

## Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 21

Anne froze at those words.

Just then, Julia turned around and spotted Anne standing outside the door. Panic flooded her face as she quickly hung up the phone, wiped her tears, and forced a smile as she walked toward Anne. "When did you get here, Anne?"

Anne said nothing, stepped in, and shut the door behind her. "Julia, who were you talking to just now?"

Julia's smile faltered. "A classmate. Did you... hear anything?"

"Hmm." Anne's expression was gloomy.

"Anne, that person is just talking nonsense. Cassie and I are really close. There's no way she would hurt me just because you're nice to me. L... I don't believe it, Julia said, tears welling up in her eyes. "Even if it seems weird, I'll always trust Cassie. Can we please just let this go?"

"Weird? What do you mean by that?" Anne asked, her tone serious. "Are you hiding something from me?"

Julia fell silent for a moment, tears streaming down her cheeks. "Please don't press me. I promised Cassie I wouldn't say anything

Her words only made it clear whatever she was hiding had to do with Cassie.

"If you don't tell me, I'll just ask Cassie, Anne said firmly.

"Please don't!" Julia grabbed Anne's arm.

"Then you'd better come clean, Anne replied.

Julia hesitated for a while on purpose, then slumped into a chair, cradling her face in her hands. "Actually, I can remember where and when it happened that day. Cassie was scared you guys would blame her, so she told me not to say anything."

Anne was taken aback. She had suspected as much-how could Julia forget something that important?

Julia continued, "That day, Cassie wanted to go to the bar to celebrate her coming birthday. I tried to tell you guys, but she said if I did, you wouldn't let us go. So, she dragged me along with her and sneaked out.

"We were there together, but after I had some water, I blacked out. When I came to, everything had already happened, and Cassie was gone.

"I was so scared and worried that something had happened to her too, I called her and only felt relieved when I found out she was home."

"I had promised Cassie I wouldn't tell you about going to the bar. When everything went down, I thought... if I spoke up, you'd definitely blame her. Since it already happened, what's the point of saying anything? So, I just kept quiet."

Anne fell silent, not responding to Julia for a long time.

Julia kept her eyes down, feeling satisfied. Anne had never really liked Cassie, and a few days of change wouldn't undo years of tension.

Julia wasn't lying about the bar thing. She knew Anne wouldn't easily find out the truth—after all, only she and Cassie knew who was the one leading their outing.

'Cassie, trying to steal Anne from me? You've got a lot to learn.' Julia sneered silently.

"Good girl, you've thought this through, Anne finally said, holding Julia's hand gently. "Cassie can be a little spoiled, but she'd never hurt family out of jealousy. You really shouldn't hang around those troublemakers anymore. Don't mention the bar thing to anyone else, or they might twist it into something else."

Julia's contentment vanished instantly. She'd expected Anne to immediately take her side and blast Cassie.

How could Anne even say that? she thought and replied flatly, "Fine."

"Don't worry, Lucas has been looking into this. We won't let anyone who hurts you get away with it," Anne promised, her voice serious.

Julia felt a flame of anger ignited inside her. Investigation? Nonsense! Even I could track down those lowlifes. Anne's insistence on keeping quiet about the bar incident hints that she has her doubts yet supports Cassie. The Murphy family is just as bad as I thought. I swear, I'll make sure they all pay the price!

The next day, Cassie showed up at school like normal. Everyone seemed cautious around her. Cassie had changed so much that no one really knew how to deal with her anymore.

Some students, impressed by Cassie's boldness the day before, were eager to see what kind of drama would unfold. But no one dared to cross her. So, the day passed smoothly until the last class.

Donald led the final class. Before the bell rang, he locked his gaze on Cassie and said, "Big exams are coming up, and your scores are going to impact your college applications. The school is taking this very seriously."

"I want to remind everyone, especially those struggling, this is not the time for cheating or any funny business. If you get caught, your scores will be wiped out. Also, anyone who fails will face the consequences."

Cassie didn't even look at him. Who could do worse than she was? She hadn't even been able to single-choice questions even once.

guess the answers on her

Everyone in class could see that Donald was targeting Cassie. Jennie and Brianna were practically glued to Cassie, snickering silently.

After school, students left the classroom in waves. Cassie lingered, taking her time to pack her things. Just as she was about to leave, a petite girl approached her and said, "This is for you."

Cassie looked up at her.

Each year, noble schools like this would admit a few gifted underprivileged students and provide them with full scholarships, hoping they'd bring in good scores during SAT.

However, in a school where even an average student's background could overpower them, they often end up getting bullied. The girl in front of Cassie was one of those students.

Cassie glanced at the notebook the girl was holding out.

The girl looked nervous. These are my notes on the exam topics. They might help you. With that, she lowered her head and hurried away.

Cassie flipped through the notebook and saw the name "Sheryl Carson" neatly written in the bottom corner of the first page. Suddenly, some memory hit her,

One Christmas in her past life, Cassie found a note in her textbook, telling her to hurry home after school. Because of that note, she had called her bodyguards to pick her up.

Later, when trouble struck, Cassie found out that day, Jennie had teamed up with some thugs to extort money from her after school. The handwriting on that note matched Sheryl's exactly.

"So it was her" Cassie let out a soft sigh and tucked the notebook into her backpack.

Meanwhile, Jennie and Brianna were strutting down the hall like they owned the place.

“Honestly, Cassie just leans on Murphy Group. But can it help her study? She’s just a clueless brat, you know? Her grades are so bad. My pet could probably score better than she can, Jennie scoffed.

“I can’t wait to see her get called out in the school-wide announcement. I heard the school is even putting the failing students on the bulletin board’s blacklist, Brianna added, smirking.

Just then, a few nearby students, glued to their phones, started glancing their way with strange looks.

Jennie frowned. “What are you guys staring at?”

Before she could finish her rant, Howard White, the dean of students, appeared in the distance. Jennie and Brianna, come with me to the president’s office, now.”

“Us” Jennie paused, and soon, a realization struck her. She crossed her arms and shot a condescending look at the students around her. “Is this about us being nominated for Outstanding Student Representatives?”

Donald had told her dad about it last week, and it seemed like a sure thing-just waiting for the announcement.

Howard’s expression darkened. “That’s not what’s happening. Move it

Jennie and Brianna exchanged glances, both feeling a wave of dread wash over them.

Twenty minutes earlier, several major websites had posted a nearly one-minute video with an infuriating headline -Violence Erupts at Elite School, Underprivileged Student Brutally Humiliated.

Before long, the video went viral across all platforms. Influential accounts shared it angrily. Quickly, people figured out that the bullies were none other than Jennie and Brianna, and the victim was Sheryl.

Only when Cassie saw the news online did she find that, in the video she hacked from Brianna’s phone, the girl getting bullied was Sheryl.

As Jennie and Brianna were called to the president’s office, Sheryl was summoned too. Normally, as the victim, Sheryl would get fair treatment. But this time, the situation was anything but typical.

The next morning, while Cassie was reading in class, she overheard some students chatting

Jennie and Brianna's moms are here, and Sheryl's grandma is with them. Those two women are strutting around like they own the place, tearing into Sheryl's grandma."

"Isn't Sheryl's grandma mute? I heard she can't speak

"I guess so. But I didn't see it..."

Cassie tapped her fingers lightly on the desk. She wasn't the type to owe anyone anything. Sheryl had helped her, and now it was time to repay that kindness. With determination, Cassie stood up and headed out.

Just as she arrived outside the president's office, she heard a woman's furious voice, shouting. "Jennie has been a good girl since childhood. What on earth did that lile brat do to make her act like this?"

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 22**

"I didn't..." Sheryl cried out..

Then came the sound of a slap from the office.

"Ms. Gaiman!" a man shouted, trying to step in.

Cassie knocked on the office door, and everyone inside turned to look at her.

The man sounded as if he was trying to stop Teresa, Jennie's mother, but he wasn't making much progress. Instead, he looked more worried about Sheryl and her grandmother, Maria, fighting back.

Maria was small and fragile, hugging Sheryl tightly, her sobs breaking Cassie's heart.

"Cassie, what are you doing here?" the man asked, softening a bit when he noticed her.

"I brought Sheryl her notes. Cassie walked right over to Sheryl and handed her the notebook. "I read through it, and it was really helpful. Thanks for sharing

Sheryl's cheek was puffy, her eyes red and swollen, and she shook from head to toe.

"What happened?" Cassie lifted Sheryl's chin gently to get a better look at her injured face. "I just heard that Jennie attacked Sheryl and now it's all over the news. How could you guys let this happen?"

"Ms. Murphy, it's none of your business, Teresa shot back.

“Yeah! Have you settled your own problems? Why are you out here messing with ours?” Brianna’s mother, Clare, chimed in. “This brat set everything up, made that video, and sent it to the media just to ruin my daughter’s life.”

“Ms. Murphy, we’re nobles. You’re too young to understand how the lower classes act. Teresa added.

“So being a noble gives you the right to bully people? Cassie turned to Teresa.

“You can’t compare them to us nobles!” Teresa scoffed.

“Alright, let’s settle this. Ms. Gaiman, how do you want to resolve it?” the man asked quickly, worried about Cassie getting into a fight with Teresa and Clare.

Teresa laughed with disdain. “She just wants money, right? I’ll give her 150 thousand dollars. Get her out of here and issue a statement saying she had set up Jennie. Jennie didn’t bully her.”

“I’ve been wanting to leave this place for a long time, and I don’t want your money. They bullied me, and even if you killed me, I wouldn’t lie about it,” Sheryl shot back fiercely.

It hadn’t been easy for her to come to this school. For years, she had endured in silence, thinking things would change after graduation. She never expected it to come to this-being kicked out. Now that it seemed inevitable, she had nothing left to fear.

“You brat, how dare you talk back! Teresa lunged at Sheryl.

Terrified, Maria stepped in front of Sheryl immediately to shield her. Not sensing the blow, they turned over and saw Cassie grab Teresa’s wrist, blocking the slap just in time.

“You... Teresa stared at Cassie, her eyes wide with disbelief.

Then, to everyone’s shock, Cassie raised her hand and slapped Teresa hard across the face.

A collective gasp echoed through the office. Teresa stumbled back and hit the floor, covering her face in shock.

“You like slapping people, huh? How does it feel?” Cassie asked while shaking her hand that was sore from the slapping.

“How dare you hit me?” Teresa shrieked.

Cassie smirked mockingly. "Isn't that what you just taught me? Ain't the privileged supposed to bully others whenever they want? By your logic, how can you compare to me?"

The office fell silent, and the tension in the air was palpable,

"Sheryl is my friend. Bullying her is the same as bullying me, Cassie continued. "This whole situation could've been resolved easily. Just lower your pride, apologize to the girl your kids picked on, and provide some reasonable compensation. But now, you had to escalate things

Cassie dragged a chair over and sat down. "Since you can't handle it, I'll take care of it for you."

This isn't your place to speak, Cassie. Teresa stood up and pulled out her phone. Just wait. I'm calling Mr. Lucas Murphy right now, telling him you're going too far."

Sheryl was panicked. "Cassie, please don't worry about me. Just go. I'm fine. I wouldn't want to stay here anyway. I can find somewhere else."

"It's not worth leaving for two jerks, Cassie said calmly. "My family values fairness and despises bullies. If she wants to make that call, it's fine. The one who will regret it won't be me."

Family vacation packages

Teresa's hand froze.

"Go on. Why aren't you calling? Cassie said coldly. "By the way, your family's partnership with Murphy Group is about to end. Just call my father and tell him everything you did today. Honestly, I don't want to repeat it."

"Ms. Murphy... Teresa hesitated. "I know you have a strong sense of justice, but you're still too naive. You don't understand how wicked people can be. This bit... girl isn't as simple as you think."

Cassie smiled, though it lacked warmth. "Well, I'm not as simple as you think, either."

Teresa was furious, wanting nothing more than to hit Cassie. But she didn't dare. Her gaze flicked between Sheryl and Maria, vengeful yet restrained. Anyway, she had plenty of chances to settle the score with them.

"Fine, since you want to protect her, Ms. Murphy, I'll give you some grace. We'll let this slide, Teresa said, crossing her arms. Behind her, Clare had gone silent completely since Cassie slapped Teresa.

"You think you can call the shots?" Cassie stared at Teresa, her eyes icy. The victim here is Sheryl. She gets to decide when it's over, got it?"

"You! Don't push it too far, Teresa warned.

"Same goes for you: Cassie looked down at her nails casually. "I have two options for you. One, Jennie and Brianna leave the school right now.

Two, each of you pays Sheryl and Maria one million dollars-totaling two million dollars-in emotional damages. Plus, Jennie and Brianna need to apologize to Sheryl and sign a guarantee promising they'll never bully her again."

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 23**

"What?" Teresa exploded. "You want Jennie to drop out? Do you even know my husband is a board member here?"

"So what?" Cassie stared straight at Teresa. "What does that have to do with the options I gave you?"

Teresa was speechless. Her husband being a board member might intimidate some people, but obviously, it meant nothing to Cassie.

Many in the office looked at Cassie, puzzled. 'Cassie used to be an easy target and often struggled to get a word out, but today, she is completely different. Challenging the elites and defending a "lowly" girl? That seems so beneath her!"

"Madam, we need to get back to class. Have you made up your mind yet?" Cassie's impatience was evident after waiting for no response.

"Ms. Murphy, do you have any idea how much two million is for families like theirs? Clare finally spoke up. "That's way too much. How about we each offer 150 thousand..."

Family vacation packages

"Do you think this is a negotiation?" Cassie interrupted coldly.

Clare went pale instantly.

"It looks like you two can't part with just one million dollars. Then let's help Jennie and Brianna drop out," Cassie said, standing up and preparing to leave with Sheryl and Maria.

Wait Teresa stepped in front of Cassie, blocking her way. "It's just one million, right? I'll pay,"



With the SATs looming and negative news swirling around, Teresa couldn't let Jennie get expelled right now.

"Don't forget the apology and guarantee, Cassie reminded.

"Fine!" Teresa gritted her teeth, agreeing reluctantly.

"And you?" Cassie turned her gaze to Clare.

Seeing Teresa backing down, Clare, though hesitant about giving up the money, eventually caved in.

"Alright, everything-money, apology, and guarantee-must be ready before school ends this afternoon, Cassie said and, not wasting another second, led Sheryl and Maria out of the president's office.

"B\*\*h!" Teresa fumed. "How dare she make me bow to a poor person like that. I can't stand this humiliation."

"You're close with Anne, right? Call her and tell her this. Cassie's too arrogant just because Heston dotes on her. She even hit you, Clare added, eager to stir the pot.

"Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Gaiman, I'd advise you to calm down, Aaron interjected hesitantly.

Teresa shot him a furious glare. "Shut up. If it weren't for your uselessness, I wouldn't be humiliated like this."

Aaron's face darkened. He'd never been addressed like that before. Gathering his courage, he said bluntly. "Mrs. Gaiman, you probably don't know....

"Cassie has been bullied here for a long time because of Jennie and Brianna. They've dumped trash on her desk, put worms. in her food, and even pushed her into the school fountain in the winter."

"That's impossible! Teresa gasped, cutting him off.

"Don't spread lies and frame us! Clare shouted as well.

Dealing with a poor kid was one thing-money could easily silence them. But bullying someone like Cassie? The two wealthy women exchanged glances, both feeling a wave of dread wash over them.

"You can ask your daughters yourselves. I suggest you two go back and check if there's any footage of your daughters bullying Cassie, Aaron said seriously.

The two women went paler. If there were videos of their daughters bullying Cassie, and they were leaked along with that of Sheryl getting picked on....

"I enrolled my daughter at your school expecting you to actually teach her something. What have you taught her, you idiots?" Teresa shouted at Aaron, her face flushed with anger. Then, in a huff, she stormed out.

Sheryl explained everything that had just happened to Maria using sign language. Maria's eyes were red and puffy from crying, and she kept bowing repeatedly to thank Cassie.

"Cassie, thank you so much, Sheryl said, her voice shaking with emotion.

Cassie's expression stayed calm. "You were the one who slipped me that note about being careful after school last Christmas, right?"

Sheryl looked down, feeling ashamed. "I'm sorry. I... I was scared of them. I overheard their plan to hire some thugs to bully you, but I didn't dare to tell you directly, so..."

"You helped me that day. This is my way of paying you back, Cassie said.

Sheryl bit her lip. "Cassie, I'm happy just to stay in school. That two million dollars..."

Cassie cut her off. "Sheryl, if someone hits you, remember to fight back. Putting up with bullies won't make you better. That money is for all the insults you've put up with over the last three years, and you deserve it. Plus, do you really think the Jones and Caiman families will just let you two go?"

Tife any

Sheryl froze, realizing Cassie's words hit home.

Noting how Sheryl's face went pale, Cassie continued, "Stop being so naive. In the face of evil, your pride and dignity won't hold up.

Sheryl was shocked into silence.

"I've arranged for someone to wait for you at the side entrance. Until you find a safe place, he'll make sure you two have a secure spot to stay," Cassie said softly.

Sheryl squeezed Maria's trembling hand tightly. She didn't care what happened to her, but she didn't want Maria to suffer because of her. "Thank you. I'll repay you, Sheryl said solemnly

"Got it," Cassie replied, glancing at the tearful Maria before breaking into a gentle smile. "I'm heading to class now. See you later."

Sheryl translated for Maria quickly, who waved her hands to Cassie, Cassie didn't say anything else and went back to class.

Later that afternoon, Sheryl, Jennie, and Brianna all returned to school. Despite having grievances, the two apologized to Sheryl and wrote a promise that they wouldn't bully her again. Sheryl stayed silent, just took the money, and walked away.

"Look how arrogant she is! Jennie fumed, stomping her feet.

"What's the anger? She's got the money, but she better make sure she stays alive to spend it!" Teresa glared at Sheryl's retreating figure, gritting her teeth.

And that Cassie! No one has ever dared to hit me! I'll definitely not let this slide! But for now, I need to hold back for the sake of maintaining the partnership with Murphy Group, Teresa thought.

Coincidentally, as Teresa and Jennie were coming down the stairs, they ran into Cassie just as she was getting into her car.

"Cassie!" Teresa called out, forcing a bright smile.

Cassie glanced over. Teresa hurried over, her left cheek still swollen, even under thick makeup.

Cassie watched her, feeling a twinge of regret. 'Maybe I didn't need to be that harsh...

"Need something" Cassie asked, her tone cold and distant.

"Can I have some words with you? Let's go there. Teresa shot a glance at the watchful Larry beside Cassie. She had heard her husband mention him before-this guy had a real reputation for being ruthless.

Cassie followed her to the side.

'Come here!" Teresa pulled Jennie closer to Cassie, despite that Jennie's face was all about reluctance.

"Cassie, I've just learned about some misunderstandings between you and Jennie. Kids can be mischievous, but Annie really took it too far. This is all Brianna's fault-she's full of trouble. If it weren't for her encouraging Annie wouldn't have acted like that, Teresa explained hastily.

Cassie lowered her head and chuckled. "Mischievous, huh?"

Suddenly, Teresa felt a chill run down her spine. The smile on her face faltered a bit.

Thope you don't mind if I have a little fun with Jennie like that? Cassie asked casually.

Teresa had never met someone so stubborn. She was trying to be nice and accommodating, but how could Cassie be so confrontational?

"I know Annie made things hard for you. That's why I brought her here to apologize. Teresa pressed on. "Annie, hurry up and say you're sorry!"

Jennie's face turned gloomy. She didn't think she'd done anything wrong at all. "Cassie, I'm sorry. I won't bully you again," she muttered, clearly unhappy about it.

"You think you're off the h\*\*k just like that?" Cassie sneered.

Jennie was already on edge today, and Cassie's mockery lit a fire in her. "Cassie, don't push your luck! I said I'm sorry. What more do you want?"

"Is that how a person who apologizes acts?" Marcus stepped out of the elevator, surrounded by school board members. Cassie heard the familiar voice and turned over, spotting Marcus instantly. It was hard to ignore someone so dazzling like Marcus-tall, strikingly handsome, exuding an air of authority..

"Who are you? This is none of your business!" Jennie snapped, irritated. But when she got a good look at Marcus' face, she froze in her tracks

You brat, watch your attitude, shouted Allen, Jennie's father and one of the school board members. He rushed over and slapped Jennie across the face, leaving her completely stunned.

Mr. Anderson, Jennie is young and spoiled. Please don't take what she said seriously. I'll make sure she learns her lesson when we get home, Allen added, trying to smooth things over.

Marcus didn't even glance at him. He took a few steps forward until he stood in front of Cassie. She felt small next to to him, as if his presence completely overshadowed her.

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 24**

"Y-You're Marcus?" Jennie snapped back to reality and stared at Marcus in disbelief, forgetting the sting from the slap she just took completely.

"Shut up!" Teresa wished she could just sew Jennie's mouth shut

Cassie had been hoping to keep low-key, but that seemed impossible-Marcus was staring right at her. Annoyed, she shot at him. "What are you looking at?"

The crowd gasped. The Murphy family was well-connected, but it definitely couldn't afford to offend Marcus.

Family vacation packages

Just when everyone thought Marcus might blow up, he leaned back a bit, looking as if he was in a good mood. "I think I've seen you somewhere before."

Cassie braced herself, Here we go-time for drama! Keep it up!

"You are bullied?" Marcus asked.

"Does she even count? Cassie mumbled under her breath

A hint of laughter sparkled in Marcus's eyes.

Cassie fell into silence.

Mr. Anderson, this is Ms. Cassie Murphy, heiress of Murphy Group, Aaron introduced them.

"Oh. Murphy Group. I know it," Marcus replied, his eyes still shining with slight amusement as he focused on Cassie.

"Yeah, the company you almost bought. Anything else! If not, I'm outta here," Cassie declared, turning on her heel.

She whispered to herself, "Yeah, I have to be a bit tough on Marcus. He likes the old, shy Cassie, doesn't he? If I showed him a different side, maybe he wouldn't be interested anymore. What a perfect plan!"

Cassie glanced back at Marcus, unable to understand why he had been into that timid version of her and what he had seen in her that was worth risking his life for her.

"Ms. Murphy, Larry called, bringing Cassie back to reality. She withdrew her gaze quickly and turned to leave.

Marcus stood still, watching Cassie's car fade into the distance.

"Mr. Anderson, Jennie... Teresa gazed at Marcus like he was some kind of walking vault. "Oh, is there anyone better than Marcus as Jennie's husband?"

"Really has no manners, Marcus replied coldly.

Teresa paused, instinctively thinking he was talking about Cassie's rudeness. She echoed, "Ms. Murphy is Heston's beloved granddaughter. She can be a bit spoiled, and just now, she was..."

"Madam, Mr. Anderson is talking about Jennie, Joe interjected.

Teresa's face drained of color instantly.

"Ca\*\*r's being spoiled is her business. Got a problem with that? Marcus shot a glance at Teresa.

Allen looked like he was about to have a heart attack. The two are really fools!"

"N-No, Teresa stammered.

"Good, Marcus said and walked away directly.

"You two! When we get home, you're both in trouble! Allen glared at the mother-daughter pair, his jaw clenched in anger.

Jennie and Teresa stood frozen, feeling the weight of the mocking stares around them.

"This is all Cassie's fault. She totally ruined my first impression in front of Mr. Anderson!" Jennie shouted in frustration.

Teresa suddenly felt a wave of clarity wash over her. An idea sparked in her mind. I need to get rid of Cassie. It's clear that she hasn't accepted Jennie's apology. Plus, it looks like Marcus favors her, too. Right now, she's a ticking time bomb that could mess everything up. So, she has to die!

On the ride home, Cassie played with her fingers. Larry, why did Marcus come to our school? Did he buy the place or something?"

She always thought that about Marcus-one day he bought a company, the next day a factory, and the day after that, he'd probably take over a whole consortium.

I haven't heard any rumors, but I'm checking into it, Larry said."

"Don't tell Grandpa about Marcus being at school. I don't want him getting all worked up, Cassie added.

Larry hesitated. "Do you know him?"

Cassie shook her head quickly. "No. How could I know him?"

"That's good," Larry sighed in relief. "Marcus's family situation is really complicated. The members all seem to want him out of the picture. I heard he had a childhood sweetheart who died in a terrible way."

When Larry said "terrible, Cassie knew it would be more than terrible. Meanwhile, she frowned slightly-she hadn't heard anything about Marcus having a fiancée.

"Why does his family want him dead?" Cassie asked, her tone serious.

"What else could it be? Money, Larry replied simply. "Just remember to keep your distance from him. Or you might be involved and that would worry Mr. Heston Murphy

"I got it," Cassie nodded.

Family feuds in rich circles, especially in a big family like Marcus's, were way more brutal than what on TV or in novels. Cassie sighed, hoping that, in this life, Marcus could avoid all this danger and live a long life.

In the few days that followed, Julia didn't stir any trouble. Meanwhile, Cassie soon had her first major exam since she time- traveled back

In the teachers' lounge, educators were busy grading papers and chatting.

"I just gave someone an A in Uprian. That last essay is incredible

"Really? I just graded a math test with an A too."

"No way! My science exam has an A as well.

The teachers exchanged glances, all looking a bit shocked.

"This perfect score has handwriting that looks unfamiliar. It can be one of our usual top students, the Uprian teacher remarked.

"Mine too."

Wait a minute. There's also an A in literature-aside from a few points off the essay, zero mistakes up to that, the literature teacher exclaimed, clearly amazed.

"Let's pull those papers out and see who this mystery genius is. We must have a superstar in our grade this time," Donald chimed in, excited.

He was not only Cassie's homeroom teacher but also the grade leader, and the students' performance would impact his bonuses

The teachers quickly dug out the graded papers. When they saw the name, everyone's faces went pale. "Cassie?"

Donald went through the exams one by one—all the perfect and near-perfect scores belonged to Cassie.

"How is this possible? Last time, Cassie got only F in math."

"Exactly! She basically turned in a blank paper for Uprian. There's no way this can be her level!"

"Well, well," Donald sneered. 'Cassie's been on a roll lately, and I've been looking for a way to bring her down. I didn't expect her to cheat so boldly. What a golden opportunity

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 25**

Cassie had really gotten on Donald's bad side lately. Donald felt humiliated and was holding a serious grudge against her. He thought that if Cassie flunked her exam, it would give him a perfect excuse to get back at her. After all, he figured that even the powerful Murphy Group wouldn't mind if he punished her for bad grades. But to his surprise, Cassie cheated outright. Now he had a solid reason to take action against her.

The weather had been heating up lately. In the first class in the afternoon, students were dozing off in their seats. Suddenly, Donald walked in, clutching a pile of test papers.

"Wait, what's he doing here? Isn't this supposed to be a Uprian class?" someone muttered quietly.

Donald marched up to the podium and slammed the papers on the desk. The loud sound startled everyone awake.

"Mr. Gaiman, chill. Are you trying to give us a heart attack?" a few girls complained, crossing their arms.

Donald didn't look at them. He had other things on his mind.

Though Donald liked to act like he was the boss, the rich kids didn't really respect him. However, for some reason, he always seemed to pick on Cassie, and honestly, she had no idea why

"Today, all the teachers have graded the exam papers, Donald announced, clearing his throat dramatically.

The moment the students heard grades were out, they slumped back in their chairs, completely deflated. This exam had been super tough. After the test, they checked the



answers and realized that most of them had done poorly. Just passing was already a big win

“Someone surprised us. Donald continued sarcastically, his eyes gleaming. “She got full marks in four out of six subjects, and the other two were close. This is the first time someone has done that in our school’s history.”

Being unaware of the sarcasm in his tone, the class erupted with excitement.

“No way! Who did that?”

“It’s gotta be that poor kid, right? The one at the top!”

Everyone’s gaze quickly shifted to Sheryl, who looked just as stunned since she knew she hadn’t scored a single full mark.

“Can you guess who this amazing student is? Donald asked, his voice echoing in the classroom.

“Who else could it be but Sheryl someone called out.

“Nope, Donald shook his head, his gaze drifting toward Cassie, who sat quietly in her seat.

Feeling the weight of his stare, Cassie slowly lifted her head from her book and met his eyes without flinching. Donald’s heart raced a bit under her steady gaze

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\*Come on, stop teasing us! We need to get back to class!” Jennie piped up, clearly irritated. She felt sick just hearing Sheryl’s

name.

Donald held up an exam paper and pointed at it. “Look carefully everyone. This outstanding student is none other than Cassie

The classroom fell silent, a mix of shock and disbelief spreading among the students.

“Wait, who?” Jennie squinted at Cassie, struggling to wrap her mind around it.

“Cassie. Donald slapped the paper down on the desk for emphasis.

Everyone’s eyes widened, staring at Cassie in astonishment.

"No way! She's been having the worst grades. Perfect scores in six subjects? Even Sheryl couldn't pull off something like that!" someone exclaimed.

"Is this a joke another student added.

"Cassie, do you have any comment on this?" Donald asked, a slight smirk on his face.

Everyone in the class exchanged glances. They all understood that Cassie's performance seemed impossible without cheating.

Teamed it fair and square. No big deal Cassie shrugged nonchalantly.

Whispers spread through the room.

"Earned it? You mean by cheating? Donald's face turned red with frustration as he pointed at Cassie, raising his voice. Brianna smirked and added, "Come on, Cassie. You should at least do it smarter. Full marks? Are you treating us as fools!" "Mr. Gaiman, do you have any proof that I cheated?" Cassie asked calmly, as if unfazed by the growing tension.

Do I need proof when you're pulling a stunt like this? he snapped. "Cassie, I know your grades are bad. Do you really think cheating will fix that?"

"If you can't prove it, how can you accuse me of cheating Ca\*\*ic shot back, her voice steady.

Donald raised an eyebrow, asking skeptically, "So, you're saying you didn't cheat? All those questions were just easy for you? "Isn't there video footage from the exam room? Why not check that to see if I cheated?" Cassie asked.

Donald clenched his jaw. He had checked the footage right after. To his disbelief, Cassie hadn't glanced at any notes the entire time.

"Who knows if you bought the answers ahead of time and just memorized them?" Donald questioned.

Cassie looked down, biting back a smile. "Mr. Gaiman, just a minute ago, you said I was bad at this and that. Now I'm supposed to be some kind of memory genius? Six subjects, twelve tests, and I remember every single answer? Since when did I get so talented?"

Donald was momentarily speechless.

"Cheating is serious, and accusing students wrongly is serious too. It's no use arguing about it right here," Cassie said, tilting her head to lock eyes with him. "The best thing to do is let me retake the test. What do you think?"

“But as Mr. Gaiman said, you could have memorized the answers Jennie chimed in. Taking it again won’t prove anything Cassie shot her a look, and Jennie quickly averted her gaze, still a little scared of her.

“You’re worried that I’m a memory w\*\*z? Then let’s just use a whole new set of questions, Cassie declared confidently. “Mr. Gaiman, can we do that?”

Donald looked flustered. After years of teaching, he’d caught too many cheaters, but no one had ever been this bold. Her confidence was throwing him off balance.

“There’s no need to complicate things. The teachers have already discussed this and made a decision. It’s been labeled as cheating. Tomorrow, at the morning meeting, the school will announce to everyone that you were caught. Your exam results will be canceled, and you’ll be punished, Donald replied impatiently.

Cassie laughed softly, looking dismissive. “What gives you the right to make that decision, Mr. Gaiman

“Cassie!” Donald banged his hand on the desk. “You’re going too far

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress’ Revenge Chapter 26**

“Mr. Gaiman.” Just then, Aaron, the headmaster’s voice echoed from outside the classroom.

Donald immediately looked over. Standing at the door was a large crowd of people, and Aaron had a displeased look on his face

“Mr. Zachary, I’m currently dealing with a case of cheating in the exam. Donald hurried over.

“I just heard her say she didn’t cheat. The speaker wasn’t Aaron. Donald instinctively turned to see who it was. Upon recognizing the person, he felt his legs tremble in fear. “Mr. Anderson...”

“Mr. Anderson? Which Mr. Anderson?”

“Oh my gosh, it’s Marcus

“Where is he? I can’t see him.”

The classroom buzzed with chatter.

Cassie stood frozen, thinking, ‘Is Marcus going to study here? It’s the second time he’s shown up this week. Why does he always come when I’m in trouble?’

—

“Mr. Anderson, you don’t understand. Cassie used to rank at the bottom in our school. This time, her scores are through the roof-almost all full marks in six subjects. We’ve never seen anything like this before. This has to be cheating Donald rushed to explain

“Cassie, it’s embarrassing to let Mr. Anderson know. Just admit it and don’t make things hard for Mr. Gaiman, Jennie said with an exaggerated sigh, trying to sound sympathetic.

“Full marks?” Marcus looked directly at Cassie, his gaze steady and probing.

“Yes. Just think about it-how could a student who always gets the lowest ranking suddenly ace all her tests?” Donald insisted.

“I said I could take the exam again” Cassie replied.

“Cassie, why would you want to humiliate yourself? Jennie added, her tone dripping with false concern.

“You’re fine with your poor grade, but my perfect score is somehow humiliating? Cassie didn’t even look at Jennie.

Jennie’s face went pale.

“Why can’t she retake the exam?” Marcus’s calm voice cut through the tension. He fixed his gaze on Donald.

“There’s no reason she can’t. Our school believes in giving students a chance to prove themselves, Aaron quickly interjected, eager to keep the peace.

“Great, let’s set up a new test, Marcus said, his tone icy,

Donald started to sweat. With Marcus stepping in, he knew he had no choice but to comply. For the next hour, all the teachers gathered to create a fresh set of questions for Cassie. Since Donald couldn’t punish Cassie directly, he made sure to pick some really tough questions this time around.

Rumors about Cassie cheating and having to retake the test spread like wildfire. Everyone was buzzing, and some even started betting on whether she really did cheat. Ninety-eight percent thought she was guilty-after all, scoring full marks in every subject was just crazy. The other two percent had seen how much Cassie had changed lately and believed she must have some sort of secret power that would help her pull through

\*

Marcus originally came to handle some business at school, but he ended up sticking around. Aaron and the board members sat next to him, sweating bullets. Among everyone in the school, only Cassie seemed calm.

Sheryl sat across from Cassie, watching her munch on a piece of bread while flipping through a comic book. "Cassie, I have another study guide if you want to look at it," she offered, her voice filled with concern.

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Cassie shook her head, still focused on her comic. "Nope, I'm good."

Sheryl fidgeted, looking way more anxious than Cassie. "Mr. Gaiman just said the punishment would be pretty serious. If you don't do well this time, it'll be even worse,"

Just then, Brianna popped over, leaning against Cassie's desk. "Hey, are you close to Marcus?" she asked, trying to act casual. Cassie lifted her gaze, barely interested. "Not really."

"But he defended you last time, and now he's helping you again, Brianna asked, raising an eyebrow.

"You're awfully curious, aren't you?" Cassie closed her comic and gave Brianna a sideways glance.

Just want to know," Brianna shrugged, forcing a smile.

Cassie found Brianna kind of funny. Just days ago, they were at each other's throats, but now Brianna was acting all friendly.

"Why not just ask him?" Cassie suggested, pointing toward the stairs.

Brianna's cheerful facade crumbled for a moment. If you don't want to share, fine. Who cares, anyway?" she huffed and walked off.

"Cassie," Sheryl whispered nervously, "is that guy very powerful

Cassie took a bite of her bread and thought about it "He's a demon."

"Whoa!" Sheryl gasped, a little scared. "No wonder everyone looks so freaked out by him."

Cassie raised an eyebrow, amused.

Just then, Donald appeared at the door, looking serious. "Cassie, the exam papers are ready. Please come to the office."

“Cassie... Sheryl’s face went pale.

Cassie stood up. “I’m just going in for an exam. Don’t act like I’m heading to my doom.

Sheryl nodded, but she looked worried.

Under the curious eyes of everyone, Cassie stepped out of the classroom and followed Donald toward his office. Outside, the schoolyard was alive with students who had come to watch. A few boys spotted Cassie and started hollering and whistling. clearly enjoying the scene. Inside the headmaster’s office, Marcus frowned as he took it all in, looking far from pleased.

“Mr. Anderson Aaron wiped the sweat off his forehead.

“Do the kids in this school not have any classes?” Marcus asked, displeased with the boys wolf-whistling at Cassie.

“Uh, it’s break time right now, Aaron replied awkwardly.

Marcus didn’t say another word and plopped down on the sofa. Meanwhile, Cassie reached the door of the special room reserved for her.

“Mr. Gaiman,” she called before stepping inside.

\*

“What now? Are you planning something else? Donald asked, rolling his eyes.

“You mentioned I’d be punished if I cheated. What if I can prove didn’t? Cassie challenged, her voice steady.

Donald paused, taken aback. “We can talk about that later. Let’s focus on the test for now?

“No need to wait. If I prove that I didn’t cheat, I’m going to complain to the board about your unfounded accusation. A teacher without ethics doesn’t belong in a classroom,” she stated boldly.

Donald’s eyes widened in shock. Cassie, you-”

Cassie cut him off and walked right into the office.

The students watching shared a brief silence before someone exclaimed, “That was epic!”

“Hey! Get back to class! Donald barked, his face thushed with embarrassment as he waved the crowd away. As the students sc\*\*ed, Donald stood there, cold sweat running down his back

He thought to himself, ‘She must have cheated. There’s no way she could score that high without some help. She was bluffing, that’s all.

As time ticked by, the sky gradually dimmed. Cassie maintained her pace of finishing one exam per hour, submitting each completed paper, while teachers from different grades took turns grading them.

The first one was the math exam paper. She got full marks. The second-full marks. The third-full marks. Donald watched as each score came in, a cold sweat running down his back, leaving him drenched as if he had just come out of a swimming pool

By the time she got to the fourth paper, night had fallen, and the school bell had rung, but not a single student had left the premises. Everyone was waiting for the result..

As the news of each perfect score spread through the school, excitement erupted like fireworks.

The papers that Cassie had completed eventually made their way to Marcus. Gazing at the pristine exam sheets that were filled with her neat and adorable handwriting. Marcus felt his heart melt. She was growing up just as he had hoped-smart and charming.

The fourth one was the Uprian exam, and she only lost two points on the essay. In fact, she could have easily scored full marks there, but they deducted those two as a nod to conventional standards. By everyone’s standards, that was practically a perfect score.

At that moment, Donald felt hopeless. He still couldn’t believe Cassie had this talent. He couldn’t wrap his head around how she managed it

Soon, the results of the literature exam came out, also with only two points lost on the essay-no revisions on the entire sheet. As someone who taught literature, Donald didn’t give up. He took the paper and reviewed it himself, but he couldn’t accept the outcome. It was flawless. He wouldn’t have been able to do it himself.

An hour later, Cassie submitted her final exam. After handing it in, she headed straight back to her classroom.

The entire school was buzzing with energy. Out of nowhere, someone shouted, “Cassier Soon, everyone joined in, chanting her name. Cassie was taken aback. She had never received this kind of support before, let alone to this extent

Walking back to her classroom, her heart raced with mixed emotions. She felt a surge of regret for the wasted time in her past life. Ca\*\*ic, can't you see? You were meant to shine like this she thought.

\*Cassie, you're amazing! Sheryl exclaimed as soon as she entered the classroom

"You're not too shabby yourself; Cassie replied, packing her books into her bag before heading out of the classroom.

"Wait There's still one exam left to be graded. Where are you going?" Sheryl shouted.

I'm heading home for dinner Cassie called back while walking

"What?" Sheryl was stunned. This is Cassie's moment to shine, yet she's rushing home for dinner?' asked Sheryl inwardly.

"Louisa is making her special stuffed chicken tonight, and if I don't hurry, it won't be as delicious as when it's fresh out of the oven!" Cassie said just as she turned a corner and bumped into someone.

"Watch out! Just before she could fall, a strong arm wrapped around her waist, pulling her into a warm embrace.

Cassie looked up in shock, her eyes meeting a pair of beautiful ones. 'Oh my God! It's Marcus again! she thought.

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 27**

Cassie quickly disengaged from Marcus's embrace. "Sorry, I did realize we had an audience."

"Your grades are impressive," Marcus commented.

"Eh, they're just okay, nothing to write home about. I've got to go; dinner's waiting." she said, casting a quick look at the bystanders. Cassie was eager to avoid becoming the subject of gossip concerning her and Marcus.

Marcus didn't try to stop her. He thought to himself, "What's so great about the stuffed chicken that she's in such a rush?" "Mr. Anderson," Aaron said as he came down from the upper floor with a crowd in tow.

"Alright, that's all for today, Marcus said, the warmth in his voice turning as cold as a block of ice. With that, he turned on his heel and walked off

Aaron hurried to catch up, "Mr. Anderson, regarding the investment for the new campus-



“First, sort out the ethical mess with your faculty, Marcus said, his face a mask of indifference. As Marcus walked away. Aaron fumed and snapped. “Where’s Donald? Get him over here now!”

Cassie wasn’t about to spill her school drama to her family. For one, it was a minor hiccup she could handle on her own. Plus, she knew her family would be crushed if they found out about the bullying. No need to pile on more worry.

“Ms. Murphy, everyone at school’s talking about you. Is something up? Larry asked.

Cassie flashed a bright smile. “It’s because I aced the big exam—top of the class, perfect scores in four subjects, and almost perfect in two.”

Larry did a double—take. “You’re kidding me, right?”

Cassie grinned. “What, you didn’t think I had it in me?”

Larry stuttered, “No, no. I didn’t mean that at all. I mean, you’re Mr. Heston Murphy’s granddaughter, of course you’re a genius!”

Larry, usually as steady as a rock, was clearly flustered, which amused Cassie. “Just messing with you. I really did come out on top this time.”

“Bravo, Ms. Murphy” Larry said, his face lighting up with genuine joy. “Mr. Heston Murphy will be thrilled to hear the news.” “Larry” Cassie said with a sly smile, “now that I’ve suddenly scored so high, you’re not thinking I cheated, are you?”

“Nope. Even if you’d scored zero, I’d know you’d never stoop to cheating, Larry said with firm conviction.

Cassie was so touched by his support,

As the car pulled up to the Murphy residence, Louisa rushed out to greet her. “Ms. Murphy, where have you been? You’re later than usual”

“What’s up?” Cassie asked as she noticed the empty spot where the slippers should have been. “Did Mom and Dad get back?” Louisa nodded, her voice barely above a whisper. “Yes, and Julia’s here with her tutor.”

Cassie shrugged it off as she slipped out of her shoes. Figures. She never could stay out of trouble for long, she thought.

Louisa, taking Cassie’s backpack, added in a hushed voice, “I noticed Mr. Heston Murphy seemed troubled, and Mr. Lucas Murphy and Mrs. Murphy didn’t look quite right either.”

Cassie brushed it off with a grin. "Don't worry about it. Go grab my stuffed chicken, please

Louisa seemed reassured by Cassie's upbeat mood and called out, "Ms. Murphy's home!

"Cassie, Julia rushed over before Cassie could even step into the living room.

"What brings you here? Cassie asked.

Julia bristled, feeling a pang of irritation. What kind of question is that? This is my home too, she thought.

"I heard you got busted for cheating and are in hot water," Julia announced, making sure everyone heard.

"Who told you that?" Cassie inquired, continuing her way inside.

"It's all over the school group chat, Julia replied. "I accidentally let it slip to Grandpa. He's pretty upset, but he's got a soft spot for you. If you just own up and promise not to do it again, he'll get over it. Don't be so stubborn."

Julia, did you only see the part about me cheating? Miss what came after?" Cassie asked.

Julia paused, her face a mask of confusion. "What came after?"

Cassie pretended to think for a moment. "Oh, right. Mr. Zachary shut down all the gossip about it after that."

Julia stared at Cassie, completely baffled. 'She's cheated so obviously, and yet she acts like nothing's wrong, she thought.

"Cassie Heston's voice echoed from the living room.

Cassie, ignoring Julia, walked straight over. "Grandpa."

"Julia said you got caught cheating at school!" Heston asked. "Your dad even tried to reach Mr. Gaiman but couldn't get through

"He probably didn't dare to. Cassie replied with a nonchalant shrug.

"Cassie, are you seriously threatening teachers now? Julia shouted, her voice dripped with disbelief. "Cheating was bad enough, but this is a whole new level. Everyone's buzzing about the incident with the parent you slapped. It's the big topic of conversation,

and people are saying you're just flaunting your status because of the Murphy Group connections"

"Did you really slap a parent?" Heston's eyes widened in disbelief

"Julia, you've let the cat out of the bag again. Cassie glanced at Julia, her tone neutral.

Julia quickly covered her mouth, her face a picture of panic. "I—I've been cooped up at home too long. I didn't mean to spill the beans, Cassie."

"You know whether you meant it or not Cassie told her, then turned to Heston, "Grandpa, I swear I didn't cheat

Heston's stern expression softened, his skepticism fading as he looked at Cassie's earnest face. "So, it's all just gossip then?"

"Don't try to sweep it under the rug, Cassie, Julia interjected, her worry evident. "I've talked to your classmates. You aced four out of six subjects and nearly got perfect scores in the others. That's not exactly normal.

"For you, maybe not, Cassie retorted with a smirk.

Julia was left momentarily at a loss for words.

"What's the real deal? Did you really ace those tests like everyone's saying?" Lucas asked, serious as ever. He was usually al softer with Cassie, but when it came to rules, he was much tougher than Heston.

"I really did score that high. Cassie confirmed with a nod

Julia nearly burst out laughing, thinking, 'Cassie's cluelessness is too much. Does she seriously think anyone's buying that?

"Cassie." Lucas said, his brow furrowed. "We know you're feeling the pressure to keep up the family name, but we're not expecting miracles. We just want you to be healthy and happy."

Cassie didn't say a word. Instead, she pulled out her phone and made a call.

"Cassie, what are you doing? Lucas is talking to you, Julia said, still trying to fan the flames.

Cassie paid no mind to her, swiftly getting her call connected.

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress' Revenge Chapter 28**

"Mr. Zachary, sorry for the late call. Word's gotten to my family about the cheating claims from Mr. Gaiman, and they're quite concerned. Could you set things straight with my dad?" Cassie handed her phone to Lucas.

Lucas took the phone with a frown. "Hello, Mr. Zachary"

As the call dragged on, \*\*s's face grew increasingly serious. He kept glancing at \*\*ic. When he finally hung up, he looked at her with a serious expression.

"What did he say?" Heston asked, clearly worried. "Is someone at the school trying to set Cassie up?" He couldn't believe Cassie had done so well, but he was sure she wouldn't cheat,

"Dad. Cassie didn't cheat," Lucas said, his face softening into a smile. "She really knocked it out of the park with four subje and nearly nailed two more."

"Really?" Heston's mood instantly lifted.

Anne, who had been nonchalant until then, now showed clear signs of excitement. "Wait, what's going on here?"

"Lucas, getting those kinds of scores is almost unheard of around here. It's like, seriously impressive." Julia said, still in disbelief. Why would Mr. Zachary back Cassie? She must've cheated, thought Julia.

"Is it true?" L\*\*\*enthusiasm grew. "But Cassie actually pulled it off, and not just once, but twice!"

Twice Anne couldn't hold back her curiosity. "Come on, spill. What did Mr. Zachary say?"

The rumor kicked off with Cassie's homeroom teacher, who couldn't believe her scores," Lucas said, pride clear in his voic "Cassie decided to show she wasn't just lucky or cheating and took six full-length exams one after another. She nearly aced them all over again

Julia was completely taken aback.

"Wow, Ms. Murphy, you're amazing. I've never scored that high myself," said the tutor, who had been quiet until now.

"Really?" Heston's face beamed with delight. "Mr. Lowell is an outstanding student. If he's impressed, Cassie must be extraordinary."

"Cassie, your grades weren't stellar before. How did you manage to do so well this time?" Anne inquired, her astonishment

clear on her face.

"My grades were not bad, Cassie explained with a shrug. "But Julia mentioned that if I beat her scores, you'd all hate her and might even kick her out. So, I kept a low profile. Since Julia was missing from the exam, I figured I'd let my real skills shine. Didn't think it would cause such a fuss," she said, sighing

The smiles on everyone's faces faded, and Julia was visibly shaken.

"Oops!" Cassie exclaimed, covering her mouth and looking at Julia with wide eyes. "I didn't mean to say that out loud

Julia's face turned pale. "Cassie, I was just joking, I didn't think you'd take it seriously."

"I've always taken you seriously," Cassie replied, her brow furrowed in genuine confusion. "Julia, I've remembered every word you've said to me since we were kids,

"Grandpa, Anne, Lucas, I was just a kid back then. When I did poorly on that test, I only mentioned it to Cassie in passing. I never imagined she would take it to heart and that my thoughtless words would hold her back for so long. I'm so sorry Tears welled up in Julia's eyes as she spoke.

"It's okay. It didn't impact Cassie's studies. Look, she aced her exams, Lucas said earnestly, turning to Cassie. "Cassie, you can't do this again. If you truly care about Julia, you should help her study, not hold back. Do you understand?"

"I understand." Cassie nodded obediently. "Now that everything's settled, can we eat? That stuffed chicken smells incredible. and I'm famished."

"Hurry. What time is it? Your little tummy will be empty soon. Louisa, Heston called out in a rush.

"Simon's here too." Cassie finally acknowledged Simon with a glance.

"I had some free time, so I thought I'd drop by." Simon said with a warm smile.

"No, it seems like you're not just free." Cassie looked at Simon with a playful glint in her eyes, then glanced at Julia. "Simon, are you and Julia seeing each other?"

The moment she said it, it was as if a bomb had gone off in the room. Simon's face turned pale. Julia looked equally shocked and quickly locked her gaze on Cassie.

"So that's why you two couldn't bear to part. Did I guess right? Cassie continued, her tone innocent, as if she was just onto something juicy.

quick to clarify. "I'm not seeing anyone. I've never even been on a date.

"Not at all" Simon was quic

Cassie rolled her eyes at Simon's denial internally. "What a shame. You and Julia look like you belong together. You've totally got that couple's chemistry." She put on a show of disappointment with a dramatic frown.

What on earth are you talking about? Just focus on eating. Anne said, giving Cassie's head a playful nudge

"Mom, have you tried it yet? Louisa made her famous stuffed chicken for me. Cassie looped her arm through Anne's.

"That's way too rich. It'll go straight to your hips. You should watch what you eat, especially with those cheeks of yours," Anne warned, playfully pinching Cassie's cheek.

"Don't be giving the kids such advice. Cassie's still growing. Look at how thin she is. Cassie, ignore your mom and eat up, Lucas interjected, his voice full of encouragement.

Meanwhile, Julia stood to the side, feeling out of place. A mix of resentment and envy swirled inside her.

Anne noticed the pallor on Julia's face and offered, Julia, would you like to grab a bite?" She had sensed something amiss with Julia lately, especially her fervor in accusing Cassie of cheating.

"No, thanks. Simon's going to help me with some practice exams Julia replied, shaking her head.

"Alright then, you two get to studying. I'll have the maid bring some fruit over shortly, Anne said, ushering Cassie towards the dining room.

Left standing there, Julia felt a surge of frustration.

Lucas approached her, his tone gentle. "Julia, don't stress too much. The SATs are right around the corner. Try to clear your mind and concentrate on your studies," he advised, then paused before adding, "Cassie is innocent, and she takes things to heart. In the future, try not to joke like that, alright?"

Julia wasn't oblivious to the subtle warning in Lu\*\*s's words, "I understand, Lucas." She nodded solemnly.

With a nod in response, Lucas left.

"Let's get to those practice exams, Simon said.

Julia gave Simon a sharp look before making her way to her room in silence. The moment Simon followed her in, she swiftly shut and locked the door.

□ Simon was taken aback. "What are you doing? If anyone sees us like this, it'll look bad-especially with Cassie already suspicious. Open the door."

The implications of a male teacher and a female student being alone and locked in a room together were clear-it could be misconstrued in the worst possible way.

"Cassie? Since when have you been on such friendly terms with her?" Julia's voice dripped with sarcasm.

"What are you talking about? That's ridiculous, Simon whispered harshly.

Suddenly, in a fit of apparent madness, Julia pushed Simon against the desk and planted a forceful kiss on him.

"Julia!" Simon exclaimed, shoving her away with a strong hand.

That brief, unwanted contact sparked a flurry of repugnant thoughts in Simon's mind-images of Julia's lips being touched by others, making him feel utterly repulsed.

"Are you sweet on Cassie now? Your eyes lit up when you were praising her. Did you think I wouldn't notice?" Julia accused, her irritation evident in her tone.

"Are you out of your mind?" Simon whispered fiercely, "Didn't you want Cassie to fall for me as soon as possible? How's that supposed to happen if I don't give her any attention?"

You're still fixated on the plan? Can't you see? Cassie's onto us." Julia's face was etched with bitterness. "Otherwise, why would she confront me in front of Heston and Anne about not letting her score higher than me?"

Simon was brimming with disgust towards Julia, but he held back. If she really lost control and spilled everything, any chance he had with Cassie would be gone.

"Look, I know what happened out there has you rattled, Simon said gently, his fingers lightly brushing Julia's cheek. "If you want to call off the plan, we can. But right now, what concerns me most is who leaked your video. We have no idea what they might do next," he said softly, trying to soothe her.

Julia's agitation began to ebb at the mention of the video. "Simon, I'm terrified," she sobbed, tears streaming down her face

“Don’t worry. I’ve got your back no matter what,” Simon reassured Julia, pulling her into a comforting embrace. His voice was a soothing balm, but out of her sight, his expression was contorted with a hidden revulsion.

Once Julia was calmer, Simon hurried to open the door.

At that moment, Louisa entered with a tray of fruits and drinks, Murphy for you. She handed the refreshments to Simon

was just about to knock. Here you go, this is from Mrs.

“It’s my pleasure to help,” Simon responded with a courteous smile.

“Do you want me to close the door for you again?” Louisa asked, her smile unwavering.

Simon’s warm facade flickered for an instant before he shook his head. “The wind as shut it. It’s better to leave the door open with just us here.”

“Right: I’m not much for book learning, so I didn’t think of that just carry on with your teaching, and let me know if you need anything. Louisa said, turning to go. She thought to herself That little rascal. Is he still trying to fool me? She lingered by the door for a moment, distinctly hearing the lock click from the inside when she had handed over the fruit.

“What kind of “magical wind could lock a door!” Louisa thought, convinced that something was amiss between the two of them.

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress’ Revenge Chapter 29**

After Louisa left, Simon pulled out his phone and texted Julia: Does she suspect anything?]

Julia scoffed and replied: [That’s just her. Always putting me down.

Simon glanced at Julia and typed out another message: [If we’re serious about moving forward, we can’t keep putting off what we talked about. Now that we’re all here, you should get the ball rolling I

Julia’s brow creased with worry. She had a hunch that Cassie wasn’t really into Simon. It seemed like a long shot to get her to willingly fall for him. If Simon were to just sleep with Ca\*\*ic, given what Julia knew about Heston and Cassie’s parents, they wouldn’t force Cassie to be with Simon if she wasn’t into it.

As she remembered Cassie’s arrogance earlier and the clear displeasure on Anne and \*\*s faces, resentment welled up in Julia. (No need to rush. She texted back to Simon. Let’s hold off until after the SATS]



Simon was clearly restless. The idea of waiting until after the SATs didn't sit well with him. With them still weeks away, he texted back: [That's too long. There are just too many unknowns]

[Patience is golden. Trust me on this.] Julia responded. She had already blown one opportunity; this time, she was determined to be strategic

After dinner, Heston and Lucas retreated to the study to talk shop.

Anne sat quietly next to Cassie for a moment. "Cassie, how about we take a stroll? I noticed the roses in bloom this afternoon, and they're absolutely stunning."

"Sounds wonderful, Cassie agreed.

The path was peaceful, bathed in the soft light of the street lamps that highlighted the vibrant, passionately blooming roses, with their vivid and bright petals.

"We're really proud of how well you're doing in school, Anne said with genuine warmth..

Im sorry for causing you worry before, Cassie replied sincerely. She felt a deep sense of gratitude and owed an apology to Anne and her family for both this life and the past.

Family vacation packages

Anne looked down, pausing for a moment before inquiring thoughtfully, "Did Julia used to give you a hard time?"

Cassie blinked, taken aback by the question. "Why do you ask that?"

Tjust suddenly have a feeling: Anne said, her eyes meeting Cassie's.

You all always say we shouldn't get mixed up in adult stuff, so I'm learning to handle my own problems-Cassie said.

Anne had a lot on her mind, a lot she wanted to ask, but she was hesitant. Their relationship was still tender, and she didn't want to jeopardize the trust they were building. 'How could I bring up what Julia has said without making Cassie feel doubted?' she wondered.

With a mix of worries, Anne finally spoke up. "If there's anything you can always talk to me.

"I will, I promise. Cassie nodded in agreement

Anne decided to shift the conversation to lighter topics. "Have you thought about where you want to go to college? Your dad and grandpa were hoping you'd consider studying abroad. Is that something you're interested in?"

"No," Cassie replied with conviction. The coming years were pivotal for the Murphy family, and she intended to stay put. She felt the need to be the steady hand guiding Murphy Group to a position of unassailable strength. "I don't want to be away from you all."

Anne spoke with a serious tone. "The choice is yours. Just remember, no matter what, your happiness and health are the top priority." She continued earnestly. "In the future, feel free to be yourself. Don't let anyone hold you back, got it?"

She had given this a lot of thought. Ever since Julia entered their lives, Cassie's personality had started to change. Anne remembered telling Cassie when Julia first arrived, "Cassie, Julia has no parents and has been through a lot. You need to be kind and look out for her, alright?"

"Okay, I understand." Cassie replied softly, nodding her head.

It was as if they had never truly connected before. As they walked, they eventually found themselves on the main road outside their home.

"We've come quite a distance, Cassie said, looking back.

"Let's just retrace our steps, Anne suggested, pointing ahead. "Your dad and I often take this path for our evening strolls." "Sounds good." Cassie agreed. She then noticed a black car parked across the street, catching it out of the corner of her eye. Cassie's eyes were drawn to the figure inside the car, her curiosity piqued for no apparent reason.

"What's got your attention?" Anne inquired, following Cassie's line of sight.

With a quick motion, Cassie linked her arm through Anne's and casually strolled forward. "Oh, nothing much. I just think that car is pretty cool.

Anne let out a light laugh. "Once you graduate, you should get your driver's license. If you like that car, see if your dad will get one for you."

Cassie was momentarily speechless. The car had a rugged, tough look to it—definitely the kind of vehicle she wouldn't like. As they continued walking, the sudden, sharp roar of an engine pierced the air behind them. Anne instinctively pulled Cassie closer, steering her to the side of the road.

Cassie spun around to see a masked figure on a motorcycle racing towards them, a wave of unease washing over her.

“Mom, get down!” Cassie yelled, pulling Anne into the nearest corner and forcing them both to crouch.

The motorcycle roared past in a blur, the rider swinging a baseball bat at them as they sped by.

react, Cassie’s instincts kicked in. As the bat was about to connect with Anne, Cassie shielded her with her

With little time to re own body.

The force of the blow knocked the breath out of Cassie, and she felt a metallic taste in her mouth, nearly gagging on her own blood.

Thankfully, the motorcycle sped off immediately after the attack

“Cassie!” Anne’s face drained of color as the sound of the bat hitting Cassie’s back echoed around them.

“Mom, we have to move!” Cassie urged, her eyes darting forward. The motorcycle had halted and was now making a sharp U-turn, unmistakably coming back for them. Anne quickly got Cassie to her feet, and they began to retreat.

But there was no way they could outrun a motorcycle on foot.

Cassie’s heart pounded in her chest as the engine’s growl grew louder. “Mom, you have to run! Go get help!” She gave Anne a gentle push.

“No, I won’t leave you!” Anne stood her ground, resolute.

Just then, the black car across the street came to life with a sudden roar.

## **Reborn In Flames: The Heiress’ Revenge Chapter 30**

The sudden burst of bright headlights from the black car lit up the road, casting a blinding white glow.

Cassie winced as the pain from the impact radiated through her back. She wasn’t sure if anything was broken, but as she looked at the approaching lights, her fear dissipated in an instani.

The black car executed a sharp spin and, at just the right moment, collided with the motorcycle as it charged towards them. The rider was catapulted off, slamming into the pavement with thud.

Anne, frightened, instinctively moved to shield Cassie, wrapping her in a protective embrace.

Cassie's face was pale with pain, beads of cold sweat forming on her forehead. She leaned into Anne's chest, her voice soft but steady. "Mom, it's okay now."

Anne looked confused, not grasping what Cassie was trying to convey.

At that moment, the door of the black car swung open, and a man walked out from the driver's side. He hurried over to Cassie, concern etched on his face. "What happened?"

Anne's eyes widened in surprise as she recognized the man. "Marcus?"

"Focus on the guy on the motorcycle, not me. Cassie gritted out.

to

Marcus's face turned grave as he saw the agony etched on Cassie's face. "He's not getting away, he assured her, moving as if to lift her.

"Whoa, that hurts! I think something might be broken, Cassie protested, wincing

Marcus's features grew even more somber. He carefully felt along Cassie's back, checking for any serious injuries, seemingly ignoring Anne's presence. After a moment, he exhaled in relief. "You're okay. Nothing's broken"

Cassie looked at Marcus skeptically, thinking, 'Can he really tell just by touching? Is he a doctor? Or has he just seen his fair share of injuries?

"I've got people who can help. I'm taking you to the hospital, Marcus declared, ready to act

"No hospital if my bones are intact," Cassie insisted, shaking her head. "The Murphy family's been through enough lately. Let's not add to the drama

Marcus frowned in concern but respected her wishes. "Then I'll take you home," he said, turning his back to her. With her back in pain, a hug was out of the question.

Anne, realizing she couldn't manage to carry Cassie by herself, hesitated for a moment before stepping in to help. Together, they eased Cassie onto Marcus's back.

They retraced their steps down the same narrow path. The roses lining the way were in full, vibrant bloom, their beauty seemingly oblivious to the urgency that Marcus felt as he carried Cassie. He moved with a swift, determined pace toward the Murphy residence.

Cassie's head nestled against Marcus's shoulder, her thoughts muddled by the throbbing pain. She was filled with questions. Who was the motorcycle rider, and has he been targeting me or Mom? And what was Marcus doing outside our home? Was his presence there just a lucky coincidence, or did he frequent the area?

When Louisa had finished tidying up the kitchen and stepped outside, Anne's urgent call cut through the air. "Louisa! Grab the first aid kit, hurry!"

Moments later, the sound of Heston and Lucas thundering down the stairs echoed through the house, spurred by the news of Cassie's attack. Julla and Simon weren't far behind.

As Cassie tended to the bruises on her back in her room, Heston's face froze in anger when he spotted Marcus. "You little punk! Did you hurt my precious granddaughter? What business do you have messing with my Cassie? I'm settling the score with you today!"

"Dad, wait," Anne interjected swiftly. "It was Mr. Anderson who came to our rescue."

"Huh?" Heston's eyes widened in surprise. "He did!?"

Anne quickly filled Heston in on the events that had transpired,

With a furrowed brow. Heston honed in on the details. "What were you doing lurking around my house at night?"

Just passing through, Marcus said nonchalantly. "I was feeling a bit worn out, so I thought I'd take a breather by the

roadside.

Heston's glare didn't waver. He harbored a deep-seated bias against Marcus, his suspicions about the man's motives never far from his mind.

"Dad" Lucas sighed, the weight of the situation making him feel utterly helpless.

"Where is that jerk?" Heston demanded, his gaze sweeping the room. "Where's the one who hurt my granddaughter?"

"He's already here." Anne said, "He broke his leg and is in quite a bit of pain. Larry just threw him into the garden."

Just a broken leg? That's not enough! He hurt Cassie; he deserves to have his neck broken, Heston bellowed, his anger boiling over as he prepared to storm the garden.

Not far off, Simon looked visibly uneasy. He frowned and stole a glance at Julia beside him, his mind racing. 'Please tell me this fool didn't arrange for someone to hurt Cassie.

Julia caught Simon's worried expression and quickly shook her head, mouthing, "It wasn't me."

Simon exhaled a small sigh of relief. But as he turned, he found himself in the unsettling gaze of Marcus, who stood across from him.

Simon had never experienced such a feeling before. It was as if he were prey caught in the sights of a predatory beast. Yet, Marcus's piercing look was fleeting. Still, it left a shiver down Simon's spine, as if Marcus knew some of his secrets.

Why would Marcus save Cassie?' Simon pondered. 'Aren't the rumors saying he is cold-blooded, ruthless? He has killed his own uncles and cousins.

At that moment, the door to Cassie's room burst open.

"Cassie, Heston whirled around and hurried back, his eyes landing on Cassie's pale face. His heart ached. "Does it hurt a lot?

"It's fine." Cassie offered a soft smile and shook her head. "Nothing's broken; don't worry."

"How can I not worry? Heston's eyes glistened with unshed tears. But remembering Marcus standing behind him, he swallowed his emotions. He couldn't show vulnerability in front of Marcus.

"Where is he?" Cassie's voice took on a sudden edge.

"He's in the garden. Don't stress about it. Just rest, and I'll handle, Heston assured her.

"Not a chance," Cassie said, biting her lip, her eyes flashing with resolve. If he hit me. I'm taking it up with him myself:

The room fell into a momentary silence, everyone a bit stunned by Cassie's transformation. This wasn't the Cassie they knew, the one who used to let things go, always finding excuses for others' wrongdoings.

"Ms. Murphy's got some spine Marcus remarked.

Cassie turned to Marcus, then shifted her gaze back to Heston.

Heston huffed, fuming. "Of course, Just look at whose granddaughter she is."

Julia's gaze flickered between Cassie and Marcus, her expression whirlwind of emotions. She sensed something amiss between the two, but before she could ponder it further, the group moved Cassie out into the garden.

The motorcycle rider was lying on the ground, his cries of pain echoing around them. No one had bothered to remove his helmet, and his tight leather gear only added to his menacing appearance, especially with his leg twisted at an unnatural

angle.

"Get that helmet off. I want to see who this jerk is," Ca\*\*ic commanded.

Larry didn't hesitate, pulling the helmet off as if he were uprooting a weed..

As soon as the rider was unmasked, he tried to shrink away, but Larry kicked him back down with a swift motion. "What are you hiding for? Now you realize your face can't be seen?"

With that kick, the man's face was revealed to everyone.

"Mr. Gaiman?" Julia was the first to recognize him.

Who? Heston frowned, clearly puzzled.

"Our homeroom teacher, Mr. Gaiman, Cassie stated firmly.

"What?" Anne gasped, joining the group as she recognized him. You're my daughter's teacher. We haven't even discussed the false accusations of cheating you leveled against her today, and now you're here, attacking her?"

Donald was in a panic, completely at a loss for words. The truth had come out, and it was clear Cassie had been innocent of the cheating allegations. The school administration was furious, warning him that Marcus might withdraw his investment in the new campus if Donald didn't apologize to Cassie and the Murphy family.

Donald wasn't about to risk his job, which paid significantly more than most. So, he had set out to make amends. But as he rode over, the more he thought about it, the angrier he became. He, a respected teacher, was being forced into a late-night apology to a student with a tarnished reputation. It all came down to his lack of social standing.

Unlike Ca\*\*ic, who came from a family that owned a massive company and had powerful allies like Marcus in her corner. The frustration built up inside him, and as he passed a sporting goods store that was about to close, he impulsively bought a baseball bat

By the time he reached Cassie's neighborhood, he was actually feeling slightly calmer. But then he saw Cassie and her mom, taking a leisurely stroll. They seemed to be in their own world, chatting about something that made Cassie Laugh.

Donald's anger, which had started to subside, ignited once again. Here he was, in turmoil and distress, while Cassie, the cause of all his trouble, was acting as if nothing had happened.

His future was at risk because of Cassie, who seemed to be unaffected by it all. He believed it wasn't fair.

Driven by his rage, he gripped the baseball bat and charged forward. He had a plan. The motorcycle was unregistered, and with his leather outfit and helmet, he would be unrecognizable. After striking out, he could just disappear into the night. No one would know who he was.

But Donald had not anticipated Marcus's sudden appearance.

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"I didn't mean it!" Donald hastily tried to undo his actions, realizing the gravity of his mistake. "It was just a moment of impulse. Cassie, you're okay. I'll cover your medical expenses and I'll quit the school. I swear I won't cross paths with you. again. Please, forgive me this time,"

With tears streaming down his face, he was pleading. "I've got two little kids at home, and my wife is a stay-at-home mom. If something happens to me, they'll be left with nothing.

Everyone was aware of Cassie's true nature-a genuinely kind person, who even amidst her recent changes in temperament. had helped a family in need.

your wife

Cassie looked down at Donald, her expression cold and unyielding. "When you attacked me, did you think about y and kids? You didn't consider them, so why should I? Why should I care?"

Everyone was taken aback by her words. "Larry, take him to the police station and press charges for attempted murder," Cassie instructed, then turned to walk away.