## Heiress 781

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Justin's blood boiled with anger as he shot back, "Do you ho think I give a damn?"

"Who cares whether you do or don't? Just stay out of my business, and I'll stay out of yours. I'm done

here."

Bella just wanted to leave this room as quickly as possible, because being alone with Justin made her

feel suffocated. She had only intended to stir up trouble for Shannon tonight, not get caught up in

an argument with this jerk.

She was a sensitive person, easily moved by memories. But when she

looked back on their three years of marriage, there were only bitter

memories.

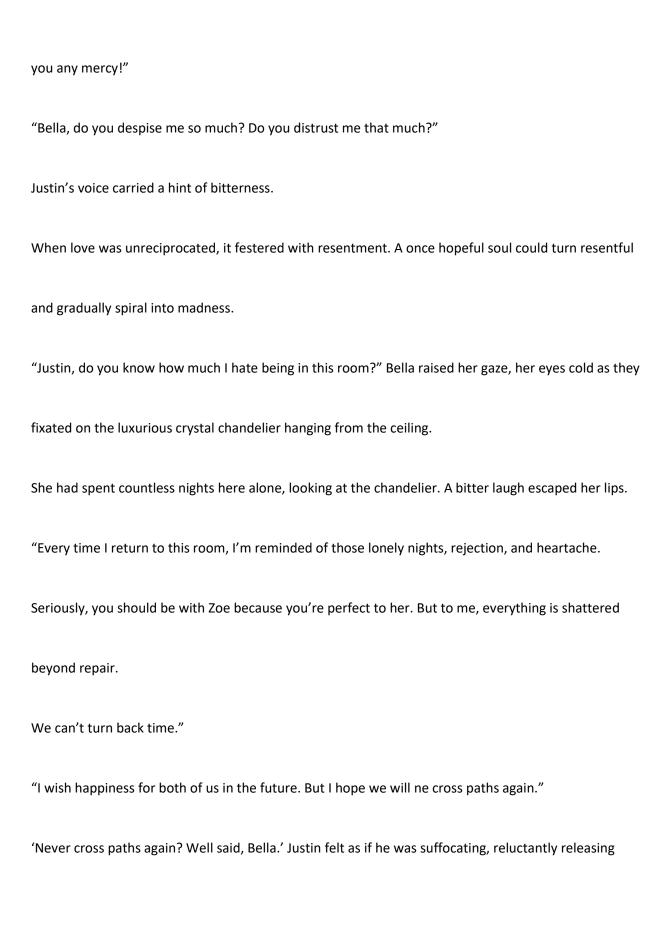
What's worse? This room was where she lost her virginity to Justin. But even until now, he remained

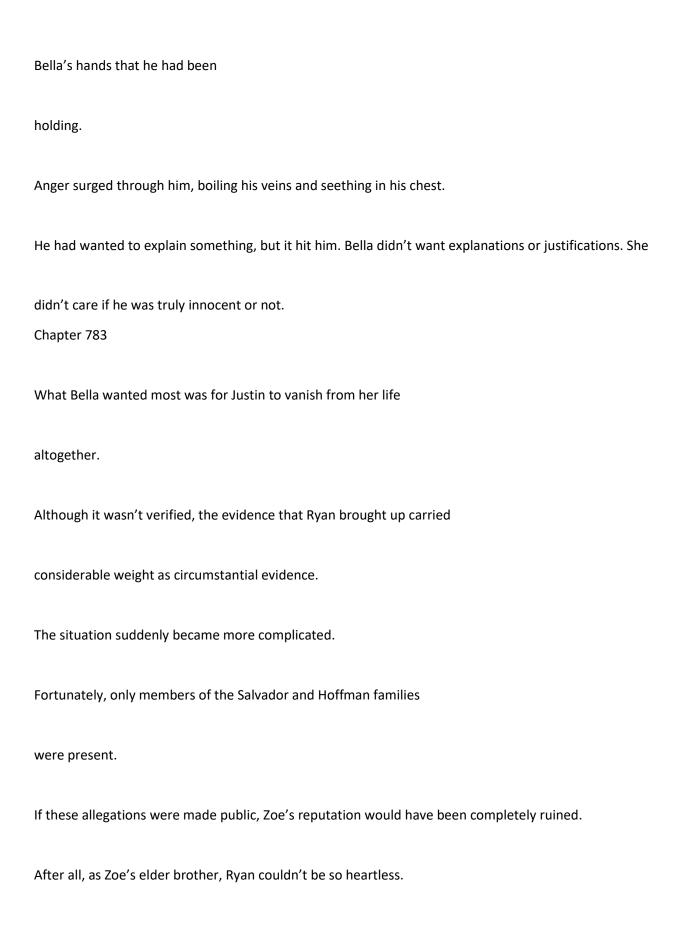
oblivious to their shared intimacy

Some memories only brought pain, so Bella decided it was best to forget about them.

Bella got up and walked past Justin, completely ignoring him. But as she brushed past him, Justin







Since they couldn't reach an agreement and Ryan was unwilling to budge, Logan had no choice but to
leave and investigate further at
home.
Logan stood up, leaning on his cane for support, and said, "Ryan, Zoe! Both of you, come with me!"
"Leaving already, Old Master Logan? Did you finalize your granddaughter's marriage?"
clear voice echoed through the room as Bella descended the stairs with a smile. She moved with such
grace and confidence, almost as if
she owned this manor.
Her presence seemed to even overshadow Shannon, who was the actual lady of the house.
Shannon's expression turned sour once more.
"Well, I'm sure you must have plenty to catch up on with Mr. Salvador. We won't disturb you any longer,
Ms. Thompson," Logan said, clearly displeased. Bella's unexpected appearance had disrupted their
plans.
Bella said with a smile, "Oh, Mr. Logan, don't get the wrong idea. I have nothing to talk about with Mr.
Salvador. He was just throwing a fit. After all, he has never talked to me during our 3 years of marriage.

Despite being married to him for 3 years, I never quite understood what was going on in his mind." Hearing Bella openly admit her past identity as Justin's ex-wife, Logan was stunned and speechless. Having just entered the room, Justin overheard her words, and his face darkened with frustration. 'Damn it, why does it seem like I can never do anything right in her eyes?' "Mrs. Salvador, shall we have a chat?" Bella's tone was cold as she looked at Shannon. "Sorry, Ms. Thompson, it's late and I need to rest. I don't have time to chat with you. Let's discuss this another day." Shannon was hesitant, as she was aware of Bella's intentions. "You may not have time, but I do. I have plenty of free time." Bella raised her eyebrows, smiling

confidently as she approached everyone. "The night is young, and we can discuss our matters

slowly. I'll keep you company until dawn."

Shannon's expression darkened, her attitude becoming firm. "I'm old and can't keep up with you.

Please leave!"

Justin and Ryan both changed their expressions, their fists clenc When it came to Bella being mistreated, they were united in their stance. They could discuss anything, but seeing her bullied was absolutely unacceptable.

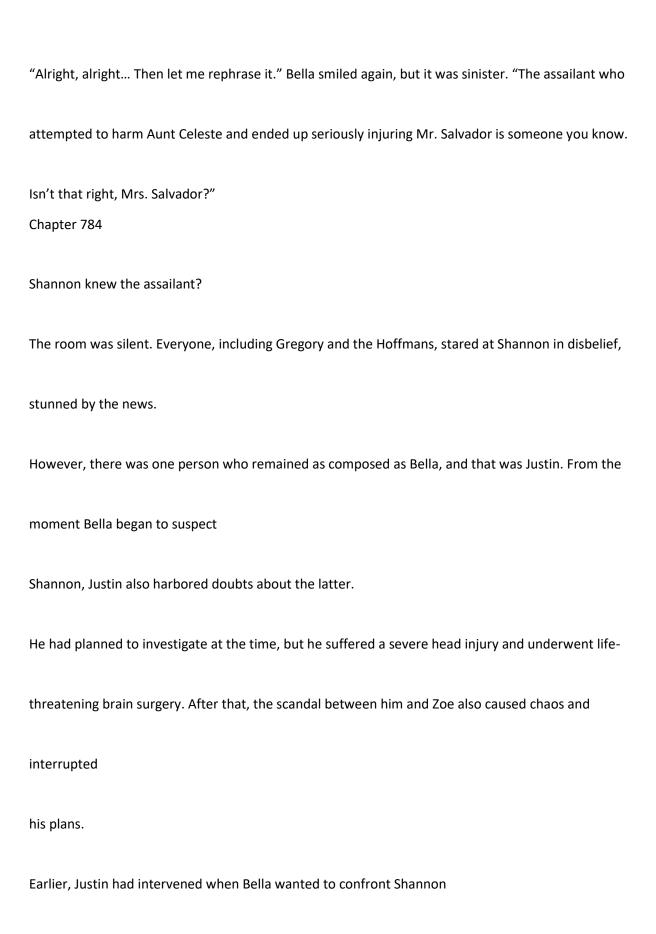
"I wanted to talk with you privately. After all, family matters should stay within the family. But since you're being unreasonable, don't blame me if I speak my mind." Bella's smile faded, replaced with a chilling glare in her eyes. "At the last birthday banquet, when Aunt Celeste was attacked by the assailant and Mr. Salvador was seriously injured, you must have had something to do with it, right?"

The Hoffmans, who were about to leave, paused at Bella's words,

Everyone was stunned, their gaze involuntarily turning to Shannon.

attention piqued.

"Ms. Thompson, you were once my daughter-in-law. I know you don't like me, but do you have to be so cruel?" Shannon's heart raced. Her palms were covered in sweat, but she forced herself to stay calm.



alone. He pulled her upstairs, wanting to stop her from stirring trouble. If Shannon dared to attack Madam Celeste in public, she was certainly capable of hurting Bella too! He didn't want to get Bella's hands dirty. He wanted to help her seek justice, even if it meant that he had to do the dirty work. Justin had to admit that he was angry and frustrated at Bella's lack of trust in him. But despite all that, he couldn't deny that he loved her with all his heart. He was willing to go to the extremes for this love. He no longer cared for the consequences and only craved for her to be the center of his universe. Gregory asked anxiously, "Shannon, is Ms. Thompson saying the truth? Do you know the assailant?" "Greg, are you seriously doubting me too? Ms. Thompson shows up out of nowhere and interrogates me. Are you going to join her to Shannon widened her eyes and clutched her chest. Her eyes were filled with sorrow and grievance. Her reaction seemed overly dramatic, as if straight out of a soap opera.

Meanwhile, Bethany, who had just sobered up after a night of drinking in her room, stumbled out of the
room. She had overheard every word her father had asked Shannon, and she was shocked.
'What's happening? With a few questions from Bella, why is Dad suddenly suspicious of Mom?"
In her memory, Gregory had always been protective of Shannon. Even when Shannon argued with
Nigel, Gregory had always stood by her side, ready to defend her at all times.
"Don't overthink it. I didn't mean to doubt you," Gregory said, frowning
and clenching his fist tightly.

"Of course not! How could I possibly know someone like that?" Shannon's temples glistened with sweat. She looked at Bella with resentment. "Bella, I know you hold a grudge against me, and we've had our disagreements before. But I've moved on! Now that your family is in trouble, you're coming after me? I'm not some scapegoat for your family's problems. Why should you come to me for answers?

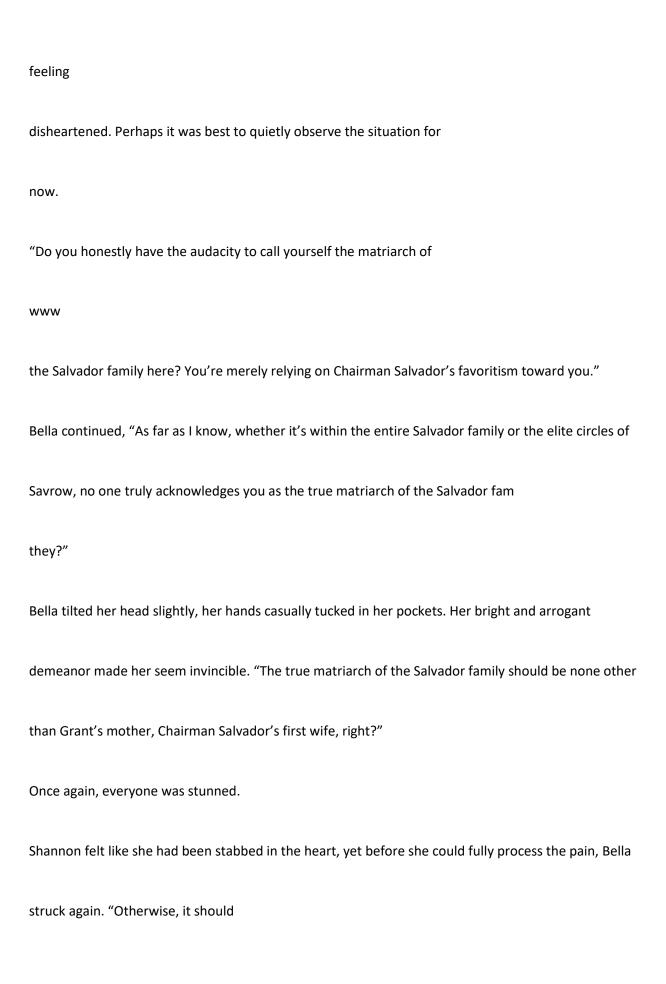
Do you think I'm an easy target?"

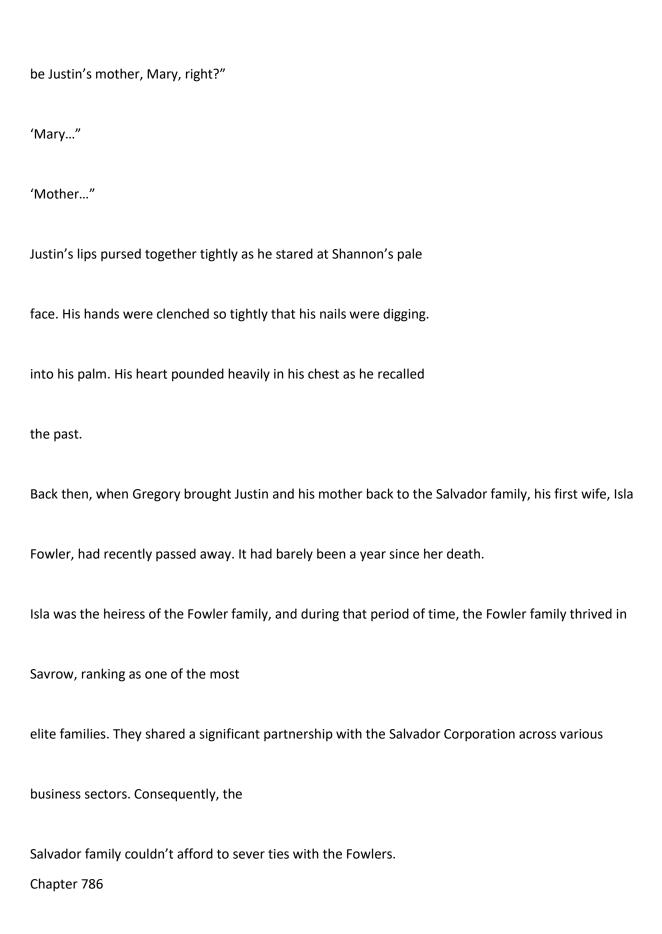
Bella smiled casually and said, "Mrs. Salvador, are you feeling guilty? I

only asked if you knew him, nothing more. Why are you getting so



baseless accusations and lies here!"
Justin couldn't stay silent any longer. His once calm eyes now burned with anger. But before he could
speak, Bella interrupted him with a
scornful smile.
"You? The matriarch of the Salvador family? Would Grandpa Nigel
even acknowledge you as that?"
Everyone was shocked upon hearing that. To challenge Shannon so brazenly, Bella truly lived up to her
reputation as the bold young
heiress of KS Group!
Bethany watched Shannon's face flush with embarrassment before turning pale, unable to maintain her
poise. It was like a blatant slap in
Shannon's face.
She had considered stepping up to defend her mother, but she knew Ryan and Justin would
unconditionally side with Bella. What troubled her most was her father, Gregory. His silence left her





When Isla's father and brothers learned of Gregory's plans to another woman, especially one of lower status, with a five-year- son in tow, they were enraged.

They withdrew investments worth billions of dollars and ended cooperation on three projects. The rift between the two families caused the Salvador Corporation's stocks to plummet by several billion dollars overnight.

Later, it was Nigel who intervened. He personally visited the Fowler family to negotiate. While the Salvador Cooperation was saved, it came with certain conditions.

The condition was that Gregory could not remarry for three years. The woman in question could only live in the Salvador household as a servant, and her son would never be acknowledged as a legitimate member of the Salvador family.

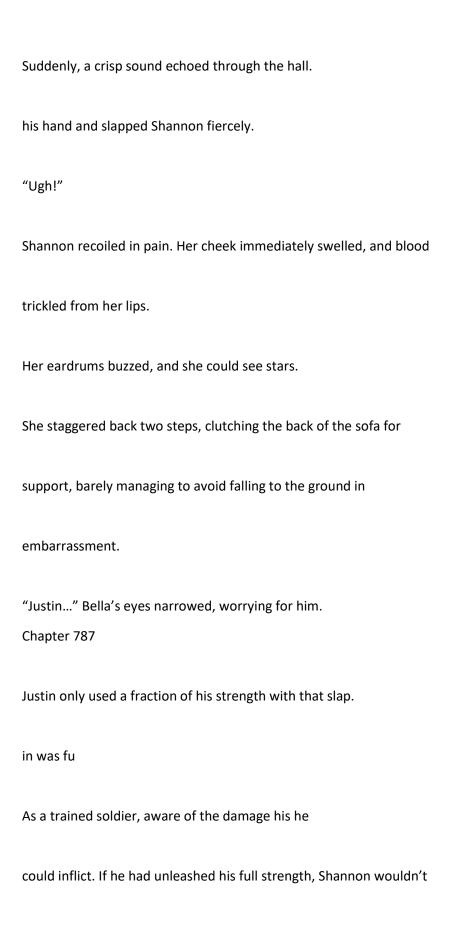
However, Grandpa Nigel promptly rejected the last condition. He argued that even if Gregory's child was illegitimate, it was not for the Fowler family to meddle with. His son's infidelity in marriage, which had hurt two women, was the responsibility of the adults involved,

and the child was innocent.

As a result, Justin's mother was never officially acknowledged by the Salvador family. Without any
legitimate status, Justin grew up enduring rumors and living in extreme humiliation.
Two years later, Gregory brazenly brought back Shannon, who was
pregnant with Bethany.
Mary, with her gentle, kind, and tolerant nature, couldn't compete w Shannon's cunning schemes. In
the end, the cruel battle for status took a tragic turn, as Mary succumbed to depression and ended her
own life by jumping off a building.
The year of Justin's mother's death coincided with the end of the three-year agreement set by the
Fowler family.
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Gregory's support. She successfully took Mary's rightful position and became Gregory's second wife.
–"Justin, don't be sad anymore. Your mother's passing is affecting
all of us too."
-"From now on, I am your mother, and Bethany will be your sister."
-"Sigh, your mother was truly a good person. It's a pity that she was just a bit unlucky compared to me.

I hope she's not suffering from her illness in the afterlife. I'm sure she wouldn't blame me for taking her
place, right? She was so kind. She definitely wouldn't blame
me."
Justin could never forget the thinly veiled derision in Shannon's words at his mother's funeral.
Even though he was young at the time, he could still sense the insincerity behind Shannon's friendly
smile.
In the blink of an eye, more than 20 years had passed. It seemed that he was the only one in the entire
Salvador family who had not forgotten about his mother.
Suddenly hearing his mother's name coming from Bella's lips, Justin felt a desire to cry, his eyes
reddened inexplicably.
"Mary" Gregory looked dazed as he murmured the name of
his old lover.
Flashbacks of the memories emerged from the depths of Gregory's mind. They were of Mary's bright,
beautiful face, filled with affect and tenderness. The deepest part of his heart throbbed with pair

When Shannon, who was standing close to Gregory, heard him repeatedly say the name of her long-
forgotten love rival, she was furious. Her eyes reddened as she unleashed her rage directly at Bella.
"Mary? That slut was just Greg's former mistress! Even after joining this family, she was nothing more
than a servant. What right does she have to be the matriarch of the Salvador family? The matriarch of
the Salvador family is me! She's nothing compared to me!"
"Shannon! That's enough!" Emotions that Gregory thought were long gone stirred within him. He roared
angrily at her, completely forgetting there were others present. "Mary was not just a mistress, let alone
a servant. Besides, she's no longer here. You have no right to say that about her!"
"Why don't I have the right?"
Shannon's eyes widened. Her anger got the best of her. "Am I not speaking the truth? She was just a
lowly mistress unfit for society!"
Before she could finish her sentence, she suddenly felt a chilling sensation enveloping her body.
Taken aback, Shannon raised her eyes, only to find Justin standing
before her.
"You"



,
have ended up with a swollen cheek. Instead, she might have been knocked out cold right then and
there.
Yet he refrained, not wanting to give her a chance to leave, as there was still an issue between Bella
and Shannon that needed to be
settled.
Everyone in the house was in a state of panic. They just witnessed Justin slapping Shannon, yet no
one dared to intervene.
If even Gregory couldn't control Justin, who else could control him in
this household?
"Ahh!" Bethany gasped. Her hand immediately covered her mouth in fear. Tremors coursed through her
body uncontrollably. Seeing her mother being slapped, she didn't even dare to step forward and stop
Justin.
Even the people from the Hoffman family were dumbfounded.

Although Shannon's words were out of line, it was unthinkable that Justin would dare to slap her in front of so many people. After all, Shannon was still Gregory's wife and his stepmother.

It was utterly audacious! This slap not only struck Shannon's face but

insulted his father's dignity.

Only Ryan looked at Justin with fervent eyes. He took a deep breath and smiled, feeling a rush of indescribable emotion flood his heart. He knew that Justin had been suppressing his emotions for too long. As his only best friend, no one understood better tha struggles Justin had endured within this family over the years.

"Greg, Greg... I can't hear... My ears... I can't hear anything!" Shannon's cry was frantic as she covered her eyes.

She rushed over to Gregory's side and clung to him tightly. Her lips were bleeding, her meticulously styled hair was now in disarray, and her eye makeup was smudged from tears.

Her carefully crafted image over the years was completely shattered. I'm deaf... Your son made me deaf! Aren't you going to do something about him?! How dare he hit me?!"

Bella thought, 'Damn, that must have felt so satisfying!"

Bella could clearly see blood seeping from between Shannon's fingers. Her beautiful eyes widened as
she looked at Justin's cold expression. She could tell that Shannon's eardrum must have ruptured.
Gregory looked at Shannon with mixed emotions. He still felt a lingering, dull ache in his heart, but he
knew clearly that it wasn't for her. But rather, it belonged to the woman he had long buried within the
deepest depths of his heart.
"Justin, are you out of your mind? How could you lay hands on an elder?" Gregory felt compelled to
intervene.
Justin's smirk was cold, his lips forming a chilling smile. "Elder? What
kind of elder is she? Looking at the whole Salvador family, I only
consider Grandpa, you, and Wilma as my elders. She has no place among the people I respect."
"Young Master Justin" Wilma smiled, feeling grateful and
that she was mentioned.
Shannon's face swelled like a balloon, and the taste of blood lingered
on her tongue.

Shannon thought, 'Is he implying that even a mere old maid like Wilma held a higher status than me?
This is unacceptable! This
bastard!'
"I've addressed you as Aunt Shannon out of respect for your age and for being with my dad for nearly
30 years. Elder? Do you really think you deserve that?" Justin's cold laughter sent shivers down
Shannon's spine.
The Hoffmans watched eagerly. They couldn't miss this exciting
drama unfolding.
Justin's eyes turned dark and chilling. "My mother is where I draw the line. Anyone who dares to cross
it shouldn't expect me to show them any respect. I might even take their life."
As he spoke, he cast a subtle glance in Bella's direction. Chapter 788
Unspoken words echoed in Justin's mind. 'You're my bottom lin Bella. But I wonder Do I hold the
same significance in your hear Bella? Or am I perhaps even less important than Christopher?"
Thinking of this, Justin felt an unbearable mix of reluctance, anger, and sorrow flooding his heart. With

a heavy heart, he tore his gaze away from Bella's beautiful face, unable to bear looking at her any longer. As if they shared a telepathic connection, Bella discreetly stole a glance at him at the very moment. Seeing him staring ahead with a cold expression, her heart skipped a beat for no reason. Shannon trembled uncontrollably, her heart pounding in her chest, making it difficult to breathe. It was evident that Gregory couldn't control Justin anymore, and his. support for Shannon was dwindling. Shannon thought, 'If this bastard were to find out that I played a hand in worsening his mother's depression, what would happen to me?' Shannon's mind raced back to the time when she bribed the maids around Mary, all except Wilma. They had tampered with Mary's medication for depression, substituting it with drugs that stimulated the central nervous system. Over time, not only would it accelerate the physical manifestations of depression, but it would also

induce feelings of oppression, difficulty breathing, and even hallucinations.

In the final few months of Mary's life, Mary was tormented physically and mentally before she ended her own life. Shannon thought, 'This secret must never see the light of d day it is exposed will be the end of me!' "Greg, are you really going to stand by and watch me get beaten? I'm your wife..." Shannon's grip on Gregory's clothes tightened as tears streamed down her cheeks. When the tough approach didn't work, one had to resort to softer strategies, like playing the victim. Shannon knew Gregory was particularly vulnerable to this approach. Gregory's breath grew heavier as he stiffly supported Shannon's arms. "Go back to your room and freshen up. I'll have Bethany and the secretary take you to the hospital." "No." Justin's lips parted coldly. Gregory's brow furrowed. "What do you want, Justin?" Justin stared intimidatingly. "It's just a slap. She won't die. But Shannon and Ms. Thompson must settle the issue between them





Claire remained silent.	
Ryan scratched his head, embarrassed. "Well She wasn't interested	
in me."	
"She didn't even like you? Is she trying to marry the King himself?"	
Logan was quite annoyed. But then again, considering Bella's ex- husband was Justin, Ryan's rejection	
didn't seem so humiliating after	
all.	
"That thug, Harry Young, used to work at TS Gem Channel thirty years ago. Not only did he collaborate	
with you in several dramas, but he also served as your assistant for quite a long time. Your relationship	ı
with him is far from ordinary. Celeste and many well-known directors from the TS Channel are familiar	
with Harry too. Yet you claim not to know him. Are you sure you don't have early-stage dementia?"	
Bella's	
gaze turned cold as she shook her head at Shannon.	
She couldn't help but wonder how Shannon had managed to climb her way from the lowest position to	)

her current position as the chairman's wife with such a low level of intelligence. It could only be said
that Gregory was even blinder than his son.
Shannon remained stubborn in her denial. "I don't know anyone called Harry! Just because they know
me, does that mean I have to know
them?"
"Madam Shannon, you seem to be very forgetful. Let me help you remember a few things." Bella
descended the stairs gracefully and confidently approached the Salvador couple.
Like magic, Shannon's eyes caught a flicker of silver. Bella held out a platinum pendant shaped like a
lily, dangling it enticingly before
Shannon.
At the sight of the necklace, Shannon's heart raced, her lips trembling 'Why Why is it in Bella's
hands?'
Gregory furrowed his brow, sensing Shannon trembling intensely in his arms. Despite her efforts to
control herself, it was still very
obvious.

Shannon's gaze darted around nervously. "What's this nonsense? Why are you showing me that?"
"Shannon, that's your necklace," Gregory said, his tone heavy with concern. "I remember you used to
wear it all the time when we first met. You told me it was the only family heirloom your mother left
behind, and you cherished it dearly. But one day, I noticed you stopped wearing it, and when I asked
you said you accidentally lost it while filming. You were upset about it for a long time. I remember
this lily-shaped pendant.

A deafening buzz filled Shannon's ears as the truth dawned on her. She remembered now. She had indeed told Gregory this. To put it accurately, she had lied.

Shannon's entire identity was built on a foundation of deception. In her relentless pursuit of wealth and to win Gregory's heart, she had told him countless lies and fabricated stories.

With time, the lies had piled up, and now she could no longer

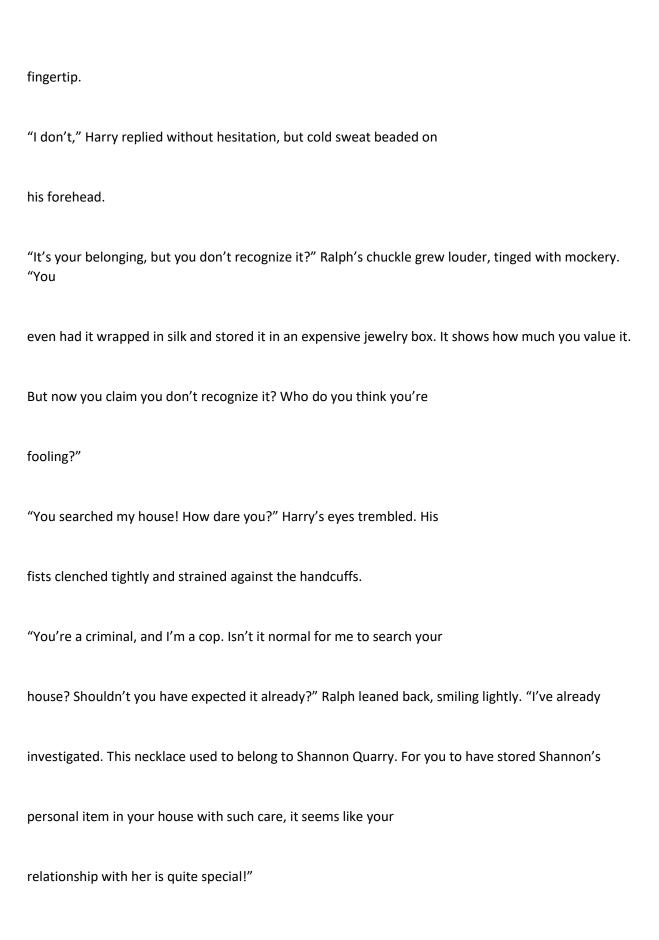
remember all of them.

"So this necklace was your mother's heirloom, Madam Shannon. Oh my, that must be very important to you," Bella remarked, her eyes glittering with cold light as she observed the swaying pendant.

Bella continued, "How could such an important possession end up in the hands of that thug? It was
placed in an exquisite jewelry box, so it seemed this necklace held significant value for Mr. Young as
well."
Chapter 790
Back at the police station, Harry Young endured relentless interrogation for three consecutive days and
nights. Glaring lights hung directly above his head, denying him any opportunity for sleep.
Despite the immense torment inflicted upon his mind and body, Harry withstood all the pressure.
Whenever he was close to giving in, he would think of Shannon and his daughter, whom he never got
to meet. He vowed to endure even if the sky were to collapse.
Suddenly, the door of the interrogation room swung open, and Ralph swaggered in with an indifferent
expression, casually flexing his
muscles.
In front of suspects and criminals, Ralph was no longer the noble seventh young master of the
Thompson family. He exuded such a fierce and intimidating vibe that even the toughest street thugs

would

address him with respect. "Hey, still hanging in there?" Ralph yawned, dragging a steel chair and seating himself across from Harry. "Leo, make Mr. Young a cup of coffee to keep him awake. We've got a long night ahead of us." "Yes, Captain Thompson." Harry gritted his teeth, sneering. "Captain Thompson, aren't you tired of interrogating me every day?" Ralph grinned mischievously. "Not at all. I'm young, and my body can handle it." "I've told you everything I should have over the past two days. Even if you ask me a thousand times, my answer will remain the same." Ralph's smile turned cold as he placed a photo in front of Harry. "I'm tired of the old questions. It's time for something new." Harry lowered his gaze and saw the platinum lily-shaped pendant in the photo. Despite his efforts to maintain a poker face, he leaned forward involuntarily, his facial muscles twitching with fear. "Do you recognize this necklace?" Ralph stared at him unwaveringly, tapping the table with his



Harry's face turned pale, and he gritted his teeth as he spoke. "I stole

1. So what?"