

Heiress 1231

Chapter 1231

Arnold sashayed up to Asher, looking at Zoe sharply. "I'm also a doctor. I know how confidential these medical reports are. Any doctor with a shred of professionalism would not give this document to someone other than the patient. Therefore, Ms. Hoffman, you must have bribed Ms. Bella's attending doctor back then, right? If so, let's also capture that heartless doctor and handle them together. We'll have eyewitnesses."

Asher's handsome brows furrowed, and he nodded understandingly.

"Oh, who's this good-looking man?"

"Probably another of Ms. Bella's knights in shining armor."

Arnold rolled his eyes angrily in his heart. 'Knight in shining armor? What nonsense!'

He was not a knight in shining armor. Instead, he wanted to do Bella a favor to please the man beside him.

"It's not the doctor! It has nothing to do with the doctor!"

Zoe broke down and yelled out in panic.

"What do you mean? Didn't you get the medical report from the doctor? Then who did you get it from?" Ryan questioned coldly.

"..."

Zoe clenched her fists tightly, her gaze flickering in unease and panic, unable to say a word after a long time.

"Zoe, if Father is watching us from heaven and sees how you ruined his integrity by doing such evil deeds, even refusing to admit it, he might wish for a bolt of lightning to strike you dead."

Ryan fiercely tore off his tie and threw it on the ground, his patience reaching its limits. "Do you refuse to speak? Guards! Capture her and send her straight to the police station!"

"If we can't get the truth out of her, someone else can!"

The bodyguards behind him wanted to rush forward after hearing his orders. Zoe trembled in fear and ran to Logan's arms again, complaining as tears and snot stained her face. "Grandpa! How could Ryan treat me like this?! He wants his own sister dead!"

"Ryan, enough! She is your sister! Must you humiliate her in front of so many people, ruining her reputation like this?"

Seeing that force did not work, Logan could only resort to soft persuasion. "Even if Zoe was in the wrong, she is still young. It's possible that someone with ulterior motives was instigating her and leading her down the wrong way! Anyway... I don't believe my granddaughter would do something like this! How could she think of asking the doctor for Bella's medical report? Someone must have manipulated her! That person might be someone close to Bella. How else could they gather such information?!"

The old geezer had been foolish for the whole night, but his words carried some reason at this moment.

Bella's and Justin's eyes darkened.

Indeed. Zoe was wicked and foul, but she was not intelligent enough. Even if she was, how could she think of investigating Bella's medical report, let alone dig up such private information?

The only people who knew of this secret apart from her doctor and Matt were Wyatt's wives.

Matt and Wyatt's wives would never speak a word of it, and the doctor was an old acquaintance of Nigel. Matt was very vigilant. The softcopy of the report had long been deleted from the system, leaving no records.

Who could have the ability to recover the files and be so well-informed about her miscarriage years ago?!

Instantly, Bella felt a chill run down her spine.

It was as if a pair of invisible eyes had been spying on her in the dark for many years.

"Grandfather, speaking too much must be exhausting. You're getting old and need to take care of yourself."

Chapter 1232

Ryan's cold smile was sinister. "Even if Zoe wasn't the mastermind, she's an accomplice. Besides, we're not sure if that mastermind really exists. Since we caught her now, she must take responsibility. Bring

her away!"

"It's not me! I didn't plan this! I was used!" Zoe knew that she could not destroy Bella.

Zoe could no longer keep it a secret, panicked, and ran to Ryan. "Ryan... I know my mistakes now. I won't do it in the future! But I am also a victim. Someone used me! He wants to ruin me... He might even aim to destroy the Hoffman Group!"

Two streaks of black mascara streamed down Zoe's swollen and teary face. The crowd could not help but giggle when they saw it.

Zoe sobbed, reaching out her trembling hand to grab Ryan.

Ryan's brow twitched, and he immediately stepped back, looking disgusted as if a bucket of dirty water was about to splash on him.

Zoe missed and fell on her knees with a thud, bowing deeply to everyone.

The marble floor nearly crushed her kneecaps, making her cry louder in pain.

"What happened? Speak up!" Ryan growled and glared at her.

"I... A few days ago, I received an anonymous call from a stranger."

Justin frowned. "Can't you recognize the voice?"

"He used a voice-changer, probably afraid that I'd recognize him."

Zoe was afraid of taking the fall herself, so she confessed everything. "I know nothing about him, but he knew everything about me and all of you! He knew how desperate I was to marry Justin, so he took hold of my weakness and gave me Bella's private information. He asked me to expose it at a suitable time..."

"Ha... Suitable time? You're indeed good at picking the time." Asher and the others were furious, wanting to give this bitch another few slaps.

"Fuck! Do you do everything he asks? Will you eat shit if he asks you to?" Ryan felt his fists tightening.

Bella's brows furrowed as she was deep in thought.

This time, Zoe used her trauma to attack her, aiming to destroy their relationship, which proved successful.

Some time ago, her relationship with Justin encountered a crisis, which was during the hotel incident.

At this moment, she linked the two incidents together, feeling that the methods were equally cunning and despicable, striking directly at the heart.

Zoe's idiotic brain could not have devised such a roundabout plan. This man must have been her strategic adviser.

Bella asked coldly, "This man also used you to set Justin up at the hotel, wasn't it?"

The crowd was stunned.

Therefore, the fact that everyone believed Justin abandoned Zoe was also a trap she set up.

Logan's eyes widened with disbelief, his lips trembling.

Did Zoe really plan it? Did she even abandon her dignity to marry Justin? When did his precious granddaughter, whom he cared for and raised with love, become so despicable and terrifying?! Justin's throat bobbed dryly, his tears blurring his vision.

Bella was the most aggrieved and hurt, but even now, she still thought of seeking every chance possible to clear his name.

Justin curled his lips bitterly, shaking his head in painful realization.

Chapter 1233

Justin saved Bella's life multiple times, but compared to the harm he brought her, those sacrifices he thought to be so great were nothing but dust in the wind.

"No... No!"

Zoe stubbornly denied it, her forehead full of cold sweat. "The hotel incident had nothing to do with that man!"

Bella smiled coldly, not pressing further.

That was because Zoe's guilty expression had already given her the answer.

"Bella, do you have anything else to ask her?" Ryan's gentle gaze turned towards Bella.

Bella shook her head lightly.

"Okay. Take her away." Ryan waved his hand.

Zoe's eyes widened. "Where are you taking me?"

"The police station."

Zoe felt as if she were struck by lightning. She stepped back madly, her voice sharp with anger. "Ryan! You played me! Didn't you say you'd let me go if I confessed?!" "Let you go? Did I say that? You imagined it yourself."

Ryan turned around and no longer looked at her, as if it were a ceremony of them breaking ties. "Zoe, I've said that I'll punish you if God doesn't. Nobody can stop me, including Grandfather."

Two bodyguards strode forward, each taking one of Zoe's arms and dragging her out. Her legs were weak and dragging on the floor, and her hair was messy. One of her high heels even fell off. She

looked disheveled, like a witch about to be burned at the stakes in ancient times.

"Grandpa! Save me! Grandpa!"

However, even until Zoe was dragged out of the banquet hall, Logan did not act.

What else could he do?

His incompetent granddaughter had nearly ruined the respectable reputation he had built up over the decade! If he took her side in front of so many people, he would be shaming the Hoffman family.

After this earth-shattering drama, the people from the four prestigious families could not stay any longer. The Reeds could not continue the banquet and ended it hastily.

Wyatt did not give Justin any chance to explain himself. He forcefully pushed Bella into his car, locked the door, and drove toward Hatchbay immediately.

Asher gave his ride to Steven and Amelia. The couple headed towards Hatchbay as well, having the chance to talk on the way.

Moreover, Amelia was not in a good state now, and only Steven could soothe her inner trauma.

Asher stood in the parking lot alone, watching the Thompson family cars drive further away until they vanished from his sight.

Then, he reached his trembling hand into his suit's inner pocket and pulled out the crumpled medical report.

Asher read through it carefully again. With every word, he felt his heart contract with pain, as if pierced through by chilling knives. In the end, he could not hold it back. His tears stained the paper, blurring the cruel words.

At this moment, heavy footsteps sounded in the silent parking lot.

Asher took a deep breath and quickly wiped away the tears from the corner of his eyes before he turned around slowly.

Justin stood a few steps away. The sadness in him rose like a tide in his eyes, silently overflowing and extinguishing the bright sparkle.

Chapter 1234

"Asher..."

Justin felt as if his throat was crushed by a giant wheel, leaving his voice so hoarse that it was barely audible.

"Justin Salvador!"

With eyes blazing crimson with anger, Asher surged forward like a wild beast, heading straight for the motionless Justin.

As Asher's fists approached Justin's cheek, the latter remained unmoved.

Justin thought, 'Go ahead, hit me. I deserve it.'

Even if Asher beat him to death, Justin would not have uttered a word of complaint.

"Asher! Don't do it!"

Just as Asher's iron fist was about to strike Justin, Arnold intervened, wrapping his arms tightly around Asher from behind!

"Let go of me!" Asher bit his lip until it bled, yet it was his heart that was bleeding.

"I won't!"

Arnold's arms trembled around Asher's waist as he gasped for breath. "What's the point of hitting him?! Can it bring back what Bella's lost?!" "But... He deserves it!"

Asher's cheeks twitched with anger as he struggled against Arnold's embrace, tears welling up again. "Why can't he just disappear?! My sister... She can never have children again! She's lost the chance to be a mother forever! And it's all because of you! Justin... Why can't you just disappear?!"

Why can't he just disappear?

Yes, indeed. Justin deserved every bit of condemnation.

Justin appeared like a lifeless figure, drained of vitality and spirit, his features bleak and desolate.

Arnold could not help but notice Justin's pitiful appearance. Justin's wet, dark hair dripped with water, droplets tracing paths down his once handsome but now pale face.

Justin's once impeccable suit had become thoroughly drenched, and his pants and shoes were covered in mud, rendering them unrecognizably dirty.

As it turned out, it had started raining just as Bella's father took her away.

Justin had chased after the Thompsons' car in the heavy downpour, running a long distance, only to miss catching a glimpse of Bella.

He muttered remorsefully, his spirit shattered, "It's all my fault... I'm to blame for this... I'm sorry..."

"Justin, do you know how deeply Bella cherishes the idea of having kids? Do you realize how much she yearned to have a child with you?!"

Asher, typically a towering figure of strength, now broke down in tears, which streamed down his face uncontrollably. "Throughout the three years of being your wife, she told us countless times that she dreamed of being a mother. Even when recalling her marriage with you, which was merely a facade, and your apathy toward her, she would call me late at night, crying in secret..."

Justin's heart clenched violently, as if pierced by a poisoned blade, spreading agonizing pain throughout his body and overwhelming his senses and consciousness.

His eyes were red, and his shoulders shuddered violently.

All he could feel was unbearable agony, as if every muscle and bone in his body were twisting while the world collapsed around him.

The pain was unbearable.

"I had no idea... I really had no idea."

Tears welled up in Justin's eyes, his pale lips trembling as he struggled to speak clearly. "If only I had known... I..."

"You didn't know about it?"

In his extreme fury, Asher's words forced a bitter laugh out of him. "You were unaware of your one-night stand with Bella, unaware of her being pregnant with your child?! Are you playing dumb, or are you truly clueless? But either way, I can no longer forgive you. If I were to entrust Bella to a heartless man like you, then I wouldn't be a good brother."

Upon hearing this, Arnold sighed in resignation.

Despite being back in the country for quite some time now and experiencing numerous intense events with them, Arnold understood the depth of Justin's affection for Bella.

However, the three years of fruitless marriage had left Bella deeply scarred.

Chapter 1235

Putting himself in Bella's shoes, Arnold thought that Bella might still suffer from the torment of self-doubt in the future if she knew she could not conceive again. Enduring such agony would gradually diminish Bella's happiness.

Justin and Bella were plagued by many hardships and trapped in an unsolvable dilemma.

However, not wanting to worsen the situation, Arnold could only earnestly persuade him. "Ash, no matter what, Mr. Salvador has saved you and Bella from harm repeatedly. Without his sacrifice, how could you have returned alive? That way, I won't even be able to see you again! Your actions will only cause more pain to others. That includes Bella, too!"

Asher's eyes remained bloodshot, but he slowly lowered his clenched fists.

"Justin, you've saved my life once, so I'll spare yours. But from now on, don't ever show up in front of me again. Don't show up in front of Bella, either. I can forgive the past hurts you inflicted on her, but I can't overlook this one."

With that, Asher gritted his teeth and turned to leave.

Arnold silently observed the pale-faced Justin and reluctantly followed behind.

"Please... Give me another chance! Give me one last opportunity to make amends!"

Justin's cheeks were streaked with tears, reminiscent of Bella's pleading when she begged him not to divorce her. He appeared even more pitiful and desperate than she had at that time. "I truly love Bella with all my heart. I beg you to give me one last chance. Just one last chance! Let me atone for my sins. Let me make things right!"

"Sure."

With a chilling tone and chuckle, Asher brutally dashed the hope he had just raised, smashing it into countless pieces. "Restore my sister's body to its original state with a healthy uterus, then I won't stand in your way of being together."

Justin could not recall how he had walked out of the parking lot.

The intense headache that had plagued him previously returned with a vengeance. His ears buzzed with a cacophony of mocking voices, as if countless demons were jeering at his foolishness.

'Justin, you deserved all of this. You really deserve it! You deserve to die!'

"Justin!"

Despite Ryan shouting at him countless times from behind, Justin remained deaf to it all, standing in the rain like a zombie.

Suddenly, the headache intensified, making him stagger.

The relentless downpour made it seem like the world was blurring together, as if time and space were in disarray.

If it were not for Ryan rushing to Justin's side in time and supporting him, he might have fallen heavily into the puddle right in front of him.

"Justin! Hang in there!"

Ryan held his trembling body tightly, his eyes filled with urgency. "You can't give up on Bella. Don't even think about giving up on yourself. Can't you see? Bella still loves you deeply, and since you love her just as much, you need to gather yourself together and confront all the challenges!"

"Her health... I've ruined it... Ryan, what should I do?"

Justin's handsome face turned pale with distress. "What can I do? How can I restore what she lost?"

"There has to be a way! With today's advanced medical technology, as long as you have enough money, there's hardly any incurable illness. With sufficient money, even in the case of a terminal condition, one can prolong their lifespan significantly. Let's think of a solution together. Bella's health will surely improve! But if you give up on her, then you're truly harming her. In that case, your relationship with Bella will be over!" Ryan cried out in the rain.

Justin clutched his head with both hands, gasping in pain. "Back then... I told Bella that I liked children. I even told her that I wanted to have children with her. If I had known... If I had known this had happened, why would I even mention having children? Why did I bring up having children? What difference does it make to live a lifetime without children? How can I be so selfish?!"

Ryan also felt uneasy, shaking his head in frustration.

Despite facing immense pressure, Bella bravely chose to let go of her emotional burdens and love Justin again.

Yet, even so, her heart must still ache silently whenever Justin mentions having children.

"Justin, I think the right thing to do now is to figure out what happened to Bella's lost child. Only then can we come up with a plan and address the issue properly." Justin forcefully tugged at his hair, desperately trying to remember something.

According to the medical report, Bella was already pregnant for two months at the time of the miscarriage.

Chapter 1236

So, what exactly happened two months after Justin and Bella became intimate? "Mr. Salvador!"

Ian ran over, panting heavily in the pouring rain, looking worried. "Old Master Nigel couldn't reach you, so he asked Mr. Upton to contact me. He knows about what happened at the banquet. Please head to Crescent Bay to see him immediately!"

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At the banquet hosted by the Reeds, Zoe publicly revealed Bella's infertility, causing a significant uproar that evening.

Due to the elevated level of security, no media was present at the event. Moreover, given the influence of the Thompsons and the Hoffmans, even if someone dared to record the event, they would not dare leak it to the press or post it online without permission.

If either family discovered the breach of privacy, serious repercussions would ensue. After all, the guests present were all influential figures, making it extremely easy to investigate.

However, no secret would remain hidden indefinitely. News traveled fast, even behind closed doors.

Nigel, who was seated at home, heard about the news.

He was fully aware of the events at the banquet and was so enraged that he almost suffered a heart attack.

Mr. Upton was so terrified that he immediately called Nigel's doctor to the residence, ready for medical assistance at any time.

"Anna! My dear Anna!"

Upon learning that Bella was once pregnant with the Salvadors' heir, Nigel was shocked and devastated, tears streaming down his face uncontrollably. "You foolish child! How could you treat pregnancy, such a significant matter, with such recklessness? Losing the child is one thing, but how are you going to bear the responsibility for her poor health?! Why does my dear Anna have to endure such suffering?"

Matt gently patted Nigel's vigorously trembling back, feeling as if a fire was tormenting his heart.

The image of Bella bleeding and pleading with him to keep it a secret from years ago remained clear in his mind, and reflecting on it now was still as heartbreaking as ever.

After careful consideration, Matt was about to speak when Gregory interrupted. "Father, given your already fragile health, you must not let your emotions get the better of you." "How can I not be emotional?! The child Anna carried was Justin's, the future of the Salvador family. How can I not feel heartache and guilt over the sudden loss of my great-grandchild?" Nigel lamented deeply, and at that moment, Justin, looking disheartened, entered the room with heavy steps.

"Grandpa..."

"Justin, where's Anna? Did Wyatt take her back home?" Nigel asked urgently.

Justin nodded heavily, his throat constricted with emotion, rendering him unable to speak.

"How could you be so careless and clueless?!"

Nigel slammed the coffee table in frustration. He almost wished he could go up and slap his incompetent grandson. "Anna is your partner, your companion! How could you not even know that she was pregnant? Have you lost your mind?"

"Father, please stop blaming it on Justin. It's all in the past now, and there's no point in bringing it up anymore."

Gregory lowered his eyes, his expression dripping with indifference. "Besides, you knew Justin didn't love Bella back then, yet you insisted on forcing them together. You pressured Justin so much that he didn't want to come home. How could he possibly care about anything else? Bella didn't even mention her pregnancy to him, and she kept it a secret when she lost the baby. I'm guessing she didn't even realize that she was pregnant back then. So, it's unfair to blame this on our family. She lacked experience and was careless, which led to this unfortunate situation. Both families are equally embarrassed by this." Justin felt a sharp stab piercing through his heart, igniting flames of anger in his darkened eyes. The muscles beneath his damp suit tensed like steel, and his veins throbbed audibly!

As his pale lips parted to speak, Nigel exploded in fury, seizing a teacup from the table and hurling it at Gregory!

"Ugh-!"

Gregory felt a sharp pain in his forehead, and his vision momentarily blurred as he stumbled backward.

The teacup struck him right on the forehead, instantly swelling into a large bruise with blood mingling with the redness!

"Father...Y-You!"

"I'll damn well hit you, you heartless and cruel bastard! You couldn't care less about the child, and now you want to pin it all on a defenseless woman? Are you even a man?!"

Nigel's anger knew no bounds. His face turned pale with rage. "Before this, I thought that vile woman, Shannon, was the one misleading you! But now, it seems birds of a feather flock together. You two are

really a match made in heaven! There isn't a single decent thing about either of you!"

Chapter 1237

Accustomed to a life of luxury and privilege since he was born, Gregory had never experienced such humiliation and indignity before.

Besides, it happened right in front of his son!

This completely shattered his pride, and he felt utterly humiliated.

"I'll smack some conscience into you!"

Nigel was about to pick up the purple clay teapot and throw it but was promptly stopped by his secretary, Matt. "Please calm down, Old Master!"

Gregory covered his head injury, gritting his teeth in fury. "Instead of favoring your own blood, you chose to favor Wyatt's daughter, turning a blind eye to our family's interests! You seem to have lost your senses entirely! Wyatt and his daughter are constantly going against the Salvadors. At the banquet, they even snatched away the Journey Ventures' multibillion-dollar equestrian hotel project from us! If it weren't for the KS Group's interference, that project would've belonged to the Salvador Corporation!"

Not content with just complaining to Nigel, Gregory turned his head and pointed accusingly at Justin. "And you! Instead of supporting your own family's business, you've gone as far as to act as a matchmaker for the Thompsons, arranging cooperation between the KS Group and the Reeds! Your elder brother is far away in Meridan, unwell, but he still knows how to contribute to the family! And

you, for the sake of a woman, gave up on our family's interests! As the company's CEO, this is a serious dereliction of duty! You must bear full responsibility for the failure of this cooperation!"

Justin's eyes were like dim stars buried at the bottom of a well. His voice was heavy with emotion. "But that's not the only responsibility I have to bear, right?" Gregory was startled. "What?"

"I openly opposed your plan for me to marry into the Hoffman family. Surely, you haven't forgotten that, right?"

The man's dark, chilling gaze sent shivers down one's spine. "Didn't you say that if I didn't agree to marry Zoe Hoffman, you'd kick me out of the Salvador family? Now, with the Hoffmans in trouble and Zoe exposing Bella's miscarriage in front of everyone, tarnishing her reputation and stirring up trouble, are you conveniently avoiding the marriage proposal to steer clear of the scandal?"

Matt was deeply alarmed, and his back was soaked in cold sweat.

How could this be possible?!

Almost no one knew about Bella's miscarriage, so how did Zoe find out?!

"Justin... Y-You!" Gregory was infuriated by his son's revelation.

"Marriage?! To that wretched girl from the Hoffman family?!"

Upon hearing this, Nigel nearly lost his grip on the purple clay teapot, trembling with rage. "Gregory! Are you out of your mind?! You're rejecting someone as excellent and filial as Anna and instead letting Justin marry that conniving wench?! She exposed the miscarriage incident just to sabotage Justin's relationship with Anna! How disgusting and malicious is that? And you still want Justin to marry her?! Why don't you marry her yourself?!"

"Father!"

"I can overlook your poor judgment of character and your shamelessness. But don't even think about leading my grandson down your path!"

Nigel's eyes widened in fury. Despite his age, they remained sharp as ever. "And don't you dare try to shift the blame for the lost project on my grandson or tarnish Anna's reputation! Even though I wasn't at

this year's horse racing event, I know what happened! The Hoffmans tampered with the Thompsons' horse. Yet, Anna still achieved an outstanding first place in the competition! She earned her opportunity through her own efforts. You can't just tarnish and manipulate her reputation with just a few words!"

"Grandpa..." Justin's chest heaved with stifled breaths, his eyes reddening with emotion.

As always, Nigel continued to care, trust, and support Bella.

It was the same three years ago, and it remains so today.

Back then, Nigel repeatedly reminded him to treat Bella well, emphasizing that she was an exceptional girl worth cherishing. Yet, what did Justin do?

He ruined everything, absolutely everything.

"In any case... My granddaughter-in-law can only be Anna! Apart from Anna, I want no one else!"

Nigel reaffirmed his stance firmly, leaving no room for debate. "If Justin owes Anna something, the Salvadors owe her even more. Once I'm gone, I won't be able to control things anymore. But mark my words, Gregory. Don't you dare match Justin with any of those inappropriate women!"

Enraged and humiliated, Gregory yelled furiously while sporting that absurdly flushed face. "Justin's health is in jeopardy. After years of being on medication, the doctor says his chances of fathering a child are almost zero! And now you want to bring Bella into the family. Are you trying to end our family lineage, leaving the Salvadors without an heir?!"

Upon hearing this, Nigel trembled violently. "W-What do you mean?"

Chapter 1238

Gregory said, "That miscarriage left Bella unable to conceive again! Do you really want such a woman to marry Justin? Justin is the sole hope for the Salvadors' future. If you let him marry Bella, who will inherit our trillion-dollar family business?! Bethany and Carrie? Are they capable of handling this responsibility?!"

Justin felt as though his heart had undergone another devastating blow.

"H-How is that possible?" Nigel was utterly bewildered, as if his heart were dripping blood.

"That's her personal problem. Why should the entire Salvador family suffer for it?! She can only blame it on her bad luck and lack of blessings!"

"That's not the truth!"

Suddenly, damp with sweat, Matt rushed forward and exclaimed loudly. "It's nothing like what you've described!"

The three Salvador men were dumbfounded.

Matt had been with the Salvadors for over thirty years. He was known for his calm and gentle personality and for always being thorough and meticulous in his work. It was unprecedented for him to act so impulsively.

"Uncle Matt, do you know something?"

Justin quickly picked up on his reluctance to speak and asked urgently, tears welling in his eyes, "You know something about it, don't you?!"

Matt tightly shut his eyes, tears of guilt streaming down his face.

In the next moment, with a sudden thud, he dropped to his knees before them.

"Uncle Matt!"

"Matt!"

Nigel was both shocked and concerned, forcefully slapping his thigh. "Get up now! What's the matter? Why are you doing this?!"

Justin hurried forward to help Matt up, but Matt remained stubbornly on his knees.

"It's all my fault... It's all my fault. I should've spoken up sooner. If I had, Ms. Thompson and Young Master Justin wouldn't be in this situation now..." Matt choked back tears as he spoke intermittently, "Back then... I was present when Ms. Thompson had a miscarriage."

Justin's pupils quivered as he exclaimed, "What did you say? You were there?!"

"Matt! What's going on?! Why were you there?!"

Nigel's heart raced with anxiety, his throat burning with impatience. "You're usually so articulate. Why are you hesitating now? Tell us about it now!"

"It was the car accident... It was all because of that car accident!"

Matt thought to himself, 'I'm sorry, Young Madam. I can't keep this secret for you any longer.'

"C-Car accident?"

Justin's mind raced, suddenly remembering the incident. It was almost three years ago.

When Justin returned from abroad, he found out that his grandfather was in the hospital due to an accident, yet Bella was not there to care for him. She had disappeared for a while, claiming there were family matters to attend to.

"Christmas... Was it that Christmas?!" Nigel immediately grasped the connection.

Matt nodded heavily, his choked words difficult to express. "On Christmas three years ago, Chairman Salvador and Young Master Justin, along with the Young Ladies, were all away from Savrow... Only Ms. Thompson braved the snowstorm to accompany you for the holiday..."

Suddenly, Justin felt a tightening sensation in his chest, as if the air around him had become thin, making it hard for him to catch his breath.

"You said you wanted to visit Old Madam Deborah, so Ms. Thompson drove you there. Later, you both went to the seaside, where you and Old Madam Deborah went on dates when you were young... It was supposed to be a beautiful day. But you two got into an accident on the way back."

Tears streamed down Matt's face as he continued, "Ms. Thompson was also injured and did everything she could to get you to the hospital. Then, she started experiencing severe abdominal pain. And then... I watched helplessly as... Blood flowed from under her skirt..."

"My poor Anna! Why were you so naive?!" Nigel lamented, shaking his head repeatedly in remorse with tears in his eyes.

Chapter 1239

Justin's heart clenched painfully, as if a blunt knife with thorns ground his heart into a bloody pulp.

Upon hearing this, Gregory, usually cold as stone, subtly furrowed his brows.

"Ms. Thompson was afraid that you and Young Master Justin would worry, so she begged me to keep this a secret for her. I considered your fragile state at the time, afraid of causing you further distress, and also weighed the repercussions of revealing Ms. Thompson's infertility, which could potentially ruin her prospects in the Salvador family."

"And just because of that, you decided to listen to her? Were you out of your mind?! How old was she back then? She was just a young girl back then. What could she possibly know?!" Nigel lamented with a heavy heart.

"It's all my fault, Old Master and Young Master Justin. Please punish me as you see fit. I'll accept any punishment..."

Bella...

Why were you so naive?!

Before Matt could finish his sentence, Justin left them behind and sprinted out of the villa.

"Young Master Justin?!"

Matt was about to chase after him, but Nigel stopped him. "Just let him go! This is the emotional debt Justin owes and my shortfall to Anna. I'm afraid I may never fully repay it with my old age, so let Justin spend the rest of his life making amends for it properly."

Torrential rain fell. The camera flashes crackled relentlessly, exposing Zoe's pale and terrified face, piercing even more intensely than lightning.

"Ms. Hoffman! Don't you think exposing Ms. Thompson's infertility in public like this is a bit too much?!"

"Did you get that medical report through bribery, or did someone give it to you in secret?!"

"Are you revealing Ms. Thompson's privacy to ruin her relationship with Mr. Salvador so you can marry into the Salvador family yourself?!"

Countless reporters swarmed outside the police station like bloodthirsty sharks catching the scent of prey, swiftly converging on the scene of the police escorting Zoe.

The cameras and microphones were all aimed at her. The rain drenched her, and the crowd jostled her continuously. She was disheveled and reeked of body odor. The scene could not get any worse.

Zoe had handcuffs on her wrists, yet considering her status as a member of the Hoffman family, the police wrapped a white cloth around her hands to cover the handcuffs.

Yet even so, she felt utterly ashamed.

Just a few hours ago, she was the proud heiress of a wealthy family. Now, she had become nothing more than a prisoner.

Everything was over... Her dream of becoming the wife of a CEO was shattered!

Ryan issued a strict order, refusing to provide her with any public relations assistance or legal representation. He left her to fend for herself.

However, Logan would have helped her by deploying people for online control and actively blocking information.

But why were so many reporters still approaching her?

Why?!

"Heh, this foolish woman will probably never find out how things came to this point until her dying day."

Taylor stood beside Christopher, watching the news of Zoe's arrest on the large screen with a smirk.

"Mr. Iverson, Ever since you decided to bring her into the game, she was already headed for a dead end. But this woman is truly useless. With the hotel scandal previously, she couldn't handle Justin, and now she's dragged herself into this mess again. Ryan has completely given up on her, and only Logan is still siding with her. But even if that old guy is as cunning as a fox, he's no match for you. You've pushed her into the abyss by getting those reporters to hound her."

Christopher's cold, refined features bore a mysterious smile as he elegantly swirled his glass of red wine.

Though his smile appeared charming, his eyes lurking behind his gold-rimmed glasses betrayed a hint of cruelty.

"Useless pawns should be treated as trash."

Christopher took a sip of wine, his gaze fixed on the scene of Zoe's arrest, and his smile deepening. "However, Ms. Hoffman is not entirely without merit. Without her, how could this matter have escalated to such a level, achieving results beyond my expectations?"

"It was wise of you not to attend the banquet tonight. In such chaotic circumstances, it's best to avoid raising suspicion."

"However, avoidance is no longer an option now."

With Christopher rising gracefully from his seat, Taylor promptly moved forward to adjust his coat and tie. "With the nuisance out of the way, it's time for the true protagonist to appear."

Chapter 1240

Tonight at Yara Park, the lights were bright, signaling a sleepless night ahead.

Wyatt, who had an insatiable passion for collecting antiques, was in rage tonight, smashing several million-dollar antique vases.

In an instant, millions of dollars worth of porcelain pieces lay scattered on the ground!

Wyatt's three wives stood stiffly in front of him, with Celeste anxiously holding Mila's hand and Sasha feeling uneasy.

"So... You all knew..."

Wyatt's body shook with rage as his blood boiled. "You all knew... Yet, you hid it from me for three years... Three fucking years?!"

"Wyatt, we kept it from you because we didn't want you to be upset or hurt."

Mila tried to remain composed as she spoke softly. "Your health hasn't been great these years. Especially with this kind of news... It would've been unbearable for you." "Haha... Hahaha..."

Wyatt's towering figure wobbled, pointing at them with eyes ablaze with rage. "You... The way you sought to please me was by keeping me completely unaware for three whole years that Bella married that jerk Justin? Even when her health got ruined, you kept it from me, her own father? Is this what you call looking out for me?!"

"Wyatt! Please don't misunderstand. Mila didn't mean it like that."

With tears in her eyes, Celeste tried to speak for Mila but was sharply interrupted by Wyatt.

"Hehe... As expected. After all, you're not her birth mother. How could you truly care for Bella? You all put on such a show for me, pretending to be happy together. It's all an act, isn't it? Since none of you are her birth mother, how could you possibly cherish her for real?"

"Wyatt! How could you say such things?!"

Sasha glared angrily with her narrow eyes, blocking their path, but was promptly pulled back by Mila. "I've been with you for almost twenty years, and Mila and Celeste have been with the Thompson family longer! Even if we were acting, it'd be easy to keep up with it for a year or two, but who can keep up the act for ten or twenty years?! Do you think we don't feel heartbroken over the fact that Bella can never have children again? When we found out about this back then, it hurt us a thousand times more than it hurt you now!"

As she spoke, Sasha unexpectedly burst into tears, shocking everyone, including Wyatt.

Sasha rarely sheds tears. Even when she got shot twice while saving Wyatt's life all those years ago, she shed only blood, not tears.

But now, unable to bear the sadness any longer, she wept uncontrollably. "After the car accident happened, Bella feared that you and the Salvadors would find out, so she hid in a small hospital in Savrow for a whole month. During that month, the three of us took turns caring for her. To cure Bella's infertility, Mila even went back to the Larson family home and kneeled at their door, begging her father to treat Bella." Wyatt's pupils constricted abruptly. His heartstrings were taut with emotion.

He knew Mila's character well. She had distanced herself from the Larson family, carrying herself with pride.

But for Bella, she was willing to kneel before her estranged family. That required a tremendous amount of courage. The situation at the time must have been more emotionally challenging for her than any physical harm.

"We knew that keeping it from you was wrong. But at the time, apart from helping Bella hide it, we didn't have better options."

Celeste, too, could not contain her tears any longer. "Wyatt... What's the use of getting angry now? Even if you drive us away, what Bella has lost can never be regained."

"How can it never be regained?! I refuse to accept that!"

A furious roar shattered the heavy atmosphere.

Axel's eyes were bloodshot as he stormed in, followed closely by Asher, fearing that his usually hot-tempered younger brother might do something extreme.

"I can resign. I can quit my job. I'll take Bella all over the world to seek medical treatment. I'll bring her to seek treatment."

Axel's tearful eyes betrayed his pain and reluctance. "I refuse to believe that nothing can cure Bella!"

"Don't act rashly, Axel!"

Asher grasped Axel's trembling shoulder firmly. "Being a prosecutor is the lifelong dream you've fought for. You've come a long way. You can't just give up now!"

"But Bella..."

"The ladies and I will find a way to help Bella. Besides, we have Camilla and her husband, too. With their high status and connections abroad, we might be able to find better doctors for Bella there than we can here."