

Mistress on My Husband's Phone Chapter 1

"Mommy, why is Daddy's profile picture a woman? Who is she?"

'What?'

I was startled by Gillian's question. She was my seven-year-old daughter.

I immediately looked up Derrick's contact on WhatsApp and clicked on his profile picture. True enough, it was a photo of a young woman dressed provocatively with shoulder-length hair. I quickly saved the photo to my gallery.

"Oh, that might be one of your dad's office friends. His friends often play pranks," I replied, trying to find a suitable excuse so she wouldn't think badly of her father.

About three minutes later, the profile picture changed to a calligraphy image.

'Perhaps Derrick accidentally clicked on it. But why was that woman's photo saved? Who is she really?' I knew I had to investigate.

So I forwarded the photo to Bradley with a message: [Please check who this is as soon as possible.]

Bradley was Derrick's coworker and a trusted confidant of Benny Humphrey, the CEO. Uncle Benny was a close friend of my late father and cared deeply about me since I was young. With his support, Derrick, who had only graduated from high school, secured a good job and position at the company. However, Derrick was unaware of this.

[It's Kendall Kowitz. She's an employee here, but she's new and isn't a permanent staff yet. Why?]

[Please send me her phone number.]

After Bradley sent me Kendall's phone number, I immediately saved it on WhatsApp. I noticed that her profile photo had the same calligraphy as Derrick's profile picture.

'Weird. Why do they have the same profile picture?'

I decided to contact Derrick.

"Hi, honey."

The call was picked up, but no one spoke on the other end.

"Honey, where are you?"

“Sorry, wh-who is this?” a voice replied from the other side.

My heart sank.

‘It’s a woman. Who is she?’

“Hi, who is this? Why do you have my husband’s phone?” I asked anxiously.

Beep!

‘Why did she hang up?’ I became more curious. Was Derrick cheating on me?

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The sound of a car entering the yard signaled Derrick’s return. It was not dusk yet, but he was already home.

“I’m home.”

“Hey, honey, you’re back early.”

“Have you seen my phone? It’s been missing since this morning. I even had to go to a meeting with Mr. Humphrey this morning without it.”

I was surprised.

‘What? He was in a meeting with Uncle Benny since this morning?’

Quietly, I asked Bradley to verify this.

[Yes, Derrick was in a meeting with Mr. Humphrey this morning. What’s going on?]

I felt a bit relieved reading Bradley’s answer.

“Are you sure you don’t know where your phone is?” I probed.

“Yes. But if it’s not at home, maybe it’s at the office. I rushed to accompany Mr. Humphrey to the field.”

It seemed that Derrick was not lying.

“Hmm... looks like... Kendall has your phone,” I said cautiously.

“Huh? Wh-What?” Derrick stammered, his expression turned anxious.

“Why? Why are you so surprised?”

“Well, it’s risky having my phone with her. She’s bad news.” Derrick looked confused, pacing back and forth.

“What do you mean?”

“She... She’s flirted with me several times at the office. Not just me, but some of my colleagues have been bothered by her too. Even Mr. Thompson had a fight with his wife over her. But don’t worry, I’ve already spoken to Mr. Humphrey about it. She might even be fired next month.”

I felt relieved hearing Derrick’s explanation, although I wasn’t completely sure. I could check this again later with Bradley and Uncle Benny.

“Come on, Let’s go.”

“Wait, where are we going?”

“I can tell you’re still not convinced by what I’ve said. It seems Kendall has really made you uneasy. Let’s go to the office together. You can be the one to get my phone back from her.”

Derrick took my hand and led me to the car, and we headed to his office.

I silently prayed that he hadn’t fallen under Kendall’s spell, that homewrecker.

The drive to the office passed in silence. My curiosity about Kendall intensified as I noticed Derrick’s apparent unease. Despite the air conditioning, he was sweating and drove slowly. I wondered if he was doing this on purpose.

“Good afternoon, Mr. Dane,” the office security greeted Derrick as we entered the main entrance.

“Good afternoon, John. Have all the staff gone home?”

“Some have, sir. But Mr. Humphrey and a few others are still upstairs. Also, Ms. Kowitz left this for you earlier.” John handed over an envelope containing Derrick’s phone.

Relief washed over Derrick’s face. Whether it was from finding his phone or avoiding a meeting with Kendall, I couldn’t tell.

“Oh, thank you, John,” Derrick replied.

“Honey, I’ll head up to the upper floor first.”

“Okay.”

I sat in front of the receptionist, realizing it had been a long time since my last visit. Uncle Benny had really transformed the office into something much better and tidier.

“Sarah!” Bradley exclaimed in surprise when he saw me, clearly having just come from outside.

I shot him a wide-eyed look and gave a quick, subtle wink. Luckily, Bradley caught on right away. No one else was aware of my bond with Bradley, not even Derrick. Only Uncle Benny was privy to it, as I had recommended Bradley for the position at this office.

Bradley smiled and nodded as he walked past me. Luckily, no other employees were around to see us.

Suddenly, my phone rang. It was Uncle Benny calling.

“Sarah, come to my office for a moment.”

“But...”

“It’s fine, just come. The office is empty now,” Uncle Benny interrupted.

“Alright, I’m on my way.”

I quickly headed to Uncle Benny’s office on the upper floor.

“How are you, Sarah?” Uncle Benny asked, looking serious.

“I’m fine, Uncle Benny,” I replied as I sat down across from him. The office was deserted.

It looked like everyone had already left for the day. Derrick was nowhere to be seen; only Bradley and two other employees were still around on the second floor.

“Sarah, I’m getting old. I can’t run your father’s company any longer. It has grown too much for me.”

Uncle Benny’s words made me consider whether it was indeed time for me to step in and take over directly.

“Alright, Uncle Benny, but let’s keep this between us for now. We shouldn’t let Derrick find out that I’m actually the owner of this company.”

“If that’s what you want, I’ll play along. So, when can you start getting involved? For financial reports and other stuff, you can have Bradley email them to you.”

“I’ll let you know as soon as I can. But I need to head out now, I’m worried Derrick might start looking for me.” I quickly excused myself to go meet Derrick.

Beep.

A message from Bradley popped up on my screen:

[Sarah, I saw Derrick with Kendall again, behind the office.]

What? Wasn’t Kendall supposed to have left earlier? I needed to see this for myself. Bradley wouldn’t lie to me.

I quickly headed to the back of the office. That was actually where the employees parked their motorbikes. Meanwhile, our car was in front of the office. So, Derrick had definitely met up with that woman on purpose.

I stared at the two people talking under the big tree. From where I stood, I couldn’t hear what they were saying, but they seemed way too close for comfort.

Was that woman Kendall? She was young, but I did not think she was that pretty. Yet she was acting all flirty with my husband. They were even being intimate now and then.

It seemed that Derrick was really good at hiding his true self.

Fine, so be it. He would be shocked to find out who I really was. It was a good thing I kept my identity a secret for eight years.

‘Just wait until I get my revenge.’

Mistress on My Husband’s Phone Chapter 2

“Shall we head home?” Derrick approached me at the empty reception area.

With weary steps, I followed Derrick to our car, suppressing my emotions, knowing they would crumble when the time came.

On the way home, Derrick seemed happy, smiling to himself as if infatuated. However, to me, he seemed more like a madman.

As Derrick drove and savored his moment, I discreetly texted Carrie, my assistant, whom Derrick did not know about.

Carrie managed all my business affairs, including the property business I had been quietly running. Advanced technology and communication tools were invaluable in overseeing this venture from home, particularly when Derrick was at the office, and I was taking care of household chores.

The car pulled into the driveway, stopping in front of my mother-in-law's house. Yes, ever since we got married, we had been living with my mother-in-law, Ruth. Derrick always claimed his savings weren't sufficient whenever I broached the topic of buying a house.

"Sarah, where have you been? I've been looking for you everywhere. Gillian has been asking about you too," Ruth greeted as she stood at the door upon our arrival.

"Sorry, Mom. Derrick suddenly wanted to go to the office. I was going to tell you, but you were sleeping."

"Huh, you always come up with excuses. Look at this messy house! No one has cleaned up yet."

"Sorry, Mom."

I started tidying up the house, first with the kitchen. It was strange, as everything was tidy and clean before I left. Why were there so many dirty dishes and glasses piled up? Only I, Derrick, Ruth, and Gillian were in this house.

"Mom, did we have guests earlier? Why are there so many dirty dishes and glasses?" I inquired.

"Lorraine came here with her kids. She just got a job and didn't have time to cook. They ate here earlier." She replied.

Feeling disheartened, I checked the dining room and found that all the food I had prepared was gone, though Derrick and I hadn't eaten anything.

"Mom, why didn't Lorraine just buy food if she didn't have time to cook? She didn't wash the dishes after eating either," I said, annoyed.

"Don't be so calculative! Remember, you're just a daughter-in-law who's freeloaded. Derrick is the one earning money here and he doesn't mind." Ruth replied in her usual high-pitched voice whenever she talked to me.

"It's fine, Sarah. Let Lorraine and her kids eat here once in a while." Derrick intervened.

Arguing with them was pointless. Hopefully, Derrick's elder sister Lorraine and the kids wouldn't eat here again tomorrow. After all, she only lived a few blocks away from our house.

"Now, please cook. I'm hungry," Ruth demanded.

"I'm tired, Mom. The house is still a mess. Let's just order food online."

“Honey, let’s not spend too much money. I think you better cook.” Derrick half-shouted from our bedroom.

“Huh!” I sighed heavily.

So be it. Now I was being ordered around by this ungrateful family. But someday, they would be shocked by my real identity.

Night had fallen. Weariness greeted me. As usual, I accompanied Gillian to sleep in her room. While reading emails from Bradley and Carrie, I continued checking my bank account balance. I smiled in satisfaction when I saw the great figures from selling several apartment units this week.

Tonight, I decided to sleep in Gillian’s room. Derrick could sleep alone. Honestly, I was still very disappointed with his behavior at the office this evening.

Kendall that homewrecker had better get ready for my revenge.

Mistress on My Husband’s Phone Chapter 3

Today, I intentionally cooked early in the morning. After dropping Gillian off at school, I planned to meet Uncle Benny and some company shareholders.

Uncle Benny had scheduled the meeting at one of our branch offices, so thankfully, I wouldn’t have to see Derrick or Kendall, who were at the head office.

“Hello!” a voice rang from outside. Who’s visiting this early? The voice sounded familiar.

Then I heard the noise of kids in the living room.

I walked to the front to see who had arrived.

My eyes widened seeing Lorraine and her husband, Jack, with their three kids already sitting at the dining table. They were shamelessly having breakfast with Derrick, Ruth, and Gillian.

The hell?! They were getting more and more brazen.

Luckily, I had already eaten breakfast in the kitchen. I stood there, stunned, watching these uninvited guests eat without a care. All the food I had cooked this morning was gone.

I knew Lorraine wouldn’t clean up after her kids.

“Gillian, let’s go. We’ll be late,” I called to Gillian, who had finished breakfast.

“Derrick will take Gillian. You stay home and clean up!” Ruth ordered.

“Sorry, Mom. I have a meeting at Gillian’s school. Maybe Lorraine can help clean the table before she goes to work,” I suggested, glancing at Lorraine, who glared at me.

“As if! Don’t you see how dressed up I am? You want me to wash dishes and dirty my clothes?” Lorraine replied loudly.

Lorraine was really arrogant. I wondered what her new job was that required her to put on so much makeup.

I sighed heavily. I knew Lorraine wouldn’t help with the dishes. She only knew how to eat, not cook or clean.

“Fine. I’ll clean up when I get back from Gillian’s school. I’m leaving now.”

I said goodbye to Ruth and Derrick, who were still sitting around. Derrick was supposed to be at work by eight, but it was already 7:30 and he hadn’t even showered. This happened almost every day. How could the company grow with employees like this? Uncle Benny should’ve given him a warning by now, but for some reason, he hadn’t.

I arrived at Gillian’s school, talked to her teacher and made sure that starting today, Gillian would use the school’s shuttle service. I also arranged for a healthy lunch catering service for her.

I didn’t want Gillian to be neglected because of my increasing workload.

After everything was set at Gillian’s school, I headed to the branch office with an Uber. It wasn’t far.

Ten minutes later, I arrived. Bradley had prepared everything, and the shareholders were already waiting in the meeting room.

Uncle Benny greeted me as I entered the meeting room with a long table in the center. It was a spacious room. The meeting participants stood up to welcome me.

“Welcome, our new CEO, Ms. Sarah Joy Johnson.”

I nodded respectfully and shook hands with each of them before introducing myself.

“Good morning. I’m Sarah Joy, the company’s new CEO. My father Mr. Harry Robert Johnson was the founder of this company. I hope we can all work well together.”

They were all very friendly. Even though it was my first time entering the business world, their kindness eased my nerves.

I needed to learn a lot about the company, and I would probably learn a lot from Bradley.

The meeting went smoothly. Uncle Benny asked me to start working at the head office next month.

That meant I would be working with Derrick and seeing Kendall every day. If Derrick was truly cheating on me, I'd find out. And if it were true, I would take action.

I started planning a surprise for them in secret.

By late afternoon, I was back home. Sure enough, when I arrived, the house was a mess. Lorraine's kids were running around everywhere.

I was shocked to see the kitchen, with nearly all the dishes dirty and trash everywhere. It looked like they had made instant noodles since the lunch I had cooked was gone.

I went to Gillian, who was studying in her room.

"Gillian, have you eaten?"

"Yes, Mommy. I had the food at school," she replied.

"Did you like the food?"

Gillian nodded.

"Thank goodness. Now, let's clean up the house," I said.

"Okay, Mommy."

I had taught Gillian to be independent from an early age. I didn't want her to be like Lorraine's kids, who only knew how to make a mess and never learned to clean up. Even though they were older than Gillian.

I immediately started tidying up the house before Ruth woke up from her nap.

Mistress on My Husband's Phone Chapter 4

"Sarah!"

"Yeah, Mom?"

"Where have you been? I'm hungry. My head is spinning looking at this mess. Lorraine's kids are so naughty." Ruth, who had just woken up, came out of her room and approached me.

“I’ve already cleaned the house, Mom. Please be patient. The food will be ready soon.”

“Lorraine is so irresponsible, leaving her kids here,” Ruth muttered.

Ruth was rather strange. She wouldn’t dare say things like that in front of her own daughter.

But no matter what, I had a moral duty to continue respecting her.

After finishing the cooking, I invited Ruth to eat together at the dining table. She must be really hungry by now.

“Mom!” Lorraine’s loud voice came from outside.

“When entering someone’s house, it’s better to greet and say hello. Don’t just yell,” I muttered as I enjoyed the still-warm lunch.

“Hey, this is my mom’s house. I can do whatever I want. You’re just a guest here. Don’t tell me what to do,” Lorraine snapped, glaring at me.

“Relax, Lorraine. Your face is already scary, so there is no need to make it scarier,” I replied calmly without looking at her.

“Oh, Lorraine and Jack. Come, join us for lunch,” Ruth invited them.

“No thanks, Mom. I am in a hurry for a social gathering. Just here to pick up the kids,” Lorraine replied as she walked to the kitchen.

Wow, that was unusual. She was always looking for freebies. It was a good thing my food was safe from her today.

I had spoken too soon as Lorraine emerged from the kitchen with several plastic bags.

“What are those bags for, Lorraine?” I asked, suspicious.

“To pack food. I’ll eat at home later,” she said as she packed the food on the table without hesitation. Ruth and I were still eating, but she cleared the table of all the food.

Ruth sighed heavily. I glanced at her from the corner of my eye. She hadn’t been smiling since Lorraine arrived. Ruth must be upset seeing her eldest daughter’s behavior. But for some reason, she never complained to them.

Luckily, I had set aside some food for Gillian and Derrick for dinner.

After Lorraine and her kids finished packing up the food and left, Ruth just watched them go with a puzzled look. Ruth always defended her children in front of me, so she

would never express her annoyance with Lorraine in front of me. Yet her face showed a mix of anger and sadness.

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It was late at night. Ruth and Gillian were already asleep, but Derrick still wasn't home. I tried calling his phone, but it was off.

Again, Kendall's face popped into my mind. I checked her profile. It was still a calligraphy photo. I looked at her status on WhatsApp, and to my shock, there was a photo of my husband with the caption "Make me your number one." What did she mean by that?

Derrick was handsome. His defined jawline and curly hair, along with the stubble on his cheeks and chin, made his face even more attractive. It was no wonder women out there were attracted to him. Derrick was quite lucky. With only a high school diploma, he had managed to become a manager at his office. This, of course, was thanks to Uncle Benny. I doubt he got the position because of his good work.

I checked Kendall's status again.

Ugh! What a shameless homewrecker. Posting a picture of someone else's husband. Could they be out together?

Around midnight, Derrick finally came home.

"Hello honey."

"Hi. You're home late, Derrick."

Without answering, Derrick went straight to clean up.

I tried to be patient, waiting for his explanation.

"Want me to get you some food?"

He shook his head.

"I'm tired. Had meetings all day. I need to rest," he said and went to bed.

I frowned. Was it really possible to have meetings this late? It seemed unlikely.

I heard Derrick's soft snoring. He was already asleep.

Slowly, I checked his phone. Unfortunately, it was locked. This was suspicious since he never used a passcode before. Derrick was quite forgetful about things like that.

Suddenly, a message notification popped up. Though I couldn't open it, I saw the sender's name: Kendall. It seemed like they had been texting each other, or maybe they had just met?

Curious, I kept trying to unlock Derrick's phone. But no passcode worked. I tried Gillian's, mine, and Derrick's birth dates. Nothing worked.

I decided to text Bradley.

[Brad, do you know Kendall's birth date?]

There was no response for quite a long time. I kept calling Bradley's phone repeatedly until he finally replied.

[Are you crazy? Calling me in the middle of the night just to ask that?]

[You're fired! Calling your CEO crazy? Hurry up and find out!]

I laughed out loud, satisfied with pranking Bradley.

Soon, a message from Bradley came in with Kendall's birth date.

'W-what? May 8th? That's today.'

Kendall's birthday was today?

Without wasting any time, I tried unlocking Derrick's phone.

And it turned out...

Mistress on My Husband's Phone Chapter 5

Without waiting a second longer, I tried to unlock Derrick's phone. And... it really unlocked.

My eyes widened when I saw a message from Kendall at the top. I opened it immediately, and it was just one unread message.

[Okay, see you tomorrow, Derrick.]

This seemed like a reply. It meant they had been texting before. But it looked like Derrick had deleted the earlier messages. My husband was being cautious.

I let out a frustrated sigh. My suspicions weren't confirmed yet, but I wasn't going to stop here. I would uncover all Derrick's lies.

“Honey, turn off the lights. It’s late.”

I jumped at Derrick’s voice. Slowly, I put his phone back in its place and turned off the light. I lay down beside Derrick, who was already back in dreamland.

—

This morning, my usual routine awaited me: cooking, cleaning the house, and taking care of Gillian and Derrick.

Maybe starting next month, I’d hire a housekeeper to have someone focus on looking after Gillian. I didn’t want her to be neglected because I was busy with the company. At least I could work more peacefully knowing someone was taking care of Gillian and her needs.

I heard Ruth talking to Derrick in the dining room. They seemed to be having a serious conversation. My curiosity was piqued, so I brought some croissants for their breakfast.

“Do you remember Sonia, my friend from Bosnea, Derrick?”

“Yeah, Mom. I remember.”

“Her daughter works in Jaketon now. She wasn’t comfortable at her daughter’s place near the office. She wants her to stay here,” Ruth explained to Derrick.

“I’m okay with whatever you decide, Mom,” Derrick replied, still chewing his food.

“But I think it won’t be appropriate for a woman to live here, Mom. She’s not related to Derrick,” I objected.

“Hey, how can you say that? This is Derrick’s and my house. You’re just a guest here, a daughter-in-law!” Ruth protested.

I took a deep breath.

Her response was always the same. I could easily move to my luxurious apartment in the city’s prime area, but it’s not the right time to reveal my true identity.

“Besides, Sonia’s daughter will stay in the side unit, not in the main house with us. She’ll be bringing her things this evening,” Ruth added.

Well, it was a relief that she would be in the side unit. But still, I had a bad feeling. My intuition told me something unwanted was going to happen.

“Alright, Mom. I’ll try to come home early this evening,” Derrick said.

“Why come home early, Derrick?” I asked, puzzled.

“Why are you always suspicious? I just want to help Mom welcome our guest.” Derrick seemed annoyed, glaring at me.

Fine, let him come home early. It was actually better. He wouldn’t have a chance to meet Kendall outside.

“Honey, why did you arrange a school shuttle for Gillian without discussing it with me?” Derrick suddenly asked after finishing his breakfast.

“Oh, starting next month, I’ll be working. It’s safer if Gillian uses the school shuttle,” I replied, making Derrick raise his eyebrows, seemingly in disbelief.

“I actually wanted to discuss it with you, but lately you’ve been coming home late every night,” I continued.

“Ha! Acting like you want to work. Are you jealous of Lorraine? It makes sense for her to work. She took a course after vocational school so she could work in an office. But you? Who knows what you graduated in? Pretending to want a job.” Ruth and Derrick laughed out loud.

‘Laugh all you want now. At the beginning of next month, you’ll be stunned to discover who I really am.’

“Do whatever you want, honey. But you’ll pay for Gillian’s shuttle yourself.”

What a stingy husband.

“I’m leaving now. Bye, Mom.” Derrick got in his car and drove off.

—

Ruth had been busy all afternoon preparing for her guest’s arrival. She asked me to cook extra food and clean the side unit that had been vacant for a long time.

I prepared various dishes and set them on the dining table. I also made two kinds of snacks and put them in jars.

I changed the bed linens in the unit and mopped the floor, making it smell fresh.

“Hello.”

It seemed Ruth’s guest had arrived.

I was still in the kitchen when I heard Ruth enthusiastically welcoming her guest. My curiosity got the better of me, so I slowly went to the front, carrying two glasses of tea and two jars of snacks.

“How’s your mom?” Ruth asked.

“Oh she’s fine, Ma’am. She sends her regards to you,” the woman replied.

Why did her face look so familiar? Where had I seen her before?

“Don’t call me Ma’am. You can just call me Aunt Ruth since we’ll be staying together. Sarah, this is Sonia’s daughter. Her name is Kendall.”

W-what... Kendall...?

No wonder she looked familiar.

“Why are you just standing there? You’re being rude to our guest!” Ruth snapped, seeing me stunned in shock.

Alright, I guess I had to be extra careful dealing with this homewrecker Kendall.

Mistress on My Husband’s Phone Chapter 6

“Hi, I’m Kendall.” The woman extended her hand to me. Her long nails were painted bright red.

“I’m Sarah.” I finally shook her hand.

“You’re really beautiful, Kendall, just like your mom when she was young,” Ruth praised, making Kendall smile proudly.

Actually, Kendall did have a pretty face and fair skin. She was tall and slim. Unfortunately, she had used her good looks to flirt with married men.

Did Derrick know the guest was Kendall?

I heard a car pulling into the driveway. It seemed Derrick had just come home. I was very curious to see Derrick’s reaction when he saw Kendall.

“Hello everyone.” Derrick’s voice called from outside.

“Hello.” We all answered together.

“Huh, what are you doing here, Derrick?”

“Kendall...?”

Derrick and Kendall seemed surprised and pointed at each other.

They clearly didn't expect to meet here.

The woman, with her heavy makeup, looked delighted when she saw my husband.

“I'm glad you two know each other,” said Ruth, beaming.

“Kendall is Sonia's daughter, Derrick,” Ruth continued.

“Oh really? Kendall works at my office, Mom,” Derrick explained.

“Oh, you have a job. That's great!” Ruth praised Kendall.

“I see that you are not only beautiful, but smart too.” Ruth couldn't stop praising that homewrecker.

“Derrick, help bring Kendall's things to the side unit,” Ruth requested.

Derrick carried her stuff to the unit through the dining room door.

“What department do you work at, Kendall?” I asked.

“Would you even know it if Kendall answered, Sarah?” Ruth interjected with a mocking smile.

“Of course, Mom,” I replied confidently. I obviously understood my own company.

“Where do you work, Sarah?” Kendall asked with a condescending smile.

“A property group,” I answered.

“Ah, you must be a sales agent then!” she guessed, laughing.

“Enjoy your drink. I'm going to my room.” Before my anger boiled over, it was better to leave. It wasn't time to retaliate against that homewrecker. She could laugh all she wanted for now.

In the bedroom, I asked, “Derrick, isn't Kendall the woman you said was trouble, always bothering the men at your office?”

“Y-yeah. But I was wrong. Kendall is actually a nice woman.”

“How do you know that? Are you two close?” I probed.

Derrick looked irritated.

“What’s with you? Are you jealous? You should learn from Kendall by dressing up more and putting on makeup.”

I was taken aback by Derrick’s words.

“How could you compare me to her?” I almost shouted.

“If you want me to dress up well and put on makeup, you should provide for it. Just so you know, the money you give is only enough to feed the family. And don’t forget, your sister and her family often eat here for free.” My anger was boiling over.

This man was unbelievable!

I never dressed extravagantly. But I did take care of my skin and face regularly, with my own money.

“Don’t bring up Lorraine. It’s just you who can’t manage money well,” he retorted as he walked out of the room.

‘Watch out, Derrick. This won’t last much longer.’ I tried to be more patient for now.

—

This morning, Bradley was going to introduce me to someone who would explain everything about the company.

I had been too indifferent all this time. Thankfully, my dad’s trusted people remained loyal.

After finishing the household chores and sending Gillian to school, I got ready.

I might need to buy more clothes for work. I usually just wear plain office outfits.

I rarely spent my own money, fearing Derrick and Ruth would get suspicious. I only used my money for regular hair treatments.

Derrick seemed to have left. Maybe Kendall went with him. I stayed inside, still angry and hurt by his words last night.

“Mom, I’m leaving.” Ruth looked surprised to see me dressed so neatly and wearing makeup, though my makeup wasn’t as heavy as Kendall’s or Lorraine’s.

“Where are you going?”

“I have to go to the office that hired me, Mom.”

Ruth still looked astonished.

“I’m leaving, Mom,” I said goodbye to her, who was still staring at me full of questions.

—

I just arrived at the cafe where Bradley and I were meeting.

[Come on in. I’m already inside.]

It was a message from Bradley.

I walked into the upscale cafe. In the corner, I saw Bradley with a man in a gray suit.

“Sarah... Over here!” Bradley called me over casually, as usual.

“Hi Sarah, how are you?” greeted the man beside Bradley.

His voice... Why did it sound so familiar?

“You probably don’t remember me, Joy.” The man smiled.

“Y-you’re... Albert?” I guessed, recalling someone from the past. The only guy who called me Joy.

“That’s right. You’ve become even more beautiful, Joy.”

“Sarah, Albert is Mr. Ian William’s son. He’s one of the shareholders of our company.”

After high school, Albert and I had parted ways as I continued my education in Germany.

Albert, Bradley, and I used to be very close. At one point, we were inseparable.