Heiress 1141

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| Wyatt embraced Celeste's trembling and gently asked, "Did it frighten |
|---|
| you?" |
| Although seeing Shannon get what she deserved was indeed. |
| satisfying, Wyatt was still worried it might trigger Celeste's trauma. |
| "Wyatt, I'm not as fragile as you think. Besides, I've been waiting for this day for as long as I can remember." |
| Celeste left Wyatt's embrace and walked directly to Bella, her gaze |
| voice |
| with gratitude. |
| "Thank you so much, Bella." |
| Bella blinked innocently, feigning ignorance. "What do you mean, Aunt Celeste? I haven't done anything." |
| "I know. I understand everything" Celeste's eyes welled up with tears as she held Bella's hand tightly. "Bella, I'll forever owe you one for this. I know that I can never fully repay your kindness. But I promise that I'll make it up to you in this lifetime." |
| "This is nothing but karma in action. Shannon's downfall today is simply divine retribution. Don't dwell on it too much, Aunt Celeste. Go home and have a good sleep. Take Amelia on a trip abroad, and I'll keep you updated on the situation here. I have a feeling there's more drama to come. Shannon's streak of bad luck is far from over." |

Meanwhile, Christopher stood unnoticed in the shadows, adjusti his glasses with a grim expression. "What do you think about this matter?" Taylor pondered briefly before responding in a serious tone, "I believe it was a setup orchestrated by Ms. Thompson and Justin. They have a deep-seated grudge against Shannon, so they're definitely out to get her by any means necessary." "How's Maxwell doing?" Christopher abruptly changed the subject. "Our men have closely monitored him, and he's still in Savrow." Christopher let out a sinister chuckle, his fingers curling tightly until her knuckles turned white. "I think it's time for him to leave Savrow." Taylor was surprised. "But Maxwell had made many unreasonable demands before, asking you for money and even a private jet from you... Didn't you say that we should keep him in check for now? Why the sudden change?" "Just give him whatever he wants. As long as it gets him out of Savrow." Christopher's tone was firm, leaving no room for argument. Taylor had a sudden realization, nodding firmly. "All right, Mr. Iverson."

The central screen at the racecourse went dark, but the excited chatter among the crowd did not cease.

Despite not claiming credit for her actions, Bella's words subtly hinted at a deeper intention.

During the chaos, Logan seized the opportunity to signal to Liam.

Liam immediately took advantage of the distraction and approached Mr. Reed and his son. With a smile, he said, "You've traveled a long way here. The Hoffman family wishes to extend our hospitality to

esteemed guests. I guarantee that we will ensure your satisfactio during your stay. Besides, given the unfortunate situation, I think Chairman Iverson and Chairman Salvador will have some issues to

deal with and might not have time for you. Why not join us for some

rest first? What do you think?"

Chapter 1142

While Wilson hesitated, Justin's deep and magnetic voice pierced. through the air like a sharp sword. "Mr. Logan and Mr. Liam, are your trying to take advantage of the situation and run away? Heh, the mighty Hoffmans, renowned for their grandeur, yet it seems like you're all talk and no action. You're nothing but a coward."

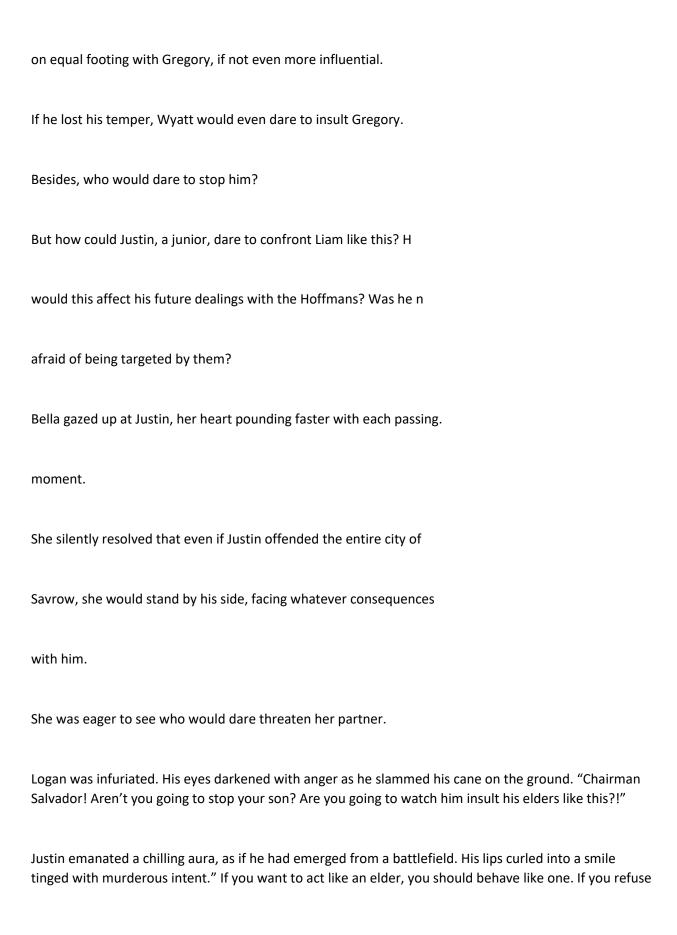
"A coward?! Who are you insulting, Justin? Watch your words!" Liam

shouted angrily, his face turning red.

The crowd was utterly bewildered, their jaws dropping to the floor.

When Wyatt cursed at Shannon, it was understandable. Firstly,

Shannon deserved it, and secondly, Wyatt, as a prominent figure, was



| to distinguish right from wrong and attempt to shield a murderer, then don't blame me for cutting ties with you." |
|---|
| "Shut up, Justin!" Gregory glared angrily. |
| "Today, you have only two options before you-either you clean up your own mess or you let me handle it my way." Justin ignored Gregory's warning and turned his ominous gaze slowly toward Zoe. |
| Zoe was frightened to the core, her expensive gown soaked with cold sweat. 'Why is he looking at me? Did he suspect my involvement? No But I wasn't even involved in any of this. I didn't even go near the stables. It was all Aiden! It had nothing to do with me!' |
| "Fine Fine! If you want to investigate, then I'll help you." |
| Logan gritted his teeth, his tone laced with a cold threat. "But y better ensure you find evidence that it was someone from the |
| Hoffman family. Otherwise, Justin, don't blame us for cutting off tie with you!" |
| Justin smiled coolly. |
| He did not even regard the Hoffman family seriously, so why would |
| he take Logan's words seriously? |
| However, Bella could not help but worry for him. After all, she |
| remained uninvolved throughout and did not RHBW |
| evidence. |

| As the person in charge of the stables, James could only instruct his subordinates to retrieve the surveillance footage from the stables. |
|--|
| Soon, they retrieved the footage from all the cameras. |
| Unfortunately, the entire stable spanned thousands of square meters. Although there were plenty of clear cameras, Whistle's location was not the best. It was in the farthest corner of Zone D, exactly within a |
| blind spot of the cameras. |
| They even observed a shadow cast on the haystack, obscured by the massive bodies of the horses, making it impossible to see the |
| person's face. |
| The situation reached a stalemate. |
| Aiden breathed a sigh of relief, while Zoe hid behind, revealing a smug |
| smile for narrowly escaping this interrogation. |
| "Hmph, so you don't actually have any evidence. Then why bother making such a fuss?" |
| Liam could not help but burst into mocking laughter. "With no |
| witnesses and no surveillance footage, how dare you insist it was ou |
| family's doing? Justin, if you're trying to be the Gatsby for your |



"As for Mr. Black's accusations, claiming that Justin was acting on my orders to tarnish and frame the Hoffmans... Haha... In this day and age, there are surveillance cameras everywhere. If truly wanted to frame someone, wouldn't leave some clues behind? Why would

someone be accused of being the culprit without evidence pointing to your family? You keep insisting it's because hold a grudge against

Ms. Hoffman, so why weren't your horses injured? Why wasn't she harmed? You're saying it as if I'd rather hurt myself to entertain your entire family when I'm unsure if could even harm my enemy!"

The eloquence of Bella's words was undeniable. Those present could not help but nod in agreement. Even Mrs. Hoffman found herself instinctively acknowledging Bella's logic. "You little..." Logan was speechless, his eyebrows twitching.

Bella's captivating eyes exuded confidence. Her gaze was piercing, and her lips curled into a knowing smile. "I'll say something that might sound harsh to some, but if truly wanted to harm Ms. Hoffman, wouldn't have waited until today. may not have many virtues, but one thing about me is that I'm ruthless enough. Framing and shifting blame are meaningless to me. If it were up to me, whatever fate befell my horses, she would share the same fate!"

The crowd murmured in awe, "Wow! Ms. Thompson really is a tough

and fierce lady!"

"Bella! How dare you?! How could you harbor such malicious.

thoughts?!" Mrs. Hoffman, who was already weak, gasped for brea her hand clutching her chest in distress.

"Mom, please don't get worked up over this. Your health isn't great, so don't let anger affect your well-being..." Zoe hurried to support her mother, her expression filled with resentment as she shot a glance at

Bella. "Malicious? Mrs. Hoffman, do you think it's appropriate for you to say that?"

Celeste's expression turned serious, her usually gentle voice now icy yet commanding. "Bella was merely speaking her mind, but your daughter dares to act upon her words. Before the horse race began, Ms. Hoffman slapped herself and attempted to frame Bella for doing it. It's still making headlines online. Did you forget about it? Well, we all remember it perfectly well. Do you have no idea who's being malicious here and who started the provocation?"

The faces of the Hoffman mother-daughter duo turned pale and red alternately, unable to come up with a defense for themselves.

Wyatt fixed his gaze on Celeste's side profile, a hint of surprise glinting in his eyes as he raised an eyebrow.

His third wife, who had been with him for over twenty years, had always been characterized by her gentle demeanor and reserved nature. It was the first time she had displayed such a commanding

demeanor.

Well, that is more like it.

It was about time to let outsiders see that the Thompsons w to be trifled with.

"Hmph! Ms. Thompson's verbal skills are truly and another ten thousand.

instilled in the Thompsons are remarkable!" Liam, acting as the mouthpiece for Logan, seized every opportunity to

retaliate, portraying himself as a loyal defender. "But regardless axe!

alter the truth!" You've slandered the innocence of the Hoffman family, tarnishing our

reputation. We won't let this slide! Also, Ms. Thompson, now that you're already the champion of the horse race, what more do you want?"

Unable to contain his frustration, Logan sneered, "Do you really have to tarnish the Heffmaans yourselves to secure your collaboration with Mr. Reed without hindrance? Is that what you need to achieve complete satisfaction?!"

Bella remained composed, although Wilson's expression betrayed a hint of complexity. Clearly, the remarks from the Hoffmans had struck a nerve.

Suddenly, almost simultaneously, everyone's phones buzzed.

Chapter 1144

"Everyone, aren't you curious about the messages you've just

received?" Justin's deep gaze narrowed slightly, exuding a tantalizing

hint of amusement.

The group exchanged puzzled looks, promptly pulling out their phones to check. Even Bella was immensely curious, so she pulled out her phone and opened Twitter. The next moment, her eyes widened with surprise, her heart racing.

Given the grandeur of the horse racing event, it was undoubtedly being live-streamed. Therefore, the footage of Bella falling from her horse at the finish line swiftly spread across the internet.

Netizens expressed concern for Bella's injuries, assuming it was an unfortunate accident, without delving into conspiracy theories.

Yet, the unexpected appearance of a video online caught everyone o guard. "W-What is this?!" Logan's aging eyes struggled to see what was happening. However, the expressions on the faces of the other Hoffman family members resembled those of postwar ruins, burned with anxiety and panic! Zoe, the instigator, even gasped in shock. Her hand trembled as her phone slipped from her grasp! Despite the slight shakiness of the footage, the scene was still unmistakable. In the video circulating online, Aiden cautiously glanced around before stealthily entering the stable. There, he took out a dagger and swiftly slashed at Whistle's left leg before sneaking out of the stable. The camera, positioned directly in front of the stable entrance, clearly captured Aiden's face. The evidence was rock-solid, so he could not refute it. "Well... Mr. Logan and Mr. Liam, now that things have come to this point, do you have anything else to say?" Asher's eyes flashed with a crimson hue, filled with hatred upon seeing Whistle harmed by the culprit. Just moments ago, Asher had managed to maintain his composure and focus on the bigger picture. However, witnessing the cruel inju inflicted on Whistle's strong and handsome leg stirred up a mixture emotions within him. Asher even thought of drawing his dagger and confronting Aiden, ready to take action against the

perpetrator.

Logan's and Liam's expressions contorted, resembling someone who had just swallowed a live cockroach. They became just as embarrassed as they were arrogant just moments ago. They could not possibly claim that the person in the video was Al- generated! No one would buy that!

lan sneered and slammed the screen against Aiden's face.

Upon seeing himself commit the crime in the video, Aiden turned despondent as he shook his head repeatedly, muttering to himself," How is this possible... There weren't any cameras there... How is this

possible..."

"Of course, we have irrefutable evidence against you. Mr. Salvador is not one to act recklessly. He will never engage in a battle without assurance. How could he allow you to get the upper hand in the situation?" lan could not help but feel immensely pleased as he

looked at Aiden's dumbfounded expression.

Logan and Liam finally caught on to the situation.

Justin waited until now to release the video to watch the and make fools of themselves in front of him.

The arrogance of their words moments ago would surely come back to haunt them when they find out about the truth.

Bella gazed affectionately at Justin's incredibly han 5078 face, crimson lips curling: ui in relief. Her lingering apprehension finally

found its resolution.

She should have realized earlier that Justin was never one to act rashly. He was a trusted friend who could exchange secrets and a comrade who could stand shoulder-to-shoulder in battle. He was someone she could trust with her life. Her beloved one.

"Everyone here, including Mr. Black himself, must be curious about the video. Given the video's peculiar angle, taken from an unexpected viewpoint in a surveillance blind spot, you must be curious about its source, right?"

Justin glanced at lan, who then temporarily stepped away.

Soon after, lan escorted a man dressed in riding attire back in. He was also a participant in the horse racing event. "Mr. Salvador." The jockey greeted politely with a bow.

"apologize for inconveniencing you to come and explain in person. However, crucial to me. ho you understand." Justin addressed him courteously, displaying noi of the typical CEO demeanor.

Chapter 1145 The jockey looked pleasantly surprised, nodding vigorously as he addressed the crowd.

"I'm a jockey from the Luminex Group. Our horses were just opposite of the KS Group's horses in the stables. Our boss has a unique interest in observing the daily routines of our horses from their perspective, so he fitted miniature cameras onto the bridles of each of our horses. Especially on occasions like today, when there's a special event. Our boss was concerned about accidents happening to his beloved horses. Therefore, he upgraded all the cameras to high- definition cameras that monitor the surrounding environment."

The crowd was left dumbfounded by this revelation.

Even Bella, who was well-versed in various matters, was genuinely surprised.

She had seen people installing dash cams in cars, but never hear people installing such technology on their horses! She began to feel a curious admiration for the group's boss's ingenuity.

Meanwhile, Aiden Black was devastated. His ears buzzed, and his vision blurred.

In the past, he had managed to evade detection for all his sneaky activities, but he never anticipated that a horse would ultimately defeat him.

"Mr. Black, there's no prior conflict between you and our family. We didn't even have any past interactions before this horse racing event."

Bella's expression turned solemn, her gaze deep with intensity. "I'm sure you also understand that if you cooperate with us, it may lead to leniency. However, you'll face harsh consequences if you try to hide the truth. Although I'm still alive and standing here now, had my riding skills faltered, or if Whistle hadn't made it through, might've been thrown off its back and shattered to pieces. At that point, the police will charge you with premeditated murder. On top of that, they'll also charge you for property damage, animal abuse, and other charges. You should know what awaits you after this."

Aiden broke out in a cold sweat, his mouth twitching uncontrollably.

"So, consider your options wisely. If you disclose who told you to harm me, KS Group will petition for a reduced sentence on your behalf." Bella appealed to reason and emotion, a strategy she

excelled at. She had always been adept at negotiations.

Despite her efforts to maintain composure, Zoe's legs beneath her. skirt trembled. She felt as though a pair of giant hands were squeezing her heart.

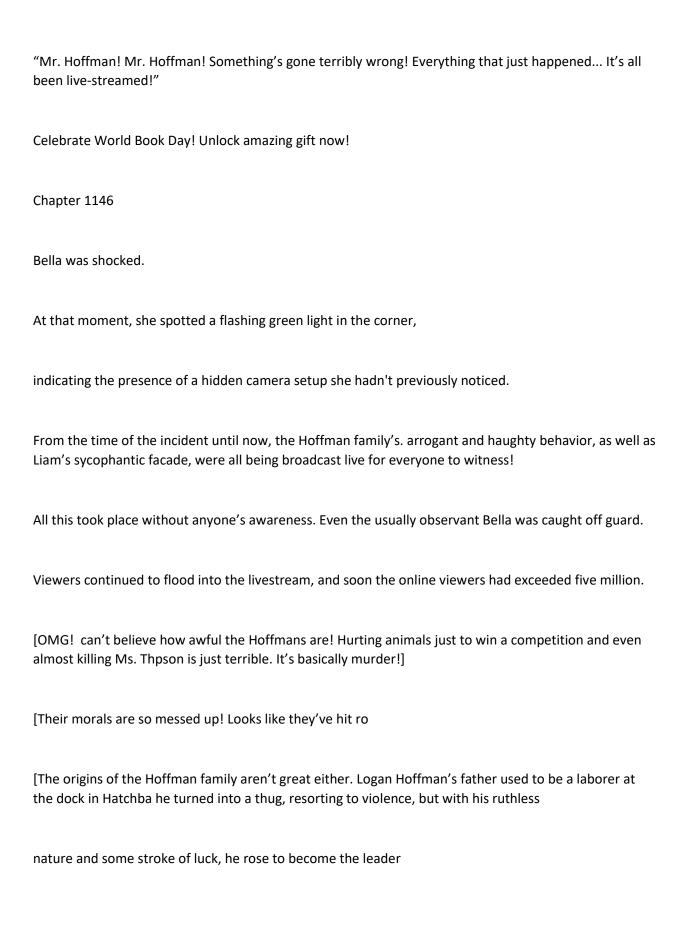
Aiden fell into silence, his gaze instinctively shifting toward Zoe.

In his mind, he simply wanted to take another glimpse at her. However, the girl he had witnessed growing up appeared entirely different now. Her expressions exuded nothing but coldness, detachment, and threat.

Aiden let out a bitter laugh, then forced a few words through clenched teeth. "No one instructed me, Bella. It was my own desire to harm you. It has nothing to do with the Hoffmans. You deserve to die for daring to take away our young lady's man. Now that I've failed to

eliminate you, only regret not being thorough enough, but never regretted my actions. Spare me your words. It's up to you if you want to kill me or spare me!"

| He displayed an unwavering determination, as if he were prepared to sacrifice himself and endure everything till the end. Although her gaze remained calm, a chilling fear surged within Bella's |
|--|
| heart. |
| Bella knew that the mastermind behind this was none ether. than Zoe. Proranthe Gely-beginning, Zoe had allied herself with this man with the |
| intention of taking her life. The more she thought about it, the more she hated Zoe, and the more frightened she was. |
| "Very well, Mr. Black. I'm glad that you've chosen to confess all our, crimes, has been broadcast nationwide in a live stream. In the future, when it comes to the rt, |
| your words will become a piece of irrefutable evidence nc or , Justin's thin lips curled slightly, his voice tinged frosty chill. |
| The people around were dumbfounded. |
| What did Justin mean by that? |
| The Hoffmans were even more bewildered. Their faces were blank as |
| they were unsure of how to react. |
| Just then, Liam's secretary let out a startled cry, as if someone had |
| stepped on his tail. |



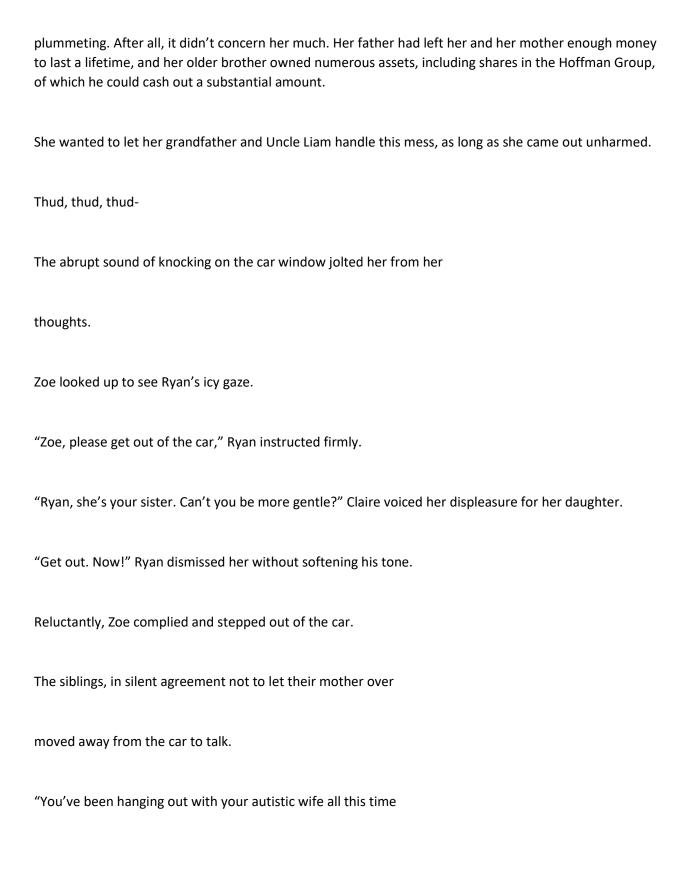
gang. Only then did the Hoffman family become famous.] [They're basically just a gang of thugs. No wonder they're so immora [Definitely! Compared to respectable families like the Thompsons, the difference is like heaven and earth! Zoe can never measure up to Ms. Thompson, no matter how hard she tries.] [Why does Young Master Ryan have to be associated with the Hoffmans? He's too good-looking for that! It's such a waste!] [What's with the discussion about appearances? Since when did we start determining good and evil based on appearances? Although Ryan is definitely very attractive...] Before Justin decided to carry out this live broadcast, he had already talked to Ryan about it. At first, he had some doubts, but Ryan brushed them off and said, Brother, go for it! Not only should you do it, but make sure everyone hears about it. Liam has hypertension. The livestream better make him so mad that he'll be bedridden for a while. owe you one for that!" Justin gave a wry smile, raised his eyebrows, and said, "You're quite the rebel, huh? But remember, public opinion is powerful. It can build or destroy someone." Ryan tightened his lips, defiantly flicked his cigarette up and

and said, "I thought was part of the Hoffman family before. B that have my own family, the Hoffman

family stays separated

| me. |
|--|
| The live coverage from the scene It as humbled the (of |
| them being Nk into the public eye and facing accusations and insults. |
| Rather than worrying about her beloved grandfather, she felt a sense of relief that Aiden had not exposed her involvement. |
| Moreover, she remained composed, showing no signs of fear or _—— by not panicking as |
| Xie extremely embarrassing for her if this broadcast had gone out! While the Hoffman family might suffer damage to their reputation, Zoe couldn't afford to endure such embarrassment. |
| Claire was accustomed to a secluded life and struggled in this |
| was mentally and physically, drenched in cold sweat, and barely able to stand. |
| "Grandpa, Uncle Liam My mom can't hold on anymore! have to rush her to the hospital!" Zoe pleaded urgently as she assisted Claire, slipping away under the protection of bodyguards without waiting for their response. Zoe assisted Claire into the car in the parking lot. |
| Claire's appearance notably brightened, partly from feeling relieved after the scare and partly because she was eager to lea avoid |
| any more embarrassment. |
| Chapter 1147 |
| Claire grumbled. "Aiden has always been cautious and reliable. Why did he act so recklessly this time? It caused such a big mess!" |





with such a big incident at home, you're nowhere to be seen. Wh you doing here now?" Zoe glanced at Ryan while admiring her glamorous nails. "You should just keep your autistic wife company. she's left alone for a moment, she might cry her eyes out." "Zoe, watch your mouth." Ryan's towering figure approached her, his narrow eyes flashing with angry coldness. "You should be grateful that I still let you call me brother. If you continue this, from now on, you won't be any different from Bethany in my eyes. I'll treat you the same way I treated them. If you don't believe me, give it a shot." Zoe's heart skipped a beat, but she lifted her chin defiantly. "Do you have anything to say?" "I know it was your doing," Ryan said with a chilling aura. Zoe feigned innocence. "What do you mean? What are you talking about, my dear brother?" Ryan said as he gritted his teeth and clenched his fists. "I know you ordered Aiden to do it. You don't need to argue with me, Zoe. I know it was you." Chapter 1148 "He already admitted it. No one told him to. He did everything on his

Zoe's face let out a sly grin. "And even if it was me, do you have any proof? Show me the evidence."

own."

With a loud thud, Ryan's fist pounded the wall next to Zoe's head,

"Listen to me." Ryan breathed heavily, staring into her eyes without a hint of affection. "Luck doesn't last forever, and using others for your own gain won't go unnoticed. Aiden has watched you grow up since childhood. He's been loyal to the Hoffman family and treated you like his own daughter, which is why he was willing to bear everything for you. But not everyone is like Aiden. Karma will eventually come back to haunt you, and you'll pay a painful price for your actions. You will

be abandoned by everyone and end up in hell!"

making her gasp in fear.

Zoe let out a mocking laugh and said, "Ryan, I suggest you don't

mess with me. You've lost your father and abandoned your siste

you going to leave your mother too? Mom loves me a lot. I mean

everything to her. If anything happens to me, how do you think o

weak and sickly mother will cope? Can she even carry on living?" Zo

shook her head, a gleam of triumph in her eyes.

Ryan tensed up, the veins in his arms bulging.

Liam felt like exploding with anger, his beard bristling as he glared.

He couldn't believe how sly his family members were. Always quick to take credit for success, but the first ones to bail when things went

| wrong. |
|--|
| "Dad, we need to leave," Liam urged, feeling helpless in the face of the "live stream" situation. |
| "We can't just walk away," Logan said in a low voice. His face paled as he clutched his trembling cane. "If we leave now, the Hoffman family's reputation will definitely be ruined!" |
| He had no choice but to salvage their family's reputation by publicly cutting ties with Aiden. He even had to ask for forgiveness during the live broadcast watched by millions of people. |
| "Aiden, I brought you back from the orphanage. Since you were young, I provided for your education alongside the young masters. I've always made sure you were well taken care of in terms of food, clothing, or expenses. It is deeply disappointing to see you behave so badly and unreasonably, placing us in this position after we've treated you like one of our own. I'm so disappointed in you!" |
| Logan continued, "Mr. Thompson, Mr. Salvador, now th who's responsible for all this, the Hoffman family won't obj |
| whatever decision you make. We'll also take full responsibility |
| harm caused to Ms. Thompson this time." |
| Bella watched with a cold smirk on her lips. Earlier, when Justin |
| presented evidence, the Hoffmans had remained indifferent and |
| keen on protecting their own. But now they have completely shift their attitude and stance. They were quite skilled at adapting according to circumstances. |

| Logan's words appeared to be sincere and thoughtful, as if they had taken everything into account. |
|--|
| But Justin was still unsatisfied. He gently held Bella around the waist and spoke in a low and cold tone, "Mr. Hoffman, do you believe that handling it this way will suffice?" |
| "Mr. Salvador, the people from our Hoffman family have already been dealt with by you, and we have also made a firm decision to take full responsibility. What more do you want?!" Liam felt like Justin was practically taunting them with his remarks, causing anger to course |
| through his body. |
| "Of course, an apology is necessary." At this moment, Christopher, who had been silent for a while, found the perfect timing to step |
| forward. |
| Christopher spoke in a composed and organized manner. "Mr. |
| you |
| Hoffman, Aiden has been under your care since childhood. His deliberate actions have caused significant harm, leaving KS Group's valuable racehorse crippled and Ms. Thompson injured. Th |
| extent of her future injuries is still unknown. It's only rig |
| take full responsibility for this situation. However, as the h Hoffman family, it would also be fitting for you to apologize acknowledge your mistakes to both Mr. Thompson and Ms. |
| Thompson." |

| Christopher stole what Justin wanted to say, and everything he was right on point. Justin didn't mind, because this was exactly wi |
|---|
| he had in mind. |
| Chapter 1149 |
| Bella's expression gradually grew more somber, displaying no hint of fondness for Christopher. (Wow! Who's this handsome guy? Why does he seem so familiar to |
| me?] |
| He is the fourth young master of the Iverson family, always eager to act as Ms. Thompson's guardian. He has helped her in numerous |
| difficult situations.] |
| [Oh my god! His features are so delicate. He looks like a work of art. I'm in love!] |
| He's kind too. If were Bella, I'd choose Young Master Iverson. |
| What's the use of Mr. Salvador realizing his mistakes now? Once fate is missed, it's lost forever. Regrets won't change anything.] |
| agree. Three years of marriage is enough experience for me rather be with an attractive man who exudes youth and energ The already tense atmosphere turned icy cold. |
| Logan's temples pulsed with blue veins, his anger burning frer his chest. He had always been in charge, but this humiliation by a group of juniors stung like never before. |

"That guy is meddling with others' affairs again. What does it have t do with him?" Astrid muttered with resentment, "Justin can say whatever he wants. After all, he started this whole thing and isn't afraid of offending the Hoffman family. But why did Christopher get involved and make a fuss? Isn't he dragging the Iverson family into

this mess as.well?" "Do

think he's stupid? This kid is very clever. He's come up with a plan to kill two birds with one stone. By stepping in at this moment, he not only steals Justin's spotlight, shows his presence in front of Chairman Thompson, but also pleases Chairman Thompson."

James glared coldly at Christopher. "On the other hand, he's also dealing a blow to the Hoffman family. There's always been some grudge between Dad and the Hoffman family, although it has never been openly acknowledged. With this move from Christopher, it's like helping Dad let out the pent-up resentment he's been holding in for a long time."

The siblings wore equally grim expressions.

Christopher caused harm to Charles, became associated with Chairman Thompson, and even made amends with his father in a noticeable way.

What would be his next move?

It only meant danger for everyone.

In the end, due to public pressure, Logan had no option bu

apologize to Bella despite feeling furious. Liam was boiling anger, yet if they didn't give in now, they would suffer a majo in the stock market tomorrow just to maintain their pride.

Today's horse racing event turned into a spectacular drama, with o act following another. Each side took their turn on the stage. Zoe ruined her own reputation, Bella fell off her horse, Shannon was

caught in a drug scandal and lost control on the spot, and people. from the Hoffman family also secretly attacked the Thompson family. These scandals were more thrilling than usual gossip among celebrities. They're enough to keep people talking for years! The four prestigious families left without exchanging pleasantries, and the expressions on the faces of the Hoffman father and son were beyond description, utterly miserable. Wilson watched the series of events unfold but didn't bring up the topic of cooperation again. Likewise, Wyatt did not feel compelled to ask further, as he had never been enthusiastic about the project in the first place. Bella insisted on standing up for her family, but Otherwise, the outcome would have. been perfect. As they were leaving the racetrack, Wyatt patted He said, "Christopher, wan thank you today. Don't worry. If the Hoffman family causes for you in the future, you must tell me. You helped Bella, and let you end up in an awkward situation." le Christopher showed a humble and obedient smile, but before he could speak, Bella's voice interrupted from behind, cold and ruthle Are you getting senile at just sixty? He was nowhere to be 't make baseless attributions just because he



leaving no room for anyone else in her intense gaze.

"Dad, I just want to remind you that real fighters don't chase fame.

Who was the first one to gather evidence today, apprehend the culprit,

and endure intense pressure for me? Who helped Whistle and our family pursue justice? And who did all of this without seeking credit from you? I hope you can tell right from wrong and not be influenced by others' opinions. Don't ruin your reputation and become a joke!"

With that said, Bella lifted her lovely and radiant face, pulled Justin along by his hand, and swiftly walked past Wyatt and Christopher.

Christopher felt a wave of sadness as he watched Bella leave with Justin. He clenched his fists, feeling hurt and resentful.

As Justin walked past Wyatt, he hurriedly bowed to show respect. His awkward and stiff demeanor was somewhat amusing.

"That cheeky girl. She's out of control!" Wyatt observed them leave with astonishment, refraining from intervening as he just pointed at his daughter's head and exclaimed "Whoever is unlucky enough to marry you in the future will have quite a handful with that sharp tongue of yours!"

Asher and Celeste could not stop laughing after hearing this. Th were times when a man wanted to be "unlucky" but had no cha

Seeing Bella get into Justin's car and leave, hatred and unwillingne hit Christopher's chest like a violent storm, making his eyes turn re

However, he quickly regained his composure, furrowing his brows as he gazed at Wyatt. "Uncle Wyatt, I take the blame for not acting promptly today. I failed to thoroughly investigate in time and allowed

you and Bella to get into such a difficult situation." "Don't be so hard on yourself, young man. You've already handled it very well. If you hadn't intervened when you did, Bella might have faced even worse bullying from that girl in the Hoffman family." Wyatt's attitude towards him remained warm and supportive. "If only I had done things differently, maybe Bella would have noticed me more. Then you wouldn't have had to go through all this trouble for us." Christopher expressed his deep guilt as he looked down. "Christopher, I recognize all the efforts you've put into helping Bella," Wyatt said after a brief pause. There was meaning behind his gaze as he earnestly said, "But remember that feelings cannot be forced." Christopher's pupils shrank suddenly, his heart skipping a beat! 'What does he mean?' Just earlier, Wyatt had promised to arrange their marriage. Why did his attitude change all of a sudden? Was it because Justin had helped the Thompson family catch the culprit at the horse racing event today, causing Wyatt to view Justin differently and turn a blind eye to his daughter's years of grievances?! Or perhaps, from the beginning, Wyatt didn't dislike Justin as muc he had claimed. Despite all Christopher's attempts to impress Wyatt and believing

that happiness was within reach, Wyatt casually crushed his hop

with just a single sentence.