

## **Her Riches 241**

### **Chapter 241**

Nico had his back to Gwendolyn. He did not turn around immediately but surreptitiously exchanged a look with Cedrick.

Gwendolyn wore a blank expression and look entirely bewildered.

She had overheard the two men's conversation from afar when she came upstairs after concluding her phone call. Due to the distance, however, she did not manage to make out everything, merely catching a somewhat unfamiliar keyword.

"Well?"

Receiving no response from either man, she alternated her gaze between them both.

Nico whirled around. Seeing that her expression seemed genuinely calm, he reckoned that she did not hear much and fibbed with a smile, "A suppressant is a type of drug found in laboratories. But Mr. Jenson and I were discussing a Federal Bureau of Investigation's confidential mission just now, so I might not be able to disclose much to you, Ms. Gwendolyn."

"Really?" Gwendolyn cast her gaze at Cedrick, tilting her head a fraction.

Cedrick nodded without any change in expression. "You want to know, Gwenny? If you really want to know, I don't mind telling you."

Gwendolyn pondered for a moment. "Never mind. Since it's confidential, you'd best not tell me about it. I'm not that interested in knowing anyway."

Nico and Cedrick furtively breathed a sigh of relief at that.

"I'll leave you two to talk, then, Ms. Gwendolyn. Please excuse me."

Gwendolyn dipped her head in acknowledgment. Once Nico left, she sat down on the edge of Cedrick's bed and checked his chest wound. After two days, it had healed significantly.

In truth, she had not been mad at him for real for the past two days. She had merely used it as an excuse to sleep in a different room for fear that he would misbehave at night and employ everything in his arsenal to entice her into being intimate with him.

I can't touch him to ensure that he recovers as soon as possible! But why are the hickeys on him still so distinct? How strange.

A frown marred her countenance. Unbidden, she swung her gaze at Cedrick, only to notice the shifty and peculiar look in his eyes.

"It's been a few days. Why haven't the hickeys on you faded at all? Did you pinch yourself for the effect?"

"Of course not! How could I possibly do such a strange thing? But it was the first time you initiated things. Isn't it nice to have them as a token of remembrance?" Cedrick denied it to the bitter end.

Gwendolyn's brows furrowed, making it evident that she was still skeptical.

"I want to have a shower, Gwenny."

Interrupting her musings, Cedrick stared at her with unfathomable ebony eyes that glinted slightly.

Without even thinking about it, Gwendolyn objected, "No way! Your wound hasn't healed completely, so it can't come into contact with water. How about I have Nico come in to help wipe you down?"

Despondency swamped Cedrick, and he gave Gwendolyn an accusatory look. "You said you're the only person who can see me unclothed henceforth. Yet, you want to have Nico come and sully me?"

Aw, look at his forlorn expression! Gwendolyn caressed his handsome face.

Out of the blue, a flash of craftiness flittered across her crystalline eyes that sparkled like stars. Her ruby-red lips curved into a seductive arc.

She slowly leaned close to the man, her soft voice incredibly mesmerizing. "I have no issue about serving you, Caddy. But before that, I have a surprise for you. You'll definitely like it."

Cedrick's eyes lit up, and his heart skipped a beat.

"After I've given you the surprise, your body will be sticky. At that time, I'll help to wipe you down. Then, I don't have to do it twice," Gwendolyn added.

Stifling the anticipation brimming in his eyes, Cedrick replied calmly, "Okay."

"Wait for a moment, then. I'm going to get something from the adjacent room."

Get something?

Cedrick vaguely felt that something was not quite right.

By then, Gwendolyn had already raced to the adjacent bedroom like lightning before trotting back.

When she returned again, she had her hands behind her with a mysterious expression on her face.

Slipping off her shoes, she climbed into bed and slowly straddled him, resting her knees against the mattress.

She started unfastening the remaining buttons on his shirt patiently with her fair fingers, one after another.

While doing that, her cool fingers would inadvertently brush against his warm muscles every so often.

It felt like she was deliberately teasing him, making him tremble violently. At the same time, his breathing sped up.

This is the exact same thing that happened at the hospital that day. Has she finally seen the light and decided to be intimate with me again?

Alas, before he could bask in delight, he saw her whipping out a dark green jar she had hidden behind her back. As soon as she removed the lid, a faint aroma of medicine wafted into the air.

He was promptly at a loss.

Holding his puzzled gaze, Gwendolyn dug out a blob of dark brown salve with a finger. Rubbing it between her palms until it had melted and warmed, she gently applied it to the black and blue marks on the man's body.

"This is the salve I especially got from the doctor yesterday, Ceddy. It's good for blood circulation and removing blood stasis, helping to speed up the fading of bruises. The marks on your body will disappear tomorrow. Are you glad?"

She sounded exceedingly impish.

Her twinkling limpid eyes emanated a determination to destroy the evidence completely.

I'll never allow anyone else to learn about the bountiful achievement I left due to an impulsive move at the hospital that day!

Cedrick was rendered speechless.

Damn it! I really shouldn't have had high hopes earlier!

Gwendolyn noticed the utter misery in his eyes, and her curiosity was piqued. “Why aren’t you happy, Ceddy? Do you not like this surprise?”

This is my first time giving someone a massage!

Inhaling deeply, Cedrick clenched his jaw and hissed through gritted teeth, “I do.”

Elated, Gwendolyn put even more effort into the massage with the techniques she had learned from the internet yesterday. Hehe, he’ll be my first lab rat!

“Stay still, Ceddy. Behave. I’ll try my best to be gentle!”

Cedrick cocked his head to the side and gazed out the window. He remained motionless, allowing her to do as she pleased to him.

His lips were pressed together in a thin line, and his expression was frightfully gloomy.

“Does it hurt? Do you need me to be gentler? Oh, never mind. I’d best put some strength into it. Just put up with it for a bit. Your muscles feel great. Does it feel good, Ceddy? Am I skilled or what? Quick, compliment me!”

Words eluded Cedrick.

“Yes, you’re really skilled!”

Gwendolyn had forgotten to close the bedroom door all the way when she came into the room. As such, the door was ajar.

Thanks to her loud volume, Nico, who happened to be going up the stairs, overheard the entire conversation.

Cedrick's final utterance that was forced through gritted teeth, especially, sounded very much suggestive.

Huh? Are they doing the horizontal exercise in there?

His jaw dropped.

Am I listening to a live broadcast of Boss and Ms. Gwendolyn's lovemaking? Damn it! My ears are bleeding! How could he do something so vigorous again when he had just behaved for two days? Ms. Gwendolyn isn't only insane, but she's heartless and inconsiderate. Verily, she's a monster!

Sheer worry for his employer's life inundated him. He stood on the staircase, beyond anxious.

No, I must do something even if he'll be mad later and deduct my salary!

He rubbed his hands and wracked his brain for a while.

All of a sudden, an idea popped into his mind.

He quietly crept upstairs and stopped in the corridor near the room before he started clapping his hands loudly and rhythmically.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Needless to say, the couple in the room heard him clapping away.

Gwendolyn peeked out the door, but she saw no one. Leaning close to Cedrick, she whispered, "What is Nico doing? He's clapping really enthusiastically. Is he out of his mind? As his boss, you should pay more attention to your subordinates' mental health, okay?"

Cedrick said nothing, but his face was as black as thunder.

He understood that the clapping was referring to intimate relations.

Furthermore, Nico was using their secret code, reiterating that he must restrain himself.

## Chapter 242

Such fury bleazed within Cedrick that his chest pain almost flared once more.

Restrain myself, my foot! How I wish! But Gwendolyn isn't giving me the opportunity to do so!

Taking a deep breath, he forcibly suppressed his wrath. He did not want to lose his temper before Gwendolyn.

Unfortunately, Nico seemingly had the death wish. He continued clapping his hands in the corridor, over and over tirelessly. He repeated the secret code rhythmically, constantly challenging Cedrick's patience.

If it weren't for the fact that I still need this little sh\*t to go on the mission, I'd have instantly sent him pecking!

He endured it time and again, but ultimately, he snapped.

Gwendolyn was still straddling him, happily helping him to boost his blood circulation and remove blood stasis.

He snatched his phone nonchalantly, tapped his fingers on the keyboard, and sent Nico a text that read: A thousand will be deducted from your pay for every clap. Go and settle it with the finance department yourself. And get out of my villa right now!

In no time, the clapping outside the door ceased.

On the heels of that, Cedrick's phone dinged. He glanced at it, only to see that Nico had sent him a dozen messages in a row.

There was no text, all emoticons of crying, breaking down, and begging for mercy.

Tapping on the right-hand corner of the screen, he resolutely blacklisted the letter.

Gwendolyn was still absorbed in messaging his abdominal muscles and neck, wholly oblivious to it all.

A little over thirty minutes later, her message drew to an end.

She climbed out of bed, then went to the bathroom to wash her hands. She got a basin of warm water and a towel before wiping Cedrick down.

"My hands are all red now, Caddy."

Straddling the man again, she held her red palms out before him.

Cedrick held her hands before pressing his cool lips against her palms. He kissed her both in English and love, appearing incredibly sincere.

Gwendolyn merely watched silently, admiring his handsome countenance with a distinct smile on her lips.

After kissing her palms, Cedrick smirkingly fixed his ebony eyes on her. "When I've recovered, I'll help to boost your blood circulation and remove blood stasis."

Gwendolyn immediately grasped his meaning. Her face flushed bright red.

"In your dreams! How shameless!"



The next day was an important date for Angle Corporation with the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Gwendolyn woke up early in the morning and washed up. She applied the mask before hydrating and moisturizing her face. Only after that did she start with her makeup.

Without warning, the door swung open. Cedrick strode into the room in a jet-black silk robe, his ebony eyes indecipherable. He set down behind her with all the naturalness in the world. Such fury bloomed within Cedrick that his chest pained almost as if it were once more.

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“What are you doing?”

Cedrick’s gaze fell on the eyebrow pencil in her hand, and he took it from her. “Here, I’ll help you with it.”

Skepticism was etched across Gwendolyn’s features. “Are you sure? My ribbon-cutting event today is crucial. No mistakes can be allowed.”

Nodding confidently, Cedrick clutched her shoulders with both hands and turned her to face him.

Gwendolyn closed her eyes doubtfully, allowing him to accentuate her eyebrows with the eyebrow pencil.

At first, she felt that he was pretty good at it.

However, five minutes passed, yet he was still at it.

Sensing something amiss, Gwendolyn warned through gritted teeth, “If you dare do a shoddy job and ruin my makeup, I’m going to hit your hands until they’re swollen beyond recognition!”

The man’s hand promptly stilled, and he begrudgingly pulled back.

Opening her eyes, Gwendolyn snorted at him coldly. She then turned around and studied herself in the mirror.

Surprisingly, her eyebrows were perfectly drawn with even shades.

She added a few brushes, making the shape of her eyebrows impeccable. Hmm, I never expected his makeup skills to be so good.

"I didn't know you're skilled at makeup. Where did you learn it? Judging from your proficiency, you must have helped some other women with her makeup often, huh? Did you also do the same for Natasha in the past?"

As she spoke, her expression turned increasingly solemn. The look in her eyes was so icy that it could freeze someone to death.

The smile on Cedrick's face froze.

Whoa! Why is she bringing up the past now?

At his silence, Gwendolyn's rage mounted. "You're hesitating. Are you trying to make up some excuse to dupe me again because I was right?"

Cedrick hastily denied it, trying his best to prove his innocence. "No, never! I swear! I learned to sketch portraits in the army back then. I reckoned it was about the same, so I decided to try my hand. Moreover, hadn't we agreed to let the past go? Why did you suddenly mention someone irrelevant again?"

Gwendolyn's eyes narrowed dangerously. "You're feeling guilty?"

"No, truly."

Regretfully, Cedrick was merely digging his own grave deeper.

He could clearly sense the chill radiating off Gwendolyn.

Whenever that subject came up, he had no justification for himself.

Quickly shooting to his feet, he dropped to a crouch before her in a perfect military posture with his back ramrod straight.

"I swear you're the first woman I've personally done this for, and you'll also be the only one." He raised his head, his ebony eyes exuding sincerity.

Gwendolyn held his gaze. Unknowingly, she was drawn in by his fathomless eyes. She reached out and touched the chiseled outline of his profile.

But at the thought that he had put on an act and lied endlessly without batting an eye in the past, she pinched his cheek instead.

"You're an exceedingly cunning man, Cedrick! Perhaps your tactics work on others, but not me. Sooner or later, I'm going to tame you!"

At the end of it, she harrumphed. Her eyes glittered, and her lips were pursed imperceptibly with a hint of arrogance.

"Tame me?" Arching a brow, Cedrick continued, "That would depend on your capabilities."

Their eyes met.

Both of them stared into each other's eyes, determined to conquer the other.

It was getting late, so Gwendolyn continued applying makeup at an accelerated speed.

Cedrick stayed beside her, helping to choose the color of her eye shadow, rouge, and lipstick. The atmosphere returned to its initial harmony.

“Do you need my help for your ribbon-cutting ceremony today, Gwenny?”

“No, it’s okay. This is the first company I established after breaking free of the name of the Harris family. I’ll amplify Angle’s reputation in Salinsburgh by myself. On top of that, I want to surpass you and be the only wealthiest woman in the world!”

That was truly ambitious and arrogant.

Pinning his eyes on her, Cedrick murmured mysteriously, “Actually, there’s another way for you to be the wealthiest woman. Do you want to know what it is?”

Feeling curious, Gwendolyn glanced at him.

“It’s by marrying me. Then, all the assets under my name will be yours.”

She had surmised that the man would say that and lightly jabbed his forehead with a finger.

“Dream on! Don’t think that you have me in the palm of your hand just because we’re engaged. You’ve still got plenty of hurdles to pass before marrying me. So far, it’ll be challenging for you to obtain my brothers’ approval.”

Nonetheless, Cedrick was not discouraged. “I’m great at overcoming hurdles.”

With a somber expression, Gwendolyn feigned a sage look and patted him on the shoulder in encouragement.

“The fight is under way. You’ve got to work hard, buddy.”



Before leaving, she ordered him to stay at the villa and recuperate. Then, she rushed to Angle Corporation.

It was still early, so there was no one there other than Angle's employees.

Gwendolyn went through the entire program and waited patiently.

However, it remained quiet and deserted even outside the building even after she waited at the entrance until ten past nine despite the fact that the ribbon-cutting ceremony was scheduled for half past nine. Not a single invited guest came.

Her brows knitted together.

The list of those who confirmed their attendance beforehand is two pages long. Things shouldn't be still so quiet at this point in time. Something isn't quite right.

## Chapter 243

As Gwendolyn was wondering about it, a limited-edition black Lamborghini circled the fountain and came to a stop at the entrance of Angle's office building.

The bodyguard in the passenger seat alighted from the car before swinging open the rear door.

The women who climbed out of the car wore a mature and elegant white dress, standing tall and slender while exquisitely dolled up.

It was none other than Sienne.

Aside from having the status of Asher's wife, she was once the most beautiful flight attendant in the Ministry of Aviation of Chenee.

"Why are you here, Sienne?" Gwendolyn greeted politely.

"Asher has gone to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to handle some matters. I had nothing to do, so I came to show my support."

At the sight of Gwendolyn, Sienna flashed her a sweet smile and intimately grasped her wrist. Shortly after, she noticed that the building was empty and instinctively glanced at the time.

"Why is it still so quiet when it's already so late? Who's sabotaging things?"

Almost immediately, she realized that something was amiss.

If no big shots from the business world were to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony that day, the matter would make the news by noon.

Consequently, Gwendolyn's aspiration to establish her own career without the help of the Harris family would be a total joke to netizens.

The motive of the culprit behind the incident was as clear as day.

Gwendolyn's expression was grave. But seeing that Sienna was far more somber, she smiled at her in comfort. "Don't worry, Sienna. Perhaps they got held up on their way here."

She then turned to her assistant behind her, Joanne, who was transferred over from Fairleke. "Call those on the list of attendees. Ask them what happened and whether they would like some help."

"Understood, Ms. Harris."

However, Sienna shook her head. "It can't be a coincidence when not a single person came. There's no need to comfort me when you're feeling worse."

Gwendolyn smiled calmly. "What's there to fear? There are still twenty minutes to go, no? Besides, I'll still cut the ribbon even if no one comes today!"

No sooner had she finished speaking than the women's unbridled laughter rang out from beyond the fountain.

In the long and enchanting purple dress, Lorelei surveyed her gracefully.

"This is truly the biggest joke I've heard today. It looks like no one is willing to give our princess the time of the day without the support of the Herris family. Aw, how pitiful."

Gwendolyn's and Sienna's expressions went cold in concert.

"Why did you come here to mind other people's business instead of staying home to take care of your husband?" As no one else was there, Sienna did not bother showing her any respect.

"His mobility is limited, so I came for a look at things on his behalf." Rolling her eyes arrogantly, Lorelei snorted mockingly before turning to Gwendolyn. "I hope this incident today teaches you a lesson,

Gwendolyn. You've got to realize that you're nothing without the Herris family!" As Gwendolyn was wondering about it, a limited-edition black Lamborghini circled the fountain and came to a stop at the entrance of Angle's office building.

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Gwendolyn smiled calmly. "What's there to fear? There are still twenty minutes to go, no? Besides, I'll still cut the ribbon even if no one comes today!"

No sooner had she finished speaking than a woman's unbridled laughter rang out from beyond the fountain.

In a long and enchanting purple dress, Lorelei swooned over gracefully.

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No sooner had she finished speaking than a woman's unbridled laughter rang out from beyond the fountain.

In a long and enchanting purple dress, Lorelai sashayed over gracefully.

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Gwendolyn. You've got to realize that you're nothing without the Harris family!"

The corners of Gwendolyn's mouth turned up a fraction. Throughout it all, she appeared incredibly calm, showing nary a hint of panic.

"Oh? Aren't there twenty minutes more? Why are you so anxious?"

In response, Lorelai scoffed, "I'm afraid that no one will turn up even if you're given another hour. Just wait until you make a fool of yourself on the internet!"

Sienna instantly frowned. "Sure enough, you're the one sabotaging things!"

"Hey, don't simply accuse me. Gwendolyn has offended too many people, and none want to see her happy. I merely dropped by to see someone make a fool of herself."

While saying that, she had her bodyguard go into the office building and get her a chair. Thereafter, she sat waiting at the entrance.

There are only twenty minutes left. I shall see whether Gwendolyn can still feign calmness later!

Another five minutes flew past.

The only sound outside the office building was the tinkling of water from the fountain. It was so quiet that Angle's employees fell into despair.

Joanne frantically hurried over to Gwendolyn and reported in a muted voice, "Things aren't looking too good, Ms. Harris. Most of the guests claimed they couldn't make it due to some issues at their company. Some didn't even bother answering my calls. What should we do now?"

Lorelai, who had her ears perked up, heard that. Her smile grew even more triumphant.

Gwendolyn lowered her head in silent contemplation.

Sienna likewise wore a grim expression on her face. "It's clear that these people have their orders to embarrass you on purpose. Why don't you push things back for half an hour? I'll call Asher and have him rush over. With him in attendance, a number of people will be pressurized to show up."

"No, it's okay." Gwendolyn placed a hand on her sister-in-law's phone before she continued, "It's just a ribbon-cutting ceremony. They thought I'd back down by asserting their dominance over me, but that's impossible! Joanne, make the arrangements for the ceremony—"

Before she could finish speaking, a series of shrieks and exclamations rang out from the building behind her. The atmosphere turned chaotically noisy.

"Oh my God, this is amazing! How I envy Ms. Harris!"



“This is great! Incredible, even! Ms. Harris has someone backing her up now! Hah! This will shut them up!”

The employees sprang to their feet, cheering with their phones in their hands.

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Gwendolyn merely invested a billion in Angle Corporation’s new business venture. Therefore, it was at the bottom of the ladder among entertainment companies.

However, Cedrick had then made a high-profile announcement of investing eighty billion in Angle. In the blink of an eye, Angle’s net worth had changed drastically.

At the very least, it had soared twenty places up the ladder.

It was an open display of connections.

After all, it did not only mean that Cedrick acknowledged this fiancée of his, willing to support her business wholeheartedly, but also signified that Jenson Group similarly backed Gwendolyn up.

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Sienna clicked her tongue in relief. "Cedrick is quite a decent man, making sure to protect you at all times. It looks like your brothers don't need to worry so much anymore in the future with him here."

Gwendolyn remained silent after scanning through the news. Despite the surprise on her face, her expression was still very much solemn.

Conversely, Lorelai crossed her arms, seething inwardly.

As far as I remember, Cedrick didn't even show up at Gwendolyn's party that day, making it evident that he had no regard for her. She has only gone to the Jenson residence to take care of him for a few days, yet he has taken a fancy to her so quickly?

She glanced at the time, only to see that it was already twenty minutes past nine.

Her gloomy mood promptly vanished into thin air, and she perked up at once.

"There are only ten minutes left. I'm afraid there'll still be no one coming to support you today. It seems that your ribbon-cutting ceremony is still destined to be the greatest joke of the century even with Mr. Jenson backing you up! The Jenson family is going to be ridiculed as well! This is too funny!"

She held her head high, feeling smug to the core.

Infuriated, Sienna was just about to rebuff her when the sound of engines approaching from afar split the air.

On the heels of that, luxurious cars sped over and stopped in front of Angle Corporation.

As Gwendolyn was wondering about it, a limited-edition black Lamborghini circled the fountain and came to a stop at the entrance of Angle's office building.

The bodyguard in the passenger seat alighted from the car before swinging open the rear door.

The women who climbed out of the car wore a mature and elegant white dress, standing tall and slender while exquisitely dolled up.

It was none other than Sienna.

Aside from having the status of Asher's wife, she was once the most beautiful flight attendant in the Ministry of Aviation of Chenee.

"Why are you here, Sienna?" Gwendolyn greeted politely.

"Asher has gone to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to handle some matters. I had nothing to do, so I came to show my support."

At the sight of Gwendolyn, Sienna flashed her a sweet smile and intimately grasped her wrist. Shortly after, she noticed that the building was empty and instinctively glanced at the time.

"Why is it still so quiet when it's already so late? Who's sabotaging things?"

Almost immediately, she realized that something was amiss.

If no big shots from the business world were to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony that day, the matter would make the news by noon.

Consequently, Gwendolyn's aspiration to establish her own career without the help of the Herris family would be a total joke to netizens.

The motive of the culprit behind the incident was as clear as day.

Gwendolyn's expression was grave. But seeing that Sienna was far more somber, she smiled at her in comfort. "Don't worry, Sienna. Perhaps they got held up on their way here."

She then turned to her assistant behind her, Joenne, who was transferred over from Fairleke. "Call those on the list of attendees. Ask them what happened and whether they would like some help."

"Understood, Ms. Herris."

However, Sienna shook her head. "It can't be a coincidence when not a single person came. There's no need to comfort me when you're feeling worse."

Gwendolyn smiled calmly. "What's there to fear? There are still twenty minutes to go, no? Besides, I'll still cut the ribbon even if no one comes today!"

No sooner had she finished speaking than the women's unbridled laughter rang out from beyond the fountain.

In a long and enchanting purple dress, Lorelei sauntered over gracefully.

"This is truly the biggest joke I've heard today. It looks like no one is willing to give our princess the time of the day without the support of the Herris family. Aw, how pitiful."

Gwendolyn and Sienna's expressions went cold in concert.

"Why did you come here to mind other people's business instead of staying home to take care of your husband?" As no one else was there, Sienna did not bother showing her any respect.

"His mobility is limited, so I came for a look at things on his behalf." Rolling her eyes arrogantly, Lorelei snorted mockingly before turning to Gwendolyn. "I hope this incident today teaches you a lesson, Gwendolyn. You've got to realize that you're nothing without the Herris family!" As Gwendolyn was wondering about it, a limited-edition black Lamborghini circled the fountain and came to a stop at the entrance of Angle's office building.

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The corners of Gwendolyn’s mouth turned up a fraction. Throughout it all, she appeared incredibly calm, showing nary a hint of panic.

“Oh? Aren’t there twenty minutes more? Why are you so anxious?”

In response, Lorelai scoffed, “I’m afraid that no one will turn up even if you’re given another hour. Just wait until you make a fool of yourself on the internet!”

Sienna instantly frowned. “Sure enough, you’re the one sabotaging things!”

“Hey, don’t simply accuse me. Gwendolyn has offended too many people, and none want to see her happy. I merely dropped by to see someone make a fool of herself.”

While saying that, she had her bodyguard go into the office building and get her a chair. Thereafter, she sat waiting at the entrance.

There are only twenty minutes left. I shall see whether Gwendolyn can still feign calmness later!

Another five minutes flew past.

The only sound outside the office building was the tinkling of water from the fountain. It was so quiet that Angle’s employees fell into despair.

Joanne frantically hurried over to Gwendolyn and reported in a muted voice, “Things aren’t looking too good, Ms. Harris. Most of the guests claimed they couldn’t make it due to some issues at their company. Some didn’t even bother answering my calls. What should we do now?”

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## Chapter 244

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Tactfully clearing her throat, Joenne proclaimed, "Welcome to Angle, Mr. Lester of Resplendent Group, Mr. Quigley of Ingenuity Entertainment, Ms. Young of Breeding Dawn Productions, and Mr. Jimenez of Luxuriant Media!"

Undeniably, business people prioritized interests. The big shots who had initially made up various excuses for not attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony, perhaps because they were bribed, had all rushed over in a mad dash.

In the end, all the guests who were invited made it in the last ten minutes. Sienna swiftly helped Gwendolyn to welcome everyone.

Lorelei was so livid that her face flushed bright red. As too many people had rushed over, there was such a crowd at the entrance that no space was left.

Sitting on the chair, she ended up buried in the mob and got pushed to the corner.

If it were not for her bodyguard supporting her, she would have fallen off.

Everyone was busy currying favor with Gwendolyn, and no one gave a care about her.

Sienne threw a glare at her. "There are too many guests here, so I'm afraid Gwendolyn and I have no time to entertain you. It doesn't feel good to be proven wrong, huh? If you're close to losing your composure, hurry up and scuttle off with your tail tucked between your legs."

"How dare you!"

At the blatant insult, Lorelei's blood boiled, and she almost burst a blood vessel.

Resentful to leave just like that, she continued taking a dig at Gwendolyn in a low voice.

"So what if you've got Cedrick protecting you, Gwendolyn? I heard that he's extremely violent toward women. Not only is his personality twisted, but he's also unsightly. Life must have been difficult for you during this time you've been at the Jenson residence to take care of him, huh?"

Gwendolyn was momentarily taken aback. She merely snorted a burst of laughter without bothering to clarify things.

It was more important to entertain the guests right then than to quarrel with Lorelei.

However, the same could not be said of Sienne.

Eyeing Lorelei indifferently, she mocked with a gentle look on her face, "You must be mistaken. I'm afraid Cedrick is going to disappoint you. Not only is he handsome, but he's also responsible and dependable. On top of that, he's incredibly gentle toward Gwen. Does that anger you?"

Hearing that, Lorelei was stunned.

Huh? That's the exact opposite of the rumors about Cedrick!

For a moment, she could not tell whether Sienna was lying. She had no choice but to employ another tactic to deride Gwendolyn.

Deliberately raising her voice, she replied, "Perhaps that's true, but he purposely missed your party back then, and he also isn't here for the ribbon-cutting ceremony this time. I think he doesn't care about you at all. Hence, this investment is probably on Old Mr. Jenson's orders, no?"

Many of the guests present heard that. They all started gossiping, whispering among themselves.

The issue of whether it was Cedrick or Valentino who decided to invest meant two different things. The people who turned up were all from the list of guests who had confirmed their attendance previously.

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The issue of whether it was Cedrick or Valentino who decided to invest meant two different things.

Although Valentino had been in the business world for a long time and could be considered a head honcho of the previous generation, with everyone respecting him, that was a thing of the past.

He had already retired and no longer involved himself in the company. As the new heir, Cedrick was the person who had the final say in the Jenson family.

If he did not care for his marriage agreement with Gwendolyn, the investment in Angle would be mere talk, uncertain whether it would really come to pass at the end of the day.

Gwendolyn said nothing.

She had no intention of accepting Cedrick's investment or using Jenson Group for publicity.

Nonetheless, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was right around the corner, so she planned on speaking to Cedrick privately about the matter after everything.

As she did not refute it, some people present believed Lorelai's words and started wavering.

Jace Jiminez of Luxuriant Media was the first to step forward and apologize to her. "I'm sorry, Ms. Harris, but I've still got something to do at the office. I wish you a smooth and successful ribbon-cutting ceremony here. Please excuse me."

With someone having taken the lead, the others rapidly followed suit.

"I'm really sorry, Ms. Harris, but I've also got some work to handle."

"Please don't take offense at me, but I really have something to settle at the office as well."

Without much expression on her face, Gwendolyn dipped her head in acknowledgment of it all.

Lorelai watched with her arms crossed, smug beyond words.

Just as the sixth company was about to step forward and apologize to Gwendolyn, the roar of an engine unique to a Shelby Supercars sports car rang out near the fountain.

Immediately, everyone's gazes cut to the only Shelby Supercars limited-edition black sports car in Chanaea. Rumor had it that its cost was eighty million. However, one could not buy it even if one were wealthy. Instead, one also had to be powerful and influential.

While everyone was exclaiming over the appearance of the car, the car door slowly swung open.

A man's long leg slowly came into sight. His every gesture was dignified and regal, his aura imperious. The silver-gray mask on his face added a hint of mysteriousness to him.

"Mr. Jenson?"

"It's really Mr. Jenson! I can't believe that he's attending such an insignificant event! Sure enough, he dotes on his fiancée, Ms. Harris!"

“Oh my God, I’m so jealous and envious!”

Many of the female companions brought along by the various company’s CEOs had their eyes fixed on Cedrick ever since he alighted from the car, green with envy.

The few heads of companies who had taken their leaves earlier had not left the building. They were flooded with regrets at the sight of Cedrick coming in person.

They all shot daggers at Lorelai.

Lorelai, on the other hand, was still in shock and had gone completely silent.

Amidst the crowd’s cheers, Cedrick walked toward Gwendolyn with his eyes trained on her.

Gwendolyn stared at the man heading toward her blankly, a touch angry while also surprised.

I told him to recuperate in the villa and not to come out! Hmph! He doesn’t listen at all!

Under everyone’s gazes, Cedrick stopped in front of Gwendolyn, upon which the din of conversation faded.

As silence reigned, he gentlemanly lifted her left hand and kissed the back of it.

In a deep and arresting voice, he murmured, “Sorry I’m late.”

Pouting, Gwendolyn quirked a brow at him. “Yeah. So, I’m going to punish you later!”

Mirth danced in Cedrick’s ebony eyes. “You want two days and two nights, Gwenny? Okay, whatever you say.”

Following that, shrieks from the socialites and female companions there split the air.

Everyone was forcefully treated to a public display of affection.

Do their words mean the same as we think now that they're putting on a public display of affection? Can we really listen to such unpaid content?

Gwendolyn had never expected Cedrick to be so daring that he would openly tease her before such a crowd.

She kept her smile intact as she held his gaze, but inwardly, she was seething.

Cedrick arrived on the dot, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony kicked off once he did so.

Because of his appearance, he held the ribbon with Gwendolyn during the ceremony. Both of them cut the ribbon.

The atmosphere there swelled with excitement.

Lorelai had been humiliated twice that day, especially when she had raised her voice the second time. Right then, she fervently wished the ground would open up and swallow her whole.

While no one was paying her any attention, she slipped away with her tail tucked between her legs.

Subsequently, the ribbon-cutting ceremony ended successfully, and all the guests had a tour of Angle Corporation.

Gwendolyn was exhausted from all the socializing. Since Cedrick had come uninvited and even wanted to invest in Angle, she had him take over the crucial task while she hid in a quiet corner with Sienna.

Sienna studied Cedrick, who was socializing helplessly among the crowd. "No matter what, he's your investor. Never mind that you're slacking off, but you're even putting him to work."

Gwendolyn's eyes were also on the man. "A disobedient man should suffer for a bit."

Clapping a hand over her mouth, Sienna giggled. "Is he not obedient? He looks docile to me."

"It's just an act."

Without elaborating further, Gwendolyn poured herself a glass of champagne and took a sip.

Not only does he like to act docile, but he's also an expert at lying, passing off lies as the truth!

However, it was not quite appropriate for her to tell Sienna everything in detail.

On the contrary, Sienna did not shy from the subject. "If so, you found just the right person. You've got to tame your man if he isn't obedient. I have plenty of experience in this aspect."

## Chapter 245

Gwendolyn perked her ears and said, "I really can't tell. Asher is so mean, but does he behave like a meek sheep around you?"

Sienna cleared her throat and pushed away the rising awkwardness in her before nodding sheepishly.

Gwendolyn snorted.

I can't imagine how Sienna managed to tame Asher. It must have been entertaining!

"Sienna, what tips do you have for that? Tell me."

Sienne glanced at Cedrick, who was still talking to the others, and replied, "Don't tell anyone that this came from me."

Gwendolyn nodded fervently.

Leaning closer to Gwendolyn, Sienne continued, "If he makes any mistakes in the future, you'll have to make him walk on pebble stone paths or step on Lego pieces. You have to start early, you know? Then, you need to..."

Gwendolyn furrowed her brows. "Isn't that a bit harsh?"

The mere thought of having to walk on pebble stone paths made her wince, and she could not imagine deliberately stepping on Lego pieces.

"This world has no place for bleeding hearts."

Gwendolyn quietly nodded, finding sense in Sienne's words as she started contemplating it.

When Sienne realized that Gwendolyn had taken her seriously, she began feeling a little guilty.

Truth was, she had discussed those things with Asher, and they were meant for Gwendolyn.

To avoid having Cedrick bully their beloved sister in the future, the couple had decided to teach Gwendolyn tricks to prevent it.

Well, sorry there, Cedrick.

Right as they were done with their conversation, Cedrick walked over to them as if he was summoned by someone.

Without hesitation, he took a seat by Gwendolyn's side.

Cedrick had been socializing while standing for a while, so Gwendolyn worriedly asked the injured man, "Are you tired?"

"I'm fine," he uttered.

Taking note of his healthy complexion, Sienna said, "It looks like you've been recovering well with Gwen's care, Mr. Jenson. When are you going to return to the Herris residence, Gwen?"

"I..."

Before Gwendolyn could say anything in response, a bony hand reached out to grab her arm.

Cedrick's face was scrunched up as a look of agony appeared. He looked deathly pale and weak.

He rested his head on her shoulder and muttered, "Gwen, it hurts..."

Gwendolyn reached out to wrap her arm around his shoulder before touching his forehead. "Where does it hurt?"

Cedrick pointed at the wound by his heart weakly and whispered, "Here. I feel dizzy too..."

"Is this place too cold for you? Come on, let me take you home."

As she helped Cedrick up, she turned to Sienna and said, "Please help me with the guests, Sienna." Gwendolyn perked her ears and said, "I really can't tell. Asher is so mean, but does he behave like a meek sheep around you?"

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As she helped Cedrick up, she turned to Sienna and said, "Please help me with the guests, Sienna."

"Sure. Leave this place to me. Don't worry."

Sienna then watched the two leave, deep in her thoughts.

Are his injuries acting up coincidentally, or...

A laugh escaped Sienna, and she finally seemed to have figured out why Gwendolyn had said that Cedrick was hard to manage.

That day, the internet quickly buzzed with the news of Cedrick personally attending Angle's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Even though Cedrick did not take off his mask, he was the head of the powerful Jenson family, and that was enough to catch the netizens' interest and envy.

Many talked about how the two were a match made in heaven, and they were more than happy to watch the couple.

However, the socialites were envious.

Alas, the man in the spotlight and on the top of the pyramid was currently getting his earlobe pinched by Gwendolyn on his way back to the villa. He scrunched up his face in pain as he whined.

Gwendolyn glared at him. "I know you're pretending to be sick, but I didn't expose you for what you are in front of Sienna. What a good actor you are, Ceddy!"

Cedrick grinned. "Thank you."

You're actually smiling at this?

"Since you've mostly recovered, it's time for me to go back to the Harris residence. Why did you put on this act?" Gwendolyn asked, exerting more force into her pinch.

Cedrick inhaled sharply but did not move away from her.

"That doesn't mean I'm fully recovered. I think I've internal injuries from that smack from your brother, and I'll need to rest well for another month. I took the hit for you, so don't you think you should bear the responsibility for my injury?"

Gwendolyn dropped the solemn look and burst out laughing.

How can he voice out such a lousy excuse in such a righteous tone?

Gwendolyn said nothing, however.

Cedrick continued, "I've already asked Nico to head back to the Harris residence to pack your luggage. I'm your fiancé, and there's nothing wrong with you staying at my place for a while. Mr. Marcus won't disagree with this, and Asher won't be able to object to it."

"You're fast in executing your plan. It seems I've underestimated you!"

Gwendolyn let go of his earlobe and turned to look out the window with puffy cheeks.

Sienna's right. Cedrick's too crafty. If I don't tame him, he's going to lead me by the nose for the rest of my life.

Evil thoughts began manifesting in her mind.

It's time for me to think about this long and hard. Once he recovers, I'll have to give him a good surprise to alleviate the frustration he's given me all this while.

Gwendolyn started living at Cedrick's villa.

In fact, Elven, Ezra, and the other two bodyguards had been brought from the Harris residence along with her luggage.

Peaceful times always passed by quickly.

Gwendolyn would take care of Cedrick and change his dressings during the day as she worked remotely and gave instructions to Joanne.

Similarly, Cedrick left his work to Nico, besides attending the board of directors meeting that he had to personally hold once every month.

In the living room, Gwendolyn was lying on the couch, watching videos on her phone.

Cedrick was dressed in a suit and a tie with a somber look on his face. His laptop was placed on the coffee table, and he was having a video conference.

On-screen, Nico was leading the meeting.

Maxwell Shapiro, a man in his forties and a director of Jenson Group, stood up and looked at Cedrick, who was projected on the screen. He asked, "Mr. Jenson, do you have a timeline in mind for executing your investment in the eighty-billion-worth project in Angle?"

Cedrick glanced at the woman who was right outside of the camera range.

Gwendolyn was still staring at her phone, but her brows were slightly furrowed.

The two had discussed the matter for the past two days, and Cedrick knew what she wanted. “We’ll leave this matter aside for now. I’ll inform the rest of you once I come to a decision with Ms. Harris. Nico, read out the data for this month.”

“Of course, Mr. Jenson.”

Nico opened the file and started to make his report.

Just then, food videos popped up in Gwendolyn’s feed, and she licked her lips, feeling hungry.

Just as she was about to reach out for the fruits on the coffee table, she realized that the platter was to the left of Cedrick’s laptop. If she reached out for it, she would appear on camera.

She whispered, “Ceddy, I want oranges.”

Her voice was soft, but the employees at Jenson Group were using speakers for the video conference.

Thus, her words echoed in the room.

Quite a number of people widened their eyes when they heard her voice.

She sounds sweet! So he has his sweetheart by his side while attending his meeting? He’s living his best life!

That was not all, however.



Without any change in his expression, Cedrick took an orange from the platter and started peeling it patiently before handing the slices to someone outside of the camera range.

Once Gwendolyn was done, he reached out to motion for her to put the orange skins on his hand before throwing them into the trash can beside him.

Everyone in the conference room was dumbfounded by what they had just witnessed.

## Chapter 246

Are we seeing this right? Cedrick is peeling an orange and feeding it to someone... Is the man with a gentle expression on the screen really our austere and ruthless CEO?

Nico was so stunned that he forgot he was in the middle of reporting duty.

Meanwhile, the man who was the center of attention, sitting in front of the camera, didn't feel anything was off.

Every time he stretched his arm to feed someone off-screen, his usually-gleaming eyes would gleam with adoration.

The aroma of love filled the air. Even those through the screen could smell it.

Noticing Nico's silence, Cedrick furrowed his brows in displeasure. His gaze returned to its usual sharpness. "Continue," he demanded.

"Oh, yes, sure!"

Nico looked down at the document in his hands again after the smell interlude.

His mind went blank as he skimmed through the duty.

F\*ck! Where did I stop? I was so focused on watching them earlier.

With a stern look, Cedrick reminded, "Rossi Project's profit and loss ratio."

"Oh, right, the profit and loss ratio..."

Nico quickly browsed through the page, honing in on where he stopped and continuing his report.

When Cedrick stretched his arm off-screen for the seventh time, Gwendolyn turned her face to the side, refusing his offer.

"I don't want it anymore."

Feeling to feed her, Cedrick retracted his arm naturally and lifted it to his mouth.

"No, you can't eat it!"

It wasn't that Gwendolyn was acting petty, but a patient recovering post-surgery shouldn't be consuming too many oranges, and Cedrick already had three of them.

He needs to control himself.

Cedrick's hand paused mid-air as he glanced to the side.

"No!" Gwendolyn glared at him threateningly. Looking away briefly to check the time, she said softly, "It's time for your medication."

All the directors stared worriedly at the screen, watching their CEO's expression turn dark after he was threatened. They knew it was the sign of the calm before the storm.

Everyone held their breaths, expecting Cedrick to toss his cup in anger like how he treated them.

Shockingly, Cedrick acted like a kid who didn't get his candy.

After sulking for a while, he obediently set down the orange, reached for a sheet of wet wipe, and gracefully wiped his hands with it.

He accepted the pills Gwendolyn gave him and washed them down with water before continuing his meeting as though nothing out of the ordinary happened.

My word! Is this what everything has its conqueror means? Our CEO is actually a... hen-pecked husband?

They would have never believed the man who listened to his wife well on the screen was Cedrick if they hadn't seen it with their own eyes. Are we seeing this right? Cedrick is peeling an orange and feeding it to someone... Is the man with a gentle expression on the screen really our austere and ruthless CEO?

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They would have never believed the man who listened to his wife well on the screen was Cedrick if they hadn't seen it with their own eyes.

Cedrick didn't know his series of actions would soon reach the ears of every upper management.

He was exhausted by the end of the meeting. Shutting down his laptop, he climbed on top of the woman playing with her phone and held her against the couch.

"Hey! What are you doing?"

Looking at her innocent phone being tossed aside, Gwendolyn struggled to break free from his hold, but his grip was firm.

Cedrick's dangerous presence slowly inched closer to her. She could feel the warm breath he exhaled on her face.

Gently brushing the tip of her nose with his, he complained, "Since you won't let me have an orange I'll have you."

"Wait!"

His actions sent her blushing. Swallowing the knot in her throat, she struggled to keep her senses. "You're still not fully recovered, so strenuous exercise is out of the question! You must control your urges!"

Cedrick was depressed, but he couldn't retort her.

Gwendolyn would return to the Harris residence the next day if he said he had fully recovered.

On the other hand, he would be restricted from doing anything and his favorite exercise if he said he hadn't.

Both options are torture.

After sulking for a minute, he thought of an acceptable solution. "I can spare you now. My injury has almost recovered. Why don't you sleep in my room tonight?"

Gwendolyn rejected firmly, "No, I'm still not used to sleeping with another person."

"Habits can be changed. Give it two nights at most, and you'll get used to it."



“Don’t think I don’t know what you’re planning! No means no!” Gwendolyn stuck her tongue out at him, adamant about not falling for his trick.

Her challenge successfully lit a fire within Cedrick.

He threw an arm around her waist, then carried her on his shoulder in a fireman’s carry and kept his other arm around her legs to prevent her from falling onto the floor if she struggled.

“You started this fire, so you must be the one to extinguish it.” He smirked.

“Cedrick Jenson! Put me down!”

With her legs bound, Gwendolyn could only wave her arms and threaten him.

However, she didn’t dare to punch his back too heavily out of concern for his injury.

In the end, she focused all her attacks on his firm butt.

Clenching her fists, she threw one punch after another at his butt.

“You’re bullying me! I’m going to beat the crap out of you! Let me go now! Put me down!”

Cedrick’s temper sparked.

He didn’t physically stop her and merely bellowed, “Gwendolyn Shalders Harris!”

It was a shock to her since it was her first time hearing him call out her full name.

The loud chiming of a ringtone finally ended their farce.

It was a call from Marcus. The sound was coming from Gwendolyn's phone.

Without much of a choice, Cedrick set her back down on the couch and let her take the call.

After calming herself down, she asked, "Dad, what's wrong?"

"Honey, how's Cedrick? Is he doing better?"

"Yes, he's much better now."

"It was a lack of consideration on your brother's end for what he did. Since Cedrick is much better now, why don't you bring him over to the Harris residence for a family dinner?"

They were already engaged, yet Cedrick hadn't formally visited the Harris residence. Marcus had only seen him a handful of times.

Gwendolyn thought that was indeed inappropriate.

"All right, Dad. I understand. I'll bring him over for dinner."

"All right, Honey..."

After a few more exchanges, Marcus finally ended the call.

The living room fell back into silence.

Gwendolyn continued to look at her phone, her head lowered. She didn't lift her head to glance at the man standing in front of her.

Cedrick felt something was wrong when he couldn't see her expression.

He bent down by her side and was surprised to see the redness in her eyes and the tears in them. They looked like a comet shooting across the dark sky.

His heart clenched.

Unable to bear to watch her cry, he immediately softened his tone as he asked, "What's wrong?"

With a pout, Gwendolyn turned her face to the side, refusing to spare a glance at him. "You shouted at me."

"I didn't."

Another wave of grievance washed over her.

She finally realized after that day's incident that Cedrick was domineering and arrogant. It was his innate nature.

Plus, his strength and skills were a level above hers.

Usually, Cedrick would have yielded to her, but she could never win against him whenever they got into a real fight.

What he might do to her if she really pissed him off was a real fear.

She couldn't allow Cedrick to suppress her any longer. She refused to be his gentle little wife forever.

She wanted to turn over a new leaf and be a queen.

To achieve that, she must snuff out any thought he had to control her.

It looks like my surprise for him has to be brought forward. I must find a chance to dull his hostility against others and show him I'm my own boss!

## Chapter 247

Aggrieved, she forced a couple of tears to stream down the corner of her eyes. If it's just a matter of acting, I can play along too. "You dare deny it? Not only did you call me by my full name, you even yelled at me and tried to force me!"

Cedrick was rendered speechless by her accusations.

This time, he was truly in the wrong.

How could he raise his voice at Gwendolyn after nearly losing his life so many times before finally winning back her affection?

He knew she needed to be pampered without limits.

He had indeed lost control of his emotions earlier. To him, Gwendolyn was different from everyone else. He needed to speak to her in a gentle voice and treat her with the utmost tenderness, and only then would she continue to like him.

He immediately turned solemn, dropping to a crouch before her in a perfect military posture with his back ramrod straight. "I'm sorry."

Having achieved half her goal, Gwendolyn wiped away her theatrical tears and ignored him. She got to her feet and went upstairs haughtily, planning to get ready to go to the Harris residence.

Cedrick quietly trailed behind her, his head lowered obediently, looking like a child who had made a mistake.

Gwendolyn disregarded him and didn't speak to him the whole time.

Cedrick couldn't stand the silent treatment.

Figuring admitting his mistake honestly didn't work, he decided to play the victim.

Rubbing his backside and limping as he walked, Cedrick gritted his teeth and grunted, "Gwen, you seemed to have hit my tailbone just now."

Gwendolyn glanced at his firm rear. Keep pretending!

She had always known her limits when beating others. Her every punch earlier was aimed at the fleshier parts of his glutes, so there was no way she could've hit his tailbone.

Finally convincing her to turn around and look at him, Cedrick reached out to wrap his arm around her thin waist in delight.

However, she calmly stepped aside, picked up her bag, and walked out of the villa without sparing him another glance.

Cedrick had no choice but to put on his mask and follow her into the car.

Two luxury vehicles sped away from the Jensen residence toward the Harris residence at Mount Tranquil.

Inside the car, Cedrick occasionally sneaked looks at Gwendolyn who was sitting beside him and absorbed in admiring the fleeting scenery outside the window.

Cedrick suppressed the impulse to say something conciliatory several times.

After all, there were some things he couldn't overtly express in front of Elven and the other bodyguards.

The pair didn't speak the entire journey.

Upon reaching the Herris residence, Gwendolyn alighted from the car first while wearing a poker face.

Surprisingly, she didn't enter the house first but waited for Cedrick at the entrance. Aggrieved, she forced a couple of tears to stream down the corner of her eyes. If it's just a matter of acting, I can play along too. "You dare deny it? Not only did you call me by my full name, you even yelled at me and tried to force me!"

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Cedrick had no choice but to put on his mask and follow her into the car.

Two luxury vehicles sped away from the Jensen residence toward the Harris residence at Mount Tronquil.

Inside the car, Cedrick occasionally sneaked looks at Gwendolyn who was sitting beside him and absorbed in admiring the fleeting scenery outside the window.

Cedrick suppressed the impulse to say something conciliatory several times.

After all, there were some things he couldn't overtly express in front of Elven and the other bodyguards.

The pair didn't speak the entire journey.

Upon reaching the Horris residence, Gwendolyn alighted from the cor first while wearing a poker face.

Surprisingly, she didn't enter the house first but waited for Cedrick at the entrance. Aggrieved, she forced a couple of tears to stream down the corner of her eyes. If it's just a matter of acting, I can play along too. "You dare deny it? Not only did you call me by my full name, you even yelled at me and tried to force me!"

Cedrick was rendered speechless by her accusations.

This time, he was truly in the wrong.

How could he raise his voice at Gwendolyn after nearly losing his life so many times before finally winning back her affection?

He knew she needed to be pampered without limits.

He had indeed lost control of his emotions earlier. To him, Gwendolyn was different from everyone else. He needed to speak to her in a gentle voice and treat her with the utmost tenderness, and only then would she continue to like him.

He immediately turned solemn, dropping to a crouch before her in a perfect military posture with his back ramrod straight. "I'm sorry."

Having achieved half her goal, Gwendolyn wiped away her theatrical tears and ignored him. She got to her feet and went upstairs haughtily, planning to get ready to go to the Harris residence.

Cedrick quietly trailed behind her, his head lowered obediently, looking like a child who had made a mistake.



Gwendolyn disregarded him and didn't speak to him the whole time.

Cedrick couldn't stand the silent treatment.

Figuring admitting his mistake honestly didn't work, he decided to play the victim.

Rubbing his backside and limping as he walked, Cedrick gritted his teeth and grunted, "Gwenny, you seemed to have hit my tailbone just now."

Gwendolyn glanced at his firm rear. Keep pretending!

She had always known her limits when beating others. Her every punch earlier was aimed at the fleshier parts of his glutes, so there was no way she could've hit his tailbone.

Finally convincing her to turn around and look at him, Cedrick reached out to wrap his arm around her thin waist in delight.

However, she calmly stepped aside, picked up her bag, and walked out of the villa without sparing him another glance.

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Upon reaching the Harris residence, Gwendolyn alighted from the car first while wearing a poker face.

Surprisingly, she didn't enter the house first but waited for Cedrick at the entrance.

Noticing that, Cedrick felt flattered and quickly jogged up to her, taking the initiative to hold her hand with their fingers intertwined.

Gwendolyn didn't resist, allowing him to grab her hand.

She tiptoed to move closer to his ear and whispered, "I'm still mad at you for what happened today, and I'm not planning to let you off the hook just like that. I'll keep this incident in mind and settle the scores with you in a few days."

Cedrick was already overjoyed that she was willing to wait for him at the door.

Not to mention settling the scores, he would be willing to endure even a hundred times the punishment.

He nodded at her with all seriousness.

Gwendolyn had attained her goal as the man had promptly agreed.

As they stepped into the villa, she instantly put on her usual radiant smile while Cedrick wore his customary aloof and indifferent expression.

Sienna welcomed them at the entrance.

Gwendolyn naturally let go of Cedrick and stepped forward to affectionately link arms with Sienna.

Gwendolyn's warmth lingered on his palm despite the void in his hand created after she let go of him.

Cedrick felt a little dazed. His vision abruptly darkened, and even his ears buzzed. Strength drained from his body, rendering him weak to the point of being unable to move his legs.

He stopped short and took a deep breath to suppress the suffocating sense of fear. Is this some kind of symptom indicating something's wrong with my body because of the unknown aftereffects of the S404 RNA virus mentioned by Joshua, or that my life may just expire at any unannounced moment? Or perhaps I am overthinking?

Noticing the man behind her had stopped walking, Gwendolyn, who had already strode two to three meters ahead, turned her head and saw Cedrick rooted in his spot and seemingly lost in his thoughts. "What's the matter?"

Cedrick pulled himself together and caught up to them. "It's nothing. I just recalled some work-related matters."

Sienna was slightly dissatisfied with his behavior. "That's not right. How could you still be thinking about work when you so rarely accompany Gwen back to the Harris residence for a meal?"

"You're right, Sienna." He lowered his gaze absent-mindedly.

Sienna, noticing his mind was elsewhere, looked at Gwendolyn worriedly. "Gwen, has he been treating you well lately? If he dares to bully you, you must come back and tell us. Asher has always sided with his family members without regard for reasons."

Relationship-related matters are private affairs between two people. Gwendolyn preferred to handle them herself rather than discuss them with others.

She nodded noncommittally, occasionally glancing back at Cedrick. She perceptively sensed something seemed off with him ever since they entered the villa.

“Cedrick, you look a little pale. Are you feeling unwell?”

He curled his lips into a faint smile. “I’m all right. Perhaps I’m just not used to the cold wind. I haven’t been out at night in a long while.”

Gwendolyn swept her eyes across the rustling leaves in the garden. “It does feel a little cold. Let’s hurry up and go inside.”

Marcus, Asher, and Lorelai were already waiting in the dining room.

Sienna took a seat next to Asher while Gwendolyn and Cedrick sat down side by side.

Everyone sat upright, each harboring different thoughts as they waited for the head of the family, Marcus, to begin eating.

Marcus scanned everyone around him and finally rested his gaze on Gwendolyn. A contented smile spread across his aged visage.

“So many years have passed in the blink of an eye. Even my youngest child, Gwendolyn, has also grown up. If only Kieran and Treyton were also here today, and Treyton brought along his fiancée from the Ferguson family here, our family would be complete.”

The atmosphere inside the dining room turned heavy after he spoke.

“Regrettably, Kieran has a peculiar temperament. He still hasn’t found himself a wife at this point. I think I might have to arrange a match for him from among the prominent families.” Marcus sighed deeply while picking up his utensils to dig in.

Only then did everyone else follow suit.

Gwendolyn didn't start eating. Instead, she looked at Marcus. "Dad, you should leave Kieran alone for now. I think he knows what he's doing. Perhaps he'll bring someone home to let you meet with her soon."

The other day, Madelyn mentioned Inez had gone to Lightspring to pursue Kieran. Gwendolyn wondered how that went.

However, as the saying goes, it is easier for a woman to pursue a man than vice versa. The fact that Inez hadn't returned to Fairlake implied things were going well.

"Really? Has Kieran found a girl he's interested in?"

Gwendolyn smiled. "I can't say for sure, but you should just place your faith in him."

Before Marcus could respond, Lorelai interjected sarcastically, "That's easy for you to say. Since when can the children of wealthy families decide their own marriages? What if Kieran brings home some ill-mannered and unsophisticated woman? Won't the Harris family become a laughingstock, then?" She sneered and deliberately directed her comment at Gwendolyn. "Do you think everyone can be as willful as you? You insisted on marrying your ex-husband three years ago. It was only after you jinxed him to death that you finally returned home."

As soon as she uttered those words, the other three people around the table, aside from Marcus and Gwendolyn, slammed their forks on the tabletop in unison.

The simultaneous thump startled Lorelai, causing her to tremble frightfully and drop her fork.

## Chapter 248

The dining room was suddenly heavy with tension.

Their intimidating eures were so terrifying that the servants waiting for their instructions eside fled the dining room in feer.

Asher end Sienne reised their heeds in unison end glered et Lorelei.

Cedrick furrowed his brows as his expression turned immensely dark.

Lorelei felt a chill run down her spine as she sensed the tension in the air. However, she composed herself and responded with an icy snort, trying to assert control over the situation. "Why are you staring at me? I am simply stating the truth!"

She had purposely said those words in front of Cedrick so he'd know Gwendolyn was a filthy and loose woman.

Feeling displeased, Marcus cleared his throat and said, "We're having dinner, so why did you mention that? Shut up and eat your food."

Lorelei knew how to read the room and fell silent. After all, her goal to sow discord had already been achieved.

Asher and Sienna turned to look at Gwendolyn.

Gwendolyn sat silently as she ate her dinner. Her face was impassive. She seemed unaffected by Lorelei's words.

Her lack of reaction was unusual, considering her typically vengeful nature.

Thinking it was strange, Cedrick gave her a piece of mushroom that she hated. "This is full of nutrients, and it's actually tastes good. You should eat more."

Gwendolyn's hand holding her fork paused mid-air.

Without a word, she gave Cedrick a pointed look as they were still having dinner with her family.

Cedrick was the only one who caught the warning in Gwendolyn's gaze. It was evident that she was suppressing her fury.

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Without uttering a word, he decided to spare himself and picked up the mushroom, consuming it himself.

Gwendolyn promptly relaxed.

Marcus saw everything but narrowed his gaze silently. No one could tell what was on his mind.

Dinner was a particularly unpleasant affair.

Once Cedrick had finished his meal and set his fork down, Marcus flashed a smile and asked, "Cedrick, I hope the food prepared by our family's chef meets your satisfaction. Is everything to your liking?"

"Yes. I'm done with my meal. Carry on without me, Mr. Marcus."

Marcus also placed his fork down. "I am done as well. I'm not as agile as I used to be. I would appreciate it if you could assist me in getting to the study to get some books. They can continue eating without us."

Clearly, he wanted to talk to Cedric in private.

"Sure," Cedrick agreed readily. Getting to his feet, he went to Marcus to push him away.

After both men left the dining room, Lorelai said, "Gwendolyn, you should feel fortunate that Cedrick is willing to marry you even though you're a divorcee. You should be grateful to the Horris family for their support—hey!" The dining room was suddenly heavy with tension.

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After both men left the dining room, Lorelai said, “Gwendolyn, you should feel fortunate that Cedrick is willing to marry you even though you’re a divorcee. You should be grateful to the Harris family for their support—hey!”

Before she could finish, Gwendolyn grabbed the glass of half-finished fruit juice on the table and flung the contents at her.

The juice splattered all over her body and hair.

Lorelai’s eyes widened in disbelief. “How dare you do this to me?”

Gwendolyn arched a brow icily. “Why not? Caddy was here earlier, and it was his first time having dinner at the Harris residence. I decided to endure your antics, but you were foolish enough to push your luck!”

“This is the Harris residence, and I’m your stepmother!”

Gwendolyn let out an icy snort. “Who else in the Harris family acknowledges your status except for Dad? Don’t you know your place? You love getting attention, huh? It looks like you know your life is a joke, you pathetic coward!”

“Hey!” Lorelai’s cheeks flushed red in anger as she whipped her head around to look at Asher and Sienna.

Asher’s face displayed a cold expression while Sienna struggled to contain her laughter. They were acting as though the matter had no relevance to them whatsoever.

“Why are you staring at them? Are you expecting them to come to your aid?” Gwendolyn retorted, her tone laced with sarcasm. “Asher is my brother, and Sienna is my sister-in-law. They are nice enough not to hand me a knife on a silver platter because of our father.”

With Marcus’ departure, Lorelai felt the weight of losing her main source of support. Frustration and sadness welled up inside her as she was about to burst into tears any minute.

Gwendolyn’s patience with Lorelai’s pretentious behavior had reached its limit. In a bold move, she picked up her fork and leaned over the table, pressing it against Lorelai’s neck.

Lorelai was shocked senseless. “Gwendolyn! If you dare to hurt me, you won’t escape punishment!”

People were staring, so Sienna spoke up. “Gwen...”

Asher took her arm, signaling for her to stay out of the matter.

The couple fell silent and continued watching the debacle.

Lorelai’s helplessness engulfed her as the cold touch of the fork pressed against her delicate skin. The prickling sensation paralyzed her with fear, rendering her unable to move.

Seeing her cowardly reaction, Gwendolyn sneered, “What else can you do besides giving verbal insults and riding on my dad’s coattails?”

Lorelai was rendered speechless.

“If you tuck your tail between your legs and keep a low profile, I’ll allow you to enjoy the wealth temporarily before I take over the family business. But if you provoke me...” She trailed off as her gaze turned sharp. Leaning closer to Lorelai, she whispered, “I’ll get someone to kidnap you a few days later and toss you deep into the mountains to feed the wild boars.”

Lorelai’s eyes widened in shock. “You wouldn’t dare!”

“Try me. The law won’t stop me, so try me if you dare,” Gwendolyn replied carelessly.

Lorelai met her icy gaze and fell silent.

In the study, Cedrick was finding the book Marcus wanted on the top shelf.

“Is it this one? Or that one?”

Marcus put on his glasses and narrowed his eyes. “The one in the middle.”

Cedrick pulled out the book and gave it to him with both hands.

Marcus gently caressed the cover of the book with his wrinkly hands, his voice carrying a stern tone as he said, “I agreed to your engagement because I know you are a decisive businessperson. You’ve been living with her for some time now. Are the two of you getting along?”

Cedrick listened to him attentively as confusion rose in his heart.

Is he not satisfied with me?

“Gwenny takes good care of me, and I’m truly grateful for that. Please don’t worry, Mr. Marcus. I understand how important she is to the Harris family, and I will cherish and protect her with all my heart for the rest of our lives,” he assured Marcus sincerely.

Marcus’ expression grew grave even though Cedrick sounded sincere. In the end, the elderly man shook his head and sighed out loud.

“Mr. Marcus?”

"I appreciate your thoughtfulness, but I've indulged my daughter from a young age, leading to her desire for dominance and being rude toward others, including elders. She's easily taken advantage of, so I hope she finds a partner who can establish control and provide discipline."

Cedrick pursed his lips instead of replying right away.

Deep down, he was baffled.

While it was commonly assumed that fathers desired sons-in-law who would protect and adore their daughters, Marcus had a different expectation for Cedrick as he hoped the latter would discipline her.

It seemed impossible for him to take over and changed her character as her family had failed to get rid of her hot temper for the past twenty-three years.

Oblivious to his thoughts, Marcus continued, "Gwendolyn usually listens to Asher well, and he's the only one she listens to. I hope you can learn from him."

He wants me to get Asher's advice?

Cedrick and Asher had a rivalry marked by competition. At one point, Asher had even made an attempt on Cedrick's life. If not for Gwendolyn, they would've been outright enemies.

"Mr. Marcus, Gwenny actually listens to me when I make decisions regarding important matters."

Marcus couldn't be bothered to expose his lie. "You don't have to defend her. I've heard about your matters."

Cedrick was taken aback to hear that.

He heard about us? Is there a rumor about me and Gwendolyn out there?

Marcus continued, "I'm old and can't be with her for long. If you can't fulfill my wish, I'm afraid I'll have to reconsider your marriage."

Cedrick immediately went on one knee and gazed at Marcus solemnly. "Don't worry, Mr. Marcus. I'll make sure to discipline Gwenny and make her an obedient wife!"

## Chapter 249

Mercus petted his shoulders in relieve.

He wasn't trying to torture his daughter. In fact, his wife had held a leash on him until she died.

Gwendolyn resembled her mother as they were both arrogant and unfeared of anything.

He didn't want Gwendolyn to take the same path as her mother. Instead, he hoped she could be submissive and controlled by someone so she wouldn't end up risking her life. His ultimate goal was for her to lead a peaceful life.

Cedrick's expression was grim as he pondered over Mercus' request while walking out of the study.

Gwendolyn was waiting for him in the corridor and sensed something amiss through his expression. "What did Dad tell you? Why do you look troubled?"

Cedrick gathered his thoughts and held her hand. "Nothing special. He reminded me to take care of you. It's getting late. Let's go."

They held hands and made their way to their car to return to the Jensen residence.

In the car, Gwendolyn noticed his lips were pursed, and he looked unwell.

Feeling worried, she asked, "Are you sure you're okay? Do you need me to get a doctor to take a look at you?"



"No need. I'm fine, really," Cedrick assured her.

After the temporary loss of his sight and hearing in the garden earlier, he had not experienced those symptoms again.

Perhaps I was overthinking things. Marcus gave me a difficult problem to overcome, though. If I don't appease him, it'll be hard for him to agree to our marriage even though we're already engaged. How should I start disciplining Gwendolyn?

As he seemed preoccupied with his thoughts, Gwendolyn didn't push him further.

The following morning, Cedrick was required to be present at Jenson Group's monthly meeting. Gwendolyn had to attend the meeting at Angle Corporation as well.

They both left home at the same time.

Cedrick dropped Gwendolyn off at Angle Corporation before heading to Jenson Group.

Nico was already waiting for him at the entrance when he arrived.

The meeting went on for three whole hours before coming to an end.

In the CEO's office, Nico handed the summary of the meeting to Cedrick.

After taking the file from him, Cedrick read the contents and soon sped out for the very first time in his life.

"Boss?"

He snapped back to reality. "What?"

"Uh, you're holding the file upside down."

Cedrick didn't feel awkward at all as he turned the file back and flipped through it calmly.

Nico could sense that something was weighing on his mind.

Nico's salary had been deducted previously, and he was forbidden from stepping into the ville. He was wondering how he should redeem himself and saw this as the ideal chance.

"Boss, if something is troubling you, let me know. I might be able to help you. You know that I'm full of quirky ideas, right?" he offered with a chuckle. Marcus patted his shoulders in relief.

He wasn't trying to torture his daughter. In fact, his wife had held on to him until she died.

Gwendolyn resembled her mother as they were both arrogant and unforgiving of anything.

He didn't want Gwendolyn to take the same path as her mother. Instead, he hoped she could be submissive and controlled by someone so she wouldn't end up risking her life. His ultimate goal was for her to lead a peaceful life.

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They held hands and made their way to their car to return to the Jensen residence.

In the car, Gwendolyn noticed his lips were swollen, and he looked unwell.

Feeling worried, she asked, "Are you sure you're okay? Do you need me to get a doctor to take a look at you?"

"No need. I'm fine, really," Cedrick assured her.

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"Boss, if something is troubling you, let me know. I might be able to help you. You know that I'm full of quirky ideas, right?" he offered with a chuckle.

Cedrick contemplated his proposal and inquired, "Based on what you know about Gwenny and me, who do you believe will hold a higher position in our family in the future?"

Nico was perplexed. Is there a need to contemplate over that question?

"Ms. Gwendolyn, of course!" he replied.

Cedrick furrowed his brows. "Why? How did you get that conclusion?"

Nico responded in all seriousness, "It's pretty obvious, Boss! All the higher-ups of the company know that you're afraid of her!"

Cedrick's eyelids twitched. His gaze turned as dark as thunder.

The fact that Nico mentioned the higher-ups didn't escape his ears.

"I merely yielded to Gwenny. Why do you think I'm afraid of her?"

Nico's avoided his gaze as he dared not expose his employer in his face.

Cedrick's expression turned icy. If the rumor continues, everyone will believe it! I must make sure my dignity as a man is restored!

"Any ideas?"

Nico was stunned. "Boss, what are you talking about?"

"Marcus wants me to discipline Gwenny, making her a submissive wife who fears her husband. Otherwise, he'll consider calling off our marriage. Help me figure out a way to make Gwenny fear me," Cedrick said.

Nico's eyes turned as wide as saucers and his jaw dropped open.

That seems impossible, considering Ms. Gwendolyn's character!

Cedrick seemed serious, so Nico anxiously paced back and forth in the office, desperately searching for a solution.

“Oh, I got it! Wait for me, Boss.”

Nico ran out of the office hastily after uttering that.

Five minutes later, he placed a thick and long wooden ruler in Cedrick’s hands.

“Disobedient women need to be taught a lesson. To do that, you’ll have to resort to corporal punishment and set up some family rules to establish your authority. That might work!”

Cedrick stared at the thick ruler darkly. It was as thick as his thumb, so he figured it would hurt.

I can’t use it to punish Gwendolyn lest she gets hurt. I can’t bear to do that to her. What if she escapes out of fear?

He shot Nico a frosty look. “Are you saying I should beat her up with this ruler to establish my authority?”

“You don’t actually have to physically harm her. Just give her a fierce glare and sternly reprimand her briefly to intimidate her. Many women are attracted to assertive men, so this approach might suit her preferences.”

Cedrick gazed at the ruler and fell into deep thought.

Before we went to the Harris residence for dinner, I yelled at Gwendolyn in the living room. She burst into tears and seemed really aggrieved. I’ve never really lost my temper with her. Perhaps this might work on her.

Nico continued, “There’s no harm in giving it a try. You can go with the flow. If it doesn’t work or something seems off, just apologize sincerely, and it will blow off.”

Cedrick pondered over his suggestion and decided to give it a try after getting off work tonight.



It was almost time to get off work. Gwendolyn packed up her stuff ahead of time and waited for Cedrick to pick her up.

The surprise gift I custom-made for Cedrick has arrived. I'll have to find a chance to try it out tonight!

Suddenly, Joanne knocked on the door and came in hastily.

"Ms. Harris, something serious has happened."

Gwendolyn stopped packing up her stuff. "What happened?"

"Jennifer didn't show up at an event today with her group. Her manager has just found her. Apparently, she went to North Lake without anyone realizing it and jumped into the lake to commit suicide!"

"What?" Gwendolyn jolted up from her chair in shock. "What about her? Is she dead?"

"No. Thankfully she was found in time and taken to the hospital. However, several people witnessed her jumping into the lake. Papilio Girls has a significant following, so if news of her attempted suicide spreads, it will have a severe impact on us."

The release of negative publicity surrounding a popular girl group would trigger public outcry and the spread of rumors, inevitably impacting the other members of the group.

Gwendolyn returned to her seat and calmly analyzed the entire incident.

"Retrieve the surveillance footage from the surrounding area and instruct our PR team to reach out to all the witnesses. Offer them financial compensation in exchange for their silence. Ensure that anyone who recorded videos of the incident deletes their footage, and get in touch with numerous influential media outlets and prevent them from reporting on the matter."

Joanne replied, "Ms. Harris, there are bound to be blind spots. It will also take a lot of time and effort to find all the bystanders."

"Just do your best to minimize the severity of the incident for now. If that doesn't work, I'll make further arrangements. We'll go with the flow."

"All right."

"Send me the address of the hospital where Jennifer is in now."

"Sure, Ms. Harris."

Upon learning the location of the hospital where Jennifer had been admitted, Gwendolyn wasted no time and hailed a taxi to rush to the medical facility. Considering the challenging experiences Jennifer had been through, Gwendolyn believed that the young lady wouldn't resort to suicide unless something serious had occurred.

The matter was unexpected, so Gwendolyn left her office hastily. In her haste, she forgot to text Cedrick to inform him that he didn't have to pick her up.

## Chapter 250

Upon arriving at the hospital after rushing over, the first thing that Gwendolyn did was ask Elven and Ezre to wait by the entrance to prevent the paparazzi from taking her.

Jennifer was already awake when Gwendolyn walked into the room. The former looked exhausted and was looking out the window.

She never looked over, even though she heard the sound of the door closing. "Gwendolyn, I think it'd be better if I died today."

Gwendolyn sat by her bed, her heart aching for her friend.

She could already guess what had happened while she was on the way here.

Beck then, Welter Vissers was still a newly-debuted celebrity in the entertainment industry. He had been the one to pursue Jennifer after she made her debut through Pepilio Girls and became famous.

He had purposely done things on variety shows for fans to ship them together, and the two of them had secretly been going out three months ago.

To Jennifer's surprise, Welter was such a jerk that he cheated on her. Moreover, his mistress was her teammate on Pepilio Girls, Lise Middleton.

Lise made the other girls on the team ostracize Jennifer and even made things difficult for the latter.

Jennifer was normally busy with her shoots. With Welter suddenly giving her the silent treatment and her teammates isolating her, she had a breakdown as it was all too much for her to bear.

Gwendolyn blamed herself for this. Ever since Jennifer signed the contract with her company, Gwendolyn had been so focused on getting good projects for her friend that she overlooked Jennifer's mental health.

"Welter is a true scumbag!"

Jennifer finally looked over. She grabbed Gwendolyn's hand as tears streamed down her face.

"Gwendolyn, he thinks I'm too stiff. Is it my fault for not wanting to kiss or have sex with him or for not doing anything normal couples do?"

"No, it's not your fault. You have the right to choose whether or not you want to do something. If he really does love you, he wouldn't have given up on you for these reasons."

That only made Jennifer weep harder.

Gwendolyn hugged her, allowing her to cry her heart out.

"I went to find him earlier today but saw him in bed with Lise. He said I'm just an orphan, so I'm not good enough for him. He even told me he only dated me because he only cared about my fame. But I really do like him..."

Gwendolyn petted Jennifer's back to calm her down. Are all women in relationships such love-struck fools?

Even though Jennifer was so miserable, Gwendolyn couldn't just sit back and not knock some sense into her.

"It's not that he looks down on you, Jennifer. You've always felt inferior about it. That's why you need to be strong! Besides, you're not the one at fault here. He's the one who cheated. He's the asshole. Moreover, Lise knew you were dating Welter, yet she didn't keep herself in check. She even led the other girls to ostracize you. You can't think about taking your life anymore. Don't you want to become stronger and make sc\*m like them pay for what they've done?"

Upon arriving at the hospital after rushing over, the first thing that Gwendolyn did was ask Elven and Ezra to wait by the entrance to prevent the paparazzi from toiling her.

Jennifer was already awake when Gwendolyn walked into the room. The former looked haggard and was looking out the window.

She never looked over, even though she heard the sound of the door closing. "Gwendolyn, I think it'd be better if I died today."

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To Jennifer's surprise, Wolter was such a jerk that he cheated on her. Moreover, his mistress was her teammate on Popilio Girls, Liso Middleton.

Liso made the other girls on the team ostracize Jennifer and even made things difficult for the latter.

Jennifer was normally busy with her shoots. With Wolter suddenly giving her the silent treatment and her teammates isolating her, she had a breakdown as it was all too much for her to bear.

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rushing over, the first thing that Gwendolyn did was ask Elven and Ezra to wait by the entrance to prevent the paparazzi from tailing her.

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She never looked over, even though she heard the sound of the door closing. "Gwendolyn, I think it'd be better if I died today."

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She could already guess what had happened while she was on the way here.

Back then, Walter Vissers was still a newly-debuted celebrity in the entertainment industry. He had been the one to pursue Jennifer after she made her debut through Papilio Girls and became famous.

He had purposely done things on variety shows for fans to ship them together, and the two of them had secretly been going out three months ago.

To Jennifer's surprise, Walter was such a jerk that he cheated on her. Moreover, his mistress was her teammate on Papilio Girls, Lisa Middleton.

Lisa made the other girls on the team ostracize Jennifer and even made things difficult for the latter.

Jennifer was normally busy with her shoots. With Walter suddenly giving her the silent treatment and her teammates isolating her, she had a breakdown as it was all too much for her to bear.

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That only made Jennifer wail harder.

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"I went to find him earlier today but saw him in bed with Lisa. He said I'm just an orphan, so I'm not good enough for him. He even told me he only dated me because he only cared about my fame. But I really do like him..."

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Jennifer shook her head. She started to doubt herself and said, "I... I'm not like you. I have nothing..."

"It's exactly because you have nothing that you have to fight them. What are you so afraid of losing?" Gwendolyn spoke authoritatively in a loud and clear voice. "Besides, you have me. Don't you want to see them getting on their knees and begging for your forgiveness one day?"

In an instant, Jennifer stopped crying and looked at Gwendolyn, her eyes brimming with determination.

Exiting the ward, Gwendolyn gave Shadow Bell a call.

"I need you to find evidence of Walter and Lisa hooking up as soon as possible. I want pictures, high-resolution ones."

"Yes, boss."

She couldn't help but worry about leaving Jennifer alone at the hospital, so she told Elven and Ezra to stay behind and take care of the woman for the time being.

Right after Gwendolyn got out of the elevator and exited the hospital, she saw Cedrick's car some distance away.



Cedrick was leaning against his car and wearing a silver-grey mask, so she couldn't make out his expression at all.

Surprised, Gwendolyn jogged over to him and asked, "Why are you here?"

"Did you forget that I'd be picking you up today? Why didn't you tell me you'd be coming to the hospital?" Cedrick replied in a deep voice.

He had waited for a long time at Angle Corporation, and Gwendolyn hadn't answered his calls the whole time. Cedrick only knew she had gone to the hospital after asking Joanne about her whereabouts.

"Oh, right! I forgot. I'll remember next time," the woman answered, rubbing her earlobe in embarrassment.

There's going to be a "next time"? Cedrick was displeased but didn't say anything about it. I'll teach her a lesson once we're back!

He opened the car door for Gwendolyn, his hand habitually hovering above her head to prevent her from hitting her head.

They soon made their way back to the Jenson residence.

Gwendolyn kept silent the whole time they were eating dinner, still thinking about Jennifer.

Cedrick could feel his mood sour and was filled with rage. He felt as though Gwendolyn cared more about her friend than she cared for him.

The woman returned to her bedroom once she finished eating.

This made Cedrick even angrier. He quietly went into his room and took a thick and long ruler.

I'll have to discipline her tonight.

Later, Cedrick walked over to Gwendolyn's room, hiding the ruler behind him as he stood before the door.

Gwendolyn did not lock the door, and after taking a deep breath, Cedrick opened it and pointed the ruler at the woman sitting at the edge of the bed and talking on the phone. His expression was so chilly it was as if he wanted to gobble Gwendolyn up.

"Gwendolyn Shalders Harris! Why didn't you tell me that you were going to the hospital? Am I, your fiancé, anything to you at all?"

Gwendolyn was in the midst of talking to Shadow Bell on the phone. Hearing his words, she looked up at him, baffled.

Cedrick hit the ruler against the bedside table, and a loud thud rang out.

The terrifying sound startled him too.

However, he couldn't give up halfway through. Still straight-faced, he said sternly, "Give me your hand. I'm going to have to teach you a lesson tonight."

Huh? Gwendolyn was left even more confused.

Two minutes later, Cedrick's façade fell under the woman's cold gaze.

He kneeled on the carpet beside the bed and kept his back straight. Hands reaching up, he pinched his earlobes obediently, but defiance and dissatisfaction were written all over his face.

Gwendolyn sat leisurely on the bed, nonchalantly fiddling with the ruler he had brought.

“Not bad, Cedrick. Trying to seize the opportunity and rebel? Did you forget the promise you made yesterday at the Harris residence?”

Cedrick was stumped for words.

Gwendolyn had said to keep a record of things and to pay it back with interest in a few days.

He had actually forgotten about it!

Gwendolyn could already guess he had let it slip from his memory. But it doesn't matter. I'll make sure he remembers in a moment.

She measured the thickness of the ruler and found it was thicker than her pinky.

How ruthless of him!

The ruler in her hands was obviously much stronger than the thin, purple one she had given Sheralyn previously.

How can I not fulfill his wishes since he's already brought it over?

“I wasn't planning to deal with you since Angle Corporation is dealing with something challenging at the moment. You're the one who came to me yourself, all right?” Gwendolyn's eyes turned cold as she copied how he had spoken earlier. “Give me your hand! I'm going to teach you a lesson tonight!”

Cedrick struggled internally, but he didn't move.

The woman gave him a threatening glare and questioned, “Hmm? How dare you disregard your promise?”

Cedrick stayed silent and swallowed the lump in his throat.

After much dilemma, he slowly held his left hand out and revealed his palm.

Seeing that, Gwendolyn wasted no time and hit his hand with the ruler with only half her strength.

Smack!

Cedrick stayed motionless, with not even a twitch of his eyebrows.

“Does it hurt?” Gwendolyn asked softly.

The man thought about it seriously for a second before answering truthfully, “It’s all right.”

He worked with guns all year round back then. Even though he enjoyed a life of comfort back in Fairlake, he didn’t care for the callouses on his hands, so his skin was quite rough.

Only a red line was left behind at where he was hit.

It wasn’t a serious injury, and it was painful, but it didn’t hurt to the point where he couldn’t stand it.

Gwendolyn was not satisfied with his answer.

“It’s all right” meant it was just so-so.

It also meant that it didn’t hurt.

It looks like I hit him too softly.