

## Chapter 41 Premeditated

Melanie realized that Hanson was helping Vania to get even. He only cared about Vania, and he had no concern for her at all.

She could only pin her hope on their children. "Hanson, I'm begging you. Please don't take the children away from me. Morales and Morgan are my life, and they're both still so young. How can you separate us? I was just too jealous of Vania. She doesn't need to do anything for you to pay all your attention to her, whereas I'm the one who's been by your side this whole time without even so much of a glance from you.

I couldn't take it, and I just wanted to find some people to scare her off. I didn't plan on doing anything else. Why are you making it out to be such a horrifying thing? I was wrong about this, I really get it now. I'll follow you tomorrow. I'll apologize to her and beg for her forgiveness, but please, please reconsider your decision. Please don't take the children away from me."

"Now you're thinking about what's best for the children? What were you thinking about when you did those things? This is not the first time." Hanson could not stand being in her presence any longer, so he immediately walked off.

Melanie fell to the ground like a deflated balloon. "Arghhh..." She screamed as if she was trying to vent all the pent-up emotions inside her. She crumpled into a heap on the ground with hollow eyes as her tears seemed to have finally dried up.

After a while, she muttered to herself, "Vania, I'll never let you get away with this." Her hollow eyes began to fill with hatred.

She got her phone and dialed a familiar number. "Find out what Hanson did in Eastland," she barked her command and quickly ended the call. Then, she looked up a number in a protected document and anxiously made another call.

The phone began to ring, and as her heartbeat continued to grow louder with every ring, it felt like it was going to jump out of her chest. Finally, the call connected after ten seconds, but to Melanie, it felt like a lifetime.

The moment the call connected, Melanie began to lash out in a hushed voice, saying, "What on earth is going on? I thought everything went according to plan? How did Hanson find out about it? Did Vania make her way back to Hammond without even so much as a scratch?"

However, the call remained silent, and Melanie did not get an answer.

She impatiently demanded, "What's going on? Speak!"

Finally, a polite voice filtered through the speakers. "Miss Greyson, this is Larry Clark speaking."

What? Larry?

Melanie suffered a huge fright and scrambled to end the call. She checked the number that she dialed and confirmed that it belonged to Wesley, so why did Larry answer the call?

Immediately, she crawled over to the voice recorder. Her hands were shaking as she pressed play. What she heard was an audio recording of her call with Wesley, as well as a recording of Hanson interrogating those hooligans.

Why did it turn out like this? She had assumed that Hanson was just standing up for Vania, but she never thought that he knew about the entire plan. What on earth happened in Eastland?

Just as she was lost in her confusion, she received a message that included Hanson's itinerary in Eastland.

When he reached Eastland, he headed straight for Farville and rescued Vania. Then, he spent the night with Vania in a hotel before heading back to Hammond in the morning.

It was such a huge coincidence that Melanie started to wonder whether everything had been a premeditated plan all along.

Chapter 42 | Trust You

Who would have influenced Hanson? Why was he willing to follow Vania to Farville?

Melanie did not know what to do anymore. How was she going to win Hanson back?

All alone in the empty estate, Melanie continued to stew in her thoughts.

After a day of much-needed rest, Vania was finally back to her normal self the next morning. She knew that she was going to sign the contract with Hanson today, so she got up a little earlier than usual.

"My babies, Mommy is heading to the office now, so I'll see all of you tonight."

Her three babies reluctantly watched her leave. "Goodbye, Mommy."

Vania thought that she would be early, but when she arrived at her company, she found that Hanson was already waiting for her. Of course, Melanie was with him as well.

Vania did not bother to even look at Melanie. She smiled at Hanson and said, "I thought we agreed yesterday that I'll make the trip to Luke Corporation. I didn't expect you to show up here this early, Mr. Luke."

When Hanson heard the form of address that Vania used with him, he frowned and corrected her by saying, "Vania, I told you to just call me Hanson." His tone of voice left no room for objection.

He did not want to hear the words 'Mr. Luke' come out of Vania's mouth.

Vania nodded along, but she neither agreed nor disagreed to do so.

However, this was enough for Melanie to start boiling with anger. Are these two people flirting in front of me?!

Since when did Hanson ever allow other people to call him by name? He rebuked her constantly back then when she first started addressing him as Hanson. In the end, he did not bother correcting her any longer, but she knew exactly why. It was not because he had finally accepted her, but it was because he no longer cared what she did. It did not matter to him how she addressed him anymore.

Vania asked her staff to prepare two glasses of water, one for Hanson, and one for herself. She did not get one for Melanie, and she still did not even look Melanie in the eye at all.

Melanie was infuriated by how Vania was ignoring her. It was obvious that Vania was disregarding her on purpose. Even so, since Hanson was with them, Melanie could only patiently wait in silence.

She heard Vania saying politely, "Since you're here, it saves me a trip to your office. This is the contract that my company has prepared. Please take a look and see if there's anything you'd like to discuss."

When Hanson received the document, he did not even bother to look through it. He flipped straight to the back and signed his name with a flourish. Even his signature looked as intimidating as he did.

Vania blinked a few times and asked, "Aren't you going to check the terms of the contract?"

Hanson sounded very indulgent as he said, "I trust you."

Vania shot back and said, "Aren't you afraid that I'll cheat you?"

Hanson shrugged indifferently. "Who cares? I can afford to lose a bit of money if it makes you happy."

Was 150 million a bit of money? The world of Hanson Luke was certainly beyond the imagination of ordinary plebeians.

However, what did he mean by 'If it made her happy'? Did that not sound a little too flirtatious?

As for Melanie, she felt a stir of jealousy again. Was Hanson under some kind of spell? Why did he have so much faith in Vania?

She was beginning to think that Hanson did not bring her here to apologize at all. He simply brought her here to be ridiculed in public.

As for Linda and Larry, they were starting to feel like they were watching a couple on a date.

Vania had been startled by Hanson's words, but soon, she was back to her confident businesswoman self. "Since there are no amendments necessary, then the contract can commence today. I will have a collection of jewelry designs ready within a month, and Luke Corporation will handle all the sales and marketing that comes after."

#### Chapter 43 I Am Here to Apologize

Hanson didn't seem worried at all. He was willing to offer Vania his full support. "No problem. You can contact me anytime with a request."

“Sure,” Vania responded.

Melanie, who was ignored on the side, faced another crisis in her heart. Since the two of them had successfully collaborated, they would have more opportunities to meet in the future. Would the things that she had done be revealed? If so, it would be detrimental to her.

After talking about business, Vania first gazed at Melanie, who was seemingly absent-minded, before looking at Hanson. “Do you have anything else?” she inquired.

Right then, Hanson gave Melanie a meaningful glance and then continued staring at Vania.

She is undeniably beautiful.

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Upon receiving the signal, Melanie immediately retracted her thoughts. She lowered her head in Vania’s direction and said, “I’m here to apologize to you.” That being said, if Vania listened carefully, there was a hint of indignation in Melanie’s tone.

After hearing the other woman’s half-hearted apologies, Vania sneered, “Oh? Apologize? I wonder when you are referring to, Miss Melanie? Is this an apology for what you did five years ago? Or is it about the present moment?”

As she said that, Vania leaned against her executive chair and looked at Melanie condescendingly.

After Melanie heard the words ‘five years ago’, she quickly interrupted, “I am here to sincerely apologize. It’s my fault that I sent someone to intimidate you when you went to Farville. I’m sorry, so please forgive me!”

Melanie was terrified that Vania would suddenly reveal what had happened five years before, so she kept hinting at Vania with her eyes.

Melanie’s admonition, however, no longer frightened Vania. The latter merely said lightly, “Oh—I thought it was another matter. It turns out that you plotted the Farville incident. If you don’t come to apologize, I won’t even know.” With Hanson’s presence, Vania continued and provoked, “I wonder what would have happened if Hanson hadn’t been protecting me. I never expected you to do something so nasty. How could you be so cold-hearted? I didn’t offend you, so why would you do this to me?”

As Vania spoke, she pretentiously wiped away her non-existent tears, portraying herself as a helpless and innocent woman.

Doesn’t Melanie hate me for interacting with Hanson? Then I will do just that.

At first glance, this pretentious behavior could be seen as being fake by others, but Hanson’s face was filled with indulgence. He enjoyed watching Vania’s acting and wanted to see this different side of her.

On the other hand, Melanie was taken aback by Vania’s unexpected response. Vania’s questioning had rendered her speechless and she had no idea how to respond.

After a while, Melanie finally came up with a reason. "At that time, I was jealous of you. I was not thinking clearly, which is why I did it," she explained.

Vania, on the other hand, was still crying innocently. "Why are you jealous of me?" she sobbed. "Was it about my beauty? Or my talent? But I'm indeed both beautiful and talented, so it's pointless to feel jealous of me. Oh—maybe there's something you did that I knew about, and you want to kill me for knowing?"

Melanie's expression suddenly changed when she heard that. "What are you talking about? I have no secrets. I only came to genuinely apologize to you and beg for your forgiveness," she reiterated.

Vania casually pointed to her head with one finger as if she was considering some complicated questions. "But I can't perceive your sincerity," she sneered after a moment of silence.

At once, Melanie stood up and bowed to Vania. "I'm sorry," she apologized.

However, her tone was still filled with unwillingness.

Vania stared coldly at the other woman's actions and she remarked, "I heard that when you apologize to someone, you have to bow ninety degrees because it is considered courteous." Then, she gazed at Hanson deliberately, looking much like a spoiled child. "Am I right?" she asked coquettishly.

#### Chapter 44 Slapping Herself

Although Hanson knew that Vania did it on purpose, he took advantage of her coquetry. "You're right," he concurred.

Melanie clenched her teeth when she saw that. Vania was working with Hanson to intentionally embarrass her.

Hence, she had no choice and could only bow at a ninety degree angle in response to Vania's request. "I'm sorry. Please forgive me."

"Oops!" Vania said with a surprised tone. "I apologize. I was focused on Hanson at the time, so I missed it. I suppose you'll have to do it again."

Melanie gritted her teeth tightly and started all over again.

Just as Melanie thought it was over after she finished bowing, Vania supported her own head with her palm and said, "I don't think your apology is sincere and I don't accept it."

What? Melanie frowned, expressing her impatience. "Then how would you like me to apologize?" she asked.

Vania shrugged innocently and her expression was overly naïve. "Didn't you say that you came to apologize to me? Why are you asking me how to do it? You obviously did not come to sincerely apologize, then. Forget it!" she remarked.

Forget it?

Melanie was stunned for a moment.

No, this can't be happening. I have already promised Hanson!

With that in her mind, Melanie could only endure Vania's willful attitude. At that point, she properly stood in front of Vania and bowed deeply. "Vania, I was wrong. I genuinely apologize to you for my past mistakes. I hope you can forgive me."

At that moment, Vania muttered, "What did you say? Your voice is so low that I can't hear a word."

Melanie repeated what she just said, though she was annoyed by the request.

However, Vania still shook her head, indicating that she did not hear clearly.

So, Melanie could only repeat it and each time, her voice became louder than before. In the end, she repeated them more than ten times, until her voice became hoarse. Only then did Vania nod and state, "I can hear it clearly this time. And then?"

'And then' what?

Melanie's patience was running out due to Vania's torment.

She could tell that Vania was purposefully making things difficult for her.

Vania looked at a stunned Melanie and inquired, "Didn't you say you want to sincerely apologize to me? What's your token of remorse?"

What token of remorse? I thought I had bowed to you!

What exactly does she want from me?

In the end, Melanie tried to seek help from Hanson by looking at him pleadingly, but his eyes were fixed on Vania and he didn't bother to look at her.

That didn't work, so Melanie could only lower her head and scowl.

Then, as if she had made up her mind, she grinned her teeth and slapped herself in front of Vania.

The slap was so hard that the sound echoed throughout the room.

Oh—that looks excruciatingly painful! She does have some guts, Vania mused to herself.

It seems like she is willing to do anything for Hanson.

However, Vania merely put on a confused look and pretentiously asked, "What are you doing?"

Melanie bowed her head and pleaded for mercy in a hushed tone. "Vania, it's all my fault. Please accept my apologies. I know it's all because of my jealousy that caused these things and hurt you. I'm truly sorry. This slap is to remind me that I shouldn't be jealous of you from now on. For the sake of my sincerity, please forgive me."

Melanie purposely said it in a wholehearted tone. She had used all her strength for that slap, and it was so painful that her head started to feel dizzy.

This way, Vania should be able to let me go. Hanson is here after all, and Vania must consider his image.

However, it was wishful thinking for Melanie in using this way to get rid of Vania's retaliation.

Vania didn't seem to be moved by Melanie's apology. Instead, she looked puzzled and asked, "What are you doing? You make it look like I want to use violence against you. I just want you to show remorse but instead, you slapped yourself. You're trying to paint me as somebody who bullies people if I'm on the right side. It seems that you are not genuine in seeking my forgiveness. I can't see the slightest sincerity from you, you know?"

#### Chapter 45 Kneel Before Me

After Vania finished speaking, she gazed at Melanie with a half-smile, wanting to see what kind of reaction the latter would have next.

Melanie, on the other hand, stared at Vania incredulously.

She is so articulate that she can turn black into white with a few sentences!

If she can't see my sincerity after all this, then what does she want? Should I keep slapping myself, or should I find another way to apologize?

But what other way do I have?

At this point, Melanie looked at Hanson innocently, hoping that he would give her some hints.

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But there was nothing from the man. He didn't even bother looking at her, so how could there be any hints?

Seeing Melanie was stuck in a conundrum, Vania said sarcastically, "Oh—by the way, I recalled there was one time when you indiscriminately came to my house at midnight, wanting me to kneel before you and apologize. Does it ring a bell?" Vania's words seemed to hint to Melanie on how to apologize.

Hearing that, Melanie was thunderstruck. Although Hanson knew about this, he didn't know the details. Please don't go any further! she prayed.

On the other hand, Vania could see through Melanie. She gave the latter a teasing look and casually continued, "Well, this matter has given me an idea. Reciprocally, you should kneel and apologize to me. If you do so, I will accept your apology."

It was easy for Vania to say that, yet the words seemed to carry a heavy weight for Melanie to bear.

This woman dares to ask me to kneel and apologize to her?

And publicly, at that? What about my image and reputation?

Melanie couldn't accept Vania's suggestion and glared at her as if she was looking at a wicked person. Immediately, Melanie burst into tears, expressing her innocence. "I always thought you were a righteous

person, but I never expected you would go to this extent to pick on me. I have sincerely apologized to you, so why do you have to force me to a corner like this?!" she cried.

Vania chuckled coldly in response. "I learned this from you. I'm not a righteous person either, so it's just an eye for an eye. What's more, this is incomparable to your viciousness in ruining my reputation and leaving me to die in the mountains."

Vania knew deep down that Melanie was not going to kneel before her and apologize. The latter came here today just for Hanson's sake, and it was nothing but a show.

So, Vania emphasized indifferently, "You were the one who wanted to apologize, and I have never forced you to do so. The only choice you have here is to kneel and apologize. Otherwise, the best choice for you is to turn around and leave."

That being said, how could Melanie turn around and leave? Hence, she humbly begged for mercy. "Vania, please accept my heartfelt apologies. I know you're enraged and it was entirely my fault. I am truly sorry."

After saying that, she squeezed her eyes closed and slapped herself again.

Slap! Slap! Slap!

Melanie continued by slapping herself more than a dozen times. Every strike of hers was accompanied by a loud noise and before long, her cheek was reddened and swollen like a peach.

As she slapped herself, she kept on apologizing, "I was wrong... I was wrong..."

During the whole process, Vania remained silent and simply glanced at the woman indifferently.

She did this to herself. I never asked her to do this.

On top of that, it was only a few slaps. Compared to the intimidation Vania had received and the family affection she had lost, this was nothing. These slaps were far from enough to relieve the rage in her heart.

Meanwhile, Melanie's hand was already hurting from the slapping, but Vania showed no signs of relenting. At that moment, she had reached the breaking point.

Just then, an idea came to her mind. "Ah!" Melanie fell to the ground on her knees and she directed her body toward Hanson.

Chapter 46 Missing Children

Melanie's eyes welled up with tears and she sobbed to Vania, "I was truly wrong. Can you please forgive me?"

Knowing that begging Vania would be useless, she then turned toward Hanson and sniveled, "Hanson, I realized that I was wrong. I have already punished myself and will not do so again. For the sake of our children, please let me go this time."



However, Hanson remained unmoved. Instead, he turned to give Vania a meaningful glance. It was evident that Vania had full control of this matter, and he would not interfere with whatever decisions that she made.

Vania gently caressed her temples with her fingers and she was very happy to see Melanie's reddened and swollen cheek.

Then, she casually parted her lips and said, "You made a big scene here early in the morning. People who don't know the situation would think that I am bullying you. Anyway, I will not forgive you no matter what you do. Just leave."

After saying that, she turned to Hanson and added, "We have already gone over the entire contract between the Galaxy Corporation and the Luke Corporation. If any problems arise, we will communicate and work together to address them."

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Vania's statements were courteous. She said it with a faint smile on her face, but it was obvious to Hanson that she didn't want to entertain them anymore.

Upon getting the hint, Hanson arched his eyebrows and nodded lightly. "Great. I happen to have other things to deal with. See you later," he responded.

After that, Vania made a gesture to send him out. She didn't even look at Melanie's face the entire time.

Melanie simply bowed her head and followed Hanson closely from behind, not wanting anyone to notice her flushed and swollen face.

She followed Hanson to his car, but he stopped her just as she was about to get in.

"I have sent another driver to pick you up. Now, go home and reflect on your mistakes," he stated with a cold expression.

After that, he got into the car and closed the door with a bang.

The car had already long gone before Melanie could even react. The passing car swept up a cloud of dust, covering her face and body in dirt.

Feeling unfortunate, Melanie stomped her feet in frustration. Then, she looked at the Galaxy Corporation with a chilly expression before getting into the car sent by Hanson.

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As soon as she entered the doors of the Luke Estate, Melanie lowered her head and she walked straight to the bathroom. Right now, what she had to do was to lessen the swelling on her face. She did not want the servants to see her with a puffy face.

However, how could she reduce that swelling in such a short time?

And so, Melanie could only put on another layer of make-up on her face, though it didn't cover much of the swelling.

But she couldn't be bothered anymore. Knowing how much Morales and Morgan meant to Hanson, she needed their help. As a result, she dashed into the children's room.

That being said, there was no sign of both of the children when she opened the door.

Thinking they might be in the playroom or other rooms, Melanie searched through all the rooms. However, they were gone.

I haven't seen the children since yesterday afternoon. Did Hanson send Morales and Morgan away to prevent me from seeing them?

Thinking of this, she ran to the first floor and rushed to the kitchen. "Where are Morales and Morgan?" Melanie asked as she grabbed Finley's arm.

All the servants lowered their heads and dared not speak as they saw her reaction, but they were rather curious about what happened to her face.

Right then, Finley respectfully turned to Melanie and reported, "The two young masters have been with President Luke all this time. As for where they went, I'm afraid I don't know. Maybe you can ask President Luke directly."

Chapter 47 | Demand to See Master Mia

Melanie frowned and scrutinized Finley suspiciously. "I was just with Hanson and I didn't see Morales and Morgan with him. What did you do? Why are you hiding it from me? I'm their mother and I have the right to know where my children are."

Finley bowed his head and said, "I'm telling you the truth. The two young masters left with President Luke. If you don't believe me, Miss Greyson, then you can call Mr. Luke and verify my words."

Melanie's heart pitter-pattered uneasily. She had just landed herself in such a huge mess, so she did not have the guts to call Hanson. Even if she did, he probably would not pick up her call. She could only respond to Finley with a cold snort to convey her displeasure before walking away.

She was still trying to come up with a plan to get to the children, but if Hanson kept them by his side, then how was she ever going to get close to them?

Therefore, she could not rest all her hopes on them. Vania rejected her apology today, but Melanie had one final option that could very well save her.

She had to meet Mia Stravinsky and come to an agreement with her.

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If she could accomplish what Hanson could not, and get Mia to agree to collaborate with Luke Corporation, then Hanson would surely see her in a better light. With the help of the two children, Melanie might even be able to keep her position in his life.

She did not have time to mull this over. She had to get this done at once, and the sooner it worked out, the better.

She tidied herself up and had the driver drop her off at Fortune Tower. Upon entering the lobby, she saw the same receptionist that she met yesterday.

Melanie rushed forward and asked, "So? Can I meet Master Mia today?"

While she spoke, she pushed a bank card over to Melody and whispered frantically, "Here's another 1.5 million. I demand to see Master Mia immediately."

Melody gave a courteous smile and graciously accepted the card. "Yes, Miss Greyson. Please wait a moment while I make the arrangements for you."

She even served a cup of coffee to Melanie, but Melanie was in no mood to sit around and wait. In the end, the latter impatiently urged Melody, "Don't bother with these trivial things. Hurry up and let her know I'm here."

Melody nodded politely and said, "Okay." At that, she gave Melanie a meaningful look before walking away.

Soon, she came back and informed Melanie, "Miss Greyson, Master Mia has invited you to her office on the top floor for a meeting."

All at once, Melanie's face lit up with a smile that she had not shown in days. She was filled with glee at the thought of meeting Mia Stravinsky, and even during the short trip up the elevator, Melanie began to imagine the scene of Hanson showering her with praises.

There was only one office on the top floor. When Melanie arrived, the door was tightly shut. She wanted to knock on the door, but an assistant came out of the lounge beside the office and announced politely, "Hello, Miss Greyson. I am Master Mia's assistant. Unfortunately, Master Mia is currently in an appointment with an important client, so you will have to wait for a while."

Melanie hesitated for a moment, but seeing as how she was already right on the doorstep of Mia Stravinsky's office, it seemed unlikely that she would be denied a chance to meet her now. Since Mia was busy, then it was only right for Melanie to wait for a while, as she wanted to leave a good impression.

Chapter 48 Where Is She?

Melanie nodded politely toward the assistant. "Alright, then. I'll wait for her."

The assistant brought her to a lounge area and poured her a cup of coffee before politely requesting that she wait here.

At first, Melanie was able to keep her cool as she waited, but after sitting there for what seemed like hours, she noticed that no one had come out of the office at all.

She was getting rather impatient when the assistant came to refill her cup. By now, Melanie had drunk five whole cups of coffee, and she was not in the mood to drink another.

She frowned and was about to question the assistant, but suddenly, she jumped at the sight of the person who just appeared in front of her. "Why are you here?" she exclaimed.

Her eyes were filled with puzzlement as she had no clue why Vania would show up here at a time like this. They did not get along at all, so if Vania said something negative about her in front of Mia, then Melanie's effort would surely go to waste.

Before Vania could enter the office, Melanie hurried forward to block her path and questioned her in a hushed tone, "What are you doing here?"

Vania sneered at the condescension in Melanie's voice. Melanie had a very different attitude when they met earlier today at the former's company. She marveled at how quickly Melanie's swelling had gone down.

Vania snorted coldly, "What does my business here have to do with you, Miss Greyson?"

Melanie recalled the humiliation when she had to apologize to Vania, and her voice began to color with fury. "I don't care what you're doing here, but I'm warning you, I worked very hard to get Master Mia to give me an appointment today, so you better not mess things up for me. If you do, then I'll surely make you pay!"

However, Vania paid no attention to the other woman as she stated plainly, "Why would I bother myself with your matters?"

Melanie gritted her teeth and reined in her emotions as she did not want to lose her composure right here in Mia's office. She saw the smug look on Vania's face and muttered, "You better mean what you say and don't get in my way."

Vania took a step forward and said, "Be patient and wait. You're bound to get your chance to meet Master Mia."

As soon as she said that, Vania strode past Melanie and headed into the office. Melanie wanted to follow in after her, but the door slammed shut before she could enter.

What did Vania mean? Why does it feel like I won't be able to see Master Mia today? I've been waiting for an entire day, so how much longer must I wait?

Melanie frowned and asked the assistant, "What's going on? I thought you said that Master Mia was in an appointment with an important client? Why is it that she could go right in as soon as she arrived? Why did I have to wait? Are you guys discriminating against me? You'd better tell me right now—when will I get to see Master Mia?"

The assistant bowed her head in silence. It looked as if she had no response for Melanie, and it was almost as if they had indeed been discriminating against Melanie.

Melanie was even more enraged by the way the assistant was acting, so she blew up at her. "You're doing this on purpose, aren't you? On whose orders? Who told you to make life difficult for me? Was it Vania, the woman who just went in? You better take a good look at me and see who I am! I'm Miss Greyson, the daughter of the Greysons, and I'm the mother of Hanson Luke's children! How dare you treat me like this?! I can make you lose your jobs!"

After throwing a spiteful glare at the assistant, Melanie threw caution to the wind and stormed into the office. At that point, she did not care about giving Mia Stravinsky a good impression anymore.

But the office was nearly empty. There was no sign of Mia in a meeting with an important client. Instead, all Melanie saw was Vania sitting behind the desk and staring at her like she was a fool.

#### Chapter 49 Stay Out of My Way

Melanie could not believe her eyes. A look of unease flitted across her gaze as she stared at Vania. "Isn't this Master Mia's office? Isn't she with a client right now? Why is it empty, and why are you sitting there?" Had she been tricked again? Was this one of Vania's schemes?

Melanie was enraged by that thought. She cheated me out of so much money, and she even stopped me from meeting Master Mia! All at once, Melanie stormed over to Vania and began to shriek, "I underestimated you! What a good trick you played on me. First, you gave me Master Mia's address, but it turned out to be a fake one. Then, you got the receptionist to fool me and take my money. What a schemer you are!"

However, Vania retorted nonchalantly, "It's nothing compared to what you've done. You handed my children away to multiple different people and after all my efforts, I still haven't found two of them. Miraculously, I received information about them being in Eastland, but it turned out that you sent a bunch of people to ruin me. Why don't you tell me who's the toxic one between the two of us?"

"You deserved all that!" Melanie was seething with rage.

Upon hearing that, Vania sneered. "I deserved it? And why do I deserve such treatment, huh? You and your mother barged your way into my family and wanted to steal my inheritance. You teamed up with Dylan Jones to set me up and make me lose everything. You wanted to drive me out of the family. I haven't settled my score with you yet, and you dare to say that I deserve to be treated like this by you? I could not take my revenge back then, but now, I am the one in control. I can do whatever I want to you and even if you can't stand it, you don't have a choice!"

However, Melanie snorted arrogantly. "Hah! So what? I was the one who won, and you were chased out of the family. As for your children, I thought you had everything under your control? Why haven't you been able to find them then? All their information is in my hands and if you make me happy, then I'll consider telling you about them. But if you make me unhappy, I won't say a single word. No matter how powerful you are, you still can't force it out of my mouth. I want to see Master Mia, so you better tell me where she really is, or else your children's lives are about to become a whole lot worse!"

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Vania's tone was dripping with derision as she said, "Melanie Greyson, can't you change it up every once in a while and come up with a new threat? Is this all you have? I'm tired of hearing it already. I don't need your help to find my children. In fact, there are so many ways that I can just destroy you right now. Don't you think I don't know why you're looking for Master Mia? Hanson doesn't want to bother himself with you anymore, am I right? You can't even see your children now, right?"

Do you think that just by meeting up with Master Mia, you're going to win back Hanson's heart? Stop dreaming! Sooner or later, he's going to find out everything you've done in the past. But don't worry, I won't tell him now. I'd much rather let him put it together piece by piece. It's going to be so much fun."

Vania's words only served to drive Melanie mad, especially when she said that Hanson no longer cared about the latter anymore.

"How do you know all this? Were you the one who said something to Hanson that made him treat me like this? I'm warning you, even if I don't get what I want, I won't let you get it either."

However, Vania simply smirked. "Don't be so sure about that. I can easily get my hands on things that you'd never be able to. One example is Master Mia, who you've been longing to meet."

Immediately, Melanie's expression became grim and she snarled, "What are you doing? Don't even think about getting in my way! I have to meet Master Mia!"

#### Chapter 50 Doubting Your Intelligence

Vania hummed in response as she was unaffected by Melanie's fury. She nodded and said, "But what if I decide to go against you anyway? What are you going to do about that?"

Melanie stomped over and stood right in front of Vania. Glaring right at Vania, she snarled, "What on earth are you going to do?"

She grew increasingly unsettled. Apart from Vania's children, there was nothing that she could use against Vania.

Vania leaned back into her chair and pulled away from Melanie. "I'm not doing anything. Why are you getting all worked up? Although... I do have something to tell you, and it might be very crucial information for you."

Since Melanie still had not figured things out, her intelligence was something that Vania began to doubt.

As for Melanie, she had no clue what Vania wanted to tell her. Crucial information for me?

Melanie grew a little suspicious and glanced condescendingly at Vania. "Hurry up and say it, then."

"I'm really beginning to doubt if you even have a brain. Haven't you figured it out yet? Isn't it obvious that I'm talking about Master Mia?" Vania stated plainly, "I thought you were dying to meet her? I heard that you've waited here for two days, and you're even willing to spend a large sum of money just to set an appointment with her. Since you've gone through all that effort, then the least I could do is grant your wish, right? Of course, I had to let you meet her."

An impatient Melanie burst out, "Then, just hurry up and tell me where Master Mia is now."

Vania's voice was dripping with sarcasm. "Melanie Greyson, you should really get that brain of yours checked at the hospital. Earlier, I told you that Master Mia is here. Didn't you send some people out to check on that? You've confirmed that Master Mia is here in this building. Now, we're in Master Mia's

office and I am sitting at Master Mia's desk. Why don't you take a stab in the dark and guess that maybe I am Master Mia, the person that you've searched high and low for?"

Immediately, Melanie's expression turned into one of disbelief. She shook her head and declared, "What a load of nonsense! You're lying. How can you be Master Mia? She is one of the most celebrated designers in the world, and there's no way you can even come close to the likes of her. Stop beating around the bush and feeding me nonsense."

Vania snorted at that. "How bored do you think I am? I don't have the time to sit around and toy with you. I'm telling you right now that I, Vania Greyson, am Master Mia. Master Mia is just a moniker of mine. If I'm not Master Mia, then why do you think I showed up here? Why am I now sitting at her desk?"

None of this convinced Melanie. She was in a state of absolute panic and she started shaking her head as she stared in front of her in disbelief. "No, that's impossible! You can't be Master Mia. You're lying to me. You must be lying to me."

All of a sudden, she screamed toward the door, "Hello?! Someone, come right now! There's someone here who's pretending to be Master Mia! Hurry up and call the police to arrest her!"

The staff outside could hear the screams, so one of them knocked on the door and entered the office—it turned out to be Melody.

Melody had an invitation card in her hand and bowed respectfully toward Vania while saying, "Master Mia, this is the invitation card for today. Please take a look."

Melanie glanced between the two of them and her eyes grew cold. "Oh—I see what's happening. Both of you teamed up to fool me, huh? You tricked me into giving you money, and now you're trying to keep up the pretense? Would you believe me if I told you that I'm going to call the police to come and arrest both of you swindlers?!"

It was clear that Melanie refused to believe the truth that was right in front of her eyes. Instead, in her muddled frenzy, she began to act like a madwoman.