

## Heiress 981

### Chapter 981

At the mention of Bella, Nigel's expression changed and became more gloomy.

"What did you say? What do you mean by it?"

"Bella has always been at odds with Shannon. It was a well-known fact in the Salvador family before she divorced Justin. Think about it.

Since they divorced, Bella has brought trouble to us every time she appeared. This time, she was also present, which caused things to turn out like this. Even if she doesn't care about Shannon, she should at least consider our family's reputation for your sake and Justin's!"

Gregory only wanted to hide his mistake of misjudging his wife, but he got more agitated as he spoke, venting his grudge against Bella and almost deceiving himself.

"At a solemn occasion like a funeral yesterday, why did she choose to cause trouble then? Even if she wanted to, couldn't she wait until the funeral was over? Her actions showed that she wanted to become the Salvador Corporation's enemy. Things got to this point because of Bella's pettiness, a consequence of her recklessly coming for our family!"

"From what you're saying, you think this matter is Bella's fault?" Nigel's eyes narrowed.

"At the very least, she has something to do with it," Gregory said without blushing, throwing the blame on Bella.

"Fuck you!"

Nigel could not hold back his emotions and cursed, randomly grabbing a phone on the desk and throwing it at Gregory.

This time, Gregory dodged it. If he did not, he would end up with multiple bumps on his forehead.

“One of our servants died in an accident, but you and Shannon, as masters of the Tideview Manor, treated her life with such indifference! Since the incident happened, there has been no

response from you. Bella brought her family to arrange the funeral for that poor maid, giving her enough respect and dignity. It’s fine that you didn’t appreciate the gesture. You can’t control your wife and even try to turn things around by blaming everything on Bella, who was innocent... How old are you? Don’t you feel ashamed to bully a young woman in her twenties?”

As long as his beloved Bella was involved, Nigel could not keep calm. His eyes reddened with anger, and his pale lips trembled. “Gregory, when did you become so cold-blooded and cruel, unable to distinguish right from wrong?! Or perhaps you’ve always been like this and never changed. It was me who was blind and ignorant, only seeing your true colors now!”

Gregory was stunned!

Looking at his father glaring at him with resentful eyes, his blood seemed to freeze, and the veins in his temples bulged.

“Deep down, you never approved of me, right? Back then, you hoped the one going to prison was me, not my brother, wasn’t it?”

Nigel’s pupils contracted. He slammed on his wheelchair’s armrest. ‘ You and Gary are both my sons. You are equal in my heart-my own flesh and blood! I never favored one of you more than the other, but your wild guesses made you think I favored your brother more, neglecting you! But now, I’ve started regretting it. I regret not throwing you into jail and giving you a few years to wake the fuck up! I regret that I didn’t hire someone to kill that vixen when you insisted on marrying Shannon! I regret not

protecting Justin and his mother, letting Justin lose his mother at such a young age, and you missed a good woman who sincerely loved you!”

“Loved me... What did you say?” Gregory’s face paled as he asked in a daze.

Nigel thought of Justin's mother, Mary. Bitterness surged in his heart. "Mary only ever loved you. She never changed her mind, nor did she have another man in her heart.

"I've been thinking about where Justin's devoted character came from. I thought he inherited my personality, but now I understand it's his mother."

"Impossible... How could it be?"

Gregory trembled with a misty gaze. "If she loves me, why isn't she willing to marry me and become a legal couple? Why did she treat me with such coldness? She doesn't even let me touch her..."

"Because she was unwell and suffering from severe depression. Her mind and body were enduring constant torture from sickness. The first thing she thought about when she woke up in the morning was how she should die, but when she thought of Justin, she could not bear to leave her young son behind."

Chapter 982

Gregory staggered back in disbelief, his heart spasming from excruciating pain.

Back then, he knew Mary suffered from depression, but apart from always staying in the house and speaking less, she did not exhibit any unusual behaviors.

Moreover, during that era, people did not understand much about depression. Many depressed patients were often overlooked by their families, even being called pretentious. Therefore, Gregory was unaware of the severity of Mary's illness.

He was busy with his work as the chairman, so he neglected her.

Nigel's weathered eyes revealed a hint of sorrow. "Back then, she refused to marry you and started distancing herself from you. I thought she was trying to manipulate you or that she fell in love with someone else.

“But one day, she came to meet me while you were on a business trip and told me everything on her mind...” Nigel’s thoughts went back to the past.

“Mr. Salvador, I came to beg you for one thing.”

Nigel recalled how Mary stood in front of him, bare-faced and dressed plainly. However, she was still stunningly beautiful, stirring the protective instinct in men. No wonder his son was obsessed with her.

“I hope you allow me to leave Gregory and the Salvador family.”

“You want to leave the Salvador family?! How about Justin? Are you bringing him away?!” Nigel could not sit still after hearing that.

Mary shook her head slightly.

“That’s my main purpose for seeing you. I will leave the Salvador family alone without taking anything away, including Justin. Justin is my son, but he is also Gregory’s son and your grandson. I could see that you genuinely care for him. With a loving grandfather, I could rest assured. Moreover, I am clear about my physical condition. With a mother like me, every day will be torture for Justin. In the long run, it might eventually exhaust us. I don’t want Justin to hate me.”

Nigel could sense that the woman might look frail, but she was smart.

She knew she could never provide Justin with what the Salvador family could. If her son stayed in the Salvador family, he would receive an elite education and become an outstanding young man with a bright future.

“I have a question. I don’t understand why you would want to leave the Salvador family at this moment.”

Although Nigel was secretly happy that Mary would not take his grandson away, he could not help his curiosity and asked, “You are the apple of my son’s eye. He would go to great lengths to make you smile. If it were medieval times, he would go to war for you. He even wanted to get married to you. You should know that if you became his legal wife, you would be the Salvador family’s madam. You have a son who

is likely to become the future heir of the Salvador Corporation if there are no accidents. A life of luxury lies before you, but you want to leave. Are you really willing to give it up? Or... Do you have someone else you love? Did you only date Gregory due to the Salvador family's influence and power, not out of genuine feelings?"

As his words fell, Nigel thought he had been too harsh.

However, Mary did not seem angry at all. Her expression remained calm.

"No, Mr. Salvador. I love Gregory. I love him very much. But with my mental state and physical condition, I am unsuitable to become his wife and the lady boss of the Salvador Corporation. I don't know how long I could accompany him. The one standing by his side should be a beautiful and outstanding woman who could take care of his children and help out with his career. But I can't do any of these. I don't want to become a burden. Therefore, it's better to cut off his thoughts about me, and I could leave in peace."

Nigel's eyes reddened after he narrated all this.

## Chapter 983

One could imagine how soul-crushing and heart-wrenching Gregory felt after hearing this.

He stood rooted in place with a dumbfounded look, his eyes empty as his heart thumped against his chest, almost shattering his bones into pieces.

"No... How could it be... How could it..." His lips trembled as they parted, and even the muscles on his face twitched.

Seeing Gregory immersed in overwhelming shock, Nigel immediately thought of Justin.

No matter which aspect, he thought his grandson had more potential than his son. But on this part, the father and son were similar.

They would not shed a tear until they saw the coffin. Unless someone put it in their face, they would never admit how wrong and foolish their past actions were!

“Mary asked me to keep it a secret from you. She wanted to leave quietly and didn’t want you and Justin to stay attached.”

Nigel shook his head in regret. “I was foolish and selfish at that time. Without considering her feelings, I only wanted Justin to stay in our family. I didn’t want to meddle in your affairs. But I didn’t expect

Shannon to appear amid everything! I didn’t expect you to change your mind and bring such a worthless bitch into the family! How regretful I am...”

“If... If Mary didn’t treat me so coldly... If she didn’t hate me so much, how would I...”

Until now, Mary still had a higher position than Shannon in Gregory’s heart.

Even if Shannon did not commit such heinous crimes, Mary was irreplaceable in Gregory’s heart.

However, he was stubborn. He never admitted his mistake or gave up.

Gregory was born with a silver spoon and was one of the chosen ones. He got everything he wanted, and everyone was at his command.

He could not tolerate Mary’s indifference and accept that her heart did not belong to him.

Therefore, Shannon could come between them and take advantage of the situation. That cunning and malicious woman seized the opportunity to replace Mary.

“Matt, give him what Mary stored with me back then.” Nigel sighed heavily.

“Yes, Old Master Nigel.”

Matt took out a wooden box from his hand-carry bag and walked Gregory, passing it to him. "Chairman Salvador, this is the former Madam's personal belongings. Before she decided to leave the Salvador family, she gave them to Old Master Nigel, stating that it was a waste to throw them away, but keeping them would be heartbreaking. I return this to its rightful owner now. There are gifts you gave her, such as rings."

Gregory stared at the box in a daze, his fingers trembling as they curled inward. He did not dare to take it.

"The dead have moved on, and you have a new wife now. I thought you didn't have to see these things."

Nigel's eyes darkened. "But at this point, I should give this to you, or you will never be able to see who you really love most. You won't realize how big of a fool you are now!"

Gregory took the box and felt his throat dry up. He found it hard to speak.

After he left, the office, Nigel rubbed his temples, so mad that he felt drained, as if he had no strength left.

"Old Master Nigel, I have a question.

Matt hesitated and asked softly, "Ms. Mary wanted you to get rid of this box back then. Why did you keep it for her all these years without doing as she said?"

"Because I am waiting for the day he finally sees Shannon's true colors."

Chapter 984

"But you saw it just now. Chairman Salvador was still siding with her. It seems he hasn't truly..."

"Hmph, he was only protecting his pride. Who else understands my son if I don't?"

Nigel leaned backward, closing his eyes. "Now, it's only one step away until he gives up on Shannon. At this moment, rekindling his feelings for his old lover might speed it up. The impact caused by the dead is often stronger than that of those still alive. It will enlighten him and make him regret his ways."

A luxury car headed toward Tideview Manor.

Gregory gripped the wooden box tightly, mentally preparing himself for a long time before slowly opening it.

The box had two layers.

The first layer consists of many neatly arranged velvet pouches. Gregory's heart felt as if it stung each time he opened one.

The ring was what he gave her when he proposed. Although the diamond looked a little small now, it could still attract countless women's jealousy thirty years ago.

The emerald bracelet was her birthday gift, which he chose carefully.

Back then, he remembered her birthday, their anniversary, and all the holidays lovers would celebrate.

But now, he was not even willing to remember her death anniversary.

Gregory took a deep breath and opened the second layer.

It was a stack of old photos that had turned yellow.

He took the photos with trembling hands, flipping through the stack.



Instantly, his eyes reddened, his ears buzzed, and tears welled up.

He remembered. Mary loved photography. She always held a small camera, taking a stroll in Tideview Manor while taking photos.

At that time, he did not know what she was photographing, but now he knew.

There was only one subject in Mary's photographs-him.

On the back of the photos were words that she hid deep within her heart, unable to tell him. It was restrained, gentle, and lingering.

"I look at the sky at dawn and the clouds at dusk, but I'm always thinking of you."

"I don't know when it started, but I can't live without you now. Perhaps this was what the Bible meant, where a woman is made from a man's ribs."

"Gregory, I hope my low-born status, unspeakable past, and clumsy love did not become a concern for you."

"I know that my love was nothing worth mentioning in your bright and shining life. But Gregory, this is all I could give you."

"I love you very much."

Gregory's grip wrinkled the photo. Tears silently fell from his eyes through his face, dampening the elegant words.

"Why did you never tell me these? Mary, do you know that I've always loved you too..."

Shannon heard that she was confined and was throwing a tantrum at home, behaving like a madwoman, cursing and raging at everyone she saw.

“Sorry, Madam Shannon. This is Chairman Gregory’s order. We could only follow it.”

Gregory’s secretary, Paul, glanced at her coldly, not bothering to conceal the mockery in his tone. “I suggest you return to your room quietly and don’t make things difficult for both of us. After all, because of you, the whole Salvador Corporation is in chaos. Don’t create more trouble for Chairman Salvador.”

“How dare you!”

With glaring red eyes, Shannon slapped Paul’s face fiercely. “I am the madam of the Salvador family! You are merely a dog relying on its master’s power. How dare you speak to me in this tone?!”

Paul smiled instead. “Indeed, Chairman Salvador treats me well, and rely on him. But aren’t you also relying on Chairman Salvador’s power to act recklessly, ignore the law, and abuse your servants?”

Shannon was stunned and quickly realized.

Paul was beating around the bush to call her a dog too!

Just as she wanted to give him another slap as a punishment,

Gregory walked in expressionlessly.

“Greg!”

Shannon immediately withdrew her hand and threw herself in front of her husband while sobbing. “You finally came... Without you by my side, I feel like I can’t survive!”

Her demeanor changed instantly, turning into a different person from the unreasonable shrew before.

Paul snorted, feeling nothing but disdain.

“Aren’t you doing well without me? You still have the energy to lecture my secretary.” Gregory’s lips curled up sarcastically, and he stared at her without any warmth, causing Shannon’s hair to stand on end.

“Greg, I saw the negative news about me at the funeral had been suppressed online. You did it, right?”

Shannon wanted to throw herself into her husband’s arms with teary eyes. “I knew it... I knew you would do it for me. You would never stand aside and do nothing if something happened to me.”

Gregory suddenly took a step back, letting Shannon miss her target embarrassingly.

She raised her head in shock, meeting Gregory’s cold and intimidating gaze.

“Who told you that I took action for you?”

Gregory sneered. “I did so for the family and the Salvador Corporation.”

“Greg, you...” Shannon was dumbfounded, unable to believe such words came from her husband.

‘Shannon, I’m your husband, but more importantly, I am the Salvadoron Corporation’s chairman. I’m immotaal tool to clean up your mess again and again.’

Gregory turned his gaze away unwilling to look at her anymore. “This s the last time. If it happens again, let the netizens have their way with you. Even if you becomes theernest hated person online, it has nothing to do with me or the Salvation Corporation.

You should take responsibility for theettrouble you created. Nobody has to bear your mistake.”

After that, he wanted to leave, but Shannon grabbed him tightly. Greg! How can you say this? I am your wife Your lover! How could you leave me to be bullied by others?"

'Wife? Don't insult that word."

Gregory chuckled and pried her hand off his arm. "The Salvador family is too humble to accommodate a lawless troublemaker like you. I also can't tolerate a wife like you!"

Gregory! You... Do you want to divorce me!?" Shannon stammered Do you think I don't want to?!"

Gregory finally could not bear it anymore. The anger he held in depicted "Do you think I don't want to divorce you?! If the company

is in trouble, if it weren't for the fact that you gave me two

children do you think I would let you stay until now?!"

Shannon trembled in fear, feeling a chill run down her spine.

She had always thought that she had Gregory in her palms, and she

raised two daughters for him. No matter what, Gregory would never

divorce her, regardless of whether he did it for the company's interest

or his pride.

However, when she heard the word divorce coming from Gregory's mouth, she felt her vision go black.

She had truly lost this man.

Chapter 986

No... No!

Without her position as the wife of the Salvador Corporation's chairman, who would even care about Shannon? Who would even pay any attention to her?

The fact that she was Gregory's wife was why Justin and Bella were cautious around her, unable to challenge her.

If Shannon loses the protection of this man, those two would tear her apart alive!

"From now on, you are forbidden to leave Tideview Manor without my permission. If you dare to disobey my orders, I'll send you abroad. In that case, don't even think about setting foot in Savrow ever again!"

"How could you fail to distinguish what's right from wrong, Greg? had good intentions. I attended the funeral to assist with the aftermath! It was all that malicious girl, Bella's fault. She kept co at me like a dog with rabies, relentlessly trying to ruin the Salva family. That's why things escalated!" Shannon desperately defen herself.

"Do you think I'm an idiot?!"

Gregory no longer wanted to listen to her nonsense. His tone was icy and full of resentment. "I've looked into it. Those reporters were all arranged by you! You knew you had issues with Bella, yet you deliberately provoked her by bringing people along. You willingly walked into trouble like a clown. Who else can you blame but yourself?! Stay away from me! Stop bothering me!"

"Greg! You can't do this to me... Greg!"

Amid their heated struggle, a resounding crash echoed.

The wooden box in Gregory's palm fell to the ground with a loud thud, its contents spilling out.

As Gregory witnessed Mary's jewelry scattered all over and the jade bracelet he had once gifted her now shattered into two pieces, rage surged within him.

His eyes blazed with fiery anger, turning a fierce crimson as he glared fiercely at Shannon. His sharp gaze seemed to be on the verge of piercing through her very soul.

Shannon, taken aback by Gregory's intense stare, paled even further at the sight of the items on the ground.

She recognized them. Those were Mary's belongings.

Why was he holding onto Mary's belongings?

Why would he hold onto mementos of someone long deceased someone he had supposedly forgotten for twenty years?

"Get out, now."

"Greg, that was an accident. I..."

"Get out!"

Gregory roared angrily, his voice almost hoarse with exertion.

Late at night, the atmosphere in the study was tranquil, with the silver moonlight streaming in through the window, casting a melancholic glow on Gregory's face.

His secretary, Paul, entered the room, carrying medication to lower his blood pressure.

“Chairman, it’s late. You haven’t been feeling well lately. You should get some rest.”

“You’ve been through a lot tonight,” Gregory said in a low voice, still flipping through the photos left behind by Mary.

Paul was briefly surprised, understanding that Gregory was referring to the incident that got him assaulted by Shannon earlier in the day. He smiled indifferently, saying, “I’ve been in your service for many years. That was nothing. But I believe Madam Mary wouldn’t bear to see you toil and fret like this.

“Yeah. Mary wouldn’t bear it. She’s always been the most compassionate person.”

As he spoke, Gregory’s throat tightened, his eyes reddening heartache.

“Sir, are you considering drafting divorce papers?” Paul asked cautiously.

Gregory’s eyes reflected an indescribable sense of melancholy as replied hoarsely, “Not yet. It’s not the right time. There are too many complications at the moment. The Salvador family cannot afford any more chaos now.”

Chapter 987

“Besides, you’re aware of my youngest daughter’s condition, too. If we were to divorce, I’d have to send Shannon abroad, as far away as possible. I fear parting ways with her mother would be too much for

Carrie to bear. I’m worried that it’ll exacerbate her illness.” Paul nodded in understanding, acknowledging the complexity of the situation.

“I asked you to track the whereabouts of Justin. Have you found out where he’s gone?” Gregory inquired. Sorry, Chairman Salvador. As you know, Mr. Salvador is quite adept at remaining undetected.

He's made it clear he doesn't want anyone to know where he is, so it's been impossible to track him down." Paul responded, expressing a sense of resignation.

Gregory remained silent as he dialed Justin's number on his phone,

After several attempts, Justin finally answered.

"It's late. Do you need anything?"

"Justin, I..."

"If you're trying to convince me to attend the project meeting, stop your effort. I won't be going." Justin's tone was icy, devoid of any trace of father-son affection in their conversation.

Gregory pursed his lips, his voice low as he asked, "Justin, are you free tomorrow? I'd like you to accompany me on an errand."

"Where to?"

To visit your mother."

The words hung heavy in the air, plunging Justin into a silence that sent shivers down his father's spine.

Though separated by the phone line, Gregory could still feel the chilling frost emanating from his own son's end of the conversation.

"Are you joking? Did you hear what you just said?"

"I'm not joking, Justin. I'm serious about it."



Gregory took a deep breath, feeling an unfamiliar sense of unease and shame despite his position as the leader of the Salvador Corporation.

"I know I haven't done enough over these years. Even though your mother is no longer here with us, I haven't fulfilled my duties as her husband. I haven't paid my respects to her or spent time with her. I've truly been lacking."

"Lacking?"

Justin let out a bitter laugh, his voice tinged with resentment. "You saying that with just a few words, you can erase 23 years of debt and pain? Do you, esteemed Chairman Salvador, believe you deserve that? Do you think you deserve to stand before my mother?"

"Forget it. My mother has me by her side every year, and she's doing great up there. Don't delude yourself into thinking you can go bother her again."

"What nonsense is this? I am her husband, the one she once loved the most!"

Gregory's cheeks flushed with shame, but his pride would not allow his own son to trample on him. He retorted with red eyes, like a child defending itself, "You have no idea how deep her feelings were for me."

"Why shouldn't I go see her?"

"Even if my mother once loved you..."

Justin's voice trembled with anger, sounding hoarse and alarming. " "

The moment she leaped from the balcony of Tideview Manor, she stopped loving you. Sometimes, I truly believe that her choice to leave in such an extreme way, amidst all her pain, was a blessing. Staying alive by your side, enduring your emotional abuse every day, watching you share a bed with other women while pretending to be a dutiful wife. That agony is worse than death itself. Her love for you was the greatest source of her suffering."

In an instant, the horrific image of Mary's tragic death flooded Gregory's mind once again.

He shuddered violently, his phone nearly slipping from his grasp. breath became heavy and sluggish, alarming Paul, who hesitated interrupt the father-son dialogue.

"I'm not sure what has gotten in you to make such a request, but I want to make it clear that you have no right to stand before my mother. Not now, not ever."

After saying his piece, Justin did not wait for Gregory's response before hanging up the phone.

Gregory, feeling drained, broke out in a cold sweat, his complexion paling.

"Chairman Salvador? Chairman Salvador? Are you okay?" Paul asked anxiously

"Could you please fetch me a glass of water?" Gregory requested weakly, feeling more depleted than he had ever felt before.