

Heiress 901

Chapter 901

Curled up into a ball inside the closet, Linny held a bottle of red wine shakily

The shock drained her complexion of color, and her eyes were

bloodshot as if she had a good cry.

Linny pondered what she should do.

What should she ever do?

She contemplated the first party to whom she should divulge the horrifying secret.

The option was between Justin and Bella.

After calming Shannon down, Bethany headed back to her room.

While changing Shannon into fresh, clean clothes, Bethany shudder at the sight of the needle marks along her mother's arm.

Gregory and Shannon barely shared a room. In fact, the problem in their marriage has grown bigger since the incident with Celeste.

If the married couple were to lie in the same bed, there was no telling what Gregory would think when he saw those needle marks.

Bethany found Linny standing blankly outside her bedroom door with a bottle of red wine in hand.

Linny had a grim look.

“Ms. Bethany, I’ve brought you the wine. Should I decant the wine for you?” Linny asked cautiously.

“No need for that. Just give it to me. You are dismissed.”

Bethany snatched the bottle out of Linny’s hand and walked into the room before slamming the door behind her.

Linny stood there, her outfit drenched by cold sweat.

Bethany was no longer in the mood to drink once she returned to her

room.

Her mind wandered to the doctor Shannon talked about, and fear settled in. She needed to find time to run a background check on him.

Bethany took out her dried facial mask and washed her face. She removed her bathrobe and opened her closet to get her pajamas.

Suddenly, she froze as a heavy feeling sank in.

Bethany was a pretty careless person, but she watched her stuff like a hawk. She could spot any problems or misplacement issues right

away.

She knew her things in the closet were touched as a wave of hot, sweltering air hit her in the face.

It struck Bethany that she did hear something coming from the bedroom when she was talking with Shannon earlier.

She pulled out her phone and tapped on the surveillance app.

That was right. She had an app for surveillance.

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Bethany, despite living foolishly for most of her life, had installed surveillance cameras in her bedroom.

Heck, the cameras had been there for a while. Like her mother, Bethany did not trust anyone. She always had the feeling that the household help would go through her stuff while she was not around.

Gritting her teeth, Bethany retrieved the surveillance video.

The video showed that not long after Bethany left her room, Linny came in with a bottle of wine and hid inside. When Bethany drew close, Linny took cover in the closet.

Bethany let out a scream and threw her phone away.

It became apparent that Linny had heard the conversation between her and Shannon.

Linny had found out about the awful secret.

As sweat drenched her back, Bethany gnashed her teeth and paced

around her room.

She grabbed her phone again, her fingertips trembling as she dialed

Shannon's number.

"What's the matter? I'm in bed," Shannon asked languidly.

"Mom... I've got news!"

All shivered up in bed, Bethany uttered, "Linny eavesdropped on us.

She was hiding in my closet. I caught her on video."

Chapter 902

Bethany was all flustered.

It was unexpectedly quiet on the other end of the line.

"Mom? Mom! Are you there? What should we do now?"

"We have to get rid of the maid."

Moments later, Shannon said grimacingly, "Just act like this never happened. Don't spook her, and keep an eye on her. When the time is right, we'll make sure our problem disappears off the face of the

earth."

Bella rested and recuperated before she was released from the

hospital.

On the day of her discharge, the Thompsons, except for Drew, who did not want to run into Wyatt, were there for her. Even all three of

Wyatt's wives made the trip from Hatchbay.

The women in the family nearly wept as the apple of the family's eye had lost a lot of weight.

"You had it rough, child."

Celeste, the most sentimental of the bunch, cried her eyes out and gave Bella a tight hug. "We didn't do a good job protecting you. I'm sorry, child.

"I should be the one to apologize, Aunt Celeste."

Bella hugged Celeste back, anguish washing over her. "Have you been

feeling better? Did Wyatt buy you bags, clothes, or jewelry? Oof. Don't tell me Wyatt has been stingy with money and didn't get you

anything."

"Celeste isn't into that kind of stuff. She brought a lot of uncommon

groceries and local specialties to be your chef for the next few

weeks." Putting her arm around Mila's waist, Sasha spoke with a smile.

"Huh? I'm fine. Honest." Bella waved her arms frantically. She loved Celeste's cooking, but all that food would go to her belly.

It would take a lot of kayaking to shed the pounds.

Across the street, Justin stood in the cold woods and stared intently

at Bella. His burning gaze never left her smiling face.

Upon learning of her hospital discharge, Justin blew off an important meeting and made his way there.

However, he hid in the shadows to gawp at the woman who was once

his.

She used to be the closest person to him.

Now, Bella was unreachable.

The long-absent smile on Bella's beautiful face brought Justin back

to the day she screamed hysterically at him. She even got physical

with him.

The man held his chest shakily.

The pain ripped through his chest repeatedly, leaving him breathless and agonized.

He had no one to blame but himself.

Were Rosalind or Christopher responsible in any way?

No, the only one at fault was him.

“Bella... Bella...”

Caught in a moment, Justin let his instincts take over and took a step toward her.

A fancy car approached and pulled up in front of Bella.

It was Wyatt’s ride, an old, classic Rolls Royce. It was one-of-a kind

and pretty flashy.

Quentin got out of the car and opened the door to the back seat.

Thinking her dad was getting out, Bella was stunned by what she saw

A gentleman in a suit stepped out of the vehicle.

It was Christopher.

Chapter 903

The Thompsons were taken aback as Christopher exited Wyatt’s vehicle.

Bella furrowed her brows.

Wyatt was a conceited and proud man.

No one around the age of his children, except his own kids, earned a spot on Wyatt's ride. Even Justin, a well-known and influential figure in Savrow, was deemed unworthy of sitting alongside Wyatt, according to Wyatt himself.

Yet now, Christopher was able to get close to Wyatt. The Thompsons would be lying to say they were not shocked.

If Bella remembered correctly, Wyatt was indifferent to Christopher before. His attitude took a huge turn in just a few days.

"You look a lot better, Bella. That's good news."

Christopher smiled tenderly and approached Bella with a vibrant bouquet of pink flowers. He presented the flower to her." Congratulations on your discharge from the hospital, Bella."

Bella stared at the blooming Damascus roses, her lashes fluttering.

"Thank you, Chris." She took the bouquet.

"They are your favorites. I went to the flower field this morning and picked them myself." Christopher's eyes glistened earnestly.

The Thompsons exchanged glances as the air filled with

awkwardness.

"Thank you, but you don't have to," Bella replied while holding the roses, her eyes unreadable.

"I'll do anything for you." Christopher looked deep into her eyes, barely hiding his affection for her.

Lost for words, Bella pressed her lips together.

Christopher's words were more passionate than the vibrant roses she

held.

Justin observed the interaction between Bella and Christopher, his dry throat scratchy and burning.

Soon, he felt suffocated.

Wyatt stepped out of the Rolls Royce and drew close to Christopher. They stood alongside each other, like father and son.

Christopher gave Wyatt a warm smile, blending in perfectly with

family.

Wyatt patted his shoulder with a grin and said something. It was apparent that they had gotten closer

With bloodshot eyes, Justin punched the tree bark.

He could not accept Wyatt welcoming Christopher with open arms.

However, Justin could not do anything about it. The Thompsons

would not take his unwarranted advice, and he could not risk

upsetting Bella again.

He could not hurt her anymore. That was the last thing he wanted to

do to her.

“Pft! I thought you were better than that, Mr. Salvador. All you can do is heave with fury.”

The harsh critique came from the back.

Justin looked back and met Drew’s taunting gaze.

“Aren’t you always assertive and confident, Mr. Salvador? You look weak and spineless to me.” Since Drew despised Justin anyway, he did not hold back on the sarcasm.

Drew was rather protective of his family, and it did not matter whether his family was in the right or wrong.

It was a heinous crime to hurt his beloved sister. Drew believed that nothing less than death was a fitting punishment for such a

despicable act.

“I know that I shouldn’t be in Bella’s life anymore, but can’t I just watch her from afar?” Justin rasped out with bloodshot eyes.

He had spent the last few days awake until morning light.

His heart had bled dry.

Standing beside Justin, Drew narrowed his eyes on Bella. “To be

honest, Justin, I really hate you.”

Justin pursed his lips, his eyes downcast.

“But I am not keen on that guy either. My poor sister. Why can’t she meet better men? There’s another thing for me and my brothers to worry about.’

Drew stared at Christopher peevishly and clicked his tongue. “Wyatt isn’t any better. I just praised him for having some good sense, but he quickly proved me wrong. If he gives Christopher Bella’s hand in marriage, I’m going to make my objection loud and clear at the wedding.”

Justin was speechless.

Chapter 904

It was usually old flames and rivals in love objecting at weddings, not brothers.

Nevertheless, Drew was capable of doing just about anything. Justin would not be surprised if Drew did so.

“Hey, bastard.”

Drew gave Justin the side-eye. “What if, and I’m speaking

hypothetically here, Christopher marries my sister? Are you going to object to the wedding?”

Justin's heart dropped.

The thought of Bella walking down the aisle toward Christopher was too much for Justin to bear.

"Shit. Never mind. Bella is out of Christopher's and your reach. You don't deserve her." Drew criticized Justin, realizing he had asked a dumb question.

"I just want Bella to be happy. I will do anything to make her happy."

Justin felt a lump in his throat, his voice cracking.

"Can you help me ruin any chance of Bella being with that guy? I can't stand them together." Gritting his teeth, Drew came straight and asked.

Justin looked at Drew in shock.

"Don't take it the wrong way. I'm not giving you my blessing to be with

Bella. I'm only doing this for her. She's knee-deep in the situation to think straight, but I got a good idea about what's going on. That

glasses guy is a playboy. I don't trust Bella with someone who has an ulterior motive. She might be manipulated." Drew was worried sick

about Bella.

Justin thought to himself, 'I don't want her to become a pawn too.'

"We'll work together to sabotage their relationship." Drew cracked his

knuckles.

"What if she wants to be with Christopher?" Justin asked, his heart

shattering.

"I know she won't for now. I've seen the way she behaves when she falls in love. No one knows her better than the family."

Drew glanced at Justin and scoffed.

Justin gulped hard, and his cheeks burned with shame and guilt.

He understood the extent of Bella's devotion when love struck her.

Once, her burning passion and heart were his.

He was loved unreservedly before, but he was so blind to it and blew

his chances, passing up on her love.

“We should nip the relationship in the bud before Bella develops feelings for Christopher.”

Drew narrowed his eyes and ground his teeth. “If we don’t do anything

to stop them, Christopher’s persistence might win Bella over. It will be

too late then. Just think about it, but I believe you don’t have a reason to refuse. Since you can’t have her, you won’t want anyone else to get

her either.

Drew walked away.

“Are you helping me because we were from the same school?” With

his back facing Drew, Justin asked.

Drew paused and raised a brow. “Oh, what took you so long to figure

that out? Sure, we were from the same school, but I don’t see why you.

see it as a reason I’d help you.”

Justin had no words.

During the journey home, Wyatt gave up his seat so that Bella and

Christopher could sit together.

Anyone could tell that Wyatt was giving them time alone.

Wyatt's wives did not take separate cars home. Instead, they huddled together and chatted on the way back.

"What's Wyatt trying to do? Is he setting Bella up with Christopher, do you think?"

Sasha dove straight into the topic right after the car started. "Well, isn't the boy lucky? He must be smiling in his sleep to marry into the family."

"The Iversons are as prestigious as the Salvadors. I doubt Christopher would want to take our family name." Mila seemed helpless.

"Bella's heart has always belonged to Justin. Has she gotten over him? Is she ready to start a new relationship?" Celeste asked the hard

questions.

"Well, the best way to move on is to find a new man. Bella will never forget Justin unless she starts dating other men."

Chapter 905

Sasha contemplated for a while before uttering in shock, "I find

Wyatt's attitude strange, though. Didn't he tell us before that he

wasn't optimistic about the Iverson boys? What changed his mind.

about Christopher?”

Mila frowned.

It appeared to the ladies that Christopher could be rather

manipulative.

Meanwhile, Bella kept her eyes outside the car window. She was not

in the mood for small talk with Christopher.

Christopher sat quietly next to her, his eyes never once shifting away

from her.

He was happy and content just watching over her.

“Chris, thank you for keeping me company while I was in the h

Without looking at Christopher, Bella said in a soft tone, “You mu

tired. You should get home and have a good rest. I could use so

time alone.”

“Are you avoiding me, Bella?” Christopher furrowed his brows, his heart sinking.

"I don't know what you said to my dad, Chris, but if you still want us to stay friends, I hope this stops now."

Bella stared at him coldly. "Justin and I are over. Nothing is going to happen between us either."

"You got the wrong idea, Bella. I said nothing to your father. I—"

Bella closed her and shook her head. "You fell for the person I

was in the past. It has been 15 years. I'm no longer the light in your darkness. There is nothing I can do for you. Our good time as kids

brought us together again, Chris. I cherish our friendship, so I hope

you won't ruin it. If you refuse to take my advice, the only thing I cant do is stop meeting you."

Bella tried to break it to Christopher as gently as she could.

Still, the words cut through Christopher like a knife.

He heaved heavily as the color washed off his face. Christopher clenched his fists. 'I love you so much, Bella. But you hurt me so badly. How can you be so cruel?'

Amid the tension, Bella's phone vibrated.

She looked at the mobile screen. Taken aback that Linny was the

caller, Bella took the call.

"What's the matter?" Bella spoke in hushed tones since she was not

alone.

“Ms. Thompson, are you free tonight? I need to see you.”

Linny murmured in distress, “I have something important to tell you, but I’m at the Salvadors’ residence. I can’t talk since there are too

many eyes around.”

Anxious, Bella glanced at her watch. “I’ll go to you tonight. We’ll talk later.”

Christopher quietly paid close attention to Bella.

He could barely catch what Bella said as the latter kept her voice

down.

“No, no. I’ll go to you instead. Don’t come to me.”

Linny panicked, her voice shaking. “I’ll go to you. Just give me a place, and I’ll meet you there.”

“Okay. I’ll text you in a bit.”

Aware of Linny’s precarious predicament, Bella kept the conversation short and quickly hung up.

Christopher asked with concern, “Is everything okay, Bella? Do you need my help?”

“No,” Bella snapped back.

Christopher was surprised. His eyes dimmed with frustration.

Despite his efforts, he could never get close to her.

Bella always built walls around herself, and she never let him into her

heart.

She took a deep breath and put her hand over her forehead. "I'm sorry, Chris. I don't need the ride to Hatchbay, as I'll be taking care of things. back at the hotel. The chauffeur will drop you back first."

Chapter 906

After the call with Bella, Linny paced around the backyard restlessly.

She was understandingly anxious, as it was a lot to take in.

Linny made her way back into the villa, looking troubled.

Her heart skipped a beat as the long absent Justin entered the

residence.

"Mr. Salvador! Mr. Salvador!"

Drenched in sweat, Linny approached Justin with a pale face and came in his way.

In the many years she worked in the household, Linny had never started a conversation with Justin. Somehow, she found the courage

to reach out to Justin.

Justin furrowed his brows. "Can I help you?"

"I-I... Um..." Alas, Linny stumbled for words when it came down to it.

"Take your time." Justin looked at her indifferently.

Justin never had such patience before, but Bella had changed

the better.

Biting her lip, Linny struggled internally.

She was hesitant to disclose to Justin that Shannon was behind his

mother's death.

Would he even believe her?

Wite no one was noticing, Linny took a step forward and whispered, "Mir, Salvador, I'm meeting with Ms. Thompson in secret tonight. Can you come along?"

Justin jolted forward in shock. "What did you say? Are you meeting?"

"What are you doing, Linny?"

A shrill voice echoed from above

Linny looked up at Bethany's menacing face and shuddered.

Justin could tell something was bothering Linny. Since she was

reluctant to talk about it, the matter likely had something to do with Bethany

"Get up here now. Some clothes just arrived. Hurry up and put them away now," Bethany urged impetently

"Sure thing. Ms. Bethany."

Linny pursed her lips and looked at Justin in distress.

Justin drew closer to her and murmured back, "Ian will get in touch with you in a bit. Tell me where you will meet Bella tonight, then."

Linny rushed to Bethany's room, and sure enough, a pile of clothes was waiting for her to sort out

Bethany crossed her legs on the sofa and enjoyed sips of wine while staring at Linny getting on with work

"What did you talk to Justin about?"

Linny pulled herself together and replied, "I ran into Mr. Justin and said hello. He told me to fetch a bottle of red wine from the cellar and bring it to his study."

"Hmph! Justin has enough servants attending to him. He has Ian, too. Why does he need your help?"

Bethany mocked maliciously, "Don't get any ideas. He is not your ticket out of this life. Know your place."

Despite the harsh words, Linny was relieved.

“You should know by now that Justin and I don’t get along. I’ll make you pay if I ever find you talking to him behind my back again.”

“Got it,” Linny responded.

Bethany sank her back against the sofa. “I’m going out tonight. I might not be coming home.”

Linny was overjoyed.

She had been racking her head for an excuse to meet with Bella tonight, but an opportunity just fell on her lap.

“You are dismissed from duty tonight. Get some rest. I’m giving you break.” Bethany waved her arm, acting rather generously.

“Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Bethany.”

Linny put away all the clothes and retreated from Bethany’s bedroom.

The moment the door was closed, Bethany let her true feelings show and took out her phone to call Shannon.

“Mom, I gave the bitch the night off to see what she is up to. I caught her talking to Justin. For all I know, Linny could be Justin’s mole.”

“See what she is up to?” Shannon sounded hostile.

“Yeah. Linny is just a maid. I doubt she would do anything like that unless ordered. I intend to catch the real mastermind.” Bethany smiled grimacingly, feeling smug about her plan.”

“Idiot! How are you my daughter?!”

Shannon tore into Bethany. “You’re giving her a chance to escape. I told you to keep an eye on her. Why did you give her access to meet with other people? The mastermind is either Justin or Bella. What if she meets with Bella tonight? We are done for if Linny gets the word

out.”

Stunned, Bethany slapped her forehead. She was frustrated with

herself for only focusing on one thing.

“I’m sure Linny will do something tonight.”

Shannon breathed out, her voice chilling. “She is free to leave

Tideview Manor, but once she is out, she can forget ever coming

back.”

Chapter 907

Justin went to his study and waited for Ian.

The maid's words played back in Justin's mind as he stood in front of the window, smoking away with unreadable eyes. Even so, his heart pounded out of his chest.

Justin suspected that the maid had been in contact with Bella.

Why, though?

He wondered what Bella was thinking. He could never stop worrying about the woman.

Following a knock on the door, Justin snapped out of his thoughts and took a long drag. His callous fingers flicked away the ash.

The door opened, and Ian stepped into the room. He shut the door and approached Justin from behind, presenting him with a note.

"Mr. Salvador, Linny gave me an address. She will meet Ms.

Thompson there tonight."

Overcome with emotions, Justin could barely get a good grip on his

cigarette.

He took the note and glanced over it memorizing the address by

heart.

"Did Linny say anything else to you?"

Ian shook his head. "Mr. Salvador, I think she works for Ms.

Thompson."

"She is, without a question," Justin said hoarsely, and he clutched the

note.

Bella was a wild card. She was always step ahead of him,

One

keeping him on his toes.

"Um... What is Ms. Thompson trying to do?"

Ian's eyes suddenly lit up. "Oh, my. Maybe Ms. Thompson can't forget

you. She has eyes in the Salvadors' residence to keep an eye on your every move. She must still care about you, Mr. Salvador. That's good

news!"

Justin looked at him glumly while releasing a puff in resignation.

He was not vain enough to think that Bella still had feelings for him.

Bella was too busy and ambitious to waste time on idle pursuits.

There was only one possibility.

Bella had some concerns with the Salvadors that needed addressing.

For all he knew, Bella could be trying to get back at Shannon after

what she did to Celeste.

In that case, Bella would carry out the revenge covertly. Yet Linny

sought him out in private and disclosed her meeting with Bella to him.

Justin wondered if there was an invitation to help Bella out.

As tears welled up in his eyes, Justin felt alive again. All he ever

wanted was to protect her.

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“Should I go with you tonight, Mr. Salvador?” Ian asked worriedly.

Justin exhaled and shook his head. “No. Linny only asked me. They must not want anyone else to know about the secret.”

Still, Ian could not shake off the concern. “But Mr. Salvador, does the young madam know that you’re going too? If Linny made the decision herself, the young madam could get angry to see you there.”

“I’ll follow her discreetly and watch her from afar.”

Justin's stern gaze was softened with love at the thought of Bella. She always gets herself in trouble. I cannot stop worrying about her."

At 9:00 p.m., Bethany dolled up and went out.

Not long after she was gone, Linny, dressed in a black tracksuit and

cap, exited Tideview Manor from the back door.

When she took off in a cab, a black sedan drove out of the darkness.

"Should we follow her, Ms. Bethany?"

The driver was Shannon's trusted aide, Winston. He had gone out of his way to help Shannon and Bethany over the years, and tonight, he

was at Bethany's disposal.

"Nah. We can't let the double-crossing traitor make it back alive

tonight. We don't want to be captured near her by following too

closely behind." Bethany had learned a lot from Shannon.

"Alright. I'll wait for Mrs. Salvador's instructions for the right time to make a move," Winston said emotionlessly, like a robot.

"When do you plan to strike?"

Chapter 908

Bethany raised her brows and asked nonchalantly, “Does my mother want Linny to go away or disappear forever?”

“Mr. Salvador wants the problem taken care of once and for all.”

Winston’s face was blank.

“Ha. That’s vicious of her.”

“If Mrs. Salvador wasn’t vicious, you wouldn’t enjoy the privilege you have right now.”

“Hmph! Even if Mom didn’t do anything, my life wouldn’t change.”

Winston looked contemptuously at Bethany through the rear-view mirror. “Are you sure, Ms. Bethany?”

Bethany pursed her lips bitterly.

Shannon resorted to scheming out of desperation, viewing it as the

sole means of unlocking a life beyond that of a mistress.

However, Bethany was a different story. Either way, she was

Gregory’s daughter, the heiress of the Salvadors.

Shannon often called Bethany an idiot, and Bethany had had enough.

This time, she would do something to prove Shannon wrong.

Bethany wanted to one-up Shannon.

“I have an idea to take down all the troublemakers all at once,

Winston.” Bethany leaned closer to the man, her voice reflecting her

malice.

Winston stared back at her. “What do you have in mind?”

“Why don’t we let the bitch meet with that person? We can get back at

them in one go.”

Bethany grinned wickedly. “I’m 100% certain that she is a mole

working for Bella. Justin has too big of an ego to sneak around.

Besides, if she works for Justin, she won’t risk slipping out of the

house at night.”

Winston nodded. “So you’re telling me to finish off Bella?”

Finish off Bella?

Bethany’s heart raced nervously, apprehensively, and excitedly.

She always dreamed of feeding Bella to the hounds.

However, Bella was the daughter of the wealthiest man in Hatchbay.

If Bethany were to kill Bella, Wyatt would leave no stone unturned to find the killer and get even. Bethany would be inviting herself into trouble.

Still, it was now or never. Bella would leave her security detail behind to meet with Linny in secret. It was the perfect opportunity to strike

“Do you have the balls to pull it off?” Bethany probed, her gaze menacing.

“I’m game. It’s not my first day on the job.” Winston was a former hitman.

Bella was no threat to him.

With her eyes glistening chillingly, Bethany chuckled. “In that case, we should celebrate Bella’s death tonight.”

Bella and Steven waited in an empty park on the west side of the city.

Given her present reputation and popularity, Bella would stand out in

the crowd, and it would put Linny, her informant, at risk.

Steven kept glancing at the time. The wait was getting to him. "Why isn't she here yet? I hope everything is okay."

Bella frowned worriedly.

"Ms. Bella, do you think Linny is meeting with you so suddenly because she has gotten a hot lead on Shannon?"

"We'll find out once Linny is here."

Soon, a flurry of footsteps drew close.

"Ms. Thompson! Ms. Thompson, run!"

Linny, pale in the face, scrambled over in sweat. "I've been followed.

They tracked me here. Run, Ms. Thompson!"

Bella held Linny, who had gone limp with fear. Her eyes were

determined, and she said firmly, "Don't be scared. I won't let anyone hurt you."

Chapter 909

Heavy footsteps approached them.

Alarmed, Steven stood in defense of Bella and Linny, his fists

clenching and his muscles bulging under his suit.

Linny was scared stiff, but Bella kept her composure. As her eyes fixated on the three men, Bella held Linny tighter in her arms.

The leader of the group was Winston.

Bella had been around the block before. She could tell from a quick

once-over that the man was no pushover.

“Who are you?” Steven hissed through clenched teeth.

Tilting his head, Winston looked past Steven to stare at Bella. His

voice was flat. “You must be Ms. Thompson.”

“I am Bella Thompson.” Bella was the one and only.

“Oh, you’re as pretty as they say.”

Winston grinned sinisterly. “Shame that it won’t be for long.”

Bella gritted her teeth as rage consumed her.

The man sure was cocky.

“Do you work for Shannon? Did she send you to kill me?” Bella

showed no fear.

“Ms. Thompson, you could’ve enjoyed your little life of privilege, but you had to mess with the wrong people and poke your nose where

Chap 009

you shouldn’t. You’re an adult, and it’s only fair that you pay the consequences of your actions.”

“Haha. Fair, my ass.”

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Bella laughed fearlessly, her voice loud and clear. “I dare you to lay a finger on me. Even better, you can kill me. If you don’t, I’ll make sure you and the people hiding behind your back will pay.”

Winston grinned.

Many had voiced similar threats to Winstons in the past, but they

were all dead now.

“I’ll handle things from here, Ms. Bella. Take Linny and run,” Steven

urged, his knuckles white.

“Go, Linny.”

Bella gave Linny a nudge before turning to Steven with determination.

“I’ll stay to help. You’re no match for them on your own.”

“Ms. Bella.” Steven looked deep into Bella’s eyes, swept away by a moment of zeal.

He and Bella were important companions to each other.

Steven would have a wife and children in the future, but Bella would remain special and irreplaceable in his heart.

She was once his first love.

Now, he had undying devotion for her.

Linny did not want to just run and hide, but she knew that she was of no help and would only become a burden to them.

With tears in her eyes, Linny gave Bella a nod and turned around to flee, but two men came up from the back and blocked her path.

Bella, Steven, and Linny were surrounded as the air thickened with

ominous tension.

The odds were not in their favor this time.

“Get it done and over with.”

Winston cracked his neck muscles his eyes fixing on Bella’s face.”

Leave Ms. Thompson to me. Call it my respect for her.”

A black Lamborghini drifted and pulled up by the side of the empty.

road.

Justin got out of the car and looked at the pitch-black park with worry.

He took strides into the area as the harsh wind grazed against his

skin. The overly serene air gave him a bad feeling.

Perhaps it was because he held Bella dear to his heart, or maybe they

had been through many brushes with death together before.

Whatever the reason, he could always sense when Bella was in

trouble.

Chapter 910

Justin felt his phone vibrating in his palm. The call was from a foreign number.

It struck Justin that he had given Linny his private number for

emergencies when he sent Ian to communicate with her.

He would not get calls from unidentified numbers.

So, it could only be Linny calling.

As the bad feeling sank in, Justin took the call. "Hello?"

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"Mr. Salvador, please save Ms. Thompson! Save Ms. Thompson! We-

Ah!!"

The call abruptly ended following a shriek.

Justin's breath hitched as he stared at the darkened screen, his heart

pounding out of his chest.

'Bella... Bella!'

Sweat drenched his forehead as he sprinted ahead and called Ian.

"Bella is in trouble. Send backup now."

A fierce scuffle broke out in the darkness.

Steven fought bravely against the group, delivering blows and kicks.

The air rippled with the terrifying clash.

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Despite his agility, he could not take on four armed men. It did not take long before he succumbed to the group's attacks.

Steven sustained deep cuts on his left arm and right leg. His tidy suit was torn and tattered at this point. As if that were not enough, his

white shirt had blood stains all over,

Still, Steven hung in there, determined to bring Bella to safety. His

commitment to protecting her numbed his pain sensation.

"Tsk. What a bother."

Having lost the patience to dwell on the fight with Steven, Winston plunged the knife into Steven's left shoulder and twisted the blade.

"Urgh!"

Steven held onto Winston's hand, but the agonizing pain made him

groan.

He was mangled, and the damage could sever his arm.

“It’s troublesome to take care of a body.”

Winston drew close to his ear. “Otherwise, I would have stabbed your right in the stomach and messed your guts.”

The man then spun into a roundhouse kick and threw Steven across

the park.

“Steve!”

Bella yelled angrily and broke one of the offenders’ arms with

bloodshot eyes.

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“Ms. Bella...” Steven collapsed to the ground in blood and stared at

Bella through his tears.

He was not afraid of death.

However, no one would keep her from harm’s way once he was down.

As the rage overwhelmed Bella, she snatched the knife from the offender's grasp and stabbed him violently in the same place.

Winston was amused.

Unlike all the other heiresses, Bella was not only bold and crafty, but she also fought like a man.

If Bella had not closed in on Shannon, Winston would not have killed such a beautiful and remarkable woman.

It was a pity, though.

Bella took down a hitman and ran toward Steven.

She felt a chilling presence approaching her from behind.

"Watch out, Ms. Bella!" Steven shouted with everything he fear overtook his every being.

A dagger was raised high behind Bella.

The blade, like the Grim Reaper's sickle, was moments away from taking her life.