

## Heiress 931

### Chapter 931

“That was her final word.”

As Bella’s words fell, the two men silently lowered their heads.

In the last moments of her life, that poor girl did not think about herself but about how to expose Shannon’s crimes.

“Well... Linny’s death must be related to the secret she discovered.” Ralph frowned and thought about it.

“Yes. Otherwise, that usually cunning woman wouldn’t suddenly lose her composure and take the risk of sending someone after Linny, trying to silence her.” Bella angrily clenched her fists.

“But she’s really bold to target you!”

Thinking about what Bella experienced that night, Ralph was enraged and slammed his fists on the table. “You have five badass brothers and a filthy rich and powerful father. How dare she try to kill you!?”

“Even without Dad’s intervention, any five of us could kill her with leaving a trace!”

A cold tremor flashed across Justin’s dark eyes. What exactly happened to make Shannon disregard the consequences and act viciously?

Bella’s lips twitched, her face as cold as ice. “Killing Linny should be Shannon’s idea. However, sending someone after me might not necessarily be Shannon’s doing. In my opinion, it could be Bethany acting in Shannon’s name to take the opportunity to kill me. After al

with Shannon’s careful and cunning personality, she wouldn’t act so recklessly without thinking of the consequences. This looks more like Bethany’s handiwork.”

That made sense. Justin unconsciously nodded in agreement.

“Fuck, isn’t Bethany Shannon’s daughter? Damn it. A mother and her daughter are scheming together. They will reunite in jail!” Ralph cursed, wishing to twist their heads off.

Bella took a deep breath, and her heavy gaze landed on Justin.

She recalled what Linny said. “Shannon... Killed Mrs. Salvador... Proof ... Phone...”

Justin felt stung by her overly intense gaze, feeling confused.

Bella turned on Linny’s phone and flipped through the photo gallery,/ but found nothing unusual.

Since it was a piece of evidence, it might have been in the form of a recording. Bella opened the voice recording app.

Sure enough, there was a voice recording. Bella’s eyelashes hung as she opened the recording.

The quality of the recording was not great, and it sounded a bit muffled, as if Linny secretly recorded it in a closed environment.

However, it was extremely quiet in the interrogation room. The three people held their breaths. If a needle dropped on the floor now, they could probably hear it.

Shannon’s conversation with Bethany was exposed and clearly heard by the trio.

“Mom! You’d better stop meeting with Dr. Fairchild. He must want something from you! As for Mary’s death, everyone who knew the truth must bring the secret to their graves! As long as he’s alive, he’s a

deadly threat to you!”

Justin’s pupils shrank.

Mary? His mother?!

“No... It’s been twenty years. The evidence is long gone! Unless that bitch returns from hell to accuse me, nobody will know what really happened with that bitch’s death!”

Bella’s heart skipped a beat as anger burned within her chest.

Chapter 932

Ralph was also stunned. He did not expect this case to involve Justin’s mother.

If this cold case from the past were to be brought to light, one could only imagine Shannon’s miserable ending.

No wonder Shannon wanted to silence Linny.

“Justin...” Bella looked at Justin worriedly.

At this moment, Justin’s smiling eyes turned blank. He stared at the phone screen like a gun was about to be fired. The tears forming in his eyes made him look broken, which made Bella’s heart ache.

“No one? There’s still Rosalind!”

Even Rosalind was involved with this matter?!

Bella felt a chill down her spine, horrified at the revelation. It was evident that Mary's death was not an accident at all, but an evil plot cooked up by Shannon years ago!

When Bella was still Justin's wife, she tried to ask about Mary's death from Wilma. However, Wilma hesitated to speak every time, keeping to herself.

Wilma only said that Justin did not like people probing into his mother's past.

She also said that Justin was not like this in the past. He used to be carefree and liked to laugh. Mary's death was too much of a painful blow to Justin, almost ruining an ordinary boy.

Twenty years had passed, and the departed carried their regrets with them. However, the murderer, Shannon, was still the noble Mrs.

Salvador, living a life of luxury. Where was justice?!

"She's nothing! Just a chess piece abandoned. If she still wants to return to Savrow one day, she'd better keep her mouth shut! By the way, are you keeping an eye on the maid I bribed who served Mary all these years?"

"Yes. She's far away in another country and has opened a restaurant.

Since she received our favor, she naturally has to bring the secret to her grave."

"Good!" Shannon suddenly laughed creepily, and her laughter lingered in the dimly lit room like an evil ghost.

"That bitch still felt guilty toward her son, even at death's door. I reckon she won't be able to forgive herself even when she meets Hades. When I think of how that bastard was manipulated by Rosalind, an accomplice, and would never know the truth behind mother's death, I feel amazing! No matter how much grievance or hardship I suffered, I feel so satisfied when I think about this!"

Bang!

Justin panted heavily. His eyes turned bloodshot, and he suddenly stood up, knocking his chair over. Every muscle in his taut body was filled with explosive tension. His eyes looked murderous.

“I will kill her.”

Bella was stunned. She watched as two lines of tears fell from his crimson eyes, as if filled with hatred and blood.

She had never seen such an angry and desolate Justin.

His pale lips trembled slightly, the overwhelming truth pushing him. into the depths of the abyss. The pain that spread from the deepest part of his heart after knowing the cruel truth was akin to being pulled apart and burned alive.

“I’ll kill Shannon. I’ll kill her...”

At this moment, Justin’s rationale was completely engulfed by his burning rage. Clenching his fists tightly, he was like a beast that descended into madness, charging recklessly into the cage of hatred.

“I will send everyone related to my mother’s death to hell!”

Before his words fell, he had rushed to the door like a man possessed.

“Justin! Calm down!”

Chapter 933

In the critical moment, Bella gave it all she had and wrapped her arms around Justin from behind, locking his tensed waist.

“Justin! Bella is right!”

Ralph strode forward and blocked Justin’s way, looking at his pale face. The sorrow in his eyes made a bystander like him deeply sympathetic.

“You will sacrifice your life if you kill someone. You are a good person, so why should you pay the price for those animals?! If you really want to avenge your mother, you need to stay rational and clear-headed! Shannon deserves to die, but once you kill her, it will be an eye for an eye! Is it worth it for that evil bitch?! If anything happens to you, what will happen to Bella?! Did you think about that?!”

Ralph spoke a lot, but it seemed like only his last two sentences pierced into Justin’s heart, soothing his agony.

Bella used all her strength to press against the man’s back. She closed her eyes tightly and hugged his waist with everything she h

Her face, drenched with cold sweat, was pressed against his ba motionless.

She could clearly feel Justin’s breathing gradually even out, and h rapidly beating heart slowly steadied.

Even so, she did not relax a bit.

She understood Justin the most. If this happened to her own mother her reaction might be more terrifying than his.

Bella did not know how much time had passed while they remained in that position when Justin came to his senses. As if his broken soul had stitched itself together, his sweaty and cold hands covered hers, and he said hoarsely, “I’m sorry, Bella. I must have scared you.”

Bella’s heart stung, and she shook her head.

This man was so foolish sometimes that it made her heart ache.

He just learned the truth about his mother's death, yet he apologized to her. What did he do wrong?

Justin was the most pitiful person in the world.

"But... Bella, what should I do?"

Justin's eyes, numb from pain, could not stop the tears from falling. His lean body was stiff, and he stood there without moving an inch, feeling as if his heart had been dug out and thrown into a dark abyss, chilling him to the core.

"Why am I so stupid? The woman who murdered my mother was right in front of me and lived with me for twenty years, but I knew nothing Bella, tell me. Apart from killing her, what should I do? How do I see justice for my mother?"

"You will, soon."

Bella's soft hands patted his trembling back lightly, and her gentle voice soothed his soul, which was torn apart by hatred.

"Like you, I want nothing more than for Bethany and Shannon to pay for their blood debts. I want them to be so miserable that death would be mercy.

"I'll help you, Justin. I'll do everything I can to take your hand in this dance of vengeance. I'll walk down this path with you and bear all the unknown dangers together. We will both watch those who committed heinous deeds fall into hell and never surface again."

Justin's eyes were teary. He shut them and held Bella's hand tightly.

Together.

They did not read their oaths during their wedding, but these words were more melodious than any vows and better than any sweet talk.

They finally walked on the same path, but it was not for love. Instead, it was for revenge.

Even so, Justin was already satisfied.

He thought, 'Mother, if you are watching over me in heaven, please bless me.'

Chapter 934

The things that happened tonight were too much.

Although Ralph was a seasoned police officer, he could not digest this information immediately. He wanted Justin to get some rest first, but Justin stubbornly insisted on cooperating with the investigation.

He was in a bad mental state.

Tideview Manor carried too much of his unbearable pain and hatred at this moment. He could not live there anymore.

However, if he went to Nigel's place, he was afraid that he would lose control of his emotions and break down in front of Nigel, making the elderly worry.

Justin stood in front of the police station in a daze, smiling bitterly.

He was the president of the Salvador Corporation and was worth billions in market value, but at this moment, he felt like a homeless man with nowhere to go.

How miserable and pathetic.



“You can stay at my place tonight.”

Bella suddenly spoke to him softly Justin was so stunned that his eyes widened.

He even thought he had started hallucinating due to the excessive grief.

That was because this scenario would not even appear in his dreams

“I will manage in a hotel for a few days.”

“Don’t overthink it.”

Bella’s long eyelashes fluttered. “You can’t go back to Tideview Manor now, and you don’t want to make Grandpa Nigel worry. I won’t feel at ease if you go to a hotel either. I’m afraid you might do something stupid. If anything happens to you, it’ll be more difficult for me to carry out the revenge myself, and it’ll take more time. I merely dislike the feeling of facing challenges alone.”

Justin frowned. His gloomy eyes were still wet, like an obsidian gem touched by morning dew.

The feeling of being alone...

He understood Bella. He understood how she felt when she poured her heart and soul into something without getting any return.

When she was young, Bella passionately pursued him, but he did not know the existence of such a girl in the world.

Three years ago, she became his wife, but he never responded to devotion and love, not even once.

Justin silently turned his head away, trying to hold his tears back lost his composure in the interrogation room and did not want to appear vulnerable in front of the woman he loved.

“Whether you agree or not, I will be by your side tonight. If you choose the hotel, I’ll go with you. If you sleep under a bridge, I’ll sleep under the bridge with you.”

Upon hearing her words, Justin’s pale face blushed slightly, and heartbeat increased.

He did not want to flatter himself, but Bella sounded like his wife, following her husband’s lead.

“Well then... Sorry to trouble you tonight.” His voice was hoarse.

“What haven’t you done to me before? Stop being polite. Let’s go.”

Bella’s heart pounded as well, and she quickly walked away for fear that Justin would hear it.

Justin’s throat bobbed, and his lips curled up as he obediently trailed behind Bella.

After Steven was injured, Bella’s villa became vacant. It was empty, and walking into it would make one feel cold.

Justin entered the villa. He had never shown much interest in other matters, but he acted like a curious child at this moment. His eyes wandered around and shone with an excited spark. He did not want miss any traces of Bella’s life.

It was his first time entering Bella’s home! In the past, he could only stand pitifully outside in the rain.

Chapter 935

At this moment, for the first time in his life, Justin felt the urge to show off. He wanted to take a picture and send it to Ryan.

Ryan should know that he was not the only one who could come to

Bella's house. Look, he also made it!

"Justin, what are you looking around at?"

Bella glanced at him in surprise. "Do you know you look like a thief just now?"

"Sorry." Justin quickly retracted his gaze, feeling that he had lost his composure.

"Except for the last room on the left side of the second floor, you can choose any other room to stay in. I have some ingredients left by

Steven in the fridge, so you can make yourself some food. I don't have a cook here," Bella said casually and went upstairs.

"Why can't I enter that room?" Justin asked foolishly.

"Because that's my bedroom."

Bella suddenly halted. She turned around and looked at Justin with a sneer. "Rest assured, I don't have any secrets that can't be seen or any lovers I can't forget. If you want to visit my bedroom, you can do so now."

For some reason, she was being sarcastic.

When she thought about those old photos of Rosalind, still carefully treasured in the study until now, she felt an unavoidable sense of pain in her heart.

It was because Bella still cared about Justin. She could not resist bringing it up whenever she had a chance to imitate him.

She was merely a mortal, not a saint,

Could she not hold a grudge and throw a small tantrum?

“Bella...”

Justin’s eyes glittered with tears. He knew Bella was still upset about what happened at the villa,

However, a flame of hope had rekindled in his heart. If Bella truly did not love him anymore and was only together with him for revenge, there was no need for her to mention this.

If she brought it up, it meant she cared about his past and him.

“Suit yourself. I’ll go up first.”

Bella’s voice became noticeably deep and hoarse. “I hope you adjust your mindset soon. Our revenge is about to begin.”

“Bella, I’ve sold that villa and got rid of everything inside except for my mother’s photos.” Justin felt as if a heavy rock pressed on his chest, almost suffocating him.

Bella looked indifferent. “It has nothing to do with me. Those are your personal belongings, and you can handle them as you see fit.”

“I know their existence has hurt you.

“That’s because you wanted them to exist. You’re hesitant to get rid of them.” Bella chuckled, sounding a little relieved.

“I’ve completely forgotten about it. I’ve asked Ian to sell the villa long ago, but he never got around to it.”

Justin knew his explanation was futile, but he still felt bitter and tried to explain with reddened eyes. “I was drugged that night and only semi-conscious. I don’t remember anything that happened at all. Ryan didn’t want me to stay in a hotel in that state, and he couldn’t send me back to Tideview Manor. He only knew about that villa, so he sent me there without asking.....”

“Justin, I’ve said that it’s your business and has nothing to do with me.”

Bella closed her eyes and raised her hand, gesturing for Justin to stop. “I’m tired.”

“How does it have nothing to do with you? Don’t you resent me for it?” Justin sweated in anxiousness, breathing heavily.

“It’s not the only thing I resent about you.”

Justin felt a sting in his heart, and he clenched his fists.

“But now, I think there’s nothing to resent you for. It’s all in the past.”

Bella turned around slowly and spoke in a casual tone, not realizing that her eyes had turned red. “Justin, let’s look forward. Even the most heart-breaking emotional entanglements are not worth mentioning in the face of hatred. It will only affect our progress.”

Chapter 936

“I’m going upstairs.”

Suddenly, Bella felt some weight press against her back, making her body lurch forward.

Justin embraced her tightly from behind. His entire being enveloped her, wishing he could merge her into his body.

His sturdy chest, emanating with intense warmth, pressed against her slender back. His heartbeat pounded against her back with each pulse, leaving her head spinning and her body weak, with a tingling sensation spreading from her spine to her chest.

“Justin...” Bella’s breath came in hurried gasps as she called out his name.

Though her tone betrayed a clear hint of resistance, she yielded without resistance this time.

“How could you deem it unworthy? Stop saying things like this.”

Justin tightened his embrace once more, his arms securing her fragile waist. His heated breath brushed against her fair and rosy neck.

“Twenty years ago, I lost the most important person in my life. And now, twenty years later, I’ve found the one and only person I want to spend my life with. I don’t want to lose you again. You’re my everything. Bella... Without you, every day feels like a living hell.”

‘Death is not terrifying. In fact, I would face it countless times for you.

But losing you is my greatest fear,’ Justin thought to himself.

The man rested his chin on her lustrous hair, gently brushing it as he choked back on his emotions once more.

Justin, the epitome of pride and dominance, seemed like a god untouched by mortal affairs.

It was very unlike him to appear so vulnerable, like a dog pleading for her mercy.

Bella faintly heard his restrained sobs. That night, Bella witnessed the proud facade he usually wore crumble before her eyes. How could she bring herself to trample upon it further?

Having witnessed his bravery on the battlefield, Bella knew just how fierce and ruthless Justin could be.

Yet at this moment, she could not help but sympathize with him.

Perhaps out of compassion, she decided to set aside their grievances for the night.

“Ah... It hurts...” Bella winced, her shoulder tensing in Justin’s embrace.

“It hurts? Where?!” Justin panicked his large hands gripping Bella’s shoulders.

“Ah! It hurts so bad! Right here...” Bella gasped in pain, her slender body trembling lightly in his embrace.

Earlier at the police station, she had restrained him with her body to calm him down, unaware that the stitches holding her wound together had reopened.

It was not until they left the police station that she began to feel pain, but being the resilient person she was, she intended to deal with it herself once they returned home.

However, the oblivious Justin had no sense of awareness, clinging to her and babbling incessantly. Not only did he refuse to let go, but he also gripped Bella tightly. It made her wonder why he did not just

crush her to death.

Justin, who only realized his mistake afterward, released Bella with a dazed expression.

It was then that he felt a warm dampness on his arm. As he looked down, he was startled to see a patch of crimson staining his gray suit sleeve.

It was Bella's blood!

In reality, her wound had been bleeding all along, but with her wearing a black suit, it was hardly noticeable

"You silly girl... Why didn't you say anything earlier?!" The man's voice, usually deep and composed, now rose with urgency and concern.

"W-Why are you yelling at me?!" Bella furrowed her delicate brows. Her pitiful appearance as she bit her lips tugged at Justin's heartstrings.

Justin froze for a moment, realizing he had sounded harsh.

Yell? He would not dare yell at her.

In front of this delicate woman, he was nothing more than a lapdog and a servant.

Chapter 937

"It's fine. It's just a minor injury. Don't worry about it... Ah!"

Bella's vision momentarily blurred as she was unexpectedly lifted off the ground by Justin, prompting her to instinctively press her hands against her chest.

"I'll take you back to your room. Do you have a first-aid kit at home? I'll help you redress your wound." Justin's eyes sparkled as he gazed at her, already ascending the stairs with long strides.

"There's no need for that! I'm a professional surgeon! I can handle it myself!"



Bella's tiny fist rested against Justin's chest, her breath erratic as she forgot to resist.

A charming blush tinted her porcelain-like cheeks, adding to her already captivating allure.

Justin carried Bella into her bedroom.

To his surprise, Bella's room was unexpectedly simple. Despite being adorned with high-quality furnishings and luxurious bedding, it was far more minimalist than he had anticipated for the daughter of Hatchbay's wealthiest man. Her room was, surprisingly, even more minimalist than Carrie's.

Justin recalled how, back in the Salvador household, Bella had a great passion for life. There were numerous plants, and she often purchased different decorations for the house.

Even the bed they shared, though he seldom slept in it, had its sheets and covers changed weekly with different patterns. The bedside ornaments and flowers on the coffee table were also constantly changing and always fresh. It was evident how much effort and care

Bella had devoted to their marriage.

"You're still so young. Why is your room so simple?"

Justin gently placed Bella on the bed. "If you don't mind, my grandfather has quite a collection of famous paintings and antiques. You used to like them a lot, right? I'll go to my grandfather's place and get some. Tomorrow, I'll have Wilma come over to help you decorate."

"There's no need for that. I don't like my room to be too flashy. As long as it's functional and comfortable, it's enough," Bella replied calmly, not accepting his offer.

"I'm sorry."

"Justin, are you a parrot or a broken recorder? Can't you say something else besides these words?"

“I’m really sorry...”.

Bella sighed and rubbed her forehead in resignation.

“Alright, you don’t necessarily have to speak.” Her tone was tinged with a hint of frustration.

Justin’s lips quivered slightly, feeling bitter inside.

Following Bella’s instructions, he found the first-aid kit and helped her remove her jacket. When he saw her shirt soaked with sweat, his heart ached terribly.

“From now on, stop enduring it all silently.” Justin’s voice trembled with emotion, and his heart was heavy with anguish.

“Yeah, I won’t bear it anymore. It’s because I’ve been too tolerant that those despicable monsters have been able to seize opportunities to harm innocent people time and time again.”

Bella’s beautiful eyes blazed with intense fury, immersed in profound anger and self-reproach.

Unbeknownst to her, however, the man had silently and steadily unbuttoned the remaining buttons of her shirt, which was the only clothing left on her body.

When Bella finally realized this, Justin had already unbuttoned the last remaining button.

Justin’s throat bobbed abruptly, a surge of desire coursing through him, making his handsome face flush as if he were running a fever.

He was undoubtedly a gentleman of integrity.

Yet he always found himself unable to resist entertaining inappropriate thoughts about this delicate woman.

“Ah!”

A piercing scream echoed through the room.

With cheeks as red as tomatoes, Bella reflexively raised her hand and slapped Justin.

Chapter 938

The slap was rather gentle.

In contrast to previous encounters, Justin almost perceived Bella’s action as just a gentle caress on his cheeks, prompting a slight smile.

Bella thought, ‘Damn! Is that guy actually smiling?! Why does he seem even more shameless now?!’

“W-Why did you undress me?” Bella’s arms crossed defensively over her chest, and her cheeks flushed with embarrassment.

Justin looked deeply into her eyes, his gaze full of tenderness and affection. “I’m just helping you treat your wound.”

What a bold and justified excuse.

That scoundrel was truly shameless

“Y-You could’ve waited outside while I changed into suitable clothes, or you could’ve just cut my sleeve with scissors. Why did you have to undress me?!”

Bella's face flushed with anger, her watery eyes glaring at him with indignation. "How dare you act like a rogue and still have the nerve to justify yourself?!"

"Bella, we were married and have slept together. We've done it again, even after our divorce."

Bella's breath hitched, and her lips, red like rose petals, pursed.

Justin's voice was strained, tinged with desire, as he remarked "I've seen everything about you, even the things others haven't. If I were to act like you, wouldn't that be too contrived?"

"Justin, you..."

Before Bella could finish her sentence, the man disregarded her and leaned in, which made her flinch and shut her eyes.

"Um..." Bella's eyebrows furrowed slightly.

With such a captivating beauty in front of him, Justin's heartbeat and thoughts were in disarray. Even his breath was hot.

"Bella, just relax and let go of your hand. How else can I treat your wound like that?" His voice was gentle and soothing, coaxing her.

Bella could not help but feel her ears tingle at his overly indulgent tone. Her mind was no longer under her control as she obediently put down her trembling arm.

Justin's breath grew increasingly erratic.

His hands trembled as he relied on his determination to skillfully treat Bella's wound and wrap it with bandages.

Bella looked at the neatly wrapped bandage on her left arm, feeling deeply moved.

His emergency first-aid skills remained as professional as ever. It was as if the knowledge he acquired was etched into his DNA, retaining its proficiency even after many years.

“Thanks. You can...”

Suddenly, Bella’s vision dimmed as she watched the man lean over and trap her beneath his chest

“Bella, you can thank me in a different way”

Before she could respond, he could not hold back any longer

He abruptly sealed her sweet lips, kissing her with increasing audacity and depth, as if he were asserting his dominance

Bella’s voice became muffled by the intensity of his advances as he took full advantage of her vulnerability and trap her beneath his chest.

“Bella, you can thank me in a different way.”

Before she could respond, he could not hold back any longer.

He abruptly sealed her sweet lips, kissing her with increasing audacity and depth, as if he were asserting his dominance.

Bella’s voice became muffled by the intensity of his advances as he took full advantage of her vulnerability.

## Chapter 939

Her eyes glistened with a misty haze, uncertain whether it stemmed from a sense of being taken advantage of or if she was lost in the kiss. Her consciousness gradually drifted away.

Did such love truly exist?

The next morning.

Bella jolted awake to find Justin nowhere to be seen.

Bella's heart skipped a beat as she reached out to feel the spot next to her.

The absence of his warmth on the bed suggested that he had been gone for some time.

Leaning against the headboard, she felt a hollow ache in her heart, unable to shake off the sense of disappointment.

After panting and moaning due to the man's actions the previous night, Bella found her throat parched. At this point, she did not have the time or energy to care about where the man had gone. Instead, she got up and went downstairs to get water.

As she walked down the stairs, she heard sizzling noises from the kitchen,

'Hmm? It smells good and a little burnt...' Bella's nerves tensed as she hurried into the kitchen.

What she saw before her was extraordinarily striking!

There stood Justin, his sturdy and robust figure facing her, wearing an apron that looked out of place on him. It was almost comical enough to make her laugh.

Yet, it only accentuated his well-proportioned physique, with broad shoulders tapering down to a narrow waist. His shirt sleeves were casually rolled up, revealing his well-defined forearms. As he handled the frying pan, his arms flexed slightly. The muscles tightened, looking powerful, defined, and incredibly manly.

Bella's watery eyes narrowed as she silently approached him from behind.

Since Bella was barefooted, her steps made no sound, allowing her to approach him from behind unnoticed.

Pssst—

The frying pan emitted a puff of hot air as Justin raised his hand to wipe away the bead of sweat trickling down his cheek, sighing in frustration. "Ugh, it's burned again."

It was then that Bella noticed the mountain of fried eggs piled up next to the trash can.

"Haha! You fool! With that blazing heat and boiling oil, you could probably run a chicken farm into the ground."

Justin's heart raced as he turned to face Bella, who met his gaze with her narrowed, cat-like eyes.

"Did I wake you up?" Justin asked nervously.

"No, my body clock did. I don't usually sleep in."

Bella gestured toward the trash can and mocked, "Fortunately, Steve isn't here to witness this. He despises people who waste food more than anything. He may even make you eat all of it."

"Well, when I was serving in the army, we were not allowed to waste food. It's not a big deal to pick it up and eat it," Justin replied nonchalantly.

He had experienced similar situations in the past.

## Chapter 940

Bella dismissively waved her hand, well aware of Justin's occasional stubbornness and that he might actually do it. "I'm just kidding, Mr. Salvador. Don't take it so seriously. You don't have to eat it."

"I didn't realize cooking was so challenging. I used to think it was simple when I was watching Wilma cook. But when I tried it myself, I realized it's a skill barrier I can't overcome."

Justin looked at the chaotic mess he had made of the stove, feeling guilty. "I was thinking about how you cooked for me in the past. That must've been quite exhausting and required a lot of thought on your part."

Bella blinked, her heart filled with mixed emotions.

"Initially... I wanted you to wake up to the breakfast I prepared, but it seems I'll have to ask Ian to bring something instead."

Justin furrowed his brows lightly as he smiled awkwardly. "Bella, I'm sorry. Please give me some more time to practice. I'll do better."

Bella saw through his thoughts at first glance.

Throughout the three years of their marriage, this man has never set foot in the kitchen. Wilma also mentioned that it was not because of her that he did not want to spend time in the kitchen. He just disliked the smell of kitchen fumes.

This particular scent always brought Justin back to his childhood days in the slums, when he and his mother lived next to greasy diners. From dawn to dusk, lying in bed, he could always smell the smoky, oily odor lingering in the air. No matter how hard he tried to wash the scent off their clothes, that greasy smell never seemed to fade away.



Now, Justin was willing to cook for her and engage in tasks he had never attempted before.

He held her in high regard, ready to disregard all boundaries and principles for her.

Bella felt a warm surge in her chest as she gently pushed away the dazed Justin standing before her.

“Alright, please stop making a mess in my kitchen. I’ll handle it.”

Suddenly, Bella could not help but cough heavily. Inhaling some kitchen fumes had triggered her sensitivity to smoke again.

Bella thought, ‘This fool! Does he not know how to switch on the range hood?!’

“Bella, what’s wrong? Did you catch a cold?” Justin’s concern resurfaced.

Bella covered her mouth and nose. “It’s nothing. I’m just a little sensitive to smoke. Just open the windows and let some fresh air in. I’ll be fine.”

‘Sensitive to smoke... She has an allergy?’ Justin’s dark eyes widened with shock.

‘When did she develop this condition? Or has she always had it, and I just never knew about it? So, for the past three years, when she cooked for me and the entire Salvador family, was she enduring the pain of her allergies all along?’

Bella had just picked up the spatula when Justin tightly wrapped his arms around her from behind.

“Hey, how am I going to cook like this?”

“Stop cooking. You don’t have to do it ever again.”

Justin buried his face in her neck, his breath heavy, and his eyes reddened with emotion! "I'll handle it from now on. I'll learn to make whatever you want to eat."

"Forget it. You're not a culinary prodigy. I can't count on you."

Suddenly, Bella's eyes narrowed slightly, embarrassed as she tightly pursed her lips, realizing she may have spoken too bluntly.

Why did she say that? It sounded like they were already an old married couple. It was as if she had assumed they would definitely be living the rest of their lives together.