

Heiress 797

Chapter 797

Bella didn't bother to greet or approach Christopher.

In the light, Bella could clearly see Christopher slowly lowering his body, burying most of his delicate face in his arms, leaving only a pair of beautiful yet lonely eyes exposed. It was the same pitiful, lonely look from fifteen years ago when she saw him being forced to stand

in the rain by Chairman Iverson.

"Yikes. When did he get here? Did he teleport here? There was no sound at all." Ralph shuddered involuntarily, feeling a chill run down

his spine.

Asher looked in Christopher's direction, then glanced meaningfully at Bella's complex expression. "Did he follow you to the Salvadors'

manor?"

"Yeah."

Just then, the sports car started again. It turned around and drove off

in the opposite direction, quickly disappearing into the night.

"What? Did he just leave like that?"

Ralph frowned. "Bella, all the guys chasing after you are either

scumbags or stalkers. As your brothers, how can we not worry about

your safety when you're out there alone?"

"Let's focus on the matter at hand."

Bella no longer dwelled on Christopher. She directly changed the

subject, frowning. "Ralph, how's the investigation going with Harry? Is

he still unwilling to talk?"

Ralph sighed in frustration. "It's going to take longer than expected. That guy is way more loyal than we imagined. He's completely

devoted to Shannon. If you didn't know better, you'd think they were a

married couple."

"Actually, I've thought about it. If he's willing to kill for Shannon, getting him to spill the beans won't be easy."

Bella crossed her arms, her gaze gloomy. "This time, I want you to interrogate him as I instructed and break down that man's willpower. Once he's vulnerable, we will strike and destroy his feelings for

Shannon."

"Bella, tell me what to do next. We're with you all the way!" Ralph was already eager and determined to make that despicable scoundrel pay

the price.

“Just getting Harry to testify against Shannon isn’t enough.” Bella

clenched her fists tightly, her eyes blazing with anger. “For all the pain. Aunt Celeste endured because of her, I want Shannon to pay back a

hundredfold!”

“Bella, Ralph, I think we should continue digging deeper into the relationship between Harry and Shannon,” Asher suggested calmly,

his gaze sharp.

“Shannon asking Harry to target Aunt Celeste was probably an impulsive decision. The fact that a single phone call from Shannon was all it took for that man to do her bidding wholeheartedly without

any hesitation suggests that they’ve been in contact all these years.

Who knows? There might be plenty of shady dealings going on behind

the scenes. Perhaps he’s been doing her dirty work for years.”

Ralph sneered. “Yeah, maybe they’ve got a whole other family hidden away, with Gregory unbeknownst to it.”

Bella laughed it off, but her mind wandered involuntarily.

If that were really the case, things would be much simpler. This would be earth-shattering evidence. It would be enough to keep Shannon

down for the rest of her life!

However, Shannon's arrogance and obsession with her status as Mrs. Salvador made Bella wonder if she would really lower herself to have

an affair with someone beneath her social level.

Steven clenched his teeth with anger. "Hmph! If they are really having an affair, I hope Bethany is their illegitimate daughter. Then this scheming mother-and-daughter duo can pack up and leave the Salvador family. It'd be justice for you, Ms. Bella!"

Bella pondered for a moment, then asked softly, "Ash, has Drew been

in touch lately? When is Dr. Arnold Larson coming to Savrow?"

"Drew called me and said he's still sorting things out with Dr. Larson.

He'll bring him to you as soon as possible." Asher reassured her,

patting her shoulder gently. "Don't worry, your big brother is here.

Whatever you want, I'll make it happen. I will do everything in my

power to help you."

"I'm here for you too, Bella!" Ralph chimed in eagerly with his arms raised, his eyes sparkling with determination.

“Me as well, Ms. Bella,” Steven added with a warm smile.

Chapter 798

Bella was deeply touched, leaning gently against Asher’s shoulder. She immediately felt all the accumulated fatigue in her body melt

away.

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After a night of turmoil, Ryan made his way back to the other home with Carrie, a troubled expression hanging on his face.

It was snowing on his way home. By the time the luxury car pulled up to the entrance, Yasmin had been standing there with a large black umbrella, waiting for him for a long time.

“Mr. Hoffman, you’re back.”

Seeing Ryan getting out of the car, Yasmin hurriedly bowed before covering him with the black umbrella, leaving herself exposed to the

snow.

“Is Carrie asleep?” Ryan asked eagerly.

“Ms. Salvador has been waiting for you to come home. I’ve advised

her several times to go to bed, but she refused.” Yasmin replied with a helpless yet affectionate smile.

“Don’t blame her. She’s just worried about you.”

A warmth flooded Ryan's heart, prompting him to quickly enter the

villa.

Concerned that his cold body from the snow outside might affect

Carrie, he changed into the pajamas Yasmin had prepared for him

downstairs before ascending the stairs, intending to surprise his

beloved girlfriend.

Ryan gently pushed open the door and noticed that the bedside lamp in the bedroom was still turned on and an open book was lying on the bed. However, the delicate figure that he yearned for was nowhere to

be seen.

He felt a slight panic in his heart and was about to call out Carrie's name when he faintly heard rustling sounds coming from the

bathroom.

Without hesitation, he quickly walked to the bathroom door.

Inside, everything suddenly quieted down. Not a sound could be heard.

"Carrie?"

Ever since Ryan fell in love with Carrie, he treated her like a precious gem, fearing the thought of losing her. His nerves were constantly on edge, and he was always worried about her well-being.

When the bathroom became abnormally quiet, he feared that something might have gone wrong. With a forceful kick, he swung the door open, almost sending it flying.

“Ah!” Carrie screamed in panic. Her hands instinctively covered her head as she turned to face him.

“Uh...” Ryan was taken aback. His throat tightened with a low grunt.

His mind went blank as desire clouded his eyes like a storm. His fingers involuntarily curled into a fist.

“Aaaahhh!” Carrie screamed once more upon seeing Ryan’s face, tightly shutting her eyes and instinctively crossing her arms over her chest. Her delicate frame trembled in panic as she turned away.

But what was the use?

The sight of her exposed, fair, and slender back filled Ryan’s eyes and ignited a storm of emotions within Ryan.

“Carrie... You... I... We...” Ryan mumbled incoherently. His breath grew heavy, and his eyes were red with desire as he stared at her intently.

“I just took a shower, and I didn’t know when you would come back...” Carrie turned her trembling back to him, looking alluring.

The steamy bathroom created an ambiguous atmosphere between the two of them. Ryan’s forehead was covered in sweat. Unable to control himself, he felt his self-control slip away as he moved toward

her.

Chapter 799

Carrie heard his heavy footsteps approaching, but she was too frightened to turn around. She clutched her slender shoulders, trembling with fear, resembling a startled little rabbit.

This only served to emphasize Ryan’s tall and imposing figure, resembling a big bad wolf hiding his desires.

“Carrie...” Ryan’s voice caught in his throat, his eyes burning with desire. He hesitantly raised his trembling hand, longing to touch her silky skin. Just then, Carrie shyly whispered.

“I’ve just taken a shower and was applying some lotion. I’ve done everything except for my back. Otherwise, I would have finished earlier and laid down while waiting for you to come home.”

Ryan listened quietly, feeling his cheeks flush with warmth. His fingertips buzzed with anticipation, filled with electric energy.

He had seen too many women. There were those who flaunted their bodies in front of him and tried to seduce him with their charms. But no one had made him so nervous before. He could hear his heart pounding, feeling at a loss for what to do.

“Ryan, can you help me apply it on my back? Please?” Carrie’s voice was soft, her delicate shoulders shrinking as she made her request.

“Carrie... Can I? I can do it...” His breath was heavy, filled with intense

longing.

Carrie bit her lips, slowly lowering her arms that were protecting

herself, and nodded..

Ryan’s heart pounded against his ribs. He forced himself to calm down as he picked up the body lotion placed beside him.

‘I won’t do anything... I won’t do anything...’ Ryan thought to himself and repeated the mantra in his head to restrain the demon in his heart. His fingertips trembled as he suppressed the burning desire.

But the moment he touched Carrie, all restraint vanished. He pulled her fiercely into his arms, unable to resist the overwhelming passion

any longer.

“Ryan...” Carrie whispered, her cheeks flushed.

“Don’t say my name.” Ryan’s voice was hoarse, sending shivers down

her spine.

“Ryan, I...”

“Carrie, if you say my name again, I really don’t know what I’ll do.”

“Ryan...”

The string in Ryan’s mind snapped instantly, and he leaned in, kissing

her trembling lips.

“If you’re not ready, I won’t...”

Before Ryan could finish his sentence, Carrie silenced him by biting

his lip and returning the kiss. Her movements were gentle yet clumsy.

Fireworks went off in his mind.

He had never felt such satisfaction in his life.

Ryan lazily squinted his charming eyes. They were overflowing with indulgence and affection as he gazed at the lover in his arms.

His right arm held her close, while his other hand carefully lifted the

covers.

A smile tugged at the corners of Ryan’s lips, his eyes brimming with hidden emotions as he couldn’t resist kissing her once again.

Carrie was fast asleep. Even as he teased her wantonly, she didn’t

wake up.

Ryan murmured softly, "Carrie, you truly belong to me now."

Chapter 800

Ryan rested his chin on Carrie's head, whispering each word slowly

into her ear.

"Don't worry. Those bitter days will never come again. I will cherish you for the rest of my life, Mrs. Hoffman."

As expected, Justin's slap had ruptured Shannon's eardrum. It had even dislodged one of her molars.

How much pent-up resentment and hatred did he have to strike her

with such force?

Bethany hurriedly escorted Shannon to the hospital for treatment. On the way, Shannon cursed loudly while covering her ears. The more she cursed at Bella and Justin, the angrier she grew, causing her ears and face to throb with pain.

The driver stared in disbelief, stealing frequent glances at the

rearview mirror.

Who would believe that the usually dignified and elegant chairman's wife would be so vulgar, cursing like a fisherman's wife, causing her

facade to crumble?

“What are you looking at?”

Bethany noticed the driver’s prying eyes and warned sternly. “I’m warning you! Keep your eyes on the road and drive the damn car. You’d best keep your mouth shut! If a word of this leaks out, your

whole family won’t be able to survive in SW

“Yes, yes, Ms. Bethany!” The driver trembled and dared not look again.

“You useless girl! I regret raising you!” With nowhere else to vent her anger, Shannon could only unleash her fury at Bethany. She jabbed forcefully at Bethany’s head with her finger, causing her body to tilt. How could you just stand there and watch your own mother get beaten? You stood there and watched Bella, that bitch, bully your

mother! You didn’t do anything!”

Bethany clenched her fists tightly, filled with resentment. “I’ve never been able to compete with Bella. If rashly intervened, I was afraid I’d make things worse! Why do you keep scolding me, and not Carrie? Look at how much you’ve suffered, and she hasn’t even appeared once. She’s just been fooling around with Ryan! I really don’t know what he sees in her. He must be blind!”

Shannon didn’t hide her disdain for Bethany. “Shame on you! How do you still have the nerve to compare yourself to your sister? So what if she doesn’t intervene? She still silently stole Ryan’s heart! Being able to become Ryan’s mother-in-law is great. It’s a hundred times better than your useless flattery in front of me!”

Shannon used to be skeptical. But now she had to admit that Bethany’s inferior genes doomed her to mediocrity, no matter how Bethany was raised. The innate lowliness couldn’t be eradicated. Bethany was even inferior to Carrie, the defective daughter she shared with Gregory!

If Shannon had known this earlier, she would have focused on grooming Carrie instead. She felt that she had wasted her efforts.

At the hospital, Shannon received treatment and was admitted to a VIP ward. She lay on the bed, her cheeks swollen, unable to sleep due to the pain in her ears. She tossed and turned, alternating between anger and fear.

Shannon was worried that Bella would discover her relationship with Harry and feared that Harry would betray her. But more than anything, she feared that the truth about Bethany's biological father being Harry would be exposed. That would spell the end for them both!

She stayed in the hospital for three days, with Bethany mindlessly

keeping her company.

On the third day, the swelling on her cheeks finally subsided, but Gregory had yet to show up.

During this time, Bethany called him more than once, asking when he would come to visit her mother. However, he was always indifferent and dismissive, hanging up after a few perfunctory words.

Initially, Bethany thought Shannon would be in tears upon hearing the news. After all, which woman wouldn't want her husband's love and care? After all, being left alone in the hospital by her husband would

drive any woman crazy.

Unexpectedly, Shannon remained calm and composed, without a hint of crying or tantrums. She ate, nursed her injuries, and appeared to be disturbingly normal.

This left Bethany utterly confused. To the best of her knowledge,

Shannon couldn't survive without Gregory.

