

## Heiress 1271

### Chapter 1271

Ryan got excited too, but he did not want Carrie to get involved with this messy stuff, so he asked Yasmin to bring her back to her room while he stayed for the drama.

Justin wrapped his arm around Bella and sat on the sofa, listening attentively to Drew recounting his meeting with Yvonne that day, including how she hid weapons on herself, attempting to seduce him but failing instead.

However, he did not tell them that Yvonne gave him a sudden, electrifying, and passionate kiss.

While immersed in the kiss, he still remembered her sobbing softly, tears streaming down her face.

She came with a target for his life. He did not cry, so why was she crying?

"Fuck... How surreal!"

Ryan was stunned while he listened. "Is this something that could happen in our modern society? It sounds like something out of a medieval action story!"

Drew glanced at him in disdain. "Where there are people, there are bound to be idiots."

Ryan gritted his teeth, his face expressing restraint.

Firstly, he could not beat Drew, and secondly, he was Bella's brother and Justin's brother-in-law. Ryan would be in a difficult position if he offended Drew.

"Hey, the beauty has practically handed herself to you on a silver platter. Didn't you go along with her plan?"

Bella's mood had lightened, teasing her brother while leaning on Justin's chest. "You haven't had any fun for some time, right? The opportunity is rare to come by." "Do you think I've never seen a woman

before? Am I the type of person who would pounce at any woman, unable to control my lower body?"

Drew mocked Ryan again. "I'm not him."

"I... Fuck!" Ryan's face was red from suppressing his anger, and he continuously cursed Drew in his heart.

"But she looks so much like me. Didn't you always say you wanted to find a wife like me? Axel even scolded you for being a pervert obsessed with his sister." When Justin heard it, he felt jealous, but he did not dare to show it. His face was also turning red.

These two best friends were quite a match.

"Fuck, I've never used anything fake in my life, and I'm supposed to settle for a fake woman? Do I look sick in the head?" Drew could not hold back anymore. "Fine, I won't tease you anymore."

Bella's expression immediately became serious. Despite her relaxed tone, she still felt a lingering fear in her heart. "You said you hid somewhere else after you settled the woman in a hotel, using her as bait to lure the mastermind behind her. So who does she belong to?"

Drew smirked coldly, brought up a photo on his phone, and put it on the coffee table.

The three people inched closer.

Suddenly, the air in the room turned cold.

In the photo, they could not be more familiar with the man who brought Yvonne away.

It was Christopher's secretary, Taylor.

"It's him... As expected!"

Bella fumed, shaking with anger, a chill creeping up her spine. "It's not enough that he tried to harm Asher and Camilla. Now, he even reached his wretched hands toward you, Drew! He's simply insane without any humanity!"

However, this time, Christopher had schemed against the wrong person.

People say that Christopher was a cold-blooded venomous snake, but little did they know that Drew was also a snake.

Justin hugged Bella's trembling body tightly, his warm palm repeatedly rubbing her shoulder, comforting her silently with his gentle actions.

He had long guessed the answer in his heart, so after confirming it now, he was not particularly surprised.

"That time, Justin was lured to the hotel by this woman, falling into Zoe's trap. Everything makes sense now. Christopher set up the stage behind the scenes, using that woman and my stupid sister to destroy the relationship between Justin and Bella, forcing Justin to marry Zoe. This roundabout and evil scheme is indeed that bastard's style!"

Ryan gritted his teeth angrily. "Justin, he caused Bella to misunderstand you, made everyone think you were an irresponsible playboy, and caused Chairman Thompson to resent you until now... He almost succeeded! He's too evil and despicable!"

Bella felt a prick of pain in her heart, and she lowered her eyes, feeling guilty.

"He won't succeed."

Justin looked down, kissing Bella on her slightly red cheeks. "Bella knows I'll never lie to her. She will always trust me."

"Fool." Bella shrugged, her tone carrying a hint of stubbornness due to being embarrassed. "What if I don't understand you? What if I refuse to turn back?"

Justin's beautiful eyes curved into a smile as he gazed at her, full of affection. "I'll wait a lifetime for you."

#### Chapter 1272

Seeing them cuddle affectionately, Drew felt relieved, even though he had countless complicated emotions.

The Thompson brothers strived their whole lives to let Bella find her happiness. However, they could not set the standard for her happiness. She should choose and decide for herself. After experiencing so many hardships, she still chose Justin without hesitation. It would be inhumane and heartless of them to forcefully deprive her of her true love, ruining her happiness. "Christopher had been guiding and controlling Zoe behind the scenes. During the banquet, we pressured and interrogated her, but even so, she did not sell him out."

Justin's gaze was heavy. "I don't think she's loyal to Christopher, but rather, she genuinely didn't know who was giving her ideas and using her as a pawn."

Bella nodded in agreement.

Ryan's eyes were red in anger, his hands on his knees trembling as they clenched into fists. "Bella, Justin, I'm sorry. It's my failure as her brother to educate her. My mother and I spoiled that brat too much, turning her into this inhumane animal!"

"Ryan, don't say that. It has nothing to do with you," Justin comforted gently.

"She refuses to be a good human and serves as Christopher's bitch instead!"

Ryan punched the coffee table, cracking the ceramic cups on it. "If she's so willing to serve that bastard, I'll kick her over to him, letting her suck up to him as she wishes!"

Bella pursed her lips, at a loss for how to comfort Ryan.

After all, it was indeed unfortunate for the family to have such a despicable and shameless sister.

"Forgive me for being blunt. Just by looking at Yvonne's appearance, I can tell that Christopher has good taste in women." Drew crossed his arms and leaned against the sofa casually. "With your sister's looks, Christopher wouldn't even let her carry his shoes, even if she went to serve him. She'd probably have no chance to suck him up."

Ryan, Justin, and Bella were speechless.

Why did it sound like Drew was making dirty jokes?

"The woman named Yvonne might be a sharp tool Christopher keeps by his side. After all, beauty can be a deadly weapon."

Looking at the woman in the photo with an extremely similar face, Bella's gaze darkened. "This woman must have been with Christopher for some time. Her face was probably meticulously crafted by him. Their relationship is definitely not ordinary. She must know many of his secrets."

Ryan's mouth hung open in shock, his horizon expanding. "Fuck... Christopher can't have Bella, so he keeps a woman who looks like her by his side to satisfy his filthy desires? Then isn't Yvonne Bella's..."

Substitute.

Justin was stunned, burning with anger.

He thought of how Christopher kept that woman, treating her as Bella's substitute, and in a place where they could not see, he might even use her as his sexual fantasy. Those yearnings and desires he could not fulfill from Bella would be vented on that substitute.

"Ugh..." Bella gagged. "He's too disgusting. But even if she was a substitute, he still does not deserve it!"

Drew continued, "I followed them and watched them enter a secluded private club. The entrance has a password system, and it's strictly for members. I couldn't follow them in to avoid arousing suspicion." "A private club?"

Justin was not one to frequent clubs, and Bella was not from Savrow, making her even less likely to know.

Therefore, the couple turned to look at Ryan.

"Are you referring to Pivotage?" Ryan asked tentatively.

"Bingo! We still have to rely on Mr. Ryan, the professional playboy!" Drew snapped his fingers mockingly.

Chapter 1273

Ryan's expression was bitter, feeling like those words were not actually praise.

He had only himself to blame for fooling around too much in the past, and now that he had genuinely turned over a new leaf, his stereotypical image could not be erased. "I've investigated it with Sky Eye. The owner of Pivotage behind the scenes is Christopher."

Drew's brows furrowed. "Not only did he appear there frequently, but he was also in close contact with several influential and powerful people in Savrow.

"Pivotage is a private club on the surface, but it's in fact a den of corruption, where officials and businessmen collude. I think that Christopher is just a pimp."

"Sky Eye?! Are you serious? You even used the secret agent headquarters' system to investigate this?!"

Bella's eyes widened. "Isn't that like using a cannon to kill a mosquito? Drew, don't risk your career for this small matter. It's not worth it!"

"Bella, what's not worth it for you?"

Drew's dark eyes narrowed, and he leaned over, holding Bella's hand. "Don't worry. It's not a big deal if I occasionally use it. Moreover, I don't want to waste more time on that viper. I want to help you guys get rid of this trouble sooner."

Drew included Justin as well, not just Bella, when he said "you guys."

Justin was moved, and he felt a lump form in his throat, unable to speak.

Bella's eyes reddened, her fingertips curling in Drew's palm. "Drew... Thank you."

"I know you are too eager to let everyone know that Christopher set Justin up, and you want Wyatt to know how wronged he was. Otherwise, Justin can't even qualify to be your boy toy, let alone your husband." Drew glanced at Justin and snorted.

Bella's delicate brows furrowed. "Drew!"

"Hey! Justin is wholeheartedly loyal and devoted to Bella, unwilling to marry anyone else but her. He'd gladly become a boy toy! Haha!" Ryan smiled widely, patting Justin's shoulder wildly. Suddenly, the room turned quiet, and everyone was speechless.

Bella cast her gaze down. "Ryan, you're quite good at lightening things up, huh? Don't do it next time."

Ryan immediately shut his mouth.

"Since this woman is a key figure around Christopher, we shouldn't touch her for now. It's best if we could monitor her secretly," Justin suggested.

"I think it's not enough to monitor her."

Bella had further plans. "We need to try our best to get Yvonne on our side. First, investigate her, understand her, and take her down."

Justin could not hide his worry. "Bella, it might be hard. Christopher has been in Sentania for fifteen years. He would have his confidants and people who would be loyal to him. Otherwise, his influence could not have spread so widely. That woman knows she is a substitute and that Christopher is using her, but she is still willing to stay by his side for many years. It would be hard for outsiders to break their relationship."

"Why not?"

As her words fell, Bella's ambiguous gaze fell on Drew's face. "If Drew takes action, we can definitely win over Yvonne. She targeted his life that night, hiding weapons and poison, seemingly determined to kill him. But in the end, she betrayed Christopher and let him go. She must have taken a fancy to Drew. If so, Drew will be our key to breaking the deadlock."

Justin and Ryan gulped in terror.

Bella was truly ruthless. She was even willing to sell out her brother!

They thought Drew would be mad, but unexpectedly, he raised his brows in interest, smirking.

"Sure. Let me see what that woman is like."

Damn! Drew was really willing to do it. Was it because of his professionalism as a top-tier secret agent?  
"Bella, will it be too dangerous?"

Chapter 1274



Justin could not help worrying. "That woman failed last time, so she will definitely find another chance to harm Drew. After all, she's controlled by Christopher, and it's hard for us to defend against whatever vicious methods they use."

Before Bella spoke, Drew snorted disdainfully, a wicked and arrogant smile dancing between his lips. "Ha, the person who could kill me hasn't been born yet!"

"Ah!"

Heart-wrenching screams echoed from the dark and damp basement in Pivotage. Even the guards standing outside the door frowned instinctively.

The scene happening in the basement was even harder to look at.

Iron cuffs shackled Yvonne's wrists, her whole body hanging mid-air, her fragile figure only clad by an almost transparent lace nightgown. The white lace was stained red by her blood.

"Mr. Christopher... I..." Taylor held a whip, his hand trembling.

"What? You couldn't bear to watch?"

Christopher's lips curled into a cruel and bloodthirsty smile. Behind his blood-stained glasses, his eyes flashed with a terrifying light. "Or do you want to end up like her?"

Taylor had no choice. He could only hold the whip as he gritted his teeth, walking to Yvonne, who was bloody and battered.

"Ms. Smith... Please endure it. Mr. Christopher's orders... I..."

Yvonne panted weakly, lifting her heavy eyelids. "Don't show mercy... Whip me to death... It's best to... Just kill me... Anyway, my life is worth nothing..."

When Christopher heard her words, he suddenly jumped up angrily, as if she had struck a nerve!

He strode over and pushed Taylor away, then viciously seized Yvonne by the throat!

"It seems you've developed genuine feelings for Drew."

Christopher glared at her with his raging eyes, his fingers tightening. "Are you resisting me with such passive aggressiveness? Huh? You always tried to survive no matter what, but now you don't want to live anymore? Yvonne, I gave you life. Only I can decide your fate, not even yourself!"

Yvonne was barely able to breathe. Her eyelids were half-closed, covering her wet eyes. Her haggard face visibly turned red and purple.

In the past, she would definitely explain herself to Christopher.

She did not love anyone else. Since that moment of fleeting amazement when she met Christopher at the age of fifteen, her heart only belonged to the man before her, who wanted to kill her. But now, she thought that trying to explain only made her look like a joke.

Even if she could explain the night she spent with Drew and the box of medicine he gave her, she could not justify the extremely gentle and romantic kiss she shared with him.

Taylor was scared out of his wits. "Mr. Christopher! Calm down! You will strangle Ms. Smith to death!"

"She dares to betray me for Drew. Does she not deserve to die?!" Christopher roared.

"Ms. Smith has used her seduction skills to help you solve so many problems. She's only repeating it this time!"

Taylor and Yvonne were colleagues for many years, and he more or less cared for her, racking his brains to help her explain. "And think about Drew! He is the toughest to deal with among the Thompson

brothers! Now that Ms. Smith left a good impression on him, she can get close to him, and we'll have no trouble finding a chance to get rid of him!"

His words woke Christopher up.

Christopher's violent gaze darkened, and his hands, still on her neck, relaxed a little.

"Ms. Smith! Stop being stubborn. Apologize to Mr. Christopher!" Taylor urged.

"Sorry..."

Yvonne's bloody lips suddenly curled up, chuckling. She looked broken. "But Chris... What did I do wrong? I did everything... You asked me to... You never cared about me... And I accepted that... What else do I owe you? Tell me..."

Chapter 1275

Christopher tugged at his pale lips. "So you found a man who cared about you?"

Yvonne's heart was pierced through by his mocking smile.

"Do you think Drew likes you? Cares about you? Just because he spent a night with you and gave you stomach medicine, do you think he has feelings for you?"

Christopher loosened his hand on her neck and instead jabbed at her forehead. "I thought that even though you were lowly, you would still have a bit of brains. But now, it seems that you're useless. Letting you have Bella's face is a humiliation to her."

In Yvonne's gaze, the man she had loved for ten years gradually turned blurry, unfamiliar, and distant.

Her tears of heartbreak flowed like a broken dam, but Christopher was unmoved by her pain. "Stop dreaming. No one understands those men from the Thompson family more than me. Just like me, they only care about Bella. She is the only one they love. With your background working for me, do you think you could capture his heart? When he figures out who you are, only death awaits you."

Christopher took a silk handkerchief from his suit pocket, gracefully wiping off the blood on his slender fingers. "Give it up, Yvonne. You're unworthy."

"How about you..."

Yvonne felt a surge of courage, smiling through her bloody tears. "Do you think... You deserve... Bella Thompson... No matter how hard you work, in her eyes... There's only Justin..."

Christopher felt as if he had been struck in the gut. Anger overwhelmed him, and his fists cracked, creating a terrifying sound.

"Ms. Smith! Please, say less! What do you gain from going against Mr. Christopher?!"

Taylor's forehead was covered with beads of sweat. He advised, "Mr. Christopher! Please calm down! Stay calm! You can't continue beating her... You'll really kill Ms. Smith! If she dies, what value will she have for you? Don't you think it's a loss?"

Indeed, Christopher's vicious gaze gradually relaxed.

Taylor was with him day and night and knew too well what he wanted.

Christopher was an extremely selfish person who only acted out of self-interest, only interested in things and people who would benefit him.

As long as she still had value, he would not touch Yvonne.

At this moment, Christopher's phone rang.

He turned over and threw the silk handkerchief away, taking his phone. His expression changed drastically when he saw the name on the screen. He immediately picked up the call.

"Mr. Christopher, you must be quite pleased with yourself recently, huh?"

A man's voice sounded, always carrying a hint of mockery from someone superior. "Now, you've removed all obstacles. The Thompson family hates Justin to the core and refuses to have anything to do with him. Your big day with Ms. Bella is about to proceed, isn't it?"

Christopher recalled how Bella humiliated him that night and Wyatt's ambiguous attitude. He clenched his fists indignantly. "I'm grateful for your help, but the situation now is unclear. However, I won't give up on Bella until the day I die."

"Alas, you are still not ruthless enough. If you have mercy on others and consider too much, it will only bring you pain while your enemies thrive."

The man smiled lazily. "If I were you, I'd take her by force, even if she's unwilling. I wouldn't let my efforts go to waste. If it were still unsuccessful, I'd ruin her completely."

Christopher's thunder-struck expression stiffened on his face. "I think I still need some time... I have some trouble to deal with now. Once I've dealt with them, I will think of a way to let Bella marry me." "Forget about your family's trivial matters for now. You have a bigger problem waiting for you."

The man's voice suddenly turned cold, as if he were a different person. "Shannon's case is about to go on trial soon. Gregory and that lawyer could not stop it. The prosecutor handling Shannon's case is Bella's brother, Axel, and the investigator is Ralph. All of them are from the Thompson family. Gregory couldn't save Shannon, even if he wanted to.

"Winston had confessed everything about Shannon, but the instigation of murder does not have solid evidence, so it will be hard to convict her. But with Justin and Bella's hatred for Shannon, they would not let her off so easily. Naturally, they won't let you off too."

Chapter 1276

The man chuckled. "What should you do, Mr. Christopher? Your little fiance is trying to kill you all the time."

"Ha... Even if I couldn't get her love, my life is worth it if I obtain her heart-wrenching hatred."  
Christopher pushed his glasses, his gaze dark and deep. "When are you going to get rid of Maxwell? If that man falls into Justin and Bella's hands, your good days will reach their end."

"The new private plane I bought will arrive next week."

Christopher had an exquisite and handsome face, but his smile was chilling. "At that time, I'll send him and his brothers on the road to hell."

After a brief reunion with his sister, Drew left early, as he had to return to inform and comfort Asher and the others.

Bella had been running around all night, having mud all over her body. Although she had changed into clean pajamas, her body and hair were filthy, which was unbearable for someone who loved cleanliness like her. She could not endure another second.

"Ugh... It smells!"

Bella sniffed her hair, almost rolling her eyes from the bad smell. "I can't. It smells too bad. I feel like an earthworm that came out of the dirt. I want to bathe!"

"You're not smelly at all."

Justin took her into his arms, burying his nose deeply in her soft hair. "You smell good."

"I don't care. I want a bath!" Bella twisted in his warm chest like a cute kitten.

"Bella, your body is still weak, and taking a bath will worsen your fever."

Justin touched her forehead and gently coaxed, "If you feel uncomfortable, I'll get some water and wipe your body, okay?"

"No! How can that compare to bathing?"

Bella wrapped her arms around Justin's solid and narrow waist, raising her neck and pleading with her eyes. "Let me take a bath. It'll not be a problem if you set the temperature properly."

Justin lowered his eyelashes, gazing deeply at her face, his heart melting. "I can't win against you. I'll fill the bath for you and set the temperature right."

Just as he was about to stand up, Bella suddenly grabbed his hand.

"Justin..." She looked at him with watery eyes.

Justin's heart thumped so fast that he felt a little out of breath. He asked in a trembling voice, "Together?"

"Together."

Justin's eyes slightly reddened, and he scooped up her thin waist, carrying her princess-style, and walked toward the bathroom.

Bella immersed herself in the bubble bath, wholly naked.

However, Justin still wore a white shirt and pants, obediently kneeling outside the tub to wipe her body, acting like a humble servant.

Bella scooped up a handful of bubbles and mischievously blew them at his face.

"Naughty." Justin's head and brows were full of bubbles, and he pinched her chin lightly.

"What's with you today? You're so well-behaved."

Bella's fair body emerged from the water, her lips closing toward Justin's, and even her breath was a fatal seduction. "When did the wolf that wants to pounce on me every time he sees me become devoid of desires? Hm?"

Justin's heart tightened, and a subtle pain spread throughout his limbs.

In the past, he wanted to be intimate with her every day and night.

But he thought of himself as useless and inadequate, so he did not deserve her.

"Bella, can I ask you a question?"

Justin's voice was hoarse, slow, and restrained. "Back then... Why didn't you tell me?"

Chapter 1277

'Why didn't she tell me?' Justin silently asked himself this question at every moment, continuously exhausting and torturing himself.

If only he knew Bella was pregnant at that time... If he knew their child was gone...

"Justin, don't blame yourself. It's not just your fault for failing to protect the child. As the mother, I bear responsibility too."

Bella's lashes fluttered, and she smiled with relief, but it made his heart ache. "Even if you made it back in time, it wouldn't have changed anything.

"It's already a relief that Grandpa Nigel is fine. Otherwise, I'd feel guilty for the rest of my life."

Through the foggy air, Justin's eyes gradually moistened, but his throat grew dry, croaking. "After that? You had a thousand chances to tell me... Why didn't you say it?"



Bella lowered her eyes, shrinking back into the water like an aggrieved little rabbit. "You were having a tough time, flying all across the world. You were always exhausted when you came home and in a bad mood. I didn't want to pressure you further and complicate things for you because of this matter..."

"Complicate things?"

"You didn't love me back then."

Bella curled her body into a ball, trying hard to adjust her breath, as she did not want him to notice her upset emotions. "No matter how I look at it, it's troublesome for a man to impregnate a woman he doesn't love, right? I hoped you would fall in love with me, but I didn't want you to accept me out of guilt. I know you have a pure soul. You're kind by nature. Because of that, I didn't want to make things complicated for you."

A kind person...

Would a kind person inflict all this misfortune and wounds on her?

Bitter and hot tears fell from Justin's red eyes, washing away the bubble foam on his cheeks.

"Bella... What's so good about me? You really shouldn't fall in love with me." He repeatedly murmured, feeling lost, like a child who had done something wrong.

"Fool. Who else would I love if not you? You are the man who stunned me when I was eleven, the light I was always chasing after."

Bella's wet hands grasped his hands, her fingertips curling. "If you want to make it up to me, please don't let go of my hands for the rest of our lives."

With a splash, she pulled hard, suddenly dragging Justin into the tub. Bubbles surged, and water splashed everywhere.

The next second, they embraced each other passionately. Bella's face was red as she was entangled in a deep kiss with him. They indulged in pleasure in the warmth of the tub.

After some time, the sky had darkened.

Bella's body was clean and fresh under Justin's affectionate and meticulous care, but her temperature rose.

Ryan's private doctor came in time to give her a shot.

After hanging an IV drip and covering her forehead with a wet towel, Bella felt a little more comfortable.

"You really..."

Justin helped her adjust the drip speed, then leaned down to kiss her warm cheeks. "I've said you can't take a bath. Look, you started burning again. Next time, you must listen to me." "Tsk... Don't you know how my fever started again?" Thinking of their bathroom intimacy in the evening, Bella could not help feeling excited, her forehead burning even more.

Just as Justin was embarrassed and did not know what to do, Ian called.

"Ian, what is it?"

"Mr. Salvador! Charles has been bailed out by the Iverson family!"

Chapter 1278

"What exactly happened?"

Justin's eyes narrowed, and he shared a glance with Bella tacitly.

"Just now, Lance and James brought him out of the police station, and they even called a bunch of reporters!"

"James shamelessly tried to clear Charles' name in front of the media, saying that he was innocent and set up by someone else. Everything was just a misunderstanding." Ian's anger burned stronger as he spoke, his voice breaking.

"Fuck! How is this possible?!"

Bella immediately sat up on the bed, causing Justin's face to pale with fright. He immediately pressed her back down. "Bella! Don't move too much. Be careful of the needle!"

"How is it possible?! How could that pervert be let out of the police station?!"

Bella snatched the phone and yelled anxiously at Ian, "Justin and I had made the arrangements, and Wyatt knew about it. He loves Amelia, too. How could he let the Iverson family do as they please? Why didn't he stop them?!"

"Young Madam, calm down for now." Ian's throat was dry from anger. "I'm still investigating the details. Please wait for my update with Mr. Salvador."

Immediately after he hung up, Bella could not endure it any longer, planning to contact Ralph.

However, as if there was a telepathic connection, another call came through Justin's phone in time.

Bella stared at the screen, her heart skipping a beat as she pursed her lips.

"Bella, who is it?" Seeing her sullen expression, Justin quickly asked.

"It's... Asher."

Justin pursed his lips too, and after a moment, he said softly, "Bella, answer it. Don't let your brother worry anymore."

Bella felt uncomfortable when she thought of how controlling her brothers were. She sounded crossed when answering the call. "Don't bother to speak if you want to take me home. If not, keep it short and simple."

On the other end, Asher's expression stiffened, and his heart felt as if it were pricked by needles.

Bella was always sweet and gentle when she spoke to him, even over the phone. She would sound cute and affectionate.

But their relationship had become tense and estranged. The more he wanted to protect her, the further he pushed her away.

"Bella, Drew had told us about your situation."

Asher's voice was gentle as usual. "If you feel safe and happy by his side, I won't stop you anymore."

"Ash..." Bella was surprised, her breath hitching.

"Bella, you were right. I only wanted to protect you because I failed to do so, resenting myself. I tried to make myself feel better, even at the expense of stripping you of your rights to love someone." Asher chuckled bitterly. "For the past two days, I've asked myself what I truly want. I only desire for you to gain genuine happiness, and this happiness is not something others force on you or measured by

someone else. If I love you, I should give you whatever you want. If you want freedom, I should learn to let you go."

Bella's heart tightened, and she felt a knot in her throat. "Ash..."

Justin stood by her side, listening to Asher's heartfelt words and feeling his eyes tear up.

"I'll gradually convince your other brothers. As for Dad..."

Asher paused, trying to sound casual. "As long as you have a good life, he'll understand it one day. So, Justin, you know what to do next, right?"

"Yes. Please rest assured."

Justin's voice was hoarse as he pulled Bella into his arms like a treasure. "Bella is the only one for me. I'll care for her with my life."

Chapter 1279

The words were few but etched into his bones.

He did not need to elaborate further.

The siblings had reconciled at this point.

In Bella's heart, Asher was as important as Justin, and she could not bear to throw a tantrum with him. She was merely retaliating against her family's pressure.

"Ash, how did that bastard Charles get bailed out? Why didn't Wyatt stop it?!" Bella was burning with anxiety.

"I called mainly for this."

Asher took a deep breath and gritted his teeth. "Considering Amelia's reputation and our family's image, Aunt Celeste decided to withdraw the lawsuit after discussing it with Dad."

"Withdraw the lawsuit?!" Bella and Justin's eyes widened with shock!

"How else would Charles get bailed out of the police station?"

Asher could not conceal the frustration in his tone. "Not only that, the Iverson Group had bribed the major media in Savrow, preparing scripts to clear Charles' name, portraying him as a pitiful victim. "Even if we fight back, the lawsuit has been withdrawn, and we could do nothing to him."

"Is Wyatt out of his mind?! For his image, he's disregarding his daughter's dignity?! Does the Thompson family need an image to survive?"

Bella was fuming, her shoulders trembling. "Aunt Celeste is gentle and weak. This must be Wyatt's idea! She can't defy it!"

"Bella, you're wrong this time."

Asher sighed helplessly. "It was Aunt Celeste and Amelia's suggestion. Dad was strongly against it at first, intending to duke it out with the Iverson family. However, Aunt Celeste was stubborn, and I think it was the biggest fight between her and Dad. Therefore, Dad could only respect Aunt Celeste and Amelia's wishes, swallowing his pride."

Bella already had a fever, and her vision darkened from the anger as she listened.

Although it sounded harsh, was this not like having a useless teammate in a team battle?!

"Amelia is a Thompson and unmarried. If this incident spreads, even if she is the victim, it would harm her reputation. It's unpleasant to be pushed into the limelight and pointed at by others. Besides, with such vicious people on the internet who are especially judgmental toward women, Amelia is at a disadvantage. If this incident were exposed, Amelia would be hurt the most, not that animal."

Justin patiently stroked Bella's back, analyzing the situation calmly. "Bella, don't be mad at them. They made this decision after weighing the pros and cons."

"Who cares about the online haters?! They are just a bunch of flies envious of the rich! As for those narcissistic upper-society people, we don't need to care about what they think! Those profit-seeking scum... Aunt Celeste and Amelia belong to the Thompson family. The KS Group is a billion-dollar conglomerate. Even the President has to respect us. Who dares to look down on my sister?!" Bella's eyes flashed with anger.

Asher fell silent. He knew that when Bella was overwhelmed with anger, it was useless to comfort her.

But Justin watched her and patiently explained. "Bella, you're not wrong, but you overlooked a key problem. Not everyone is as fearless and strong as you."

Bella was taken aback, lowering her eyes, but her fingers curled tightly. "Yes, you're right. But we can't let this matter go like this. Charles and the whole Iverson family must pay for it! If the law can't punish them, we will!"

Justin narrowed his eyes, his thin lips curling into a chilling smile. "It's more convenient to take matters into our own hands."

Bella closed her eyes, trying to adjust her breathing and calm down. "Ash, go to my room. There's a document about Astrid's husband accepting bribes and corruption on my laptop. Hand those to Axel. He should know what to do."

Justin and Asher were both stunned.

Bella was so amazing. During the two days she was grounded, she had to fight the Iverson family, argue with her family, and be immersed in the sadness of being separated from her lover, yet she still had the energy to do this.

"Not only that, I've secretly investigated Astrid too. She's not innocent either."

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Justin rested his chin on her head, rubbing it softly. "If my darling wants to target that woman first, I'll arrange it."

"Amelia... Why?!"

Steven was shocked when he heard they dismissed the lawsuit. He kneeled beside Amelia's bed on one knee and held her sweaty hand tightly. "I could be your lawyer and fight against the Iverson family for

you! We could definitely win this lawsuit! Why must we back down? We must duke it out with the Iverson family!"

"Steven... I'm sorry..."

Amelia was curled into a ball on the bed, hugging her knees, and looking at Steven with tearful eyes. "I know how you feel, but I'm sorry..."

The more she apologized, the more Steven felt as if his heart was strangled, draining his blood dry in agony.

What wrong did Amelia do?

The only ones in the wrong were that animal, Charles, and the Iverson family, who tried to cover it up.

"Steven, let this matter end here... Don't stand up for me anymore."

Amelia shook her head repeatedly with tears in her eyes. "After all, I'm Wyatt's daughter. The Iverson family can't do anything to me. But what would you do if they targeted you? If they tried to harm your family secretly, what would you do? Besides, Charles insulted me. Although he did not succeed in the end, how would your family see me if this matter got big?"

"Amelia..." Steven's expression went blank, and he could almost hear his heart break into pieces.

At this moment, he finally realized something.

It turned out Amelia was not afraid of standing in the limelight or public opinion.

She feared the Lovett family would look down on her, failing to give them a good impression.



"Steven... Since I was very young, I dreamed of marrying you. Until now, I still want to take your last name."

Amelia softly caressed the face of the man she loved so much. "I know your family dislikes me. If I can't stand before them with a pure body, it'll be impossible for them to accept me. It'll make things difficult for you since you're stuck in the middle."

She did not know that her sister had said the same words the night before.

The sisters were too considerate, always thinking of their loved ones. They kept suppressing their grievances.

Bella had fought her way out, but when would Amelia welcome her happiness?

Steven's throat bobbed, and he pulled the woman he loved into his arms, hugging her with everything he had.

"As long as you're willing, we can get married anytime."

His arms gradually tightened, as if he wanted to merge with her. He solemnly vowed, "I will only ever take you as my wife." Amelia felt touched, closing her teary eyes.

She did not know what the future held for her, but at this moment, she would even die happy.

At this moment, someone knocked on the door. Sasha's anxious voice came from outside.

"Steven, are you inside? Can you come out?"

Steven was stunned for a second. He then walked to the door and opened it.

"Aunt Sasha, are you looking for me?" His eyes were still slightly red.

Sasha glanced inside the room, pulled Steven out, and closed the door behind her.

Steven seemed to realize something and quickly asked, "Aunt Sasha, did something happen?"

"Go downstairs and see for yourself."

Sasha looked worried, saying in a low voice, "Your mother and brother are here."