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"Here is another envelope. It includes that stupid interest that you added too, so don't pester me about it until we meet next time!"

Jason smirked, folded the envelope, and hid it inside his leather bag without even checking the money. He knew that Samantha wouldn't dare to fool him when she was trapped in his intricate snare.

Once the money was hidden, he shifted his eyes back to her and returned to eating his breakfast.

"How are the things going with Richard Clark?

He keeps showing up everywhere with his wife and not you. This is the first time I see you progressing so slowly when it comes to seducing men."

Samantha replied with an irritated scoff. "It's hardly any of your business. I have everything under control."

"If you say so."

Jason finished his coffee and looked at the

message notification on the screen of his phone which prompted him to remember another topic he was dying to bring up.

"Well, you are reaching your goal with baby steps, I heard. Rumor has it you attended Edward Harris' party a few days ago. What a spectacle! A mistress turned into a wife simply because she got pregnant! Hey," he curled his lips into a coy smile and added, "Maybe that's your golden ticket, Sam? Get pregnant and who knows, maybe Mr. Clark will exchange his wife for you as well!"

Jason leaned back and started laughing while Samantha's face turned dark with annoyance. The man wiped the tears at the corners of his eyes and continued,

"Well, at least that woman had valuable assets to bring with her into Edward's second marriage while you... Apart from the physical assets, I'm afraid there is nothing of real value here. Men of his caliber do not marry for beauty, they are pretty happy with having that on the side when they are 'dining out'."

Now, Samantha was truly angry. She scowled at

him like a cornered animal but Jason only offered her a careless shrug. After all, everything he said was true and Sam knew that.

Their staring contest was interrupted by the loud sound of the car horn outside the restaurant's window and Jason was the first to look out. He then jerked his chin toward the car and said, "That's for me. You might want to take a look too."

The woman didn't know why she followed his suggestion and looked out the window but what she saw there was truly terrifying.

'William?'

The car window was rolled all the way down and there, in the back seat of Jason's car was his younger brother William holding a sleeping baby in his arms while smiling somewhat menacingly at her.

Samantha felt both scared and confused. When she gave birth to that baby, she felt nothing but resentment toward it; and when William rejected her, she felt repulsed to the point of being physically sick just by looking at it. Now, she felt strange.

Perhaps it was because she was pregnant again, but she really wanted to see that baby's face. She wanted to hold it again. It was unnerving.

Jason silently observed her reaction before bursting into laughter once again.

"Too bad you never slept with Richard Clark in the past, otherwise, I could have returned this kid to you and you could have pretended that it was his. If he really is as infatuated with you as you say he is, this might have worked out pretty well for you, don't you agree?"

"What?" Samantha's voice trembled while his words were still struggling to register in her brain. The man ignored her distress and simply laughed, then turned around and left, whistling a cheerful melody as he exited the restaurant.

Samantha watched his car leave, then lightly slid her hand over her stomach and frowned, getting lost in her own thoughts.

'I don't need their filthy money and shady connections. No, I want what that woman had. A luxurious baby shower party with respectable Ashford to come to that party and congratulate me while others think she is being laughable and pathetic. I will get there. This time, I will get everything I want. No, what I deserve.'

Austin marched into Liam's office and placed a tall heap of folders on the desk in front of him, savoring his boss' shocked reaction.

"These are the reports carefully arranged by the late Mr. Noah Bennett. They cover the last five years of the company's activity so please read them all carefully and learn from your brother's success."

Unlike when Liam still had a chance to retort or throw a minor tantrum, this time, he had no choice but to obey, thus, to his assistant's satisfaction, he opened the first folder and started carefully reading over its contents.

'The sooner I take care of this, the sooner I will be able to get back home and take over the company. The thought of becoming the president of Diamond Group terrifies me but I have no other options... I have been running

away for way too long.'

Liam didn't even have a chance to mourn the loss of his brother. As soon as he was cremated, his grandfather locked him inside his study and forced him to begin his preparations. And even though there was clearly more to it than just assuming control over the entire conglomerate, it was still a rather difficult challenge to clear in such a short period of time.

Liam, however, had no one to blame for it but himself.

While he was reading the reports, Austin walked up to Liam's desk again and asked, "Is it true that you told Mr. Bennett that you already have a candidate for a fiancee?"

Liam simply nodded.

"Is it Mrs. Ashford?"

Another nod made Austin let out a pained groan.

"When will you get back to your senses? She can't marry you because she is already married and she won't divorce Richard Clark because she will lose a lot of money and company shares.

How are you going to make it work?"

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Liam finally unglued his eyes from the papers and answered rather nonchalantly, "That reminds me... how are things going with all the charity and sponsorships I asked you to take over?

Austin sighed again.

"Everything is going smoothly on that front, Mr. Bennett. Although I must warn you that she will definitely not like it when she finds out about all your schemes."

"IF she finds out about them... It's not like I'm going to do it right away, I just want them to know that they can expect that and be ready to hand everything over to me once the time is right."

Austin shook his head in disapproval. "Is it really necessary? Especially if she still says no in the end?"

Liam smiled and returned to reading the reports.

"She will say yes. There is only so much she can
tolerate of her husband's idiocy."