war-torn country again. This is considered a disaster for the citizens. Therefore, we should take measures in advance to stop this deal and destroy their hiding spot in one stroke.”””

“But Ma’am, Calvin has already sent someone to the war-torn country, Quina said in a low voice.”

“Lilian was shocked to hear that, and she asked, ““Why did he do so? Could it be that the Harvey family is somehow involved in the arms trafficking deal?”””

Lilian’s heart trembled upon hearing such startling news.

“Ma’am, you’re overthinking. Quina smiled after taking in Lilian’s expression. She then said, ““Don’t worry. The Harvey family will never get themselves involved in matters like this. They are businessmen, after all. They aren’t capable enough to resell weapons. Moreover, they won’t be this foolish to tarnish their century-old reputation with this.”””

Quina’s words made Lilian feel more at ease as her concerns were no longer valid.

Chapter 625

“Then, why did he get involved in this mess? It’s not something to be taken lightly. Lilian was puzzled.”

“Madam, there must be something we don’t know. According to what our team said, it seemed that Calvin had sent someone over to investigate the arms trafficking deal too. We haven’t found out the specific reason yet but our people have already begun their investigation on this. Quina analyzed with a suspicious look on her face.”

“Lilian looked deep in thought. As the president of a multinational company, he should be focusing on his business, but instead he got himself involved in the arms trafficking deal. It might put his life in danger. What was he thinking?”

Could there be a connection between the Harvey family’s crisis and the smuggling?

“If this was the case, then the Harvey Group would be in an even more dangerous position. These smugglers were desperate people, who were capable of doing the most dangerous of things. Nobody in their right mind would cross paths with these smugglers besides those involved in politics, or military personnel. There could only be one reason if Calvin was doing this on purpose. These smugglers or the evidence from the arms trafficking deal must have had something to do with the Harvey Group’s crisis. Perhaps he was just doing this out of concern for civilians! However, why would a businessman get himself involved in a thankless task and put himself in an unenviable situation?”

“If that was the case, then why didn’t he report it to the authorities in Capital City?”

“Lilian pondered over with her head lowered. If lodging a report would work, then they never would have taken this in their own hands.”

“Well, Quina, in the name of the United Nations, please request the neighbouring countries to send their government armies for an ambush nearby. Wait for the perfect opportunity to capture these criminals at once, Lilian ordered.”

“Sure, Madam, Quina answered immediately with a smile.”

“Also, try to avoid sacrificing the innocent. Send some of our people over first. Try your best to protect Calvin’s people, Lilian said thoughtfully.”

“Yes, Madam. Don’t worry, Quina replied immediately. She could tell how much Lilian cared for the Harvey family. She then said, ““Madam, I will make sure they get caught as long as the deal goes through. I’m just worried that they will either postpone or cancel the deal once they know our motives.”

Lilian only responded with a smile.

It was the third night since Calvin arrived in Capital City.

“For the past two days, he had been strategizing with Luqman, and they managed to put a stop to Yadriel’s likely victory in the election. That noon, the polling results were announced. The race between Luqman and Yadriel was a tie.”

“This was great news to Luqman. Meanwhile, this indicated the beginning of a series of unfortunate events for Yadriel.”

Yadriel was flustered and exasperated. He had to put in more effort and pay more attention to the upcoming election.

The results were completely beyond Yadriel’s expectations. He was furious.

“Young Master Harvey, I have you to thank for today’s result. It’s bold how you managed to let me reach a tie with Yadriel. I still feel surreal about this. Luqman was delighted to taste victory finally. ““How about this? Let’s head out for a celebratory meal.””

“Calvin smiled, hiding his domineering side, as he said, ““Chief, it’s still too Tristany for that. Let’s start planning for the next election.””

Sure. Luqman agreed. He was a veteran in politics. He knew it'd be too Tristany to judge if he had won the fight against Yadriel. They had to focus on getting evidence against Yadriel if they wanted to stop him once and for all.

"I'm planning to head home tomorrow, Calvin said. He missed his wife, who was far away in the A City. His smile fell as he was reminded of Liya's presence in Harvey Manor. He was worried."

"Sure, we can slow things down a little for the next couple of days. But, Young Master Harvey, please make sure you'll return soon, Luqman said, nodding. He noticed the longing and concern in Calvin's expression. He could tell that Calvin missed being near his wife and child."

Luqman looked at Calvin's tired face and bid farewell to him to allow him to get some rest.

"Calvin then stood up and freshened himself in the bathroom. Later, he pushed open the windows."

It was dark outside. It was a remote place. The dim street lights painted several faint circles in the warm night sky.

"Belle, are you okay? Did you miss me? Have you been careful for the past few days? Calvin asked over the phone with a sweet and tender voice that melted Belle's heart."

"Calvin. Belle sat up in bed as she answered Calvin's phone. Her cheeks flushed as she said, ""I miss you. How are things going on over there?"""

"Her voice was sweet and pleasing to the ear. Calvin couldn't help but to smile, and his expression was filled with doting tenderness."

Don't worry. Your husband is a capable man. I can solve pretty much everything. Calvin boasted about himself over the phone.

"Belle almost laughed out loud upon hearing this. Calvin had his domineering side, and Belle liked this about him."

She loved his confidence!

"That's great, then. Please settle them quickly. I've been waiting for you to come back home, everyday and every single minute, Belle said with a pout."

"Mr. Harvey, watch out. Blake dashed into the room suddenly and pushed Calvin away. Calvin was completely immersed in the conversation with Belle that he failed to notice the danger that was approaching him. A bullet was fired at him."

"Who is it? Calvin fell to the side after being pushed by Blake. The bullet whistled past Calvin's ear and was shot directly into the wall. Calvin came to his senses and shouted, ""Blake, get him."""

Blake looked out of the window with his eagle-like and sharp eyes. A dark shadow was seen leaping off the platform just below the window and landed on the ground.

"Stop right there, Blake shouted angrily and leaped out of the window."

Calvin threw his phone aside as he stared towards the direction the dark shadow fled to. The corners of his mouth curled up into a cold and terrifying smirk.

Calvin turned around and ran towards the stairs.

This dark shadow was indeed bold to attempt to assassinate him.

Calvin jumped down swiftly from the window by the stairs and landed steadily in front of the man in black clothes.

“It’s time for you to show who you are, Calvin said. Although the streetlamps were dim and the man was wearing a mask, Calvin could still see the sinister light in his dark eyes. Based on Calvin’s intuition, this was the same man who killed Reid and Yaris, as well as the same man who had been after them.”

“The man’s shot was extremely precise. However, he missed his shot just moments earlier and Calvin got out alive. This was out of his expectation.”

The glint in the man’s eyes grew more sinister as he lifted the gun in hand.

The pitch-black muzzle was pointed at Calvin.

A ruthless smile appeared on Calvin’s face. He touched the ring on his index finger and twirled it slightly.

A bullet whizzed away.

“As the man pulled the trigger, a silent gun was triggered. His shoulder was shot.”

The man screamed as the bullet was shot into his arm. The gun in his hand fell to the ground.

It was Calvin!

The man had no idea how Calvin triggered the hidden gun. He almost managed to fire a bullet into Calvin’s heart but he was late by a second.

All it took was one second.

“For the first time in his life, the man missed his shot.”

“Explain yourself, Calvin shouted as he ran towards the man.”

“Be careful, he has a hidden weapon. Blake’s voice rang out from behind. Calvin saw a white light shoot towards him. He leaned back in shock and managed to dodge the attack.”

The man had already disappeared when he stood up and came to his senses. Blake charged forward.

Rage was building in Calvin. His sinister eyes were burning in rage like red knives.

Blake returned dejectedly after a while.

“Mr. Harvey, I lost him. Someone helped with his escape. Blake said with a tone full of remorse, “”It seems like he was here to kill you. It’s horrible of them.”””

Calvin’s gaze was tense. The corners of his mouth were cold and restrained.

“I shot him just now. Just look out for an injured man and start the search tomorrow, Calvin said before he turned around to leave.”

“Mr. Harvey, please be extra cautious from now on. Now that Yadriel has faced defeat, he will never let you get away with this. Please watch out. Blake reminded him with great concern.”

“Calvin clenched his fists and gritted his teeth. He said, ““An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. Yadriel, bring it on.”””

Blake’s heart grew heavier.

“Blake, Yadriel will definitely do something after losing the election today. His ego was bruised. He will not stay put. Ask Otis to pay more attention to the war-torn country. If I could guess correctly, he will start reselling the weapons in the next couple of days, Calvin said with great confidence.”

“Yadriel had been backed into the corner by Calvin, and would have to obtain his funds by reselling weapons illegally. This was a trap for Yadriel. Once he got into this trap, Calvin would make sure to capture him alive.”

“Alright, Blake replied. He understood what Calvin was implying.”

“Calvin left without a word. Upon returning to his bedroom, his phone was ringing.”

Calvin was startled. He picked up the phone and the caller ID showed ‘wife’. There were numerous missed calls from her.

Calvin’s heart skipped a beat. A bullet was fired towards him during their earlier conversation. Could she tell over the phone?

“Belle, Calvin answered the call with a calm and steady tone.”

“Calvin, what happened just now? Belle sounded anxious.”

Nothing. Nothing happened. Calvin smiled and answered in a casual tone.

“But, I heard you shouting, and... Belle retorted. She did not believe what he said. She could tell over the phone that he was angry, icy, and even slightly panicked. She had never heard him shout like that before and she knew he was lying.”

“Belle, aren’t I alright now? Don’t overthink. It’s not good for you to stay upset. Calvin consoled her with his tender words and casual laughter. He wanted to calm her down and stop her from worrying.”

“Upon hearing this, Belle did not insist on asking anymore.”

Chapter 626

“Belle, I’ll come home tomorrow. Wait for me. Now, go rest earlier, Calvin reassured her. He then teased her. ““Watch out, I’ll check on your diet records for the past few days. I’ll smack your backside if you don’t reach my expectation.”””

Belle pouted and smiled.

“After saying goodnight, they hung up.”

“However, Belle couldn’t sleep well that night. She tossed and turned around in the bed.”

“Belle, Belle, a low yet familiar voice rang from her ears. Belle opened her eyes in shock.”

A tall and handsome man was standing in front of her with a gentle and charming smile on his face.

“Calvin, you’re back. Belle gasped. She got up hurriedly with a heart full of joy. The man’s face however was vague and Belle struggled to see him clearly.”

“She panicked and asked, ““Calvin, is that you?”””

Belle reached out to touch him.

“She thought she reached out to his arm, but there was nothing in her grasp.”

“Calvin, Belle shouted as she trembled in fear.”

“Belle, the man called out with a warm voice. His voice was soft but clear. He continued to say, ““If I’m no longer here, then please take good care of yourself, of the Harvey Group, as well as our children.”””

Belle was startled!

What did that mean?

“Calvin, why are you saying this? Where are you going? Belle asked in a daze with her eyes widened.”

The man smiled faintly and stroked her head.

She could feel his hand on her head. She reached out to his hand.

It was ice-cold and trembling.

This was not Calvin’s hand. It didn’t feel the same. Belle blinked her eyes in fear as she stared at the man.

“She finally saw his face, but it was covered with blood dripping out of his mouth, nostrils, and eyes.”

“Calvin! Belle cried out in fear, ““Calvin, did you hurt yourself? What happened? Tell me!”””

She reached out her hands to pull him desperately but all she caught was air. She could only look at him with her eyes wide open.

“His figure gradually faded away like the wind in front of her, leaving only darkness behind. It was pitch-black and there was no end to the darkness.”

“Calvin, don’t leave me, Belle cried out desperately. Coldness wrapped around her body. She reached out to the direction he disappeared from.”

“Belle, what’s wrong? Wake up! An anxious voice accompanied by a gentle shake woke Belle up. She opened her eyes wide, and Rosa was looking at her with concern.”

Belle quickly got up. It turned out that it was just a dream.

“She sat there in bed, lost in thought.”

“Belle, did you have a nightmare? Rosa immediately took a tissue paper to wipe her sweat after noticing that Belle was drenched in sweat. She looked pale. Rosa then said, ““It’s alright now. It’s just a nightmare.”””

“No, Rosa. Calvin is hurt! He’s injured! Belle said with a sob as she held onto Rosa’s arm.”

“Rosa was startled. ““Belle, Calvin is in Capital City now. How can he be injured?”””

“No, I saw it with my own eyes. His face was covered in blood. It was terrifying. He was really injured, Belle said as she trembled. She covered her face in her hands and started sobbing.”

“Rosa could finally tell that Belle had a nightmare about Calvin getting injured. Belle was just scaring herself. She then smiled and said, ““Belle, wake up. It’s midnight now. Calvin is fine. He won’t be injured, okay? He’s tough enough to protect himself.”””

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At the A City airport.

The live broadcast announced that the plane was landing soon. Calvin was sitting in the first class cabin with his eyes closed.

It was only ten o’clock in the morning. He would get to see her soon.

Calvin couldn’t help but to smile at this thought. His face was full of love and tenderness.

“There were not many passengers returning to A City from Capital City that morning. After the plane landed, the passengers slowly walked out of the cabin.”

Calvin wore a suit and held a briefcase with glossy leather shoes. He was a handsome businessman. There was a faint smile in his expression.

“All of a sudden, his ears perked.”

He frowned.

At the exit of the airport.

A few people approached him.

The smile on Calvin’s face turned cold as he narrowed his eyes after sensing danger.

“Calvin Harvey, please come with us. A security member, led by Sergio, blocked Calvin’s path as he presented Calvin his work ID.”

Why would I? Calvin asked with his eyebrows raised. His expression was icy and calm.

“Why? Sergio sneered. He leaned closer and gritted his teeth as he said, ““Calvin, stop acting. Don’t you understand the consequences of leaking confidential information?”””

Calvin fixed his steely gaze on Sergio.

“Sergio, are this instructions from the authorities or your own decision to arrest me? Calvin asked.”

There was an excited glint in Sergio's eyes.

"We have solid evidence for the crimes you have committed. You can be taken away at any time. We have shown the Harvey family enough mercy to wait up till this day. Stop wasting our time and just follow us, Sergio said in a stern tone as he raised an eyebrow."

"Sergio, you're abusing your power for your personal grudge, Calvin bellowed in a deep voice."

Sergio smirked sinisterly.

"Young Master Harvey, your life is over now. So is the Harvey Group. This is what happens when going against the Xanthe family, Sergio said."

"Sergio's face was proud and arrogant, which matched the tone of his voice. "

"Is that so? It's still not clear who'd be the last man standing. Calvin bursted into laughter abruptly. Then, he said in an assertive voice, ""Let's wait and see, shall we?""

Sergio was startled. He couldn't help but to feel a little unsure about his reaction.

"How could Calvin still laugh in this situation? Shouldn't he be crying instead? Plus, he was still acting so arrogant!"

"Do you think Belle will still love you if you become a prisoner? Your life ends here. How are you going to protect her from now on? But don't worry, I will protect and take care of her on your behalf while you're gone. Sergio leaned forward with a mocking smile. He spoke in a low but arrogant tone."

"Bet he wouldn't laugh after hearing this, Sergio thought to himself. He found his weakness and made sure Calvin would suffer. Sergio then narrowed his eyes and stared at Calvin."

"You are really shameless. Calvin broke into laughter from extreme anger. He said with great confidence, ""Belle wouldn't even look at you despite all your flashy stance and powerful position. On the other hand, if I ever become a prisoner, she would still stay by my side through thick and thin.""

Do you understand now? The difference between us? You nasty b*stard.

Calvin's expression was filled with disdain.

"You... Sergio was furious after being humiliated. He gritted his teeth and said, ""You're being stubborn, aren't you? We shall see then.""

Chapter 627

"Whatever. Calvin shrugged confidently. His eyes suddenly narrowed with a glint of cold light as he asked, ""Sergio, did you act under Capital City's orders today? Let me ask you, how did Yaris die? You wouldn't know, would you? Don't forget that the former deputy director of the Public Security Department, Charles, was present at the scene. He can prove that Yaris was murdered, instead of committing suicide to escape punishment. You are doubly guilty for breaking the law as a law-enforcement personnel. I am sure you know better than I do what happened to Yaris!""

Sergio's heart skipped a beat but he gave a blank look. His gaze darkened.

Calvin approached him with conviction and stared at him. "You're just abusing your powers to interfere with my plan in the election. You won't succeed."

Sergio sniggered with a dark glint in his gaze. He looked terrifying.

"However, Calvin remained convinced. The mocking smile on his face slowly faded away and was replaced with an icy expression."

"Hitting my land cruiser in my basement garage, Reid's death, Yaris' death, the man in black who tried to assassinate me last night... I remember every single incident. And I finally understand now. Tell your family to watch out for themselves. The only reason I haven't made my move yet is because the time hasn't come for me to launch an attack, Calvin said calmly, with his expression neutral. His impassive demeanor was somehow more frightening."

"I don't understand what you are implying. You should just admit defeat in my hands, Sergio said. He put up a tough front although he was terrified of Calvin's unfathomable expression."

Calvin broke into laughter once again as he could hear the fear and panic hidden underneath Sergio's harsh words.

"In Harvey Manor, the sun was shining brightly although it was still Tristany. The helpers in the garden were already drenched in sweat."

The sky over Harvey Manor appeared a little gloomy that day. The atmosphere wasn't as serene either.

Belle got up Tristany. She was still terrified and exhausted from the nightmare the night before.

It's getting hotter each year. The global temperature keeps rising. Carmella's voice could be heard from the corridor ahead. Belle looked up and saw Martin walking in with Carmella from outside. They seemed to have returned from their morning exercise.

"Good morning, Belle, Carmella immediately greeted Belle with a wide smile."

Belle was startled. She wondered why Carmella was still in the Ink Garden. Is she going to be a long-term guest from now on?

"Morning, she replied with a faint smile. Her gaze, however, fell on Martin."

Martin greeted her and stood there in silence. His expression was casual and neutral.

"Belle, why are you awake this Tristany? You didn't even wait for me. Rosa spotted Belle as she walked out from the bathroom. She immediately rushed over."

"Hi, Rosa, Carmella greeted her enthusiastically."

"Rosa's heart skipped a beat. Carmella was still here. This must have meant that things were going well between her and Martin. Carmella was a great person, and she liked Martin too. Of course Martin would hold on to this golden opportunity."

Rosa gave a nonchalant smile and greeted Carmella.

"However, Rosa, without realizing at that time, felt a tinge of jealousy. "

“She was reminded of the conversation she had with Belle the previous night. That made her feel sad, and she felt despicable.”

It was ridiculous for her to believe the words of a man who once hurt her deeply. She even thought of marrying him. How despicable was that?

“Carry on with your conversation. I still have some things to attend to, Rosa said with a smile. She then turned around and left. She never once took a glance at Martin during their exchange.”

Martin wanted to greet Rosa but he felt the coldness from her reaction. There was nothing he could do but to watch her leave. It felt like he was forced to swallow a huge jug of bitter juice.

“The president of the Harvey Group, Mr. Calvin, was taken away by the staff of the safety department as soon as he got off a plane this morning. Through our reporter’s findings, it turned out that he was arrested for leaking confidential information through his company. According to reliable sources, the authorities are treating it as a serious crime. The Harvey Group must be held accountable for their crimes. The TV outside in the Ink Garden was broadcasting the news of that day ”

Belle was shocked.

Rosa froze in her steps.

Martin gasped upon hearing the news and stood there in a daze.

Even Carmella was shocked. She couldn’t believe what she had just heard.

“She was aware of this incident in the Harvey Group. However, was it serious enough to warrant an arrest? Didn’t they insist that there was some misunderstanding regarding this?”

The Harvey Group must have offended someone in power. They were framed.

No. Calvin. Belle came back to her senses. She ran towards the TV after letting out a cry.

“Belle, be careful. Rosa immediately reacted and ran towards her. She held Belle from stumbling along the way.”

“Martin followed after he was jolted from the daze. He said, “”Belle, be careful. Let’s remain calm. There must be some misunderstanding in this. I’ll find out more about it.”””

“Martin, Rosa, what should we do? They already took Calvin with them. Look, Belle asked as she pointed to the TV screen. She was helpless and miserable.”

“Martin’s face fell. He glanced at the TV screen and said, “”Belle, don’t believe everything you see from the news. Calvin would have already informed us if this was true.”””

“No. This is not some entertainment news we’re talking about. It’s making headlines in Capital City news. It is not a baseless claim, Belle yelled helplessly. Tears welled up in her eyes as her heart ached with pain. She said, “”Martin, go to Hudson and tell him they took Calvin away.”””

Belle was almost shocked out of her mind. Hudson was the core of Harvey Manor now that Calvin was arrested. It’d be most wise to consult him regarding this matter.

Martin's mind was clear and he understood the severity of the situation. He only said what he said to console Belle.

"Sure, let's find Uncle Hudson together. Martin nodded and held onto Belle's left arm. Rosa was stunned by the sudden news and she didn't feel safe leaving Belle by herself. Thus, she held onto Belle's right arm. The three of them then headed outside."

Carmella stood behind them with a thoughtful look as she watched them leave.

"As soon as they arrived at the entrance of the Ink Garden, Hudson appeared."

He was composed. His expression was serious but dignified.

Dad. "Uncle." The three of them called out at the same time.

Hudson glanced at them with an unfathomable expression. It was as if he was awaiting their presence. He nodded in response with a surprisingly peaceful expression.

"Dad, they took Calvin away, Belle said with a trembling voice. Her body was shaking slightly."

"Hudson looked at her with a tender gaze. He smiled. ""Belle, I know. It's okay. You don't have to worry about this."""

"But this is not something we should take lightly, Belle said. She was a little confused at how serene Hudson appeared. Seeing his reaction, people might even be surprised to find out that Calvin was his son. Perhaps the news was indeed fake. She felt more at ease as she thought of this. "

"Belle, don't worry. Nothing will happen. Hudson comforted her. ""You're pregnant now. You should remain calm and avoid getting agitated. Do you understand?"""

"Hudson then glanced at Rosa and said, ""Rosa, why don't you take Belle for a rest? We have to keep her emotions stable. Please try to comfort her."""

Rosa knew Belle should avoid getting overly emotional but she was caught off guard by the news of Calvin. Rosa nodded after hearing Hudson's reminder. She nudged Belle to leave.

"No, Hudson. I'm fine. I won't leave. I can't rest knowing that Calvin was taken away. Belle insisted. She came here to find a solution to help Calvin. She was determined that she wouldn't leave without a solution."

"Belle, trust me. It won't be as terrible as you thought. You are pregnant. What matters most now is to keep you and the baby safe and healthy. Calvin is a smart man. He will be fine over there, Hudson said with a stern voice after seeing the panic in her expression."

"Belle was stunned. Hudson sounded so confident. For a second there, Belle had an illusion that Hudson didn't care much about his son's safety."

Calvin was arrested. Of course it was a serious matter.

"Belle, good prevails over evil. Don't worry too much, Hudson said with a sigh and continued to rationalize with her. He then said with a stern tone, ""You know, back in Old Master Harvey' time, he

was framed by his rivals and was imprisoned. Look at our Harvey Group now. We went through that and we are still doing great, aren't we?"

Belle was startled as she heard Hudson's story.

"His words were powerful. His expression was confident and calm. Belle finally began to calm down as she analyzed Hudson's words. As she was trying to calm herself down, she noticed the pain in the back of his eyes."

The president of the Harvey Group had been taken away with the crime of leaking confidential information. Everyone knew the severity of the situation and potential consequences. Hudson hid his worries deep inside his heart. He had to stay composed.

Belle finally calmed down and agreed to leave with Rosa.

Chapter 628

Belle was lying in the lounge. Her eyes were closed and her hands were on her belly. Tears streamed from the corners of her eyes and fell silently on the pillow.

"She thought to herself, ""Calvin, please be safe. You must hold on. Wait for me. I will find a way to save you.""

"The news that Calvin Harvey, the president of Harvey Group from A City, being taken away was reported in all the major news outlets. With that, rumours started spreading like wildfire and the Harvey Group's stock prices crashed. Harvey Group fell into a state of chaos. "

"All of the sudden, Harvey Group was in a dire situation."

"Back at Harvey Manor, Hudson remained calm and composed. Panic permeated the air as the news of the head of the family being taken away spread. It was an unprecedented crisis for the Harvey family. Fear and unease were written plainly on the servants' faces. "

The weather was sunny but it was gloomy in Harvey Manor.

"Belle lay down in the lounge, tossing and turning, but couldn't seem to calm herself down. Her mind was full of the horrible images of Calvin covered in blood from her nightmare the previous night."

She felt as though her heart was being clenched by a sharp claw. The pain was piercing.

"She picked up her phone and started calling Calvin, but the reply from the other end of the line always sounded, ""I'm sorry. The number you have dialed is unavailable."" The distant tone of the automated message was giving her a headache!"

"She couldn't stay still. She checked her cell phone every few minutes, worried that she might miss any updates about Calvin."

"However, her cell phone remained silent the entire morning. She fell gradually into despair."

"During lunch time, she acted as if nothing had happened and forced herself to finish a bowl of soup and a plate of spaghetti. Her hands were trembling gently the entire time as she ate."

“She was the head of the family. So, she could not panic at this time.”

Everyone was counting on her to lead and guide the family through this difficult time.

People tried to be nice by saying that Calvin had just been taken away but they knew clearly that Calvin was in fact arrested.

Paige’s eyes were swollen from crying and she was absent at lunch.

“Although Hudson was as calm as ever and had managed to have the overall situation under control, Belle could clearly see the pain hidden in the depths of his eyes.”

“She was pregnant. So, she knew Hudson would hate to see if she appeared agitated or anxious.”

“Hence, she wore a calm smile on her face.”

She returned to the guest room after the meal.

She was exhausted mentally and physically since she could not sleep the night before. She was tossing and turning in bed and kept having nightmares. Her entire mind was occupied by images of Calvin.

She could not imagine the chaotic situation in the company. She knew it was about time for her to show up and take control of the situation.

She stood up and walked towards the Fragrance Garden.

“Calvin had once given her a set of office keys. They were keys to all the offices of the Harvey Group, including the storage of the confidential documents, as well as the official seals of the Harvey Group. With the seals and documents, she would be able to give orders in the Harvey Group.”

“As she was no longer the vice president of the Harvey Group, she had to bring the keys with her if she wished to return to the company.”

She went upstairs with dainty steps and went to take a look at Jerry.

Aunt Ella was aware of the situation and knew about the rumors spreading amongst the servants. She looked at Belle worriedly when she entered the room.

Belle smiled gently.

Jerry was taking a quiet afternoon nap when she walked in.

“Madam, don’t worry. Old Master Harvey had a similar encounter when he was still around. He even went to jail for half a year. It won’t happen again this time. Aunt Ella consoled her softly as tears welled up in her eyes.”

“Aunt Ella was an old servant of the family. So, Belle wasn’t surprised to hear that she knew about Old Master Harvey’ past. Looking into her worried eyes, she smiled and said, “”Aunt Ella, don’t worry. Believe me, I won’t let Calvin go to jail. Please take good care of Jerry.”””

“Aunt Ella wiped her tears. Belle’s calmness made her slightly more at ease. “”Mrs. Harvey, don’t worry. I will take care of Jerry well. You can focus on what you need to do. You’re pregnant. So, please don’t tire yourself out.”””

Aunt Ella nagged while Belle smiled and nodded. She returned to her bedroom and found the keys. There was an endless abyss in her eyes as she held the keys tightly in her hands.

“Belle, I love you. These are the keys to my office. I will hand them to you now. Perhaps you will need them soon. I will give you everything, including myself. Please take good care of them in the future.”

Calvin’s warm voice and his clear message rang in her ears. Tears welled up in her eyes as she recalled the scene. She bit her lips hard and forced to get herself together.

The president of the Harvey Group had been taken away!

All the employees were either huddled around the TV screen or stared at their own computer screens to watch the news. No one could concentrate on their work.

“The senior executives of the Harvey Group were gathered in the conference room. They were at a loss at what to do. The stock prices continued to plummet, leaving them helpless. They didn’t know how to deal with this crisis as they were used to Calvin giving them orders.”

Belle arrived at the 88th floor.

Yuri was sitting listlessly at her desk.

“Ah, Mrs. Harvey, you are here! Yuri stood up abruptly. Her eyes lit up instantly upon the sight of Belle.”

She referred to Belle as Mrs. Harvey since she was no longer the vice president of the company!

Mmm. Belle acknowledged. “Where are all the other senior executives?”

She went straight to the point.

“They are in the conference room, Yuri replied quickly. She immediately understood the purpose of her visit and her mood was somewhat lifted.”

“Alright, take me there, Belle said quickly.”

Yuri acknowledged in a clear and loud voice and led the way.

“Mrs. Harvey, please wait for a moment. I’ll go in and inform them of your arrival, Yuri said softly at the door of the conference room.”

“Belle nodded. She didn’t walk straight in as she was no longer the vice president of the company. Outsiders were not allowed to get involved in the business casually, even if they are a close relative unless there was authorization from the President. This was the rule of Harvey Group.”

Yuri walked out after a few moments and invited her in politely.

The large conference room reeked of cigarettes smells. An air of dejection permeated the air when Belle walked in. She frowned at the condition of the conference room.

“Greetings, Mrs. Harvey. The people in the conference room stood up and greeted her politely when they saw her.”

“The Harvey Group was a family business of the Harvey family. Even if she did not hold any important position in the company, she was still respected, as she was the wife of the company’s president.”

“Hello, everyone. Please take a seat. Belle gave a vacant look. Her brows furrowed, indicating them to sit down.”

“Mrs. Harvey, is Mr. Harvey alright? They were becoming hasty after the commotion in the company and immediately threw a series of questions at her after sitting down.”

“Mrs. Harvey, the stock prices kept falling. Millions of dollars evaporated just this morning itself. Everyone is in a state of panic and many shareholders want to cash out their shares.”

“Mrs. Harvey, the Free Trade Center in A City that Mr. Harvey had planned were just starting to come together. The company had invested a large sum of capital. Many shareholders who had initially agreed on forming an alliance with us were having second thoughts now that the news has spread. They were creating a commotion in the reception room downstairs, demanding to withdraw their shares. This is not looking good at all. Once they withdraw their shares, the loss would be insurmountable. Damian Temple, the company’s director, knew Belle was capable of making decisions and reported the situation to her hurriedly. She made her appearance in the company when Calvin was in danger, which inadvertently made her the decision maker for the company.”

“Mrs. Harvey, the employees are feeling unsettled and fearful for the future and outlook of the company. It is nearing the end of the month for wage payments and they are worried that they wouldn’t get paid. The payout of the salary requires the official signature and seal of Mr. Richard to be effective.”

Yes. It is not just an internal problem. External parties who were dealing with us also rushed over immediately and demanded payment from us when they heard the news. This is really giving us a headache.

.....

Belle stood quietly with a cold expression while listening to their summaries.

She stood there without a word for a long time.

“Gradually, they started to quiet down.”

“All of them turned their eyes to Belle eventually, silently begging her to start making decisions.”

The silence was terrifying.

“Let me start by asking you a question. Who told you that Calvin was taken away? Have you verified your sources? Her tone was harsh, and the expression on her face was grim.”

The senior executives suddenly realized that they indeed had not received any formal notice. They jumped to conclusions and fell into a state of panic after reading the news. They felt guilty upon hearing Belle’s stern questions and looked at each other in embarrassment.

“Mrs. Harvey, it was on the news. I suppose they wouldn’t broadcast it if it was fake? Someone brought it up to justify their reactions.”

“News? Was that how you worked for the company? Based on news? Belle sneered and her voice rose. ““Well, even if what the news said was true, what does it matter? Does it mean something bad would happen to Calvin? Would the company collapse because of that? I never knew the management team of the Harvey Group would be so foolish and reckless. Instead of thinking calmly, you brought about panic and fear. Did we spend so much money just to train a bunch of morons as executives for the company?”””

Belle’s words were cold and sharp.

“Some older executives who had worked in the Harvey Group their whole life couldn’t stand her line of questioning and said immediately, ““Mrs. Harvey, it wasn’t up to us that we panicked. The customers and shareholders didn’t believe that we would be able to get through this. Most of them have come here to cash out their shares.”””

“Really? Belle raised her eyebrows and sneered. ““Look at yourself. What do you think the clients would think when they see the company’s own executives panicking. Even I wouldn’t be convinced that the company would get through it when I saw how you responded to the news. With a management team like this, even if the company was in a good state, I am sure the public wouldn’t feel safe putting their money with us. As senior executives of an established company, you all responded to baseless claims with such rash reactions. How are you expecting to lead the employees with such incompetence?”””

“The senior executives felt ashamed from Belle’s harsh scoldings. Upon reflecting their reactions, they acknowledged that they were indeed too flustered. Usually, a meeting of such scale would only be held with Calvin’s orders but they had all gathered in the conference room that day without any instructions, which did not reflect well on their part. They didn’t solve any problems by doing so, and in addition, created a sense of anxiety in the company. The Harvey Group was really in a chaotic situation now.”

They calmed down and lowered their heads as they reflected on their mistakes.

Chapter 629

“I can tell you now. You are free to resign with immediate effect if you do not have the confidence that the company will get through this. I will not force you to stay and help overcome this crisis, Belle said clearly, sweeping her eyes over everyone. She then waved the keys in her hand and continued, ““This is the key to Mr. Harvey’ office. He has already authorized me to take charge of the company. Regarding the payroll, you can give it to me to sign now. Anyone who wants to get signatures for resignation letters could also look for me now.”””

The senior executives looked guilty after hearing Belle’s words. None of them wanted to resign. They held their breaths as they were afraid of getting into trouble. The huge conference room was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

CFO.

“Yes, Mrs. Harvey.”

“Did we receive the two hundred million dollars from N&S Group yesterday? Belle asked, looking straight at the CFO. ”

“The CFO thought for a moment and made a phone call immediately. A few moments later, he smiled and said, “”Mrs. Harvey, the money has just been credited into our account.”””

“Okay. Belle took over the topic and said quickly, “”Let’s do this. The public relations manager will go down and explain the situation to the shareholders. If they insist, then immediately process their shares withdrawal requests. I will approve the documents. But you must make it clear to them that the Harvey Group will never work with the shareholders and clients who backed out again, as they have no integrity and did not hold up their end of the bargain. Furthermore, they will also be forever included in our company’s blacklist.”””

The public relations manager left after receiving the instructions.

The two hundred million dollars that they had just received from the N&S Group had almost reignited everyone’s confidence.

“People who were familiar with the workings of the business world understood that N&S Group was actually a subsidiary of the Harvey Group and was doing quite well overseas. The Harvey Group was still standing strong. Of course, people wouldn’t be stupid enough to resign from such a well-established company.”

“If you still wish to work for the company, then please go down immediately to take care of your respective departments. Anyone who continues to gossip and spread rumors will be fired immediately. Belle turned and walked out of the office after finishing her sentence.”

The people in the room stood up cautiously and went back to their respective departments.

The chaos in Harvey Group was immediately resolved. Everything had returned to normal.

“Belle came to Calvin’s office and began to deal with various matters of the company,”

The public relations manager walked up to her with a smile and reported that none of the shareholders or customers wanted to withdraw their shares anymore. They had all left the company.

“Belle let out a cold snort, and just waved her hand without a word.”

The public relations manager took the hint and left her office quietly.

Belle started to bury herself in work and did not leave until nighttime.

“Meanwhile, in the luxurious private suite of Walda Hotel.”

Octavia stepped into the VIP room in trepidation with an invitation card in her hand.

A feeling of fear that she couldn’t comprehend followed her along the way here.

Who invited her here? What was the purpose of the invitation? She was clueless!

She didn’t want to come but the sender had given out the invitation in a tone that seemed impossible to reject the invitation. It was as if there would be dire consequences if she rejected the invitation.

She pushed the door open with unease.

The interior was luxuriously decorated. The room appeared classy.

Who would be this pompous?

Is anyone here? she asked softly and looked around.

“The private room was empty. clearly, the person who invited her hadn’t arrived yet.”

She checked the time on her phone and noticed that she arrived right on time. It seemed like the other party had bailed on her.

She thought for a while before walking out of the room. She proceeded to ask the waiter to see who had reserved the private room.

“The waiter shook his head, as he didn’t know either.”

She felt even more uneasy. She stood in the private room and looked around. She had a vague feeling that something was not quite right and decided to leave.

“Mrs. Harvey, this way please. A young man’s voice sounded from outside.”

There were footsteps heading towards the door of the private room.

Octavia stood still and held her breath.

Mrs. Harvey? She didn’t know a Mrs. Harvey!

The door was pushed open.

“Ah, it’s you, Octavia exclaimed, taking a few steps back in shock. ”

“Sorry, I’m late. Belle smiled and extended her hand towards Octavia. “”My name is Belle Morris. Thank you for coming. Please have a seat.”””

Belle’s hand stretched out in front of her.

“Octavia hesitated, stretched out her hand, and shook Belle’s hand briefly while her mind was turning and assessing the situation.”

What did she invite her here for!

She rummaged through her memories trying to find clues about Mrs. Harvey. She had heard of her but their paths have never crossed. Why would she arrange to meet her out of the blue?

She was aware of the incident about Calvin being taken away as it was on the front page of the news today.

Was it because of this? How can she be of help?

Her eyes rolled around and her mood calmed down. She did not look as frightened anymore.

Belle has nothing on her so she had no reasons to be afraid of.

“Mrs. Harvey, what can I do for you? Octavia sat down on the sofa and asked in a casual tone.”

“Belle poured her a cup of tea and placed it in front of her. She then smiled and said, “”Nothing, Octavia. I just wanted to chat.”””

“Oh. Octavia snorted and said indifferently, ““Mrs. Harvey, I am just an insignificant employee of the company. I am not on your level to talk to you and I don’t think we have any common interests.”””

“Belle said with a half smile, ““No, we do. We have a lot of topics in common that we should discuss.”””

“Her expression was calm, and she was very confident in her actions.”

Octavia’s eyelids twitched slightly. She looked straight at her and felt a little intimidated.

“Mrs. Harvey, what do you mean?”

“Belle leaned back on the couch and made herself comfortable. She picked up the teacup in her hand, took a sip gently, before talking slowly and courteously, ““Octavia, of course, I have my reasons to invite you here today. I hope you can cooperate with me in our conversation. This will benefit you.”””

“Really? Octavia refused to comply. She stood up and said coldly, ““Mrs. Harvey, you really think too highly of me. I am just an insignificant employee of a small company. I have no value to you at all and we have nothing to talk about. I’m afraid that I have disappointed you. I’m sorry but I shall make a move as I have prior engagements.”””

She stood up and was ready to leave.

“Belle understood what she was implying. She smiled lightly and said, ““Octavia, I would suggest you sit down, so that we can have a good talk. We might even have a good time. Who knows? I may even be able to help you.”””

“Octavia chuckled and said bluntly, ““Mrs. Harvey, thank you so much. However, there is really nothing to talk about between us and I don’t need your kindness. I am just an unimportant staff member and I can’t provide you with any valuable information. In my opinion, Mrs. Harvey, you should spend your energy on dealing with your husband’s lovers.”

“Her tone was light and casual. Then, she turned around to leave.”

“Stop. Lomen stood in front of her. He looked at her with a vacant expression and said, ““Please show some respect to Mrs. Harvey and answer her questions honestly.”””

“Lomen’s body blocked Octavia’s way out like a stone wall. His sharp but gloomy eyes were staring at her, as cold as iron.”

It was only then that Octavia realized that she might not be able to walk out of here that day!

“Mrs. Harvey, are you going to keep me here now by force? She turned to look and asked Belle angrily.”

Belle was sipping her tea at a relaxed pace with an indifferent expression.

“There is no need for me to use force on you. I believe you’ll cooperate with me, she said in a calm tone.”

“Octavia sneered. ““Mrs. Harvey, you are acting so confident but are you aware that you are using force now to make me stay? I can tell you certainly that I will neither cooperate with you, nor will I answer your questions.”””

“Really? Belle said with a chuckle. ““You are behaving rudely, which is not a good thing. Lomen had only intended for you to allow me to finish my words.”””

I think it’s better that you listen carefully to what I am going to say before you decide what you want to do. What do you think?

“Octavia raised her eyes and looked at Lomen, who was standing in front of her. His face was cold and ruthless, and he would not compromise at all. Then, she looked at Belle, who was calm and composed. She understood that it would be difficult for her to leave if she refused to listen to what she was going to say.”

“Well, let’s see what she has to say. Either way, she would not be able to provide her with any useful information at all! Octavia thought smugly.”

She walked back as she contemplated and sat down on the couch with an arrogant look on her face.

“Then, hurry up and say it. I’m listening. Remember, I have very limited patience. There are people waiting for me outside as well. I didn’t come here alone.”

“Her message was clear. She would not cooperate with her. She can’t be threatened either as she didn’t come here alone. Her bodyguards were waiting for her outside, and there were probably more than one of them!”

Belle understood what she was implying. She smiled and spoke without thinking twice.

“Don’t worry, I won’t take up a lot of your time. I just need a few minutes. Why are young people so impatient now? You will easily lose out if you continue to behave this way.”

“Octavia was getting restless. ““Mrs. Harvey, just say whatever you have to say. I don’t have much spare time.”””

“Belle smiled and put down the cup of tea. She continued to lean back on the couch and asked lightly, ““I am sure you have heard of Ziyon?”””

Ziyon?

“Octavia’s face turned pale as soon as she heard this name. Her whole body tensed, and she appeared alert.”

Who is Ziyon? Which Ziyon? I don’t understand what you are saying! She pretended to question back in confusion. Nervousness and anxiety was written clearly on her face.

Belle looked at her calmly.

Chapter 630

“So, you don’t know him? Belle asked calmly.”

“Octavia hesitated for a moment and answered unreservedly, ““Yes. I do not know him.”””

“I see. Belle appeared enlightened. ““Looks like we got the wrong person. If that’s the case, then forget about it. I thought I’d be able to do something good today.”””

“Belle informed Lomen, ““Lomen, unfortunately we have got the wrong person. I supposed this is God’s will. I thought I’d come here with the intention of saving a life. It seemed my hope was in vain. Let’s go. There’s no point in wasting our time here.”””

She stood up as she spoke.

“Well, Mrs. Harvey. I supposed we should let it go since there are no other ways around it. Leave the matter of life and death to the hands of fate.”

Lomen knew Belle was onto something. He agreed with her and took a few long strides towards her direction to escort her out.

Octavia’s face turned pale immediately. A storm was brewing in her mind. The arrogance she displayed just now had suddenly evaporated while panic crept in.

“Mrs. Harvey, please explain before you leave. Octavia stopped Belle. Her voice trembled lightly.”

The corner of Belle’s mouth curved into a faint smile.

Why? Are you interested in what I have to say now? Belle stopped and asked.

“Mrs. Harvey, which Ziyon are you talking about? Octavia tried to remain calm and asked in a steady voice.”

“Belle raised her eyebrows and questioned, ““Why? Do you really know Ziyon?”””

Belle kept her guessing deliberately as she grew more anxious. She saw the panic in her eyes and knew that she had flipped the situation. Octavia was practically begging her now.

“Mrs. Harvey, I will be frank. I do know a man named Ziyon but I am not sure if he was the person you were referring to. Octavia clenched her jaw.”

Do you want to know who I am talking about? Belle’s red lips parted slightly. She didn’t elaborate further.

“Octavia tightened her fist. ““Mrs. Harvey, you are the wife of a noble and decent family. You wouldn’t want to get your hands dirty, would you? It wouldn’t be any good for your reputation if word got out that you played dirty.”””

“Reputation? Belle’s eyes were piercing. ““My husband was framed and his life was almost ruined. Do you think I care about my reputation? This is a dog-eat-dog world. In the world of business, the winner rules over the weak and takes it all. Do you think I would still care about my reputation when it comes to dealing with b*stards without integrity?”””

“Octavia looked at her in fear. Belle’s eyes were cold and sharp, and she looked stern. Her face turned pale again.”

“Then, tell me, which Ziyon? What happened to him? There was a hint of despair in her eyes as she asked slowly.”

Belle chuckled and sat on the couch. “Made up your mind yet? Ready to have a conversation with me now?”

Please. Octavia followed and sat down. She looked at her with an incredulous expression.

“Ziyon Gambon. Year 2, Class 3, Belle replied softly.”

No. Octavia sprang to her feet. “What did you do to him? Do not touch him.”

She screamed at Belle and her eyes reddened.

“Belle sneered. ““Octavia, how stupid can you be? What would I do to him? Aren’t you aware that you were the one who put him in danger?”””

What do you mean? Octavia’s eyes were wide with confusion.

You should know who you have been dealing with. Just think about it. You knew so much insider information. Did you really think she would let you go easily? Belle laughed in disdain and replied sarcastically.

Impossible. You are trying to drive a wedge between us. Octavia thought Belle was trying to manipulate her and shook her head in denial. “That is absolutely impossible.”

Absolutely impossible? Belle taunted. “Seems like you are loyal. It’s a pity that you have wasted your loyalty on the wrong person.”

Octavia’s face was as pale as ash and cold sweat dripped from her forehead. She fell back and sank into the couch as she lowered her head.

“I’ll tell you. Your dearest brother was actually locked up by Zoella. She made arrangements for your mother and brother because she had something else planned. clearly, she didn’t trust you. In fact, she had her people following them closely, in case you ever made any unusual moves. She’d threaten you with their lives if it ever happens. You know very well how she operates, Belle explained indifferently.”

Octavia’s face twisted and she looked terrible.

“Why are you telling me this? If what you said was true, then I’d definitely remain loyal to her. I wouldn’t bet Rhys her, at the very least, to keep my family safe, Octavia uttered.”

Octavia had been having vague suspicions about what Belle had said but she shrugged it off because she trusted her wholeheartedly.

“I am telling you because I want you to know what kind of person you are dealing with. You shall judge for yourself what kind of person she is. Also, because I want to save your family. Belle was very frank and had no intention of hiding the truth from her.”

What in the world are you trying to say? Octavia raised her head and sneered. Belle saw the fear in her eyes.

“Take them away somewhere far and safe as soon as possible. Get away from Zoella for the sake of their safety, Belle advised in a low voice. ““Zoella had been poisoning your mother and brother with chronic poison. If you leave now, then I can find a doctor abroad and they would still stand a chance to be cured. Or else, I am afraid that the chronic toxicity would be too severe to be treated.”””

“What? Octavia stood up in shock and disbelief. ““Mrs. Harvey, is that true?”””

Of course. My men have spent a lot of time following her to find out about this. I came to you as soon as I knew it. Belle appeared certain.

“Then, why are you doing this? What is your purpose? she asked after a moment of silence. Octavia perspired in fear. Her gaze was dull as she muttered.”

Belle laughed.

I do have my intentions. I am a businesswoman after all. I would like to make a deal with you.

“She was frank, which persuaded Octavia to believe her. She knew there was no free lunch in the world.”

“I only did this for one purpose. That is the Harvey Group. I care about profit in all the trades I deal with. I’ve provided you with such valuable information because I want you to cooperate with me. I believe you know how our company has been framed by Zoella. I hope that we’ll be able to benefit from each other and achieve mutual benefits, Belle expressed frankly.”

Octavia’s face gradually lit up and she asked hesitantly.

How can you be sure that I will fulfil your request? I’m just an unimportant character in the story.

“Belle raised her beautiful eyebrows and deepened her smile. ““Octavia, Zoella has spent so much effort on you. Why would she have given so much thought to your family if you are insignificant to her? She would exchange your loyalty by threatening your mother and brother’s lives. She wanted to make sure that you’d never leave her and would act at her disposal. Don’t you understand?”””

Octavia’s eyes flashed with grief and cold sweat began to drip down her forehead. She tried to wipe it with a tissue to conceal her fear.

“Octavia, I am going to be very frank. Leave now and you can still protect your family. If not, then you and your family will not end well simply because you know too much about Zoella. She is on guard about you and will not let you go. For your family’s safety and health, they cannot wait any longer. I am sure you understand the consequences.”

“Octavia bit her lip so hard that it turned white, and her hands were clasped together.”

She would definitely die if she bet Rhysed Zoella now. Zoella wouldn’t let her go before she achieved her goal.

“However, her mother and brother...”

She clasped her fingers even tighter and she appeared to be in pain. She was in a dilemma and did not know how to handle the situation.

“Octavia, Zoella’s conspiracy will soon be exposed. Once the authorities start their investigation on her, she will push all the blame to you. You have followed her for a long time, and you took part in everything. If you refuse to cooperate with her, then she will threaten you with the toxins in your mother’s and brother’s body. She might even promise you to cure them of their poison if you took the blame for her. However, I want to remind you that your mother’s and brother’s conditions have already reached the point of no return, and treatment should not be delayed. Even if you take the blame, she

might not be able to cure their illnesses. Think about it. I am trying to help you. Belle stopped for a while and then continued, ""We can find a solution even if Zoella pushed the blame of framing Harvey Group to you. If you tell everything now, then you will only be considered an accomplice. Your punishment would be much lighter. If you expose her now, then I promise you that I will find help to cure your family's illness,"" Belle explained patiently again."

"I... The anger and arrogance in Octavia's eyes had all disappeared, leaving only despair, fear, and helplessness."

"Octavia, the interrogation method has advanced a lot now. Zoella may be well-prepared but you can't rule out the possibility that the authorities will force her name out of you. She would do everything to protect herself. You must be fully aware that she has trained a lot of killers. Belle analyzed further."

Octavia was getting more upset as she continued listening.

"Octavia, you are after all only her underling. These crimes are not terrible. You can still make atonement as long as you expose her. You know my character. I only did this for my husband, as well as the Harvey Group. This is a fair trade. Belle stood up and continued, ""Of course, it is also for you and your family."""

"The fear in Octavia's eyes was getting more obvious and she appeared anxious. ""Mrs. Harvey, I need some time to consider this."""