

Heiress 531

Chapter 531

“Bella, tell me the truth. Have you fallen for that bastard again because of this incident?” Mila asked worriedly.

“No.”

Bella answered firmly. “I’m not so stupid to jump into a pile of shit. I just don’t like owing him anything.”

Inexplicably, she felt a trace of panic, but it quickly vanished.

“That’s good, then. If you want to get back together with him, you probably won’t have any home to come back to.”

Mila cast a chilly glance at her. “Do you want your family or do you want a scumbag? You choose.”

Bella rubbed at the goosebumps that had risen all over her arms in fear.

“Bella! Mila!”

Right then, Sasha knocked on the door and strode in. “They’ve just delivered the gowns for Celeste’s birthday party. Hurry up and come take a look! I’m not too good at fashion. After all, I even wore pants to my wedding.”

“Sure, sure! We’ll head over right away!”

Bella hurriedly dragged Mila off to look for Celeste, afraid she would ask further questions.

The three women arrived at Celeste’s room, only to find a wheeled rack crammed full of gorgeous evening gowns.

Every single one was limited edition and fresh off Paris Fashion Week’s runway. They were so dazzling!

There were also rows upon rows of custom-made high heels on the floor. A few of them were topped with sparkling diamonds, making them look extravagant.

If she had been any other woman, she would be shrieking in delight by now. One could buy a house just by scraping off a few of the diamonds and selling them.

But Celeste, clad in a plain and ordinary light purple sweater, sat on the sofa at a loss.

“What’s wrong, Aunt Celeste? Your birthday is coming soon. Wh aren’t you happy?” Bella sat beside Celeste and put an arm arou in a bossy manner.

“Bella, can you ask your dad nicely to call off the party?”

Celeste sighed helplessly. “I’ve been going back and forth on this with him for half a month now. I said it

was fine to just have everyone gather at home. I'm not used to eating outside food anyway, and it'll be so tiring and expensive to entertain so many guests. But Wyatt won't listen, so what should I do?"

"Wow! Celeste, you're showing off, aren't you?" Sasha teased.

"If we didn't know you, we'd probably assume you were trying to subtly show off and make us jealous."

Mila put an arm around Sasha's slim waist and joined in on the teasing.

Bella's eyelashes trembled slightly, feeling uncomfortable.

When she was young, out of consideration for her feelings, Celeste made herself invisible at home after getting together with her father. She only saw her bustling around in the dining hall during mealtimes.

At the time, Bella could not remember much but knew Celeste was her mother's love rival, so even at a young age, she was very protective of her mother and clashed with Celeste often. She often caused huge uproars at home and even said a lot of terrible things about Celeste to her face.

Bella always thought that Celeste had too little self-respect. How could she shamelessly cling to Wyatt, despite knowing he had a family and more than one woman by his side?

It was not until later that she learned the whole story from Asher and Axel after she grew up.

Back then, Bella's mother had contracted lupus, and Celeste had donated bone marrow to her without hesitation.

That was two decades ago, when medical technology was not as developed as it is now. Donating one's bone marrow was not completely risk-free, and Celeste had gotten long-term after-effects from it.

From time to time, she would feel unbearable pain.

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Though Bella's mother still passed away in the end, it was undeniable that her life had been extended by a year with Celeste's help. It was one more year of a happy childhood that Bella had with her mother by her side.

Much later, when Bella lost the baby she had with Justin, it was

Celeste who stayed by her side the whole time and took care of her like a mother would.

Gradually, Bella stopped resenting her.

She was not heartless, so how could she not be moved?

Who would hate someone who had been genuinely good to her twenty years? Even her mother had

never hated Celeste, so there w no need for her to hold onto that resentment.

“Aunt Celeste, just go along with Wyatt’s wishes.”

Bella hugged Celeste’s arm like she was Celeste’s biological daughter and smiled softly. “It’s not just what Wyatt wants. It’s what I want, too. You’ve never had a proper birthday celebration for the past twenty years and actually... I’ve always felt bad about it.”

“What are you saying, you silly girl?”

Celeste looked at her with shocked, wide eyes. “I’m the one who doesn’t like big celebrations. It’s got nothing to do with you!”

“Then just think of it as if you’re fulfilling a small wish of mine and let us hold a birthday party for you, okay?”

Justin interrupted Steven. “At the very least, I want her to come here and devote herself to taking care of me this time.”

What?!

Steven was so angry that his eyes had turned red. His knuckles had turned white from being clenched so tightly.

Anyone else might have the right to make a request of Bella, but not Justin! He was too shameless!

“That’s right!”

Ian was normally not that quick-witted, but this time, he had read his boss’ mind and hurriedly

lamented. “Mr. Salvador has suffered so much over the years for the sake of saving Ms. Thompson!

He’s been in so much pain every day that he can’t eat or sleep well. He even coughed up some blood

early this morning! Every day, I fear that he won’t wake up! It’s practically inhumane of Ms. Thompson

to treat her savior like this!”

Justin’s eyebrow twitched as he thought to himself that Ian had been too dramatic.

Steven gritted his teeth. Saying nothing further, he left the hospital ward.

When the door closed, Justin, who was sitting tall as if he were looking down on others from the moral

high ground, slumped, and his eyes dulled.

Suddenly, he bent forward and spat up a mouthful of blood.

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In the end, Mila did give Bella the medicines for treating internal and external injuries that her family

had recently developed.

The next day, Bella sent Steven to deliver them to Justin.

Justin did not want to seem vulnerable to Steven, who was the love rival closest to Bella, out of an inexplicable pride.

But when he saw Steven arrive alone without Bella, his heart, which was filled with anticipation, suddenly sank, and the spirit he had forcefully mustered instantly crumbled.

“Where is Bella?”

Justin leaned against the bed, looking lonely and a little pitiful.

Unfortunately, no matter how well he acted, Bella was not here to see

It was a waste of effort.

“Ms. Bella is very busy and asked me to deliver the medicine to you.”

Steven placed the expensive and hard-to-get medicine on Justin’s bedside table, casting a cold glance

at Justin’s pale face. “Ms. Bella says to apply the ointment three times a day and to take the pills for

internal injuries once a day. She’ll send me over with more in half a month. They work similarly to

targeted medicine and are more effective in treating your condition. But you may have side effects like

vomiting and dizziness. Everyone suffers from different side effects. If you have a strong negative reaction to it, you have to tell Ms. Bella immediately..Got it?”

Justin frowned slightly but remained silent.

“This medicine is so dangerous... Will it cause any problems if you take it?” Ian muttered in a low voice, worried that his boss would suffer from taking it. But because it was given by the young madam, he did not say too much.

“Ha! It’s his life. If your boss is afraid Ms. Bella is trying to harm him, he can choose not to eat it. It’s all up to him, and that’s that.”

After Steven was done speaking, he turned to leave.

“I’m not going to eat this medicine,” Justin said calmly.

Steven turned back around suddenly, asking in shock, “You’re not going to eat it? What do you mean?”

When Steven left for the hospital, Bella had specially instructed him to make sure this bastard ate the medicine on time, or else his health would be in danger.

But now, this bastard said he was not going to eat it.

How was Steven going to report this to Bella later?

“I’ll only take it if Bella comes to see me. I won’t accept it otherwise.”

Justin looked down and even coughed weakly twice. “Thirteen years ago, I saved her life. This time, I saved her again. Even if we’re divorced and she hates me, she has to admit that I am her savior. So, she can’t just casually dismiss me and treat me like this.”

“Justin Salvador, how-”

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"Mr. Salvador... Mr. Salvador?!"

Ian was scared out of his wits. He hurriedly pressed the call bell by the bed and grabbed a tissue to wipe away the traces of blood on Justin's lips. "Mr. Salvador! You can't go on like this! Stop being stubborn with the young madam! Since she's sent the medicine over, why don't you take it?"

"No."

Justin endured the sharp pain in his chest. He was stubborn and gloomy. "This is the only way I have

left to make her come to me and for me to interact with her. Even if have to put my life on the line, I want to see Bella. I'm going to fight for it this time!"

"What? That bastard scumbag is refusing to eat the medicine. Why?!"

Bella had been eating with her family in the dining hall when Steven called her out to tell her what happened. She was so angry that she felt a stuffiness in her chest and lost her appetite completely.

"He said he would only take the medicine if he saw you."

Steven said angrily, "He's too much! Not only is he not accepting your help, but he's also treating his life too lightly and using it to blackmail you. He's thinking too highly of himself! You've done your best on this matter. If you ask me, you should just leave him to his fate and stop caring about him!"

"Prepare the car. We're going to Savrow."

Bella instructed with reddened eyes, leaving Steven behind like a gust of wind, to head back and change her clothes.

"M-Ms. Bella!"

Steven's heart clenched with an indescribable sadness as he watched her leave in a hurry.

Justin did not tell his family about getting injured and hospitalized.

After all, in his position, even the state of his health had to be kept secret. There were too many people coveting his position, both within and outside of Salvador Corporation. If anything happened to him, it was very possible that it could become the reason someone would use it to overthrow him.

All these years, he had lived like he was walking on thin ice because he was surrounded by enemies.

All of this was because he was not Gregory Salvador's favorite son.

The only person who came to visit him today was Ryan Hoffman, as usual.

Justin did not tell Ryan that he had coughed up blood earlier, not wanting Ryan to worry. But he was also worried that Ryan would spend too much time running around helping him look for a cure.

"How pitiful and miserable you are."

Ryan sprawled on the sofa with an expression that made him seem like he was reveling in the situation, unbothered by the gravity of it. Seeing Justin look pale and haggard, like a flower on the verge of wilting, he could not help but mock him. "Tell me, how miserable do you feel now? Just a few months ago, you were enjoying such a splendid life."

Justin looked up slightly. "What do you want to say?"

“At the time, you had a gentle wife at home and a passionate lover outside. You must’ve been elated!”

“...Ryan Hoffman.” Justin coughed, and his pale face turned a mottled color. He was so angry that he nearly spat up blood again.

“still remember that whenever you met up with me back then, you’d complain about how annoyed you were and how uncomfortable you felt when you went home and saw that overly attentive woman.

Damn, you don’t know how much I envied you back then! Eve waited upon like a king by a thousand servants isn’t as com as compared to the care of a considerate, attentive woman wh me with her whole heart and soul.”

Ryan could not help but sigh tersely, some anger in his tone.

He felt angry on Bella’s behalf, but also felt it was such a shame that his friend had lost such a good woman.

“I wasn’t truly annoyed with Bella back then.”

The memories of how good Bella was to him felt like a dull knife ccarving into his heart. “I’m not made out of stone. I wasn’t blind to hhow deeply she loved and cared for me in those three years. I was ccld to her only to make her open her eyes to reality as soon as ppossible and make her divorce me. I had

no way of giving her a future at the time. If she stayed by my side, she'd only be wasting her time and life."

"What about now? You keep pestering Bella. What sort of shortcut are you taking this time?" Ryan tilted his head as he leisurely fished out a cigarette and put it between his lips.

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Suddenly remembering this was a hospital, Ryan did not light his cigarette and just used it to keep his mouth occupied.

Justin was silent for a moment before he took a deep breath and said in a hoarse voice, "Ryan, I think I've fallen for her."

Whoa!

The cigarette in Ryan's mouth shook, and he nearly leaped to his feet.

Although it was obvious to anyone who had eyes that Justin had long been mesmerized by Bella, hearing this fool admit it made Ryan feel indescribably satisfied.

"I've fallen for Bella, so I want her to come back to me. I want to try chasing after her." Justin suddenly looked up, his slightly trembling voice betraying his feelings.

His naturally charming eyes were serious.

“You? Chase after her? Can you? Are you sure?!” Ryan was extremely shocked as he fired off question after question.

“There’s a first time for everything. Even if I can’t, I have to try.”

Justin glanced at him. “And besides, if I can’t, don’t I still have you, my bad-idea generator?”

“Wow! Why are you being so insulting? Not all of my ideas are bad, okay?!” Ryan glared at Justin.

“I know you’re no good either, or else you’d have successfully pursued her by now. Am I not right?”

Justin stooped as low as he could go and gave him a few blows below the belt too, while he was at it.

“But I have no one else to rely on, so I can only reluctantly entrust you with this heavy responsibility.”

Although he had failed relationships before, it was true he had never actually pursued a woman before.

He had not chased after Rosalind Gold. They had gotten to know each other in their childhood, and he had been introverted and gloomy then. In his memory, it was always Rosalind who took the initiative to get closer to him and clung to him.

This time, for Bella’s sake, he was willing to put down the pride he had maintained for so many years

and go all out.

“It’s not that I’m bad at picking girls up, but Bella Thomps looks, the riches, the pedigree, and the talent.

She has it you want me to attract her with? How am I supposed to ma open up to me?”

Ryan pouted glumly. “I thought she had to be a pure romanti way she loved you so deeply back then,

but unexpectedly, she actually a career-minded queen who preferred the throne over n She’s better

than you in every aspect, and I’m the lowest on the fo chain among us three, so how do you expect me

to subdue her? I’ just thankful that she’s so kind as to not destroy me yet!”

Justin’s thin lips curled in a rare smile.

“And besides, bro, I don’t want to rain on your parade, but you’re no longer the apple of her eye. You’re

just a weed growing on a pile of shit to her. It’ll be extremely difficult for you to get Bella back, so you’d

better be prepared to fail countless times.”

“That doesn’t matter. I’ll focus on my pursuit. It’s her choice whether or not to accept me.”

Justin was determined. His gaze burned. There was no hesitation to be seen. “I should still have quite

a bit of life left in me and probably won’t fall for anyone else anymore. She’s the only one for me, so I’ll

take my time.”

Just as he finished speaking, with a bang-

The door of his hospital ward was slammed open. Bella walked in with a cold air about her, her hair swaying as her beautiful eyes glittered with an intimidating light.

“Justin Salvador! You refused to eat the medicine I sent to you and insisted on meeting me before you would eat it. Are you treatin own life as a joke? What do you mean by this?!”

The first thing Bella saw when she entered was Ryan sprawled a the sofa.

Seeing that there was a cigarette in his mouth, she burned with rage and rushed forward to grab the cigarette. She threw the cigarette on the ground before grinding it under her heel.

“How dare you smoke here?! Don’t you know that his lungs are injured too? He can’t inhale smoke. Are you his friend or the Grim Reaper here to collect his soul?!”

The smile on Justin’s face grew as he watched Bella worry.

“No, I-Bella, I didn’t light it at all!” Ryan was indignant.

“Get out of here with your cigarettes right now!” Bella’s eyes were red from anger as she pointed toward the door.

Ryan pouted and cast a pleading gaze toward his best friend.

Justin did not even look at him as he said calmly, "If she wants you to get out, you should get out."

Ryan thought to himself that no one would dare fight for first place when Justin Salvador was in second

place when it came to placing chicks before dicks!

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After Ryan left, only Justin and Bella remained in the hospital room.

Bella recalled Ian's words as she was entering the room. Justin had vomited blood again, and it was

not a small amount. She couldn't help but feel a hint of panic.

If Justin couldn't survive this ordeal or if he developed some complications in the future, then she would

never be able to repay this debt. She would live every day burdened with self-blame.

Bella approached the bedside with a composed face and grabbed Justin's wrist angrily. She turned it

over to check his pulse.

Justin opened his eyes to see Bella checking on him in a serious manner, resembling an experienced

doctor.

"Your current physical condition is not optimistic. You must take your medicine immediately. It might be

too late to take it tomorrow.” Bella felt extremely annoyed and was about to drop Justin’s hand.

Unexpectedly, Justin caught her cool hand in his broad, warm palm and held it tightly.

Bella became flustered, and her breathing quickened.

“Your hands are so cold. It must be freezing outside.” Justin gently rubbed the back of her hand with his rough fingertips.

Seeing the scars still present, he felt both heartache and guilt. His voice was hoarse as he apologized.

“I’m sorry to inconvenience you at such a late hour.”.

“If you’re ‘sorry, then you should obediently take your medicine! What’s with the theatrics?” Bella suppressed her turbulent emotions by gritting her teeth.

She pulled her hand away from his warm palm and asked. “Are you still a baby? Can’t you take medicine on your own? Do I have to feed it to you?”

“No.” Justin felt a lump in his throat. He swallowed and said softly, “I just didn’t know any other way to get you to come see me. I wanted to see you, Bella.”

“Well, you’ve seen me. Can you take your medicine now?” Bella didn’t feel particularly flattered by the meek attitude of this usually strong-willed man.

Thinking back to her conversation with Declan and Steven, a hint of conflict and irritation arose from the depths of Bella's heart.

She raised her wrist to check the time on her watch and said impatiently, "Hurry up and take your medicine. After I'm done here, I need to return to Hatchbay. My third brother rarely comes home to gather with us, and I don't have time to waste here with you!"

Justin felt a sharp pain in his chest from her assertive attitude. His open hand slowly clenched into a tight fist.

Once, she was head over heels for him, but now, even the most basic patience towards him is gone.

Yet, in the end, who could he blame but himself? Regret filled his heart.

The path to winning her back was long and arduous, with vast mountains, wide seas, and boundless skies,

Nevertheless, he still hoped to try his best, until the day he no longer had the ability to love her.

"Bella, you cannot deny that I became like this because of you."

Having realized the self-pity strategy was not working, Justin shamelessly acted like a rogue to spend

more time with her. "I almost lost my life for you. Shouldn't you at least show me some care instead of leaving me here without a word?"

"And what do you want, then?" Bella's eyes were slightly red, revealing a hint of anger.

"Take care of me until I'm discharged." Justin fixed his gaze deeply on her charming face.

"Haha!" Bella burst into laughter and coldly joked, "I have never seen such shamelessness!"

Indeed, even Justin was finding it hard to tolerate himself.

Besides, he had seen how Ryan used to pursue women, and he had seen plenty. No matter what kind of woman, none could escape the passionate entanglement of a man.

As for passion, Justin was not sure how to go about it. However, he could certainly pester Bella.

"Justin, listen to me. I'm no longer your wife, and I'm certainly not a servant of the Salvador family. I

have no reason to continue taking care of you." Bella's gaze was chilling as her body exuded an iciness.

"Moreover, I've done so much for you before, and you didn't appreciate it. You found it annoying, didn't you? Now you are begging me to stay. What's gotten into you?"

"I like you, Bella!" Justin did not know how else to win her over, so he could only confess his feelings to

her.

He stared into her beautiful eyes with a warmth that was both intense and sincere.

“I don’t care how you feel about me now, whether it’s disdain or hatred. It doesn’t matter.”

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“I like you, Bella. I’ve fallen for you,” Justin declared.

Bella’s breath was stuck in her throat, and she subconsciously took a step back. She felt a mix of

emotions that were difficult to put into words upon hearing this man confess to her.

The room fell silent. Amidst the silence, both could hear the pounding of their own hearts.

“Justin, if you had confessed to me in the past three years, I would have accepted without hesitation.

Unfortunately, we’re not in the past. As I’ve told you before, the feelings between us have long expired.”

Bella’s gaze was distant and indifferent. “I stopped loving you a time ago.”

“I’m sorry! I know all this is a bit too late, but I am determined, and won’t give up!” Justin’s forehead

was covered with sweat. He wanted to get closer to her but was worried that she might run away

without looking back.

His heart was in turmoil as he said, "Even if you don't love me, okay. This time, let me be the one to sacrifice. Let me... Love you."

Justin had never used the word "love" with Rosalind before, but this time, he couldn't control the urge to

say it to Bella.

"Enough! I don't need to be loved by someone that I don't love! How many times do I have to say it for you to remember?" Bella countered, determined to shut him up. "If you dare to spout such nonsense again, I'll turn around and leave right now!"

Justin choked on his words and obediently kept silent.

After a while, seeing that Bella's expression had softened slightly, he cautiously asked, "If I don't bring it up again, will you stay with me tonight?"

Bella scoffed, "Haha, dream on."

"Didn't you say that since I saved you, you would agree to one request? As long as it's not too much."

Justin's gaze sparkled, still not giving up.

"Yesterday, didn't you...?" Bella recalled yesterday's event in this ward.

Justin had taken her lips, held her waist, pressed her into his arms, and gave her a passionate and lingering kiss.

Her cheeks turned crimson, and her whole body felt as if it had caught fire, burning with heat.

“Are you talking about that kiss? That doesn’t count.” Justin hooked his thin lips, his voice soft and low.

Seeing Bella’s rare, shy expression, he smiled with delight.

“Doesn’t count?!” Bella exclaimed. She felt that this divorced man in his thirties was truly a sly and cunning fox!

“I forcefully kissed you, but you fought back.” Justin pointed to his already scabbed lips. “This is the evidence.”

“Serves you right! To deal with a rogue like you, biting your mouth to shreds wouldn’t be excessive.”

Bella grew angrier the more she thought about it. Her little face turned flushed.

“Alright, come on.” Justin leaned back, extending a sincere invitation to her.

Bella bit her teeth. Looking at the man’s smug appearance, she really wanted to flip his bed!

Bella was not bothered to argue with Justin, who was morally blackmailing her to stay the night.

She could only resign herself to staying the night with him.

As Bella came over in a hurry, she did not bring anything with her. She had Steven return to her villa in Savrow to bring some necessities.

Steven returned with a small suitcase in the hospital corridor, loo serious.

Bella said, "Thank you, Steve. You can go back and rest tonight. Con pick me up early tomorrow morning."

Bella tried to take the suitcase, but Steven, with red eyes, refused to let go. "Ms. Bella, come back home with me."

"Steve, since Justin has made this request and it's not too unreasonable, I will repay the favor," Bella said calmly.

"But, Ms. Bella, what if he has ulterior motives and does something to you if you stay with him in the same room?"

"We were married for three years. If he really wanted to do something, would he wait until now?"

"But..."

Bella waved dismissively, "Don't worry, even scoundrels understand the law."

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Just as Bella stepped into the hospital room, Steven received a call from Declan.

Steven answered, "Mr. Declan."

"Steven! As Bella's secretary, why didn't you report Bella's whereabouts to us immediately?"

Declan bombarded him with questions. "Why are you and Bella now at the Deux Hospital? Is she looking for Justin?"

On the other end, Asher's steady voice followed, "Dec, calm down."

In reality, Declan had a gentle personality. However, when it came to Bella's matters, he instantly became aggressive.

Steven was greatly surprised and blinked. "Mr. Declan, how know?"

After all, Bella kept her visit to see Justin confidential!

"Satellite tracking." Asher sighed helplessly. "Declan is about to employ tactics for capturing wanted criminals. How hard is it for him to find Bella?"

Steven was rendered speechless.

"Declan, don't worry. Knowing Bella's personality, she won't come back even if you scold her and hit

her.” Asher said in a laid-back manner, “We’re all adults. Let her go.”

“I will dispatch a team of security guards to surround the hospital and keep an eye on the situation outside the room. Steven, I need you to watch closely tonight. If Justin does anything to Bella, you must inform me immediately,” Declan instructed.

“Yes, Mr. Declan!” Steven felt the pressure emanating from the young colonel. He was almost ready to stand at attention.

Declan declared a chilling warning, intense anger evident in his voice.”

If Justin dares to harm my little sister, even a little bit, I’ll make sure he never walks out of that hospital alive!”

Justin happily applied the ointment and took his medicine since Bella was willing to accompany him.

Although the hospital dinner was bland and lacked variety, Justin felt like he was enjoying a feast because Bella was by his side. He thought this simple meal was the most delicious thing he had eaten in years.

Seeing him devour the food like he hadn’t eaten in days, Bella found it somewhat amusing.

She decided to order a portion as a late-night snack for herself.

The result was a rather unappetizing meal. But she stuck to her principle of not wasting food and finished it.

“You should eat more nutritious foods to rejuvenate your body.

Perhaps something soupy and comforting,” Bella casually suggested.

“Great, can you make them for me?” Justin looked at her with anticipation.

“I used to make them for you all the time, but you never appreciated them,” Bella sneered, pushing the meal box aside.

She picked up her pajamas and toiletries and headed toward the bathroom. “Wilma is good at cooking.

Have her make something for you.”

With a slam, the bathroom door closed.

Justin felt a lump in his throat upon hearing those words. Bitterness lingered in his heart. It seemed that

starting from scratch again and trying to reclaim what was lost was indeed an arduous journey.

Bella emerged from the bathroom wearing a peach-colored silk pajama set.

Even without makeup, her skin was still as translucent and tender as a peeled lychee.

She had a youthful innocence that made her look more like 18 than her actual age of 24.

Justin's thin lips pursed slightly. His usually steady heartbeat surged in response to her presence.

"What are you looking at? Never seen me without makeup?" Bella sprayed her face with a mist, feeling the dryness in the room.

"I have, frequently in the past," Justin replied calmly, trying to suppress the turmoil in his heart. "It's just that I got emotional just now."

"You got emotional just by looking at me? Well, I only saw the lust in your eyes." Bella spoke sarcastically as she walked over to the sofa and took a seat,

Justin was momentarily speechless

This woman had already reached the pinnacle of cursing without using any vulgar language. If she were to scold him, it would be the epitome of eloquence.

"Those who trespass my territory shall be killed without mercy." Bella lay horizontally on the sofa. She wore a silk eye mask and covered herself with a blanket. She quickly adjusted herself into a comfortable position and declared, "I'm going to sleep."

"Come and sleep in the bed," Justin gently suggested.

“Justin, we’re divorced. Do you still fantasize about sharing a bed with your ex-wife? Are you asking for death?” Bella asked coldly.

“No, you’ve misunderstood.” Justin couldn’t help but smile bitterly. “I’ll give you the bed.”

“Say one more word, and I’ll leave immediately. Since you’ve taken your medicine, there’s nothing that can hold me here.” Bella dismissed him, completely in control.

This time, Justin didn’t dare to say anything more.

Finally convincing her to stay the night, he couldn’t afford to ruin this tranquil moment.

The lights were switched off, and the room fell into peaceful silence.

Justin was not sleepy at all. He lay on his side and stole glances at Bella without blinking.

Under the soft moonlight, Bella looked like a perfectly proportioned sculpture lying on her side. Even with her back turned towards him, she looked beautiful.

“Still looking? If you keep looking, I’ll leave,” Bella suddenly said, as if she had eyes on her back.

“Sorry for disturbing your rest.” Justin’s heart trembled.

Now, he was truly cautious, humble, and timid.

“No, it’s just that when you’re asleep, your breathing isn’t like this. I can instantly tell whether you’re asleep or not,” Bella said.

As soon as the words were spoken, both of them were stunned.

Bella suddenly felt a faint, indescribable pain in her heart. She curled up her slender body, clutching the edge of her clothes tightly.

She was a little angry with herself. ‘How deeply in love was I that even the slightest details of that man became familiar to my heart?’

Justin’s eyes widened in astonishment, a profound sense of guilt rising within him.

The pitch-black room seemed to make the air thin, making it hard for him to breathe.

For the past three years, every night, he slept soundly. But what about Bella? How did she endure those lonely and desolate nights?

“Bella, I was too much of a jerk in the past.” After a while, he expressed remorse again, his voice deep and hoarse.

“Let it go. It’s all in the past. I just hope that none of us repeats the same mistakes.”

“Bella, I’m serious.”

Bella closed her eyes, gently interrupting him with a smile. "If you liked me, you would have liked me a long time ago. Why wait until now? Even if you like me now, it's just a change in your taste. I'm not a fool. How could I take your momentary whims as solemn vows?"

Chapter 539

Justin felt as if his heart was filled with sharp shards.

He clenched his own shirt, thinking to himself, 'No, of course not, Bella. I'm not someone who acts on a whim. My feelings for you are not a passing fancy. Is delayed affection not considered love?

Thirteen years ago, we faced life and death together. Thirteen years later, we continue to face hardships side by side. We are destined to be inextricably bound in this lifetime.'

For the first time in his life, Justin experienced the difficulty of holding back words of love.

Justin felt the frustration of having so much to say but being unable to speak. But in the end, he chose silence.

He knew that now was not the time to speak. What he needed was act.

Although Bella had recovered from her fever, her body was not fully recovered.

Bella was exhausted after the last three days of turmoil. She could no longer be bothered guarding

against the 'wolf' any longer.

She fell asleep shortly after her head touched the pillow.

But Justin kept his eyes open, staring straight at her as if he were guarding her without any signs of drowsiness.

Only when he was sure that Bella had genuinely fallen asleep did he endure the pain and climb out of bed. He tiptoed over to the sofa.

Originally, he had planned to admire Bella's tranquil and lovely sleeping face. But he felt sorry for letting her sleep on the sofa.

Thus, he gently lifted her delicate and soft body.

He lowered his long eyelashes as he cradled her in his arms. His palms were slightly sweaty.

He also could not resist brushing his sharp jawline against her soft hair.

"Mm..." Bella let out a soft whimper in his embrace.

She resembled a sleeping baby having a dream.

Justin's eyes deepened, and his throat felt both dry and itchy.

He had a strong desire to kiss her, and his lips hovered just above hers. In the end, he couldn't bear to do it.

He used to think that he had married a demure little flower. Now, realized that she was a charming enchantress who captured his heart and soul.

Bella woke up from her sleep the next morning and lazily stretched her waist under the quilt.

She slept unexpectedly comfortably last night.

Wait a minute.

Bella sprang up and looked around. Only then did she discover that she was actually sleeping on the bed!

'What's going on? Did I sleepwalk?'

Bella quickly uncovered the blanket, finding herself still dressed.

Considering that the bed was a narrow single bed and Justin's robust figure, it should be impossible for her to squeeze in...

There was no way she would not have felt it if he did.

At this moment, Justin was nowhere to be seen in the ward.

Bella pounded the bed with her fists, cursing under her breath.

With such severe injuries, he still dared to wander around. It was like he was looking to shorten his own life!

Just then, a knock came from outside, along with Steven's voice. "Ms. Bella? Have you woken up?"

"Come in." Bella, afraid that Steven might misunderstand, jumped off the bed and walked to the sofa.

Steven pushed the door open with his back and walked in. He held two large, high-end food boxes in his hands. "Mr. Asher and Mr.

Declan are on their way from Hatchbay to Savrow. They're coming to pick you up together. After picking you up, they plan to have lunch, and then Mr. Declan will return to Dawnford."

Bella rubbed her slightly sore temples and sighed.

She had indeed alerted her brothers after all. She diverted her attention to the food boxes and asked,

"What do you have there?"

"It's from Justin. He had his secretary prepare breakfast for you."

Steven placed the two large food boxes on the coffee table, looking dissatisfied.

Outside the door, Ian sneezed loudly, thinking to himself, 'Who the hell is cursing at me?'

Bella frowned. "Where is Justin?"

"He went for a medical checkup." pin to Claim Your Surprise Reward dissatisfied.

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"He went for a medical checkup."

Chapter 540

Bella opened the food boxes and widened her eyes in surprise.

Inside were exquisite dishes featuring the specialties of Hatchbay.

They were meticulously arranged with delightful colors, aromas, flavors. and

Unexpectedly, every dish was something she often ate at home and loved!

Gurgle... Her stomach couldn't help but growl.

"I heard that Justin sent someone to drive to Hatchbay around five in the morning to bring these back.

The lunchbox has a thermal insulation layer, and the dishes are still warm." Steven took out each dish

from the box, speaking in a monotone manner like a robot.

Steven knew that this was just the beginning, and Justin was starting to launch a pursuit of Bella.

Although Steven had loved Bella before and didn't oppose her dating, he was afraid that the person pursuing her would be Justin.

"Does he have a problem with his brain? Who asked him to do all this for me?" Despite her tough words, she couldn't resist picking up a warm dumpling and taking a big bite.

Steven watched her with a wry smile!

"Ms. Thompson, is it delicious?"

A magnetic voice sounded in her ear. Startled, Bella almost choked on the dumpling.

"Cough, cough, cough, cough, cough..." Bella covered her chest and coughed in pain, her face turning red.

"Ms. Bella, are you okay?" Steven was taken aback, and he reached out to pat her back.

When Justin saw Steven's hands touching Bella's back, a fire seemed to ignite in his heart.

It was as if someone were fanning the flames in his chest.

Even though Justin knew there was nothing between Bella and Steven, he still felt a tinge of jealousy in his chest.

Justin's brows furrowed deeply, and he was about to walk over to Bella.

Unexpectedly, it was Bella who strode towards him first, furious.

"What happened last night? Why was I on the bed?" Bella angrily questioned.

"I carried you over. Sleeping on the sofa is uncomfortable," Justin answered with a gentle tone.

His warm breath sprayed onto her forehead, carrying an indescribable hint of ambiguity.

"Who allowed you to do such unnecessary things?" Bella met his gaze, which was filled with affection, and tightened her fists.

"Anything I do for you is never unnecessary," Justin said sincerely.

His expression was genuine and devoid of any frivolity. Paired with those sultry eyes, few women could resist his damned charm.

"Justin, your touching gestures may move the heavens and the earth, but they won't move me. Save it," Bella scoffed.

She assessed the man before her and noticed his navy pinstriped designer suit and the tie she had once given him. On the crisp collar, she spotted a brooch that she had gifted him. Her pupils slightly contract.

“Are you planning to leave the hospital?”

“Yes,” he answered frankly.

“You can’t. You don’t meet the discharge criteria.”

“Then will you stay with me until the day I meet the discharge criteria and can leave?” Justin raised his

lips, licking his lips as he ask

“What nonsense are you thinking?” Bella narrowed her beauti Was she being too nice to this man?

“Well, I don’t want to be imprisoned here. Even more, I don’t wan go a day without seeing you.” Justin

stared at her with rebellious, childlike eyes that still carried deep affection for her.

Bella had never seen this childish side of Justin before. For a moment, she was taken aback, forgetting

to continue arguing with