

Heiress 491

Chapter 491

Bella gave Nigel a few more reminders about his health before excusing herself and leaving the room.

She had just left the room when Justin hurriedly came after her.

“I’ll send you home,” Justin said simply.

Bella had to suppress her anger in front of Nigel earlier. At this moment, it finally erupted as she quickly took a few steps back and pointed at his face.

She yelled loudly, “Halt!”

Justin frowned in confusion.

Bella pursed her lips in slight embarrassment. She originally wanted to say “no” but ended up saying “halt” due to some crossed wires.

Whatever, it meant the same thing!

“I don’t need you to send me home. I’m an adult, and it’s not like I don’t know the way home!”

“It’s late. I’ll send you home.” Justin unrelentingly took a step forward.

Bella remembered that she had been hugged by this man earlier that night and gritted her teeth. She patted her shoulder to dust off some invisible dirt. “Justin Salvador, I didn’t flip my shit earlier only because Grandpa Nigel was around, not because I want any form of relationship with you, so don’t cross the line. Right now, I’m super pissed because of Hunter Lovett and Bethany Salvador. I get the urge. to smack even a passing dog. So if you come any closer, trust me. when I say I’ll beat your ass.”

Bella thought she was very threatening and intimidating when she said this.

But Justin felt a bit like laughing when he heard this, so he smiled. slightly.

“If Hunter causes trouble for you again, tell me, and I’ll help you deal with him,” Justin said softly.

“Ha! There’s no need for an outsider like you to interfere in the affairs between the Lovetts and us Thompsons. Just mind yourself!”

Bella recalled that Justin had offended Hunter Lovett in front of the entire Salvador family just to protect her earlier, and a complex feeling arose in her heart.

But on second thought, that bastard was probably more concerned about his own interests.

After all, she could tell Gregory Salvador wanted Hunter Lovett to join. Salvador Corporation. If Hunter really became Salvador Corporation’s legal counsel, that was equivalent to Gregory gaining a fierce general, which would make the situation unfavorable for that bastard.

When she thought of this, Bella sneered.

Right when Justin took a step to try to get closer to her once more, a stern voice spoke from behind him.

“Justin!”

Justin frowned and turned around to see Gregory walking toward him quickly.

“Come to my study. I have something to say to you.”

“I’ll come see you later. Right now, I need to send Ms. Thompson home.” Justin replied calmly, not budging.

“Send? Ha! Does she even need you? Ms. Thompson is long gone!”

Justin was stunned.

When he turned back around, that woman, who was as agile as a rabbit, had long disappeared without a trace.

Bella walked out of the Salvador home expressionlessly.

“Ms. Thompson.”

She paused. Her gaze grew colder when she saw Hunter walk up to her with a fake smile on his face.

“Regardless of whether you’re happy about it, I’ve still gotten Ms. Bethany Salvador through this crisis. It’s not shameful for you to lose. to me.”

“Truthfully, no matter how I think about it, I’ve come out on top this time.”

Bella was not angered by him and instead taunted him by going along with his words. “Through this incident, I finally see you completely for who you are. I’ve seen many people complain about the cook after finishing their food, but you are the first who’s smashed the plate after you’re done eating. I just wonder if Uncle Neil knew the dream of the son he was most proud of was to wipe the asses of the rich and even worked against your former benefactors. Would he be ashamed of you?”

Hunter’s insincere smile stiffened completely, and his expression suddenly darkened. “Ms. Thompson, I went easier on you precisely because you’re Chairman Thompson’s daughter! You’re crossing the line by provoking me repeatedly! Do you think you can do whatever you want just because you’re rich?”

“You’ve just reminded me that I am the daughter of the richest ma Hatchbay. It’s a talent of mine to do whatever I want. Why shou leave such a noble status unused if I have it?”

Bella's beautiful eyes narrowed dangerously, and the curl of her red lips was like a saber that drew no blood when it killed. "So from now" on, before you go against me again, you'd better remember whose daughter I am and whose support I have. My temper is much worse. than my father's."

Turning on her chic and cool stilettos, Bella left in style.

Hunter gritted his teeth as he watched her beautiful figure go.

"Bella Thompson, don't take me for that useless younger brother of mine. Just because Steven is willing to be the Thompsons' dog, it doesn't mean that I'm so cowardly to bend to your every wish! There are many days ahead of us. Our confrontation is yet to come!"

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In the study, both Shannon and Bethany were present.

Of course, Gregory did not ask Nigel to attend as well, since the old man was completely on Justin's side in his eyes.

At this point, the father and son were on opposing sides.

It seemed that ever since Mary, Justin's birth mother, had committed suicide, Justin and Gregory were only father and son in name.

And now, the gap between them has widened once more due to Thompson.

But this was exactly what Shannon wanted to see most.

It was only when they were on either side of the fence and in their own camp that she could take advantage of the chaos to reap benefits from the Salvadors!

If she took a step back and looked at the bigger picture, it did not matter if Justin was very influential and capable. Gregory was still his father. Justin would still have to bow before him, right?

“I called you over to inform you of something.”

Gregory sat on the sofa with a cold expression before casually throwing a freshly printed letter of appointment at Justin. “I’ve already decided to officially appoint Hunter Lovett as Salvador Corporation’s legal counsel and the head of the group’s legal department. It’ll be announced first thing tomorrow morning. I’ve already signed it, so there’s no need for your signature as president.”

Shannon and her daughter secretly smiled in glee.

“I don’t agree with this,” Justin said coldly without hesitation.

“I don’t need your agreement. All that’s needed is my decision. Hunter Lovett is a rare talent. Don’t you know how important it is for a group to recruit an excellent lawyer?”

“You heard the conversation between Bella and Hunter earlier, didn’t you?”

Justin sneered darkly. “Are you hiring an ungrateful, profit-driven, and unscrupulous lawyer like him?”

“You arrogant, rebellious ass!”

Gregory suddenly stood up. He blacked out briefly because he moved, too suddenly. Luckily, Shannon caught him in time.

“Don’t stress yourself out so much, Greg! It’s bad for your health!” She gently stroked her husband’s back as she internally laughed in elation.

“The Thompsons helped the Lovetts in their time of crisis, and they were taken care of by Chairman Thompson. Even Hunter’s younger brother, Steven, is working at KS Group. And still, Hunter harbors resentment and betrays the Thompsons’ trust for his own selfish desires. Do you think you can control

someone like that? If someone offers him better terms in the future, do you think he'll stay obediently at Salvador Corporation and let you use him?" Justin hit the bull's eye, not giving him any mercy.

"Justin Salvador! You're just making excuses for protecting that witch, Bella Thompson!"

Now that there were no outsiders around, Gregory could no longer hold back. He was so angry his eyes were red as he roared, "You're so protective of her... Don't tell me you've fallen for that bitch?!"

"So what if I have?" Justin spoke casually.

But God knew his heart was beating as fast as a rabbit's at that moment!

When Gregory heard this, he froze, thunderstruck.

Shannon and Bethany also froze, not expecting Justin to give such an answer.

But they could not tell if Justin had really fallen for Bella and was just admitting it, or if he was purely trying to disobey Gregory.

After all, that bastard had only messed up once in his life, which was abandoning the girl who had it all, Bella Thompson, in favor of getting together with Rosalind Gold.

"Justin Salvador! Do you think you can come here and put the spilled milk back in the bottle? No way!"

Gregory was so furious that his eye was twitching and his voice was cracking. "I'm telling you, you'd better give up and forget it, even if you've fallen for Bella Thompson! As long as I live, I'll never agree to you being together with that Thompson witch! Had I known earlier, that she was Wyatt Thompson's daughter, I would never have let you marry her back then. She made a fool out of us and wasted your time. for three years!"

His words were like arrows that pierced Justin's heart.

Fury colored Justin's eyes in an instant, and his pupils shrank as his eyes burned with hatred.

The next second, Justin grabbed the crystal ashtray on the coffee table and raised it high over his head, only to smash it hard against the ground.

Crash-!

"Ah!"

Gregory trembled, while Shannon and Bethany cried out in fear.

The crystal ashtray fell to the ground and was smashed into pieces, its sharp shards scattering everywhere.

A few shards bounced so high they cut Shannon's skirt and arm.

Fresh blood welled up, and she was both shocked and angry, almost bursting into tears.

"Bella hasn't done anything wrong. What right do you have to talk about her like that?"

Justin glared through reddened eyes, his hands clenched into fists as he pressed on.

"What did she do wrong by marrying me? In what way did she wrong me in the three years we were married? Did she wrong you or our family? It was me who let her down. Our whole family let her down! Don't blame me for not showing mercy if anyone says anything else negative about her, even if it's you!"

That gaze...

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It was that gaze that did not distinguish between devil and man again, as if Justin had just come off the battlefield.

Gregory breathed heavily, his lips trembling.

Back when Mary jumped off the building and the young Justin was holding his mother's bloody corpse tightly, he had looked at his father, who arrived late, with the same gaze.

Gregory loathed it, but even more than that, he was afraid!

Now, just for a mere Bella Thompson, Justin was actually go oppose his biological father?!

Shannon and Bethany wanted to see Justin make a fool of himself a first, but this did not happen. Instead, they got a shock.

They did not even dare to breathe heavily.

Justin closed his eyes and took a deep breath. Feeling no need to say anything more, he turned to leave.

"Justin Salvador!"

Gregory called his name hoarsely, his voice trembling. "You're protecting Bella Thompson like this... Are you taking the Thompsons' side and opposing me, your birth father?! Don't forget what your last name is. Don't forget whose blood runs in your veins! And don't forget, without me supporting you, how can you take such a high position and run Salvador Corporation?!"

It was all old cliches, nothing new.

Justin felt nothing when he heard this, even feeling bored.

“You’re only where you are because of me! If you dare go against me, trust me when I say I’ll kick you out of your position as president! You’ll be nothing!” Gregory was hysterical at this point.

Even Shannon, as his wife, had never seen him so angry before.

“If you want to do that, go ahead. That is, if you can.”

Justin slowly looked back. He looked like he had already cut himself off from the world, a heart-wrenching determination in his eyes. “For her, I don’t mind being enemies with the entire Salvador family.”

Justin’s shoulders slumped after leaving the study. He felt as if his spirit had been dug out clean.

“Justin.”

A gentle voice spoke up, and his eyes reddened when he saw Nigel appear before him.

Just now, he had been completely immersed in his own complex emotions and had not realized there was someone else in the hallway.

The old man had not changed into pajamas and was still wearing the shirt he wore when he arrived. From the looks of it, he had no plans of staying the night at Tideview Manor.

Ever since Deborah passed and Gregory married Shannon, Nigel felt like this was no longer his home and that Crescent Bay was his home.

“Grandpa...”

Justin said softly and realized his voice was very hoarse-choked up, even.

“I heard everything you and your father talked about in the study.”

Nigel was in a wheelchair and could not easily stand up, so Justin obediently leaned down to make it easier for his grandfather to touch him.

“Although it is rude of you to talk back to your father...” Nigel chuckled. “This time, we’re thinking the same thing!”

As he said so, he patted Justin’s shoulder in relief. “I don’t want tha

Hunter Lovett fellow joining Salvador Corporation either. You’re right.

Profit-driven people aren’t in line with our corporate culture! Don’t worry, I might be retired, but I’m not completely retired. I still have at say in this company. If your father insists, I’ll step up to stop him.”

“Grandpa, as the president, this should be left to me to handle. You should enjoy your retirement and stop worrying about these. troublesome matters.” Justin did not want to use his grandfather for a small matter like this. That would really be bothersome.

“It’s fine, it’s fine! I need something to do anyway! Sigh...” Nigel blinked as he asked with anticipation, “Just now, you said you wanted to protect Anna and even said you’d fallen for her... Were you serious?”

Justin looked up, his heart beating like a drum.

After a pause, he swallowed and answered in a serious voice, “I got angry and said it without thinking in the heat of the moment. I didn’t. think that much.”

“Tsk. Fine, fine. Just do whatever you want since you don’t want to admit it.” Nigel was a bit disappointed. Justin frowned. “Grandpa.”

“Let’s go! Send me home. It’s boring for me on the way back alone, so chat with me.”

“Okay.”

Justin pushed the wheelchair, and the grandfather-and-son pair walked toward the other end of the hallway.

With his back to him, the old man smiled mischievously.

Hmph, silly boy.

The words that came out without thinking were what one truly felt.

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One week later, the wedding of Ada Wang and the CEO of a certain international luxury car brand went ahead as scheduled at the KS World Hotel.

That day, the trending topics on all social media, both domestic and international, were dominated by Ada's wedding.

While all of the media outlets in Savrow also came out in force, scrambling to report on this with full fervor, the headlines on the internet were very eye-catching and fanned the flames even

[Congratulations on winning the organizing rights and crushing opposition, KS World Hotel!]

[KS World Hotel's first venture in Savrow is a success! The old heavyweight, Salvador Corporation, is defeated and put in an awkward situation!]

[Members of the Salvador family were exposed to scandals one after another. How could there be such a big gap between the levels of two families when they're both in the elite upper class?]

The attention at the KS World Hotel also reached its peak on that day.

The netizens praised Bella Thompson, whose identity as Alexa had been revealed, and compared her to Bethany Salvador. Bethany was like a wilting flower next to Bella, who was like a bright red flower in bloom.

[Ms. Thompson was ultimately going to win this game. She's Alexa! Justin Salvador still wanted to go up against her? He's too much!]

[Let's be reasonable. How is this Mr. Salvador's fault in any way? It's obviously Bethany Salvador who didn't know her limits and ran headfirst into a steel wall. Now she's socially humiliated!]

[Bethany Salvador thought she had given Ms. Thompson a fatal blow, but she didn't expect herself to be the shameful one. Hahahaha!]

[It really is shameful! Bethany Salvador bought fake jewelry to give to an international superstar!]

[Don't you get it? This is called saving where you should and spending where you should. Get by where you can!]

[Even if Bethany Salvador walks out of the police station unscathed right now, her reputation is completely ruined!]

The ruined Bethany Salvador watched as she was cursed so much for the past few days that she started trending online and was talked about everywhere. In a fit of anger, she fell seriously ill and was bedridden.

No matter how much Shannon was raring for a fight, she could only temporarily sound a retreat as she took care of her sick daughter and tried to think of ways to please Gregory at the same time.

To that end, despite already being in her forties, she got beauty treatments done, secretly bought a few black lace gowns, and even bought an aphrodisiac fragrance as she prepared to find an opportunity to display her skills of seduction and make Gregory

Salvador infatuated with and mesmerized by her, just like twenty years ago.

After all, that man had not touched her in about half a year.

But in the end, it was like Gregory was deliberately hiding from her because he did not come home for a week. They spoke very little when they did meet, and he did not even look at her when they did!

How could Shannon not feel angry and hateful?

Shannon thought, 'Bella Thompson... It was all that witch's fault! I would definitely make Bella suffer all the humiliation I suffered today a thousandfold in the future!'

But no matter how much Shannon hated Bella, she could not stop

Bella from shining from her victory in battle.

Ada's wedding showcased how influential Hatchbay's top company, KS Group, was in Savrow.

Not only that, the value of KS Group's stocks soared on that day, and everyone predicted that the value was bound to keep rising after the stock market opened the next morning. But this had not ended yet.

After photos of the wedding were posted online, it sparked a phenomenal discussion among netizens nationwide.

[A sea of black roses! Ada's wedding is so cool!]

[I don't care! I'm going to do the same thing when I get married!]

[I'm tired of those traditional weddings, so KS World Hotel's organization gets full marks!]

Justin sat in his office, watching the livestream of Ada Wang's wedding with a fixed gaze.

His thin lips curled slightly as his cold eyes also grew tender.

At first, he was completely uninterested in an event like this.

But he knew Bella's blood, sweat, and tears had gone into this wedding and only paid more attention because of that.

There was a knock on the door, and Ian walked in with a large, arm green nylon bag.

"Mr. Salvador, I've prepared the hiking equipment you asked me to get ready."

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"Thanks."

"Why did you suddenly get the urge to go hiking?" Ian asked curiously.

"I go every year," Justin replied calmly.

During one summer vacation when he was young, Justin volunteered as a forest ranger in Mount Jaglee National Forest Park for two months as a means of relieving stress.

Life back then was very simple. Apart from eating and sleeping, all he did was go hiking with his captain, rescue tourists, and investigate safety hazards..

It had been an easy time in his life, which was a rare occurrence.

Later on, after he became president of Salvador Corporation, he would donate a large sum of money to the forest park every year. No one knew this apart from himself and his captain.

“Mr. Salvador! You saw Ada Wang’s wedding, right? The young madam is really amazing!”

Ian’s eyes sparkled as he turned into Bella’s fanboy. “Black roses!

How did she come up with the idea to use black roses to decorate the venue? And what’s surprising is that Ada Wang agreed!”

“Because she isn’t a normal woman. She’s Bella Thompson.”

Justin’s deep-set eyes curved slightly as he said softly, “She always finds a way.”

Ian’s eyes widened as his jaw dropped. ‘Did I hear it wrong?! The big boss had actually spoken of the young madam so tenderly! Has the macho man softened?!’

Because of Justin’s and Nigel’s interference, Hunter’s appointment as the head of Salvador Corporation’s legal department fell through.

For the first time, Hunter Lovett, who always had smooth sailing tasted defeat and went to Europe for a week for a vacation returning home.

He had just entered the door when he was caught by Steven, wh been waiting for him for a whole week.

“Oh? Isn’t this Ms. Thompson’s loyal dog of a secretary?”

Hunter gave Steven a mocking look. “What are you doing back home instead of following her around like a puppy?”

“Don’t you have something to explain to me?” Steven ignored Hunter’s mocking and asked coldly.

“Explain to you? Steven, is that how you should speak to your older brother?” Hunter had been suppressing his anger all this while, and it was finally about to erupt.

“The last time, it was Shannon Quarry. This time, it’s Bethany Salvador. You really are an industry model of labor, since you’re taking all the shitty jobs.” Steven clenched his fists tightly as he sneered.

“Steven!”

“I know you’re determined to make the Lovett family name famous. and reach heights people can look up to, but all that shouldn’t be obtained by being ungrateful!”

Steven roared in anger with reddened eyes. “Without the Thompsons, we wouldn’t be where we are today! Don’t you know you’re eroding your conscience by helping the Salvadors move against Ms. Bella?!”

“I’m eroding my conscience?! Am I not doing it all for the sake of this family?!”

Hunter felt angry and indignant, not feeling like he was in the w whatsoever. “Just because the Thompsons helped us once, we h to be at their beck and call for the rest of our lives?! There’s no suc rule in this world! It’s your problem if you want to be Bella.

Thompson’s lapdog, but Clarence and I have ambitions of our own.

Don’t assume we’re like you, who just want to have it easy and dream of marrying into their family!”

Steven finally could not bear it anymore, and gritting his teeth, he swung his fist and punched Hunter in the face.

This was the first time in his 28 years of life that he had raised a hand against his older brother.

Once, his brother used to make him proud.

Now, Steven only felt ashamed.

Infuriated, Hunter punched back too.

The two brothers started fighting in the living room, scaring the helpers silly.

But Hunter was no match for Steven, who held a black belt in taekwondo. Thus, Hunter was quickly overwhelmed by his 188-cm-tall younger brother, who pressed him to the floor and pounded him against it.

“Steve! Stop it!”

Right then, their parents and second brother, Clarence, came downstairs. They were stunned to see this scene.

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Clarence reacted quickly and rushed forward to pull Steven, whose eyes were red from anger, off Hunter. Then he hugged Steven tightly from the back.

“Steve! Have you gone mad?! How could you punch your brother?!”

“Mad... He’s fucking crazy!”

Hunter got up from the ground, clutching his face. “He’s becoming a monster who doesn’t even recognize his own family because of that Thompson girl!”

“The one who’s becoming a monster isn’t me... It’s you, Hunter!”

Steven roared.

“That’s enough! Both of you, shut up!” Neil held his wife and roared at his two sons.

Mrs. Lovett had never seen her children like this before, so she was very anxious.

“Steve, I already heard about Hunter helping the Salvadors. Don’t blame him. He’s just doing his job as their lawyer.” Clarence was stuck playing the mediator. He was afraid they would start fighting if he took anyone’s side, even just a little.

“I’m staying out tonight.”

Steven walked out without saying another word, bruises blooming on his face.

“Steve! Where are you going?!” Mrs. Lovett yelled worriedly.

“Ha... Where else could he be going? Isn’t he just hurrying back to serve his Ms. Bella?!”

Hunter had never suffered such humiliation before. Since there were no outsiders around, he felt free to say the most hurtful things to Steven. “I don’t think the Thompsons’ darling can sleep well at night without our Steve.”

“You-bastard! I won’t let you insult Ms. Bella like that!”

Steven was so angry that his eyes turned bloodshot. They could also hear the crack of his knuckles as he clenched his fists.

If not for Clarence, who was holding Steven back, Steven would definitely have punched Hunter again.

“Hunt! You’re not allowed to disrespect Ms. Bella like that!”

Neil could not bear to listen anymore either and quickly walked up to stand between them, imposing an invisible pressure on them.

Neither of you are allowed to leave this house tonight. Go and stand in my study! Clarence, bring the whip over later. I'll be disciplining your two according to the family rules!"

Hunter and Steven were shocked.

Helplessly, Steven could only comply. "Yes, Dad."

Mrs. Lovett wanted to talk them down, but her husband was the head of the family, and she had never succeeded before, so she could only stand aside and sigh.

"Steven, did you throw the first punch?" Neil asked sternly with furrowed brows.

"Yes, Dad."

"Hurry up and apologize to your brother."

Steven's fists were still clenched tightly, and his blood was still boiling. His anger had not dissipated at all. "Dad, I'm willing to accept the punishment for what I did earlier. But there is no way I'll apologize to him, even if you ask me to. From now on, if he dares say anything disrespectful about Ms. Bella, I'll give him one punch every time he does it. And I'll keep doing it until he remembers his lesson!"

"Steven!" Hunter was about to blow his fuse at his befuddled little brother.

Neil had never expected his youngest son, who had always been the most well-behaved, to get so angry over Bella Thompson to the point he raised his hand against his own family. Neil felt a little glum.

Right then, their housekeeper hurriedly came to report. "Mr. Lovett, Chairman Thompson's secretary is here!"

The moment they heard Wyatt Thompson had sent someone over, they were shocked. They hurriedly set aside their family issues for the moment.

Quentin walked in with a smile and could tell at a glance that something was off.

When he spotted the bruises on the two young men's faces, realization dawned on him, but he only spoke of business. "Mr.

Lovett, Chairman Thompson would like to invite you and your family to Yara Park to have dinner together. We hope you can grace us with your presence. Chairman Thompson has not seen Young Master Hunter and Young Master Clarence in a very long time either. It's rare for your whole family to be back here in Hatchbay, so he wants to invite you over to catch up."

"Got it. Thanks for making the trip, Quentin. We'll definitely be there on time!" Neil smiled politely.

After seeing Quentin off, the atmosphere once again became ten

"I'm not going."

Hunter refused decisively and clenched his jaw as he turned around. I just got back from a trip overseas, and I'm very tired, so I'm heading up to rest first."

"You're not allowed!"

Neil said angrily, "Who do you think you are to dare to snub Chairman Thompson? Even if your leg is broken, you'd better hop on over to the Thompsons' home!"

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The curtains drew on Ada Wang's wedding amidst a barrage of positive reviews.

Bella had truly won this time, having gained both fame and fortune and managing to revive the dying hotel that was KS World within year, even making it flourish.

In just half a year, she had managed to pass Wyatt's test with flyin colors.

Her first order of business now was, of course, to return to Hatchbay and claim her reward from Wyatt!

Hehe!

That night, Bella went to Amelia's school to pick her up. They headed back to Hatchbay in a top-of-the-line emerald Rolls Royce.

The two sisters chatted and laughed in the car, obviously close to each other and delighted to be together.

"Bella, I really didn't expect that you were actually the top jewelry designer, Alexa!" Amelia patted her red cheeks in surprise.

"Stop, stop! I know what you're going to say. You're definitely going to say your admiration for me is like an unceasing torrential river!"

Bella flicked her dark hair back and spoke with her nose in the air.

I've heard too much of such flattery, so you don't have to add on to it.

If there's any jewelry you want to wear, just ask me for it."

"H-How could I?"

Amelia blushed slightly as she shook her head repeatedly. "You're Alexa! Only internationally known celebrities can wear your jewelry. You could give Camilla one. I heard her husband's going to become

the president of Sentania soon. It wouldn't make your brand less reputable if the First Lady of Sentania wore your jewelry, would it?"

"Ah, others might think Alexa is famous, but in front of family, just a name."

Bella put an arm around her sister's thin waist and said, "You can boast about it once you go back to school. Your sister's Alexa, yo know. If they knew, they'd definitely line up to suck up to you. It'd be an honor to their family and their ancestors if they established a connection with you."

Amelia recalled the rumors that had been spread about her at school and Ethan Zaffino's various provocations against her, both open and secret.

Unconsciously, her eyes reddened, and all she could do was force a closed-lip smile.

"Sigh, speaking of which, I really miss Camilla..."

Bella and Amelia leaned against each other as their eyes glistened. "I wonder if her husband is treating her well. If he dares to mistreat her, I'll make mince meat out of him!"

"You probably don't even need to lift a finger. Asher, Axel, Declan, Drew, Ralph, and Dad too-none of them would forgive him." Amelia rattled off their names with a laugh.

Yeah, that was true.

Camilla's husband would not be so stupid as to have a death wish to try the ten capital punishments of the Thompson family, would he?

"Hmm? Bella, why isn't Steven with you?" Amelia had actually been wondering where Steven was ever since she got into the car and waited until now to ask carefully.

"Oh, he's been working too hard lately, so I gave him some time Bella said casually, her expression impassive.

The luxury car steadily drove through the gates of Yara Park.

The Thompson sisters had just gotten out of the car when they encountered the Lovetts, who had just parked their car and were walking toward them.

Bella had not known beforehand that Wyatt had also invited the

Lovetts over tonight. Thus, she was slightly surprised before she regained her calm composure once more.

Hunter gave Bella a look as baleful as a fighting cock the moment he spotted her. He even looked like he was going to start clucking when he opened his mouth.

“Ms. Bella...” Steven called out to Bella softly, with difficulty.

He took a small step forward, but when he suddenly recalled what she said to him that day, he took a step back. His heart, which had longed to be closer to her, deflated.

Bella threw a nonchalant glance his way.

He was such a tall guy, but he stood there in a daze with drooping shoulders as he bit his pale lips, looking like a homeless little puppy.

It was truly heartbreaking to see.

But Bella knew that she could not give him hope.

If she did, she would really be doing him a disservice.

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“Ms. Bella! Long time no see!” Neil stepped forward to greet her politely with his wife.

“Uncle Neil, you’re being so polite. You can just call me Bella like you. did when I was young.” There was a gentle look on Bella’s face, and she did not put on any airs.

“That was when you were a child. Now, you’re a part of the company’s management and also Steve’s boss. Things are different now.”

Neil knew that the young lady before him now had a great reputation and was most likely to be Wyatt’s heir, so he had to be extra careful, when speaking to her.

Hunter scoffed, feeling very embarrassed by the way his father was lowering his head toward Bella.

Did the Lovetts really have to bow before the Thompsons for their whole lives?

Were kings, dukes, and generals truly better simply because they were born so?

Bella let Neil do what he wanted when she saw that he insisted on being polite.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Lovett silently observed the Thompson sisters from the side.

Bella had truly blossomed into a beauty. When she was young, she looked like a porcelain doll, and now that she had grown up, she was a-gorgeous stunner who mesmerized one at a glance.

No wonder her son, Steve, pined for Bella. Her heart ached for him..

Besides, there was too much of a gap between their family’s status. and the Thompsons’. Although the Lovetts were a famed scholarly family, the difference between their family and the richest family in Hatchbay, the Thompsons, was like heaven and earth.

Her son was reaching too high for the stars.

Mrs. Lovett turned her gaze to Amelia, who was standing there quiet and in a refined manner.

“Hello, Mrs. Lovett!” Amelia hurriedly bowed politely to Mrs. Lovett. Her heart beat faster when she saw her crush’s mother, and she blushed.

“Hello, Ms. Amelia.”

If her son really wanted to have a star, the youngest Thompson daughter would be the next best thing.

She was well-behaved and gentle, so she made a very good match for her youngest son. Her only flaw was that her mother was not Wyatt’s legal wife.

Although Amelia was also Wyatt’s daughter, Celeste and Wyatt had never legally married and only shared this weak daughter between them, so they must not be favored in the Thompson family.

If Mrs. Lovett allowed Steven to marry Amelia Thompson, she felt that her son would lose out.

Amelia’s eyelashes fluttered as she snuck a glance at her crush.

But with just a glance, it was like someone had pressed pause on her excitedly thumping heart, and it started throbbing in pain.

Steven always only had eyes for Bella.

No one else understood that burning, passionate gaze better than she did.

Because for the past seven years, had she not watched him from with the same gaze?

It was quite lively in Yara Park tonight. Only Asher could not make it as he was too busy with work, having gone on a business trip overseas and unable to make it back in time.

However, the two public servants, Axel and Ralph, came back home for dinner on time, as if they had agreed beforehand.

In the beginning, the atmosphere was cordial. Wyatt and Neil were of similar ages and had known each other for a long time, so they had much to talk about.

Mrs. Lovett and Wyatt's three wives also chatted happily.

However, there was a strange tension between the young men at the table.

There was a police officer, a prosecutor, a judge, and a lawyer sitting at the table, including the plaintiff, Bella herself. It was like a little courtroom had gathered there.

"So, Hunter. I heard your law firm in Savrow is doing well."

Axel sneered as he lightly swirled his wine glass. "In the past two years, for the few big cases the Savrow District Attorney's received, you've always been the lawyer hired by the defendants."

"It's my duty as a lawyer."

Chapter 499

Hunter replied with a fake smile, "Since the client managed to find me and trusts me, I naturally have to do my best to win the case."

"It's interesting that you say that."

Axel crossed his legs and appraised Hunter like he was a criminal. ”

Those who can hire Mr. Lovett here to defend them are either powerful. It looks like the threshold for becoming your client is high.”-

“Not necessarily. Although I might be managing the firm, the firm mine alone. Not only do I have to make sure the two other shareholders get their dividends, but I also have dozens of lawyers under me to feed. I’m also just a working man. I can’t help it.” Hunter sighed dramatically.

Ugh!

When Axel, Ralph, and Bella heard these hypocritical remarks, they nearly vomited their food back up!

How was it that Hunter and Steven were so different despite both being Mr. Lovett’s sons?

“You’re a top-tier lawyer in Savrow now, Hunter. You’re well-known even nationally.”

Steven, who had been silent all this while, finally spoke with a cold laugh. “Of all the cases you took this year, the lowest professional fee you charged was \$2 million, and the highest was \$15 million, and that’s just your personal earnings. It doesn’t include the commission those lawyers under you get.”

The dining hall suddenly fell silent.

Wyatt and Neil also stopped chatting and looked towards the younger generation’s side of the table.

“Steven, mine and the law firm’s income is a private topic. We shouldn’t be talking about this here, now should we?” Hunter spoke stiffly as his smile faded. The movement tugged at the wound had been covered with foundation.

“I’m only saying all this to illustrate one thing-which is that you lack money. In fact, you’ve even saved up to the point most normal people won’t be able to finish spending in their lifetime.”

Steven let out a soft laugh. "So, I don't understand. Now that money as a reason has been eliminated, why is it that you took the Salvadors, case despite knowing they were on the opposing side of Ms. Bella and are working against her?"

The rest were shocked.

What a fellow!

Tonight, Steven's nickname had to be "Mr. Righteous". He was ju here to screw his brother over!

Now that Steven had exposed Hunter's hypocritical nature in front of everybody, were the two brothers really going to turn on each other?

Bella had not even given Steven a single glance throughout the whole night.

At the moment, she wore an icy expression as she looked up impassively. Her clear and cutting gaze fell on his face.

She knew Steven was speaking up for her.

But she did not want him to do this, and she did not need him to do this either.

"Steve! You can't air your grudges right now, even if you have them you have anything to say, we can talk about it at home." Clarence tugged at Steven under the table, sweating nervously.

But it was like Steven wore an iron mask over his handsome face, clearly having no intention of letting up on Hunter.

Hunter had already lost the ability to control his expression, and it was so ugly that he looked like he was seriously ill.

“Steve! Don’t talk about that here.”

Neil reprimanded Steven sternly and turned to give Wyatt a bitter smile. “I’m really sorry, Chairman Thompson. It seems my son’s manners are lacking. I’m sorry you have to see this.”

“Oh, you’re fine.”

Wyatt remained calm and composed, a slow smile spreading across his face. “I watched Steven grow up from a young age, and he’s always been by Asher’s side, working. Later on, he went on to assist Bella. He’s a capable young man with a good character. I like Steven very much, and I’ve always thought of him as a godson. I know very well what he’s like, so I didn’t take it to heart at all.”

Godson?!

Wyatt’s casual remark had given Steven’s status a huge raise and a huge buff, while giving Hunter a heavy blow

Chapter 500

Hunter had always looked down on this “useless” brother of his.

Hunter thought that Steven was worth nothing because all he wanted to do was serve Bella tea and pick up after her like an ambitionless lackey.

But Hunter did not expect the famed Wyatt Thompson -the rich man in Hatchbay- to say that he saw Steven as his godson.

Wyatt was obviously taking Steven’s side and implicitly supporting him!

The worst part was that Wyatt had even praised Steven in front of everybody.

Was Wyatt not using this as an excuse to subtly insult Hunter?

Right then, each of the Thompson children wore different expressions. Bella's red lips curled up as she nearly laughed out loud.

Oh, Wyatt. How shady.

Hunter probably never expected when he came here that tonight would be a trap set for him, did he?

"Chairman Thompson, that's very generous of you to say about our son!"

Neil and Chelsea Lovett were startled. Neil felt surprised and happy, but he still waved his hands repeatedly. "How could my youngest son be your godson? That's not appropriate! It's enough that he works for KS Group. We wouldn't dare hope for anything else!"

"Neil, we've known each other for so many years. I won't lie to you. I'm speaking from the bottom of my heart. If Steven wasn't a good child, I would never consider him my godson. Don't you think so?"

The more Wyatt praised Steven, the more he was insulting Hunter.

Hunter clenched his fist in fury under the table as his eyes reddened.

He was just about to find an excuse to leave the table when Wya said casually, "Bella, when you see Asher in a few days, help me to convey a message to him on my behalf."

"What is it, Daddy?" Bella propped her chin on her hand and asked coyly.

"I've approved the proposal he passed to me a few days ago to acquire Evergreen. He can start implementing it any time."

Hunter was stunned.

He felt like he had been struck by lightning.

Evergreen was the biggest shareholder in his law firm.

If Wyatt Thompson acquired Evergreen, would that not mean Wyatt would be taking complete control of Hunter's law firm?!

So that was what it was!

Hunter gritted his teeth, his eyes bloodshot with hatred, as his back broke out into a cold sweat that drenched his suit.

He did not dare to look up at Wyatt and Bella, but he knew their gazes at the moment had to be as sharp as knives and would flay him from head to toe!

Wyatt invited their family over for dinner and said it was to catch up, but that had not been his true intention.

In truth, Wyatt was using this opportunity to knock Hunter down a peg, get back at Hunter for Bella, and show Hunter who was the best.

Wyatt wanted to make Hunter understand the consequences of going against his most precious daughter!

After dinner, the Lovetts did not rush to leave. They sat in the living room, chatting in groups.

It was a rare occasion for Bella to see her two brothers, so they naturally had a lot to talk about. Meanwhile, Axel and Clarence were part of the same industry, so they were quite familiar with one another. Thus, the four of them sat together, chatting and laughing as they even started playing Halli Galli.

Just as Bella was enjoying herself, she accidentally knocked over the glass of red wine on the table.

The red wine spilled all over her, dripping down her fair, slender calves. Even her feet had been stained red.

“I’ll wipe it for you!” Axel hurriedly looked for a tissue.

“I’ll do it!” Ralph also hurriedly searched for something he could wipe with.

“Then...me too?” After all, the atmosphere had reached this point. It would not be appropriate if Clarence did not make some sort of gesture, right?

Just as the three adult men were scrambling to wait on Bella, a tall,

handsome figure arrived and knelt at her feet on one knee.

Bella looked down in surprise, her long eyelashes trembling.

Only to see Steven had rushed to her side immediately. He took out a handkerchief that he always carried on him and picked up her foot with his left hand before patiently and gently wiping the wine off with the handkerchief in his right hand.

Bella panicked all of a sudden and pulled her foot back.

But Steven did not care about this and focused on wiping her foot.

He did it so seriously and innocently, as if there was nothing strange about his action and it was only a part of his job as her secretary.

Everyone watched dumbfoundedly.

When Amelia, who was just chatting with her mother, saw this scene, it felt like her heart sank from the heavens into the abyss. She trembled.

Her clear eyes reddened, and she bit her lip in sadness, feeling as if something in her chest had cracked and cut her deeply.

“Mommy, I’m not feeling so well... I’m going upstairs to rest first.”

Amelia hung her head low, using her long hair to hide her reddened eyes as she gathered the last of her strength to escape.

“Amelia? Amelia!”

Celeste called after her daughter in concern, but the more she called for her, the quicker she ran.

Bella saw that Steven had quickly finished wiping her foot and was about to help her wipe her calf when she panicked, pulled her legs back, and suddenly stood up.

Steven looked up at her deeply, his gaze bright.

Bella glanced sideways at the man who was looking at her like a devout worshiper would his goddess and sighed before saying quietly, “You’re not here as my secretary tonight. You are the youngest son of the Lovetts. And even if you were my secretary, you didn’t have to go this far. I’ll just go rinse it off.”

After saying that, she turned to leave, leaving Steven frozen in a kneeling posture in front of everyone.