

## Heiress 381

### Chapter 381

Vincent led Bella and Ada to the lounge backstage, where the trio enjoyed a glass of champagne and talked.

After a long chat, Ada's agent called her to attend an important

interview.

With her gone, Vincent and Bella were the only ones left in the lounge.

"I haven't seen you in three years. How have you been doing, Alexa?"

Vincent looked at her tenderly, his eyes reflecting the affection of a mentor. There was nothing romantic between them.

"As you can see, nothing has changed much." Bella spread her arms apart and smiled relaxedly.

"You have matured a lot in the last three years. I can see it in your eyes. Where have you gone? Did you find inspiration all around the world?" Noticing the crease etched between her brows, Vincent asked

worriedly.

"I didn't travel. I've been to the farmer's market and back for t years. The passion's long gone." Bella sighed with sadness in

eyes.

"You're funny as always."

Vincent clinked glasses with her and asked with a smile, "When are

you planning to reveal that you're Alexa? It's a shame to hide that

dazzling side of you."

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With the show beginning, Vincent left the lounge with Bella.

The pair had not gotten far when a husky voice was heard.

“Bella.”

Bella’s heart skipped a beat, and she looked back with a frown.

Justin walked toward her against the light with a long face.

The man gave Vincent a dirty look as he drew close, and Vincent got the hint. He chuckled and asked Bella, “Is he a friend of yours, Ms.

Thompson?”

“A friend? As if.” Bella sneered, but she was bewildered.

Justin was a proud and aloof man, a stark contrast to the outgoing Ryan. Thus, Justin was never keen on attending such events.

It was unlike him to attend a jewelry show.

Ha. Bella believed it probably had to do with his foolish, mean, and clingy little admirer.

Justin strode toward them, his eyes fixated on Bella.

“Ms. Thompson, aren’t you going to introduce me to this man here?”

“I doubt that’s necessary, Mr. Salvador. The Salvador Corporation

doesn’t dabble in jewelry. I don’t think you and Mr. Anderson mingle in

the same social circle.” Bella declined indifferently, reluctant to waste.

pleasantries on him.

Justin pursed his lips.

Despite the setback, Justin did not back down. Instead, he courteously extended his hand to Vincent.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Anderson.”

“Likewise, Mr. Salvador. I didn’t think you knew Ms. Thompson.”

Vincent shook his hand with composure.

“I guess you aren’t close with Ms. Thompson.” Justin narrowed his eyes dangerously. “If you two were close, you would know who I am to Ms. Thompson.”

Vincent furrowed his brows, feeling the strong grip from the man’s

handshake.

The pair put their muscle power into the handclasp.

Justin had no idea what had gotten into himself. He was not the

immature and restless type.

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Justin could not shake off the frustration when he saw Bella being

close to another man. He wanted to get rid of all the male attention around her.

He could not explain his strange behavior. He was acting like an abandoned husband.

Justin had always been good at self-restraint, but that was out of the window when Bella was in question.

Annoyed, Bella sneered, "We have a special relationship, the see-you-never type."

"Bella." Justin's breath hitched, and his voice turned raspy.

"Ex-husbands are never considered close. A good ex keeps their distance and stays out of the picture. Surely, Mr. Salvador, you're

familiar with this concept?"

'Ex-husband?' Vincent was shocked. He did not think Alexa had been married before.

As her long-time friend, Vincent had never heard of her marriage. Why did Alexa marry this man?

A perfect woman like Alexa had better choices. Why did she marry a jealous man?

“Feel free to make things hard for me, Mr. Salvador. Seeing you is enough to make me miserable, so I don’t mind getting more hell from you. But Mr. Anderson is an important friend of mine. I hope you don’t

give him any trouble.”

Bella furrowed her brows. “Have some dignity, my dear ex-husband.”

Justin tensed his jawline, and his fingers dug into his clammy palms.

Her words bit.

Bella would take him on just to protect and stand up for someone

else.

Justin, an ex-husband she once loved, was dead to her.

“The show’s starting. Aren’t you going to keep your little lady company, Mr. Salvador? She might panic if she doesn’t see you.”

Bella left Justin frozen there and prepared to leave with Vincent.

Flustered, the man gripped her arm.

“Hey! Your relationship is over the moment you divorce. Please respect Ms. Thompson.”

Vincent tried to intervene, but Bella raised her arm to stop him.

“They’ll be waiting for your speech. Go on ahead, Vincent. I’m fine here.”

“But-

“Don’t worry. We’re divorced. What can he do to me?”

Justin felt like she ripped his heart out, and the pain made him clutch.

her arm harder.

Vincent knew that others should not get involved in the history between the former couple. Trusting that no one would have the audacity to stir trouble at his event, Vincent left ahead of Bella.

It was quiet along the corridor.

Justin could hear his heart thumping, so he held his breath. Still, it did.

nothing.

“Let go.” Bella gritted her teeth and put up a struggle. Her eyes.

reflected her lack of emotion.



“You were talking about Zoe, right?”

Anxious, Justin pulled her toward him.

As her supple body pressed against his strong body, their breaths

mingled.

“Ha, I didn’t name any names. How did you know I was talking about

Ms. Hoffman?”

Justin could not stand to see Bella’s mocking gaze.

“Oh, little Zoe must mean something to you because you thought about her right away as soon as I mentioned your lady friend.”

Bella intentionally said this.

Justin let out a wry smile.

He could not argue with this woman

However, Justin was more curious than angry. He was curious as to

who he was to Bella.

He asked in a hoarse voice, “Are you jealous, Bella?”

“Hahaha!”

Bella laughed and shook her head. “Are you dumb, Justin? Why would you ask me that? When I was your wife, you were all over Rosalind, taking her to see the lighting ceremony in Meridan during Christmas and creating a unique jewelry piece for her. I wasn’t jealous when you were cruel to me. Now that we’re divorced, you have the nerve to ask me whether I am jealous. How vile are you?”

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Standing before Bella, Justin took Bella’s tongue-lashing

defenselessly.

Bella was right. He had done all the things she mentioned.

“Nothing is going on between me and Zoe, Bella. She’s not my little lady!” The anxiety flushed Justin’s ears red as he shouted.

He was not one to apologize, but he was desperate this time.

“Why tell me? It has nothing to do with me.”

Bella had no patience with him anymore. She looked at him with disgust. “I don’t care if anything or nothing is going on between you two. I don’t want your explanation. Let go of me. I want to see the

show.”

“Aren’t you concerned? Why did you talk about it if you didn’t care? You mentioned it at the police station that night and now.”

Justin hated the misunderstanding. His eyes welled up, and his shoulders trembled as the emotions got to him. "You care about the women I get with, so it shows that you still care about me. You're not over me, as you said you were."

"It's not that I care, but I loathe you, Justin."

Bella stared at him while prying his fingers from her arm. "If I knew you kept your old flame and lady friends around, I wouldn't have fallen in love with you. I'm relieved I got out of it when I did, but I can't

stand the fact that the man I once loved can't admit that he's a cheating

bastard."

Justin breathed heavily as his world came crashing down on him.

It felt awful to be misunderstood. He felt bitter and wronged.

Bella was stung by the man's broken look.

Still, she did not stay. She turned her back against him and walked

away.

The past is in the past. Despite the unclosed chapter of regret and

love, it was time to move on.

Bella's phone rang. It was Steven.

"What's up, Steve?" She pulled herself together.

“TL:

“This is bad, Ms. Bella. Check Twitter now!” Steven spoke in a panic!

Bella scowled. She had a bad feeling.

She pulled out her phone to check Twitter.

The color drained from her face, and she cursed.

“Shit!”

Ada’s leaked wedding plans were trending in the top spot.

Bella and her team painstakingly put together a wedding setup, but the plans were exposed in photos on the web.

Everything was out there.

Justin was lost in his whirlwind of emotions when he heard Bella

curse. Dumbstruck at first, he soon curled his lips.

The woman seemed more alive since leaving him. It felt like she was living life rather than going through the motions now. She was more adorable than when she simply did as she was told.

He approached her.

She sprinted to the end of the corridor in her high heels, ditching him.

far behind.

Feeling that something was not right, Justin looked at her receding figure and picked up the phone to call Ian's number.

"Mr. Salvador."

"Did something happen at KS Group?" The man asked intuitively. "Yes, Mr. Salvador. I was about to report to you about it."

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Ian said anxiously, "Leaked KS World Hotel photos of Ada's wedding

design are taking Twitter by storm. The photos are going viral.

because of the sheer number of shares."

With a raised brow, Justin asked, "Which media released them?"

"A verified freelancer in the media."

"Some people would just expose anything." The man's eyes darkened

as he scowled.

"M-Mr. Salvador, with photos of the wedding setup out, will they do

the young madam any harm?" Ian asked nervously.

"Of course. Otherwise, she wouldn't have disappeared in the blink of an eye. She usually keeps it together."

Justin looked in the direction Bella left, feeling for her. "If my guess is right, Ada must have added a term to the contract with Bella about keeping her wedding details under wraps until the big day. Otherwise, it will be a breach of contract."

"A breach of contract? That bad?"

"Since the wedding setup was leaked, KS Group has violated the terms. Even if KS Group doesn't need to compensate Ada monetarily, I believe Ada will have her wedding elsewhere. KS World Hotel will no longer be her consideration," Justin said solemnly.

In other words, Bella's efforts went up in smoke after the elaborate scheme.

The incredible KS World Hotel was out of the game!

“Jesus... The young madam is intelligent and cautious. How could she be played?”

Justin clenched his fists angrily..

He and Bella were rivals, so he should be happy that KS Group was in trouble.

However, Justin could not smile.

“Investigate the media. Who is the person in charge? Look into why the photos are exposed.”

Ada’s exposed wedding venue photos quickly became a hot topic.

Everybody at the show knew about it, but the severity of the matter eluded onlookers. They complimented the wonderful wedding setup.

in front of Ada. It was the wedding of their dreams.

However, Ada was miffed.

Before the show was over, Ada shied away from public attention and left the scene in a hurry without saying goodbye to Vincent.

Sitting across from the runway, Zoe and Bethany caught sight of it all.

“Hehe. Xena works fast.” The malice in Zoe’s eyes was out of place

on her angelic face.

When Ada stormed off, Zoe knew she had gotten what she wanted.

Zoe thought, ‘So what if you’re the daughter of the richest man in

Hatchbay, Bella? So what if you own ten thousand pieces of jewelry? You’ve been played. You lost.’”

“I guess the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. Xena knows her stuff like her father.”

Bethany clapped her hands with a sigh. “I can’t believe how quickly she got pictures of the wedding setup. Is she a journalist? I think she should change careers and become a spy.”

“Refrain from contacting Xena for now. We don’t want the whole thing to trace back to us.”

Following a glint in her eyes, Zoe stood tall. “I took out Bella for you, Bethany. Now it’s up to you to seal the deal with Ada.”

“Don’t worry. Now that Ada’s furious, I’m sure she will pick us after KS Group’s breach of contract.”

Bethany straightened her back triumphantly. “The Salvador Hotel and KS World Hotel are the only reputable hotels in the city. Ada will have

to choose us now.”

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After hearing from Vincent that Ada had left the show early, Bella rushed to the basement parking lot with Steven.

Ada sat in the MPV with a scowl.

As the car door began to slide shut, a hand gripped the edge, preventing it from closing.

“I know you must be furious to see the post on Twitter, Ada. I’m livid too because the photos were leaked. KS Group has been kept in the

dark about everything.”

Bella was out of breath and sweating from running.

Ada smiled pretentiously at Bella. She had been in the acting

business for over thirty years, so she was an expert at controlling her expressions and emotions.

Without throwing a fit, Ada said indifferently, “We have a deal, Ms. Thompson. I know that you might not be aware of the leak. I trust that you are a woman of principle, Ms. Thompson. Or Vincent won’t speak highly of you.”

Steven’s eyes lit up because he believed all was not lost yet.

Well, Steven and Bella were in for a rude awakening.

“But you can’t deny that KS World Hotel has a serious concern about security measures, and that’s your responsibility as the general manager. The design of the wedding setup was leaked this time.

Next, it might be the client’s personal information. KS World Hotel’s

management issue is the cause of today's incident. Don't you think so, Ms. Thompson?"

Fuck. Things turned ugly quickly, and the woman did not hesitate to dump them.

Flushed in the face, Steven was dying to stand up for Bella.

He could take the insults and even a beating, but he could not stand others questioning and challenging Bella. It pained him to see the woman he watched growing up get hurt.

Bella raised her arm to stop Steven. Composing herself, she graciously admitted her fault.

"My apologies, Ms. Wang. It was our negligence that resulted in the leak of the wedding setup photos. As the general manager of the

hotel, I am at fault."

"Ms. Bella..." Seeing red, Steven clenched his fists.

"You are better than most managers for acknowledging your mistake, Ms. Thompson, but it's a fact that the contract has been breached. Regardless, the terms have been violated, so I will end my

collaboration with KS Group as dictated in the contract. Otherwise

see no point in having a contract in the first place. I'm sure you'd

agree."

Ada smiled and gave her agent a look to close the door.

“Please wait, Ms. Wang.”

Bella took a box from Steven and handed it to Ada humbly. “I

understand your choice to cancel our partnership. Although we can’t work together, I believe we’re still friends. I have made the dessert

you love, so I just want to deliver it to you.”

Ada glanced at the box without taking it. She said, “Thank you for

your kindness. When we have a chance to work together again, I’ll accept your gift.”

Bella gritted her teeth as the MPV drove away.

“Ada insulted you by not accepting the gift. That was mean!” Steven was furious, but there was nothing he could do about it.

KS World Hotel was at fault to begin with.

“I can understand why she did what she did. She wasn’t insulting me. She didn’t have a reason to accept my gift since the deal was off. With her wedding drawing close, I’m sure she’s restless after what happened. She has to look for another hotel now.”

Bella drew a deep breath to calm herself. “Even though Ada isn’t collaborating with us anymore, I’m not over the matter. The priority now is to find the person who did this to me. Let’s not forget about- the mole hiding among us.”

“A mole?”

Widening his eyes in disbelief, Steven murmured, "Are you suspecting one of us? I thought Bethany was behind this."

"Sure, Bethany started it, but without help from the mole, she couldn't

possibly have succeeded. We should start vetting from inside our

organization."

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"Mr. Salvador! Don't pick it up. It's too dirty!" Ian was usually a

carefree person, but he could not stand the dirt.

Ian thought, 'When has the dignified and arrogant Mr. Salvador ever humbled himself as such? He shouldn't have picked it up, even if the young madam was the one who threw it away.'

"It's fine. It's not like I never did this kind of thing when I was a kid."

Justin spoke nonchalantly. He recalled the time he saw Bella in the kitchen carefully making this dessert and could not help but feel a surge of warmth in his heart.

"Let's go."

Bella returned to the KS World Hotel and called all senior

management and members of the wedding planning team to the conference room for an emergency meeting.

Everyone was furious when they heard that Ada Wang had canceled

the cooperation. Seeing that their efforts were in vain, some even cried in exasperation.

Bella saw it and felt the same way. Her heart ached too.

She was not afraid that the cooperation fell through, nor did she care that she had suffered a loss. What she feared most was the

disappointment of her colleagues, who had worked hard with her.

“It’s alright. This isn’t a big deal, and it’s not like we’re out of solutions. We will operate as usual, and please don’t take it to heart.”

Bella’s beautiful eyes arched into crescents when she laughed.

heartily. “Don’t worry about the holiday I promised you all. We’ll still

go ahead with it. Don’t cry because of this. It’s not your fault.”

However, everyone said they would cancel the holiday and devote themselves to work to make up for the losses.

After the meeting ended, everyone left.

Steven looked outside to make sure no one was lingering behind

before he closed the door of the conference room.

“Ms. Bella, why didn’t you tell them about the mole in the hotel while everyone was here?”

Steven could not help but frown in confusion. "You can put pressure on them, and I'll observe their micro-expressions. That way, we can

find out who the mole is!"

"Tsk, you're so naive, Steve."

Bella's fair arms naturally rested on the armrest of the leather chair. She spun around in circles and said, "Since this matter is widely known, do you think the traitor will be unprepared? They must assume that I wanted to discuss this in the meeting. But I didn't to fulfill their wish and pretended not to care. That way, they would

be able to predict my thoughts."

Steven could not help but laugh. Bella was indeed a quirky person.

"Since the traitor has already succeeded in their plan and got away without getting caught, there is no point in putting pressure on them."

Suddenly, Bella's beautiful eyes darkened. "What we have to do is

make them let down their guard and think that nothing is wrong. Then we'll throw out the bait and let them bite it."

"Ms. Bella, I will check the surveillance cameras in a moment to see if any suspicious people have approached the wedding venue. In

addition, I will investigate the account that exposed the photos to see

who broke the news to them!"

Bella's narrowed eyes revealed a dangerous sense of oppression." Alright. Go ahead."

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The next day at Salvador Corporation, Ian knocked on Justin's office.

door and entered in a hurry.

"Mr. Salvador, I've investigated... Ahhhh!"

Ian could not help but scream mid-sentence because it was too late.

to stop Justin from eating the contaminated food.

He watched helplessly as Justin sat at the table and took a bite out

of the pastry that came from the dirty box.

Crunch—

Justin opened his mouth wide, squinted his eyes, and took a bite with

relish.

"Mr. Salvador! You can't eat this! It was from the trash can. How

could you eat it?!" Ian spoke anxiously.

“Only the box is dirty. The inside is still clean.” Justin took another bite.

It tasted really good. However, it was a pity that this box of dessert was not made for him.

Thinking of this, Justin felt bitterness on the tip of his tongue and throat.

Bella used to do this for him every day back then, but he did not cherish it. Now, the only way he could taste her food was if he picked

it up from the trash can.

His life was truly miserable.

“So, how’s the investigation going?” Justin put away the remaining dessert and asked in a leisurely manner.

“Ahem... After some coercion and inducement on my part, that influencer finally revealed an important clue!”

“Stop beating around the bush.”



“That influencer said that he only received Ada Wang’s wedding setup through a private message. Someone just used him to help break the news, but he had no idea who was behind the scenes.”

“Oh, have you signed up for any courses in your spare time lately?” Justin raised his eyes coldly.

“Huh?” Ian was startled.

“Perhaps ‘How to Bullshit for Dummies’?”

Justin raised his eyebrows and continued, “Is this the supposedly important clue you found? You don’t even know who is behind the scenes. I think your bonus should be donated to those in need.”

“Mr. Salvador, have mercy! I’ve already found that person’s account

but I haven’t checked the account yet before I rushed back to report to you. I’ll check it out right now!” Ian’s face turned pale when he heard that his bonus was going to be deducted again. Although he

did not have a family to raise, he wanted to save up for a future

wedding.

“Give me the account details. I’ll check it out myself.” Justin hooked his finger.

“I shouldn’t bother you with this little thing...”

“I’m going to lose if I wait for you.”

Justin frowned. He had always been calm, but this time, he could not

help but feel a little anxious. “I have to hurry up and find out the

culprit before Bella's brothers help her."

Oh, men and their competitive nature.

"Mr. Salvador, I can finally die with no regrets seeing you come out of retirement!" Ian was so excited that he almost covered his face and cried.

"You've been acting too much." Justin's eyes darkened, and he cracked his knuckles.

In the military academy, Justin learned how to track, counter-track, collect intelligence, and decipher encryptions. However, after becoming the president of Salvador Corporation, these skills were left unused, so he became a bit rusty.

At first, when Bella still went by the name "Anna Brown", Justin had secretly used his hacking skills to obtain information on the identities of the mysterious men around her.

As a result, he could not find anything. This made him understand.

one thing-the men around Bella were no ordinary people.

However, this time, the opponent should not be that strong. Justin. had to find out who it was.

Seeing Justin so eager to give it a try, lan found it sweet and smiled

suggestively. “Mr. Salvador, please tell me the truth. Do you have

feelings for the young madam?”

Justin glanced at him coldly and said, “Do you think that your salary

is too high, so you’re eager to do charity?”

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lan made a motion to zip his mouth again.

“I owe her for the last three years.”

Justin took a deep breath and lowered his eyes sadly. “I’ll make it up.

to her in every little way I can.”

At night, Asher and Axel dropped their work and rushed over to Bella’s

villa after learning that something had gone wrong with Ada Wang’s

cooperation.

In the study, Axel was sweating profusely as he sat in front of the computer, his fingers clicking away on the keyboard. He was trying to track the information about the users behind the accounts that Bella provided him.

Meanwhile, Bella sat leisurely on the sofa, clinking glasses with Asher and enjoying the top-quality red wine he brought over.

“Hello, don’t you think you two are big bullies?”

Axel was so busy that he had not even had a sip of water. He gritted

his teeth and said, “I came here just to be your slave while you two happily sip on wine. Don’t you think you guys are mean? How could you bully a public prosecutor?!”

Seeing that his two siblings held no sympathy for him, Axel helplessly

and aggrievedly shouted, “Don’t drink it all. Leave me a sip!”

“Axel, if you work hard, I’ll offer you the hundreds of bottles of red wine in my underground wine cellar. Isn’t that enough of a bribe?”

Bella teased him with a smile.

“Bah! I’m an upright public servant. Don’t you try to corrode my will!”

Axel frowned and clicked on the keyboard loudly.

“Bella, Dad has already heard about this matter,” Asher said gently.

“Haha. I knew that Wyatt would hear about the bad situation as soon

as it happened. Is he just sitting at home waiting to see me fail?”

Bella no longer had the mood to sip on wine. She folded her small

feet and pouted her lips in distress.

“Well, Dad did laugh at you.”

Asher chuckled and raised his hand to pinch her angry little face. “His

exact words were, ‘Why would she get depressed over such a trivial

matter? Isn’t there anyone in the world that the brat can care about?!’”

Bella was speechless.

“Also, Dad said that Ada Wang will be filming the eighth season of

March of the Dead’ next year. The producer found him through

various connections and asked him to be an investor.”

Asher leaned forward slightly and smiled mysteriously. “Dad told me privately that if you feel upset about what happened with Ada, he can ask the producer to change the female lead of the 8th season at any time.”

Bella gasped. She did not expect her father to have contacts in Hollywood.

This old guy was really influential!

“Ahem... There’s no need for that. We breached the contract first. Ada

Wang did nothing wrong, so don’t ruin her career.”

Bella sighed and still felt a little downcast. “Besides, I have already gone out to work on my own. I shouldn’t keep relying on my family for everything. Now that something like this has happened, the only way

to relieve my anger is to find out the people who are involved. Then I will personally punish them.”

“Very well. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. This is how Wyatt’s daughter should act.”

Asher’s eyes held a warm smile as he touched his little sister’s head.

Bella could do whatever she wanted. She did not have to be afraid of anything because, even if the sky fell, her brothers would be there to support her.

At this time, Bella's phone vibrated on the coffee table.

Bella glanced sideways. Her beautiful eyes narrowed slightly.

Justin's name on the caller ID pierced her eyes.

"Your ex-husband is calling." Asher looked at her with a smile and joked with her.

"Ugh! I hate spam calls." Bella turned over her phone screen, not wanting to pay attention to it.

Suddenly, Steven rushed into the study with a frown.

"Ms. Bella, Justin is here. He's right outside our door!"

At the same time, the doorbell rang

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“Well, I guess this spam call came to harass you in person.” Asher took a sip of red wine, still in the mood to joke.

After all, with Asher and Axel around, Jerkface Justin would not dare try anything.

Otherwise, Asher would deal with him. By then, even Jesus would not be able to save him.

“How dare that jerk come to our door? That motherfucking son of a bitch!” Axel cursed, keeping his eyes on the screen and typing with his hands.

“Sigh...”

...” Bella shook her head and stood up in frustration. “I’m the reason he’s here, so I should be the one to drive him away. I’ll go check it out.”

Bella came to the entrance alone and turned on the video intercom.

Justin’s cold and handsome face instantly appeared on the screen.



“What are you doing here?”

Bella’s eyes were blank, as if he were a stranger to her. “Are there no other attractions in Savrow that you had to take a stroll around my house?”

“Bella, please come out. Let’s talk,” Justin said in a deep voice, ignoring her mocking tone.

“Can’t we talk like this? I can still see your face and hear your voice.”

The man’s throat tightened as he exhaled deeply.

The woman in front of him was truly cold and ruthless.

“Bella, stop making a fuss and come out. I have something to tell you.”

“Make a fuss? How am I making a fuss? You’re clearly not welcome here. Can’t you tell?” Bella could not help but sneer.

“Come out. I want to see you.”

Justin’s charming eyes twinkled in the dim light. His voice was so

hoarse. He was holding back too many complicated emotions and only revealed them after it was too overwhelming. He wanted to let go of his pride and dignity.

“I want to see you.”

Bella’s heart throbbed violently as her blood surged. She pursed her lips and took half a step back.

After a while, she took a deep breath and laughed lightly.

If she had heard Justin say this in the past, she would have been excited that she would have cried tears of joy. For these words, she would be willing to do anything for him.

However, these words came too late. It was disgraceful to be entangled in an expired marriage. It would only make her seem worthless.

“Justin, the world is a cruel place. You can’t always get what you

want.”

Bella tilted her head. Her mocking tone chilled his heart. “You spent three years teaching me this concept.”

“Bella...” Justin felt a lump in his throat, and all the nerves in his body spasmed.

“I don’t think it’ll rain tonight.”

Bella raised her eyes to look at the moon and said in a cold tone,”

Justin, last time I went out to see you, I was afraid that you would be struck to death by lightning. This time, there’s no way I will go out to see you.”

Beep-

The video intercom was turned off. The screen plunged into darkness.

Justin stood outside the door with dull eyes. His body was enveloped in the desolate and chilly air of late fall, and the cold penetrated his core.

Bella returned upstairs with sluggish steps.

She did not understand how the man who used to ignore her had the nerve to go over to her house and tell her that he wanted to see her after their divorce. He was truly shameless.

What else could he say to her? In the past three years, he could have talked to her about everything under the sun, but he chose to leave her alone in the huge villa and neglect her.

She had wasted three years on him, so she vowed not to waste any more time with this man.

As Bella walked into the study, Steven asked with concern, "How are you feeling, Ms. Bella? Did Justin make things difficult for you?"

"Hmph! He won't dare."

Bella walked behind Asher, leaned over, and wrapped her arms tightly around her eldest brother's neck, acting coquettishly.

"What about you? Did you make things difficult for Justin?" Asher

asked with a smile..

“No...”

“What a pity.”

Asher gently raised his hand to touch her cheek and joked, “I’m here tonight, so this is your opportunity to beat him up and vent your anger.”

Bella rolled her eyes. “Thanks for the offer, Ash. But devout believers should use peaceful means to solve problems.”

“Bella! I finally did it! Why don’t you open a bottle of red wine and reward me? I want the most expensive one!” Axel shouted with excitement and pumped his fists in the air.

“Steve, head down to the wine cellar later and give my second brother a bottle of our best red wine.”

The worries in Bella’s eyes disappeared as she hurriedly walked to

Axel. She put her left hand on his shoulder and her right arm on the table. She stared at the screen intently and asked, "Who's the user behind that account?"

"This is her!"

Axel pointed at the screen. "She is a social news reporter from 'Headlines', Xena Gordon! The IP address of the other account is exactly the same as her official one

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"Well done, Ax! Although you are a bit slow." Bella raised her eyebrows and smiled.

"I'm faster this time! Why didn't you call Drew for help? He's a professional in this kind of shady activity. You should really employ the right people for the right services!"

"I called Drew a few days ago. He has an important mission, so I dare not disturb him."

“Bella, I remember that you’re quite the hacker yourself, no less than Drew. You could have found out yesterday.” Asher was also puzzled.

Bella yawned. “Oh, I was just lazy.”

Axel was speechless as he thought, ‘Oh, so I really am a slave to her!’

Bella browsed the Twitter account carefully and sneered. “Oh, she’s a reporter with a strong sense of justice. Why did she suddenly change her focus to expose Ada Wang’s wedding setup? She looks like she’s trying to mess with us.”

“Bella, do you mean that someone instigated this reporter?” Asher asked with a frown.

“It’s not instigation. She probably received money from someone to help them do their dirty work. Media reporters have their own forte. Since she is a social news reporter, she wouldn’t have reported

on the entertainment industry.”

Bella stared at Xena Gordon’s and murmured to herself, “Xena

Gordon... Xena Gordon... Why does this name seem so familiar?”

Suddenly, she had an epiphany and shouted, “I know who she is! She’s Michael Gordon’s daughter!”

“Who is Michael Gordon?” Axel asked, still clueless.

“Is he the former vice president of the hotel whom you fired and sent

to jail?” Asher raised his eyebrows with interest.

“Yes! Xena is his daughter!”

Bella had an excellent memory. She had read Michael Gordon’s information before, so she immediately recognized Xena Gordon’s identity. “I can understand if she was the one who exposed this.”

“I get it too. You were the reason her father lost his job and went to prison. I think she’s rather merciful that she didn’t make you viral on

her platform.” Axel nodded with a serious face.

“He’s involved in corruption and bribery. Should I have promoted him instead of sending him to jail?”

Bella raised her chin arrogantly. “Michael Gordon was at fault, not me. If she’s a good daughter, she should visit her father more often. instead of trying to seek revenge on me to comfort herself. Why should I pay for the mistakes her father made? How ridiculous!”

“Ms. Bella, I checked the surveillance cameras. Except for our team

members who take turns supervising the work on-site, the workers will hand over their mobile phones during construction. No outsiders.

can approach the wedding venue.”

Steven’s eyes darkened as he continued, “I can be sure that someone

in the team is indeed working with this woman.”



Bella saw how pretty Xena Gordon was and made a bold guess.

Steve, from now on, keep an eye on everyone on the team, especially the men. Have them monitored 24/7. If anyone has personal contact

with Xena Gordon, please report it to me in time.”

“Bella, why the men?” Axel was curious.

“Because all men are lustful creatures who can’t control their lower

bodies and forget their loyalty!” Bella sneered. Her failed marriage. made her prejudiced against men.

Asher and Axel said in unison, “Except me!”

Steven hurriedly raised his hands and seconded. “Me too!”

“Oh, I know you’re all good men, so there’s no need to defend.

yourselves so quickly.”

Bella straightened her arms and stretched like a cat. “No matter what,

you all are much better than the bastard standing at the door, right?”

It was late by the time Axel finished the investigation, so the

Thompson brothers stayed in the guest rooms that Steven had

prepared for them.

Bella was too exhausted in the past two days, so she went back to

her room and fell asleep after taking a shower.

In the middle of the night, a burst of lightning tore through the night.

sky with a loud rumble, waking Bella from her deep sleep..

She was not usually such a light sleeper, but for some reason, she

jolted awake. tonight.

Then she lost her sleepiness.

Bella stood up, put on a silk robe over her burgundy spaghetti-strap nightgown, wore her red velvet slippers, and went out to get some

water.

It was raining heavily outside, with strong winds, thunder, and

lightning.

Bella stood in front of the window in the corridor with a glass of water

in her hands.

When she was a child, she remembered that her mother would hold her in her arms and sit on the rocking chair in front of the window every time it rained heavily. Her mother would look out the window in a peaceful daze and whisper like she was in a trance.

–“It was also such a stormy night like this when Mommy left that place.”

Bella thought, ‘Where was the place that Mom was referring to?’

Suddenly, another lightning bolt lit up the night sky.

Through the brightness, Bella was shocked to see that Justin was still standing at the door to her villa.

Justin raised his head and looked in the direction of the window in her room. He was standing upright in the strong wind and rain, unmoving like a mountain. His hair was messy from being blown around.