

Heiress 451

Chapter 451

The charity auction ended amid a dramatic turn of events.

Not only was this evening a historic high in terms of funds raised for any charity event hosted by Mint magazine, it also played out as a spectacle for the reporters in attendance due to the series of shocking revelations.

Gregory immediately dispatched his secretary and lawyer to the scene after learning of the news. They led Shannon and the stunned Bethany past the onlookers and into the waiting car. They looked like rats scurrying around.

“Ms. Gordon, I am the legal representative for the Salvador Corporation. Your public accusation of bribery for the theft of business information from the KS World Hotel will result in a defamation lawsuit if you have no concrete evidence. We will get to the bottom of this!” With those firm words, the lawyer walked away, leaving an unwavering stance behind.

Xena found herself on the verge of a legal battle with the formidable Salvador Corporation. The looming threat of a lawsuit was enough to send shivers down her spine, but what truly terrified her was Justin’s overwhelming influence over her fate. He seemed to be capable of deciding her fate with a single thought.

Justin looked at her, his gaze unwavering and unaffected.

Terrified, Xena exclaimed, “I... I am speaking up because I have proof! Don’t expect me to be intimidated by wealth and power. I have turned over a new leaf, and I will not be manipulated into doing things against my conscience!”

In a difficult situation, the lawyer hesitantly looked towards Justin, seeking his opinion on the matter.

Justin remained cold and apathetic, as if he had no ties to the Salvador Corporation. “Go back and tell Chairman Salvador that Ms. Gordon and the entire KS World Hotel will go against him.”

'I will also be against him,' Justin thought darkly.

Even the lawyer could not shake an uneasy feeling after hearing this. Bella was the heiress of KS Group. If the situation became more serious, it would not only be an offense against her, but the entire Thompson family would be involved. Bella's father and brothers, as well as the powerful Larson family behind Mila, were not to be underestimated. It seemed like playing with fire would be an invitation to disaster.

"Wherever necessary, we should apologize and face the consequences. Blindly distorting the truth and supporting tyranny will only make the Salvador family a laughing stock," Justin said coldly.

He turned around with a cold grin on his face, looking for Bella. Only then did he realize that she had vanished without a trace. His heart was filled with a cold sense of abandonment.

As Alice needed to get to other important appointments, Bella walked her to the underground parking lot.

"Ms. Thompson, you really impressed me tonight," Alice said as she hugged Bella softly. "I knew that Asher's sister wouldn't let me down."

Bella said with a modest smile, "That is because you're seeing me through a filter, as I am Asher's sister."

"No. Your personality, eloquence, thoughts, and character have impressed me since the first time we met. I feel we could be great friends," Alice said sincerely.

"Well, wouldn't it be great if we could be related?" Bella raised an eyebrow, teasing her.

Alice sensed the underlying meaning, and her normally serious face blushed slightly. Her voice was soft as she said, "Darling, I will be 50 next year. I enjoy Asher's company, but I shouldn't hold him back."

“So what if you’re 50? There’s a 25-year age difference between my dad and his third wife, and they seem to be having a good time. together,” Bella told Alice with pride. “Life is short, Alice. Don’t make decisions you will later regret. Don’t be afraid to go after Asher if you really like him. You shouldn’t leave any regrets in life, even if things don’t work out.”

“Alexa.” Alice called Bella by her pseudonym all of a sudden. “Have you made any decisions in your life that you wish you hadn’t? Any moments of regret?”

There was a faint hint of pain in Bella’s heart, as if a sealed corner deep inside her had been quietly torn open, revealing a cruel crack.

Even so, she curled her lips slightly and smiled to show that she understood. “Honestly, I have made decisions I wish I hadn’t. But now, I have no regrets whatsoever.”

Bella thought to herself, ‘I regretted having married him, but I have no regrets because I tried my best.’

It sounded contradictory, but it encapsulated her genuine feelings.

Alice got into the car, and Bella watched her leave.

“Alexa!”

Chapter 452

“Ms. Thompson! Please wait a moment!”

A swarm of reporters closed in around Bella, as if they had hit the jackpot.

Steven was still dealing with the situation inside the hall at this point, leaving Bella alone with no bodyguards. Even though these reporters had no malicious intent, they put her in a difficult situation.

“Ms. Alexa! How do you intend to hold Ms. Salvador accountable for imitating your work? Are you planning to sue her?”

“Bethany incited the female journalist, Xena Gordon, to reveal KS World Hotel’s commercial secrets, resulting in the failure of your collaboration with Ada Wang. Will KS Group and Salvador Corporation settle this in court?”

“Ada Wang recently stated unequivocally that she would end her collaboration with Salvador Corporation. Will you and Ada reconcile. and continue to collaborate?”

Bella had been extremely busy all day. All of these questions wore her down, causing her stomach cramps to flare up once more. She clenched her hands tightly as a slight sheen of sweat formed on her forehead, and her complexion turned pale.

Yet, her eyes remained clear and sharp as she stood there as gracefully as ever, not showing the slightest sign of illness.

Before Bella could say anything, a slender figure emerged from the crowd and reached for her. He opened his arms, shielding her from the escalating chaos.

Her vision became blurry for a brief moment. The next second, a clear and melodious voice spoke in her ear. “KS Group will issue a statement later and respond to each of these questions. Ms. Thompson is feeling unwell at the moment, so please excuse her. I’m taking her to the hospital.”

Bella’s pupils constricted as she stared in astonishment at

Christopher’s solemn and concerned expression. He had not appeared in her presence all evening. How did he notice she was not feeling well?

Lost in thought, the past three years of grievances, bitterness, and injustices vividly replayed in her mind. Justin had shown no regard for her during those trying times. Even when she struggled to leave her bed for days after the miscarriage and asked him to pour her a glass of warm water, he flatly refused.

Even if Justin was not aware of her physical state at the time, his indifference to such an insignificant request showed how much he disregarded her. One's love for another lies in the details. Her love for Justin had been tested in the last three years, leaving her scarred and defeated.

Bella definitely regretted it, but she was willing to accept her losses because she only had herself to blame.

Christopher noticed a glistening drop of sweat trickling down Bella's brow, and a sharp pain shot through his chest. He supported her. His left arm naturally wrapped around her waist as he frowned.

"Do you feel uneasy?" Christopher asked, his voice husky and close to her ear.

"Yeah," Bella said, exhaling gently. Another word would only aggravate the pain.

"Can you hold it until we get to the hospital? Should I call an ambulance?" Christopher's hand was around her waist, and every word whispered into her ear was filled with genuine affection.

She tugged at the corner of her lips, forcing a smile. "It's okay. I won't die."

Christopher was naturally reserved and apathetic, having never shown compassion for anyone except Bella. Seeing her in this frail state gradually softened his heart, and he felt an overwhelming desire to protect her.

"Don't worry, I've got you. I'll take you to the hospital." Christopher shielded her with his own body and guided her forward slowly.

"Excuse me, sir. May I ask who you are?" The reporters could not help but gossip after witnessing Christopher's intimate interaction with Bella.

Christopher responded calmly, "Christopher Iverson."

Iverson, as in the Iverson Group? That was a billion-dollar behemoth, comparable to the Salvador Corporation!

It made sense. Not just any ordinary man could approach Bella. How could someone be considered worthy of Bella Thompson if they did not come from a family like the Salvadors or Iversons? After all, she was the daughter of Hatchbay's wealthiest man and a top-tier jewelry designer.

"Mr. Iverson, may I ask what your relationship with Ms. Thompson is?"

"Are you two dating?"

Chapter 453

Bella was in excruciating pain at the moment. Despite this, she rolled her eyes when she heard those words. These media reporters were truly lacking in creativity. Could a man and a woman only be a couple? Why could they not simply be friends?

"I am Ms. Thompson's protector."

Christopher lowered his gaze and stared lovingly at the person in his arms, as if the entire world had been cut off from him and only she mattered in this world. "I am also Ms. Thompson's admirer."

Bella's eyes widened in surprise as she heard those words.

A collective gasp swept through the crowd as camera flashes illuminated the scene, revealing them to the media frenzy. These reporters were not just going about their business tonight. They were completely absorbed in their work, meticulously capturing every moment as it unfolded.

Suddenly, another tall figure approached Bella's side like a gust of wind. Without saying anything, Justin yanked Bella away from

Christopher's embrace, holding her waist with a vice-like grip. He led her out of the crowd silently and efficiently.

"Justin! Let me go! Who the hell do you think you are?!" Bella winced in pain, but her attempts at resistance were futile.

Justin, on the other hand, paid no attention to her rage. His throat tightened, and the veins bulged on his forehead as he firmly resolved to escort her away.

He looked crazed.

The onlookers were perplexed. So, Bella Thompson had two protectors? But there could only be one man by her side!

Bella finally had enough when she arrived in a secluded corridor. She shook off his hand, shivering all over.

But the moment she slipped from his grasp, he grabbed her slender wrist again, pulling her back into his embrace. He firmly gripped her lower back with another hand, pressing her against his chest, fearful that she would flee.

He had not yearned for anything so desperately in a long time. And now, he could clearly feel that, no matter how clear-headed he was, his body craved her uncontrollably.

"Justin! What the hell is wrong with you?!"

Bella felt completely powerless. Her breathing was erratic, and the agonizing pain in her stomach caused her to cry.

"What on earth do I have to do, Bella? What else do I need to do to get you to stop being so harsh on me?" Justin's breathing was labored.

His voice trembled as his eyes started welling up with tears. At this moment, Justin appeared enraged, embarrassed, and desperate.

“Am I being harsh? Pft!”

Bella shut her eyes. She was too frustrated to argue with or engage with this man, who appeared to be suffering from paranoid delusions and mental illness. She was sick of him. “Let go, or don’t blame me for hurting you. Three, two...”

“Do you think I’m incapable of protecting you? Or are you trying to humiliate me in this way?!” Justin clenched his hands as if he wanted to crush Bella’s wrists, his eyes turning red.

He had just seen Christopher confess to her in public.

His ex-wife, his wife, his... woman.

However, another man was caring for her, even making attempts to win her heart by claiming her as his own.

At that moment, his heart was experiencing pain equal to that of a thousand horses trampling over it. His body sank heavily, as if stepping into an abyss.

“One.” Bella’s expression became cold as she said the final word.

“Bella...”

Whoosh-!

The next second, Bella’s lips curled in disdain. A sharp butterfly knife was pressed against Justin’s chest.

Chapter 454

Justin felt a strong shiver run through his body. Once husband and wife, he never envisioned reaching a point where they were at odds with each other.

Though the sharp butterfly knife had not yet made contact with his skin, it felt as if it had pierced his heart.

“The last person to greet me in this manner was Mr. Hoffman. But he wisely kept his distance from me.” Bella tilted her head, her beautiful eyes cold and emotionless. “Mr. Salvador, given your self-righteousness, I don’t think I need to stab this knife into your body to make you understand the situation, do I?”

Justin ignored her threat and asked in a hoarse voice. “What’s so appealing about him?”

“What did you say?” Bella blinked, surprised.

“Christopher Iverson... What is it about him that is so appealing?” Justin approached her slowly, his eyes red. He could not care less about what was pressed against his chest or that Bella was ruthless. and capable of anything.

“Take a step back, Justin!” Bella widened her almond-shaped eyes, stepping back with each stride while maintaining a firm grip. The butterfly knife pressed against his chest did not budge. “Do you think I wouldn’t stab you?”

“Why do you insist on being with him? Is it just to take revenge on me?” Justin locked his gaze on her, his voice trembling and husky.

Unaware, the knife’s tip had pierced his suit, penetrating his flesh.

“Isn’t being with him the same as being with you? What’s all the fuss about?” Bella thought that Justin was absurd. “Besides, I have been with you for three years. Didn’t you drive me away yourself?”

Every word she said was like a dagger to his heart. Justin took a deep breath, and the pain in his chest felt as if it had taken root and spread to every nerve in his body. Everything she said was undeniably true. It was cruel, and it made him feel helpless.

“Bella!”

Bella’s heart quickened as she turned her gaze to see Christopher, who was standing a few steps away. His eyes were filled with anxious anticipation.

“Bella, you’re still not feeling well. Please let me take you to the hospital.” As he reached out to her, Christopher’s gentle eyes were filled with concern.

Rather than engaging in the mundane competition of wooing Bella away from Justin, he took a different approach. He chose to care for her, protect her, and show her both warmth and concern. That way, he could show her who loved her the most.

“Alright, I’m coming.” Bella quickly retracted the butterfly knife with her nimble fingers and walked toward Christopher without looking back. She seemed to have already decided between the two. It was self-evident who she chose to abandon.

Justin remained motionless, a cloud of sorrow and absurdity obscuring his entire being..

Bella approached Christopher but did not take his hand. “Let’s go,” Bella said gently.

Christopher’s fingertips trembled slightly as he drew his hand back.” Okay.”

The two walked shoulder to shoulder, like a perfect couple, leaving in a dignified manner under Justin’s melancholy and embarrassed gaze. It was not until the corridor was empty that Justin slowly raised his

hand to cover the wound. His eyes were filled with a painful and poignant expression.

“Bella, all I want is for you to notice me.”

Christopher took Bella to the hospital right away. When she arrived at the hospital, the pain overwhelmed her, making it difficult for her to exit the car. She clutched her abdomen with all her might, her mind blank and her face devoid of color.

A chronic stomach problem had plagued her as a result of the tumultuous times when she worked with Doctors without Borders, < going through periods of famine amid chaos.

“Mr. Iverson! I will get a wheelchair right away!” The secretary was visibly nervous, sweating profusely.

“No need. I will handle it.” Christopher got out of the car and gently carried Bella out. He strode into the hospital with firm steps and with Bella in his arms.

“It hurts... It really hurts...” Bella panted, weakly leaning against him.

“Bella, I know you have warned me not to touch you casually.” Christopher wrapped his arms around her soft and delicate body, as if he wanted to embed her in his chest. “But you must bear with it for now, Bella... Don’t hold this against me, okay?” His tone was extremely gentle, with a hint of coaxing.

The secretary, who was watching from the side, was surprised to see this side of Christopher. Christopher was known for his coldness and indifference, but he was so tender and warm with Bella. Even his heart of stone had softened for Bella. It would be her loss if she did not marry Christopher.

After a long struggle late at night, Bella was finally given an intravenous drip. She fell asleep on the hospital bed. Perhaps because of their childhood bond or her weakened state, Bella, who had always been wary of unfamiliar men, surprisingly let her guard down and allowed Christopher to stay by her side.

Chapter 455

The sweet breath of the delicate woman filled the quiet hospital room. Christopher sat by Bella’s bedside in the same position, keeping a close eye on her.

Bella rolled over, a soft whimper escaping from the depths of her throat. Christopher felt a numbing sensation wash over him.

For years, whether in Savrow or Sentania, countless charming and beautiful women had offered themselves to him one after the other. Surprisingly, the more of this occurred, the less interested he became. He thought women were more troublesome than stubborn barnacles stuck to the hull of a boat.

But Bella was different. Only Bella could be so daring with him and do whatever she wanted. Even if it meant engaging in shady activities, he was not afraid of the consequences, as long as he could continue to spoil her.

Christopher's intense gaze deepened. He reached out instinctively, eager to delicately caress the face that lingered in his dreams.

Suddenly, his phone vibrated. It was a message from the secretary.

[Mr. Iverson, Ms. Thompson's family is here to pick her up. They are right at the entrance.]

Christopher adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses and opened the door to the ward. The tall figures of Asher, Axel, and Steven stood before him in the corridor like three formidable icebergs.

"Please accept my sincere apologies, Mr. Thompson." Christopher seized the initiative right away. "Bella had a severe stomachache and could not even walk, so I had to take her to the hospital first. I was unable to notify you in time."

Steven's lips tightened into a pale line, unable to accept this man taking Bella away without permission.

"Mr. Iverson, you-"

Steven was about to say something when Asher motioned for him to calm down. Instead, he turned to face Christopher with a cold smile. Thank you for bringing Bella to the hospital, Mr. Iverson. But you

were aware that we were looking for our little sister, and yet you repeatedly ignored my calls and eventually turned off your phone. What did you mean by that?"

Axel's brow furrowed deeply, displeasure visible in his eyes. This man had the audacity to take away their precious little sister! Did he think they would not do anything to him?

Christopher, with a tender smile, adopted a humble stance. "I apologize. I was solely concerned with Bella at the time and wanted her to sleep soundly. I did not think much further than that."

"Hmm, what exactly do you mean? Are we not solely concerned about Bella?" The words irritated Axel, and his rage erupted instantly.

"It is only natural for both of you to shower her with affection and love as her elder brothers," Christopher stated calmly. "Given your unwavering devotion to Bella, you should not mind having one more man in the world who adores her, right?"

Axel and Steven were completely taken aback. This man was incredibly direct, openly declaring his admiration for Bella without

hesitation in front of them. There was no one with such unrestrained emotions in the Thompson family. Even Bella, who was adored by everyone, was decisive and confident. She had never expressed her emotions so passionately and openly.

If she had been this brave back then, daring to express herself, she would not have suffered so much and endured so many grievances at Justin's hands.

Meanwhile, Asher's gaze deepened as he heard these words. At this point, he had to admit that his father had a sharp eye. He was not entirely unreasonable in his opposition to Bella's association with Christopher.

This man, despite appearing gentle and devoted to Bella, made Asher uneasy. A subtle sense of intrusion pressed against his chest.

“Wait for me, Axel. I’ll go get Bella.” Asher, with a stern expression on his face, was about to open the door of the ward when he came to a halt next to Christopher. “Mr. Iverson, we have plenty of people here. who care for her. It would be inconvenient to bother you any further. Please leave.”

Christopher walked toward the parking lot with a relaxed expression, seemingly unaffected by anything.

“Mr. Iverson, do those two Thompson brothers have an issue with you? They’re practically showing their disdain earlier.” His secretary asked, frustrated.

“In-laws have never liked each other. After all, Bella is their cherished little princess. How could they let another man take her away?”

Christopher raised an eyebrow. “It doesn’t matter. In the end, I want to marry Bella, not them. I don’t care how they perceive me.”

The secretary was still resentful. “I can’t help but feel sorry for you. You used to have a lot of power in Sentania. You were essentially the uncrowned king. Why subject yourself to Savrow’s scrutiny and endure this kind of treatment?”

“Sentania... I had everything there, but so what?” Christopher adjusted his glasses, his eyes sparkling with a cold, sharp light. “I was born. with a silver spoon, but I had to live by myself in Sentania. While others see the glamor, only I understand the agony of each day in Sentania. If not for those filthy Iverson family members and Lance’s heartlessness, the entire Iverson Group would have been under my control.”

Suddenly, his eyes turned red. “And Bella... Why did she have to marry Justin, that beast? She should have been my wife a long time ago!”

The secretary shivered and bowed respectfully as he looked at the somewhat agitated Christopher.

“I want Iverson Group, and I want Bella as well. I must reclaim everything I have lost!”

The next morning, Bella awoke to find herself back in Hatchbay.

“Was I teleported here?!” she exclaimed.

“Ouch!” She pinched her cheek to make sure she was not dreaming.

‘So, I really am at home,’ Bella thought.

Mila and Sasha entered the room at that point to visit Bella. Sasha teased Bella, “Teleport? You wish!”

“Bella, how are you? Is your stomach still hurting?” Mila walked over to the bedside and sat down. She gently caressed Bella’s sunken cheek. “You’ve lost weight again. Have you been working too hard recently?”

“Bella, I think you shouldn’t return to Savrow, that god-forsaken place. Why don’t you just stay at home?” Sasha said, her eyes reddened with concern. “You’re the darling of our family. You should be pampered and cherished like a princess here. Why bother with competing with those boorish men? Whatever you want, just let us know. Even if you want to eat Bobo, I’ll have it prepared for you as sashimi!”

Bella could not help but laugh. “I’ll pass on that offer, Aunt Sasha. Alligator sashimi is a little too exotic for me.”

“Sasha doesn’t know how to express her concern. She cares for you a lot.” Mila felt her heart ache. She was filled with self-blame. “You’ve been through so much. I won’t be able to explain it to your mother. Before she left us, she entrusted us to let you grow up worry-free and not to let you suffer.”

“For heaven’s sake, it was just a stomachache. A minor ailment.” Bella waved her hand, feeling that the whole situation was exaggerated.

Sasha’s eyes widened like copper bells. “A minor ailment? Don’t you know when you were a child, we would worry for days on end when you had the slightest cough?”

“Bella, your father stayed up all night because of your illness. He was waiting for you to wake up and didn’t even have breakfast.” Mila sighed. Both the father and daughter pair were stubborn and difficult to deal with..

“How can that be?” Bella, who had been lazily lying down, sat up abruptly upon hearing that Wyatt hadn’t eaten due to her. “Wait for me. I’ll go over and pry open his mouth to feed him!”

Suddenly, she asked, “By the way, how did I come back last night?”

Sasha replied, “Asher carried you back.”

‘Of course, it would be Ash. Big brother is always so reliable.” Bella thought to herself.

Sasha said with a frown, “But when Asher brought you back, his expression wasn’t great. I rarely see him in such a mood. Girl, what did you do to him?”

Bella was stunned and said, “How could I even dare do anything to

Ash? I only make trouble for outsiders, but never for my family. Your all know that.”

Mila and Sasha said simultaneously, “So, he did something to someone else.”

Bella rubbed her sore forehead. She turned over and got out of bed. Well, let’s not worry about that now. I’ll go see Wyatt first.”

In the study, Wyatt sat on the sofa, sighing. His brows were furrowed

Recalling the previous night when Asher brought Bella back from Savrow. Her face was pale, and she squirmed in pain even in her sleep. His heart felt uncomfortable, as if it were being stabbed with a knife.

“Chairman, have you looked at the trending searches today? The internet is full of praise for Ms. Bella. They are making her out to be a goddess descended into the mortal realm.” Quentin said, trying to lighten up the mood.

“A goddess? I think she’s more like a mischievous monkey. She won’t be happy until she creates trouble!” Wyatt snapped and slapped the armrest in frustration. “Is it so hard for her to just be a pampered, wealthy heiress? Does she have to create chaos to feel content?”

Celeste blinked in surprise, her bright eyes showing bewilderment. Wyatt, do you... Did you already know that Alexa is Bella’s pseudonym?”

“She’s my daughter. Apart from the fact that I didn’t know she married that Salvador boy, what else is there that I don’t know about her?”

Wyatt exclaimed as he slapped his thighs in frustration.

The little girl he used to change diapers for is now gradually going wild in her pursuits. Her actions were becoming increasingly unpredictable, and he found it harder and harder to manage.

“Well, you should be proud of Bella, then,” Celeste suggested.

The thought of Bella being Alexa excited Celeste, and her delicate cheeks flushed. “A top-tier jewelry designer! The Queen of Inalia wears her jewelry at state banquets. Mila and Sasha say this. accomplishment is worth boasting about for a lifetime. It’s a glory our family!”

“Celeste, it’s not that I don’t appreciate Bella’s talent. It’s just that I feel she’s too flamboyant and unrestrained in her actions. She has been doing things with such a domineering attitude in Savrow, so she’ll make enemies and get into trouble!” Wyatt massaged his temples in frustration.

Wyatt added, “Nowadays, people are not to be trusted. They are all harboring ill intentions. I’m afraid she might be plotted against! Even if I have connections and can help her out, it might be too late by the time we act.”

At that moment, the door opened, and Bella swaggered in with a radiant face.

“Hmph! Let me take a look. Which little brat here isn’t obedient? If you don’t eat properly, I’ll pry open your treasure trove and donate all those vases and pots to the old folks’ home to use as chamber pots!”

“Bella, are you feeling alright?” Celeste quickly asked with concern.

Chapter 457

“Don’t worry, Aunt Celeste. I’m okay.” Bella reassured Celeste while hugging her gorgeous stepmother.

“Both of you can talk. I’ll go prepare some snacks for you.” Celeste indicated that Wyatt was still upset by raising her hands above her head in the shape of horns.

Bella gave an “OK” sign and winked at her as Celeste turned to leave. Quentin tactfully left as well.

“Wyatt, I overheard everything you said to Aunt Celeste just now from outside.”

Bella sat down next to her elderly father and embraced him like a friend. She rested her head against his and said, “Dad, you really underestimate me. My arrogance shows I have the confidence and ability to be arrogant. None of those domestic canaries can compete with a true phoenix like me.”

“Yeah, you are my golden phoenix, but the wild chickens are always pecking at you. Doesn’t that bother you?” Wyatt shook his head helplessly. “Why are you provoking them? I constantly have to worry about you because of the chaos it is creating.”

“Wild chickens? Are you talking about the Salvadors?” Bella couldn’t help but laugh, her voice as melodious as a nightingale. “Wyatt, your tongue is even sharper than mine. I admit I was a bit rude to you just now.”

“You know your old man is just afraid you might suffer because of your stubbornness. I want nothing but the best for you!” Wyatt indulgently hugged his daughter. Suddenly, he remembered something and

frowned, asking, "You made a fuss at the Salvadors event. As the president of Salvador Corporation, didn't Justin give you a hard time?"

Bella's heart fluttered slightly, and she shook her head. "No, and he even played a part in this incident. I initially thought that the female reporter who came forward to accuse Bethany was unconscious. It

turns out Justin had secretly helped her and brought her to the charity event."

Wyatt raised an eyebrow. "Hmm? What do you mean?"

"He used the event to solve his own problems. That guy has quite a few tricks up his sleeve. No wonder he's held onto the president position so securely over the years."

Wyatt sneered, unable to resist teasing her, "You've been married to him for three years and haven't been schemed against. That's quite fortunate."

"Wyatt, the one who dares to mess with me hasn't been born yet." Bella flashed her white teeth, resembling a young lioness.

At that moment, Wyatt's phone rang. Bella picked it up from the coffee table for her father and glanced at the screen, her eyes darkening.

"Who is it?" Wyatt asked.

Bella replied with a cold expression, "It's Gregory Salvador."

Wyatt commented, "Oh, if it isn't your ex-father-in-law."

"Dad!" Bella blushed with anger, a rare sight for someone who was not easily provoked.

Wyatt cleared his throat and calmly pressed the speaker button."

What's the matter, Chairman Salvador?"

"Chairman Thompson, I'd like to talk to you about last night's incident."

Despite his usual proud and arrogant attitude, Gregory displayed a more subdued attitude this time. His tone was amiable. "I'll be heading to Hatchbay shortly. Can I invite you for a casual meal and some

tea?"

"I don't think you and I have much business to discuss lately." Wyatt hinted with a smirk, patting his daughter's head. "Besides, my daughter is back, and I have to spend time with her. If you have anything to say, say it here."

Gregory paused, chuckling nervously. "Chairman Thompson, there must have been some misunderstanding regarding the charity auction last night. The receipt wasn't signed by my daughter, Bethany. It was forged, so it's not valid."

"Chairman Salvador, I think it's pointless for us to discuss anything here concerning the matter of your daughter imitating my daughter's work. Let your legal team talk to my legal team." Wyatt maintained a completely indifferent attitude.

"Chairman Thompson! Are you really planning to sue us over this trivial matter?" Gregory seemed visibly anxious.

"Trivial?" Wyatt's expression instantly turned cold. "Anything related to my daughter is a big deal to me."

Bella was seated at Wyatt's side like a docile kitten as she listened in on their conversation.

Hearing his words, her eyes sparkled with admiration. She seemed to better understand why her mother chose this flirtatious playboy.

“Chairman Thompson, it seems there’s nothing left for us to discuss, is that right?” Gregory asked, suppressing his anger.

Wyatt’s gaze turned icy. He rubbed his cheekbone and said, “As I grow older, I become more petty. In business, I can weigh the pros and cons, but I won’t compromise when it comes to my family. In short, whoever messes with my daughter, I’ll mess with them.”

Chapter 458

Overnight, Bethany was once again the focus of the internet’s trending searches. Her every move sent shockwaves. Not only that, she caused Salvador Corporation’s stocks to plummet by hundreds of millions in a single day. It was truly a remarkable feat.

Following the incident, Ada Wang publicly announced the termination of her cooperation with the Salvador Hotel. The subsequent day witnessed a further escalation in trending searches, accompanied by a drastic plunge in Salvador Corporation’s stocks. The online criticism of Bethany has never ceased.

[Some wealthy young ladies are phoenixes, while others are not even as good as ordinary hens. Ms. Thompson is beautiful, kind-hearted, and talented. She can manage hotels and design jewelry. But some only know how to use deceitful and underhanded methods. It’s embarrassing to think that this is the treatment Ada Wang received for her first visit to Savrow!]

[Don’t compare Bethany Salvador with our lovely Ms. Thompson/ Alexa. She’s not worthy!]

[I’m not surprised that Bethany would do this. Like father, like daughter. If you know, you know.]

[Seriously, is there anyone decent in the Salvador family?! What kind of evil family is this? Can the relevant authorities investigate them?]

In response to the crisis, Justin utilized his authority as president to convene an emergency high-level meeting without even informing Gregory. Bethany’s designated seat at the meeting table remained.

empty. She had been claiming illness and avoiding people for the past few days, probably too ashamed to face anyone.

“I’ll cut to the chase.” Justin leaned forward, his tall, elegant figure exuding authority. His fingers were interlaced, and his dark eyes were intimidating. “I assume everyone here knows what happened during the charity event at KS World Hotel last time.”

The room fell silent, with everyone nodding in agreement.

“On behalf of the Salvador Corporation, I will announce the outcome of the resolution.” Justin’s gaze darkened as he motioned with a finger.

Ian promptly produced an official document and read aloud,”

Regarding the detrimental impact caused by Ms. Bethany Salvador, al director of the Salvador Corporation, we hereby announce the punitive measures. As of today, Ms. Salvador is dismissed from her position. as a director, her hotel project planning authority is revoked, and she is directed to actively cooperate with the police investigation. As for the serious consequences arising from Ms. Salvador’s mishandling of the Ada Wang wedding planning incident, it is deemed her personal conduct, and the Salvador Corporation will not assume responsibility. Any losses incurred due to the infringement of KS World Hotel’s rights will be borne solely by Ms. Salvador, and the Salvador Corporation will not provide any assistance.”

The crowd was shocked. A murmur swept through.

Bethany was the chairman’s daughter and Justin’s sister. Even if they were not particularly close due to having different mothers, the severity of this decision was surprising. Though one should reap what one sows, Justin’s ruthlessness toward his own family was astounding!

“No! I do not accept this punishment!” A sharp and piercing voice cut through the room. Shannon, adorned in jewels, assumed the posture of the chairman’s wife and entered forcefully.

Justin raised a cold eyebrow, his voice carrying a chilling tone as he said, “Secretary Harris, people unrelated to this meeting should not be present in the conference room.”

“Understood, Mr. Salvador!”

Ian moved swiftly and intercepted Shannon. “Mrs. Salvador, the president is currently in a meeting. I kindly ask you to leave immediately.”

“Who do you think you are? How dare you drive me away?!” Unable to contain her anger upon hearing the resolution, Shannon took out her frustration on Ian. She grabbed his collar and tore at it viciously. “I am the chairman’s wife! The entire company belongs to the Salvador family. Why should I leave?!”

The executives in the room cast sidelong glances at this furious woman. If she didn’t announce herself as the chairman’s wife, she might come across as a common shrew.

Justin slowly curled his thin lips, his eyes revealing a cold mockery. “Mrs. Salvador, there is no position at the Salvador Group called ‘the chairman’s wife’.”

“Justin... you!” Shannon’s eyes turned red with anger.

The executives emitted low, mocking laughter.

“As for the resolution on Bethany, I have already issued the official end will be and do the art of every employee in the

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“Mc Guarry”

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Clearly, Justin was humiliating her. Sure enough, the way everyone looked at her gradually changed, revealing a trace of contempt and disdain.

“Even if you’re the president, you can’t handle the decisions of the company’s board arbitrarily! The chairman should make a decision in this situation! How can you act unilaterally?!” Shannon found herself helpless and could only bring up Gregory to suppress him.

Justin’s thin lips curled slightly as he asked with a light tone, “Ms. Quarry, are you implying that the chairman will definitely tolerate Bethany’s actions, even if she is suspected of commercial theft and fraud? Even if she caused the company’s stock to plummet by billions, of dollars overnight, the chairman would still want to preserve her position on the board just because she’s the chairman’s daughter?”

Justin asked several questions in a row. Each question was like a knife, striking at the heart of the matter!

The senior executives looked at Shannon with sharp scrutiny.

Shannon was angered to the point where her whole body felt cold and numb. Her scalp tingled with humiliation, as if she were stripped, naked in public.

“I understand that there’s no absolute fairness in the workplace. The fairness we see is like a gorgeous robe, and when you flip it open, it’s infested with lice.” Justin’s eyes shined brightly as he spoke with conviction, “However, as long as I am the president of this company, I will not let these lice wreak havoc. As long as I am here, they will not see the light of day.”

He didn’t utter a single word of insult toward Shannon. But Shannon felt like she had been verbally splattered with blood and mud.

As his words fell, the scene suddenly became quiet. A few seconds later, the eyes of the senior executives sparkled, evidently moved by Justin’s resolute speech, and applause thundered through the room.

The news of Shannon causing a scene in the high-level meeting quickly circulated throughout the company. Employees gathered around the pantry, laughing about the chairman's wife and her absurd clown-like behavior.

"Can you believe she barged into a board meeting like that? What kind of manners is that? It's not even appropriate for a dog!"

The news of Bethany's dismissal was also sent out to everyone via email.

"Well, she's finally removed. Thank goodness for small mercies!"

"What small mercies? It's thanks to Mr. Salvador! When I get back, I'm putting up Mr. Salvador's handsome photo for daily worship. He's the true deity!"

"Does this count as cutting ties with one's own kin?"

"Nah! This is righteous retribution! Besides, they are just half siblings."

"Hahaha, I don't care! Bethany had it coming!"

Although there was no salary increase or bonus, it was immensely satisfying to see the mother-and-daughter pair suffer a setback. Back in the office, Ian was so excited that he almost jumped in joy.

"Mr. Salvador! It's so satisfying to see that old hag take such a big hit and become the laughingstock of the entire company! Even a foot massage doesn't feel as good!"

Justin gave Ian a casual glance and remarked, "Do you often go for foot massages? Are you under a lot of stress working for me?"

"Uh, well... Not exactly!" Ian waved his hands awkwardly. "It's a metaphor! A metaphor, Mr. Salvador!"

“Has the investigation begun?” Justin walked to the sofa and seated himself elegantly.

“I heard that Young Madam’s secretary has submitted evidence to the prosecutor, and a media ban has been issued. Bethany can’t escape. now.” Ian was so delighted that he called Bethany by name without reservation.

“Hmm.” Justin’s gaze remained profound, and his expression. remained calm. After all, it wasn’t him but Bella who would be dealing with Shannon and Bethany. He simply wanted to help her in any way. he could.

“By the way, Mr. Salvador, I inquired at the hospital after that incident.

Young Madam had a stomach cramp and remained at the hospital until midnight.” Ian frowned.

Justin pressed his thin lips tightly, his heart entangled in an indescribable worry that tightened with each passing moment.

“So... Do you want to find an excuse to go see Young Madam? How about I buy some medicine and deliver it to her on your behalf?”

“Do I need an excuse to go see her?” Justin’s brows furrowed with frustration.

“No, of course not,” Ian stammered.

Justin added, “Besides, why would I go and deliver anything to her?”

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The corners of Justin’s stiff lips tugged, and his ink-black eyes filled with bitterness. “Isn’t Christopher by her side? At the very least, she has a band of brothers. Why should go and make her feel better? Am I that foolish?”

Anxious for Justin's situation, Ian blurted out, "Mr. Salvador! Your current position in Young Madam's heart is not favorable! Being foolish is your only way out now! If you don't act foolishly, Young Madam won't come back!"

Before Ian finished speaking, Justin shot him a cold glance. Ian was so startled that he choked on his saliva and coughed several times.

"We are divorced. Once broken, a mirror can't be mended. I have no intention of winning her back." Justin felt suffocated in his chest. His voice was deep and hoarse, as if he swallowed all the bitterness in the world. "What is mine will not leave me. It's pointless to chase after what is not mine. I have never regretted letting her go... Ever."

Shannon returned to Tideview Manor with a heart full of grievances. From the moment she entered, she burst into tears. She entered the study and clung to Gregory. Tears and snot flowed freely from her face.

"Greg! How can Justin be so heartless? Bethany is his sister! It's already too much that he's not helping her. How can he dismiss Bethany from her position? How will she hold her head up in the company from now on?! He wants to establish a dictatorship in the company. He wants to control everything. After becoming president, he looks down on you more!"

"I gave the order to dismiss her." Gregory felt irritated and pushed her away slowly. "I made Justin dismiss Bethany." Strangely, in the past, Shannon's tears had always been effective on him. But now,

seeing her cry made him uncomfortable. He just wanted to find a quiet place to be alone.

During such moments, he couldn't help but unconsciously think about Justin's mother. She was inherently a cold and stubborn woman. She had never shed a tear for him, nor had she looked at him with affection and indulgence like Shannon did.

For most of his life, Gregory's greatest regret was never truly conquering Justin's mother. Shannon appeared during that most sensitive period and fulfilled his vanity as a man and his desire to conquer a woman.

If only she had yielded to him back then, would their relationship have reached such a point?

Gregory knew he loved Justin's mother. Perhaps even more than she loved him.

"Greg... What are you saying?" Shannon lifted her tear-swollen face, and her eyes were filled with astonishment.

"With this matter at hand, how can I support her in holding onto the position? If I forcefully support her, what about my dignity as the chairman? What about the prestige? How will the outside world view the Salvador Corporation?" Gregory's tone was icy, and he clearly felt unhappy.

Shannon asked tearfully, "Is our child important, or is the chairman's reputation more important?"

"I am Bethany's father." Gregory turned away and pinched the bridge of his nose. "But I am also at the helm of the Salvador Corporation! You can pamper the child limitlessly, but I cannot disregard the entire company!"

"Greg! How can you say such things? Have you grown tired of me?! Don't you love me anymore?!" In a moment of anger, Shannon asked a foolish question, one that many men find most repulsive.

"Now Wyatt has made it clear that he will stand by Bella to the end, and we will likely face a legal battle. I am swamped with work right now, and I am in no mood to argue with you about these matters!

Instead of crying and making a scene here, why don't you focus on disciplining your own daughter!" Filled with resentment, Gregory abruptly stood up, causing Shannon to tumble onto the sofa.

"Do you know how much trouble Bethany has caused over the years? I wiped her bottom when she was little. Now, she's 25. Do I still need to clean up her mess?"

Shannon shivered in fear. "Greg..."

"I just don't understand. Both are my flesh and blood. But why is Mary's child so reassuring? Over the years, Justin has managed the company in such an orderly fashion that it has surpassed the Iverson.

Group, which has always been on par with us. His achievements are remarkable! But what about you? What can your children do besides causing trouble for the family? Stop running around recklessly and stay home to reflect on yourself.”

After saying this, Gregory decisively left the room. With a bang, the door was slammed shut. Shannon’s eyes were now crimson and filled with angry and sorrowful tears, which rolled down her cheeks.

“Mary?! So, you still can’t forget that damn bitch! Haha... But even if you can’t forget, so what? In the end, she still died in my hands, dead without peace.”

Shannon was crying and laughing at the same time, like a mentally unsound person. She remembered the words Justin said to her in the meeting earlier today, and it fueled her anger even more.

“Mary, it’s not enough that you’re dead... I want your most beloved son to be ruined as well!”