

## Heiress 361

### Chapter 361

“What did I tell you, Mom? I told you they were more than friends. Carrie is trying to get in my way!” Bethany complained.

Bethany was jealous because Ryan dressed Carrie in a fancy red gown. Even without makeup, Carrie glowed.

To make matters worse, Carrie’s evening gown sported the same

burgundy color as Ryan’s tuxedo, making them appear to be a perfect

match.

Under the spotlight, they stood alongside each other like newlyweds. All eyes were on them.

Bethany found her purple gown to be a painful joke.

The color would never go well with burgundy.

“I gave birth to Carrie. I know the type of person she is.”

Shannon had a deeper perspective that extended beyond Bethany’s surface-level understanding. “Carrie might be 22 years old, but she has the mind of a 12-year-old. She lacks the capacity to date a man,

let alone steal your man.”

While Shannon’s comment was comforting, Bethany still found

herself furious.

“I think you have bigger problems on your plate than you realize. Ryan

has never shown you any attention. After your grandfather’s birthday

celebration, Ryan is probably feeling repulsed by you because you

wanted to pursue something more with him by using underhanded

means. Since he knows Carrie is your sister, he’s

likely

befriending her to get on your nerves and kill any chances of anything developing between you two.”

“W What?”

Bethany was flustered. “What should I do now? Does that mean I’ll

never get to marry him?”

“Don’t get yourself worked up. You need to work with Zoe to get her help in getting closer to Ryan. You need to change your attitude and be patient. Since Ryan is nice to Carrie, you need to be extra nice to her too. Change Ryan’s opinion of you and let him see your kind side. Get it?” Shannon uttered somberly as she strategized for her

daughter.

“Fine,” Bethany replied grumpily.

Carrie's eyes lit up at the thought of meeting her idol tonight. She

scanned the place for Ada Wang.

Her gaze fell on the stage where Zoe was playing the piano. She froze as the color drained from her face, her expression turning ashen and

lifeless.

Her slender legs shook under her gown.

The painful memories of her childhood washed over her, drowning

her in despair.

-“Hahahaha ! Who would want to be friends with an idiot like you?

Why would you think that?”

-“Dump her into the trash can. That's where trash belongs.”

-“Cut her hair off. I hate girls with better hair than me in school.”

-“It's no wonder Chairman Salvador and Madam Shannon hate you. Your sister doesn't like you either. It's unbelievable that you call yourself a Salvador. You're the family's disgrace.”

Carrie thought, 'I'm a disgrace...'

Zoe focused on playing the piano on stage, oblivious to that resentful and terrified gaze in the audience.

With her eyes welling up, Carrie clutched to her teddy and backed up

in a cold sweat.

Suddenly, Ryan grabbed her arm.

“What’s the matter, Carrié? Are you shy? Didn’t you want to see Ada Wang and get her autograph? Come on. I’ll take you to her.”

To his surprise, Carrie shook his arm off and ran for the door without looking back.

“Carrie! Where are you going?”

Ryan was astonished and concerned that she might encounter

trouble venturing out alone in the dark, so he followed her.

Bethany was furious to watch the whole scene unfold.

Despite Shannon’s advice to remain calm, Bethany could not stand to

see Ryan so worried about the dummy.

Terrorized by fear, Carrie recklessly sprinted out of the hotel and tried

to cross the road tearfully.

Moments earlier, she was dying to meet Ada. She often locked herself in her room for countless lonely nights, immersing herself in films.

Carrie was a big fan of Ada's films. Ada would play heroines who could do anything and always stood up for justice. Carrie always got a kick of adrenaline watching the films, and it was almost as if Ada was fulfilling her biggest wish for her.

However, in reality, Carrie desperately wanted to flee as far as she could when she saw Zoe.

"You're a burden that nobody wants, loser!"

The mocking words and harsh criticisms clung to Carrie like shadows, never leaving her alone.

Chapter 362

"Honk! Honk! Honk!"

A car beeped furiously.

The blinding beam struck Carrie.

She cocked her head back, and her pale complexion reflected under the car's blinding lights.

Carrie froze like a doe caught in the headlights.

It was too late for the approaching truck to slam the brakes. Carrie clutched her teddy in terror and closed her eyes.

“Carrie! Watch out!”

Gritting his teeth, Ryan came up from behind and pulled her out of danger in the nick of time.

He shielded her from harm just as she did for her teddy.

They twirled in the air, and Ryan cushioned Carrie’s fall as they

crashed onto the ground.

The man hit his shoulder on the curb and grunted in pain. Sweat

seeped through his suit.

The truck crashed into a flower bed by the roadside after swerving to

avoid hitting Carrie. Luckily, the driver was uninjured.

Feeling the pain all over his body, Ryan let go of Carrie.

To his surprise, the ingrate crawled out of his embrace and slipped

away.

“Hey! Hey! Come back, Carrie! Shouldn’t you at least help me up?”

Ryan was beside himself as the pain hindered him from getting up from the ground.

The party tonight was highly publicized. It started off with a bang but ended hastily.

To spare his sister and mother from worry, Ryan told his secretary to hide his car accident and hospitalization.

Furious with Bella, Zoe was not in a hurry to leave after the party. She had a drink with her frenemy, Bethany, at the hotel bar.

“Damn it! Justin only has eyes for that bitch, Bella.”

Zoe slammed her glass on the table, her eyes bloodshot. “Why did they divorce if he has lingering feelings for her?”

“You’re not the only one confused, Zoe.”

With her hand propped under her chin, Bethany looked frustrated.” Bella waited on us hand and foot before they divorced. She attended to Justin’s every need, despite his cold indifference. For three years, she cooked and cleaned for our family.

“I wouldn’t get through a day if I were in her shoes, but she managed it for three years. That’s one thing I’m impressed with about her. Still, Justin wouldn’t even give her any attention. Rosalind was the only

one for him. He divorced Bella, the only woman who stood by him, for

Rosalind. I used to think Justin did the right thing. Now that I think

about it, he was blind

The alcohol loosened Bethany’s tongue.

Bethany's comment upset Zoe further. She scoffed. "Are you feeli bad for Bella, Bethany? What, are you regretting that she can't be y sister-in-law anymore?"

"No, no. You got the wrong idea, Zoe."

Realizing she had let more slip than she should, Bethany smiled awkwardly and replied, "I was just breaking it down for you. I don't understand why Justin ignored the bitch before the divorce and now gives her so much attention. Maybe he only realized what love was once he lost it. That was why he was unwilling to let go."

Zoe felt bummed and took a sip of wine. She was consumed by a

burning desire to win him over. "I refuse to believe that Justin has

feelings for Bella! They had been married for three years. If there was

a spark, something would have happened a long time ago. Justin is showering his ex-wife with attention out of spite because he can't

stand to see her happy."

While talking, Zoe flicked her brown hair and curled her lips

arrogantly. "Justin and I have a solid relationship, unlike what Bella

had with him. He definitely feels something for me, but Bella's got

him wrapped around her finger for now."



Bethany stuck out her tongue in secret and did not say a word.

She had a feeling that Zoe was a little delusional. Nevertheless, Bethany would not put her down, as she needed Zoe's help to marry into the Hoffman family.

"We should figure out a way to get Ada on our side and help Justin close the case, Bethany. I will help you."

Zoe scowled at the thought of Bella smugly pulling out "The Twilight

God".

She muttered with resentment, "It's just a stupid brooch. That isn't Alexa's only masterpiece. If Bella can do it, I can too."

Chapter 363

That was a load of hot air.

Zoe could not possibly acquire a jewelry piece that even an avid

collector like Ada Wang had no access to.

Though stunned by Zoe's behavior, Bethany flattered her, "Wow, you're amazing, Zoe! If you can get your hands on Alexa's jewelry, I'm sure Ada will come back to us. We can get even with Bella, help Justin, and, while doing so, improve his perception of you. You'll be Salvador Corporation's hero, and Justin will be drawn closer to you."

Zoe smiled smugly and uttered, "So we should steal the case from

Bella."

While Bethany echoed Zoe's sentiment, she had other thoughts in mind.

Bethany did not want to help Justin, as they were not from the same mother.

However, it was a chance to shine. If she ran the planning instead of Justin, she could show her dad that she was capable and make him proud, restoring her mother's recent declining standing.

Zoe was only a tool to get a leg up.

With that in mind, Bethany was thrilled, her eyes gleaming with desire and her cheeks flushed..

"Tonight was horrible. Justin left halfway, and my brother didn't even show up when he said he would. What the hell? I'm not going to throw a tantrum.

"Your brother came tonight, Zoe, but he left soon after," Bethany said curtly.

"When did that happen?"

"You were playing the piano. He brought my sister, Carrie, along too. Ha. My sister is the belle of the ball because of Ryan," Bethany said sarcastically with a smile.

“Who? Your sister, the idiot?”

Zoe was taken aback. She could not picture her brother and a dummy like Carrie together.

She knew Carrie too well.

Back in junior high, Zoe and Carrie studied at the same girls’ school in Savrow. They were also classmates.

“I’m already having problems before I marry into the Hoffman family,

Zoe.”

Bethany sighed in distress, her eyes chilling. “For all we know, your brother might be feeling something for my sister.”

“What? Feel something? The idiot is not worth my brother’s time.” Zoe jolted to her feet furiously, spilling the drink on the table. Her

eyes were bulging.

Bethany smirked to herself but kept up with the sympathy act. “You

didn’t see it tonight, but Ryan was sweet to my sister. He bought her a

new dress and said she was the only one that he cared for. I was near

to tears in envy

Knowing him, Bethany believed Ryan was too much of a player to have feelings for Carrie.

However, Bethany had to get Zoe fired up, seeking her help in dealing

with Carrie, the bitch.

Zoe's anger subsided as Bethany described the incident.

She sank back into her seat and sipped her wine in contemplation. The shadows under her eyes spoke of a darkness beyond her years.

Ryan was her brother, and no one knew him better than her.

Over the years, Ryan rarely showed interest in any woman. Bethany observed his special treatment of Carrie.

That would not work for Zoe.

Zoe spearheaded the bullying of Carrie, making Carrie's school years

a hellish nightmare.

Although many years had passed, Zoe doubted Carrie had gotten over

1.

If there was a spark between Ryan and Carrie, Carrie might use him to

get back at Zoe if her past caught up with her. It did not matter

whether Ryan would marry Carrie, as he would just want Carrie to be

happy.

Zoe reflected for a long time.

Gritting her teeth, Zoe said coldly, "Don't worry. So long as I'm around, Carrie and my brother will never get together."

KS World Hotel's VIP suite oozed luxury. A huge round table feature ten dishes, each a feast for the eyes and nose. The wine served was top-shelf, auction-worthy vintage.

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filming, movies, and jewelry collections.

The dinner was a delight.

Chapter 364

After dinner, Bella and Steven walked Ada to her car in the basement

parking lot.

"Ms. Thompson, thank you for the feast tonight. It was amazing. I can't get enough of the dessert. Please give my compliments to the

chef."

“If you enjoy the dessert, I will drop off two boxes at your hotel before you leave Savrow. You can keep one box for yourself and give your mother the other,” Bella said with a smile.

“Ms. Ada, the delicious meal you just enjoyed, right down to the dessert, was all handcrafted by Ms. Thompson herself.” Steven beamed at the chance to present his boss’s stunning creations.

“What? Did you make the complicated dessert, Ms. Thompson?” Ada

was shocked and moved.

It was hard to believe that, despite coming from riches, Bella was a

successful businesswoman and an accomplished cook. She was talented. Bella’s complex dessert, layered with effort, proved her

“Yes, but I could’ve done a better job. Sorry about that.” Bella was shy

and humble.

Ada fell into contemplation for a moment before smiling. “Did you have a contract with you, Ms. Thompson?”

Surprised, Bella and Steven exchanged looks and sounded Ada out. “Are you saying that...”

“I want KS World Hotel to make my dream wedding a reality. If possible, I want to seal the deal now.”

Bella’s eyes sparkled with joy. She was always one to play it cool. Although she appeared composed, her heart was beating out of her

chest.

Overjoyed, Steven rummaged through his briefcase. "I brought it along. We always carry contracts with us."

"Ms. Wang."

Bella drew a deep breath and asked solemnly, "You've entrusted KS Group and Salvador Corporation with the task of finding a designer for your unique jewelry piece. As I have yet to fulfill that request, I'm curious as to why you went ahead and picked us to host your

wedding."

Steven blinked. He was dying to find out as well.

Ada pursed her lips, looking abashed. "To be frank, I didn't want either of you to organize my wedding. I've never been to Savrow, and I'm only having my wedding here to fulfill my mother's wish. I've been skeptical of your hotel and the Salvador Hotel right from the start. I

"

accepted Mr. Salvador's invitation tonight, but I wasn't interested in going. It was either you or him. For that, I'd like to apologize. I

shouldn't have been so arrogant and dismissive of you. Now that I'm here, I realize you and Mr. Salvador are great and talented leaders. I know I'm in great hands no matter who I choose to organize my

wedding."

"Why did you choose us?"

“I hadn’t made up my mind when you gave me the Twilight God. The feast you prepared tonight was a work of art, showcasing your hard work and ingenuity like fine jewelry. I was touched by your sincerity, so I chose to work with KS World Hotel.” Ada put aside her

haughtiness and spoke to Bella from the heart.

While Bella got her answer now, she still could not believe it.

She did not learn to cook for nothing. It came in handy during a time

of need.

With Bella and Ada getting into the car, Steven laid out two sets of documents in front of them. He could not stop smiling.

Before putting her name on it, Ada thought for a moment and said tenderly, “Can I add one more thing to the contract, Ms. Thompson?”

“Of course. What is it?” Bella was patient. Her brows were relaxed,

and she did not rush Ada into it.

“I hope to keep my wedding setup a secret until the big day. I want to give my fans and my mother a surprise. Can you do that?”

“Sure. We are committed to delivering everything as outlined in the contract.” Bella had a gift for giving people the assurance they

tie

Past week had finally melted away.



Ada reached her hand out to Bella with a smile. "Here's to working well together, Ms. Thompson."

Bella shook Ada's hand firmly, her eyes glistening. "It's a pleasure.

doing business with you."

## Chapter 365

The next morning, Justin dropped his work when he heard about

Ryan's car accident. Worried, he rushed to the hospital as fast as he

could.

Ryan lay flat in bed in a VIP ward with a back and neck brace. He opened his mouth as his secretary fed him a sliced apple.

He looked like a pampered child who could not do anything for himself, and his secretary was the maid bearing the brunt of his

demands.

Justin walked into the room and furrowed his brows at him. "Didn't the Hoffman Group recently develop an oilfield? You're acting like you're dry even before you hit 30."

The secretary stepped aside and nodded at the man before giving Ryan and Justin space to talk.

"Holy shit! Are you here to visit me or give me hell? How am I acting dry? I wouldn't need help if I could feed myself."

Ryan broke out in a sweat and grimaced in pain the moment he

leaned over.

“Don’t move. Just stay there.”

Justin took quick steps to the bed with a long face and laid him back

down.

“Will you wheel me around if I become paralyzed, Justin?” Ryan

scrunched his face and asked.

“You have plenty of girlfriends to do that for you. You don’t need me.”

Justin curled his lips indifferently. “Don’t worry. Even if the only body part you can move is your mouth, you’re the heir of the Hoffman Group. You’ll still have your fun with women throwing themselves at

you.”

“Tsk. You have a point. I have the charisma,” Ryan added.

‘Charisma? Ha, more like the charisma of money.’ Justin thought.

“What did you get yourself into?” Justin asked with a frown.

“You should ask Carrie.”

Ryan huffed, picturing the tiny frame skittering away into the night. It's her fault that I am in this situation. Carrie should be the one to

wheel me around forever."

"Explain, Ryan. How is Carrie involved?" Justin scowled.

"Carrie sneaked into the party last night, but she was stopped from entering the hotel. If I hadn't run into her, your ignorant security team

would have kicked your sister out."

"Carrie came last night?" Justin was shocked.

That must be the reason why Ryan called him out of the blue about getting his ducks in a row.

"I was kind to dress her in--"

"You dressed her?" Justin turned pale and raised his voice. He was

ready to pull a punch.

"Don't get me wrong. My secretary dressed her. I didn't touch her."

Ryan was quick to explain, not wanting his limbs to be broken. "I took her to see Ada Wang at the hall, but something got into her when she arrived. She ran out of there like she had lost her mind. I followed her because it's dangerous for a girl to be roaming alone at night. She crossed the road without looking and was nearly run over by a truck. I saved her in the nick of time, but I bumped my back."

“What about Carrie? Was she hurt?” Justin asked worriedly.

“I guess not. The pain crippled me from getting up, but she slipped away before I knew it. She could’ve at least helped me up. What would I do to her anyway?” Furious, Ryan nagged.

“Ryan, I have told you before not to get any ideas about Carrie.”

Justin grimaced. “What happened at my grandfather’s birthday party was an accident. Carrie doesn’t belong in your world. Keep your

inappropriate thoughts to yourself.”

“No, I got hurt shielding her from harm. Have a heart. You’re giving me an earful instead of thanking me.” Since Ryan could not move, he

looked hilarious sticking his neck out while arguing with Justin.

“Why did you take her to the venue, dress her up, and expose her to

the group of strangers?”

“What do you mean?” Ryan looked confused.

“Carrie has severe social anxiety and autism. She can’t deal with

strangers and social events.” Justin got emotional, thinking about

Carrie’s overly cautious and timid behavior.

“A-Autism?” Ryan was stunned. As the realization hit him, he gripped his fingers.

It explained Carrie’s behavior. At 22 years old, she should know everything, but she behaved like a naive little girl.

That must be the reason why Shannon kept her at home from seeing

anyone.

“Have you gotten her consent before doing everything for her? Have you asked whether she would like to attend the event in glitz and glamor? You never considered her feelings because that’s the type of guy you are.”

Justin drew a deep breath to ease his restlessness. “Carrie just wants a quiet life. Don’t mess things up for her. You are doing more harm than good to her.”

Ryan was caught in his emotions for a while before asking in a raspy voice, “C-Can she get better?”

Justin shook his head helplessly. “It would have happened long ago if she could.”

Ryan froze as Carrie’s horror-stricken face last night came to mind. He felt bad saying anything.

Justin’s phone rang. It was Gregory calling.

Furrowing his brows, the man hesitated for a moment before taking

the call. “Dad.”

“Come to the office now. I’ll be waiting.”

The call ended.

With downcast eyes, Justin looked at the dimmed screen and  
  
scowled.

Were they really related?

Sometimes, Justin wished Gregory was not his father. At least he would not hate Gregory so much.

The secretary opened the door to the chairman's office at Salvador Corporation for Justin.

The man was dumbfounded the moment he walked into the office.

Gregory sat behind a wide desk, but there was someone else in the room-Bethany.

Justin's eyes darkened as he had a feeling something was about to happen.

"Justin," Bethany said sweetly, her face beaming.

People might think they had a close relationship.

Justin nodded with a blank face. He had always been indifferent to Bethany.

"I heard from Bethany about the incident at the hotel, including Ms. Thompson whisking your honorary guest, Ada Wang, away. My

secretary has shown me the trending news on Twitter."

Gregory leaned in, fingers laced on the desk, eyes fixed aloofly on Justin. "Public opinion toward our hotel has gone south after last night. What's your plan?"

"Our PR and marketing team worked on it all night to wipe the

negative comments off Twitter and other social platforms," Justin said in a flat tone, his eyes emotionless.

"Even so, the damage has already been done. Word is spreading

among our circle about last night. Word spreads fast in our

community. Seriously, it's embarrassing." Bethany appeared worried, but her tone suggested mockery.

Justin tensed his jawline.

"No matter what happens, there'll always be two negative and

positive narratives. That's the game of business.

"So long as the Salvador Group emerges victorious, the doubters and skeptics will go away."

The man eyed Bethany coldly. "Our focus should be on the long term in business, not the short term, or we risk significant losses."

Reading between the lines, Bethany gnashed her teeth in rage.

Following frantic drumming on the door, the secretary rushed into the

room.

“Take a look at this, sir.”

Gregory was enraged by what the secretary showed him. He said sternly, “Turn on the TV and put the news channel on.”

## Chapter 367

The secretary turned on the TV and put the news channel on.

It was the “Three O’Clock News” again.

Justin furrowed his brows. Since losing the Baxim project, he could not stand to watch the news program.

“Thank you for watching the three o’clock news. Let’s jump into the headlines for the day. Internationally renowned actress Ada Wang arrived at Savrow last night, drawing the attention of fans and the media. According to sources, Ada Wang’s visit to the city is to fulfill her mother’s dying wish of holding a wedding in her mother’s hometown. The Salvador Corporation and KS World Hotel have been vying for the right to host Ada’s wedding at their hotels. Ada has finally chosen her ideal wedding venue after days of deliberation.”

Justin’s throat went dry as he fixated on the TV screen.

“Congratulations to KS World Hotel, who will be hosting Ada Wang’s wedding.”

Justin’s heart sank, and his ears buzzed. The news hit him like a ton

of bricks.



Bethany was secretly glad.

With the situation falling apart, Bethany knew her chances to rise to

power were higher as Justin would be deemed useless.

The scene cut over to Ada's interview with the "Three O'Clock News".

She explained briefly why she had picked KS World Hotel.

Ada said, "Salvador Corporation is in the hotel industry for a reason, but I personally prefer KS World Hotel's wedding proposal. It has nothing to do with the hotels' services or quality. It's just a matter of personal preference."

Justin grabbed the remote control and turned off the TV, unable to listen to another word. He then hurled the remote control onto the

table.

"Ha! And here you were talking about focusing on the long term instead of the short term. You have nothing to go on anyway. You didn't close the deal on Ada's wedding, and your PR efforts last night helped the competition instead. How do you plan on turning things

around?"

Pale-faced, Justin was about to respond when Bethany stepped in and comforted Gregory. "Don't be angry, Dad."

Bethany, heavily influenced by her mother, Shannon, knew defending Justin now would fuel Gregory's resentment of him. "Ada has made it

clear that it was a matter of personal preference, not about Salvador

Corporation's capabilities. Besides, Justin did his best. Bella is just

too cunning and manipulative. She's always one step ahead of us. That's the nature of business, I guess."

Justin looked up at Bethany menacingly. "Bella didn't do anything

wrong. We just didn't cover all our bases."

Narrowing her gaze, Bethany gritted her teeth and kept her thoughts to herself. 'Hmph! No point in having her back now that you're divorced! Maybe it's a good thing. You're just digging your own grave by jumping to Bella's defense.'

"Don't tell me you let Bella win on purpose, Justin," Gregory

questioned.

"No." Justin kept his head down.

"I should remind you that you and the girl are divorced. She has no relationship with Salvador Corporation. In other words, you're enemies. You can't even be friends. The wicked and cunning girl has been giving us a lot of trouble. I didn't make things difficult for her because you were once married, but that doesn't mean I'll put up with her forever." Gregory Salvador slammed the table in rage.

Justin narrowed his eyes at Gregory's grimacing face, his eyes

bloodshot and his fists clenched.

"Are you trying to defy me, Justin? What's with the look on your face?"

While Gregory looked stern, his heart raced.

The kid once gave him the same stinging look when his mother jumped off the building to her death.

To this day, Gregory was brought back to that fateful incident every time he looked into his son's eyes.

## Chapter 368

"Even though Bella and I are divorced, and she's no longer mine, she's

still off-limits." Justin took a step forward as rage flickered in his eyes, icy and intense.

Gregory shuddered. The father and son locked gazes in

confrontation.

Bethany was intimidated by the stern look on Justin's face.

Nevertheless, she pulled herself together and came behind Gregory at the desk with an ingratiating smile. She kneaded his shoulders. "Don't get into it with Justin because of Bella, Dad. She has the upper hand for now, but the game isn't over. The ultimate victor is yet to be

determined."

"Bethany, are you saying that you can turn things around?" Reading between the lines, Gregory asked eagerly.

"Dad, if you give me a chance to take over the project, I have many of winning Ada over."

Bethany added with a confident smile, "Ada might have announced that her wedding will be held at KS World Hotel, but nothing ever goes as planned, don't you think?"

Justin frowned.

He knew his half-sister well. Bethany was always hungry for power,

but she did not have the brains to match her ambition.

However, Bethany had the nerve to compete with him this time. She

looked like she had it in the bag.

Justin believed something fishy was going on.

"Very well! I knew I could always count on you. You have aspirations and ambitions."

Gregory smiled contently and took Bethany's hand. "I'll leave you in charge of getting Ada to have her wedding with us. Your brother will do the handover with you later. Justin, you're off this project. I don't want you getting involved with Bella again. Just leave everything to Bethany."

Justin pulled a stoic face without saying a word.

Gregory would never compliment his accomplishments, but he would not hesitate to punish Justin and strip him of power the moment something went wrong.

Firstly, Gregory did not think an illegitimate child like Justin was good enough. Secondly, Gregory fretted over the idea of Justin

overpowering him:

“Thank you for the opportunity, Daddy!” Bethany clung happily to Gregory’s neck.

“I will reward you once you are successful.”

Gregory stroked his daughter’s head dotingly and asked with a smile, “ What do you want? Just tell me. Is it a villa with a sea view or a fancy sports car?”

“No. That’s not what I want.”

Bethany simpered. “I’m your daughter, a member of the Salvador

family. I want to contribute to the family business too. If I win Ada over, can I become the general manager of the Salvador Hotel? Given an opportunity, I can prove my management skills are superior to Bella’s.”

With his breath hitched, Justin smirked.

So that was what Bethany was after.

“Alright, you have my word. If you can prove your worth, I will put you

in charge of the hotel.” Gregory was open to the idea.

“Thank you, Dad!” Bethany smirked at Justin.

She could already imagine Justin with his tail tucked between his legs

when she took over the hotel management.

## Chapter 369

Justin walked out of the chairman's office and returned to his.

"How did it go, Mr. Salvador? I hope the chairman didn't make things hard for you." Ian had a cup of coffee ready for Justin. With a worried look on his face, he asked cautiously.

The man approached the sofa and sat down with poise. He held the cup up and took a sip with a glum face.

"He didn't."

Han sighed in relief.

"As if that will happen."

Ian widened his eyes, his heart in his throat. "I knew I shouldn't expect

much from him. He's not a real father to you."

"Ha! Sometimes I wish he wasn't my father."

Justin gulped down the bitter coffee that had lost its aroma. "It's a shame I carry half his DNA."

Ian sighed frustratedly, not knowing what to say.

"Gregory has tasked Bethany with getting Ada to use us as a wedding

venue."

“What?”

Ian was surprised and furious. “It was your idea to win over Ada and use her wedding to boost the hotel’s reputation. You have worked

hard, meeting with the team countless times to discuss the wedding proposal. Nobody could have predicted the outcome. Why couldn’t he think about what you did for the company instead of handing over your blood, sweat, and tears? I bet Shannon, the witch, put her up to it.”

“That’s not all. If Bethany is successful, she will take over the

Salvador Hotel’s management.” Justin narrowed his eyes with a smirk.

Ian gasped sharply and pinched his nose bridge.

Gregory was clueless at running a business, but he excelled at one thing-making his son’s life miserable.

“Did you challenge the decision? You can’t just let Bethany steal your

project.”

“Is it necessary, though? Gregory and Bethany are on the same team.

He wants to strip me of my authority to begin with.”

Justin seemed unfazed. “Bethany just gave him a reason.”

He would not live a long life if he got worked up over every little thing.

“So we’re sitting ducks?” Ian hissed through clenched teeth.

Without a word, Justin savored his coffee.

“To be honest, I’m a little angry at Young Madam, Mr. Salvador.” Ian

pouted with a frown.

“You always hold her in high regard. What made you change your mind?” Curling his lips, Justin teased him.

“Business is business. We can’t mix business with personal

emotions. I think she’s trying to get even with you. She’s walking you. off the cliff.” Driven by rage, Ian made a bold statement.

“I get her. I’ve hurt her in the past,” Justin said honestly. The past still haunted him.

“But at this rate, you might lose your position in the company.”

Ian was on the verge of tears. “The young madam is spoiled crazy by her family. Her stepmothers and brothers have her back, and

Chairman Thompson adores her. She can never understand where you are coming from. You are alone in the company. She can use her family’s connections to screw with you, and one day, you might just go down.”

“Don’t be scared. It’s not easy to take me down.”

Justin smiled faintly. “Though her love and being her husband are a



thing of the past, I don't deserve them if I'm easily defeated. That's

why I have a plan in place."

"Really? What is it?"

Justin closed his eyes for a breather and smiled tenderly.

A while later, he uttered in a hoarse voice, "Bella has to win all the

way."

Ian widened his eyes in disbelief.

Still, he grasped what Justin was trying to say.

If Justin could not win it all, he would rather everything go down in

flames.

"I will not let anyone or anything come in her way."

Justin had a meeting in the evening, but he canceled it and drove to

the KS World Hotel,

He stepped into the hotel lobby with a mix of emotions.

During his first visit to the place, Bella tricked him into climbing the stairs to her office and fooled him with a substitute. He was humiliated.

## Chapter 370

No woman had ever made Justin feel so defeated. Even when Rosalind used him and betrayed him, all he felt was anger.

Justin let out a wry smile at the sight of the newly improved hotel lobby. KS World Hotel ran a tighter ship than the Salvador Hotel.

Bella presented herself as inexperienced and submissive when she

married Justin. Although he had never looked down upon her for being from the countryside, Justin felt she did not belong in his world.

It dawned on him now that it was the other way around. It was him trying to catch up to her.

Bella put aside her pride and dignity to stay by his side for three

years. He was the closest to her when they were married.

He was never the one who was unattainable.

Steven was talking to two executives of the hotel about work when he

turned around and saw Justin in the lobby.

Shocked at first, Steven quickly pulled a long face.

“That’s it for now. You should get to work.”

“Of course, Mr. Lovett.”

After dismissing the executives, Steven aloofly took strides toward

Justin.

“Mr. Salvador, the restaurant is to your left, the bar is to your right,

and the café is on the third floor. If you wish to book a room, you can

head to the reception desk.”

“I want to see Ms. Thompson.” Justin cut to the case, his face expressionless. He scanned the place.

“My boss is too busy to see every Tom, Dick, or Harry.” Steven

sneered.

If Steven did not have to demonstrate courtesy at the hotel, he would

have released the hounds on Justin.

“Say whatever you want, but I must see her today.”

Justin realized that he had developed thick skin. In the past, he would

walk away after being insulted. This time, he played dumb to stay.

It did not hurt him to take a scolding. Justin probably would not sleep

well at night if he did not meet with Bella, though.

“Ms. Bella won’t see you, Justin. You’ll only upset her.”

Steven narrowed his eyes at the man, his teeth clenched. He barked in

a chilling voice, “If you know better, you should leave this place at once. So long as I am here, you can forget about seeing her.”

“Sure, but I need Bella to tell me that.”

The man refused to budge, and the determination showed in his eyes.

“You can’t make that decision for her.”

“Justin! Are you trying to cause a ruckus?”

Hot under the collar, Steven wanted to give Justin a piece of his mind

when a cheery voice came from behind.

The voice crawled under Justin’s skin.

“Mr. Lovett, is Bella around?”

Justin turned around and saw Christopher strolling into the lobby, looking sharp.

The two good-looking men stood before Steven. Although the men refused to acknowledge each other's existence, Steven could feel the sparks of animosity flying between them.

Steven could potentially get himself caught in a crossfire.

Christopher could not arrive at a worse time.

Steven was tempted to lock the two men in the same room so they could have a go at one another.

"We are in a public space, Mr. Iverson. You should address her respectfully as Ms. Bella or Ms. Thompson, especially in the hotel she

manages. Steven was indifferent to both Christopher and Justin.

Justin curled his lips, finding Bella's secretary less of an eyesore at this very moment.

"Fine. Is Ms. Thompson around? What time will she be free tonight?"

Christopher was unoffended. He knew when to yield. "I wish to have

dinner with her tonight to thank her for getting Christian's

autographed album for my mother."

"She's busy." Steven was telling Justin and Christopher that.

"I can wait."

Justin and Christopher replied in unison.