

Heiress 971

Chapter 971

Wilma sneered. "Some people came to mourn the dead. But you? You came to take advantage of the dead!"

"Wilma! How dare you!"

"Also, stop flattering yourself. Those who were kind to me were the former Mrs. Salvador and Mr. Salvador. The Salvador family didn't treat me well; it was only Mr. Salvador. It has nothing to do with you!" Wilma got angrier as she spoke and spat at Shannon.

Goodness! A maid going against the madam? It was unheard of!

How stimulating!

"She's right. A funeral caused by an accidental death should be handled in a low-profile manner. Ms. Bella and Mr. Salvador are people with high status, yet they did not invite even one reporter. It's evident that they genuinely wanted to send the dead off and not tr use the funeral to build their reputation."

"Yeah! A wealthy madam like Mrs. Shannon, who loves to be in the spotlight, could be said to be the first in Savrow."

"The maid is right. Isn't Shannon trying to exploit the dead for publicity?"

Seeing that the tides had changed, Shannon was so mad that she was about to explode, but she could not throw a tantrum in front of so many people.

Therefore, she could only play the victim until the end.

"You... How could you judge my genuine intentions with your evil suspicions?"

Shannon clutched her chest with a pale face, trembling as if she would collapse at any time. She directed the accusation at Bella. "Ms.

Bella, when you haven't divorced Justin, we already don't have a harmonious relationship. I admit that we had some grudges in private. But times have changed. You and Justin have divorced now, and everything was in the past! Why do you still try to take any opportunity to take revenge on me, refusing to let me go?!"

Seeing this vindictive woman bring up the divorce again, Bella's face turned as cold as ice.

Justin felt a fire burning in his heart. The veins on his forehead bulged.

Shannon's gaze shone with a malicious light as she sobbed, "You knew Justin loved Rosalind and that their mutual affection was

hindered only by Old Master Nigel. But even so, you still married Justin without thinking about the consequences! Love can't be forced. Your marriage was destined to end in divorce, yet you insi on blaming it on me. Isn't that too much?"

Shannon's words made up a story out of nothing, combining some truth and lies and shifting the focus.

What a strategic move!

The crowd was stunned.. They were getting so many revelations today!

Was Shannon wrongly accused? Was Bella really resorting to all means to get revenge on her?

Axel and Ralph could not take it anymore. Even Drew, standing in a corner, was prepared to draw out a poisonous needle and fling it at that evil woman, making her mute.

“Asher! I’ll get someone to chase these reporters out now. We can’t continue like this. Bella and Justin’s matter will go viral!”

Axel was about to leave when Asher grabbed him. “Axel, no.”

“Why?!” Axel and Ralph could not understand.

“It’s too late now. Some reporters are probably livestreaming this. If we chase them away, it would look like we are guilty, falling into Shannon’s trap. We’ll be disadvantaged.”

Asher took a deep breath as his brows furrowed. “Every word of hers was a trap meant for Bella. If we didn’t handle it properly, we would be admitting that she was telling the truth.”

Axel and Ralph’s fists clenched in anger. They were even considering giving up their careers as police and public prosecutors to rush and beat up Shannon.

Chapter 972

“Didn’t have a good relationship? How thick of a skin must you have to say this in front of Bella?”

Justin stood out without hesitation at this moment. His eyes narrowed, and he did not conceal his disdain. “You are merely my father’s second wife, and I am not your son. You were never Bella’s mother-in-law in the first place. But even so, Bella respected you during the three years she lived with the Salvador family and always satisfied your unreasonable requests. She endured you and Bethany’s bullying. Why aren’t you speaking of those now?”

Bella felt a lump form in her throat. The upsetting past resurfaced in her mind, causing her fingers to curl.

Although Justin did not look at her, he understood her bitterness and held her hand with a force she could not resist. “Also, Bella married me because she loved me. Is there anything wrong with loving someone? She did not do anything wrong. I was the one who m mistake. I didn’t see through Rosalind’s

true colors and kept co with her while married, hurting Bella's heart. I didn't know my own feelings. I fell in love with Bella long ago but did not know it."

At this moment, the camera flashes erupted again.

The president of the Salvador Corporation protected his former wife in front of all the media, and he even admitted that he had an affair!

Shannon's expression changed. Even Bethany was dumbfounded, her mouth hanging open.

They did not expect that for Bella, Justin was willing to throw away his image, reputation, and identity!

They had underestimated Justin's love for Bella.

He was willing to shatter to pieces himself if it meant she remained unscathed; he was willing to be covered in filth for her to remain pure.

Bella's lips trembled, and she stared at Justin's back, standing as firm as a rock in front of her. For a moment, her emotions surged, making her almost teary-eyed.

What moved her more than saying "I love you" a thousand times was that Justin understood her grievances and wanted the best for her.

"I'll make it clear one more time, and hopefully the last time."

Justin's sharp gaze swept across Shannon and Bethany, finally passing over the crowd. "In our divorce, I was in the wrong, and it has nothing to do with Ms. Bella. If any media dares to write anything against Ms. Bella, even one word, I will investigate it thorough make the rumor-mongers pay a painful price!"

His words stunned everyone.

Shannon and Bethany shivered. They tacitly stepped back, not daring to provoke further.

“Awesome.” Ralph was impressed and clapped as a sign of respect.

Asher and Axel nodded as well, expressing their agreement.

Drew, watching from a distance, curled his lips. He turned around and lit a cigarette, revealing a satisfied smile.

“This brat is looking more and more like my brother-in-law.”

At this moment, a reporter was caught in the moment and asked loudly, “Mr. Salvador! Since you and Ms. Bella are divorced, why do you still interact so much? I’ve been following both of you for a while.

When Ms. Bella encountered several difficulties, you always stood out to help her. Do you treat her so well because she was your ex- wife, or do you still have lingering feelings for her?”

“Yeah! Mr. Salvador, what is your relationship with Ms. Bella now?” The other reporters echoed.

Just as Bella was at a loss for what to do, Justin’s eyes reddened, and he said clearly, “Once, she was my ex-wife. Now, I am hers.”

As his words fell, he turned around to look at Bella. Tears filled his eyes when their gazes met.

Chapter 973

This time, Bella did not avoid Justin’s sincere and shining gaze.

Her heart melted into a surging ocean, wondering how much a man must love her to have teary eyes every time he saw her.

Shannon and Bethany's way out was blocked by Bella and Justin, while the reporters surrounded them from behind. Trapped in the middle, they were almost forced to tears.

At this moment, Wilma took out her phone and played a recording in front of everyone!

The scene fell silent as the voices in the recording rang out, spewing words too vulgar to be heard.

It was Shannon's usual words of abuse toward the servants at home.

The crowd was stunned!

"Oh my God! Record it!"

"Is this how a wealthy madam should behave? Even the old woman downstairs in my neighborhood is more civilized than her!"

"Damn, we'd have to censor everything if it were to be released!"

Bethany turned pale. She often tormented the servants as well and was afraid that the next recording would be her voice.

"Come! Everyone, look at this! This is how our elegant and graceful Madam Shannon's considerate and generous attitude towards the servants!" Wilma raised her phone and shouted.

"Damned old hag! How dare you target me? Stop playing it!"

Shannon's face was beet red as she rushed forward to snatch the phone, but the bodyguards from the Thompson family would not let this crazy woman near Wilma, blocking her way entirely.

Therefore, under the media's flashlights, it looked as if Shannon was showing her claws one-sidedly, creating a hilarious effect.

"Madam, you can't even endure this one recording? I still have dozens. It's only the tip of the iceberg of your tyrannical behavior in the Salvador family all these years."

As she spoke, Wilma released another recording.

This one started with a loud slapping sound. Anyone could tell that it was a fierce slap.

"Linny! Do you have hands? Why can't you even do such easy stuff properly? We don't hire useless trash!" Shannon's sharp voice sounded as unpleasant as fingernails scraping on a blackboard

Shannon's face turned pale as she trembled.

"Sorry, Madam Shannon... I'll tidy it up now... Ah!"

Linny's pained voice rang out, causing everyone's hearts to tigh

"Linny! Didn't you hear me calling you? Are you deaf?!" Bethany's voice appeared, acting much like her mother.

"Sorry, Ms. Bethany... I'll come over now."

With solid evidence, Shannon and Bethany could not brush it off.

"What day and age is it now? Do you think it's the feudal age, torturing your workers like this? Even ancient princesses wouldn't dare beat and scold palace maids at will!" Axel gritted his teeth angrily and wanted to yell at Shannon, but Asher and Ralph stopped him.

“Tsk, Axel looks more intimidating than a dog when he can’t control his temper.” Drew shook his head with a sigh.

Bella was filled with so much resentment and hatred that her eyes turned red. Her throat felt as if it had been pierced.

Justin held her stiff waist tightly, silently comforting her almost- breaking emotions. However, the veins bulged on his hand around her waist, showing that he was unable to hold on.

Shannon and Bethany’s lies were exposed, causing the reporters to uproar.

“Let’s go. We’ll leave now!”

Shannon gritted her teeth as she pulled Bethany along and rush of the crowd.

At this moment, Bella and Justin felt a gush of cold wind passing from their sides.

When they looked up, they saw Linny’s grandmother expressionlessly holding a bowl of boiling water, slamming it directly onto Shannon’s head without a word.

Shannon let out a scream, feeling as if her scalp was splitting open.

Drenched and dripping water, she had never been so embarrassed in her life!

Chapter 974

Bethany could not dodge in time and was also caught in it. She was so nauseous that she almost vomited.

The crowd was stunned!

Everyone fell into a great shock, including Bella and Justin.

Who could have thought that an old woman who was bedridden a few days ago due to the passing of her only remaining family was filled with the strength to kill her enemies now? She glared at Shannon, and every inch of her bones seemed indestructible!

It commanded respect from the others.

“You evil bitch... Get lost now! Don’t stand here and dirty Linny’s road to heaven!”

Linny’s grandmother stood straight, despite her small frame. Her voice was full of vitality. “If you don’t scam now, I’ll bust your head open with these bowls! My only granddaughter is not here anymore. There’s nothing left for me to live for. I’m not afraid of using my life to go against you corrupted conglomerates!”

Shannon and Bethany arrived grandly, but they ended up damaging their own image and fleeing in desperation.

Their departure also brought the reporters away. After all, they needed to write about the wife of the Salvador Corporation’s chairman’s glorious deeds.

Although Linny’s, funeral started amidst the chaos, it ended smoothly.

After the fuss Shannon and Bethany made, Linny’s grandmother exhausted herself and fainted. She was urgently sent to the hospital by the Thompsons to receive the best care and treatment.

In the lounge, Bella sat on the sofa and looked gloomy.

Although they had won this battle, she still shook in anger when she thought of how Shannon and Bethany humiliated and bullied Linny in Wilma’s recording. It was as if thousands of arrows had pierced her heart, making her convulse in pain.

Asher and Axel took care of the aftermath, as they needed to control the media. Even though Justin had announced his stance in front of the whole nation's media, they still needed to take precautions to protect their sister.

Ralph wanted to stay with Bella but had other cases to deal with at the police station and left first.

The ones accompanying her in the lounge were Steven, Amelia, Drew, and Justin.

"Did you turn on the air conditioner? Why is it a little cold?" Bella asked in a daze, hugging herself.

"No, Bella."

Amelia looked worried. "Are you sick? I'll get a blanket for you."

Just as she was about to leave, Justin quickly took off his suit jacket and wrapped it around Bella's body carefully, as if he were looking after an infant.

Bella's wet lashes lifted, and her heart skipped a beat.

Justin kneeled before her on one knee, staring into her reddened eyes as if he wanted to delve into the softest and most painful corner of her heart.

"Bella, I know what you're thinking. I understand you." He did not say more than necessary, but his simple words hit harder instead.

"I just feel cold." Bella's pale lips parted as she muttered, looking at him with teary eyes.

Justin's heart ached as if it had been run over by a truck. He opened his arms and hugged her, wanting to envelop Bella completely.

“Are you still cold?” His deep voice echoed in her ear.

Bella bit her lips lightly, her body leaning against his chest like she was boneless, and shook her head.

“With me around, you’ll never be cold again.” Justin coaxed her like a child.

He knew that Bella was reminded of some painful memories. She was never really over Linny’s death.

They would take it slow. When a kind person was emotionally wounded, it would take a long time to heal. He had enough love and patience for that.

Drew and Steven watched as the two silently embraced each other like animals searching for warmth. The tension that hung in their hearts dissipated.

Amelia, being an emotional person, felt touched. Her eyes teared up.

Suddenly, she felt a warm sensation in her hand.

Steven gently took her hands, slowly interlocking their fingers.

Chapter 975

Amelia’s breath became erratic, her face blushing as red as a tomato.

They silently held hands, each blushing more than the other, and hoped that this moment would carry on forever, unwilling to let go.

Bella felt calmer and said to Justin, “After what happened today, Wilma can’t stay in Tideview Manor anymore. If both of you don’t mind, I’d like Wilma to go to Hatchbay and work in Yara Park. If she wants to retire, I will buy a house for her at Hatchbay so she can enjoy her retired life in peace. I don’t feel

assured that Wilma will stay in Savrow. I'm afraid Shannon and Bethany won't let go of their grudge and target her."

"Bella, we have the same thoughts."

Justin was relieved. "I'd like to settle Wilma and have her leave Savrow temporarily. She can come back after I get rid of Shannon. But if she could settle down at Hatchbay, it would be great. I agree with it."

"I'm only worried that Wilma will be unwilling to leave with me. S couldn't bear to leave you, her godson." Bella squinted mischievously teasing him.

"She won't."

Justin's eyes shone as he rubbed her fingertips. "Wilma said that home is where I am. If I'm not there, it should be with her Young Madam."

"Young Madam? That's not me!" Bella panicked and turned her head away, ignoring Justin.

Justin chuckled and patted Bella's head dotingly.

Drew could not take it anymore. He quickly slipped out to smoke. If he continued watching that sweet couple, he'd get diabetes!

At this moment, Justin's phone rang

He took it out of his pocket and looked at the screen, his eyes flashing. "Bella, I need to take this call."

Bella watched as he left, her heart tightening.

Outside the door, Ryan's voice rang out when Justin picked up the call. "Justin, it's ready. When are you planning to move?"

“Evening. With my plane.” Justin’s gaze was dark.

“Why not mine? Oh, you don’t need to save that bit of fuel money for me!”

Ryan was generous. “You are my wife’s brother. I need to take care of you!”

“Your private plane has a model older than mine. Its speed is too slow.”

“Fuck! Don’t embarrass me like that!

Ryan huffed indignantly and then asked in a whisper, “Did you tell Bella?”

“I can’t.”

Justin shut his eyes, and his fists curled into a ball as he took a deep breath. “I know Bella. She hates injustice. She must personally kill her enemies to find closure. If she knows I am going to find Winston, she will want to go with me, and nobody can stop her. The situation in Terranova is too dangerous. How can I bring her along? I’m not crazy.”

“Tsk, there’s really no one else like you who dotes on his wife to this extent.”

Ryan could not help exclaiming. After thinking about it, he added, “

There’s really no one else like us who loves our wives so much.”

“You’re good at flattering yourself.” Justin mocked, curling the corner of his lips.

After they dealt with their enemies, he hoped his best friend could find happiness with his sister. He also hoped that he could have a new start with Bella.

Justin ended the call with Ryan but was not in a hurry to return to Bella. He stood by the window, smoking while organizing his messy thoughts.

Suddenly, he heard familiar and light footsteps behind him.

Chapter 976

Justin immediately turned around. A captivating fragrance wafted over, strumming his heartstrings.

Bella approached him, her eyes gleaming as she wrapped her arms around him, trapping him under her rosy and plump lips.

Before him were Bella's rose lips, moist like morning dew, acting as a fatal attraction, causing Justin's face to burn. His throat bobbed.

"Did you forget what I told you before?"

Bella's hand traced down from his broad shoulders to his chest, then to the defined abs hidden under his suit...

Justin's heart pounded loudly, his dazed gaze following her red lips.

Just as Justin could not hold it back and wanted to kiss her, he suddenly felt an emptiness between his fingers.

Bella snatched his cigarette and put it between her lips, taking a deep breath. She coughed violently, causing her face and neck to turn at once.

"Silly girl. You don't know how to smoke, so don't try it." Justin pinched her flushed cheeks, feeling amused.

“I don’t understand. What’s so good about this thing? It’s choking you!”

Bella threw the cigarette and stomped on it angrily. “You and Drew cannot live without cigarettes. You are humans, not chimneys. I will start playing anti-smoking educational videos on lung cancer 24 hours

a day at home. I don’t believe it won’t cure your bad habits!”

After that, her face turned redder.

Justin lowered his gaze and stared at her, raising his hand to throw his cigarette box into the trash bin.

He held her waist, his hot breath spraying on her nose. Even his gaze was lustful. “Sorry, Bella. I will try my best to quit. No, I will definitely quit smoking.”

“I know it’s hard for you guys, who’ve been avid smokers for over a decade, to quit. Just try smoking less. I’m not that inhumane,” Bella muttered and pouted.

“No, I must quit.”

Justin recalled the past and felt a sting in his heart. “You’ve told me, over and over again to quit smoking without getting impatient, but I never listened to you.

“In the future, your words are my wish. But...”

Bella blinked. “But what?”

“If I quit smoking, can I still watch TV twenty-four hours a day at home?” Justin asked foolishly, slightly blushing like a boy who just experienced love.

Having lived for thirty years, it seemed he had just started learn how to date.

“Pfft!”

Bella covered her mouth and laughed. “Stupid! What a dumb question!”

Justin loved watching her smile. As long as she smiled, he did not mind being a fool forever.

“When are you leaving?” Bella suddenly asked.

Justin glanced at his watch. “Any moment now.”

“Should I see you off?”

“No need. It’s been a long day. Go back and rest early.”

“Justin.”

The next second, Bella tiptoed and kissed his lips. Compared to how unfamiliar she was last time, this kiss was more familiar and lingering.

Bella only wanted a peck, but she underestimated Justin’s longing for her.

He held her chin and deepened the kiss. Their tongues entangled, finding it hard to separate.

After a while, Bella lightly pushed his heaving chest. They parted, leaving behind a glistening thread of saliva.

Justin licked his thin lips, unwilling to let go of her sweetness. “Be you improved.”

Bella was shy and embarrassed. She wanted to pound his chest, but in the end, she straightened his tie and smoothed out the wrinkles of his suit like a gentle and understanding wife.

“Come back soon. If you’re late, I won’t leave the door open for you.”

Chapter 977

The video of Shannon and Bethany causing a scene at Linny’s funeral quickly went viral on the Internet!

Asher might have done something behind the scenes, or the present reporters who disliked Shannon came to a consensus. They only exposed recordings of Wilma confronting Shannon and Linny’s grandmother throwing boiling water on Shannon.

Bella and Justin were not mentioned at all. They were well protected.

Originally, what caused more waves than Shannon torturing her servants was the fact that Bella was Justin’s ex-wife.

However, with the pressure from KS Group and the Salvador

Corporation’s president, no reporter dared to release this information, fearing it would end their careers.

Although gossip about Bella and Justin being secretly married had spread throughout the Internet, it was overshadowed by the exploding news of Shannon’s misdeeds.

The netizens uploaded pictures and gifs of Shannon drenched in water, coupled with memes and jokes. Even the Salvador

Corporation’s PR department found it difficult to suppress the situation.

[LMAO! I hope Shannon lives longer, I'm relying on her negative n to stay motivated!]

[A bitch like this who exploits the dead and looks down on the common people should rot in jail for the rest of her life!]

[The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! Shannon's daughters can't be much better than her!]

[Her elder daughter is definitely a stupid bitch, but her youngest daughter never showed herself in public. Since she's low-profile and has no negative news, she should be a good woman!]

[What kind of good daughter can someone like Shannon raise? They're all the same!]

Shannon's reputation was as good as gone!

Bethany already had a dark history, and now, thanks to her mother, she was brought out to be bullied online again.

However, these were far from enough.

What Bella and Justin wanted was not just for them to be discredited on the Internet.

They wanted Shannon and Bethany completely ruined!

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After Ryan finished dealing with his work and Justin's business prepared to go home to say goodbye to his wife.

Sitting in the car, he madly scrolled through the Twitter comme using his burner account to curse out all the netizens badmouth Carrie.

The Young Master of the Hoffman family was usually arrogant an mighty, commanding a holier-than-thou attitude. But now he was lik a resentful shrew, cursing and ranting with the group of haters onli

It was all to stand up for his wife and defend her!

The driver was so frightened that he wiped his sweat while driving. His whole body trembled except for his hands, which were steady due to muscle memory.

“Yasmin!” Ryan suddenly growled.

The driver’s face paled, and he stuttered, “Mr. Hoffman, have you forgotten that you left Yasmin in the villa to take care of Young Madam Carrie? She didn’t come with us...”

“Fuck... I forgot about it.” Ryan exhaled deeply.

He had ordered the people around him to start addressing Carrie as Young Madam Carrie.”

In fact, Ryan even wanted to transfer half of his personal assets, including the shares he held and housing properties, to Carrie’s name.

He had considered it for a long time. The reason he still had not acted upon it was that he wanted the dangerous matters to be over before he could officially propose marriage to the Salvador family. It wo make him look good.

Before that, he must help Justin and Bella get rid of Shannon.

It was not just because of their brotherly relationship. Ryan had a of a hidden agenda.

Who would be willing to have a troublemaker as their future mother law? It was equivalent to having a timebomb around them!

Ryan could not wait until he got home. He called Yasmin and said Yasmin, immediately arrange for someone to monitor the online

comments! If any media badmouthed my wife, I want you to catch that reporter. I'll beat him up! If there are any keyboard warriors talking shit, find them too. I will sue them into bankruptcy!"

"I've already started sending people to monitor and delete unfavorable comments towards Young Madam Carrie without you saying so. Like you, I don't want this clown show to affect her."

Yasmin had been working for him for many years, and she understood Ryan too well.

"Good job! I'll give you a generous bonus!" Ryan nodded in approval.

Chapter 978

"But there is something more troublesome right now."

Yasmin sighed and felt guilty. "In the morning, Young Madam Carrie had gotten news of Linny's funeral while watching TV..."

Ryan's heart skipped a beat. What he feared the most still happened.

"It was my negligence. I didn't expect the news to be reported so soon since we had sealed the information before. However, these aren't excuses. It's still my mistake. Don't reward me. I'd rather you punish me." Yasmin was gloomy and willing to take responsibility .

"It's not your fault, Yasmin. You took care of Carrie every day and handled business matters for me. You've already worked hard."

Ryan's heart felt heavy, and his eyes were filled with worry. "How's Carrie looking now?"

"Young Madam Carrie... It's not good. She kept crying non-stop. Please come back quickly."

"Alright. I'm on my way."

Ending the call, Ryan thought about his wife crying at home and felt worried and afraid. His blood pressure soared, and he kicked back of the driver's seat.

"Driver faster! Do you still want to get paid?!"

"Yes!" The driver stepped on the gas pedal and was scared stiff!

Ryan rushed home anxiously, immediately flying up the stairs to check on his wife without even taking the time to change his clothes.

"Mr. Hoffman." Yasmin guarded the door and bowed to him.

"She's inside?" Ryan's heart raced.

"Yes. Young Madam Carrie refused to eat or drink, shutting herself inside."

Yasmin pursed her lips and felt distressed. "I didn't dare to go in. You know that Young Madam Carrie needs you the most now."

Ryan pushed open the door lightly and walked in.

Although it was not daytime, the curtains were all closed, and the lights were switched off. The dim atmosphere felt suffocating.

“Honey? Honey?”

Ryan searched the study, bedroom, changing room, and bathroom but could not find the person he was looking for.

He panicked, his shoulders trembling beneath his suit, and his limbs were soaked in cold sweat!

“Carrie!? Carrie!”

His voice brought Yasmin, who was guarding outside the door of the room.

“Carrie is missing!” Ryan was at a loss.

“How could it be?!”

Yasmin also started panicking. “I’ve been outside the door all the time. Young Madam Carrie did not step out of the room!”

Her words were like lightning that struck down on Ryan, causing his handsome face to turn pale. All kinds of terrifying scenes played out in his mind, and he could not take it anymore!

Gathering his courage, Ryan peered out the window with a forehead full of cold sweat.

There was nothing on the ground.

He let out a sigh of relief, and his hanging heart finally calmed down. However, he felt drained, his expensive suit drenched in sweat.

Yasmin knew what Ryan was afraid of. She felt the same way.

After all, Carrie had mental issues. They were afraid she might do something extreme under such stimulation.

Chapter 979

“Find her!”

Ryan slammed his palm on the window, his eyes narrowing into an anxious curve. “Even if you flip over the villa, you must find my wife!”

“Yes! I’ll take some men to search around now!”

Yasmin immediately left.

The room returned to silence. Ryan’s tense emotions finally eased a little, enabling him to think calmly.

At this moment, he faintly heard a soft sobbing sound, and his heart tightened.

“Carrie!”

Ryan was overjoyed, following the sound as he strode toward the bedroom.

The weak sobs became clearer, causing his heart to be in pain,

Finally, he stopped in front of the wardrobe in the bedroom. They were more apparent, accompanied by sounds of fabric rustling

Ryan opened the wardrobe door slowly. The next second, he wrenched in so much pain that he could not breathe.

Carrie's frail body curled into a ball like a kitten that could not find way home, hiding and shivering in a dark corner.

She hugged herself tightly, her soaked hair sticking to her forehead

She was starting to feel deprived of oxygen after hiding here for a long time, and her delicate face turned bright red from the lack of air.

"Ryan..."

Once she saw Ryan, Carrie could not hold back anymore and cried her heart out, her pale lips cracking. Crystal-like tears fell from her eyes uncontrollably. "Is Linny dead... Is Linny really dead?"

Her tears fell on Ryan's heart, creating bloody dents in his already-aching heart.

He reached out his strong arms and carried her soaked body out of the wardrobe.

When Ryan touched Carrie's skin, he immediately panicked.

Her body burned like a furnace. It was evident that she had been hiding in the wardrobe for too long.

Ryan's tears welled up, and even his comforting voice choked up. Sorry. Sorry, Carrie..."

He did not know what else to say and could only apologize repeatedly while feeling like a mess.

"Linny... Really died? Is it true..." Carrie kept asking without tired of it.

"She merely went to another world that was better and happier answered patiently.

In the end, perhaps due to exhaustion, grief, and a lack of oxygen Carrie fell into a deep slumber.

Ryan immediately got the Hoffman family's doctor to examine her situation, only feeling assured when he knew it was due to excessive grief and low blood sugar. A drip and some rest would be sufficient.

He knelt on a knee by Carrie's bedside, holding her hand tightly. His lips lingered around her arm, feeling uneasy.

"Mr. Hoffman, the car is waiting for you. We should go."

Yasmin hesitated for a moment and then whispered, "If you can't bear to leave Young Madam Carrie, just don't go. I'll take your place. It's dangerous to catch a criminal in Terranova, and things are not the same anymore. You have someone you care about now. It's better to stop interfering with matters like this."

"No, I must go."

Ryan pressed Carrie's hand to his chest. His gaze was reluctant, but his tone was firm and unwavering. I promised Justin. He is like my brother; I must help him. Moreover, if that bastard didn't kill Linny, would things turn out like this? Could my wife fall sick from crying?

Fuck. When I catch that bastard, he'll regret being born!"

With the Hoffman family's ruthlessness, that man could never

Terranova alive with all his limbs intact.

However, Justin insisted on bringing him back alive to let Bella with him, making the mission much more difficult. How could he lend a hand?

"Then you must be extra careful on this mission. I prepared bulletproof vests for you and Mr. Salvador, so you must wear them

Chapter 980

“Okay, enough! Yasmin, why do you nag more than my mother? I chose you because you were a person of few words. You’re becoming a blabbermouth as you get older!” Ryan teased.

Yasmin pursed her lips and stepped back, feeling embarrassed.

In the past, women around Ryan came and went, but only she remained unmoved.

All these years, she took on different roles around him-his secretary, bodyguard, dance partner, and even a friend he could speak his mind to. When it was necessary, she acted as his lover to deal with those annoying pursuers.

She was used to being by his side and feeling needed by him. She had never had a man before, except for Ryan.

They were not lovers, but sometimes they were closer than lovers.

Yasmin did not know whether it was love. However, she knew that there was never a possibility between them.

Moreover, Ryan had met his one true love. She should not nag him anymore, overstepping her boundaries and causing him to be annoyed.

“Yasmin, you might need to work harder for the next few days.”

Ryan kissed Carrie’s lips and slowly stood up, ordering Yasmin, Please guard Carrie without letting her out of your sight. You will move to sleep in her room from now on. Lock the door and window at night, and never let down your guard.”

“Yes, Mr. Hoffman. I will.”

Yasmin nodded with a bright gaze. "I will take care of Young Madam

Carrie tirelessly. I guarantee you with my life that she will be safe when you return."

The Salvador Corporation was in a mess, busy trying to take care of Shannon's scandals.

In actuality, Gregory did not do it to help Shannon this time. He needed to save the Salvador Corporation's image, which had been stained by the negative news again.

They had grown too big to be ignored. Since Justin took over the

Salvador Corporation, he has carried out several reformative decisions. His iron-like methods enabled the company to expand rapidly in Savrow and throughout the continent.

However, the price of this rapid progression was making numerous enemies and being watched by many business rivals.

Now, the Salvador Corporation has an important project with the number two conglomerate in Meridan. If they took a hit and caused their reputation to plummet, shaking the stock market, it might heavily impact the project, giving those enemies an opening.

"Gregory! What do you have to say now? How much longer are you going to protect that damned woman?"

Outside the chairman's office in the Salvador Corporation, a few high-level executives lined up, listening to the chaos in the room. They were scared stiff, wiping their sweat.

Inside the room, there was a mess on the ground.

Nigel, sitting in a wheelchair, had thrown everything on the desk onto Gregory. A pencil holder struck his forehead, causing a bump to form.

However, Gregory stood there with his head hung low, not moving an inch.

It seemed to have become the Salvador family's practice to clear a desk when throwing a fit.

"The stock market this morning had almost blinded me! And you, just go online and see how people are talking about us!"

Nigel was furious, pointing at Gregory's nose. He cursed, "They said we are a family of monsters, rich bastards, and all villains! Our image is destroyed by that stupid bitch!"

Gregory gritted his teeth and clenched his fists, feeling a ball of fire running through his body.

He had seen everything Nigel did. The anger in his heart was no less than that of his father's.

He repeatedly warned Shannon to keep a low profile and know her place, but she continuously disregarded his words, doing as she pleased. Now, she had made an irreversible mistake!

She dared to do this because of the indulgence he had shown her over the years. It was because he doted on her.

Gregory regretted it, but he was unwilling to admit his mistake in front of his father. He could not accept that he had made a wrong choice in the past.

"Shannon is grounded, and she is reflecting at home now. Without my word, she can't take a step out of Tideview Manor."

Gregory took a deep breath. "Father, I think she went to the funeral for the sake of the Salvador family. Regardless of whether she sincerely wanted to mourn that maid, she wanted to build a good image for

the company with this action.

“If everything goes accordingly, there wouldn’t have been any mistakes. Things became like this because of your good granddaughter, Ms. Bella!”