

Heiress 1211

Chapter 1211

Charles carried Amelia into the room, took off her clothes, and violated her while she shifted in and out of consciousness.

Amelia was aware of her surroundings, but she was too weak to open her eyes or fight back.

Her situation only made things worse.

She would rather be unconscious or dead.

With her thoughts filling her mind, Amelia cried and let out a grunt of despair while struggling to break free from Steven's arms.

"Don't touch me! Don't!"

"Look at me, Amelia. Look at me. Who am I?" Steven held her with all his might as tears filled his eyes.

He felt as though his chest was cut open and his heart was pulled out. He clenched his fists, digging his nails into his palms.

The familiar voice in her ear lit her dead eyes with a tiny sparkle.

She stared straight at Steven. Though reluctant to face the truth, Amelia cautiously said, "S-Steve?"

Steven's throat closed up. Unable to speak, he simply nodded.

"What's wrong with your eye?" Amelia stared at his bloodied left eye in shock. Her safety was the last thing on his mind because his well-being took precedence. Out for blood, Bella heaved resentfully.

The couple did not deserve this. What had they ever done wrong to deserve it?

Bella was crippled with rage for Wyatt.

Charles was malicious. However, if Wyatt did not try to marry Amelia off to Christopher, Charles would not try to get handsy with Amelia.

In the past, Charles paid no attention to Amelia.

His sudden approach toward Amelia was clearly to befriend the Thompsons so that he could claim the authority of the Iverson Group with their help. Wyatt started it.

"I'm okay. I'm fine. I'll take you away now, Amelia. I'll take you away now."

Steven's tears, stained with blood, rolled down his cheek. The only thing on Steve's mind was to take Amelia away.

He carried her in his arms, but Amelia put up a fight and pushed him away.

"Let's break up, Steve."

Steven stared at Amelia's pale face in a daze. "Amelia, don't say that. I will never break up with you. I won't!"

"We should break up. I'm tainted."

Amelia curled her lips, her smile breaking his heart. "I don't deserve you, Steve."

"Don't say that. My Amelia is never tainted."

Steven shed tears and blood. "My Amelia is a perfect woman. I love you no matter what."

Amelia shook her head, her determination showing in her eyes. "I'll never forgive myself if we're together for the wrong reasons. You deserve better, Steve. Don't waste your time on me anymore. I'm not worth your time."

Bella turned away and wiped away her tears. She then quickly scanned the room. She could not find a sharp weapon, but the vase came in handy.

She ran over and grabbed the vase by the neck to smash it into the wall.

The vase broke into pieces, and she held the broken vase's neck.

"I'm going to castrate you, Charles!"

Bella grimaced and sprinted toward Charles, who sprawled across the floor.

Chapter 1212

Charles shrieked in a flurry and wet the carpet under his feet.

The once-glorified and arrogant heir of the Iverson Group wet his pants.

Outraged, Bella raised her weapon when Justin clutched her wrist.

"Are you trying to stop me?"

Bella heaved heavily as she tried to break free from him. "Don't tell me to calm down! He took advantage of my sister. Not even Lance can save him now!"

"I'm not trying to stop you. I'm with you each step of the way." Justin sighed, his thick voice having a soothing effect.

He slowly took the broken vase neck from her hand. "I just don't want you to get your hands dirty or hurt yourself."

Bella pursed her lips. Coming back to her senses, she no longer insisted on harming Charles.

With grimacing eyes, Justin clutched his fingers. Then came a crack.

Bella watched Justin crush the vase's neck into powder with his bare hands.

That was savage and cool.

However, she wondered if he had hurt his hand.

Justin clapped his hands nonchalantly and blew the powder residue off his palm. "Why go through the trouble to deal with you? I can just break your neck or crush your spine." "Justin... Bella... Are you going to lay your hands on me?"

Unable to get back on his feet, Charles pounded the ground. "If anything happens to me, my dad and brother will make you pay. You are done for!"

"Great. I have had a problem with your family for a long time. I can finally get even."

Bella gritted her teeth and dug her stiletto into the back of Charles' hand. Charles screamed out loud.

"I'll start with you since you're here. Astrid will be next. None of you will get away with it."

Astrid?

Charles suspected that Bella was aware of their plan to set Amelia up.

His concern was more about the marriage than the revenge from Bella and Justin. Not wanting his evil deeds to come to light, Charles refuted, "Can't you use your brain for once, Bella? I don't want to pull such a stunt to get your sister. My dad told me I would marry Amelia. She's going to be my wife anyway. Why would I go through all the trouble? Besides, I only wanted to get to know her better tonight, but she threw herself at me. I helped her up because she had too much to drink and couldn't stand up straight. She hugged me, smiled, and kissed me."

Amelia shuddered with rage.

However, she could not explain her behavior. She could not control herself.

Steven shouted angrily, "You're lying! You forced yourself on Amelia. You're a rapist!"

"You must have found your way here through the CCTV footage. You've watched us on camera, so you know she was all over me. I didn't make her do anything. You don't have proof to show the police that I raped her."

Charles smiled smugly, aware they had no leg to stand on. "She's my fiancée anyway. I thought she wanted to consummate the marriage before the wedding to check out how I was in bed."

Justin furrowed his brows and exerted pressure on his foot, shattering Charles' tailbone.

"Bullshit!"

Bella wished she could crack Charles' head open with her sharp stiletto. "Amelia didn't drink. She couldn't have been drunk. You drugged her!"

"Do you have proof, Bella?" Charles smiled sinisterly, his breath panting.

Since he had endured the torture, he would face them off until the bitter end.

Amid Bella's anger, a curt voice entered the room.

Chapter 1213

"Do you think your plan is foolproof, Charles?"

The mesmerizing voice belonged to Asher.

Something heavy tumbled to the ground with a thud, and an agonized groan followed.

It was Charles' secretary.

Charles shuddered, and his heart raced.

"Just spare me. Please let me go..."

The secretary's face contorted in pain. He was tied up, but his limbs hung limply

The tendons on his hands and feet were severed.

It was Asher's M.O.

A lithe figure with foxy eyes followed Asher into the room.

"How are you going to manage without me?" Arnold looked worried for once.

The Larsons had received an invitation for tonight. As experts in medicine and supply, the Larsons would definitely be on the guest list.

The head of the Larson family was not pleased that his favorite daughter, Mila, was Wyatt's kept woman. Hence, the Larsons avoided any events at which the Thompsons were in attendance. They did not want to be embarrassed.

Nevertheless, since Journey Ventures was the host, the Larsons could not decline an invitation from them. With Arnold back in the country, the Larsons sent him to the event.

Arnold was happy to oblige, as his man would be there. It had been a day, and Arnold missed him.

Unbeknownst to him, drama awaited. Arnold wanted to stick up for his soon-to-be in-laws.

Asher glanced at Arnold with a look of resignation before turning to the man who was tied up on the ground.

"Are you going to talk, or should I do the talking for you?"

The secretary's teeth clattered, and he was reluctant to talk because he could not afford to offend either party.

Asher was about to turn the heat on the secretary when Arnold jumped in and said offhandedly, "Ash isn't one to hold back, and you have gotten the taste of it. The treatment you'll get is very different if you talk or if he speaks on your behalf."

Arnold narrowed his eyes. "We can honor your wish to protect your master. I can let you know now that my surgical knife is sharper than Asher's dagger. You won't feel much pain."

"I'll talk! I'll talk!"

Unable to handle the idea of torture, the secretary fessed up. "Mr. Charles was frustrated that he couldn't win Ms. Amelia's heart, so he told me to get my hands on a liquid ecstasy. The liquid ecstasy will put Ms. Amelia under a spell, and it won't leave a trace."

"A liquid ecstasy? What's that?" Justin furrowed his brows.

"It's a GHB, or rape drug."

Arnold turned solemn. "A GHB overdose can lead to unconsciousness, extreme dizziness, disorientation, and vomiting. GHB's effects come on quickly, and the victim will be knocked out in 10 to

15 minutes. At that point, the victim will be unconscious to whatever is done to them."

Asher's chest tightened. Bella and Justin exchanged glances in shock.

"Bastard! The fucking audacity of you to accuse me! I'm going to kill you!" Charles glared at his secretary.

If Justin had not pinned him under his foot, Charles would have cut the secretary's tongue out.

"Amelia, you drank something they gave you..." Steven nervously held Amelia's shoulders, worried the drug might damage her health.

Amelia's throbbing head filled her tearful eyes with a daze. "I-I didn't. I drank a glass of juice with Bella. I didn't touch anything else."

"Hahahahaha!"

Charles laughed maniacally and pounded his fist on the ground. "Do you have proof? You don't! I told you that she hit on me. She's the whore!"

Chapter 1214

Steven sprung from his seat.

Before he could charge toward Charles, Amelia gripped his hand, her knuckles white. "Don't, Steve..."

Charles was the heir of the Iversons, and Amelia was protected by her family, but Steven had no one.

She did not want Steven to get involved any deeper than he already was because of her.

Before Steven could do anything, Bella went ahead and kicked Charles in the face.

"Ugh!"

Bella knocked Charles' two front teeth out. Charles looked funny, with a bloody mouth and a big hole in his upper teeth.

Justin gasped silently and swallowed hard.

When he was a child, he watched a movie about a beautiful but savage woman. Bella was a hell lot fiercer than the female protagonist.

With that in mind, Justin narrowed his eyes and curled his lips.

He loved the vivid and candid side of her.

"Oh, your sister is scary. She gets physical right away. She sure has a temper."

Seeing Bella's aggression gave Arnold goosebumps. He rubbed his arm and nudged Asher. "Hey, shouldn't you be considerate to Mr. Salvador? When they get married, you should get him premium insurance. That would show you care."

"Do you have nothing better to do, Dr. Larson?" Asher's tone was cold as he stood there, tall and still.

"Bella, you must be exasperated. All you can do is get mad."

Charles bared his bloody fangs, and he spoke with a lisp. "You have no proof. You can't do anything. Yet, you and Justin beat me up. I want to put you behind bars. I want to ruin you!"

"Am I supposed to be afraid? Do you think your threats scare me?" Bella smirked and clenched her fists, her knuckles popping. "One more word from you, and I'll pull out all of your teeth." The aggressor became the scaredy-cat. Charles immediately shut his mouth.

"Bella... Justin... You have done a lot for me."

Lying weakly in Steven's arms, Amelia shook her head in tears. "I just want this to be over. You've done enough."

She was timid and easily frightened. However, she feared dragging the family she cared for into a huge mess.

It was only a matter of time before she was to join the Iversons in union. She was hurt enough, so what was wrong with taking another one for the team?

Some choices were not up to her.

"What are you saying, Amelia? You were taken advantage of. It's not something Bella and I can just pretend didn't happen."

Justin's breathing was heavy as he gritted his teeth. "He won't get away so easily."

The fact that Amelia lumped them together in a sentence made him warm and cozy inside.

Justin loved Bella with all his heart, and Bella's sister was his family too. He could not walk away and do nothing about the situation.

Though Amelia was broken, her will remained strong.

Bella was swaddled in comfort by Justin's embrace of Amelia. Bella and Steven gave Justin grateful looks.

Things reached a stalemate.

Just as Charles felt smug, Arnold drew close to Amelia and asked softly, "I know it's hard on you, Ms. Amelia, but for your own sake, can you remember what you went through before you passed out? Maybe there's something you missed. Don't dismiss even the most trivial details."

Asher had never seen Arnold so gentle. When Arnold demanded rewards from Asher, he acted like a male version of Bella, a little fierce and a little cute.

This tenderness was an uncommon, fresh side to him.

Asher felt something stirring inside.

Chapter 1215

Amelia took a deep breath, Moments later, she recalled a server bumping into her and frowned. "I collided with a server when leaving the banquet hall.

"I felt a sting on my arm. It hurt a little, but the pain faded quickly."

The secretary was shocked, not knowing anything about the server.

Fear washed over Charles.

Feeling for Amelia, Bella reached her hand into the covers and pulled out her sister's arm.

Sure enough, there was a tiny puncture on Amelia's arm.

"Damn it!"

Bella shouted angrily, her heart shattered to pieces. "What did you inject into my sister, asshole?"

"I told you. She hit on me. I have nothing to do with it." Charles kept a tight lid, but his heart pounded out of his chest.

At first, Charles was confident Bella and the others had nothing on him.

Nevertheless, Arnold showed up, and now they were getting closer to the truth.

Infuriated, Justin bent over to grab Charles by the hair and lifted him. Charles grimaced in pain. "If you inject something bad into Amelia, I will administer tubes of it to you."

Furrowing his brows, Arnold checked Amelia's pulse and examined her eyes.

A while later, he sighed in relief. "By the looks of things, Amelia is doing fine. Her slightly elevated heartbeat and low fever are side effects of anesthesia. When I was in Meridan, I heard the drug was

more potent when administered through shots. A single injection won't do much damage to the body, but I'll accompany Ms. Amelia for a more thorough checkup later."

"Thank you, Dr. Larson." Steven choked with sobs. He was thankful.

"Don't mention it. Ms. Amelia is Ash's sister. It's only right that I help her until the very end."

Arnold narrowed his flirty eyes and glanced at Asher. "You never know. We might become family in the future."

Busy figuring out ways to deal with Charles, Bella and the others did not notice Arnold making eyes at Asher.

Asher lowered his gaze and cleared his throat.

Arnold curled his lips in delight. "I'll need to take Ms. Amelia for a blood test to know whether she was forced or acted on her own volition. A certain somebody's evil deeds are coming to light."

"Even if she was drugged with Molly, what does it have to do with me?" Charles shouted exasperatedly, "That's a bold statement to make. Bella, you're unhappy because Amelia is going to marry me, so you worked with these people to ruin me and take your anger out on the Iverson Group. You're evil."

"Huh? When did I say Ms. Amelia was drugged with Molly?"

Arnold chuckled, finding Charles quite an idiot. "I only said she had side effects of anesthesia. I never said it was Molly. Besides, I never said someone injected her with the drug. How did you know the specifics?"

"You!" Charles was livid.

Suddenly, Justin's phone rang. With a blank face, he took the call and put it on loudspeaker.

"What's the update, Ryan?"

"You were right, Justin."

Ryan's excited voice came on the line. "I had all entry points to the castle sealed as you instructed. I check for any mouse holes too. My people found a suspicious server trying to get away. I verified his identity as you told me to. You guessed it right. The guy impersonated a server. He's one of the Iversons' bodyguards."

The secretary looked at his boss, dumbfounded. He did not know Charles kept things from him too.

It was true that the Iversons were shady.

Justin's tone was flat, but his words terrified Charles. "Well done, Ryan. Make sure to restrain the man and turn him in to the police after the party."

"No problem, but Justin, why leave him to the police when he can be your punching bag? You and Bella can take your anger out on him." Ryan smiled wickedly. The devil in him had awakened again.

Chapter 1216

Bella was lost for words.

Justin facepalmed. "You're a grown-up, Mr. Hoffman. Get a grip."

After the call ended, Charles wet himself again.

"Ha. There you have it. We have an eyewitness and evidence. Try and talk your way out with the police and my dad now."

The stern look on Bella's face was chilling.

Charles lost it.

He came from power and wealth, so the police did not scare him. Wyatt was a different story, though.

The Thompsons were long-time family friends of the Iversons, but Wyatt was protective and merciless when he wanted to be. Charles had heard stories about Wyatt from his father.

With his deeds exposed and the evidence thrown at his face, Charles would face a more horrible fate than jail time when word got to Wyatt. It would be the end of a friendship between both families, and his father would likely disown him.

Charles crawled to Bella's feet like a dog and pleaded in tears. "M-Ms. Thompson, please. I was foolish. I came up with the stupid idea because I was desperate to defeat Christopher. I was wrong. I admit I was wrong. Please. Our fathers have been best buddies for so long. Let's just put this behind us this once."

Bella scoffed, unfazed by his crocodile tears. "You can reflect on your crimes behind bars."

"But I think before you are sentenced, my brothers and Wyatt will have a word with you." In a last-ditch effort to save himself, Charles spilled the beans on the humiliating truth.

"I-I didn't violate Ms. Amelia. I-I... Couldn't get it up..."

Everybody was shocked.

Amelia's eyes widened while Steven held her cold hand.

"I don't know if it was the surgery or the drugs, but I don't feel anything when I have Ms. Amelia to myself. Since my plan didn't work, I took off her clothes and made it look like we slept together."

"Then, you'd have a reason to make Chairman Thompson marry Amelia to you." Justin's eyes flickered harshly. "Do you think that it makes your sin any less? Even though you couldn't carry out your plan, you had every intention to hurt her."

Bella had operated on Charles before, so she knew Charles was likely telling the truth. She burst into laughter.

"Haha! This is karma. That's a worthy punishment. Even if you're telling the truth, the damage has been done. You didn't succeed in going through the whole thing, but you have seen her body without her consent. If you want to atone for your sins, you can dig your eyes out. Then I'll consider letting you go."

Charles shuddered in fear.

He was already a cripple. He did not want to be blind as well.

Asher's and Justin's phones rang.

The calls were from their fathers.

Asher and Justin exchanged glances and took the calls.

They were told the same thing. They were to return to the hall as the highlight of the event was about to happen.

The Reeds were about to announce who they were going to partner with on the new project.

"Bella, you should head on with Justin."

Asher looked askance at the human garbage on the floor. "Arnold and I will sort things out here. Just leave it to us, Amelia and Steve." "I'll be right back, Ash."

Bella was about to leave when Amelia teared up and grabbed her arm. "Bella, please. Don't tell Dad about what happened to me." "Amelia, you..."

Amelia shook, and tears streamed down her face. "Don't tell Dad. He's getting old, and his health isn't great. I'm worried that—"

"Relax. I know what to do."

Bella clutched her hand tearfully. "I'll do anything to help you cut ties with the Iversons completely."

Chapter 1217

The event hall was filled with the sound of music and laughter.

Bathing in the spotlight in the heart of the hall, the Reeds enjoyed the attention of all their guests.

Those from Salvador Corporation and the Hoffman Group stared at Wilson Reed nervously.

This project would pull the Hoffman Group out of the red, while it would help Salvador Corporation reach new heights and get one up on Bella.

Wyatt kept a stoic face. Sure, he was interested in the project, but nothing was more important than finding his daughter.

He wondered where Bella had wandered off. Wyatt hoped Bella was not snuggling up with Justin in a corner somewhere.

Wyatt's face turned hot when many R-rated images popped into his mind.

He was not a conservative old man, and Bella was once Justin's wife. Wyatt was grateful Bella did not get pregnant when she was living with Justin in Savrow behind his back. Still, Wyatt felt there was a time and place for thrill-seeking.

However, Wyatt soon realized his docile and sensible daughter, Amelia, was missing too.

Amid his confusion, a couple showed up.

"Dad."

"Chairman Thompson."

Wyatt looked at them with a smile.

For some reason, he was proud to see that his daughter and Justin only had eyes for each other.

Wyatt did not use to take to Justin before, but the latter was growing on him.

"Where were you?" Wyatt moaned.

As Bella looked upset, Wyatt was concerned. "What's the matter? Are you ill? I'll get Ash and Quentin to take you to the hospital."

Bella shook her head with a scowl. "I'm fine."

"Where's Ash? I just called him. Why isn't he here yet?"

"Ash has an emergency to sort out. He'll be here later." Bella's tone was flat.

Wyatt furrowed his brows. "What about Amelia? I didn't see her anywhere."

Justin's eyes were chilling, and his jawline tensed. Bella narrowed her eyes on Lance.

"Hahaha. Oh, Wyatt. Did you forget? Amelia was hitting it off with Charles on the dance floor. I think they might find the business event boring, so they went to a quiet spot to spend some time together." Lance added with a smile, "Amelia is the quietest girl among her siblings. I was surprised she had a lot to talk about with Charles. I guess they must see something in each other."

"Ha." Bella scoffed, thickening the air with awkwardness.

Lance froze. Not wanting things to be tense between both families, he forced a smile and asked, "You seem upset, Bella. Who upset you?"

"Chairman Iverson, my sister clearly doesn't see anything romantic in your crippled son. Are you too old to see that?" Bella's squinted eyes were scary.

The smile on Lance's face froze as rage took over.

Bella was insolent in his eyes.

Lance believed her arrogance came from Wyatt indulging her and Christopher and Justin giving her all the attention. She must think she was all that, having wrapped her finger around the two most eligible bachelors in Savrow.

"Why are you being rude to Lance, Bella? Mind your manners," Wyatt chided Bella. She appeared to have a problem with the Iversons.

"Sigh... Don't say that, Wyatt. I don't want my goddaughter to be hurt."

Lance acted with grace, and his tone carried gratitude. "If it weren't for Bella, Charles might not be able to walk again. Either way, my family is grateful to Bella. You can't say that about my family's savior."

Chapter 1218

Lance's words only rubbed Bella the wrong way. "Chairman Iverson, do you know what's the one thing I regret the most? It was saving Charles."

Lance gritted his teeth in shock and scowled.

"What's wrong with you, Bella? You're like a daughter to Lance. How could you say such a thing?" Wyatt's anger reached a limit. Bella was acting rather strange.

"Please try to relax, Chairman Thompson," Justin said.

Justin put his arm around Bella's waist, tipping her onto his firm chest. "Please do not think Bella is just acting up. She has a reason to talk harshly, and you'll understand why after the event." Bella looked up at Justin, their gazes meeting.

All her boiling emotions simmered when she looked deep into his eyes.

"It's between our families, Mr. Salvador. I doubt it has anything to do with you."

Lance did not see the need to extend any courtesy to Justin. He said grimacingly, "Besides, what are you trying to say? What did Charles ever do to you? Watch your language."

Justin kept to himself and stared at Lance with a pretentious smile. Justin's calm eyes sent a chill down Lance's spine. Meanwhile, Zoe grimaced at Justin and Bella in jealousy. The fact that the couple looked good together ate her up inside. Justin and Bella were gone for a long time. Zoe wondered what they were up to.

She suspected they might be getting a little cozy somewhere private.

"Ah!"

Unable to handle her own imagination, Zoe screamed.

The nearby guests turned to her in disdain.

Gregory frowned.

It was hard to believe that Ryan had a dimwit sister.

In fact, Gregory had to admit that Bella was more suited for his son when it came to looks and family status. Zoe was not her competition at all.

However, Bella was manipulative and unpredictable. She controlled Justin and tried to bring the Salvador family down.

It was a ticking time bomb to keep a competent and heartless woman around. Bella might just bring trouble to the family.

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"Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend Journey Ventures' first-ever event in Savrow. On behalf of my father and the Reed family, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you here today." Wilson Jr. gave a speech as the CEO.

A thundering applause ensued.

"As everybody knows, we have collaborated with Salvador Corporation on a project, and the project is going smoothly. We cannot be happier with the outcome.

"As we proceed with building hotels with horse tracks, we're looking to choose a highly capable local partner in our venture."

Some looked at Gregory, while others stared at Lance.

Wyatt was not a resident of Savrow, and KS World was not a local business either, so Wyatt was not upset to be excluded. However, Logan was not having it. Logan got the impression from the public that the Hoffman Group was nowhere near Salvador Corporation's or the Iverson Group's success.

Wilson Jr. ended the speech and retreated to a corner as his father took center stage.

Wilson looked around the room, his gaze lingering on Gregory, Logan, and the others.

In the end, he looked away and announced in a loud voice. "I hereby declare that Journey Ventures' partner in setting up hotels with horse tracks is the KS Group."

Chapter 1219

KS Group... The Thompson family?!

The crowd was stunned. After a brief shock, thunderous applause filled the banquet hall.

The dazzling spotlight shone on Wyatt. He was stunned for a while, then his handsome brows relaxed, and he walked forward with a graceful and confident smile to have a friendly handshake with Wilson. "It is KS Group's honor to have the opportunity to work with Journey Ventures."

Since they had become business partners, Wilson's attitude towards Wyatt became much more amicable, showering him with praises. "You won the race at the horse racing event and showed us your

overwhelming strength. Moreover, I've said that the champion will be our priority in selecting a business partner. I'm a man of my word."

Apart from the Reeds, nobody else knew that an hour ago, they had a call with Grant, who was far away in Meridan.

"We are friends, so if you are willing to take my advice, I'd still suggest you choose KS Group to work with."

Wilson Jr. was still pissed off due to Bella's rejection, and Wilson frowned.

"Why? If we choose to continue working with your family, wouldn't it be more beneficial to you and your father?"

Grant chuckled mysteriously. "You'd benefit from working with KS Group, and of course, I also have something to gain. If I had to say a reason, it's because I admire Ms. Bella and didn't want her to end up with nothing after giving so much effort."

Although Bella kept her composure, her eyes sparkled with joyous light. She genuinely felt happy for Wyatt.

Suddenly, she felt warmth enveloping her hand by her side.

"Bella, congratulations to you and Uncle Wyatt."

Justin naturally held her hand, intertwining their fingers, lightly rubbing her knuckles with his fingertips. "I knew you would succeed." Bella felt as if a surge of electricity spread throughout her nerves. Their entwined fingers made her heart thump, and her ears blushed red.

While Wyatt won a huge project, Gregory and Logan's faces were dark and gloomy.

Logan, especially, felt as if he was fooled and coughed violently. Zoe quickly patted his back.

Lance was good friends with Wyatt. The Iverson family would still benefit from the Thompsons getting picked.

The Salvador Corporation had already collaborated with Journey Ventures before, laying the groundwork.

What about him? What did he obtain?

He was merely a joke, competing alongside them.

Seeing the Thompson family basking in glory, Gregory twitched his lips in anger. He felt humiliated, like he was being played.

He took a deep breath, smiled as if he did not care, and walked to Wyatt and Wilson.

"Chairman Thompson, Mr. Reed, congratulations."

"I hope you share the joy, Chairman Salvador." Wyatt smiled.

"Chairman Thompson, you hit the nail on the head. Indeed, we should all be congratulated tonight."

Gregory raised his brows. "Because tonight, I'd like to take this opportunity where everyone is gathered here to announce some good news."

Chapter 1220

Upon hearing that there was good news, the crowd perked up, looking at Gregory's ambiguous expression.

Gregory's gaze flickered as he smiled at Justin. "Justin, come here."

Justin's heart skipped a beat inexplicably, and he frowned as he watched the woman beside him. His fingers tightened as he was unwilling to part with her.

"Go on. I'll be right here. I won't go anywhere."

Bella looked into his eyes gently and slowly pulled out her hand, which was red from Justin's right grip.

Justin did not have a reason to refuse at this moment, so he could only walk to Gregory under everyone's watchful eyes.

Gregory revealed a rare smile full of fatherly love, raised his hand, and patted Justin's shoulder. He turned to face the crowd and smiled.

"Tonight, with the joy of the collaboration between Mr. Reed and Chairman Thompson, I would like to announce another good news from our family. My son, Justin, has decided to marry Chairman Logan's granddaughter, Zoe Hoffman. The engagement ceremony will be held this month!"

The crowd's mouths hung open with shock.

What?!

Justin was getting engaged to Zoe?!

Some people looked at Zoe, who had been designated as the Salvador family's future young madam by Gregory.

Zoe was so excited that her whole body trembled as if she were twitching. Her eyes were wide and round, sparkling with excitement, almost breaking into tears.

Finally!

God knew how long she had waited for this day and how much effort her family had made to convince Gregory to accept her. She finally had the chance to show off in front of Bella, making Bella the laughingstock!

The humiliation and grievances she had suffered from that bitch all this while would finally be avenged.

At this moment, more eyes were shockingly looking at Bella with a complex gaze.

The color had drained from Bella's face, and her shoulders shook, as if she were submerged in a dark, freezing lake. Her body, which had felt warm because of Justin just now, slowly froze. Her blood was bone-piercingly cold, so painful that her mind went blank.

Zoe stared at her, laughing maniacally. 'How delightful! Bella had finally lost her sharp claws, looking disheveled and lost. It was truly too satisfying!'

"A marriage alliance between the Hoffman and Salvador families?! Why was there no word of such a big event? It is too abnormal!"

"Isn't this the Salvador Corporation's usual style? They only announced Justin's marriage to Bella publicly after they divorced. They hid those three years of marriage so well, and they're just repeating it this time with the Hoffmans."

"Huh? If Justin was about to get engaged to Zoe, what was his deep affection for Bella?"

"Perhaps they love each other, but Chairman Salvador disapproves of it. I never thought Justin and Bella were a good match from the beginning. Bella got Madam Shannon into jail! She exposed the Salvador family in broad daylight! If I were Chairman Salvador, no matter how beautiful, outstanding, and strong this woman was, I wouldn't let her into the family. I'm not lacking her money!"

The crowd buzzed with discussion, each word piercing Bella's heart until it was bloody and tattered.

When Wyatt heard of the marriage alliance between those two families, it felt like a thunderbolt had struck his ears. He was in disbelief and humiliated.

His precious daughter had suffered enough humiliation when they divorced in the past. Now, the whole world knew that Bella had gotten back together with Justin. Everyone also saw the intimacy and unique favoritism they showed each other.

However, Gregory dared to say that Justin was getting engaged to Zoe.

He did not believe Gregory genuinely wanted to ally with the Hoffmans. He was using the person Bella cared about the most, his own son, to take revenge against them.

Bah!

How petty and despicable!