Heiress's 436



The guests filed into another hall in preparation to take part in the auction.

Bella withdrew from the media, getting away from the spotlight to take a breather in the hallway.

"Ms. Bella!" Steven rushed to her side worriedly. "Are you alright?"

"It's just a few bothersome reporters. What could have happened?

How much could they have done?"

Bella was calm, but she frowned slightly. "You shouldn't be by my

side right now. You should be in the hall, taking care of things."

"But... I was worried about you."

Steven's voice was anxious and hoarse. "Those reporters clearly

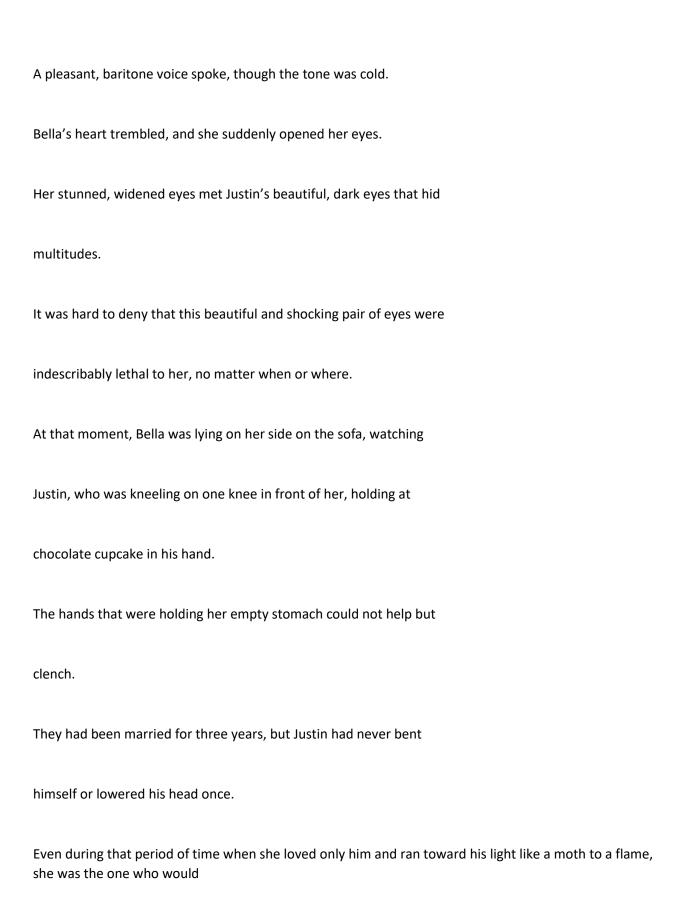
came prepared. They were deliberately sent to make things difficult

for you! They kept harping on our mistakes to make you look bad!"

"Isn't that pretty normal? Do reporters have to come over to sing your

| to help me." Bella leaned against the wall as she tapped her shoulder. "Just let Bethany Salvador enjoy herself and | praises and exalt you just because you're hosting a charity event?" |
|---|--|
| management, which was taken advantage of by certain flamboyant fowls. I can't blame others for that." Flamboyant fowls. An image of Shannon and Bethany rose to the front of Steven's mind. "But you said something I don't agree with. Those reporters were sent by someone not to ruin me, but to help me." Bella leaned against the wall as she tapped her shoulder. "Just let Bethany Salvador enjoy herself and make a scene. I'm best at making my opponent fall from their pedestal and defeating them completely just when they think they have the world in the palm of their hands. Haha! How interesting." Steven watched Ms. Bella's gaze slowly darken. When she got vicious, she was just like Asher, and Steven could not help but shiver in fear. | Bella crossed her arms, still looking calm. "And anyway, what they |
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| | vicious, she was just like Asher, and Steven could not help but shiver |
| This rose was indeed beautiful, but it had thorns and was poisonous! | in fear. |
| | This rose was indeed beautiful, but it had thorns and was poisonous! |

| Steven, as the general manager's secretary, was needed inside the hall to ensure things ran smoothly, so he quickly ran back inside. |
|--|
| Bella had been working hard the whole day for this auction and had only had a simple breakfast. She had not eaten lunch or dinner and had not even had a sip of water. |
| Her stomach growled as she collapsed weakly onto the sofa and kicked off her heels, revealing her pale feet. |
| She curled up pitifully. She was so hungry that her stomach was |
| twinging. |
| "I'm starving" |
| Bella murmured weakly as she slowly closed her eyes. |
| Suddenly, she could faintly smell the mellow aroma of chocolate. |
| 1) Chape #5 |
| 15 |
| She thought she was having hallucinations because she was so |
| hungry. Her nose twitched as she sniffed the air like a cute little |
| puppy. |
| "Are you just going to smell it and not eat it?" |



| humble herself and cry in grievance. |
|---|
| As her thoughts drifted through her mind, her eyes reddened quietly, |
| and her breathing started to become erratic. |
| Justin maintained his posture of kneeling on one knee, but he |
| frowned slightly when she did not respond. "Weren't you complaining you were hungry? Why aren't you eating? This is your favorite- chocolate-flavored. Don't worry, it's not poisoned." |
| "I'm not eating it." |
| Bella's throat choked with unexplainable emotions. She felt bitter and |
| sad. |
| "I heard from Wilma that you have stomach issues. It's not good for |
| you to stay hungry too long." |
| "I said, I'm not eating it!" |
| Smack-! |
| Bella suddenly waved her hand with red eyes, and the cupcake in Justin's hand was instantly sent flying. |
| "Bella! You-!" |

| That cupcake dropped to the ground, some distance away, and |
|--|
| crumbled thoroughly. |
| Justin's dark eyes stared at her fixedly. The fire burning in his heart |
| rushed to his head even as disappointment spread from the top of his |
| head to the tips of his toes like a bowl of cold water had been poured |
| over his head. A bone-chilling coldness spread through him. |
| It was not just the cupcake that had crumbled-his heart had too. |
| "What's wrong with you, Bella Thompson? Don't you know.what's |
| good for you?!" |
| Bella slowly sat up, no longer feeling hungry, as she was filled with a |
| mess of emotions and resentment. "I hate you, and I hate you event more for being attentive to me out of the blue! Justin, do you know. that the way you're treating me now is no different from insulting |
| me?" |
| |