

## Heiress 541

### Chapter 541

There was nothing Bella could do.

She found herself in a room full of outstanding men, and now even her brother, who was a colonel, had appeared. There was no room for escape!

“Bella, you weren’t mistreated, right?” Declan held onto Bella’s shoulders, checking her body repeatedly.

“I’m okay. Let’s go, Dec.” Bella hesitated to let Declan stay any longer in front of Justin.

She feared things might take an unexpected turn. As she was just about to pull him away, Declan spoke coldly, “Asher, Steve, you two go ahead and take Bella away. I’ll join you in a while.”

“Declan!” Bella frowned. Her tense call was filled with complex emotions.

“Let’s go, Bella.” Asher put his arm around Bella’s shoulder, casting a meaningful glance at Justin.

He whispered in her ear, “You know that Declan is the most. emotionally stable and gentle one. Don’t worry, he handles things. with discretion.”

Bella let out a sigh, thinking that there probably wouldn’t be any trouble in the hospital. So she and

Asher decided to head out first.

Justin's intense gaze stayed on Bella until the door closed, and he lost sight of her.

He suddenly remembered that she hadn't had breakfast yet.

He quickly walked over to the coffee table and was about to pick up the food box when an equally firm and strong hand held the box down.

Justin raised his eyes coldly, meeting Declan's icy gaze. The tension in the air was strong. It felt as if the room could explode at any moment.

"She hasn't eaten breakfast yet, so I'll bring these to her," Justin said, his expression turning cold.

"No need. I'm worried my sister might fall ill if she eats something given by a jerk."

Declan's brows furrowed with anger, and he smirked coldly. "You've caused Bella so much suffering.

Now you are trying to win her back

with cheap tricks and a few sweet gestures. Do you think that she will change her mind and willingly

step back into the demonic abyss of your Salvador family? Do you think my sister is some stray animal

that you can entice with a little sweetness? You're overestimating yourself."

"In the past, it was all my fault. From now on, I will do my best to treat Bella well." Justin's gaze was

intense as he tried to take the food box.

Justin remembered that Bella had a sensitive stomach. That time, outside the charity auction, she was lying on the sofa with stomach cramps, looking pitiful. Now, thinking about it, he still felt a bit sorry for her

“Hmph, I’d rather believe in ghosts than trust the words of a scumbag like you, Justin!”

With these words, Declan widened his eyes. He raised his hand suddenly, knocking over the food box.

Without waiting for Justin to react, he quickly reached out and swung the other food box to the ground.

The exquisite breakfast shattered across the floor. Justin felt his pupils tremble, and his heart ached as if it were being torn apart.

“Stay away from my sister. I’m warning you for the last time!” Declan’s gaze was icy and threatening.

He pointed at Justin’s pale face. “Otherwise, you’ll end up like this mess on the floor!”

“I won’t let her go.”

Justin closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and opened them again. His eyes, now red and sharp as

blades, declared, “I’ve made up my mind about Bella. I like her, and I want to be with her. I don’t care if

I'm condemned and spat upon by thousands. Even if every person in the

Thompson family tries to stop me, it won't deter my determination to have her."

This enraged Declan. His teeth clenched audibly.

However, he then burst into laughter, full of disdain. "Do you think it's the Thompson family members who are trying to stop you? Back then, we also tried to prevent Bella from being with you, but didn't she still marry you without any hesitation? Let me tell you, even if we do nothing, Bella won't turn back.

You've long exhausted the love she had for you. You no longer have a place in her heart! Don't think that she has lingering feelings for you just because she came to take care of you last night. Bella has always been like her father. She's heroic and values love and righteousness if it were anyone else who saved her life, she wouldn't ignore it. Stop showing off here like a peacock and deluding yourself."

Justin's heart spasmed uncontrollably as he tightly clenched his fists.

His feelings for Bella were unwavering, regardless of what anyone said.

The obstacles he has undergone these days have finally made him realize that he deeply likes Bella.

He regretted not awakening to this realization sooner.

He was truly afraid that what Declan said might be true and that Bella's heart truly no longer had a

place for him.

Declan ignored him and walked briskly toward the door.

Suddenly, he halted, and with an icy tone, he threw out a parting remark through gritted teeth.

“I heard from Bella that you also come from a military background. Hmph! People like you truly disgrace the reputation of us soldiers!”

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In the corridor, Ian stood by the ward’s entrance.

He observed the well-organized rows of security guards. The disciplined posture, expressions, and formidable aura they exuded sent shivers down his spine.

The door swung open, and the distinct sound of military boots echoed across the floor.

Declan adjusted his military cap and walked out expressionlessly.

After years of military service, he was able to maintain a stoic demeanor even in the presence of strangers.

“Attention!” The security guards immediately stood at attention and saluted.

“Let’s go.” Declan walked past Ian with a casual command, and the security guards followed suit.

The corridor returned to its quiet state. Ian stared blankly at Declan's remarkable and handsome figure.

Even a man like him was captivated by Declan's robust, masculine, and alluring charm, which was devoid of any trace of nobility or arrogance. He could clearly feel the difference between the individuals.

In his dazed state, Justin emerged with heavy strides, his eyes dark and contemplative.

"Mr. Salvador, Mr. Salvador! You shouldn't push yourself. Given your current physical condition, it's absolutely not advisable to hospital early." Ian hurriedly ran over to assist Justin.

However, Justin firmly pushed him away.

"No, I have to leave!" Justin insisted. "If I don't go back to the headquarters soon, Gregory and Shannon will grow suspicious. They will come up with an excuse to challenge my authority. It's important to keep my hospitalization and injury a secret."

Justin's suppressed rage erupted following the heated argument with

Declan, causing him to cough violently.

Ian was startled and alarmed by the sound that echoed in his chest.

Tears welled up in his eyes out of distress..

“Mr. Salvador, regardless of what organization or position you hold, what matters most is your health!”

“Don’t worry, I’m not going to die. Over the years, I’ve been through many trials and tribulations, as well as countless injuries. Haven’t I survived them all?” Justin straightened his back and took a deep breath.

His eyes turned crimson as he remembered the harsh words Declan said about him disgracing the military.

Life is truly unfair.

That evening, Bella hosted a luxurious gathering at the KS World Hotel.

It was loaded with fine wine and food to celebrate the reunion with her third brother, Declan.

Axel, Ralph, and Amelia, who were working and studying in Savrow, eagerly joined the gathering.

The siblings cherished their time together, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere.

Unfortunately, they had to bid Declan farewell just as they were toasting him.

Everyone looked at Declan with a frown on their faces. Bella’s eyes turned red as she struggled to

contain her emotions, and she resorted to drinking to cope.

Despite the genuine joy of being with her brothers, Bella couldn't shake off the heaviness in her heart.

When she thought about the troubles with Justin, she felt a complete mix of happiness and an

indescribable sense of melancholy.

Questions lingered in her mind. 'Why does Justin have feelings for me? Was it because of the bond we

formed on the dangerous Mount

Jaglee? Was it due to a strange sense of guilt after discovering I was the little girl he saved thirteen

years ago?'

Perhaps Justin was naturally a fickle romantic. Once in love with

Rosalind Gold, he was now smitten with the stunning Bella. Thompson.

Bella casually tugged at the corner of her lips, letting out a soft, scornful chuckle.

It turned out that the emotional scars left by Rosalind were not too deep after all.

Bella, the stunning woman who gave an old tale a new spin, had swiftly helped Justin move on.

She thought, 'What a shameless man!'



“Bella!” Axel exclaimed. “I heard you went back to work as a forest ranger on that mountain and almost fell off the cliff while saving someone!”

Axel learned about Bella’s latest heroic act from Asher and embraced her with lingering fear, refusing to let go.

“You reckless girl! Do you want to scare your brothers to death? If anything happens to you, I’ll just follow you!”

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“Ax! Loosen your grip a bit! You’re going to choke Bella to death!”

Declan noticed Bella’s extended tongue and widened eyes. He immediately stepped forward to pry Axel’s arm away from Bella.

“It’s quite the spectacle. I’ve heard of people dying because of love, but I have never heard of people dying because of their brother. This is an eye-opener,” Ralph teased Axel while stuffing a mouthful of roasted duck into his mouth.

“Pfft!” Amelia couldn’t help but laugh, covering her cherry-like mouth.

Amelia was always quiet and reserved in front of her brothers.

However, she almost spat out the drink in her mouth when she heard.

Ralph's remark.

Afraid that Amelia might choke, Asher patted her back while he lightly added. "Axel, Bella survived a great calamity. Can you stop talking about death and unfortunate events? You're scaring people, and it's a bit ominous.

Axel apologized. "Sorry, I'm just speaking my mind without thinking.

Although Declan had freed Bella from Axel's arm, he still held on to her hand, unwilling to give up.

This was supposed to be a harmonious gathering of siblings, but it slowly turned into a fight for Bella's attention.

"Speaking of which, Bella, you courageously saved someone at the risk of your life. Did that person give you a letter of commendation. afterward? Ralph inquired with genuine curiosity

"I passed out immediately after saving her, so I have no idea what happened afterward." Bella shrugged casually, enjoying the peeled shrimp that Declan handed her one by one.

"They delivered a letter of commendation." Having finished his meal,

Asher calmly wiped his lips with a napkin.

Everyone was stunned.

“What?” Bella asked with a half-eaten shrimp in her mouth.

Asher explained, “After the incident, I left my contact information with

Xavier of the Forest Park Rangers. He contacted me recently and said. the female hiker you saved

went to the park two days ago. She was in a wheelchair, and she came with her family. They brought a

letter of commendation for you and wanted to thank you in person. Because they didn’t know your

name, they could only refer to you as the ‘kind- hearted lady’.”

Bella asked, flabbergasted, “Did you contact Xavier personally? Does that mean...?”

“Yes, both Xavier and the person you’ve always respected, Frank, know your true identity.”

Asher looked at Bella with a touch of resentment. “Both of them. weren’t too surprised to learn that

you’re the heiress of Thompson’s family. They advised me, as your older brother, to take good care of

you. They mentioned that the money you have donated to Mount

Jaglee National Forest Park over the years is more than enough.

Frank has already put it into the maintenance fund, and they can’t spend it all. There’s no need to

donate more. They understand your goodwill. In the end, they hope that you'll take care of yourself in the future and not volunteer anymore."

"Ash, you're really..." Bella put down the shrimp in her hand and pouted.

Asher sighed, his warm eyes showing a hint of helplessness. "Bella, you being the heiress of the KS Group is not a secret, and we don't want it to be. After all, you're our precious little sister and the apple of Dad's eye. Some people already know your identity. But if you plan to handle the Thompson family business and take over my position in the future, standing in front of more people is inevitable. You should start changing your mindset about this."

"Huh? Ash, that doesn't sound right."

Bella's eyes gleamed with excitement as she looked at Asher with a twinkle in her eyes. "Ash, judging from your tone, does it mean I've passed Wyatt's test? Does that mean I can leave the grassroots and join the inner ranks of the group?"

The thought of a promotion reignited her enthusiasm.

Happy feelings took the place of the mental strain brought on by a certain bothersome man.

After all, she had already experienced wealth and marriage. It was time to focus on her career.

Asher teased her with a gentle smile. "I know you're eager, but don't be in a hurry. Dad's been quite busy lately. Once he's done with this phase, he'll inform you of the results of your assessment."

While stuffing his face with roasted duck, Ralph could not help but make a comment. "Hm, Dad is being a bit too serious about this. It's our family business among Baile Grout easy as letting out a fart for him

Asher Pulls and mills were deed rganchlines

Axel cleared his throat Taigh pricomaten all it takes a word from Wwwwt nigh

Veal oleh squirmed his bright as smiling without our family business. Letting Bella join KS Group is as easy as letting out a fart for him!"

Asher, Bella, and Amelia were rendered speechless.

Axel cleared his throat. "Ralph, you mean all it takes is a word from Wyatt, right?"

"Huh? Yeah!" Ralph squinted his bright eyes, smiling without reservation.

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"In that case, let me raise a toast to my sister first!" Amelia said, lifting the wine glass with both hands.

Her cheeks blushed as she stood up shyly. With sincere and genuine eyes, she said, "I wish my sister

a quick promotion. May all her desires be fulfilled, and may she have smooth sailing in everything. she

does!”

“Oh, such sweet words! I love it! Let me give you a kiss!” Bella cheerfully emptied her glass and blew a flying kiss to Amelia.

Amelia shyly lowered her eyes, her cheeks blushing even deeper.

“Come on, let’s all raise a toast to Bella! Cheers to Bella’s dreams coming true! Cheers!”

The Thompson brothers raised their glasses.

Everyone was joyously tipsy, their hearts full of warmth. Listening to the crisp sound of glasses clinking and seeing the sincere gazes around her, Bella’s heart was moved, and tears welled up in her eyes.

The dinner concluded in a warm and heartfelt atmosphere.

Bella and Declan embraced each other. Although they were cheerful during the meal, their parting was filled with reluctance. The sibling’s eyes were full of tears.

In reality, the military unit where Declan served was stationed in Dawnford, not too far away.

However, due to Declan’s high-ranking position, he often went on business trips. Sometimes, his trips

lasted for several months, resulting in infrequent family reunions.

“Declan, Aunt Celeste’s birthday is coming up. Will you be able to make it back?” Bella reached out to touch Declan’s shoulder, then adjusted the military cap on his head.

“I’m sorry, Bella.” Declan sighed with guilt, pinching her cheek before turning to Amelia. “I’m sorry, Amelia. Please apologize to Aunt Celeste on my behalf.”

“It’s okay, Declan! We understand you’re very busy with official matters.” Amelia hurriedly waved her hands, hesitant to accept the apology.

“But I’ve already prepared a birthday gift for Aunt Celeste. Bella, please give it to her on my behalf when the time comes.”

“Alright.”

In the underground parking lot of the hotel, the specially arranged bulletproof vehicle had been waiting for Colonel Declan.

The adjutant respectfully opened the car door. After bidding farewell to his family, Declan got into the car,

He lowered the car window and looked at Bella with concern, reminding her, “Don’t mingle with that

Salvador guy anymore. Let him. deal with his own problems. Got it?"

"Got it! Bye, Dec!" Bella said as she waved at him with a sweet smile.

There was a playful sparkle in her bright eyes, and her red lips wer moist and alluring.

The act of innocence in front of Declan made Bella seem even gentler than Amelia.

After bidding farewell to Declan, Axel and Ralph were also about to return to work.

Bella had consumed quite a bit of alcohol and needed more rest due. to her condition, so she asked

Asher to take her home.

"Ms. Bella, allow me to escort you." Steven offered almost without. hesitation. Taking care of Bella had

become ingrained in his muscle memory.

"If you're leaving, who will take care of Amelia? She has had quite a bit to drink too!" Bella approached

and embraced Amelia's soft waist,

With the added strength from the alcohol, she casually pushed the tipsy Amelia into Steven's arms.

Amelia was already feeling a little dizzy. When Bella pushed her, she almost lost her balance.

Luckily, Steven's sharp eyes caught it, and he was quick to react. He caught Amelia and held her close



to his chest.

Amelia, in a daze, looked up, and at the same time, Steven lowered his gaze.

Their eyes met.

At that moment, both their hearts inexplicably skipped a beat, and their breaths became rapid and

irregular.

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Amelia was already a little tipsy, but Steven's unexpected embrace made her sober in an instant.

Her peach-like face, ears, and slender neck were all adorned with a rosy blush.

"Ms. Amelia, please be careful."

Steven assumed she was heavily intoxicated because she could not stand up straight.

Genuine concern filled his eyes as he wrapped his arms around her soft and supple waist, holding her

even closer.

His throat suddenly felt dry, and his heart skipped a beat. Amelia's slender waist felt weightless in his

grasp. The softness captivated him for a brief moment, and a sigh escaped his heart.

However, he was a gentleman with integrity-far from someone with impure intentions.

Steven quickly regained his composure, leaving no trace of his inner thoughts on his handsome face.

“Steve, you’ll be responsible for taking my sister home tonight!” Bella was usually attentive, but she really let her guard down in the presence of those close to her. So, she seemed to be unaware of the subtle connection between the two.

Bella waved casually before leaving, linking arms with Asher.

With only the two of them left, the atmosphere became some hot awkward, leaving Amelia and Steven uneasy.

“Uh... Bella! Bella!” Amelia weakly called out twice, her face turning red and her heart pounding.

“Don’t worry, Ms. Amelia,” Steven reassured her, his eyes gentle and his tone solemn. “I promised Ms. Bella that I would make sure you got back to school safely.”

“No, Mr. Lovett, it’s not necessary. I only had a little wine, and I’m not drunk.” Amelia pressed her rosy lips together, lowered her eyes, and pushed him away gently. She was determined to show that she was not drunk.

On the other hand, Steven was deeply concerned about her. He embraced her once more and said,

“You insist that you’re not drunk.

But last time you said the same thing, and yet..."

As the words trailed off, both of them were startled. What suddenly unfolded before their minds was the passionate kiss shared that night, tinged with love.

Steven was staring at Amelia absentmindedly, resembling a porcelain doll with rosy cheeks. His heart was in disarray, and a vague, subtle sensation quietly surged within his chest.

"Mr. Lovett... Last time, I had too much to drink. I'm sorry!"

Amelia appeared helpless. Her eyes were filled with remorse and turned red.

If she were a bolder girl, she might have taken this opportunity to confess to Steven.

However, Amelia lacked confidence and was shy, just like her mother

Celeste. She could only keep this love hidden deep within her heart

Despite the fact that Steven was a kind and gentle man and that they had actually shared a kiss,

Steven belonged to Bella. Amelia did not want to get involved with her sister's man.

"Ms. Amelia..." Steven's voice was hoarse, and his Adam's apple rolled as he asked, "Was that... Your first kiss?"

“It’s okay, Mr. Lovett. I drank too much. You don’t have to overthink it.” Amelia responded with a forced smile.

“Was it really your first time?”

The immense guilt tugged at the core of his heart like a sharp pair of tweezers. He took a step back, bowing deeply to Amelia. “I’m sorry,

Ms. Amelia! It’s my fault! Please tell me, how can I make it up to you?”

Amelia’s throbbing heart suddenly seemed to freeze. As she watched the person she liked express only guilt and respect for her, bitterness flooded her entire body.

“Mr. Lovett, it’s okay. It really is.”

Amelia forced back the tears that were starting to well up in her eyes and took a deep breath.

She reached out to help him up. “If you truly want to me

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On the way back, Bella rested her head on Asher’s shoulder, feeling sleepy. In reality, she was curious about what Declan had said to Justin.

She decided against it after some consideration. Whatever was said. was most likely not pleasant.

Declan may seem gentle, but his words could be even sharper and more brutal than hers. She didn't want to hear what he said about Justin.

It was not out of pity for that jerk. Rather, it would be extremely disheartening to witness the person she

once loved with all her heart. getting belittled by the person closest to her.

"Are you asleep, Bella?" Asher suddenly asked in a gentle voice.

"No, Ash. Do you want to talk about something?" Bella blinked in surprise.

"Bella, have you noticed that Steven and Amelia are a little strange lately?" Asher asked with a faint

smile. "I might be mistaken, but I always get the impression that there is a subtle tension between

them."

"What do you mean by 'a subtle tension'?"

Bella's jaw almost dropped as she stared at her brother, her eyes wide. and watery. "Have you had too

much to drink, Ash? Are you joking?"

"I never make jokes about romantic relationships. Didn't you notice that their faces turned red and their

expressions turned strange wher

Steve supported Amelia? Especially Amelia, the way she looked Steve... How should I put it? It is exactly like how you used to look at Justin.”

Bella’s fair eyelids drooped as she was rendered speechless. “Ash, why are you dragging me into this with Amelia?”

Although Bella was complaining, in her heart, she was secretly thinking about Steven and Amelia’s relationship. When did this happen? How did she not notice anything?

“Steven is not young anymore. He’s already thirty years old. Since graduating from university, he has been working diligently as my secretary.” Asher continued, “Since I assigned him to assist you, he hasn’t uttered a single complaint. Year after year, he has worked tirelessly, rarely taking proper breaks.”

Asher put his arms around Bella’s shoulders, his tone sincere and earnest. “Bella, if he wishes to pursue a romantic relationship and experience a different life, I hope you can support Steve.”

“Wow! Steve is actually playing games behind my back! They say he looks like a cute puppy, but how come his character doesn’t match his appearance, huh?” Bella fiercely punched the car window with a delicate fist, gritting her teeth. “Men are all the same! He falls in love with Amelia right after confessing his deep feelings to me. I only have one younger sister! If he has any inappropriate thoughts about

Amelia, I swear, I will exile him to an African safari as a snack for the lions

“Did Steve confess to you?” Asher raised an intrigued eyebrow, slightly surprised.

“Yeah, but I rejected him.” Bella had always been unapologetic in front of her eldest brother and openly expressed her emotions. “It’s not that he’s not good enough. It’s just that I don’t have any romantic feelings for him. Besides, I’ve been through a divorce and have no intentions to date again. I’d rather not waste his time.”

Bella added, “But how could he suddenly develop an interest in Amelia? The seamless transition worries me a lot.”

“Steve is not that kind of person, Bella. As for your concerns about the seamless transition, maybe Steve has been around you for too long. You were both his first and unrequited love.”

“He has grown accustomed to treating you with care and kindness, so it’s possible that he unconsciously developed feelings for Amelia.

He might not even be aware of it himself,” Asher earnestly shared his thoughts.

“What? How is it possible not to know if you’ve fallen for someone?”

Bella frowned, her expression carrying a hint of skepticism.

“Emotions are the most intricate, tangled, and complex thing in this world,” Asher said, his deep eyes

narrowing thoughtfully. “For example, thirteen years later, Justin once again saved your life. When you

face him now, can you truly distinguish between love and hatred?

Can you guarantee that your feelings toward him are purely resentment and hatred, without a trace of

love?”

Bella felt a stab in her chest, her breath becoming heavier.

She recalled the eventful and dangerous night. Justin carried her over a long distance in the pouring

rain despite his heavy injuries.

To keep her warm in the dark and damp cave, he took off almost all his clothes to keep her warm. The

memories made her feel warm inside

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It felt as if someone poured scalding water onto her chest. Her cold, numb fingers clenched

uncomfortably into a tiny ball.

Bella thought, ‘Why? Why was Justin so kind to Bella but so incredibly cruel to the former Anna



Brown?"

"You know me well, Ash. I have always been someone who despises evil and values good, with clear lines between love and hatred. Perhaps what you said is correct. Emotions can be complex and difficult to define. But that is not how I am. I know exactly what I want. What about you?"

Bella gazed out the window quietly, her voice slightly choked and her eyes reddening. "No matter how complicated my feelings for Justin have become, there is no love left in it. I risked my life for a man, wasted my entire youth loving someone, and endured the pain of not receiving any reciprocation. Doing it once in this lifetime is enough for me."

Steven drove Amelia back to school. They were both lost in their own thoughts, remaining silent throughout the journey.

As the night grew darker, the back gate of the school became eerily quiet, and the Porsche came to a slow stop.

There was a surprising, unspoken understanding.

They sat side by side in the car, with no one making the move to get out.

The moon hung in the sky, casting a soft and gentle glow inside the car. The calm, subdued

atmosphere created a romantic mood.

“Thank you for sending me back, Mr. Lovett.” Amelia shyly broke the silence.

“Ms. Amelia, please don’t be so polite. Just call me Steven or Steve.”

Steven felt deeply guilty toward Amelia.

Due to their different statuses, he added a bit more distance to his words. “Even though I have watched

you and Ms. Bella grow up, I am. ultimately Ms. Bella’s secretary, a subordinate working for the

Thompson family. Mr. Asher and the others are your brothers. I am really not worthy of you.”

Amelia was usually perceptive and sensitive. She sensed Steven’s desire to keep some distance from

her.

For a brief moment, her heart ached, and she looked ahead with eyes. that seemed to hold the dew of

early morning, moist and watery.

“Steven, I... I will not cause you any more trouble in the future. Please don’t hate me, okay?” Amelia

stammered.

“You are exaggerating, Ms. Amelia. You have never caused me any trouble. It is me who does not want

to have any impact on your life," Steven sighed softly.

He leaned in slowly and assisted her in unbuckling the seatbelt. Their warm breaths filled the car, and the temperature inside gradually increased.

Steven avoided looking into her eyes. He kept his eyelids lowered and quickly straightened up. "It's quite late. Let me walk you in."

With that, he opened the door and stepped out of the car.

Amelia recalled his words and felt like a dark hole had been hollowed out in her chest. She was filled with a chilly sense of loss.

She knew they could not be together and that the kiss was an accident. How could an ordinary girl like her pique the interest of such a remarkable man as Steven? She must have been delusional.

The passenger door opened. Steven resumed his usual respectful demeanor, inviting Amelia out of the car.

Amelia tightly pressed her pale lips together and stepped out of the car.

"I can go in by myself. You don't have to accompany me."

Before she could finish her sentence, a roaring engine erupted from behind Amelia, frightening her.

She instinctively covered her ears and closed her eyes. She had developed a severe aversion to the sound of fast-moving cars as a result of a near-accident when she was a child.

Steven's face darkened when he saw her reaction. He opened his arms and embraced Amelia with lightning speed, quickly turning to shield her.

A silver top-of-the-line Ferrari Laferrari zoomed past them. The car generated a gust of wind that lifted Steven's suit, showing how fast it was going.

"It's okay now. Don't be afraid. I'm here." Steven gently consoled her.

He gave a gentle pat to the shivering Amelia. His eyes showed a mixture of deep dissatisfaction toward the owner of the speeding car and concern for Amelia.

The Ferrari came to a halt outside the school's back gate.

The passenger door opened, revealing a pair of seductive, tantalizingly long legs.

A woman with wavy ash-brown hair emerged from the car in a sexy short skirt, with exquisite and vibrant makeup.

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As soon as Amelia saw this woman, her pupils narrowed, and she began to tremble even more

obviously in Steven's arms. Her back was covered in a cold sweat.

The woman was called Mandy. She and Amelia were in the same department and school, but they had never gotten along. In fact, Amelia has been the target of her bullying. Amelia had been bullied, humiliated, and mistreated by Mandy on several occasions.

Steven recalled hearing Ms. Bella mention that Ms. Amelia was scared of fast-moving cars and had trouble crossing the street.

Back then, when Wyatt married Celeste, he had a large family, and most of his children were young.

Envious of the Thompson family's power but unable to touch Wyatt, some rivals turned their malice on his children.

At the time, they believed that Celeste was the least favored wife. Thus, her child, Amelia, must be the least favored too.

They intended to make the man who stole their business suffer to the brink of despair.

Thus, they sent someone to murder Amelia, who was just seven years old at the time.

In the end, Amelia escaped with minor injuries, and Wyatt exacted revenge, destroying the rival family.

Despite the fortunate outcome, the incident left a lingering shadow on Amelia's young heart.

Steven felt his breath becoming suffocated at this point in his thoughts. A surge of anger rose within him.

"Ms. Amelia! Are you okay?"

"I'm fine, absolutely fine." Amelia forced a smile, pretending to be calm. Her pale face and cold sweat on her forehead, however, revealed her fear.

At that moment, the seductive woman named Mandy cast a glance in their direction. She rolled her eyes at them and could not help but feel irritated and jealous when she saw Amelia being embraced by such a handsome man.

But when she saw that Steven only had a Porsche worth around \$1 million, her expression became tinged with disdain and contempt.

"Pft, what a poor bitch!"

Although her voice was not loud, Steven and Amelia both heard her.

Steven was so enraged that his eyes turned bright red for a brief moment. "Ms. Amelia, please wait for me. I'll be right back."

“Steven... Steven!” Amelia panicked, but it was too late. Steven had already approached the woman with a stern expression.

“Who were you talking about earlier?”

“Did I say something? Perhaps you misheard me” Mandy’s tone softened but remained arrogant as she looked at the handsome man in front of her

Steven clenched his fist and gritted his teeth. He knew she was insulting Amelia, but she refused to acknowledge it, and he could not hit a woman. It was extremely frustrating.

“Thank you for driving me home, Mr. Iverson. I will be waiting for you the next time you invite me out.”

With a fake sweetness in her voice,

Mandy blew a kiss toward the closed car window. Mr. Iverson?

Steven furrowed his brows. There was no movement visible through the dark window, and the engine was roaring at that moment, almost like it was shouting.

Fueled by his anger for Amelia, Steven knocked on the car window.

“Your car almost hit my sister just now. Do you plan to just leave like this?”

Amelia's heart tightened, and she bit her lower lip in concern. She did not want Steven to stand up for her, and she certainly did not want to get into a fight with Mandy.

However, there was no response seen from the car window.

"Hey! What is wrong with you? The road's very wide. We were driving normally. When did Mr. Iverson's car hit yours?" Mandy mocked him with a cold smile as she crossed her arms.

She continued, "Hmph, are you trying to pull a scam? You seem like a decent young man. How can you do something so heinous?"

Steven's brow furrowed, and he was about to speak when the car window rolled down halfway.

Chapter 549

Splat!

A stack of cash was thrown out of the car, hitting Steven like a pile of waste paper.

Steven felt a wave of humiliation wash over him.

"You!" Steven glared at the person inside the Ferrari, but in the next was don instant, the car racing into the night.

Amelia's brow furrowed, and her body trembled with rage as she witnessed his humiliation.



“That’s a reward from Mr. Iverson. Just accept it,” Mandy said.

Mandy dropped her act after seeing Mr. Iverson leave. Despite Amelia being around, she leaned in toward Steven, reaching out to touch the hem of his clothes. “Young man, you look dashing and sophisticated. Why would you associate yourself with such a woman with a bad reputation and low status? You’re just lowering your standards. How about...”

Unexpectedly, at this moment, Steven’s expression darkened, and he abruptly stepped back.

Mandy, who had been leaning toward him, missed and embarrassingly fell. Wearing sky high heels, she lost her balance and fell onto her knees with a thud.

Amelia couldn’t help but cover her mouth, almost bursting into laughter.

Mandy grated out, “It hurts so much. Damn it!”

She wens wearing a short skirt that revealed her thighs in the weather. She thought her kneecaps were going to break when in this manner. She could barely stand because of the excruciatn pain sie wes sin.

Thus, she tearaufivly sought help from Steven and said, “Can you help. me up? I can’t stand up. It hurts so much.”

“Can’t stand up Releh, thought you were about to apologize to my sister when you kneels d down,”

Steven smirked, showing a proud and mocking smile. It doesn't matter. I'll consider it your way of apologizing to my sister."

Mandy was enraged and fumed in her heart. How dare he speak to her in this manner? Ever since she dared to mock her! She's dead meat!

"Let's go." Steven returned to Amelia's side.

He wrapped his arm around her shoulders and walked toward the school gate. As they walked away, she could not help but blurt out, "The world is a treacherous place, and people's hearts are unpredictable. Even at school, you are not completely safe. Keep your distance from cheap, haughty, and dishonest women. It's for your own good"

"Okay, got it" Amelia gazed admiringly at Steven's eyes twinkling brightly

At this time, Steven also stood up for her. Tonight, she would be so happy that she couldn't sleep

Steven was worried about Amelia. So, he walked her to the dormitory building before heading back.

Amelia pressed her hands against the glass door, watching Steven's upright figure leave.

They looked like a couple parting ways after a date.

Her delicate cheeks were flushed, and she looked at him with reluctance in her eyes. ‘Steven, when am I going to see you again?’

Amelia only sighed wistfully when he was completely out of sight, her heart heavy with reluctance.

She turned around and strolled back toward the dorm.

“Amelia! You shameless, wretched bitch!”

Amelia’s heart pounded when she heard Mandy hurling vile curses at her from behind.

At first, she was a little afraid.

Chapter 550

During her four years studying at the Savrow Film Academy, An has been harassed by Mandy and her posse.

A naturally soft-hearted person, Amelia thought it was better to graduate peacefully. Thus, she silently endured it all and let bygones be bygones.

But when she recalled how Mr. Iverson humiliated Steven, or Mandy’s improper intentions toward the man she liked, all her fears disappeared in an instant.

Instead, there was only anger on the verge of bursting out of her chest!

Amelia's eyes turned cold as she paid no attention to Mandy, who was walking straight ahead.

"You bitch! Amelia, you better stop right there!" Mandy saw that she kept walking forward and could only call her name directly.

Amelia halted her steps and turned around slowly.

Seeing Mandy panting and hobbling toward her with bloodied and swollen knees, Amelia couldn't help but curl her lips, a hint of a smile. still lingering.

"Who are you calling a bitch?"

"You've got some nerve to ask that! Of course, it's you!" Mandy couldn't care less about the pain. Her priority was to settle the score. with Amelia and vent her grievances

"Oh, I thought you were introducing yourself." Amelia sarcastically remarked, maintaining her expression.

Mandy was accustomed to a docile, meek Amelia acting do was taken aback when Amelia unexpectedly talked back.

"Also, before you label others as a bitch, take a good look at yourself," Amelia continued resolutely, her words piercing through. "The person you accompanied was Mr. Iverson from the Iverson Group, right?"

Everyone in Savrow knows that Mr. Iverson is married! His wife is a beautiful young lady from a wealthy family. From your background to your appearance and even your character, how can you compare to Mrs. Iverson? I really don't understand what he sees in you. A sophisticated man like Mr. Iverson shouldn't have such poor taste."

Feeling embarrassed, Mandy shouted back, "You know nothing! I am beautiful, young, and charming. It's only natural for Mr. Iverson to fall in love with me!"

Amelia sneered. "Consider this. If you're used to savoring delicacies, occasionally indulging in junk food can be satisfying. You're just providing temporary, cheap gratification."

"Junk food... Who are you calling junk?!" Mandy's face turned red with anger

"You still have the nerve to ask? Of course, it's you." Amelia countered directly, echoing Mandy's own words.

Mandy didn't expect Amelia to be so sharp-tongued. Seeing that she couldn't win against Amelia, she raised her hand and slapped Amelia across the face!

A burning sensation spread through Amelia's entire body, her left cheek immediately swollen.

This wasn't the first time Mandy had slapped Amelia. Mandy take advantage of rehearsals for semester productions or drama performances to slap her.

Mandy even went as far as bribing her instructors and class monitor to assign Amelia the role of being harassed by men.

It was all to satisfy Mandy's dirty and ugly dark psyche!

"Bitch, don't think I won't dare do anything just because you're hanging out with a rich trust fund baby driving a lousy Porsche!" Mandy revealed a triumphant and malicious smile.

"Do you really believe that handsome guy can support you? He's just talking nonsense! In the entertainment industry, what matters is your capital, background, and backers! As you saw for yourself tonight, my boyfriend is Mr. Iverson. When I enter the entertainment industry, I'll have plenty of resources. If you dare to mess with me, I'll have Mr. Iverson blacklist you, making it impossible for you to survive in Savrow!"

Amelia listened expressionlessly, finding Mandy's threats ridiculous. Ketert, her family and the Iversons were old acquaintances. Uncle ance had taken care of her ever since she was young. on, really? Then I hope you get what you want as soon as possible. daho 8 and try to have me blacklisted. That is, if Mr.

Iverson still acknowledges you

Yo Mandy sonthod with anger

Amelia's eyes remained calm. Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly stopped and said,

"Oh, by the way, here's something for you."

Before Mandy could react, there was a crisp sound of a resounding slap across her face.

Amelia's slap was even more forceful and ruthless than the one she received a moment ago.

"You! How dare you lay your hands on me?" Mandy covered her face. in disbelief. She hadn't expected

the seemingly timid girl to fight back.

"I'll beat you if I want to. Do I need to choose a specific day?" Amelia raised her chin coldly and

arrogantly

The cold light that flashed in Amelia's beautiful eyes was so noble. and sharp that it sent a shiver down

Mandy's spine.

"This slap is to tell you that I am not one to be messed with. I didn't. retaliate before, not because I

couldn't, but because I did not care to!"

Amelia continued, "Also, the handsome guy with the Porsche is the man I love. If you dare to have any ideas about him again, I won't let you go, even if I have to risk my life!"