

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South]

Chapter 351

“I really heard the waiter say that Director Irvine brought Catherine here...”

Before Melanie could finish, she saw the tall and handsome figure on the bed. Her head seemed to explode and she felt like she was going crazy. “Eldest Young Master Hill, why are you here?”

Shaun’s red eyes flashed and he quickly grabbed the blanket to cover Catherine’s body. Catherine also suffered a fright. When she saw the people who came in through the door, she felt like the world was coming to an end.

It was over.

This time, she really felt that she was done for!

After living for more than 20 years, there had never been a moment when she felt as ashamed as she was now.

Liam, Old Madam Hill, Lea, Joel, and Nicola were all here. They looked at the two people on the bed in shock.

The clothes on Shaun’s upper body had been taken off, and Catherine’s delicate and tender face was full of amorous charm. Even a fool could see what the two had been doing.

Old Madam Hill was so angry that her hand holding her cane was shaking.

“Catherine Jones, you b*tch!” Melanie completely lost her mind and rushed over to hit her like a madwoman. “How shameless can you be? You even seduced my fiancé!”

However, before her hand could land that slap, she was grabbed by Shaun and violently thrown to the side.

Melanie lost her balance and fell to the ground.

Nicola hurriedly supported her while shaking in anger. “Eldest Young Master Hill, you actually pushed Melanie for that b*tch? Old Madam Hill, you have to give us an explanation today. You can’t just bully people like this!”

Old Madam Hill’s body shook as she almost fainted from anger. She never thought that her proud grandson would do such a hurtful and foolish thing.

Liam quickly supported her and stared at the two people on the bed with a pained expression.

“Brother, the company is already yours and it wasn’t easy for me to find a woman I liked. Why do you have to snatch her away too?”

Catherine was stunned. When did Liam like her?

“Snatch?” Shaun’s low and cold laugh suddenly sounded in her ears. He spoke domineeringly, “She has always been my woman, so how did I snatch her away?”

Everyone was stunned, and Lea also asked angrily, "You've been in a relationship this whole time?"

Shaun's thin lips moved, but Catherine panicked and grabbed his arm pleadingly. "That's enough, don't say it."

Shaun was annoyed. This stupid woman. She did not want to disclose their relationship even at such a time? Did she really want to be labeled as the third party? "That's right."

When the two simple words were said, Melanie felt like the sky was about to fall. She cried and shouted, "I get it now. When I went to your house before, it was her in your bedroom, right?"

"Melanie Yule, I've told you before that it was impossible between us and even gave you the opportunity to initiate a breakup. You asked for this," Shaun replied heartlessly.

"You b*stard! Are you even a man? Melanie is so good, how could you hurt her like this?!" Old Madam Hill was furious and picked up her cane to hit him.

Shaun did not avoid it and was hit by the cane.

When Old Madam Hill saw his stubborn appearance, her blood pressure skyrocketed. She lost her footing and fainted.

"Grandma..." Shaun was shocked and quickly released Catherine to pick up the old woman. "Call an ambulance, quickly."

The room was a mess. Melanie was blinded by hatred and took the opportunity to charge at Catherine, scratching her face. "You vixen! B*tch! I'll kill you!"

"Melanie, I'll help you!" Nicola also rushed over.

The mother and daughter pulled on the blanket but Catherine held onto it tightly. However, Melanie managed to slap her several times, scratching her face and causing her to feel dizzy from the pain.

Shaun was anxious and was just about to put Old Madam Hill down when Valerie urged, "Hurry up and send your grandmother to the hospital! Do you really want her to die?"

"How dare you seduce people?! I'll ruin your face!" Nicola picked up a fruit knife.

Joel was worried and rushed over to pull the mother and daughter duo away. "Have you gone insane?"

"You're the insane one. Joel Yule, just look at the b*tch you gave birth to. She ruined Melanie's happiness!" Nicola really seemed to have gone crazy. This scene made her remember Sheryl Jones from more than 20 years ago.

Joel also could not figure out who was right and who was wrong, but the only thing he was sure of was that he could not let anyone hurt Catherine.

"Oh my God, what's happening inside?"

Suddenly, a large group of reporters also barged in from outside.

Although they had missed the important segment, with Old Madam Hill unconscious, Eldest Young

Master Hill and Catherine Jones' disheveled clothes, and how Melanie Yule and Nicola Wicks were fighting, they could more or less guess what had happened.

"Get out of the way!" Shaun thundered in a low voice. He glared at the reporters when he carried Old Madam Hill out of the room. "If anyone dares to report today's matters, I'll bury them along with their company."

After the warning, the reporters were so scared that they could only watch Shaun take the old madam away. However, it did not stop them from watching the show.

Everyone in the Hill family went to the hospital, and only the members of the Yule family were still fighting. Fortunately, it only took two minutes for Hadley to bring people over and escort Catherine from the hotel.

Her face was scratched in many places and was bleeding badly.

At that moment, her once pure face was bleak and terrible.

However, she was oblivious. Her eyes were dull as if she were a puppet without a soul.

She truly could not understand how she had ended up like this.

There was a moment where she really wanted to jump out of the car and die to be done with it.

Hadley was also upset and handed her a tissue.

Catherine did not move, and Hadley comforted her. "Ms. Jones, don't worry. Medical technology is very developed now. Your injuries can be treated without leaving a scar. You won't be disfigured."

Those words made Catherine laugh slightly as if she had heard a joke.

Just what had she done wrong? Did God want to punish her like this just because she mistook Shaun for Ethan's uncle back then?

Hadley was at a loss and had a headache. He did not know what to say to her.

In fact, he actually felt sorry for Ms. Jones.

After arriving at the private hospital, a first-rate doctor came over to help her treat her wounds.

Catherine let the doctor prod her around. Sometimes, she felt that it would be fine even if she was disfigured.

In the past, she had been proud of her beautiful face. It was also because of her face that she could seduce Shaun without scruples. However, she had tasted the consequences now.

It was good to be ugly. If she were ugly, maybe Shaun would let her go.

She was full of sadness.

When her face was covered with gauze, she suddenly saw Wesley rushing in from outside.

"Cathy, I heard that something happened to you..."

harm you like this? What is he even doing? Come with me..."

"Mr. Lyons, you've forgotten about the warning." Hadley blocked Wesley.

"I thought that Shaun Hill would take good care of her." Wesley looked furious. "Since he can't protect her, then why did he take her away? Was it just to prove that he could?"

Catherine paused. That was true.

Up till now, she did not think that Shaun really had her in his heart. If he liked her, he would not hurt her so much and trample on her.

"This is a matter between Ms. Jones and Eldest Young Master Hill. You're just an outsider," Hadley frowned and reminded, "Get out of the way. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude."

"Wesley, just go," Catherine said softly, "Don't forget what you promised me."

Wesley froze. He had once sent a text message to her, saying that he would get stronger and then rescue her.

"Okay." He clenched his fists and endured the pain. "You have to take care of yourself."

"I will." Catherine nodded, nearly shedding tears.

In Canberra, only Wesley ever sincerely cared about her.

She regretted it. Why had she always resisted him before?

It was only now that she could see who it was who treated her well.

“Ms. Jones, let’s go.” Hadley blocked the two’s line of sight.

Catherine walked forward, and Wesley kept watching as she left. He dialed a mysterious number in sorrow. “When exactly will you deal with Shaun Hill? I just want him to die now!”

“What’s the hurry? You’re just growing, but Shaun Hill is already at his peak. He’s not easy to deal with.” The person on the other end laughed. “But everything has been arranged for. You just have to do as I say.”

...

In the hospital.

Slap!

Old Master Hill landed a slap on Shaun’s face. “You b*stard! I raised you wholeheartedly for so many years and this is how you repay me?”

“Dad, I’m sure Shaun didn’t mean it. He must’ve been seduced by that vixen.”

Valerie hurriedly came over to mediate and shot a look at Shaun. "Did you hear him? Hurry up and apologize to your grandfather and promise not to contact Catherine Jones again."

"Impossible. I've already decided to marry her." Shaun stood there quietly, his gaze calm and his tone firm.

Everyone sucked in a breath. Old Master Hill's face was ashen. "I think you've really been caught by her spell. If you want to marry her, you'll have to walk over my dead body first."

Lea frowned and said, "You've already made your grandmother faint from anger. Are you trying to do the same to your grandfather? Everyone knows that you're dating Melanie, and Catherine attended the event tonight as Liam's female companion in front of everyone. If word that Catherine and you are now together spreads tomorrow, the Hill family will become a laughing stock."

Although Lea did have a favorable impression of Catherine in the beginning, she found Catherine's two-timing behavior disgusting.

"That's right." Shaun's uncle, Spencer Hill, also advised, "I just received news that the entire event was ruined. Although no media dares to report it, word has already spread all around. Shaun, this is a heavy blow to your reputation. If you insist on doing this, the negative news on the internet about you will become more intense."

"If you still want to sit in the position of president, you must marry Melanie Yule immediately and quell the rumors," Old Master Hill said angrily.

"I refuse." Shaun remained unmoved.

"You..." Old Master Hill was so angry he did not know what to say.

"Happy?"

Just as he finished speaking, a bunch of police officers rushed in from outside. “We received a report that someone came to Hudson to cause trouble...”

Fergus was just about to speak when Catherine immediately pushed Melanie aside. She walked up to the police with red eyes. “Officer, these people just entered the building and started vandalizing our property. They even threw a rotten egg at my face.”

Melanie screamed, “No, she clearly tried to ruin my face with a knife! Hurry up and arrest her!”

The police officer looked at Catherine whose face was full of wounds and smeared with rotten egg liquid and then at Melanie who was well-dressed and looked completely immaculate. He immediately became angry. “Who was it who tried to ruin the other person’s face? Do you think I’m blind?”

“Mr. Officer, don’t raise your voice. She’s the precious daughter of the Yule family and that man is Fergus Wicks from the Wicks family. I heard that he knows a lot of hoodlums,” Catherine said nervously.

Fergus was used to acting arrogantly and snorted coldly when he heard her. “Which district are you from? I know your chief.”

Catherine blinked in surprise. “I didn’t expect a police chief to be one of the hoodlums he knows. How incredible.”

The officer’s eyes narrowed as he quickly yelled at Fergus, “Our chief won’t know people like you. I don’t care who you are. Take away everyone who dared to cause trouble here!”

Soon, the police took Fergus and the others away.

“Mr. Officer, thank you very much. It’s thanks to you that we’re safe. I promise to make a donation later this afternoon.” Catherine was moved and sent the police to the door.

Elle, who just arrived and saw this scene, immediately called Shaun helplessly.

Shaun smiled happily when he heard about it.

He absolutely loved it when she was cunning. “Go and say hello. Make sure those people are locked up for a few more days, especially the woman who threw the rotten egg at Catherine. Feed her more rotten eggs.”

Elle reminded, “Eldest Young Master Hill, she’s the daughter of the Holt family...”

“So what?”

After a scolding, Elle heard the sound of the phone hanging up.

After leaving the police station.

Catherine noticed that her face was getting more painful and she had to drive to the hospital again.

When Doctor Hawes from the dermatology department helped her clean the wounds, a white-clad Chester Jewell came in through the door. “Make sure to use the best medicine to heal the injuries on

Ms. Jones' face as soon as possible. There mustn't be any scars."

"..."

Catherine was speechless. Was Chester too free? Why did he always come to look for her when she came to the hospital?

Honestly, she was now very disgusted by Shaun and did not have a good impression of his friends either. Birds of a feather flock together. His friends were definitely not good people either.

After her wounds were treated, Catherine said helplessly, "Doctor Jewell, go back to work. I'm leaving soon too."

"Don't be so polite. I'm not that much older than you." Chester grinned. "Besides, you'll be married to Shaun sooner or later. You'll be my sister-in-law in the future."

Those words only sounded sarcastic in Catherine's ears. "You've got the wrong person. You should be saying that to Melanie Yule."

"Melanie Yule?" Chester looked at her indifferent figure and tsked in his heart. Shaun was really useless to have pushed away such a good woman. It was up to him to help Shaun. "You don't know this, but Shaun doesn't like Melanie Yule at all. He was even removed from his position as president of Hill Corporation in order to marry you."

Catherine was stunned for a while.

Shaun was no longer the president of Hill Corporation?

How could that be?

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 360

“Haven’t you seen the news on your phone?” Chester walked over to her. “It’s today’s most sensational news. The whole net is talking about it.”

Catherine was lost in thought for a moment. She knew that Chester would not lie to her, but she did not think that Shaun was dismissed because he wanted to marry her.

“That’s very normal. His conduct was improper. He had a girlfriend but still forcefully snatched his girlfriend’s elder sister as well. He couldn’t even control the lower half of his body and screwed up the charity dinner held by the Hill family. After he’s done such despicable acts, of course, he’ll be removed from his position.”

Chester froze.

A moment later, instead of being angry because his friend was scolded, he laughed happily. “Your evaluation is spot-on. Shaun is indeed despicable and has a horrible character.”

Catherine frowned, puzzled by his laughter. “Is that funny?”

“It’s funny.” Chester curled his thin lips. “But some of what you said isn’t right. That night after Shaun sent Granny Hill to the hospital, the Hill family quarreled. Old Master Hill said that as long as Shaun got married to Melanie Yule, they would lay the matter to rest, but Shaun refused and said that he wanted to marry you, which angered the old master.”

“Marry me?” Catherine showed a look of disbelief.

Chester looked at her meaningfully. “Half of what Hill Corporation is now was built up by Shaun himself. Playing around with women is nothing new for big shots, so the old master wouldn’t remove him because of that. Shaun’s mistake was that he was being serious, which completely angered the old master.

...

When coming out of the hospital, Catherine seemed to be in a trance.

She had always thought that Shaun kept her to be a lover who would never see the light of day. She was like a puppet whom he did not love.

However, now she heard from his friend that Shaun was dismissed from his post in order to marry her.

The president of Hill Corporation... It was a position that placed a person above 10,000 others.

It was a position people from all over the country looked up to.

Now, he had fallen from the altar.

Would the Hill Corporation that had lost Shaun Hill be the same as before?

Just as she got in the car, Joel suddenly called her. "Cathy, are you free? Let's meet up."

"...Okay." Catherine knew that some things were unavoidable.

40 minutes later, after arriving at the tea house they agreed to meet at, Joel had already finished a pot of tea.

The pair of father and daughter sitting together had never been so awkward before.

In the end, it was still Joel who broke the silence. "Does your face still hurt?"

The few words of concern almost brought Catherine to tears. After all, he was truly her only relative left in the world. "I'm fine."

"Nicola and Melanie were too angry last night. Never mind them, even I was shocked..."

Joel smiled bitterly. "Cathy, I know that Melanie and the others went to the company in the morning to cause trouble for you. Could you talk to Shaun Hill and let him release them?"

Catherine only felt a cold chill in her heart. "Dad, Melanie brought her uncle and friends to my company to smash our property and tried to beat me up. If the police had not arrived in time, it's likely that I'd be lying in the hospital now. It's not like you don't know Fergus Wicks' methods."

"But..." Joel hesitated. "What happened at the dinner party... She was indeed a victim. Anyone would be angry."

Catherine looked at her father and suddenly felt a chill. "Dad, do you think I stole Shaun Hill as well?"

“Catherine, I don’t want you to ruin your own happiness to get revenge on Nicola and Melanie,” Joel said painfully.

A pitiful smile crept up on Catherine’s face. “So that’s what you think of me. Dad, have you ever loved me and tried to understand me? To be frank, I’ve long since known Shaun. He’s the one who forced me to be with him. Recently, he’s been suppressing my company and Wesley. It’s all his doing. Do you think I enjoy living a life without dignity? Do you think I enjoy being pointed at and criticized as a b*stard?!”

As she went on, she eventually choked with tears.

Joel was dazed. “What? Why didn’t you tell me earlier?”

“Would it make any difference if I told you?” Catherine gave him a mocking look. “You couldn’t even protect me in your own house, much less in front of Shaun.”

An awkward expression crept up Joel’s face. All of a sudden, he seemed like he had grown a few years older.

“I’m useless. I brought you to Canberra but left you to be bullied by others. I’m going to look for Shaun now. He has gone too far.”

“You don’t have to look for me. I’m here.”

The door of the private room was violently kicked open, and Shaun’s tall and sturdy figure walked in. He kept a cool expression on his handsome face, as if he was a late guest.

“Why are you here, Shaun?” Catherine rose to her feet in a fit of fury. “You tailed me!”

“I didn’t tail you. I just came with you to meet Dad.”

Shaun dragged the chair beside her and sat down. His shameless look made Joel’s blood boil. “Who’s your dad? You’ve been forcing Catherine to listen to you while you’re in a relationship with Melanie. I’ll certainly not let my daughters marry such an awful man like you.”

“I’ve set my heart on Catherine. You should’ve been clear about this the night before yesterday.”

Shaun placed his big palm on the back of Catherine’s hand and looked at her with deep, gentle eyes. “I want to marry her.”

Those five words gave Catherine a shock.

She turned around and stared at him incredulously. Was he really going to marry her?

Did this mean everything that Chester said was true?

“Impossible!”

Joel slapped the table in a huff. "If you want to marry her, why did you get into a relationship with Melanie in the first place? Everyone in Melbourne now knows that Melanie is your girlfriend, and the next thing they know, you're getting married to Catherine. Have you ever thought about how people would criticize her?"

"Previously, we had a misunderstanding in Melbourne..."

"I don't care." Joel waved his hand. "When you love someone, you should respect and protect her, instead of hurting her..."

Shaun's brows gave a slight twitch. "Uncle Joel, you used to let Aunty Sheryl down too. Shortly after she got pregnant, you married another woman. You're a failure at relationships."

Joel's face turned pale. "Yeah. That's exactly why I want to protect Catherine..."

"Protect?" Shaun took the empty coffee cup from the table. "Where were you when Catherine got kicked out of the house by Nicola and Melanie? If you had protected her last night, would she have been hurt by your wife and daughter?"

At that, Joel went deathly pale.

Catherine looked down in silence.

Indeed, Joel had never been capable of protecting her.

"Look. You don't know anything, and you can't even protect her. You don't even have the audacity to go against the Yule family, which also explains why you wronged Aunty Sheryl back then."

Shaun's eyes were fierce. "I'm different from you. I want her. Even if I fail to be the president of Hill Corporation and everyone in the Hill family opposes it, I will still marry her."

He uttered every word so powerfully that Joel was taken aback, and so was Catherine.

"Uncle Joel, I hope you'll approve of us." Shaun slowly lifted Catherine up on her feet. "Only with your blessing can we get together legitimately. What's more, she can return to the Yule household legitimately after I marry her. That way, no one will despise and look down on her anymore. Don't you want to see that, Uncle Joel?"

The last sentence resonated with Joel.

...

In the end, Catherine was somehow dragged into the car by Shaun.

Looking at the handsome man beside her who was driving seriously, Catherine became confused. Did this mean that... the Hill family dismissed him from the position of president just because he wanted to marry her?

"Stop staring at me like that."

Shaun stopped the car at a crossroad. Then, he turned around and kissed her on the lips. "Let's go and choose your wedding ring."

“I’m not marrying you!” Catherine went mad. Considering his horrifying character, she refused to be tied to him forever.

“Catherine, I’ve lost everything for you, yet you refuse to marry me. How mean of you.” Shaun’s dark eyes were fixed on her as if she was a betrayer.

The corners of Catherine’s mouth twitched. “Even if you’re not the president of Hill Corporation, you have countless properties under your name. I believe a lot of women will flock to you...”

“Fine. You can continue being the other woman then.” Shaun raised his brows. “I’ll marry Melanie, but I won’t let go of you. Both of you sisters can enjoy having me together then.”

“Shaun, you really fill me with disgust!” A hint of rage lit up in Catherine’s eyes.

“You want to be the other woman or the legitimate wife? Pick one.” Shaun opened his thin lips. His behavior was as nasty as usual.

Catherine suddenly felt an inexplicable tightness in her chest.

She would choose to marry him, but she was annoyed by the way he asked her.

Who would not like to be proposed to romantically? Whether it was the last time or the present, she had never gotten it.

However, did she have a choice? Who would wish to be the other woman forever? Especially when it

involved Melanie dominating and despising her.

No way. For the sake of Sheryl, she must not let Nicola and Melanie look down on her.

“Alright. I’ll marry you.”

With that, she turned her head away and looked out of the window. She treated it as yet another deal.

Back then, she married him for the sake of taking revenge on Ethan. This time, she married him with the intention of overcoming Nicola and Melanie.

Shaun’s lips curled into a big smile. He started his car, and soon, they arrived at a jewelry store. The slogan on the billboard at the entrance wrote, ‘The Only Love In Life’.

Hah. It seemed to be mocking Shaun and her.

“Get out.”

Shaun opened the passenger door and stretched out his hand to her.

Catherine dropped her gaze and held his hand. Together, they entered the jewelry store.

He did not mind how her looks brought shame to him anyway, so why was she bothered about it?

“W-welcome, Eldest Young Master.” When the female manager at the entrance saw the Eldest Young Master walking in with an ugly woman whose face was bandaged, she was so shocked that she

stuttered a little.

Besides the female manager, a strange look flashed across the faces of the salespeople in the store.

After all, all the women who had seen Eldest Young Master's god-like, handsome looks would flock to him. They also found out a while ago that Shaun had gotten into a relationship with Melanie, but he had never taken her to the jewelry store. Catherine was considered the first woman.

However, her look was... indeed inexplicable.

"Mm," Shaun replied with a gruff, masculine voice. "My fiancée is here to choose her wedding jewelry. Bring us the most fashionable, attractive, and expensive jewelry."

"F-fiancée?" The female manager was dumbfounded. Eldest Young Master had quite a... weird taste.

"What's wrong with my fiancée?" Shaun answered with a deep voice, his eyes flashing with hostility.

Nothing. Young-madam-to-be has a model-like physique and thick hair. She's just a raving beauty who's well-matched for you."

With the female manager's series of compliments, Catherine was at a loss for words. The manager really proved herself to be in the sales industry. She praised Catherine's looks and even her hair.

Shortly after, an array of magnificent jewelry was displayed. The glitter of the jewelry made Catherine feel giddy.

“Which one do you like? You can choose anything. You can even take everything home.” With his considerable wealth, Shaun said arrogantly.

Catherine did not know what to say.

She eventually chose a highly sought-after diamond ring, but because Shaun found it too light, he chose a pink petal diamond ring for her instead. After wearing it on her slender, fair finger, she felt as vivacious as a young woman.

The female manager smiled and said, “You have great taste, Eldest Young Master. This diamond ring weighs 13.14 grams.”

Catherine subconsciously rejected it. “This ring is too heavy...”

“Wear it, and don’t even think about removing it,” Shaun ordered.

Catherine was left speechless. He was the one who told her to pick the jewelry earlier. However, he did have good taste, and she was very fond of pink. If this had happened in Melbourne, she would have been elated.

“Choose a men’s ring for me as well,” Shaun reminded.

Since he liked big items, Catherine purposely chose a men’s ring encrusted with diamonds for him.

The ring might seem quite tacky, but it looked like it was from an international fashion brand once it was on his finger. It looked wonderful regardless of the angles.

Catherine was dumbfounded. Seeing her confused expression, Shaun stroked her hair in satisfaction. "What a great choice."

Catherine replied, "I..." She was overwhelmed by incredulity.

As soon as the two of them stepped out of the jewelry store, cameras flashed outside. There were reporters taking photos of them.

Just when Catherine was about to remind him, Shaun put his hand around her waist. "Do you mind?"

"...You've tortured me so much that this is nothing to me," Catherine mocked, "What about you? Everyone thinks Melanie is your girlfriend."

"I don't think I've publicly announced that Melanie is my girlfriend," Shaun replied with a calm expression on his handsome face.

Catherine was stunned by his shamelessness. The Yule family and the Hill family had dined together a few times, and Shaun and Melanie had even attended different kinds of occasions as a pair. That was all just to deny Melanie's identity as his girlfriend.

Suddenly, she felt a little sympathetic to Melanie.

He was the archetype of a scumbag.

The news that Shaun bought Catherine a diamond ring soon spread like wildfire across Australia.

The next day, Eldest Young Master Hill, who used to be low-profile and mysterious, got to the top of the trending searches once again.

IrrefutableProofOfEldestYoungMasterHillCheating
#ScummyShaunSpent50MillionDollarsOnJewelryForTheOtherWoman

[Damn, seriously? Didn't Eldest Young Master and the young lady from the Yule family show public affection recently?]

[According to an insider, Ms. Yule spotted Eldest Young Master and this woman hiding in the room during the banquet that night.]

[Ms. Yule is really pitiful. I heard she went to look for the other woman with her friend, but she ended up locked in the police station after Eldest Young Master pulled some strings. She still hasn't been released up until now.]

[Indeed, Eldest Young Master is the scummiest man in Australia. How disgusting.]

[I can finally see why he was dismissed from the position of president in Hill Corporation.]

[Go to hell, scummy Shaun]

In just a day, Shaun had become the public enemy in the whole of Australia.

This was the first time recently that Catherine was calling Shaun of her own accord.

After a long time, the call finally connected. However, it was Rodney's angry voice that sounded. "Catherine, you're such a troublemaker. You left Shaun in dire straits."

"Where's he?" Catherine's heart sank.

"The top nine influential families are looking into the matter. Shaun has been arrested for investigation," Rodney said in a huff. "If it hadn't been for you, Shaun wouldn't have ended in this state!"

"Who are you to criticize me? If you hadn't kidnapped me that night, that video wouldn't have existed!" Catherine refuted in a fit of fury. "The yacht belongs to you, so now that the video has been released, you bear as much of the responsibility too!"

Rodney was so angry that he was momentarily lost for words. "Those influential figures want to leave Shaun high and dry. Things are not as simple as it seems."

Catherine hung up straight away and wanted to call Hadley to find out about the situation.

Suddenly, a series of urgent knocks came from downstairs.

She put on her clothes and walked out. The housekeeper of the Hill family's manor came in with a bunch of bodyguards. "Miss Jones, please go to the manor with us."

Aunty Yasmine immediately said, “Mr. Townsend, can’t you wait for Eldest Young Master to return...”

“Eldest Young Master has been taken to the judicial department for investigation.” The housekeeper’s face was cold. “The incident stems from her, so I have to take her away tonight.”

“It’s okay, Aunty Yasmine. I’ll leave with him.”

Catherine walked down the stairs. She had long since expected that the Hill family would look for her. It was just a matter of time.

...

An hour later.

The Hill family’s manor was well lit.

It was Catherine’s second time visiting the manor. When she entered, everyone in the Hill family was present, and all of them were staring at her with disgust and resentment.

In the face of the most brilliant family in Australia, Catherine’s gaze was surprisingly calm and nonchalant.

A lot of things had happened since she came to Canberra, and she had experienced far more than her entire life so far.

She was already fearless.

“Against all my expectations, you look very calm. No wonder you’ve managed to bewitch Shaun. You’re quite devious, huh?” Old Master Hill’s eyes were fixed on her. Although he was 70, he remained as powerful as ever as the head of the wealthiest family.

Catherine did not utter a word.

Seeing her expression, Old Madam Hill was so indignant that she grabbed a coffee cup and smashed it on her head.

A figure suddenly dashed in from the side, and the cup landed on Liam.

“What are you doing, Liam?” Anger welled up inside Lea. “You’re still in love with her, huh?”

Liam glanced sideways at Catherine, who looked neither humble nor arrogant beside him and smiled faintly. “Granny, let’s talk things out. If you hurt her, I’m afraid Brother will fly into a temper when he returns.”

Old Madam Hill scoffed, “Can he do that? His release is still uncertain.”

“You care for Brother the most, Granny. You’ll definitely help him.” Liam smiled.

“Help?” Old Madam Hill shot a glance at Catherine. “He really let me down this time. Tell me, what tactic did you use to bewitch Shaun? You’re quite clever. When you came here last time, I spotted you flirting with him. You really do treat all of us as fools.”

“Mom, this woman is manipulative,” Valerie said with disdain. “She seduces Liam when she’s in a relationship with Shaun. I heard she has a fiancé. She’s just making a fool out of us.”

“Yeah. Didn’t you say that you have a fiancé?” Old Madam Hill was even more disgusted by her. “How can you become the other woman when you have a fiancé? Are you so desperate for a man? Shame on you!”

Catherine’s eyes riveted on the floor. She continued to stay silent as she did not have the faintest idea what to say.

It would be pointless to refute their claims anyway.

A bodyguard violently kicked Catherine on the knees, and she kneeled down in pain.

Lea said indifferently, “Say something. Since you had the nerve to do it, why don’t you dare explain?”

“Exactly. There’s no point being ashamed now,” Queenie said as her mouth twitched. “Shaun is in deep trouble this time because of you.”

“He’s usually quite cool-headed, so why did he end up like this?” Spencer said thoughtfully. “Dad and Mom have put so much effort in him.”

Old Master Hill slapped the table. “You can’t stay in Australia anymore. I’m giving you two options now. I’ll give you a flight ticket to leave Melbourne and never return. I’ll have your Australian citizenship revoked. Another option is that you stay here, but I’ll put you through hell.”

Catherine suddenly lifted her head and was dazed for a moment.

Leaving Australia and losing her Australian citizenship?

She did think of running away from Shaun when he tortured her before. However, now that she had found out that Shaun offended all the noble families in Canberra for her sake, she did not think she could leave with a clear conscience.

“I want to know what will happen to Shaun.” After a while, her hands curled up into fists. “Will you guys save him?”

“It depends on him. If he remains stubborn, I’ll just disown this grandson.”

Old Master Hill snorted. “Anyway, his reputation has been tarnished since he broke the hands of nine young masters from the noble families in Canberra. Now everyone from the upper class is boycotting him, and those families are pressuring our family. Considering that he has ruined our family’s hundred years of reputation, he’ll be lucky if he survives.”

Catherine’s eyes swept over all the Hill family members. She noticed that none of them expressed concern for Shaun, including Shaun’s biological mother, Lea.

All of a sudden, Catherine was slightly sympathetic to Shaun. If this was the environment he grew up in, it was no wonder he was extremely cold and distant.

“Shaun is your grandson. Is the Hill family’s reputation or familial relationship more important?”

Unable to tolerate the Hill family anymore, Catherine rose to her feet. “All of you are his biological

grandpa, granny, and mom. How can you behave so indifferently? You favored him when he was capable of bringing honor and profits to the family. But now that he's at his lowest, you despise him and give up on him, rather than lending him a hand. This has finally opened my eyes to what the Hill family is like."

"How dare you!"

Simmering with rage, Old Master Hill grabbed a cup and flung it over her head.

This time, nobody blocked it for her.

It hurt Catherine so much that she nearly fainted.

Blood began to trickle down her face, and at that moment, she looked quite scary.

However, Catherine clenched her fist to keep herself conscious and impassive. Her eyes were even sharper now. "Am I wrong? If a family wants to become influential, shouldn't everyone unite and respect each other? Only families like this would go a long way."

Everyone was quite stunned, either from her hideous face or words.

A moment later, Lea said angrily, "Catherine, we initially wanted to offer you a chance to survive by allowing you to leave Australia. But you don't seem to cherish it."

Catherine laughed at her. "Thank you for assuming that I'd cherish it. Let me tell all of you that I will not leave."

Liam frowned, and a hint of worry flashed across his eyes. "Just leave, Catherine. If you stay here... It'll be a living hell for you. The Hill family won't let you go. They'll lock you in the cellar instead, and it's

horrifying there..."

"Oh, it doesn't matter. I've been to places that are even more horrifying." Catherine remained unperturbed without any sign of fear on her face.

Liam admired her character even more, but he hoped that she would not choose to stay. "It'll be pointless to stay here. You'll lose your freedom forever."

"At least... My conscience won't bother me." Catherine's eyes were calm.

"Do you have a conscience?" Valerie teased.

"None of you will understand the love-hate relationship between Shaun and me," Catherine responded nonchalantly.

"Then, bring her to the cellar and lock her up." Old Master Hill snorted as he waved his hand.

The bodyguards made Catherine leave by shoving her.

need it.need it.

“Really? I don’t think I’ll go insane.” Catherine smiled faintly. “I’ve stayed in places that are much nastier than this. This place isn’t too bad. The food and drinks aren’t sour, and there’s a blanket here.”

Liam was dumbfounded. “What do you mean? You’ve eaten food and drinks that have soured?”

What kind of life had she been through?

Looking at the calm woman in front of him, Liam suddenly realized that he could not see through her.

“There’s no point asking questions like this, Second Young Master.” A look of mockery washed over Catherine’s face. “After all, I’m here all because of you.”

Liam froze. “Even if I didn’t do it, your relationship with Shaun would be exposed eventually.”

“So am I supposed to be grateful to you?” Catherine scoffed, “Thank you for switching out Shaun’s drink. Thank you for taking advantage of Melanie by bringing her into the Hill family. Then, you managed to expose the matter to everyone in the Hill family and destroy Shaun’s reputation. You even caused a conflict between Shaun and his elders so that you could take over as president.”

Liam was ashamed by her words. “I admit that I’m despicable, but I sincerely want to help you right now...”

“Enough, Liam. In my eyes, you’re more despicable than Shaun. I must’ve been blind back then. However, since you saved me last time, let’s make it even. I don’t owe you anymore.”

“Why don’t you know your place?” Liam began to lose his temper. “It serves no purpose for you to stay here. Even Shaun can’t fend for himself.”

“I’m an Australian, and you can’t have my citizenship revoked. I can’t stay away from here. Also... I believe Shaun will take me away. He won’t lose to people like you.”

At times, Catherine could not understand why she chose to stay as well.

At the mere thought of Shaun who was currently in deep trouble, she could not bring herself to leave.

Their relationship was a mixture of love and hate.

However, she would never forget that whenever she was in dire straits, Shaun was always there to save her.

She believed that he would do the same this time.

How would the devil get defeated so easily?

“No way. I’ll never leave a chance for him to turn things around.” Liam was infuriated. “Since you’re ungrateful for everything I did, suit yourself, then.”

With that, Liam left furiously.

He did not appear ever since.

Catherine’s phone soon ran out of battery, and she could not distinguish the day from the night. All of

a sudden, her injured face became itchier as the wound slowly festered and caused her intense pain.

She felt that her face might be ruined.

She must look intimidating at this point.

If Shaun saw her again, he would be terrified, which was a good thing too. In that case, he would not force her to stay by his side.

She was not sure which day it was when the lady who brought her porridge came.

Catherine glanced at the bowl of porridge and asked nonchalantly, "Did you spike my porridge again today?"

The lady's hands quivered. She spat and said, "So what? Don't eat it and starve yourself if you have the guts."

With that, she put down the bowl and directly walked away.

Catherine smiled bitterly. Even the servant of the Hill family behaved so arrogantly.

If she wanted to survive, she had no choice but to eat the food, even if her face was going to rot completely.

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 373

Five days later.

Shaun walked out of the judicial department with both his hands shoved in the pockets of his trousers. After being locked up for a few days, he now had a crew cut, but it did not ruin his attractiveness.

On the contrary, his attractive facial features became more prominent. It made him look even more arrogant and intimidating.

“It must’ve been a tough few days for you, Eldest Young Master.” Hadley went to him excitedly.

Rodney thumped his chest. “Motherf*cker. I thought I’d never get to drink with you anymore.”

“All the families in Canberra are trying to convict me. They’ve put in quite a lot of effort, but it’s not easy to defeat me.” Shaun then glanced around. Aside from his bodyguards and buddies, the figure he had longed to see was not there.

“Where’s Catherine?” He furrowed his brows. Did the heartless woman seize this opportunity to run away?

Everyone fell silent while Hadley lowered his head.

“Tell me.” Shaun’s voice hardened, and it was filled with rage.

After a while, Chester coughed and said helplessly, "The Hills took Catherine away the day you were arrested for investigation."

Shaun pulled Hadley toward himself in a fit of fury. "Didn't I ask you to get someone to look after her? And look how it turned out. Where's Elle? Where the hell did she go?"

"Sorry, Eldest Young Master." Hadley gritted his teeth and said guiltily, "Master Lowry betrayed you and knocked Elle unconscious. Then, the housekeeper took Catherine away."

"Ian Lowry?" Shaun narrowed his eyes. He did not expect this.

"Yes."

"How many days has it been?" Shaun asked.

"Five days," Hadley replied cautiously. "But I've asked someone to monitor the manor's movements. It seems that Miss Jones hasn't been taken elsewhere."

"If she hasn't been taken elsewhere, I'm sure she's locked in the manor's cellar." Shaun tugged Hadley furiously. "And you just leave her locked there? Why didn't you get someone to save her?"

Unable to tolerate it anymore, Rodney said, "These days, we're all trying to deal with the influential families in Canberra while thinking of ways to save you. Besides, Hadley is just your subordinate. He doesn't have the guts to barge into the Hill family's manor. You do know how smart Old Master Hill is, don't you?"

Chester nodded and spoke as well, "Shaun, if you're planning to save Catherine, you need to brace yourself to go against Old Master Hill."

"I must save my woman." Shaun strode toward his sports car. Though instead of pulling the car door open, he took a gun from the trunk.

Everyone was shocked, but Chester frowned. "Shaun, are you planning to enter the manor with a gun?"

"You're insane. Is the woman worth all this?" Rodney yelled at Shaun in exasperation, "You've been boycotted by all the noble families in Canberra. If you're going to offend the Hill family as well, the consequences will be disastrous."

Chase, who had been silent, suddenly said, "I'm on your side, Shaun."

"Chase, don't jump in for fun, okay?" Anger began to well up inside Rodney.

"Rodney, I'm sure you wouldn't have said that if it was Sarah," Chase said bluntly.

Rodney's face froze. "Sarah is different. She grew up with us, but Shaun and Catherine have only known each other for a short while."

"You guys don't have to say anything else. I didn't manage to protect Catherine last time, so I have to save her this time." Shaun turned his head around and ordered Hadley, "Get all the members of Liona to head to the Hill family's manor. I want that place surrounded."

Then, he got into the car and dashed out.

Chester watched Shaun leave with a complicated gaze. He then took out his phone to call his assistant.

“Get the Chesterton members to head to the Hill family’s manor right now to back Shaun up.”

“Chester, are you going crazy as well?” Rodney was pissed.

“Rodney, it’s worth putting out all the stops to help our buddy.” Chester shrugged. “It’s no big deal if you want to help.”

After arriving at the hospital, Chester arranged for the top doctors in the hospital to perform a detailed physical examination on her.

In the ward, the results came out very quickly.

Chester looked at the emaciated woman on the bed who was given saline and sighed with pity. “All the indicators are not up to standard. Hypoglycemia, anemia, dehydration, malnutrition, and peptic ulcer.”

Catherine nodded. Her body was her own. These days, she often vomited and passed out from all the stomach pains she had, so she knew all that.

Shaun clenched his fists. He knew that she was not in good health, but now she was even worse.

“Ahem, Catherine, you should rest first.” Chester suddenly said to Shaun, “Come with me to get the medicine...”

“Doctor Jewell, you can say anything in front of me, even if it has to do with my face...” Catherine smiled at him. “You don’t have to hide it from me.”

Chester looked at her sympathetically. “Alright, to be honest, the fester on your face is really serious, and the area is quite large. I’ve consulted several top cosmetologists, and they’ll do as much as possible to repair you, but... it won’t be a perfect recovery.”

“Doctor Jewell, can you go into more detail?” Catherine looked at him.

The more Shaun saw how calm she saw, the more his heart ached. “There’s no need to ask him. If the technology here isn’t enough and you can’t be fixed locally, we’ll go overseas. The beauty technology in Australia isn’t world-class.”

“I don’t want to have cosmetic surgery for a new face.” Catherine interrupted him.

Shaun wiped his glasses. “There’ll be scars and unevenness.”

“I understand.” Catherine nodded and leaned back on the pillow. “Thank you.”

“I’m sorry. But technology is developing very fast now, so you don’t have to give up hope.” Chester comforted her.

“It’s okay. It’s actually better this way.” Catherine had a faint smile on her face since the beginning, but anyone with a discerning eye could tell that she was no longer hopeful. She had given up and resigned herself to fate. She no longer cared.

Shaun's eyes dimmed, and he said to Chester, "Why don't you go out first?"

"Okay." Chester closed the door as he left.

Shaun walked to her bedside and held her hand tightly. His dark eyes were serious. "No matter what you look like, I don't care. I love you, not your face."

"Is that so?" Catherine looked at his freshly changed clothes. "Don't lie to yourself. You just gave me a hug earlier, but you've already changed your clothes. Shaun Hill, you're really a clean freak, you know that?"

"No... That's not it..." For the first time, Shaun felt like a child. He was at a loss.

He could not tell her that he had hurt himself because his sickness acted up again. He had to change into clean clothes because his clothes were covered with blood.

If she knew he was sick, she would be even more afraid of him.

"You're not very good at explaining yourself," Catherine said teasingly. "Shaun, I'm actually not sad that my face is disfigured. In fact, I'm glad. It's a good thing. Now that I'm so ugly and disgusting enough to make people puke, can you still sleep beside me? We should just part on good terms now. At least grant me this last dignity."

Shaun was infuriated.

She wanted to leave him so badly.

"Catherine, I'm not as superficial as you think. I'll prove it to you right now."

He forcefully pulled her into his arms and sealed her lips with his burning ones.

Her lips were dry, and her face still smelled bad due to the wound.

To be honest, even Catherine could not stand herself.

However, this man held her like he was holding his beloved woman. His kiss was gentle and sorrowful.

Shaun kissed Catherine until she was breathless.

She narrowed her eyes and looked at the man in front of her. His buzz-cut hair and his long butterfly-wings-like eyelashes made his handsome face very masculine. He looked better than the male stars in Korean dramas.

When the kiss ended, his lips gently fell on the wound on her cheek like a feather. The gentle kisses gave Catherine a strong impression.

It was as if he really loved her enough to not care about her appearance.

However... How could that be?

How many of such men existed in this world?

Especially a man as handsome as he was. Even if he was no longer the one standing on the top of the pyramid, a lot of women were still willing to throw themselves at him.

“That’s enough.” Catherine turned away and lowered her dark eyelashes. “Eldest Young Master, it must be very tiring to force yourself this way. You’ll end up vomiting in the washroom later.”

“It doesn’t matter. I have a lifetime to prove it to you.”

Shaun kissed her forehead. “Chester said you can’t eat solid food right now because your stomach can’t digest it. I’ll get a bottle of warm milk for you.”

He got up and went to the kitchen.

The door to the ward was pushed open, and Freya immediately rushed in.

“Cathy, Shaun told me that you’re hospitalized...” When she saw Catherine’s face, she screamed in disbelief. “Why is your face...”

“Oh, it’s ruined.” Catherine smiled at her.

“What the hell happened? I couldn’t reach you at all these days. I even called the police.” Freya suddenly started to cry.

“Why is God treating you like this? You were so beautiful, the most beautiful one in school. Boys looked at you no matter where you went...”

“Enough. I didn’t call you here to talk about things that would make her sad.” Shaun handed Catherine the milk and interrupted Freya coldly.

Freya became infuriated at the sight of him. The fire in her eyes burned. “I don’t even have to guess. You must have something to do with why she ended up like this. To think that you’re the richest man in Australia. If you ask me, you’re just a piece of trash who can’t even protect a woman. What’s the point of you having one? You should just spend your entire life alone.”

“Freya...” Catherine was a little anxious. Although she found Freya’s rant refreshing, she was afraid that Freya would offend him.

“You...” It was the first time Shaun was scolded so blatantly by a woman who was not Catherine. Anger welled up in his belly, but he could not refute it.

“What? Did I say anything wrong?” Freya cursed at him with reddened eyes. “So what if your Hill family is rich? My Catherine is no doubt the most beautiful woman in the capital. She could have married a man who loves her and protects her, but now it’s completely ruined.”

“It’s not ruined. I’ll marry her,” Shaun said.

“Hah. You want to marry her and then dump her again in a few years? Don’t you think getting divorced once is enough? I don’t believe that a scumbag like you will love her forever now that she’s like this.”

Freya did not believe him at all. In her eyes, Shaun was only acting out of his guilty conscience.

“Freya Lynch, how dare you scold Shaun like that? Know your place.”

From the door, an angry man's voice suddenly sounded.

Freya looked back and saw that there were two young men at the door. One was Chase, and the other wore a pink printed shirt. He had handsome features, but his eyes were full of malice. He was the one who spoke.

"Oh, it's you." Freya remembered him. She had seen him before when she went to the harbor to meet Shaun. He was playing cards with Shaun back then, but she did not remember him to be this annoying.

Rodney scoffed coldly and was just about to speak when Freya suddenly yelled at him, "Shut your mouth. You're all a bunch of dog sh*t. Birds of a feather flock together."

"What did you say?" Rodney was infuriated. "You stupid woman. Do you know who I am?"

"Stupid? I think you're the stupid one. I know who you are. I told you, you're just a piece of dog sh*t..." Since Freya disliked Shaun, she also disliked his friends.

"Freya..." Catherine was truly worried because she knew Rodney's true identity. "He's..."

"Cathy, don't say anything. I know. He must be some hotshot from an influential family, but I'm not afraid. At most, I'll just be disfigured with you. I owe you this much. If I didn't mistake Shaun Hill for someone else in the first place, you wouldn't have gotten involved with him."

Freya almost cried out of remorse.

"Oh, so it all started because of you. I knew stupid girls like you only know how to talk big, and you

don't mean it at all," Rodney said viciously.

"Shut your mouth, you ladyboy," Freya roared at him.

"What did you say?" Rodney's handsome face was about to turn into ice.

"Did I say anything wrong? You're a man wearing a pink shirt. You look prettier than women and you talk more than a woman. Are you a man or a woman?"

"You stupid woman. If I don't kill you..." Rodney was about to charge at her in anger, but Chase hurriedly held him back. "Bro, calm down."

"Didn't you hear her scold me? How can I calm down?" Rodney was furious.

Freya added slyly, "Don't be mad. You're pretty, so you look good even when you're angry."

Catherine had a headache. "Freya, that's enough. He's your boss. He's Rodney Snow, the president of Osher Corporation."

Freya was speechless.

What?

She had never met the president, but as an employee of the company, she knew that the boss's name was Rodney Snow. According to the rumors, Rodney was handsome and disciplined...

What the f*ck. That was him?

"Freya Lynch, you're dead." Rodney sneered at her.

"Fine, I get it. I know the consequences of offending my boss. I'll just get lost. I'll go back to pack my stuff." Freya could not care less.

"Don't forget the contract you signed with the company. Your contract is different from ordinary employees. You signed a confidentiality agreement. If you dare to leave your job without permission, I want to see who in the industry will dare to hire you in the future." Rodney threatened.

"Young Master Rodney, my friend only got angry because of what happened to me. I hope you won't take it personally." Catherine had to turn to Shaun. "Freya speaks impulsively, but think about it. If it were you who were disfigured, wouldn't your friends get angry as well? Just like that last time when you taught me a lesson..."

"What? What lesson did he teach you?" Freya glared at Rodney. "Are you still a man for bullying a woman?"

"If you say another word, I'll prove to you that I'm a man." Rodney warned.

"That's enough, stop fighting. This is a hospital ward. The patient needs to rest." Shaun interrupted coldly, and everyone immediately quietened down.

Shaun's eyes swept across the room and landed on Rodney. "Rodney, you're a man, so be generous. Freya is Catherine's friend. Leave her alone."

“...”

Rodney looked at Freya, who only rolled her eyes at him. “Shaun, you’re really ungrateful. I only spoke up for you because she was scolding you.”

Chase pulled him and said in a low voice, “Rodney, that’s enough. I can understand Freya. To be honest, seeing Rin like this, I’m also very angry at Shaun. I even blamed myself. I shouldn’t have called Shaun to Melbourne back then.”

He thought that they were a match made in heaven, but it turned out to be an ill-fated love.

Rodney looked at Catherine’s appearance and suddenly fell silent.

Honestly, he did not like her much before, but he felt sad for her now as well.

“If you think of me as a brother, then think of a gift for my wedding. I plan to hold a sensational wedding with her in a month.” Shaun’s dark eyes looked at Catherine as he said seriously, “You don’t believe me, but I want to tell the whole world that no matter her looks won’t change my love for her.”

Catherine suddenly looked up and met his gaze in shock.

She really could not figure out what he was thinking.

Was he... not tired of this?

“I’m not willing,” she said after a long time. “Do you want the whole world to see my disfigured face?”

Shaun’s handsome face stiffened.

Catherine said every word loud and clear, “What I wanted was never for the world to know how much you love me. All that is superficial. Do you understand?”

Her words were like a sharp knife stabbing into his heart.

Shaun did not want to understand anything. All he knew was that he owed her too much. In this life, he wanted to keep her by his side and take care of her.

...

Catherine stayed in the hospital to nurse her health.

Shaun accompanied her by the bed every night.

Word about Shaun bringing people to surround the Hill manor when he saved her had spread all over Canberra.

Nowadays, Canberra was full of chaos and undercurrents.

In the midst of the undercurrent, a happy event suddenly shocked the city.

The daughter of the Yule family, Melanie Yule, and Charlie Campos from the Campos family were engaged to be married next Saturday. Their matchmaker was Old Madam Hill from the Hill family.

Catherine was resting in the ward when she saw the news. She was stunned.

She had heard about the Campos family before.

The Campos family was apparently a very ordinary family in Canberra more than twenty years ago. However, after Mason Campos married Lea Hill, the Campos family quickly became one of the four great families of Canberra with the Hill family's support.

Now that Liam had become the heir to Hill Corporation, it meant that the Hill family would be Liam's in the future. Since Liam's parents were also members of the Campos family, the Campos family would definitely become second only to the Hill family in the future.

It was no wonder Melanie suddenly had a change of heart and stopped pestering Shaun.

So that was the reason.

However, Melanie was not that smart. It was most likely Nicola who took advantage of the debt the Hill family owed her.

Nicola Wicks was not a simple person.

That night, Melanie uploaded a short video online. “Yes, I’m getting engaged. I know everyone is wondering why I want to get married so suddenly. The reason is simple. I’m too tired, and it’s really hard loving someone. In the future, I want to find a person who loves me, forgives me, dotes on me, and treats me like a little princess, not like a lowly speck of dirt.”

[My heart hurts for little princess Melanie. You must love yourself in the future. Tell that scumbag Shaun to go to hell.]

[Scumbag Shaun is finished. He’s not worthy of you.]

[Did you know? I heard the person who seduced Shaun Hill is Melanie Yule’s half-sister. She’s apparently Joel Yule’s illegitimate daughter.]

[No way, Joel Yule is one of the top ten outstanding figures in Australia. He’s a good man who cares for his family and loves his wife. Sh*t’s about to go down now.]

in Hill Corporation, and that person is me,” Liam said with a cold scoff.

“Alright, I also want Liam to take charge of Hill Corporation. Shaun wants to marry Catherine Jones, but he’s emotionally unstable and almost hurt Valerie back then. I dislike him even more now.”

Lea shook her head. If she could return to the past, she definitely would not have given birth to Shaun.

...

After lunch.

A gentle and comfortable warm breeze blew in from the window, blowing at Catherine languidly. She closed her eyes in a daze, wanting to sleep, but she suddenly felt someone kissing her face.

Who was it?

The familiar crisp cedar scent wafted from the other party did not disgust her at all.

Catherine's sleepy eyes slowly opened, and she saw the dazzlingly handsome face. He looked more photogenic in person than on TV.

"Are you awake, you lazy piggy? You've been sleeping for more than two hours." Shaun pinched her nose like a lovestruck man and said in a doting tone.

Catherine was in a trance for a moment and thought she was in Melbourne.

However, even back in Melbourne, he was rarely this gentle and doting.

"When did you come?"

She hurriedly sat up. He was just in time. She had many questions she wanted to ask him.

"Not long, about an hour ago. I came in just in time to see you snoring." Shaun looked at his watch

and teased.

“Nonsense. I don’t snore.” Catherine played out the image in her head and retorted in embarrassment.

“How would you know if you’re snoring when you’re already asleep?” Shaun had not seen her like this for a long time, so he deliberately teased her.

“...Fine, it’s good that I snore anyway. At least no one will come and sleep with me in the future.” Catherine rolled her eyes at him.

“You’re my wife. Who am I going to sleep with if not you?” Shaun smirked and narrowed his eyes at her.

“That’s enough, Shaun. We divorced a long time ago. I don’t know where you got that fake wedding certificate...”

“Who said that it’s fake? See for yourself.” Shaun took out some documents, one of which was given to him when she signed the divorce papers.

Catherine snatched it over to take a look. It was exactly the same as the original one. “We... didn’t we get a divorce?”

“To be exact, we just signed the divorce agreement. We haven’t completed the formalities yet.”

Shaun gave her a sidelong glance. “When we signed the papers, it was already at the end of the year, and the City Hall was also closed for the holiday. Who knew that we’d bump into each other so soon after you came to Canberra. Heh, you even found a fiance just ten days later.”

Catherine blushed with shame. In other words, she was the one who cheated in marriage?

“You weren’t bad either. You also found a girlfriend,” she quickly retorted. “Then, you even directly denied that you had any relation to her. I saw with my own eyes how lovingly you held her hand when you met her parents. I almost called you brother-in-law.”

“You’re jealous.” Shaun flicked the tip of her nose. He was particularly cheerful when he saw her rare mischievous look.

“You overthink. I’m not jealous.” Catherine looked away. Never mind hating him, with her looks, she was not even qualified to be jealous.

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 390

“Since he didn’t talk to you about it, then it’s not my place to say anything either.” Chester smiled politely. “You don’t have to overthink. Just know that he loves you.”

So everyone knew that he loved her.

Catherine slowly lowered her eyes. Yet somehow, there was a bad feeling in her heart that could not be dispelled. “But I want to know who hurt him. I’m worried he angered the Hill family because of me...”

“Shaun isn’t a simple person, so the Hill family can’t do anything to him. Don’t worry. Right now, only you can hurt him.” When Chester walked to the door, he turned around and smiled at her. “You’ve also started to care about Shaun. Does that mean you’re willing to forgive him?”

Catherine was stunned for a few seconds, and her face subconsciously heated up.

Chester chuckled. "Please stay with him. Shaun is a little grumpy, but it has to do with his upbringing. As you can see, most people in wealthy families are selfish and only think about their own interests. Shaun is actually quite pitiful."

After he left, the phrase 'Shaun is actually quite pitiful' echoed in Catherine's mind for a long time.

Who would have thought that the richest man in Australia would be described as pitiful?

However, when she thought about how he was isolated and abandoned by everyone in the Hill family, her heart could not help but ache.

At that moment, Aunty Yasmine entered and asked, "Young Madam, can I make you some porridge for dinner today?"

Catherine nodded and added a moment later, "Make some chicken soup too, and add some herbs in it."

Aunt Yasmine was doubtful. "But the doctor said your stomach won't be able to digest the tonic at this time..."

“...No, it’s for you and Shaun.” Catherine hurriedly looked down at her phone to cover up her embarrassment.

Aunt Yasmine pursed her lips into a smile. She had long seen through these two people’s affection for each other. Now that the Young Madam was finally willing to care about the Eldest Young Master, she hoped that their days would continue to grow better.

“Of course, I’ll make some, but Young Madam, I’ll tell the Young Master that you were the one who asked me to make it. Otherwise, he won’t take it. As you can see, he’s usually not very willing to eat my cooking.”

Catherine bit her lip. If he found out, he would be very happy to know she cared about him again.

She did not want to see his smug look.

“You don’t have to be embarrassed. The Eldest Young Master’s health is more important. He hasn’t had something nutritious for a long time, and he’s too fussy about food.” Aunt Yasmine sighed.

Catherine thought about his wound and nodded helplessly.

In the evening, Shaun came over for dinner.

When Aunt Yasmine brought out the food, she smiled faintly. “This is the chicken soup the Young Madam specially asked me to make for you.”

Shaun’s eyes lit up and turned to Catherine, but she hurriedly lowered her head to eat and avoid meeting his eyes. However, the tips of her ears were already flushed red.

“Well, since it was specially arranged by my wife, I have to eat it.” Shaun let out a doting smile. He

drank the large bowl of soup until nothing was left. He even finished all the dregs.

Aunty Yasmine was pleasantly surprised. "The Young Madam has to give the word. I've never seen the Young Master eat so many dishes."

Catherine was speechless. He was not a small eater when he was in Melbourne, but he had so many bad habits when he came back to Canberra.

"I can't help it. Since the Missus spoke, I have to listen obediently, or she might not let me go to bed at night." A pleased smile spread across Shaun's face.

Catherine could not bear to listen to him out of embarrassment and kicked him viciously.

"Beating is a sign of affection, cursing is a sign of love." Shaun raised his handsome brows. He looked like he was unafraid of the consequences.

Catherine was completely helpless against him and could only eat her dinner silently.

At 9:30 pm, Catherine was ready to turn off the lights to sleep, but Shaun suddenly took off his clothes and climbed in quickly.

"Shaun Hill, go away..." They had been sleeping in separate beds ever since Catherine was hospitalized, so she kicked him away as she was not used to it.

"Ouch, it hurts." Shaun made a pained expression.

"Stop acting. Your leg isn't injured." Catherine snapped at him.

“Are you trying to cripple me?” Shaun gave her a bitter look.

“...”

Right at this moment, Catherine was grateful that she had turned the lights off earlier. Otherwise, Shaun would have seen the embarrassment on her cheeks. Her disfigured face would certainly be a sore sight.

“I wasn’t...”

“You were definitely trying to cripple me. Why don’t you check and see if I’m injured?” He laughed mischievously into her ears.

“Sure, I’ll have a look after I give you another kick.”

Finally, she lifted her leg once more.

He reacted quickly and grabbed her leg that was hanging in mid-air. “My good girl, do you really want to cripple me?”

Catherine felt a shudder run down her spine upon hearing that endearing term. She really could not fathom why the man was not bothered by her ugly face. “Shaun, can you stop it? I want to get to bed.”

“Husband and wife share a bed.”

After saying that, he even placed their marriage certificate right next to the pillows, as if worried that she might have forgotten about their marital status.

She was speechless as a complicated feeling materialized in her heart. “Aren’t you afraid of getting nightmares from seeing my ugly face in the middle of the night?”

“There’s nothing to be afraid about. As long as you’re still the same in other places.” His face revealed he was not in the least concerned.

Once again, her face flushed red within seconds. “You’re wrong if you don’t think I have the galls to cripple you.”

“Cathy, I’m just trying to tell you that nothing’s going to change how I feel about you. It doesn’t matter how you look.”

He went under the covers to embrace her tightly. She was unsure how to react to the genuineness in his voice.

This man was truly... Sigh, she had no words for it.

Did he really not care about her facial disfigurement?

Awesome.

“Do you believe me now? If not, I’m going to prove it with my actions.” Shaun looked at her in the eye intensely without holding back any emotions.

This took Catherine by surprise and she quickly nodded. “Fine, stop talking. I believe you.”

“Can I get a kiss?” He leaned closer to ask for a kiss.

She heard her heart pounding erratically beneath the skin.

This man... truly did not care about her appearance?

She could tell that he was not pretending.

The way he kissed her was still the same as before. Nothing had changed.

It was as if he would never get bored of kissing her at all.

On the third day, Catherine headed straight to Hudson Corporation after she was officially discharged from the hospital.

She had not shown up at the company for about half a month. The first thing she did upon her return was to organize an emergency meeting with the executives.

However, all of the executives were stunned into silence the second they saw her face.

She knew she looked horrible now but the doctor had mentioned it was important to let the wounds breathe. Therefore, she decided not to cover up her face today.

“Apologies. Many things have happened lately and my face... might never recover. I hope all of you are not too shocked by this.” She faced the crowd calmly.

The executives were impressed that this young woman in her early 20s was able to deal with an unfortunate fate with such composure.

“Chairwoman Jones, don’t lose hope. With today’s advanced technology, your appearance will certainly recover. It’s just a matter of time,” General Manager Wolfe said to comfort her.

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 392

“It’s not that big of a deal, really. I don’t manage the company with my looks but with my capability,” Catherine replied half-jokingly. “Alright, let’s move on to discuss the progress of the ongoing projects in various places...”

The meeting ended an hour later.

Catherine returned to her office to find an invitation card from Melanie and Charlie on the desk. They were throwing an engagement ceremony in the Pavilion Intercontinental Hotel tomorrow.

What was Melanie trying to say with the invitation?

Just as she was thinking about this, she received a call from an unfamiliar number. “Elder Sister, have you seen my invitation card?”

“Don’t call me that. I don’t have a younger sister who tried to steal my husband.” Catherine could be confident with the marriage certificate on her side.

“You really have the cheek. Who’s the third party here?”

Melanie almost screamed out of anger but took a deep inhale instead. “Fine. I’ve finally found my happiness. You’re Dad’s daughter no matter what and nothing can change the fact that we share the same blood. I’m sure you’re not going to miss your younger sister’s engagement ceremony right?”

“I’ll definitely be there since you’ve kindly invited me.”

Melanie was startled by the unexpected positive reply. “You’re most welcome. Oh, by the way, I heard about your facial disfigurement. Don’t forget to wear a veil tomorrow. I don’t want you scaring off my guests. I look forward to seeing you.”

She hung up the call after a chuckle.

Catherine finally understood the intention. They were hoping for a chance to ridicule her.

However, she was not too bothered about what these insignificant people thought about her appearance.

Perhaps they would not be the ones feeling disgusted tomorrow.

...

Elle came to pick her up after work.

“Eldest Young Master is working overtime tonight, so he couldn’t pick you up.”

She explained after Catherine positioned herself in the backseat.

This caught the latter by surprise. She knew Shaun must have other investments even after being dismissed as the president of Hill Corporation. However, she seemed to know nothing at all about his current work affairs.

“Which company is he working in at the moment?”

Elle’s eyes flickered upon hearing the question and she fell into silence.

“It’s fine if you’re unwilling to answer.” Catherine twitched the corners of her lips. “I’m just casually asking.”

She sounded nonchalant but in actuality, there was an unpleasant taste in her mouth.

Perhaps Shaun’s touching confession from when she was hospitalized before had broken the defensive wall built around her fragile heart. Upon learning the two of them were still married, she could not help having expectations of him.

Women could really disappoint themselves sometimes.

A few loving and touching words could make them feel more special than anyone else.

Elle frowned, slightly frustrated. "Eldest Young Master isn't deliberately hiding things from you. I'm just afraid that you might overthink after hearing the company's name."

Catherine looked up as if she had suddenly remembered something. "Is it possible... that the name is related to that woman named Sarah?"

"Young Madam, I'm not sure how to handle your intelligence."

That was it.

Did that woman really mean so much to him?

Was she so important that her name was his company's name?

Although the woman in question had already passed away, Catherine still felt a strange feeling in her heart at the thought of this.

"It's called Shaunarah," Elle explained, "But the company was established five years ago, before Eldest Young Master met you. I'm sure he wouldn't use this name if he had started a new company today."

"Alright." Catherine turned sideways to look out the window.

Shaunarah...

Evidently, it was a wordplay of their names, Shaun and Sarah. What a lovely name.

Catherine thought that he probably would not love her this much if that woman named Sarah was still alive.

Catherine had a shower after returning to New Metropolis Park and scurried into the study with her laptop.

Every department of her company had emailed her the sales data of real estate in various regions. She was quickly distracted after scanning through the reports briefly. She could not resist searching up Shaunarah Corporation online.

The results took her by great surprise.

Shaunarah Corporation was established less than five years ago.

However, its market value had already surpassed 200 billion dollars.

Besides, the largest profitable business in both Shaunarah Corporation and Hill Corporation was in electronics projects.

Undoubtedly, Hill Corporation's position in the industry was unshakable. Despite that, Shaunarah Corporation managed to stand out from the crowd and controlled over a quarter of the profits in the aforementioned industry.

In other words, Shaun had begun this plan in secret about five years ago.

Did he long expect that he would be abandoned by the Hill family?

Right this instant, she felt a shudder pass through her.

“Are you researching Shaunarah Corporation?”

Shaun’s voice rang behind her all of a sudden.

Startled, she shut the laptop quickly. A complicated feeling materialized in her heart upon seeing the man behind her who had appeared out of nowhere.

“I’ve already seen the screen. Did Elle tell you about it?” He leaned against the desk elegantly.

“Yup. But only because I asked her about it,” she said immediately for fear that he would blame the bodyguard.

“It’s not a bad thing that you’re showing concern for your husband.” He bent over with a smile on his face. “But you can ask me anything that you’re curious about instead of looking it up online.”

“...” She pursed her lips, unsure of what to reply.

He patted her on the head. “Do you think that I’m terrifying for secretly establishing Shaunarah Corporation five years ago to go against Hill Corporation?”

“Not really? I understand the importance of preparing for a rainy day.”

“You’re quite young, so perhaps you don’t know that Hill Electronics didn’t use to be the corporation’s most profitable business. It started out with its main focus in finance and did poorly in the electronics industry. The financial crisis happened after I took over the corporation, hence I had no choice but to strengthen its position in the electronics industry. But I’m only the president, after all. In other words, I’m just another employee. I had to come up with a backup plan...”

He continued saying, “If I were to successfully inherit Hill Corporation, Shaunarah would continue to exist in second place forever and no one would find out the real boss behind the company.”

“But you’re no longer the president of Hill Corporation. Do you plan to lead Shaunarah to surmount your family business?” Catherine asked.

“The entire team working for Hill Corporation’s electronic experimental project has already resigned and soon they’ll come to work for me in Shaunarah. Hill Corporation will soon be eliminated without the microchip. The electronics industry changes rapidly with each passing day.”

The woman suddenly felt so stupid.

She thought he had given up Hill Corporation for her.

Honestly, she had also been stunned by the bold move.

Well, as it turned out, he already had a backup plan in place.

He would never be eliminated from the top of the hierarchy. Perhaps he might become even more powerful in the future. When that happened, he would really be the richest man in the country

without being restrained by anyone else.

“Why are you telling me these? Aren’t you afraid that I might let the secret out?”

“No, you won’t, because you’re my wife.” He lifted her from the chair, sat himself down, and placed her on his lap.

She lowered her gaze to the ground to hide the sarcasm in her eyes.

‘Wife?’

‘Forget it. The name Shaunarah belongs to you and another woman.

‘Shaun, don’t you feel the tiniest bit guilty when you say these words to me?’

“Shaunarah is a nice name. How did you come up with it?” she suddenly asked in a casual manner.

Shaun came home from work to pick Catherine up.

She stepped forward to grab his hand, and her eyes sparkled like the stars in the night sky. “I really like this evening gown.”

“That’s what matters.”

He said with raised eyebrows. As long as she was pleased, it was worth him spending all night stealing this evening gown from Melanie.

On the way to the hotel, the car came to a halt at the intersection, waiting for the traffic light to turn green.

Catherine suddenly noticed something outside the window and felt her heart flutter. "Pull up at the front of the road. I want to get something from the pharmacy."

"What do you need? I'll go." Shaun looked her in the eye.

"Um... birth control pills," she replied unnaturally.

"Actually, we can think about having kids," he said with a serious look, "I'll be a good father."

"..." She had no words to reply to him. Their relationship was too unstable for having kids.

Besides, she still had to take care of many problems.

"I don't want kids now. I'm still a kid myself at this age," she said, turning her face away. Her voice reeked of determination.

“Alright. I’ll get you the pills.”

The car pulled up at the roadside. Shaun entered the pharmacy alone. “I’d like some Vitamin C tablets and birth control pills.”

The salesperson at the pharmacy got him what he requested.

Right there and then, he swapped the contents of the bottles in front of the salesperson.

“...” The salesperson was speechless.

Would a handsome man like him need to trap a woman with kids?

Upon getting into the car, Shaun handed over the pills and a bottle of water to Catherine. “I’ll let you off the hook this time but pills like these aren’t good for your health. I’ll use protection next time.”

Next time...

She glared at the man with embarrassment after glancing at Hadley who was sitting in the front. This shameless man.

“My girl, it’s nothing to be shy about. Aren’t we husband and wife?” Shaun smiled mischievously.

“...” She refused to reply.

Forget it, the conversation would only get worse.

...

Pavilion Intercontinental Hotel.

This five-star hotel by the ocean was only built in recent years.

It had a private beach and seven restaurants that served delicacies from all around the world.

Numerous wealthy people and celebrities loved throwing their lavish weddings at this popular spot.

The engagement ceremony was held at the private beach and garden.

Melanie was enjoying the compliments from her guests.

“Charlie is so generous that he even reserved the entire hotel for you,” Aunty Irene said with a smile.

“That’s right, Melanie. I’m so envious,” Yvonne Yule, Melanie’s cousin, echoed.

“You two are exaggerating. As a matter of fact, Charlie is the investor of this hotel or else he wouldn’t have reserved the whole place,” Melanie boasted as if she was talking about the Versaille Palace.

“Oh wow, so this hotel actually belongs to Charlie! I heard that the hotel’s turnover for this year is

among the top three of all hotels in Australia. That's impressive.'

"That's right." Melanie shifted her gaze toward Charlie who was being surrounded by the crowd. The man was quite attractive, although not as handsome or fit as Eldest Young Master Hill. Besides, his future was full of opportunities and potential.

Everyone from the Hill family was present today, not to mention the other influential names in the politics and business industry. She felt distinguished for having these guests at her engagement ceremony.

This was the wedding she had been dreaming of.

Shaun would probably regret his choice when he arrived later. It was his fault for not wanting to marry her.

Plus, there was Catherine as well. That disfigured woman must be so envious of her.

"Look, Eldest Young Master Hill is here! He's accompanied by Catherine Jones."

Aunty Irene shouted out of the blue.

Everyone present at the private beach turned their heads to the entrance. Shaun came in while dressed in a white tux. He rarely showed up in public events wearing white but right this moment, he resembled Prince Charming from all the fairytales. The other male guests present could not compare to him.

Besides, Charlie, the groom-to-be, was also dressed in a white tux today. He looked so average in

comparison to Shaun's charming appearance.

Enraged, he smashed the wine glass in his hand.

On the other hand, Melanie had also failed to compose her emotions. This was because she noticed the light blue evening gown that Catherine was wearing at the moment.

She had wanted to wear that piece of masterwork from expert designer BonnyKing for her engagement ceremony yet she failed to get her hands on it despite offering a lofty sum. However, Catherine now showed up at the ceremony wearing that exact dress.

Yvonne covered her mouth before whispering, "Is that the evening gown you..."

Melanie threw her a piercing stare immediately.

"It's alright. Catherine's face is horrendous anyway. It's a waste that the evening gown fell into her hands," Yvonne said a few seconds later.

"You're right." In the past, Melanie was jealous of Catherine for being prettier than her.

She could not be happier about the woman's facial disfigurement.

After cheering up a little, she walked toward the newly-arrived couple with Charlie.

"Eldest Young Master Hill, your presence at my engagement ceremony brings light to our humble

ceremony.” Charlie stepped forward while smiling. Despite the polite greeting, he did not initiate a handshake.

This was Catherine’s first time meeting Charlie.

Honestly, the man was rather good-looking and probably stood at about 5’7 feet tall. However, he looked sleazy when he smiled. He did not exude an honorable elegance like Shaun naturally did.

President Thompson, who was standing nearby, laughed. “Bring light to your humble ceremony? Young Master Campos, you have a bright future ahead of you. Second Young Master Hill even signed a new collaboration strategy agreement after taking over the family business. You have so much more potential than a certain someone.”

Melanie was over the moon upon hearing that. She linked arms with Charlie before flashing a meaningful smile. “President Thompson, you shouldn’t have said that. Eldest Young Master Hill is the most respectable young master in Canberra, not to mention the wealthiest man in Australia.”

“The wealthiest man?” President Thompson gave a snort of contempt. “He only managed to do so because of the help from the Hill family. He’s nothing without his family’s support.”

The man paused briefly for dramatic effect before shouting at the old man who was standing not far away, “Am I right, Old Master Hill?”

The latter sneered as he threw a sideways glance at Shaun. “It’s a shame the man himself doesn’t seem to realize that.”

President Thompson did not even try to hide the disdain in his eyes when he looked at Shaun. “Eldest Young Master Hill, take care. You should enjoy the feast tonight with your wife. Perhaps no one else would invite you to such exclusive events in the future.”

“Well, then I shall thank President Thompson for your advice.” The corners of Shaun’s lips twitched into an enigmatic smile. He did not appear annoyed or frustrated but looked more like he was watching a ridiculous puppet show.

“Eldest Young Master Hill, please don’t be upset.” Melanie suddenly used a hand to cover her mouth as if she had only just noticed Catherine. “Oh, what happened to your face? Yikes, the uneven texture looks terrifying.”

Something cold flashed across Shaun’s eyes. He parted his lips, intending to retaliate.

Catherine tightened her grip around his hand and smiled calmly. “It’s quite scary. Sometimes, I even hate myself in the middle of the night. But fortunately, Shaun gave me the confidence I needed by staying with me, encouraging me, and loving me. He doesn’t even bat an eyelid at the other women who keep trying to seduce him.”

The calmness of her tone made Melanie’s insult seem insignificant.

Quite the contrary, Catherine’s words implied that Melanie had once pestered Shaun yet he would still rather be with a disfigured woman than her.

Melanie was furious at the humiliation, but an enigmatic smile flashed across Charlie’s face. “Mrs. Hill, men don’t always tell the truth. After all, what happened to your face is truly sympathetic.”

“That’s right, I feel bad for you too,” Melanie echoed, “Besides, sometimes men say what they have to say for dignity’s sake.”

“Indeed, it’s important that a man guards his reputation. Ah, Young Master Campos, when I first arrived in Canberra and heard about the infamous rumor about you and the female university student, I thought the poor girl was going to have a change of fate. As it turns out, I was wrong.”

After pausing for a brief second, Catherine said seriously to Melanie, “My younger sister, since it’s your engagement ceremony today, I’d like to give you a genuine word of advice. Every woman will turn old or ugly one day. Beautiful women are everywhere yet inner beauty never fades away. This is the real secret of maintaining a long-lasting marriage.”

“You’re right, my wife.”

Shaun said before turning to look at President Thompson. “I bet you understand this really well. After all, President Thompson, you always go after girls as young as 18. I heard you’ve found yourself another young girl recently. Mrs. Thompson must know that she’s old, thus she turns a blind eye to it all. Sigh.”

All of a sudden, Catherine pretended to be angry and glared at Charlie. “Young Master Campos, you’re a good friend of President Thompson but I hope you’re not going to follow his way of life. You mustn’t disappoint Melanie, alright? ”

Charlie’s face was overcast after being humiliated like this at his own engagement ceremony. Melanie, who was quite smug earlier, also felt ashamed now.

She initially thought that Charlie was a pretty good man yet did not expect him to have a past with a young university student. The thought of it made her nauseous.

“No way. It was love at first sight between us. I’ll love and protect Melanie forever.” Charlie smiled unnaturally.

“I see. Well, Young Master Campos, it must’ve been difficult for you before this, trying to maintain this one-sided love. After all, you had to watch the love of your life pestering another man...”
Catherine quickly covered her mouth with her hand. “Ah, pretend I didn’t say that.”

“Catherine, are you doing this on purpose?” Melanie became furious. **“I had poor judgment in the past. Charlie is so much better than Shaun in every way.”**

“I understand.” Catherine nodded affirmatively. **“Especially now that Liam has taken over the family business. Otherwise, I don’t think you’d even throw him a second glance.”**

“Stop with the nonsense...”

Melanie regretted inviting Catherine after seeing the color slowly draining off Charlie’s complexion.

She had thought of ridiculing Catherine but certainly did not expect the latter to have such a sharp tongue.

How could she be so arrogant even with the facial disfigurement?

“It’s alright, Melanie. Let’s go. We have more important guests to greet. People of their status don’t deserve too much of our time.” Charlie could not be bothered to keep on with the act any longer.

“You’re right.” Melanie linked arms with the man and walked toward the Hill family.

However, the two of them seemed a little awkward with each other after what they had just learned.

Upon looking at their receding silhouettes, Shaun pinched the tip of Catherine's nose playfully. "Not bad at all. You even found out about Charlie's past with the university student. How did you know about that?"

"Freya told me. She's become acquaintances with several missus and madams of the affluent society and heard a lot of gossip from them," she replied with a smile. "You're pretty good yourself for finding out about President Thompson's love affairs."

"I know the personalities of those presidents too well."

The two of them walked toward the crowd hand-in-hand.

In the past, Shaun would definitely be surrounded by people within seconds but all he received today was looks of ridicule and disdain. Many of them even gossiped about Catherine.

"Don't take it personally. Soon... all these people will come to curry favors with you," he whispered.

"I'll pass. I don't like being fawned over."

Catherine pouted and saw Joel walking toward her. He looked at her face with pity. "Cathy, why didn't you tell me about your face? What actually happened? Shaun Hill, you kept saying you wanted to marry my daughter yet this is how you protect her?"

Shaun frowned, looking displeased.

Joel continued yelling angrily, "I shouldn't have listened to your sweet promises. I should've just left with her..."

“Dad, Nicola was responsible for my facial disfigurement,” Catherine interrupted. “Not long ago, I was locked away by the Hill family in their dungeon. Nicola worked with Valerie and instructed the staff to poison my porridge for this to happen.”

“What?” Joel was in shock. On second thought, it did sound like something Nicola would do. “I’ll go look for this crazy woman...”

“Dad, many distinguishable guests are here to witness the engagement ceremony between the Yule and the Campos families. It’s not the time to make a scene. Besides, Old Master Hill and the others are here too. I’m sure they’re not going to take your side.” She tried to change his mind.

Joel clenched his hands into fists. He was furious. “But your face...”

“Uncle Joel, some things take time,” Shaun said in a low voice, “I’ll make sure those who hurt Catherine will pay for their actions.”

Joel felt a heavy weight lift from his chest. He had enjoyed fame and success for the major part of his life. However, he realized he owed this daughter of his so much that he could never compensate her. “Cathy, I’ve decided to divorce Nicola after Melanie’s wedding. I’ll not change my mind even if everyone in the Yule family tries to stop me.”

She looked at the man in astonishment. Honestly, she thought he was too soft-hearted toward Nicola and Melanie...

“Don’t look at me like that. I’m telling the truth. I hold 40% of Yule Corporation’s shares. I’ve made up my mind to give you 35% and the remaining 5% to Melanie. I’ll get this down on paper with the

lawyer as soon as possible.”

“Dad...”

“That settles it. Just sit back and relax as the shares fall into your lap. I want to make sure you can live without worry for the rest of your life. That way, you can afford to buy yourself a young man even if someone disappoints you in the future.”

He looked provocatively into Shaun’s eyes after saying that.

Catherine almost choked on her saliva.

She did not expect her dad to be so open-minded.

“Dad, I’ll not disappoint her,” Shaun replied with a smile.

“Ha, men are full of lies.” Joel’s voice reeked of distrust.

“...” Shaun was at a loss for words.

Catherine chuckled at the exchange. Her dad’s sense of humor was beyond her expectations.

Nicola, who was watching the entire thing from a short distance away, clenched her teeth.

Joel seemed to be having a good time with his illegitimate daughter at Melanie's engagement ceremony.

"Aunty Nicola, don't worry. I'll teach them both a lesson later." Charlie followed the direction of her gaze as the corners of his lips twitched into an evil smile.

He was certainly not going to forgive those two for the humiliation earlier.

Nicole appeared hesitant. "But the rest of the Hill family are here too..."

"Perhaps there's something you don't know. The entire Hill family is enraged with Shaun right now. No one's more eager than them to see Shaun fall."

"Charlie, Melanie is the lucky one to have found you." Nicole was so delighted she could not stop smiling.

...

The ceremony was about to commence.

The hotel usher led Shaun and Catherine to the table at the end of the hall.

"I'm sorry, these are your seats as only the most distinguished are allowed at the front tables."

A light flickered in Catherine's eyes as she looked over at the front of the hall. The rest of the Hill family were sitting at the center table at the front of the hall. Valerie was even looking at them in disdain when they were brought to the seats at the back.

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