

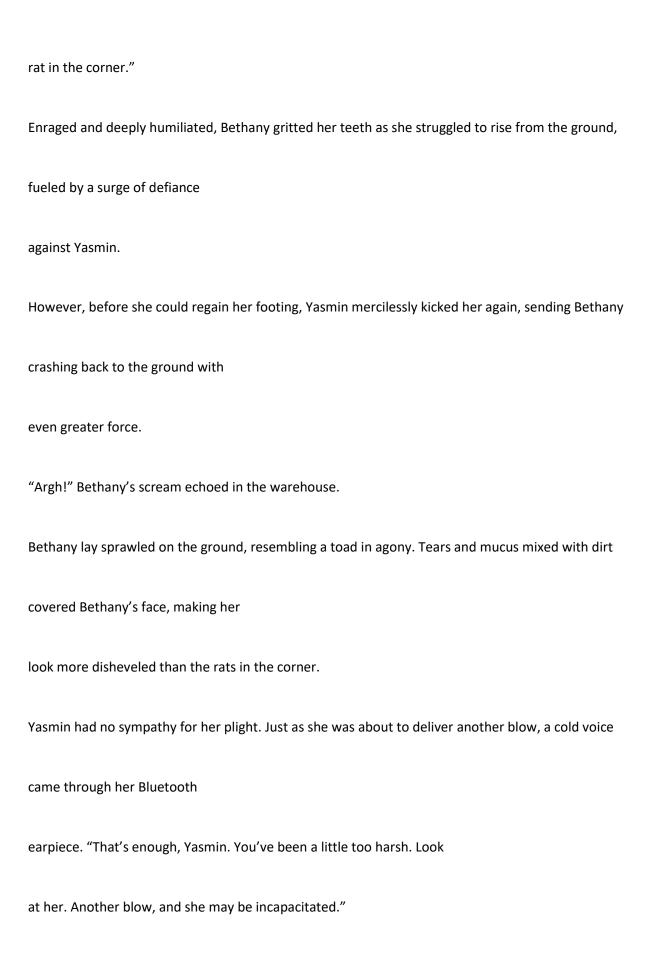


accentuated her physique. The seductive silhouette would make any man's heart race. "Y-You... You're the woman who's always by Mr. Hoffman's side!" Bethany immediately recognized her "Good evening, Ms. Bethany. You've been out for quite a while. I've been patiently waiting for you to regain consciousness," said Yasmin. Her eyes narrowed seductively, adjusting her black leather gloves as she looked at Bethany with a mischievous smirk. "Were you the one who kidnapped me here? How dare you kidnap the esteemed daughter of the Salvador family?! Have you lost your senses?!" Bethany seethed with anger, her teeth clenched, yet her tone held a veiled threat. "Where on earth is this? Let me out of here now! You'll regret it if you don't! How dare you mess with the Salvador family?! Not even Ryan Hoffman can save you from the consequences you'll face!" Yasmin's grin widened as she watched Bethany's outburst.

Unable to communicate with her captor, Bethany got up and dashed toward the door, yelling for help.

"Help! Someone, please help!" Suddenly, Bethany felt a sharp pain in her lower abdomen. Yasmin had unexpectedly raised her slender, toned leg to kick Bethany. The kick instantly propelled Bethany several meters away. She crashed heavily onto the ground, screaming out in agony as the pain reverberated through her entire body! Chapter 805 "How dare you lay your hands on me?! I'm the eldest daughter of the Salvador family... Y-You..." Bethany curled up in pain, sweat soaking her clothes as she groaned and rolled on the ground like a cocoon, yet her voice grew weaker and increasingly uncertain. Was that really the strength of a woman's kick? That's horrifying! "Who cares if you're the eldest daughter of the Salvador family? You're not their youngest daughter anyway. So why can't I hit you?" sneered Yasmin, twisting her neck with a chilling gaze that sent shivers down Bethany's spine.

"Your life means nothing to me. To me, you're no different from the

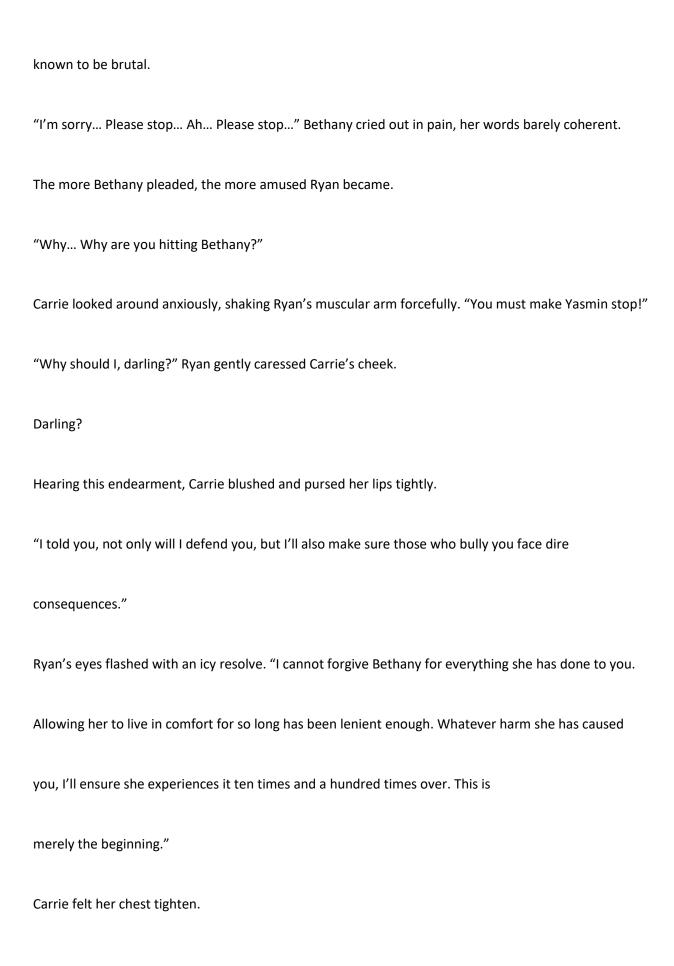




Recalling all the wrongs this woman had inflicted upon his girlfriend, Ryan felt the urge to step in. He
wanted to shatter Bethany's ribs, silence her malicious tongue, and sever her limbs to avenge the time
she had slapped Carrie.
However, Carrie was still one of Gregory Salvador's daughters, and he
could not disregard that. Since he had not gained full control of the
Hoffman Group yet, if things escalated too much, it would be detrimental to him.
Ryan was not afraid of stirring up trouble, but he dreaded the idea of putting Carrie at risk.
He feared that he would not be able to protect Carrie.
Ryan felt a slight pressure in his chest as he pondered their impending engagement and the potential
challenges ahead. He sighed deeply.
His warm breath brushed against the delicate ear of the woman
nestled in his embrace.
"Mmm"
Carrie let out a soft whimper as she blinked awake from her drowsiness. Her doe-like eyes appeared
dreamy and tender.

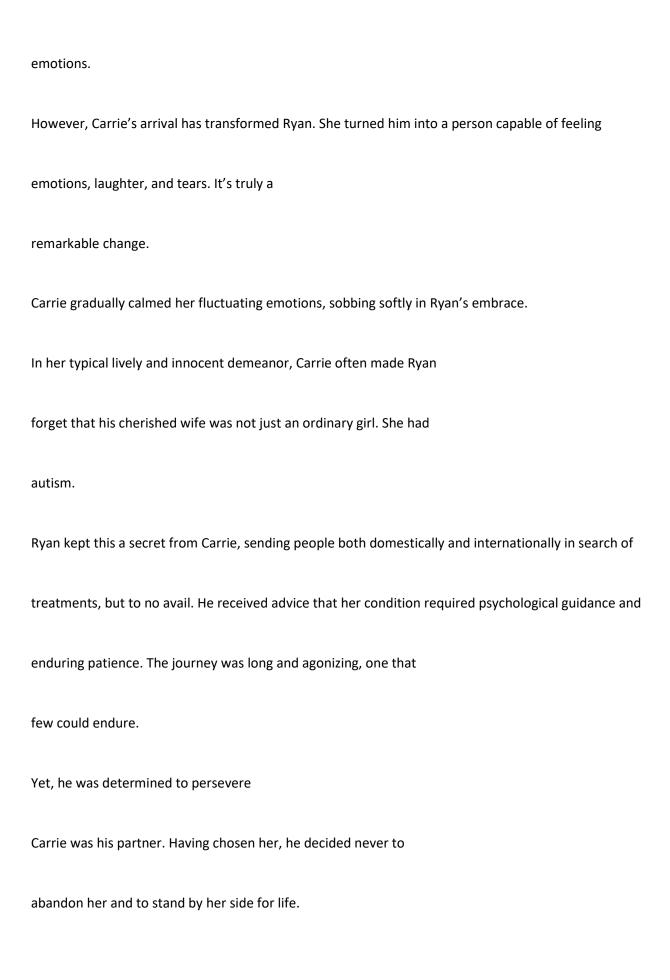


As the temperature in the car rose, almost reaching a boiling point, Ryan suddenly heard a crisp "snap"
in his earphones, nearly perforating his eardrums. He paused his movements and furrowed
his brows as he removed the earphones.
"R-Ryan, is that my sister?" Carrie clung tightly to the man's waist, staring at the screen in disbelief as
she witnessed Bethany endure
Yasmin's relentless slaps.
"Yeah. Who else could appear so hideous other than your unfortunate sister?" Ryan could not help but
feel repulsed by the sight of Bethany
enduring Yasmin's ruthless beatings.
Carrie watched in horror as Yasmin grabbed Bethany by the hair and
cruelly slapped her
After a few slaps, Bethany's once proud and beautiful face swelled into a pig's head. There was blood
dripping from her lips and nose, and her eyes were nearly swollen shut.
As Ryan's bodyguard with a background in martial arts, Yasmin was



While the man in front of her still showed affection and gentleness,	
his gaze had taken on a different tone.	
Carrie knew that Ryan only showed this side of himself in front of her. In the presence of others, he	
could be as terrifying as a beast.	
Sometimes, she could not understand or agree with his actions, but it did not change the fact that she	
loved him.	
"Darling, just relax and enjoy the show."	
Ryan hooked Carrie's slender waist, pulling her close. "It's boring to always stay at home. Stepping out	
for some fresh air and excitement can lift your spirits."	
As Carrie watched Bethany endure the merciless beatings, her heart filled more with terror than	
anything else. With wide, pleading eyes and beads of cold sweat on her forehead, Carrie begged,	
"Ryan, please spare my sister! Let her go, please! She's my sister! Mommy's favorite daughter!"	
Carrie kept pleading and shaking Ryan's arm, feeling overwhelmed	
and helpless.	

Suddenly, Ryan seemed to realize something was off and swiftly pulled Carrie into a tight embrace, then commanded Yasmin, "Stop!" "Yes, sir." Yasmin complied, mechanically releasing her grip on Bethany's hair. Chapter 807 Bethany fell heavily to the ground. Her swollen mouth rendered her speechless, leaving only tears. "Stop it! Please, stop!" cried Carrie, her tears flowing uncontrollably, and her sobbing resembling that of a five-year-old. Each teardrop hit Ryan's shoulder like a hammer, leaving him heartbroken. "Okay, okay... I'll stop hitting Bethany. Darling, please don't cry. I'll do as you say, I promise," Ryan consoled Carrie, gently patting her back. Even David, who has been driving for Ryan for over a decade, was left dumbfounded. This remarkable young girl has not only brought their young master down from his pedestal but has also healed him. Since his father's passing, Ryan has been living in the shadows, growing increasingly cold and ruthless, mocking life and devoid of





of place, yet I yearn so desperately to hold onto you.' Lost in his thoughts, Ryan suddenly felt Carrie's
lips press against his trembling
throat.
Sensations of desire clouded his mind, causing his muscles to tense
1.
David, the chauffeur, remained composed, raising the privacy screen in the back seat without a word.
The backseat quickly turned into a private space.
"Carrie, you're getting naughty." Ryan's forehead glistened with sweat, his gaze deepening as he
wrapped his arms around her waist.
"I'm not naughty. How could I ever be naughty to you? I just I just wanted to thank you."
Carrie blinked her clear eyes, her lips pouting. "Well It's okay, then., Pretend I didn't say anything
Hmph!"
Ryan immediately claimed her lips, consuming her breath.  Chapter 808
Late at night, Bella enjoyed a relaxing soak in a hot bath and donned a peach-colored silk robe.

Her damp, ebony hair was tucked under a towel, and her youthful face flushed with warmth as she
hummed a tune while descending the
stairs.
Despite recent troubles, she understood the ebb and flow of fortune, believing that one would not
remain unlucky forever.
Besides, as one of Wyatt Thompson's daughters, she had the power to achieve anything she desired.
Even if she wanted to become the president of the country, she would find a way to make it happen.
However, there was one exception-that man.
Bella's thoughts led to a tightening in her chest.
She believed that Justin had genuinely developed feelings for her, even sensing his relentless pursuit
and willingness to embrace her in his heart, yet reality hit her hard.
Men, she thought, were either clumsy fools or downright despicable.
But Justin? He was nothing more than an incorrigible fool!
The more Bella thought about it, the more annoyed she became. Her lips slowly drooped from her
smile

"Ms. Bella, I've prepared herbal tea that helps calm the nerves and
enhance beauty. Would you like to have some? You won't gain weight
n
from it."
Steven, dressed in a suit with an apron over it, stood in the living room with a smile, looking at Bella.
Bella saw him sweating from his busy work and felt a sense of guilt
for some reason.
She responded gently, "Steve, you're my secretary, not my
housekeeper. You don't have to do these things in the future. I'll have Aunt Mila send a chef from our
Hatchbay house to take care of my meals. You've worked hard. I appreciate your effort for all of these
"Ms. Bella, Mr. Asher assigned me to assist you with both work and personal matters. It's all part of m
job. That's how it's always been," Steven replied anxiously, fearing that Bella might eventually decide
she no longer needed him as her secretary.

Bella shook her head. "I've already told you before. Your focus should be on someone who deserves it.

Someone like Amelia." Steven clenched his fingers, feeling a tug at his heart. "You've already done enough for me. These trivial matters shouldn't distract you anymore. You just need to treat Amelia well. By splitting your attention, you might end up neglecting my sister." Bella offered her advice kindly, genuinely concerned for her sister's happiness. "Ms. Bella, about Ms. Amelia..." "Steve, has there been any news from the hospital?" Bella interrupted, uninterested in his explanation. Romance was not the first thing on her mind right now. All she wanted was to deal with Shannon and make her pay for what she had done. Steven paused, then pursed his lips. "We've received word from our informant at the hospital. As you suspected, there was a heated argument between Shannon and Gregory. After the argument, Gregory

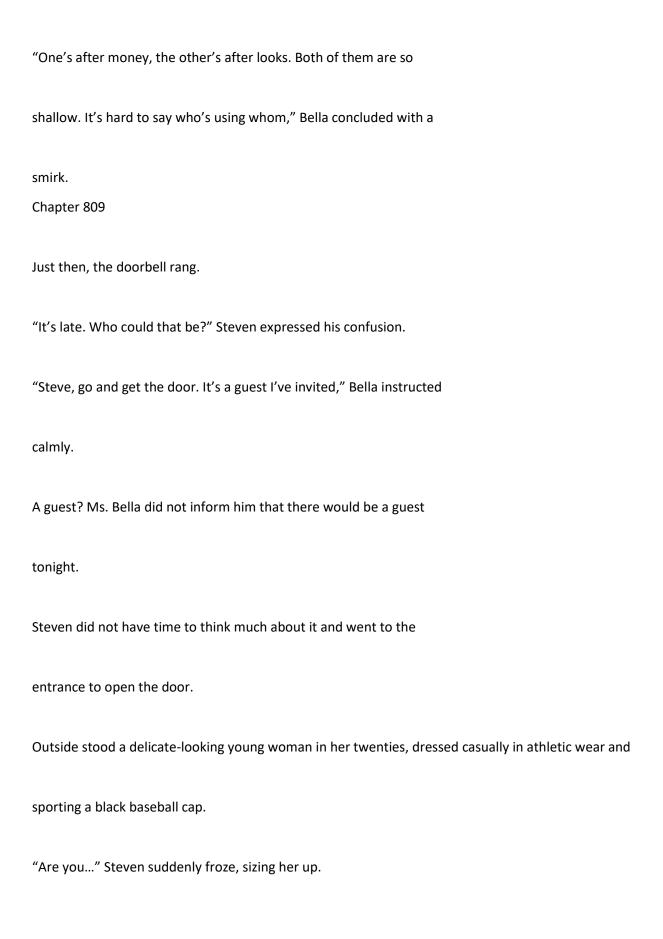
Congratulations, miss. It seems your plan to drive them apart has succeeded."

didn't stay with her at the hospital, and he hasn't been seen there in the past few days.

"Once someone plants the seeds of doubt, Shannon will no longer be seen as innocent in Gregory's

eyes Her days in the Salvador family will only become more torturous with each passing day." Bella sneered coldly, her gaze sharp and unforgiving. "The only way to expose that wicked woman's true mature is by breaking them apart and messing with her." The saying "to defeat an enemy, make them lose their minds" holds true in any situation. "Also, as per your instructions, I've looked into Shannon's daily routines. She undergoes medical beauty treatments every week an has a close relationship with a private cosmetic surgeon who performs procedures for her. He's a rather handsome man in his ea forties." Steven added, his words carrying a hint of intrigue. "Ah, I see." Bella crossed her arms and clicked her tongue disapprovingly. "At his age, he's definitely lacking compared to younger men in various aspects. But Shannon is at the prime of her life, so can someone like him really satisfy her?" Steven smiled cryptically. "I think that doctor might be having a tough

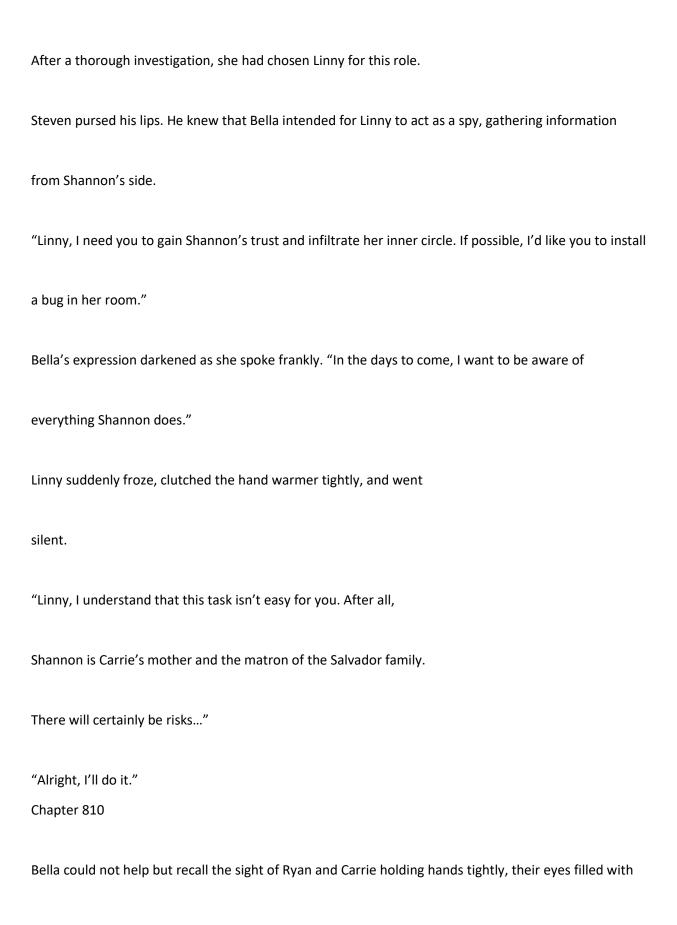
time."



"I-I'm L-Linny. I work as a caretaker for the Salvador family, specifically attending to Ms. Carrie." Linny
introduced herself nervously as she glanced around.
Steven quickly caught on upon hearing she was Carrie's caretaker.
"Linny, I'm sorry I couldn't come to pick you up due to some special
circumstances. I really appreciate you coming here on your own."
Bella hurriedly greeted Linny, took the girl's hand, and led her into the villa's living room. "It must've
been cold outside. Look at your hands. They're freezing! I told you to take a taxi here. Don't worry
about the
fare."
"I didn't take a taxi. I took the bus and then the train. It's pretty
convinny
replied quickly, her cheeks flushed from the cold.
Seeing the once noble Young Madam show such concern for her, Linny felt her lips tremble with
indescribable gratitude.
Bella could not help but feel a sense of sympathy, knowing Linny had to walk quite a distance from the

train station to her villa, all while enduring the chilly winds. She knew Linny still had reservations about spending money. Steven promptly brewed a cup of hot tea for Linny and kindly brought her a hand warmer to hold. Seated on the sofa in the living room, the young girl took a while to shake off the chill in her body. "Young Ma-No, I mean Ms. Thompson. Thank you for always looking out for Ms. Carrie." Linny expressed her gratitude sincerely Linny's voice was gentle yet resolute as she spoke. "I witnessed how kind you were to Ms. Carrie during your time at Tideview Manor. For her sake, I'm willing to do whatever you ask of me." Bella gazed deeply into the young girl's eyes. They were so clear and pure, like Carrie's. Suddenly, she felt a weight descend on her heart. Bella was not sure if this decision was the right one, but she needed to place someone trustworthy and

reliable by Shannon's side. But apart from Wilma, there was no one else she could rely on.





"Ms. Thompson, you're such an amazing cook! Mr. Salvador is so blessed to have you as his wife!"
Steven couldn't help but feel speechless.
Bella maintained her smile, but her tone carried a hint of sarcasm. It's a shame he didn't appreciate it
like you do. But as for the future, Justin will never get to experience it again. That's for sure."
Bethany was left bruised and battered by Ryan's men. She dared not
return home to face Shannon or tell Gregory about what had
happened.
Instead, she flew to Helionis to recuperate and undergo facial
reconstruction.
She knew Yasmin was affiliated with Ryan and would not have taken such a step without his approval.
Bethany knew that if she dared to report the incident or make it
public, she risked not only her own and the Salvador family's
reputation, but she might also trigger even harsher retaliation from
Ryan.

The agony of being tortured alongside rats that day was something she never wanted to experience again in her life. But to let this grudge go unavenged would be enough to make her wake up crying from nightmares. After undergoing reconstructive surgery in Helionis, Bethany sneaked back to Savrow with her head wrapped in bandages. As soon as she got in the car, she received a call from Zoe. "Hello, where the hell have you been? Why couldn't I reach you on the phone?" Zoe's tone still carried the same imperiousness. "Zoe, watch your tone when speaking to me. I'm a lady of the Salvador family, not your servant!" Bethany retorted angrily, still nursing her slightly painful face. "Well, look at you, getting all worked up. I didn't even hold you responsible for embarrassing me in front of Justin the other day. But now you're throwing a fit at me." Zoe chuckled playfully. "But it's alright. I'll be the bigger person and let bygones be bygones. Tomorrow,

I'll send someone to pick you up, and you'll accompany me to try on my engagement banquet attire."

"Engagement? What engagement?"

"Obviously, it's the engagement between me and Justin!"

"What?!" Bethany was shocked, and her face went pale. "How could Justin possibly be engaged to

you? That's ridiculous. Unless he's lost his mind!"

"Well, Justin hasn't agreed yet, but it's just a matter of time."

Zoe said confidently, her tone dripping with arrogance, "Just wait and you'll see. He'll soon come

around to me. I'll become your sister-in- law before you know it."