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"Since your accident, I've been the one looking after you and helping you. Apart from spending time and fooling around with Ryan every

day, what has Carrie done to support you? They say that when a daughter gets married, she forgets her family. Carrie is no exception.

She hasn't even married into the Hoffman family yet, but she's completely forgotten about her hardworking mother, who raised her!"

Shannon was momentarily speechless, feeling like she had been struck by lightning. Whether Carrie's marriage to Ryan would really benefit her was still

up for debate. Looking realistically at her own situation, she couldn't

even take a step out of the door, and her own safety was now in

jeopardy. How could she have the energy to care about Carrie's

future?

Her children, though related by blood, were distinct individuals. Her

priority was to be resilient and live a fulfilling life.

"Fine, agree!" Shannon forced out those words through gritted teeth, her eyes filled with determination. "As long as you help me get rid of

Winston, promise the Hoffman family will never accept Carrie." Bethany's eyes lit up with excitement at Shannon's words.

Even if Ryan married that fool, it would not matter because she would. not be able to join the Hoffman family. She would never be legitimate, and she would just be a mistress.

The air in the study was warm and harmonious. Gregory and Ryan exchanged small talk. As an elder, Gregory asked Ryan about his career. Ryan came fully prepared and responded smoothly.

Though Ryan had been close to Justin since they were children, he was now in a different position. Facing his future father-in-law, who had experienced numerous grand occasions, Ryan couldn't help but feel a little nervous.

"Mr. Hoffman, please have some tea. Ms. Carrie, this is your favorite orange juice." Paul approached with a tray.

"Thank you, Uncle Paul," Carrie said, holding up the glass with a bright and innocent smile.

Paul couldn't help but smirk, feeling a surge of warmth in his heart. Bethany and Carrie had such different personalities. But frankly speaking, Paul couldn't see any trace of elegance or manners in Bethany. While Shannon knew how to act like a lady and maintain her ladylike demeanor, Bethany couldn't even be bothered to pretend. She was like a wild girl.

Before, Paul had worried about Carrie's future, afraid that because of her autism, she would live a lonely life and never experience love, marriage, or building a family like a normal girl. But now, it seemed he had worried too much. With Ryan showing her love and attention, Carrie's future would be secured. She would never be bullied again. Carrie drank her orange juice contentedly, her lips glistening.

Ryan chuckled and pulled a clean handkerchief from his pocket, patiently and tenderly wiping the water stains from her lips. The

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proficiency with which he did this indicated that he had done this kind of thing often.

"Ahem... Ryan." Gregory cleared his throat, feelin erwh dibycthe' ns whelne digplay oft n. "After all you've been through, can see that you have genuine feelings for Carrie. Since you want to be with my daughter, won't stand in your way. However, Carrie is still young. She's been sheltered by us since she was a child. She's simple- minded and inexperienced in the ways of the world. This is her first time in love, and it's her first time staying away from home for so long. You see, Carrie has never gone out at night before. Ryan, you've broken our family rules." Ryan said with a grin while looking around. "I'm sorry, Uncle Greg. didn't consider this thoroughly. But if Carrie stays with ms {gant let@er'go ont abnigft he € are so many bad people outside, and Carrie is so beautiful. What if she was targeted by someone? How can not worry?" Gregory shook his head. "I'm not talking about going ou aying indoors. What mean is that although you two are in a reip, you haven't legally married yet. Living together like this wo

you much, but my daughter is

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Though Carrie was called a fool by Bethany since she was a child, she was far from foolish. When she heard the words "living together", she reacted with a slight shrug and trembled. The sweetness of the orange juice in her mouth left a lingering bitter taste.

Ryan secretly took her cold hand and held it tightly. He quickly said, "Uncle Greg, acknowledge that my private life in the past was reckless, but please give me a chance to make amends. While was once flirtatious, I've never crossed any boundaries or brought any woman home before Carrie."

"Ryan, what mean is..."

"To be honest, now can't imagine my life without Carrie anymore." Ryan confessed as he placed a warm kiss on Carrie's hand and gazed at her with affection. "Even a single day away from her feels

unbearable. I'm afraid I'll lose my mind."

Ryan's soft, soothing voice flowed into Carrie's ear, elicitin

in her heart, as if tickled by a soft feather.

She felt the same way. She didn't want to leave Ryan. Without she couldn't eat or sleep in peace.

Gregory was taken aback by Ryan's audacity. He had never encountered such shamelessness before. He found it hard to believe how bold Ryan acted in front of him, Ryan then shifted to a more serious tone and said, "I have another reason for not wanting Carrie to return to Tideview Manor."

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"What could that be?" Gregory asked with confusion.

"Im afraid Carrie will be bullied."

"What are you talking about?"
Gregory appeared even more perplexed. "Carrie means everything to me, and Tideview Manor is her home. Who would dare to bully her in
her own home?"
"Uncle Greg, you're not often at home, so it's understandable that you may not fully understand the situation here. But you can't just assume that Carrie is content with living in this house."
Ryan refrained from directly pointing out Bethany's mistreatment toward Carrie, as he did not want to embarrass Gregory or put him in an awkward position regarding his daughters.
Ryan's primary concern was protecting Carrie. Even if Gregory knew everything, what could he actually do about it? He could n handle his own wife, let alone Bethany.
Beside them, Paul stood silently and looked at Gregory. E Tideview Manor, including Shannon, was aware that Bethany always bullied Carrie. Meanwhile, Gregory seemed unaware
situation.
en
"Carrie, who is making things difficult for you in this h User Sreaeiceres eyes with is fird d daughter, questioning her with suppresse
anger.
Carrie's forehead glistened with sweat, and her lips parted slightly, but
she stayed quiet.

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Feeling her palms sweating in his, Ryan quickly spoke to comfort ern 'Rors ke afrald, Cafrié-With me and
your father here to support you, feel
free to talk about any difficulties or problems."
Deep down, he hoped that Carrie would open u bout all all the craall) things Reffidn on had done to her, speaking out for herself to seek
justice.
The two men gazed at her with intense eyes, waiting for her response. After a while, Carrie's lips trembled and she finally spoke, "No No one bullied me."

"Carrie..." Ryan felt a surge of disappointment in his heart.